

Joint Research Management Office

Research News Bulletin

Issue 103

6 April 2018

The Research News Bulletin is edited by Nick Good ~ nicholas.good@bartshealth.nhs.uk

Need to know

Tell us about your research	2
UKRI launched	2
Data protection changes in 2018: what does that mean for research?	2
Trust Employee Expenses policy change	3
Brexit and EU research funding	3
New Commercial Model Clinical Trial Agreement released	4

JRMO news

Deputy Clinical Directors of R&D appointed	4
Applying to Horizon 2020 in April?	5
Search the JRMO website	5
Research Matters: Get Involved, Make a Difference	5

Local research

New drug reduces progression of disability in multiple sclerosis	5
Menopausal hormone therapy linked to having a healthier heart	6
Beetroot pill could help save patients from kidney failure after heart x-ray	7
Research suggests vapers may be vulnerable to lung infections	8
Major research project launched to crack aspirin's anti-cancer properties	8

Events

Innovation in Healthcare Awards 2018	9
JRMO drop-in sessions	10
NELFT NHS Foundation Trust Annual R&D Open Day	10
PPI workshops in Whitechapel	10
RDS London drop-in clinics	11

Training

JRMO GCP training	11
WFC research skills training	11

Research Funding

Grants, fellowships and awards	12
--------------------------------	----

Research Professional funding database access	14
---	----



Need to know

Tell us about your research

If you work for Barts Health and are involved in some interesting research activity the Trust's Comms Office would like to know.

Although sometimes there are legal reasons not to talk about work in progress, there is often no need to wait until a piece of work is finished and published before discussing what you are doing or what its implications might be. Just being able to flag up the sort of things we are working on within the NHS helps raise the profile of research and illustrates what an active and diverse variety of research-related work goes on here.

If you think you have a story that would be of interest to others in Barts Health please contact the Trust's Communications Team at communications@bartshealth.nhs.uk. They are keen to work up stories to share with staff and key stakeholders through a range of channels including weekly bulletins, monthly progress reports to partners and the Bart's Health Life newspaper. They will of course check into any matters of confidentiality or intellectual property before publicising it.

General advice on using the [intranet](#) and [social media](#) to flag up all sort of activities, including Research, is available on [WeShare](#).

UKRI launched

A new body, UK Research and Innovation ([UKRI](#)), has been launched. Operating across the whole of the UK with a combined budget of more than £6 billion, UK Research and Innovation will bring together the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and a new organisation, Research England. Research England will work closely with its partner organisations in the devolved administrations.

UKRI intends to be an outstanding organisation that ensures the UK maintains its world leading position in research and innovation. We will ensure that the UK maintains our world-leading

research and innovation position by creating a system that maximises the contribution of each of the component parts and creates the best environment for research and innovation to flourish.

Linking Research England to the research councils will enable the newly created UKRI to consider carefully and better align the funding of specific research projects with the quality related research funding stream. Research England's work with the other UK funding bodies and the Office for Students will help UKRI in its consideration of the sustainability of the research base, a joined up skills and talent pipeline and an approach to innovation which captures the strengths of each of the devolved nations.

Put together the aim is to make the best possible strategic funding choices. Sir John Kingman, the new chair of UKRI has in the past argued for a "strategic brain" for research funding, looking right across the UK landscape. That new strategic brain is UKRI, acting to complement the existing processes of the research councils and Innovate UK, and helping ensure that funding opportunities are not overlooked because they fall foul of existing disciplinary boundaries or outside the scope of past-present priorities.

Data protection changes in 2018: what does this mean for research?

The rules for handling information relating to research participants will change on 25 May 2018, when the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force.



The HRA has published detailed guidance about operational arrangements that researchers and organisations may need to put in place. This takes the form of a [living document](#) that will be updated over the coming weeks and months.

The two key issues to bear in mind are the scope of consent compliance with the Common Law Duty of Confidence. Most existing research studies should just follow the published HRA guidance and are unlikely to need to submit amendments for approval.

