

Dear all

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## Mechanisms of action of interventions for COVID-19

The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme funds ambitious studies evaluating interventions with potential to make a step-change in the promotion of health, treatment of disease and improvement of rehabilitation or long-term care.



EME is accepting applications to this commissioned workstream to investigate the underlying mechanisms of action of health and social care interventions for COVID-19. Studies must utilise patients or samples from identifiable cohorts from current or completed studies which are or have been Urgent Public Health badged.

Proposals will be accepted across a wide range of interventions; including behavioural, pharmaceutical, psychological, surgical and public health interventions.

Find out more [here](#)

## Latest funding calls

### NIHR NICE rolling call for research studies addressing NICE research recommendations

**Details:** The NIHR research programmes (EME, HTA, PHR and HS&DR) are interested in receiving applications to meet recommendations in research identified in NICE guidance published from 2015 onwards (for the purposes of this call, NICE guidance includes the following: clinical, social care, public health, technology appraisals, interventional procedures and diagnostics).

Proposals must be within the remit of one of the participating NIHR research programmes and the primary outcome measure must be health related.

Proposals must be within the remit of at least one of the following participating NIHR Programmes. However, applications which span the remit of one or more programme are welcome.

- [Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation](#) (deadline: 10 August 2021)
- [Health Services and Delivery Research](#) (deadline: 07 October 2021)
- [Health Technology Assessment](#) (deadline 01 September 2021)
- [Public Health Research](#) (deadline: 30 November 2021)

### Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme Researcher-led

**Details:** The EME Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream. The EME Programme funds ambitious studies evaluating interventions that have the potential to make a step-change in the promotion of health, treatment of disease and improvement of rehabilitation or long-term care. Within these studies EME supports research to improve the understanding of the mechanisms of both diseases and treatments.

The programme supports translational research evaluating a wide range of novel or re-purposed interventions. The interventions may include diagnostic or prognostic tests and

decision-making tools, drugs or biological compounds, psychological treatments, medical devices, and public health initiatives delivered within the NHS.

**Deadline for proposals:** 10 August 2021

**Find out more [here](#)**

### **Health Technology and Assessment Programme: Future commissioned calls**

**Details:** The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme funds research about the clinical and cost-effectiveness, and broader impact of healthcare treatments and tests, for those who plan, provide or receive care from NHS, and social care services.

The HTA Programme is considering the following topics for future commissioned research:

- **Maintenance therapy for refractory acne vulgaris by reduced dose isotretinoin regimens**
- **Reduced dose oral isotretinoin in the management of acne vulgaris**
- **Pharmacological therapies for low back pain and sciatica**
- **Anaesthesia for shoulder replacement**
- **Surgical management of successfully reduced incarcerated inguinal hernia in children**
- **Sodium bicarbonate in neonatal care**
- **Neuroendoscopic lavage for preterm babies with post-haemorrhagic ventricular dilatation**
- **Metformin to prevent antipsychotic-induced weight gain**
- **Medication support interventions and strategies for adherence in people with learning disabilities**

The likely advert date for this topic, if prioritised, is 22 July 2021. However, please note this is an indicative date, which may change

**RDS West Midlands** can offer free expert support and advice on all aspects of designing and developing applications for NIHR funding and other peer reviewed funding bodies– please complete our online Request for Support form to gain access to our advice.

### **NIHR Funding deadlines calendar**

For an overview of the year's NIHR calls and ongoing opportunities, please view the online calendar: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researchers/funding-opportunities/>

### **Funding calls from other bodies**

#### **Action Medical Research for Children: Translational funding**

**Details:** Action Medical Research and LifeArc want to improve the lives of children suffering from rare disease and are working together to co-fund translational, rare disease research projects. Co-funding aims to accelerate promising, cutting-edge medical research that could have a significant impact on the treatment of infants, children and young people (CYP) with any of the >7000 heterogeneous conditions collectively called 'rare disease'.

The joint fund will be used to support biomedical research projects from across the UK that have moved beyond a basic understanding of rare disease mechanism into the development

of an intervention (therapeutic, diagnostic, or device).

