

Dear all

In this week's message:

New research agency to support high risk, high reward science

Latest NIHR funding opportunities:

- Potential advert: Artificial Intelligence and Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Health and Care call

Funding calls from other bodies:

- MRC molecular and cellular medicine

Latest Fellowships:

- Wellcome Trust: Research Fellowships in Humanities and Social Science

New:

- Updated NIHR guidance on applying for feasibility studies
- Accessing Public Health England data
- How to show MHRA you're meeting good clinical practice standards

Training and events:

- RDS WM Pre-doctoral Local Authority workshop Tuesday 23rd February
- Webinar: Find out the benefits of working with industry in research
- Webinar: Embedding ethical approaches to AI in health and care
- Webinar: Virtual trials and the next generation of pharma clinical research
- Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

New research agency to support high risk, high reward science

The Advanced Research & Invention Agency (ARIA) will be led by scientists who will have the freedom to identify and fund transformational science and technology at speed. The UK's next generation of pioneering inventors will be backed by a new independent scientific research agency as part of government plans to cement the UK's position as a global science superpower.



The new agency, the Advanced Research & Invention Agency (ARIA), will be tasked with funding high-risk research that offers the chance of high rewards, supporting ground-breaking discoveries that could transform people's lives for the better.

ARIA will fund the most inspiring inventors to turn their transformational ideas into new technologies, discoveries, products and services.

Read more [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

Potential advert: Artificial Intelligence and Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Health and Care call

Details: The Artificial Intelligence and Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Health and Care call will support research to advance AI and data-driven technologies in health in ways that better meet the needs of minority ethnic populations.

The call will fund two categories of research:

- Understanding and enabling the opportunities to use AI to address inequalities
- Optimising datasets, and improving AI development, testing and deployment

The call opens on Wednesday 24 March 2021. The deadline for applications is 13:00 on Wednesday 21 April 2021.

A webinar will be held on Wednesday 10 March 2021, 12:30 to 14:35, to introduce the NHS AI Lab AI Ethics Initiative. Potential applicants will have an opportunity to hear about the first three projects in the initiative and ask questions about the Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Health and Care funding call. Sign up [online](#)

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

MRC molecular and cellular medicine

Details: The Board funds research into basic biological mechanisms or technologies relevant to human health and disease.

The following awards are available:

- **Research grant:** Support focused research projects on molecular and cellular medicine.
- **New investigator research grant:** For researchers who are ready to take the next step towards becoming an independent principal investigator with clear host institution support.

Both awards aim to increase understanding of:

- the structure and function of molecules and complexes
- the cellular environment during development and mature states
- how biological systems respond to challenges (for example, drugs and toxins) and diseases.

Deadline for proposals: 5th May 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowships

Wellcome Trust: Research Fellowships in Humanities and Social Science

This scheme supports postdoctoral researchers in health-related humanities and social sciences who do not hold established academic posts. You can apply for a Research

Fellowship if you're a postdoctoral researcher who wants to carry out an extended period of research on your own project.

Deadline for proposals: 16th June 2021

Find out more [here](#)

News

Updated NIHR guidance on applying for feasibility studies

As of February 2021, the NIHR have updated their guidance for those applying for pilot and feasibility studies – in particular, how they are classified.

The revised guidance for RfPB applicants is [available online](#)

Accessing Public Health England data

Public Health England (PHE) recognises the benefits of using data for the public good but also takes its responsibility for protecting confidentiality very seriously. It has a range of policies, protocols and processes in place to ensure the confidentiality of data is maintained at all times.

The Office for Data Release (ODR) is responsible for managing the release of explicitly identifiable or potentially identifiable data from PHE on behalf of the information asset owner to an agreed process and within a formal structure.

PHE have published an article giving details of the services offered by the Office for Data Release (ODR) and guidance on how to access PHE held data.

Find out more [here](#)

How to show MHRA you're meeting good clinical practice standards

Good clinical practice (GCP) is a set of internationally-recognised ethical and scientific quality requirements that must be followed when designing, conducting, recording and reporting clinical trials that involve people. [Guidance on good clinical practice](#) has been produced by the International conference on harmonisation of technical requirements for registration of pharmaceuticals for human use (ICH). You can also get more information about GCP in the [Good Clinical Practice Guide](#), produced by MHRA.

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

Webinar: Find out the benefits of working with industry in research

What: Discover the advantages of researchers and industry partners collaborating and what opportunities are available at the NIHR Academy. This one hour webinar aims to help researchers become more confident in working at the interface of academia, industry and the health and care system.

When: 1pm on 22nd February 2021

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

Webinar: Embedding ethical approaches to AI in health and care

What: A webinar looking at:

- Optimising AI to improve the health and care outcomes of minority ethnic communities, through a joint research call with the NIHR and the Health Foundation
- Facilitating early-stage exploration of algorithmic risks, in partnership with the Ada Lovelace Institute
- Empowering healthcare professionals to make the most of AI, in partnership with Health Education England

When: 12:30-14:35 on 10th March 2021

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

Pharmaphorum webinar: Virtual trials and the next generation of pharma clinical research

What: This webinar will look at where virtual trials fit into the next generation of pharmaceutical clinical research. It will discuss how a virtual clinical trial approach can substantially increase the reach of pharma's studies, as well as how to meet potential delivery challenges and make the required skill shifts.

The webinar will cover:

- Harnessing the UK's linked-up data systems
- Increasing patient access to clinical trials
- Ensuring new types of trial designs remain patient friendly
- Delivering decentralised trials in the UK

When: 15:30-16:30 on 25th March 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.

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 and I will remove you from my contact list.**