The HRA has previously published a [suite of technical briefing documents](#) for Data Protection Officers (DPO), research managers, information governance leads, security architecture leads, or equivalent in institutions undertaking or supporting health and care research.

Additional information and guidance can be found [on the UK Government website](#). The [Data Protection Bill itself can be found here](#) and there is further information available on the [Information Commissioner's website](#).

Trust Employee Expenses policy changes

Barts Health recently revised its expenses policy and associated claim forms. Please ensure that you use the correct form when claiming for expenses and that you follow the correct procedure.

Please note the following key points:

- Employees are not permitted, under any circumstances, to purchase goods or services on behalf of the Trust and all reimbursement claims will be rejected.
- Where goods and services are required by the Trust, a purchase order must first be raised before the goods and services are provided to the Trust, and all invoices must be sent to the Trust for payment directly to the supplier.
- Where the supplier only accepts payment by credit card, a purchase order must first be raised before payment is made using a Trust credit

card held by the procurement department. Please contact the procurement department for guidance on this process.

- Expenses Claim form must only be used for travel and subsistence with valid supporting receipts & documents.
- The Trust no longer requires batch headers and all claim forms can only be signed by a Trust authorised signatory.

The new policy can be viewed [on the Barts Health intranet here \(Trust staff only\)](#), and the new [Claim Form can be found here \(also Trust staff only\)](#).

Brexit and EU research funding

The UK Research Office ([UKRO](#)) maintains an open FAQ online, which covers the most common questions asked about Brexit and the continued participation of UK researchers in EU research. This covers Horizon 2020 and other EU funding schemes.

The UKRO factsheet can be found [here](#). Key points are that:

- The UK Government and the European Union announced in December 2017 states that: "Following withdrawal from the Union, the UK will continue to participate in the Union programmes financed by the MFF 2014-2020 until their closure (excluding participation in financial operations which give rise to a contingent liability for which the UK is not liable as from the date of withdrawal). Entities located in the UK will be entitled to participate in such programmes. Participation in Union programmes will require the UK and UK beneficiaries to respect all relevant Union legal provisions including co-financing. Accordingly, the eligibility to apply to participate in Union programmes and Union funding for UK participants and projects will be unaffected by the UK's withdrawal from the Union for the entire lifetime of such projects."
- The UK Government has also published an overview on the UK's

relationship with Horizon 2020 and a Q&A. UKRO works closely with the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to ensure that it provides answers to many of the questions in UKRO's previous Brexit FAQ directly and reflects of the main queries and comments UKRO has received from the community.

New Commercial Model Clinical Trial Agreement released

The Clinical Research Network (CRN), working with the Health Research Authority (HRA) and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) has launched an update to the 2011 model agreement.

Updated latest versions of the CTAs (2018) have now been released following extensive negotiation. These can now be

used, without modification, for industry-sponsored trials in NHS/ HSC patients in hospitals throughout the UK Health Service.

These standardised agreements provide an invaluable approach for speeding up patient access to research by removing the need for study-by-study, site-by-site agreement of legal terms.

The latest versions have been released within the IRAS guidance. The [Model Trial Agreement and Guidance Notes: mCTA and CRO-mCTA February 2018 can be accessed here.](#)

Although the February 2018 mCTAs replace the 2011 versions, it is expected that both Sponsors (CROs) and NHS/HSC organisations exercise pragmatism in managing the transition. It is not anticipated that contracts already being negotiated should switch to the 2018 contract format.

JRMO news

New Deputy Clinical Directors of R&D appointed

Dr Kieran McCafferty and Dr Stephen Kelly have been appointed as the new Deputy Clinical Directors of Research and Development.

They will work alongside Prof Rupert Pearce, Clinical Director of Research & Development, to develop a new strategy for more effective clinical research infrastructure. Working closely with the JRMO they will help focus on improving both the quality and quantity of clinical studies led from QMUL and Barts Health and maximising the opportunities for patients to participate in clinical trials research locally, as well as QMUL and Trust sponsored trials at a national and international level.

