

Dear all

In this week's message:

Save the date: Growing Social Care Research in the West Midlands

The Next Chapter for the NIHR (workstreams and strategic focus)

Latest NIHR funding opportunities:

• **Latest NIHR funding calls:**

- NIHR Global Health Research Evaluation (Policy Research Programme)
- Future call: Health Determinants Research Collaborations
- Future topics for NIHR Public Health Research Programme

Funding calls from other bodies:

- Dunhill Medical Trust: Seed Funding for the Ageing Immune System
- UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network: Research Call for Paediatric Dermatology
- Retina UK: Research Grant
- Alzheimer's Society: Project Grants

Latest Fellowships:

- Pancreatic Cancer UK: Clinical Research Fellowships
- Alzheimer's Society: Fellowships

Blogs and Articles:

- NIHR blog: Innovation in healthcare: Why we must be a guiding light to the risk-takers

Training and events:

- The King's Fund: The journey towards a smarter hospital within a new integrated care landscape
- Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

Save the date: 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

Registration via Eventbrite, details to follow!

The Next Chapter for the NIHR (workstreams and strategic focus)

NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research

The NIHR has published **Best Research for Best Health: The Next Chapter**. This represents an update to the Best Research for Best Health strategy that underpinned the establishment of NIHR in 2006.

The Next Chapter sets out NIHR's operational priorities now and into the future. It has identified seven areas of strategic focus:

- Build on learnings from the research response to COVID-19 and support the recovery of the health and social care systems
- Build capacity and capability in preventative, public health and social care research
- Improve the lives of people with multiple long-term conditions through research
- Bring clinical and applied research to under-served regions and communities with major health needs
- Embed equality, diversity and inclusion across NIHR's research, systems and culture
- Strengthen careers for research delivery staff and under-represented disciplines and specialisms
- Expand our work with the life sciences industry to improve health and economic prosperity

Find out more [here](#)

Latest funding calls

NIHR Global Health Research Evaluation (Policy Research Programme)

The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) is holding a research call for the delivery of a process and performance evaluation of the first phase of the NIHR Global Health Research (GHR) portfolio (2016/17 to 2020/21) to assess the design, implementation and emerging outcomes of the portfolio and to inform the development and delivery of the next phase of the portfolio.

The NIHR GHR portfolio invests in applied health research relevant to the unmet needs of low and middle income country (LMIC) communities, health system priorities and the evolving global burden of disease.

Deadline for proposals: 31 August 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Future call: Health Determinants Research Collaborations

The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is trailing this funding opportunity. The likely advert date for expressions of interest, is 1 September 2021. However, please note this is an indicative date, which may change.

Health Determinants Research Collaborations (HDRCs) are new elements of NIHR-funded research infrastructure based in local government. The purpose of an HDRC is to enable its host local authority (LA) to become more research-active, using evidence to inform its decision making and undertaking research and evaluation relating to its activities. HDRCs are a UK-wide initiative; they are not limited to England only. In this context, the term local authority is used to include all equivalent structures across the UK.

All functions of a local authority have the potential to impact upon health and health

inequalities. HDRCs will focus on what can be done to address the wider drivers of population health and health inequalities, explicitly addressing the needs of disadvantaged groups and areas within the relevant geography.

HDRCs will have a clear lead local authority and will be funded, through the NIHR's Public Health Research programme, for five years with the possibility of extension.

Find out more [here](#)

Future topics for NIHR Public Health Research Programme

The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme funds research to generate evidence to inform the delivery of non-NHS interventions, intended to improve the health of the public, and reduce inequalities in health.

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

- Effectiveness of interventions aimed at preventing domestic abuse
- What are the health and health inequality impacts of being outdoors for children and young people?
- Interventions to prevent and reduce male violence against women and girls
- Improving mental health in occupational groups at risk of poor mental health
- Health in coastal towns
- Increasing uptake of vaccinations in populations where there is low uptake
- Health impacts of housing-led interventions for homeless people
- Digital health inequalities
- Public health impacts of construction

If prioritised, the potential advert date for Stage 1 applications to these funding opportunities is either Autumn 2021 (possibly 19 October 2021) or Spring 2022 (possibly 15 March 2022). However, please note these are indicative dates, which may change.

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

Dunhill Medical Trust: Seed Funding for the Ageing Immune System

The ageing immune system has been identified by the British Society for Research on Ageing as an underfunded area of great importance as it underpins a number of conditions. The Dunhill medical Trust Research Grants Committee have noted that some applications for funding fell short because they were lacking a vital piece of supporting evidence or data. It was acknowledged that seed funding could provide the opportunity for such evidence-gathering experiments to be conducted. Applications for funding should therefore demonstrate how the planned work acts as a stepping stone to the development of a larger

project/funding application (either to Dunhill or to another funder).