Applications should:

- address a significant, unmet need for CYP with rare disease
- have a strong scientific rationale
- be a target-driven, milestone project with a credible delivery plan
- have a clear route to patients.

**Deadline for proposals:** 09 June 2021

**Find out more [here](#)**

### **Fight for Sight: Small Grants and Project Grants**

**Details:** Fight for Sight is a UK charity funding cutting-edge science to bring about new treatments to transform the lives of people affected by sight loss. They fund early stage research that leads to big breakthroughs.

The following awards are open for application:

- **Project Grant Awards:** Applications are invited for stand-alone projects which aim to address sight loss caused by any eye disease or condition. Applications are particularly encouraged which are relevant to their strategic priorities: (1) Age-related macular degeneration; (2) Glaucoma; (3) Inherited eye diseases; (4) Sight loss linked to other diseases (multi-morbidities)

**Deadline:** 01 July 2021

- **Small Grants Awards:** Offer competitive funding to support small feasibility studies and pilot studies as well as facilitate the generation of preliminary data. The aim is to make novel research ideas more competitive for larger follow-on funding.

**Deadline:** 05 August 2021

### **CRUK Therapeutic Discovery Programme Award**

**Details:** This award is aimed at researchers who propose multifaceted programmes composed of several projects running in parallel with an overarching therapeutic aim. This scheme funds programmes at any stage of the drug discovery process, from target (pathway) validation to early preclinical studies. Programmes can have a multi-target focus and include exploratory biology work packages provided they are aligned to therapeutic development and testing or have therapeutic intent. Examples of eligible studies for Programmes would be the same as a Project Award and broader in scope, but still with a therapeutic focus.

**Deadline for proposals:** 14 September 2021

**Find out more [here](#)**

### **The Nuffield Foundation: Research, Development and Analysis Fund**

**Details:** The Nuffield Foundation is an independent charitable trust with a mission to advance educational opportunity and social well-being. They fund research that informs social policy, primarily in Education, Welfare and Justice. They also provide opportunities for young people to develop skills and confidence in science and research.

The Research, Development and Analysis Fund looks for interesting questions/issues that fit the Nuffield Foundation's mission and is relevant to the questions in their three domains. There should be a clear articulation of what you intend to do, why it matters, and what difference it will make. Applications for research, development and analysis grants are usually between £10,000 and £500,000. Most of the grants awarded are between £50,000 and £300,000 and are between six months and three years in duration, but they will occasionally consider proposals with a larger budget or longer timescale.

**Deadline for proposals:** September 2021

**Find out more** [here](#)

## Latest Fellowships

### Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation: Clinical Fellowship

**Details:** The Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation (DRWF) funds diabetes research in the UK and around the world in order to understand the causes, prevention, treatment and management of the disease. The ultimate goal is to find a cure.

DRWF Research Fellowships are awarded for research related to causes, cures or complications of diabetes.

- Applications are invited from: medically qualified doctors (MBChB or equivalent) working towards a higher degree, i.e. MD or PhD
- DRWF Sutherland-Earl Clinical Research Fellowships cover a period of up to 3 years, in a recognised institution or department within the United Kingdom
- Support for the 2021 Fellowship is a maximum of £80,000 per year, to include a salary, consumables and some support costs.

**Deadline for proposals:** 24 May 2021

**Find out more** [here](#)

### CRUK Clinical Trial Fellowship Award

**Details:** This Fellowship supports clinicians with an interest in clinical trials and who would benefit from further training within a Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) setting. The intention of this award is for you to gain clinical trial experience, with the ultimate objective of leading high impact, practice changing cancer clinical trials in the future as a Chief Investigator.

**Deadline for proposals:** 02 September 2021

**Find out more** [here](#)

## Blogs and Articles

### NIHR blog: Making Research Happen in a Pandemic

Professor Ramesh Arasaradnam and clinical trial coordinator Chris Bradley of the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) reflect on the challenges COVID-19 has brought to NHS research. In this blog, they stress the importance of continuing to make research happen.

