

Dear all



The RDS and everyone at the NIHR would like to say a huge thank you to those who have been involved in COVID19 research. More than one million participants have now taken part in COVID-19 research across the UK. At this milestone, we are celebrating the efforts of participants, researchers and healthcare professionals for their involvement in COVID-19 research. You have all been part of something fantastic!

Visit the NIHR thank you website [here](#)

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- Cancer Research UK: Early Detection and Diagnosis Project Award

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### Latest funding calls

#### Programme Development Grants - Competition 30

**Details:** NIHR Programme Development Grants (PDG) are designed to enable a research team to carry out targeted preparatory work to develop a competitive Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR) funding application. They can also be used to further develop an existing or ongoing PGfAR-funded programme of research.

PDG grants are designed to increase the rate and number of successful applications for a full Programme Grant by supporting the completion of the necessary preparatory work to suitably position the research team to submit a competitive Programme Grant application. Individual awards are for a maximum of £150k over a period of 12 - 24 months. The amount of funding awarded, however, is determined by the scale and nature of the research activity to be conducted.

Applications to PDG are made with the support of an NHS body and other providers of NHS services in England. If an application is successful, a contract will be placed with that organisation for delivery of the research and all funds for the research will be paid to the NHS organisation or other provider of NHS services.

**Deadline for proposals:** 12th May 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

#### AOUK&I Research Grants

Details: This call is open to orthopaedic, veterinary and maxillo-facial surgeons, trainees and operating room personnel involved in trauma care. Applicants should submit a completed application form of their research proposal, which may involve any aspect of musculoskeletal trauma, including hand, faciomaxillo-cranial, spine and veterinary trauma.

### Major Research Grant

AOUK invite applications for research grant funding of up to £10,000 Preference will be given to applications related to an MD/PhD programme and must demonstrate clear translation to improving outcomes in trauma care.

### **Minor Research**

Grant AOUK invite applications for research grant funding of up to £5,000 Preference will be given to applications related to a higher degree or pump priming activity with potential to lead to a more significant project.

**Deadline for proposals:** 30th September 2021

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

### **MS Society: Research Grant**

Details: The MS Society welcomes applications for projects that will increase understanding of the cause of MS, find new effective treatments for it, and improve care and services for people affected by MS.

For the 2021 Grant Round, the MS Society are prioritising funding for research projects relevant to their longer-term strategic aims set out in the 5-year Research Strategy 2018-2022. Including a COVID-19 element in your proposed research won't make the project out of scope, but you'll need to clearly demonstrate how the project fits with the strategy and the priorities of people affected by MS.

**Deadline for proposals:** 12th April 2021

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

### **British Thyroid Foundation: Joe Planter Thyroid Cancer Research Award**

**Details:** Joe Plater is a YouTuber and live streamer who was diagnosed with Follicular Thyroid Cancer in 2016 and then Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer later in 2018. Joe regularly vlogs his treatment to raise awareness and help others who might be in the same situation. Through his reach on YouTube he has been able to hold a number of 24-hour gaming live streams to raise funds for the work of the BTF.

The British Thyroid Foundation are offering a £20K thyroid cancer research award in his name. The award can be used to supplement existing projects or to help get research ideas started. BTF are keen to support the crucial role that researchers fulfil in providing the best treatment for people with thyroid disorders.

**Deadline for proposals:** 30th April 2021

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

### **Heart Research UK: Translational Research project grants**

**Details:** Translational Research Project Grants aim to bridge the gap between laboratory-based scientific research and patient care. Heart Research UK welcome applications in two categories:

- **First translational gap:** Here we wish to support preclinical studies that apply discoveries generated in the laboratory to studies in humans. These studies should be applied in nature and directed at aetiology or treatments of diseases from the outset, not exploring fundamental mechanisms of biology or disease.
- **Second translational gap:** Patient focused studies. Here we wish to support research that has a direct and immediate benefit on patient care including diagnostic, prevention and treatment strategies.