Stephen Kelly has been a Consultant Rheumatologist since 2010. He has a PhD from QMUL focusing on the validity and clinical utility of ultrasound imaging in inflammatory arthritis. His special interests include imaging, early inflammatory

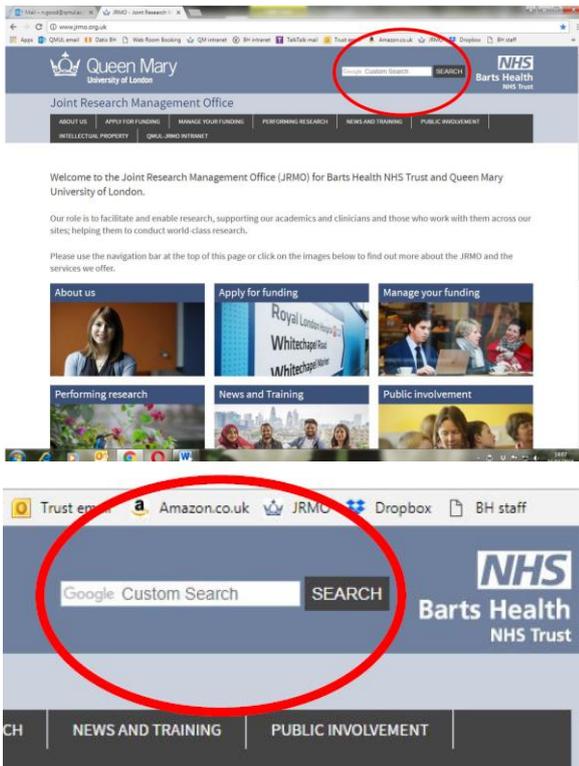
arthritis and psoriatic arthritis. Stephen has considerable clinical trial experience and is currently engaged in a number of multi-centred studies as chief and principal investigator. In addition, he is the Rheumatology speciality lead for north Thames and the Rheumatology network lead for Barts Health NHS Trust.

Kieran McCafferty has been a Consultant Nephrologist at Barts and honorary senior lecturer at QMUL since 2014. He gained his MD (res) in 2012 from QMUL on uraemic cardioprotection strategies, and took up a position as an NIHR ACL shortly afterwards at the WHRI. His main clinical interests are in uraemic cardiovascular disease, diabetic kidney disease and haemodialysis. His research time is spent running the renal clinical trials program for both in the Trust and across North Thames as part of his role as the Renal Speciality lead for North Thames CRN, and beyond in his role as deputy UK renal lead. He is also vice-chair of the local Research Ethics Committee.

Search the JRMO website

It seems to be a fact little known that you can search on [the new JRMO website](#).

At the top right of every JRMO webpage, just left of the Barts Health logo, is a Search box. Just type in a key word or words and press search.



It is a 'Google custom function' search engine, designed to work solely on content within the JRMO website.

Whilst we cannot guarantee you will always get a sensible answer, it should help in accessing our online information.

It can be used to locate specific procedures, policies, training, pre- and post-award information and will even

access items within [past Research News Bulletins!](#)

Applying to Horizon 2020 in April?

There are a large number of Horizon 2020 Health calls with deadlines on 18 and 24 April 2018. If you are planning to submit an application to one of these EU Health calls please contact Cate Cowton, EU Pre Award Officer in the JRMO ASAP:
Tel: 020 7882 6038
Email: c.cowton@qmul.ac.uk

There are a number of other large EU deadlines close to this date and the team are short-handed so please let Cate know so she can plan accordingly. Thank you!

Research Matters: Get Involved, Make a Difference

For International Clinical Trials Day 2018, we will be showcasing some of the very best examples of public engagement in research taking place across the Trust and Medical School. We are seeking researchers who are setting up, or running, lay advisory research groups and panels to work with us to host the first Barts Health Public Involvement in Research conference, to be held on Weds 23rd May at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

You can find out more and get involved by contacting Neeta or Olivia at patientsinresearch@bartshealth.nhs.uk or on 020 7363 8923 (voicemail).

