

Dear all

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New NIHR funding call for long COVID in non-hospitalised individuals

The NIHR has launched a second call for research proposals on helping and supporting people with Long COVID. This call will fund up to £20 million of research on treatments, healthcare services and diagnostics for adults and children with Long COVID who have not been unwell enough to be admitted to hospital.

Research proposals are invited on four topics:

- Therapies and Interventions
- Management and Evaluation of Services
- Diagnostics
- Other topics to help and support individuals with Long COVID

This call has two deadlines, and applicants are required to submit an expression of interest (EoI) form ahead of submitting a full application for each of these deadlines.

- **The first deadline is 13:00 22 April 2021** (with EoI forms to be submitted by 13:00 14 April) and is for proposals on the topics of Therapies and Interventions, and on Management and Evaluation of Services
- **The second deadline is 13:00 12 May 2021** (with EoI forms to be submitted by 13:00 05 May) and is for proposals on Diagnostics and on other topics to help and support individuals with Long COVID

Find out more [here](#)

Latest funding calls

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 artificial intelligence (AI) and data-driven technologies in health in ways that better meet the needs of minority ethnic populations.

There are two sub-categories to this call and applicants can propose projects under one or the other sub-category:

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

The starting point for the development of this call was an acknowledgment of the racialised impact of deploying AI and predictive algorithms in health and care as evidenced by examples in the US (1). There is a risk that the use of AI and data-driven technologies could exacerbate existing racial and ethnic inequalities in health outcomes, and thus this call is focused on how to mitigate possible harm. At the same time, despite the recognised potential of these technologies for health and healthcare, there has been little exploration of

whether and how they might be used to address disparities. The call therefore also encourages researchers to consider how AI and data-driven technologies could be leveraged to benefit people from minority ethnic groups and close gaps in health outcomes.

Deadline for proposals: 21st April 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Public Health Research Programme: New commissioned calls

Details: 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 accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for the following topics:

- [21/38 Which interventions are effective and cost-effective in impacting gambling-related harm?](#)
- [21/39 Improving independence among older people or disabled people](#)
- [21/40 Alcohol interventions in secondary and further education for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities](#)

Deadline for proposals: 12th August 2021

Research for Patient Benefit - Competition 45

Details: The NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme funds health, public health and social care research covering a wide range of health service challenges. The aim of the programme is to fund topics and research methodologies that increase the effectiveness of NHS services, provide value for money and benefit patients.

Applications are invited for research proposals that are concerned with the day-to-day practice of health service staff, and which have the potential to have an impact on the health or wellbeing of patients and users of the NHS. As a response mode researcher-led programme, Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) does not specify topics for research, but encourages proposals for projects which address a wide range of health service issues and challenges.

Deadline for proposals: 14th July 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Future calls for NIHR Biomedical Research Centres and Clinical Research Facilities

Details: The NIHR plan to advertise for the following in the coming months:

- **Biomedical Research Centres:** The NIHR Biomedical Research Centres (NIHR BRC) scheme provides infrastructure funding to NHS organisation/university partnerships to undertake and support early translational and experimental medicine research. The NIHR BRC funding competition will launch on 14 April 2021, with a submission deadline for Stage 1 applications on 26 May 2021.
- **NIHR Clinical Research Facilities:** The NIHR Clinical Research Facilities scheme provides infrastructure funding to support the operational expertise and delivery of early phase translational and experimental medicine studies. All NHS organisations in England are eligible to apply where they can demonstrate that they have dedicated purpose-built clinical research facilities. The NIHR CRF funding competition plans to launch on 23 June 2021, with a submission deadline of 29 September 2021.

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: Developing the evidence base: building and delivering suitable living environments and communities for an ageing population

Details: A plethora of research already tells us of the link between suitable housing and a healthier and well-supported later life. But we are not yet seeing the radical systemic change that is clearly needed to deliver this. The current context provides a real opportunity to identify and showcase innovative good practice and develop the evidence base in this area – and to present ideas for what the future of housing for older people could look like.

Funding will be available to support academic and clinical researchers partnered with community organisations, to conduct innovative research projects into building and delivering suitable living environments and communities for an ageing population

Deadline for proposals: The call will open in mid- April 2021 and will close around five weeks later.

Find out more [here](#)

CRUK: Early Detection and Diagnosis Primer Award

Details: Early Detection and Diagnosis Primer Awards support researchers at all stages to develop early, novel and outside-the-box ideas and collaborations to build and make progress in the ED&D field.

