

Dear all

In this week's message:

- **New NIHR call: Trial to evaluate vaccine effectiveness for COVID-19**

Latest NIHR funding opportunities:

- Programme Grants for Applied Research - Competition 35

Funding calls from other bodies:

- RNID: Translational Grants into Hearing/Tinnitus

Latest Fellowships:

- BBSRC Discovery Fellowship 2021
- Novo Nordisk - Oxford Fellowship Programme

Blogs and Articles:

- NIHR blog: Partnering for powerful change in children and young people's mental health research

Training and events:

- RDS WM Pre-doctoral Local Authority workshop Tuesday 23rd February
- JBI-accredited Comprehensive Systematic Review Training: Short Course July 2021
- Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

New NIHR call: Trial to evaluate vaccine effectiveness for COVID-19

Deadline for applications: 24th February 2021

The NIHR has launched a new call to fund research to compare head-to-head the clinical effectiveness of the licensed COVID-19 vaccines being used in the UK. The NIHR invites proposals for a rapidly implementable single randomised clinical trial to develop greater understanding of the UK's COVID-19 vaccination programme, which is currently deploying Pfizer/BioNTech and University of Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines.

This funding call seeks bids from academic groups to undertake a randomised study in the UK to support scientific evaluation of the UK's immunisation programme against clinical (as opposed to immunological) endpoints and inform future international policy development. The intention is to fund one study that is rapidly implementable and streamlined, with a focus on clinical outcomes, especially infections and hospitalisation, and using electronic datasets where possible.

The NIHR have released a [press article](#) on the call. The call itself is [available here](#)

New fellowship opportunities for individuals working in local authorities

The NIHR Academy has launched a pilot [pre-doctoral fellowship scheme](#) for those working in local authorities and local authority supporting services. Designed to support the development of credible 'practitioner academic' career pathways within local authority settings, these fellowships will allow awardees to retain their existing employment contracts and salaries, whilst protecting their time to prepare an application for a PhD fellowship and undertake a fully funded programme of relevant Masters level training. This will increase the capacity of local authorities and local authority supporting services to generate and support research that will help tackle the complex health and care challenges of the future.

Find out more [here](#)

RDS WM are hosting a virtual event to support this scheme

Date: Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Time: 13:00 to 14:00

Venue: Online

To register and for participation link: email Karen Biddle: k.biddle@bham.ac.uk

Latest funding calls

Programme Grants for Applied Research - Competition 35

Details: NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR) funds collaborative, multidisciplinary programmes of applied research to solve health and social care challenges.

Applications are invited for Stage 1 research proposals to develop individual programmes of research. Research funded through a Programme Grant typically consists of an interrelated

group of high quality projects focused on a coherent theme and hence require multidisciplinary approaches, including clinical, health economics, statistics, qualitative and behavioural sciences, to ensure that research objectives can be met. The amount awarded and the length of the funding period will depend on the nature of the proposed work, in particular whether or not the proposal includes a substantial powered trial.

Deadline for proposals: 7th April 2021

Find out more [here](#)

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

RNID: Translational Grants into Hearing/Tinnitus

Details: The Translational Grant aims to support and accelerate the translation of research discoveries into potential new treatments to protect and regenerate hearing and /or silence tinnitus. It funds projects at both academic institutions and small/medium enterprises in any country.

RNID are looking for research proposals that will advance the development of small molecule, gene or cell-based therapeutics for the treatment of hearing disorders, including tinnitus. They seek to support research with a strong commercial potential that is likely to attract follow-on funding at the conclusion of the grant, and studies that will facilitate and enable the progression of promising basic research towards testing in clinical trials.

Deadline for proposals: 9th April 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowships

BBSRC Discovery Fellowship 2021

Details: Discovery Fellowships support researchers' first steps into independent research and help them to gain leadership skills. They are aimed at researchers who want to conduct their own independent research within a host laboratory and will have strong evidence of working toward this. Applicants will have demonstrated high potential to become future research leaders.

Deadline for proposals: 6th May 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Novo Nordisk - Oxford Fellowship Programme

Details: The Novo Nordisk – Oxford Fellowship Programme aims to support the development of a new generation of exceptional researchers in diabetes and metabolism, who will become future leaders in the field. The programme also aims to further develop scientific excellence within diabetes and cardiometabolic diseases and ultimately improve the lives of patients. We support both postdoctoral research fellows and clinical research training fellows. This ensures that the research in our programme spans the translational spectrum, from basic biological research through to clinical application.

The Fellowships offer a cutting edge research project based at the University of Oxford, which is supervised by world-leading researchers in the field of diabetes and metabolism. In addition, each fellow is given a mentor at Novo Nordisk. There is also the opportunity to spend time in the laboratories of Novo Nordisk (both in Oxford and Denmark). This distribution of time will depend on the fellow's specific project. Fellows will therefore get an insight into research in both academia and industry.

Deadline for proposals: 15th March 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Blogs and Articles

NIHR blog: Partnering for powerful change in children and young people's mental health research

Louise Jones, Director of Programmes at What Works for Children's Social Care (WWCSC), explains how WWCSC are teaming up with the NIHR to fund research into children and young people's mental health.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and events

NIHR RDS West Midlands Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship Scheme Workshop

FREE to attend, one hour virtual session, hosted by RDS West Midlands aimed at early career researchers, or those thinking of developing their research career, employed within local authorities or local authority supporting services. To inform those who may be thinking of applying for the newly launched **NIHR Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship (PLAF) scheme**. Research or service leads are also invited to attend to hear more about how the scheme will work.

The workshop will cover

- An overview of the fellowship programme
- Things that you should consider when making an application
- What you would gain by securing a fellowship
- An overview of the regional masters programmes that you could attend
- A personal perspective of holding a pre doc fellowship from someone who has just completed one
- How RDS can help

Date: Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Time: 13:00 to 14:00

Venue: Online

To register and for participation link: email: Karen Biddle: k.biddle@bham.ac.uk

JBI-accredited Comprehensive Systematic Review Training: Short Course July 2021

The University of Nottingham Centre for Evidence Based Healthcare is inviting applications for its popular short course on systematic reviewing.

This internationally recognised course is accredited by the JBI and provides a comprehensive understanding of all steps involved in systematic reviewing. The course has been adapted to run fully online. It will be led by expert facilitators and organised in such a way to maximise interaction and to avoid excessive screen-fatigue. The course will equip you with the skills to undertake a review yourself or to supervise students doing systematic review projects. By the end of the course, you will be ready to register your review, submit a protocol for publication and get started

Find out more [here](#) or to book visit the [online store](#)

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@nhr.ac.uk.

Website: <http://www.nhr.ac.uk/nhr-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 and I will remove you from my contact list.**