

Dear all

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RDS blog: Platform trials: full steam ahead?

Platform trials have demonstrated great potential for improving efficiency of evaluating healthcare interventions. Despite some challenges, it is likely their use will continue to increase in a variety of clinical areas. James Wason, Professor of Biostatistics, RDS North East and North Cumbria, looks at the advantages and challenges of platform trials, and discusses the ways the RDS might help.

Read the blog [here](#)



Latest funding calls

NIHR PHR: Food insecurity – health impacts and mitigation

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 topic “Food insecurity – health impacts and mitigation”.

For this call, the Public Health Research Programme is particularly interested in evaluating the health outcomes of interventions that aim to decrease food insecurity in the longer term rather than on an emergency basis. The Public Health Research Programme is also particularly interested in receiving applications for evaluations of upstream interventions that seek to influence factors that operate at national, regional or civic, community, or institutional levels to prevent and reduce food insecurity. Researchers should specify and justify their choice and the relevance to the population being studied.

Deadline for proposals: 30 November 2021

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR PRP: New commissioned calls

The NIHR funds policy research to enable evidence informed policy making in health and social care. The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) is inviting applications to undertake research on the following:

- **Working Age Health:** Research on working age health to support Government policy around work, health and disability.
- **Unmet need for substance misuse treatment:** Research to increase the understanding of three cohorts of substance users not in contact with treatment services: dependent alcohol users, crack users and opiate users.
- **Evaluation of the 0-5 Public Health Investment in England:** Research to evaluate the current public health investment for 0-5 year olds in England through the Healthy Child programme (HCP). The HCP is delivered through Local Authorities where health visitors support families through health and wellbeing reviews and interventions from the antenatal period to school entry.

- **Nature based social prescribing:** Research on nature-based social prescribing. Specifically, the project will seek to explore therapeutic interventions and activities and mental health examine.
- **Unit Costs of Health and Social Care:** Research to deliver the annual estimates of the Unit Costs of Health and Social Care for the next 5 years, starting in April 2022.
- **Frailty in Younger Groups:** Research to explore frailty in younger groups. Specifically, the project will seek to examine the nature of frailty in the younger adult population (aged 18-64 years).
- **Evaluation of the Healthy Start Scheme:** Research to explore the Healthy Start Voucher scheme. Specifically, the project will seek to; evaluate the impact of the scheme; assess whether Healthy Start vouchers influence food purchases and; examine whether there are ways to improve take-up and outcomes of the scheme.
- **Research Initiative on the Impact of Advertising Food and Drink High in Fat, Sugar and Salt:** The projects will seek to examine several areas including; the impact of advertising on adults; the impact of mode of advertising and; the impact of advert content. This research project aims to plug current evidence gaps and expand the evidence base for the impact of advertising on consumption of products HFSS.

Deadline for proposals: 15 June 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

Gamble Aware: Building knowledge of stigma related to gambling and gambling harms in Great Britain

Gamble Aware is commissioning a scoping paper that will establish what is known about stigma related to gambling and gambling harms. Knowledge about stigma, and the discrimination it drives, will inform all Gamble Aware's commissioning activity to prevent gambling harms, including public awareness campaigns, education, treatment, and research.

An understanding of stigma related to gambling and gambling harms therefore is necessary to address the barriers to treatment and support, including to services commissioned by Gamble Aware. This research will be the first step towards a programme of work that builds knowledge in this nascent area of stigma associated with gambling and gambling harm.

Deadline for proposals: 14 June 2021
Find out more [here](#). [Link leads to a PDF].

MRC: Understanding remote approaches to qualitative health research

Funding to improve the understanding, design and use of remote data capture within qualitative health research. Qualitative research is increasingly moving from in-person to virtual, online or remote approaches. Evidence-based approaches are required to understand where and how the design of virtual, online or remote qualitative data capture methods influences data value and research quality.

Funding is available for methodology research that delivers generalisable learning (that is, learning directly relevant beyond a single research application or method) that improves the understanding, design and use of remote data capture within qualitative research.

