Dear all

In this week’s message:

- RDS Blog: Raising the Public Involvement Standards in the RDS
- Registration now open: Growing Social Care Research in the West Midlands

Latest NIHR Funding calls:
- NIHR Artificial Intelligence in Health and Care Award

Funding calls from other bodies:
- Action Medical Research for Children: Long COVID in children and young people
- Prostate Cancer UK: Research Innovation Awards
- Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust: Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research
- Academy of Medical Sciences: Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers
- Cancer Research UK: Discovery Programme Awards

News, info and updates:
- Professor Lucy Chappell begins role as NIHR Chief Executive
- Good Clinical Trials Collaborative launches new guidance consultation

Training and events:
- NHS Research and Development Forum: Essentials of NHS Research
- Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

RDS Blog: Raising the Public Involvement Standards in the RDS

In this month’s blog, Julie Hedayioglu (Public involvement lead) and Julie Wright (Public contributor) from RDS South East reflect on the changes to improve patient and public involvement within the RDS and how our public contributors were part of that process.

Read the blog [here](#)
Growing Social Care Research in the West Midlands

Date: Tuesday 19th October 2021
Time: 10.00 to 13.00
Venue: Online

Event hosted by The West Midlands Social Care Research Partnership

Are you passionate about improving social care services?

Do you have an idea(s) for social care research and/or improving practice and want to develop it?

Do you want to understand more about how research is relevant to social care, and how research can make a difference to social care practice?

If ‘yes’ then join us for our FREE half-day event on 19th October, aimed at researchers, practitioners, people with lived experience, commissioners and providers of adult social care, and/or those at the health and adult social care interface, in the West Midlands.

- Find out how you can be supported to develop your research or practice improvement idea(s)
- Learn about funding opportunities available for social care research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
- Understand more about contemporary issues in adult social care and how research can impact social care practice
- Network and connect with other researchers, practitioners, people with lived experience, commissioners and providers in the social care field
- Attend a choice of in-depth sessions on key aspects of social care research and the research grant application process, to help you take your ideas forward

Register here

Latest NIHR funding calls

NIHR Artificial Intelligence in Health and Care Award
Artificial intelligence has enormous potential for improving healthcare across all areas of the NHS and social care. NIHR currently has three routes for researchers and industry partners seeking funding for health research involving artificial intelligence.

The AI in Health and Care Award supports AI technologies across the spectrum of development, from initial feasibility to evaluation within clinical pathways in the NHS and social care settings, to the point that they could be nationally commissioned. Applications may be submitted by a small-to-medium-sized enterprise (SME), an NHS or social care organisation or service provider, a higher education institution, charity or local authority.

A webinar will take place on Thursday 12 August, 11am – 12 noon for innovators in AI, who have technologies that are aimed at providing solutions in social care, and who are interested in applying to the Artificial Intelligence in Health and Care Award. The webinar will
share more information about the Award including how to apply, the selection process, and a discussion on how AI can help meet people’s care needs. You can book your place here.

**Deadline for proposals:** 6th September 2021
**Find out more here**

**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/](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researchers/funding-opportunities/)

**Funding calls from other bodies**

**Action Medical Research for Children: Long COVID in children and young people**

Action Medical Research for Children is calling for project grant applications on community-acquired long COVID in children for an award of circa £100,000. The aim of the charity is to prevent and treat disease and disability by funding vital medical research in hospitals or research institutions across the UK. There is a gap in our understanding of the prevalence, pathological mechanism and mental health consequences of community-acquired long COVID in children and young people.

The call has a focus on the following two areas:
- Better understanding the pathophysiological nature of community-acquired long COVID in children/young people. There is a need to understand why some children get long COVID after community-acquired infection and others don’t. This could include genomic and biomarker studies to characterise the inflammatory response or structural impact in brain (e.g., MRI).
- Addressing the mental health complications for children and young people with community-acquired long COVID. For example, a trial or proof of principle of modular, online, easily accessible ‘talking therapies’.