The award aims to encourage scientists at all career stages to engage with the early detection and diagnosis of cancer field. It will support new and exploratory research ideas and/or pilot studies of high scientific risk and potential reward. It supports the development of new partnerships and exploration of highly novel concepts, involving researchers from any research area, including from non-traditional cancer fields.

Deadline for proposals: 8th September 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowships

CRUK: Senior Cancer Research Fellowship

Details: Senior Cancer Research Fellowships support group leaders to further develop their own research programme and build their reputation as a world-leader in their cancer research field.

Deadline for proposals: 28th April 2021

Find out more [here](#)

News

Refreshed NIHR School for Primary Care Research

The NIHR has announced the fourth phase of the School for Primary Care Research (SPCR), with a refreshed membership and a new focus on supporting the full spectrum of primary care research and building research capacity.

NIHR research schools are national collaborations between leading academic centres that fund outstanding research in primary care, public health and social care. The SPCR carries out world-leading research in primary care, providing a focus for primary care research within the NIHR and supporting the development of primary care research.

This new phase of the SPCR has an explicit aim to strengthen the primary care research sector more broadly, covering sectors such as community nursing and pharmacy as well as general practice.

Find out more [here](#)

New vision for the Future of UK Clinical Research Delivery

NIHR and partner organisations across the health research ecosystem have today welcomed the publication of a bold and ambitious vision for the future of clinical research delivery in the UK.

This UK-wide vision sets out the ambition to create a patient-centred, pro-innovation and data-enabled clinical research environment, which empowers everyone across the health service to participate in delivering research and enables people across the country to take part in research that is of relevance to them..

Find out more [here](#)

Blogs and Articles

NIHR blog: The future of clinical research: building on success

“The UK’s health and research staff should look back on the last year with a huge sense of pride,” writes Dr William van’t Hoff, Chief Executive Officer at the NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) Coordinating Centre. Dr van’t Hoff looks back at the successes of clinical trials during the COVID19 pandemic, and looks ahead to the lessons we can learn from our experience.

Find out more [here](#)

Patient and Public Involvement

MHRA pilots patient involvement in new applications

A pilot project that puts patient involvement at the heart of clinical trials and medicine development has been launched by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). From 23rd March, when new applications for selected medicines (new active substances and new indications) are received by the MHRA, the applicant company will be asked for evidence on the patient involvement activities they undertook when developing their product. For clinical trials, whilst additional information won’t be requested at this early exploratory stage of the pilot, the MHRA will be documenting in medical assessment reports if there is evidence of patient involvement in clinical trial applications in

order to better understand the current scope of activities.

In considering how patient involvement is integrated into the approvals process, the MHRA hopes to learn from any patient-related activities that take place during development, and use this knowledge to improve the quality of clinical drug development and health outcomes in the future.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and events

NIHR Public Health Research (PHR) Programme Workshop

What: A free to attend, half day session, hosted by NIHR Research Design Service (RDS) South Central on behalf of the RDS National Public Health Community, to inform researchers about the NIHR Public Health Research Programme. This event is open to UK-based researchers and practitioners with an interest in the evaluation of public health interventions to improve the health of the public or reduce inequalities.

When: 09:30-13:30 on 28th April 2021

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR and Charities Consortium for Hospice and Community Research

What: The NIHR and Charities Consortium for Hospice and Community Research webinar series is aimed at anyone working in the hospice, palliative and end of life care sector, including researchers, hospice staff, charities etc.

The April webinar will cover:

- Introduction to the NCRI Group and their workstream
- Challenges of palliative and psychosocial research pre/post-COVID
- Are public health measures and holistic care compatible in the face of a pandemic?

When: 13:00-14:00 on 21st April 2021

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

Natural Experiments for public health research

What: Natural or quasi experiments are appealing for public health research because they enable the evaluation of events or interventions that are difficult or impossible to manipulate experimentally, such as many policy and health system reforms. However, there remains ambiguity in the literature about their definition and how they differ from randomized controlled experiments and from other observational designs.

In this presentation, Professor de Vocht will discuss conceptualisations of natural experiments in the context of public health evaluations, and will discuss how these can be aligned to the Target Trial Framework to improve the design of such evaluations, inferences that can be made from them, and their reporting. He will further describe the methodological work on natural experiments done within the NIHR School for Public Health Research (SPHR), and introduce a new SPHR initiative: the Network for the use of Natural Experiments in Public Health.

When: 10:00-11:00 on 20th 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.

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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