The overall theme for this seed funding call is the ageing immune system. Examples of specific areas encompassed in this theme, and in which we are interested, include:

- How age-related change impacts infection and vaccination
- Ageing and inflammation (“inflammaging”)
- Mechanistic causes of age-related changes in the immune response (both innate and adaptive immunity)
- Immune cell senescence • Strategies to overcome age-related changes in immunity

Deadline for proposals: 23rd July 2021

Find out more [here](#)

UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network: Research Call for Paediatric Dermatology

The UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) was formed in 2002 with the aim of developing high quality, independent, multi-centre clinical trials for the treatment or prevention of skin disease. It is a collaborative network of dermatologists, dermatology nurses, health services researchers and patients throughout the UK and Ireland.

The award is principally designed to fund feasibility or pilot work that will eventually lead to a randomised controlled clinical trial, or inform the design of such a study. Research proposals are invited on paediatric dermatology (treatments for skin disease in children). Two awards are available for all aspects of paediatric dermatology (including paediatric eczema) and one award is available just for paediatric eczema.

Deadline for proposals: 19 July 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Retina UK: Research Grant

Retina UK supports people affected by inherited progressive sight loss, and invests in medical research to increase the understanding of these conditions and accelerate the search for treatments for the future.

Retina UK welcomes high quality research applications in any area of research related to retinal dystrophies but priority will be given to projects with promise for progressing the development of treatment strategies or slowing down the progress of sight loss. This includes basic laboratory research investigating disease mechanisms, preclinical studies in animal and cell models and genotyping and phenotypic investigation of patient populations as a prelude to clinical trials.

Deadline for proposals: 01 September 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Alzheimer’s Society: Project Grants

Alzheimer’s Society funds research to find a cure for Alzheimer’s and support people living with dementia. Project grants are for more established researchers and provide funding for world-class dementia research. Applications can be made for research projects which fit within the Alzheimer’s UK funding remit, which is organised into two streams:

- Biomedical research
- Care, implementation and public health research

Opens 25th June 2021.

Deadline for proposals: 16 September 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowships

Pancreatic Cancer UK: Clinical Research Fellowships

PCUK offer Clinical Research Fellowships in pancreatic cancer that are jointly funded by the Medical Research Council, National Institute for Health Research and Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland.

The following fellowships are open for application:

- **MRC and Pancreatic Cancer UK Clinical Research Training Fellowships:** Provide up to three years' support for clinically qualified, active professionals to undertake specialised or further research training within the UK. Fellows are required to register for a research degree, normally a PhD, based on research undertaken during the fellowship.

Deadline: 01 September 2021

- **The Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) and Pancreatic Cancer UK Fellowship:** Supports a Trainee or Junior Consultant (within 5 years of first appointment) with an interest in advancing the clinical management of pancreatic cancer. This individual will visit centres of excellence abroad and bring this experience back to the NHS to advance our clinical expertise within the UK.

Deadline: 31 January 2022

Find out more [here](#)

Alzheimer's Society: Fellowships

Alzheimer's Society funds research to find a cure for Alzheimer's and support people living with dementia. The following fellowships are open for application:

- **Clinician and healthcare professional fellowships:** For practicing professionals working in dementia health and care services to undertake study towards a higher research degree (usually a PhD) and who wish to develop a dual career that combines research and practice.
- **Junior fellowships:** For post-doctoral researchers who have shown exceptional promise at the start of their research career. Applicants should demonstrate potential to be an independent researcher. Fellowships are open to researchers from all disciplines, health and care professions, in line with Alzheimer's Society's vision to increase capacity with depth and breadth across all disciplines involved in dementia research.
- **Research fellowships:** For post-doctoral or other successful researchers who wish to build on a number of successful years of dementia research, and who demonstrate the ambition and potential to be a leader in their research field at the end of the award.
- **PhD studentships:** Funding of up to £85,000 is provided for up to three years (up to five years part time) and includes a stipend (£15,000-£16,000 per year), university PhD fees at EU rates, consumables & equipment, and conference dissemination support.

Opens 25th June 2021.

Deadline for proposals: 16 September 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Blogs and Articles

NIHR blog: Innovation in healthcare: Why we must be a guiding light to the risk-takers

Great innovation starts with a leap into the unknown, but early stage companies need mentorship and clear funding paths to ensure their products have a smooth landing, writes the NIHR's new MedTech Industry Engagement Adviser Martin Hunt.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and events

The King's Fund: The journey towards a smarter hospital within a new integrated care landscape

What: Traditional thinking around digital transformation within health care organisations and systems seeks to apply new technologies to existing care pathways and processes in order to improve them – but misses the opportunity technology now offers us to reimagine how care is delivered. The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted care delivery, forcing our health care system to embrace change at pace and see the ways in which digital design and capabilities can enable care, and access to care, driven by smarter, user-centred design.

At this free online event the King's Fund will explore the role that hospitals – enabled by digital capability – can play, and will think about:

- how hospitals can reframe their role as part of an integrated care system
- how digital technologies and innovation can help support that role
- how these technologies can be interwoven with workforce, estates and clinical capabilities as part of a co-ordinated approach to health and care.

When: 13:00-14:00 on 29 June 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.

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/>

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