**Find out more** [here](#)

### The King's Fund: Shaping the future of digital technology in health and social care

This report, commissioned by the Health Foundation, provides a summary of evidence for how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, smartphones, wearable devices and the internet of things are being used within care settings around the world.

The authors analyse the available evidence around the use of these technologies to support leaders in health and care to engage in long-term thinking about the role of digital technology. The report looks back at recent developments in digital technology in the health and care system before the Covid-19 pandemic, supplemented by the Fund's evidence-gathering on how digital technologies have been used during the pandemic, in England in particular. It also considers a set of potential futures to distil factors driving change and what this means for leaders now.

**Find out more [here](#)**

### **The King's Fund: The health care of tomorrow? International learning on community, technology, and avoiding digital exclusion**

The King's Fund produce a monthly podcast about big ideas in health and care. They talk with experts from The King's Fund and beyond about the NHS, social care, and all things health policy and leadership.

In this podcast, Anna Charles talks with Dr Steven Tierney from Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska, and Dr Henry Chung from Montefiore in New York, to explore how their health systems have transformed to better support local communities, and how to address digital exclusion in an increasingly digital world.

**Find out more [here](#)**

## **Training and events**

### **Your First Research Grant: Developing funding proposals in applied health and social care**

**What:** NIHR Research Design Service North West (RDS NW) is offering this online event for health, social care and public health practitioners and researchers who want to develop and submit their first research grant to a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funding programme (or other national, open-call, peer reviewed funding sources).

The event will include a presentation from a successful first-grant applicant, an overview of RDS support, and guidance on fundamental aspects of the design of a funding proposal including Public Involvement.

**When:** 09:30-12:30 on 16 June 2021

**Where:** Online

**Find out more [here](#)**

### **The King's Fund: Using digital solutions to transform the delivery of care**

**What:** Clinical practice requires trust and flow of communication not only between patient and clinician, but also among staff working in different pockets of the system, with the aim of providing the best possible care for each person. Covid-19 has tested our collective understanding of patient-clinician relationships, transforming them, overnight, into remote, online ones, while also fundamentally changing the ways staff work across health and care, with digital co-operation often fully replacing face-to-face collaboration. It's been a year since digital delivery became the only available way for many staff to undertake clinical work during the pandemic, what can we learn from the nature of relationships as they evolved into digital ones?

This event will look at how using inhalers remotely has challenged clinicians, patients and colleagues, and discuss what this means about the nature of delivering health and care services, as Covid-19 reshapes our understanding and experience of the human element in health and care and our increasingly greater co-existence with digital technologies. /p>

**When:** 13:00-14:00 on 25 May 2021

**Where:** Online

**Find out more [here](#)**

### **Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands**

Support and advice is available from the CRN WM Study Support Service Team for any study that is potentially eligible or applying for CRN Support. This includes providing cost attribution advice to support researchers in completing their grant applications and authorising the Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT), navigating the approvals process, accessing training provided by the Network, identifying and supporting the management of excess treatment costs, and can highlight further support within the Network to support study set up and delivery to time and target. Once open to recruitment, we will stay in contact and continue to support optimisation of recruitment to your study. Please note that prioritisation of support will be for nationally prioritised COVID-19 Urgent Public Health Research studies.

**For more information please contact: [studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk).**

**Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-in-your-area/west-midlands/>**

### **Applying for NIHR funding? Access free advice and support from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service West Midlands**

Our multi-disciplinary team can offer advice on the key ingredients in a successful health or social care research proposal, including:

- Statistics and health economics
- Qualitative methodology
- Support on involving patients and public in research, identified by the NIHR as a critical component in funding applications
- Peer review of draft grant applications before submission.

**Find out more** about how RDS West Midlands could help you and your team at <http://www.rds-wm.nihr.ac.uk/>

**\*We have sent you this email because we believe it may be of interest to you, if you do not wish to receive future emails from us please email me by return at [k.biddle@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.biddle@bham.ac.uk) and I will remove you from my contact list.**