Translational research is a dynamic and evolving process to continually improve healthcare and should not stop once the technology is at the patient's bedside. It can be thought of as taking a scientific breakthrough from 'laboratory bench to hospital bedside and back' to be

further improved. This may advance current practice or enable innovative discoveries to be transferred into practical tools to prevent, diagnose and treat heart disease.

**Deadline for proposals:** 1st June 2021

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

### **Cancer Research UK: Early Detection and Diagnosis Programme Award**

**Details:** Funds long-term, integrated and renewable programmes of exceptional science to transform how and when early cancers and pre-cancerous states are diagnosed. Early detection and diagnosis (ED&D) research seeks to detect and diagnose consequential precancerous changes and cancer at the earliest possible point at which an intervention might be made, reducing the burden of late-stage disease. ED&D programmes will support discovery and translational/clinical research which is mindful of the clinical and population context.

CRUK particularly welcome applications that bring novel approaches from the fields of engineering and the physical sciences that could be applied to cancer detection and are mindful of potential clinical need, patient and population impact.

**Deadline for proposals:** 15th September 2021

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

### **Cancer Research UK: Early Detection and Diagnosis Project Award**

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**Deadline for proposals:** 15th July 2021

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

## **Latest Fellowships**

### **Future NIHR fellowships**

Details: The NIHR Fellowship Programme supports individuals on their trajectory to becoming future leaders in NIHR research. The following fellowships will likely be advertised on 8th April 2021:

- **Advanced Fellowship Round 6:** The NIHR Advanced Fellowship funds post-doctoral individuals from a range of health and social care professions who haven't yet been awarded a chair. Whether you are someone who has recently been or about to be awarded a PhD, or someone with several years of post-doctoral experience, you could be eligible to apply for an Advanced Fellowship.
- **Doctoral Fellowship Round 6:** The NIHR Doctoral Fellowship funds individuals from a range of health and social care professions to undertake a PhD in an area of NIHR research. The Fellowship funds: (a) full salary support, including protected time to

concentrate on research; (b) PhD fees and research costs; (c) a bespoke training and development programme to meet individual needs.

## News

### Managing clinical trials during Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has developed guidance to assist those involved in clinical trials disrupted as a result of COVID-19. It is relevant to those involved with ongoing studies, those wishing to restart trials that have been paused or temporarily halted, and those wishing to start new studies.

Find out more [here](#)

## Training and events

### NIHR: Equality, diversity and inclusion in applied health and social care research

**What:** The NIHR Research Design Service South East is hosting an event to discuss and explore what is meant by equality, diversity and inclusion in research and the importance of thinking about it when planning your health or social care research project.

Professor Kamlesh Khunti, Director of the NIHR Applied Research Collaborations East Midlands and Centre for BME Health, will talk about his recent research on COVID-19 in ethnic minority populations. Dr Esther Mukuka will talk about her new role as the Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the NIHR, and the increasing emphasis being put on those that apply for any NIHR funding to demonstrate their commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and a healthy research culture more generally.

The presentations will be followed by informal workshops to look at different case studies demonstrating the application of equality, diversity and inclusion principles in research.

The event is open to anyone with an interest in applied health and social care research.

**When:** 13:00 to 16:00 on 28th April 2021

**Where:** Online

Find out more [here](#)

### NIHR: Applied Statisticians as Principal Investigators

**What:** The NIHR Statistics Group Career Development Section and the NIHR Methodology Incubator Statistics Workstream invite you to attend a webinar "Applied Statisticians as Principal Investigators". This webinar is aimed at applied statisticians who are interested in becoming principal investigators on grants. There will be sessions on funding opportunities available, personal experience of securing funding as an applied statistician and public involvement and patient benefit in statistician led research. A detailed agenda can be found [here](#)

**When:** 10:00-13:00 on 27th April 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.**