**Deadline for proposals:** 27 August 2021
**Find out more here**

**Prostate Cancer UK: Research Innovation Awards**

Prostate Cancer UK’s top priority is funding research to stop prostate cancer killing men. They invest millions to find better treatments and better tests that can spot fast-growing cancers early, and could be used in a screening programme to save thousands of lives.

Research Innovation Awards are for bold, innovative research that has the real potential to impact the way prostate cancer is diagnosed and treated. Proposals must clearly demonstrate the innovative nature of the research and how it will lead to the improved health and well-being of men affected by, or at high risk of, prostate cancer. The application and assessment process reflects our increased focus on innovation and potential impact, and so you should make every effort to detail how your proposal meets those criteria.

**Deadline for proposals:** 18 October 2021
**Find out more here**

**Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust: Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research**

Over the past 20 years the Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust has supported world-leading translational research projects through the Sir Jules Thorn Award. The Award provides a grant of up to £1.7 million to support a five-year programme of translational biomedical research selected following a competition among applicants sponsored by the UK’s leading medical schools and NHS organisations. UK medical schools and NHS organisations are
normally able to submit one application annually, selected following an internal competition. Full details of the programme are given in the guidance notes.

The research must have a justifiable claim to be at the leading edge of international science and must be led by a clearly identified Principal Applicant of outstanding quality in the early years of an established research and academic career.

**Deadline for proposals:** 01 November 2021

**Find out more here**

**Academy of Medical Sciences: Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers**
Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers provide up to £30,000 over 1-2 years for research costs, to support Clinical Lecturers who are looking to develop and strengthen their research careers. The grants allow research-active Clinical Lecturers to gather data to strengthen their bids for longer-term fellowships and funding.

This scheme is targeted at those who are in the earlier years of their Clinical Lecturer appointment. You should not already have obtained substantial funding from other sources, for example a Clinician Scientist Fellowship, New Investigator Award or large project grant.

**Deadline for proposals:** 09 September 2021

**Find out more here**

**Cancer Research UK: Discovery Programme Awards**
Cancer Research UK are offering the following Discovery awards:

- **Discovery Programme Awards**: Provide long-term support for broad, multidisciplinary research where the aim is to answer an interrelated set of questions.
- **Discovery Programme Foundation Awards**: The awards allow excellent mid-career researchers to develop their independent research group.

**Deadline for proposals:** 23 September 2021

**News, info. and updates**

**Professor Lucy Chappell begins role as NIHR Chief Executive**
Professor Lucy Chappell has today taken up her new post as Chief Executive of the National Institute for Health Research.

Professor Chappell - an NIHR Research Professor in Obstetrics working at the Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine at King’s College London – will lead the NIHR as part of her wider role as Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department of Health and Social Care. She takes over leadership of the NIHR from Professor Chris Whitty and will report to him in his capacity as Chief Medical Officer for England.

**Find out more here**

**Good Clinical Trials Collaborative launches new guidance consultation**
The Good Clinical Trials Collaborative has launched a 6-week consultation on new guidance for the conduct and regulation of randomised controlled trials (RCTs). The new draft guidance aims to support people and organisations involved in the planning, conduct, analysis, oversight, interpretation, funding, and regulation of RCTs of any health intervention for any purpose in any setting.
The Good Clinical Trials Collaborative was set up in 2020 with funding from the Wellcome Trust, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the African Academy of Sciences to develop guidance to promote and enable good RCTs. It has brought together a wide range of people and organisations with an interest in and role to play in the design, delivery, analysis and reporting of RCTs, and in implementing the results.

Find out more here

Training and events

Support and training 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.

Training available from the CRN WM Study Support Service Team ranges from basic Cost Attribution, SoECATs, IRAS/ HRA process, Amendments, Research Passports (HR Good Practice), Capacity and Capability and the use of EDGE for study set up and management. If you are interested in any of these or a tailored training session to suit your needs then please contact us to discuss.

Email: studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk
Website: http://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-in-your-area/west-midlands/
Are you thinking of applying for research funding?
Access free advice and support from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service West Midlands (RDSWM)

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

- Formulating a research question
- Statistics and health economics
- Qualitative methodology
- Support on involving patients and public in research
- 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/

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