Deadline for proposals: 17 June 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Motor Neurone Disease Association: Translational Research (co-funded with LifeArc)

To address the need for better treatments for people with MND, the MND Association has joined forces with LifeArc to create a £1 million joint fund aimed at accelerating promising, translational research projects from across the UK and Republic of Ireland in order to develop new treatments or repurpose existing treatments for MND.

The joint funding scheme invites applications for treatment-focused, milestone-driven medical research projects that are on the translational pathway. The hope is that research jointly funded by MND Association and LifeArc will generate valuable outcomes that can secure follow-on funding (additional translational funding or partnering with/licensing to industry) to support continued development of a therapy for MND and progression towards clinical trials.

Deadline for proposals: 10 June 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Versus Arthritis: Quality improvement in rheumatology practice: Delivering change for patients

Versus Arthritis are collaborating with Pfizer UK to offer a new competitive funding opportunity focused on improving patient care and outcomes in rheumatology. Proposals should address gaps in the appropriate management of one or more of: rheumatoid arthritis; psoriatic arthritis; juvenile idiopathic arthritis; axial spondyloarthritis.

Of particular interest are proposals that:

- Focus on the improvement of patient care, patient experience and improved outcomes aiming at systematic and continuous actions that lead to measurable improvement in health care services and the health status of individuals and targeted patient groups in rheumatology.
- Improve services and pathways for people with chronic inflammatory arthritis conditions with the aim of improving people's quality of life, ability to self-manage (such as self-efficacy, patient activation), co-morbidities, and overall patient experience.
- Proposals which will have the highest chance of making a difference to the lives of people with arthritis.
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Deadline for proposals: 7 June 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowships

NIHR: Building clinical trials experience: Applications to lead an EME-funded clinical efficacy study as part of an NIHR Advanced Fellowship

The NIHR Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this funding opportunity. The applications for clinical studies should be led by a Chief Investigator (CI) who is applying for an NIHR Advanced Fellowship award.

Applications are welcomed across all areas of health. The proposed study should aim to evaluate an intervention or medical test with the potential to maintain health, treat disease or improve recovery. It may use any robust study design that is considered most appropriate to achieve the study objectives.

Deadline for proposals: 10 August 2021

Find out more [here](#).

NIHR: Development and Skills Enhancement Award

The Development and Skills Enhancement Award (DSE) provides a maximum of 1 year of funding for post-doctoral NIHR Academy Members to gain skills and experience for the next phase of their research career. As an applicant you will be required to demonstrate the new skills and experience you hope to gain through the award, and how it will benefit your future career in research.

Applications from the following strategic themes are particularly welcomed:

- health data science
- clinical trials
- entrepreneurship and industry

Deadline for proposals: 03 August 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Versus Arthritis Fellowships

The following fellowship opportunities are on offer:

- **Career Development Fellowships:** Intermediate postdoctoral awards which aim to attract and retain talented postdoctoral basic scientists, vets, nurses and allied health professionals, and provide them with the opportunity to develop an independent research career and progress towards higher-level appointments. These fellowships offer five years of funding and applications should be jointly submitted by the candidate with a sponsor.
- **Foundation Fellowships:** Foundation fellowships aim to retain the best postdoctoral researchers in areas of research relevant to arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases and provide an opportunity for fellows to develop independent research ideas at an early stage in their career. Foundation fellowships are open to basic science and other non-medical (including nurses, allied health professionals and veterinary surgeons) PhD students in the final year of PhD training, or within two years of completing their PhD at the time of application.

Deadline for proposals: 14 July 2021

News

NIHR launches innovative searchable database of global clinical trials

The NIHR Innovation Observatory (NIHRIO), based at Newcastle University, has launched a comprehensive database of clinical trials as well as medical devices, diagnostics and digital applications approved by America's Food and Drug Administration (FDA). ScanMedicine, a

free resource for researchers, clinicians and the public, draws from 11 of the world's leading clinical trial databases and pulls information on devices, diagnostics and apps from the FDA database. It allows users to access up-to-date information about what research is in progress in their area of interest, and what new medicines, devices and diagnostics are on the horizon.

The tool collates and presents the latest data in a readily accessible format, enabling users to filter results by trial type, phase, registry and more, as well as to view searches as visualisations and infographics for a 'quick-look' version of their results, identifying gaps and trends.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and events

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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