Details of the programme, including registration details, will be posted shortly on the [Barts Health 'Take part in Research' website](#).

Local research

New drug reduces progression of disability in multiple sclerosis

A new drug is the first to slow the progression of disability in secondary progressive multiple sclerosis – a severe form of the disease for which there is

currently no treatment to prevent progression.

The clinical trial co-authored by researchers from QMUL and published in [The Lancet](#), found that progression to higher levels of disability was less

common in people given a drug named Siponimod compared to those given a placebo.



Multiple sclerosis (MS) affects the central nervous system, and involves the nerves losing their protective coating of myelin. It is a life-long, progressive condition that can have a range of symptoms. These can include problems with vision, balance, fatigue, stiffness, spasms, and memory problems. Most cases of MS present as relapsing-remitting MS, characterised by distinct attacks of symptoms which then fade away, and more than half of these patients later develop secondary progressive MS, where their disability gets steadily worse.

At the start of this trial, on average, patients had had MS for 17 years, and had had secondary progressive MS for 4 years. More than half of the group needed walking assistance. The risk of a patient's disability getting worse was 21% lower for people given Siponimod, compared to people given placebo – around a quarter of people given the drug saw their level of disability increase after three months (26%), compared with a third of people on placebo (32%).

In addition, from the start of the trial to 24 months, the reduction in brain volume was less severe for people given the drug, compared to placebo. Loss of brain volume is a marker for tissue damage in MS. However, more patients given the drug experienced adverse events, compared to those given placebo (89% versus 82% of patients), such as a slower heart rate, high blood pressure, reduced white blood cell count, and increased numbers of convulsions.

The authors say that this safety profile is similar to other drugs in the same class, and conclude that Siponimod could be a

useful treatment for secondary progressive MS.

Menopausal hormone therapy linked to having a healthier heart

Women who use menopausal hormone therapy appear to have a heart structure and function that is linked to a lower risk of heart failure, according to a study led by Queen Mary

The effect of menopausal hormone therapy (MHT), previously known as hormone replacement therapy, on cardiovascular health in post-menopausal women has been controversial and unclear. Extensive data had suggested MHT to have a protective effect on the heart, leading to MHT being routinely prescribed for prevention of heart disease, but subsequent studies to confirm this have varied in their results.



To tackle this longstanding question, researchers have now used data from UK Biobank - a database of health questionnaire data, biological samples and physical measurements from over 500,000 people. UK Biobank holds cardiovascular MRI data – the gold standard for imaging and analysing heart structure and function – which could help overcome the lack of detailed data on the effects of MHT on cardiovascular health.

Current evidence is conflicted and controversial

This is the first study to look at the relationship between the use of menopausal hormone therapy and subtle changes in the structure and function of the heart, which can be predictors of future heart problems. This is important as there are 2.3 million women using menopausal hormone therapy in the UK today and

current evidence of its effect on heart health is conflicted and controversial.

The research has demonstrated that hormone therapy is not associated with any adverse changes to the heart's structure and function, and may be associated with some healthier heart characteristics.

The study, whose lead author is Dr Mihir Sanghvi of the [William Harvey Research Institute](#) was published in the journal [PLOS ONE](#) and was funded by the British Heart Foundation, and involved collaborators from the [University of Oxford](#) and [University of Southampton](#).

Beetroot pill could help save patients from kidney failure after heart x-ray

Beetroot juice may reduce the risk of kidney failure in patients having a heart x-ray.



However, new research project funded by national charity [Heart Research UK](#) will look into whether dietary inorganic nitrate, found commonly in beetroot, could be used in pill form to prevent one of the most common causes of kidney failure in hospital.

Coronary angiography is a type of x-ray test which is used to look at the coronary arteries in the heart and diagnose a number of heart conditions. It can also help in the planning of procedures to widen narrowed or blocked arteries in the heart.

During angiography, a special dye is injected into the blood so that the blood vessels can be seen. However the dye can cause acute kidney injury, known as contrast induced nephropathy (CIN), which

is thought to be in part because it reduces levels of nitric oxide in the kidneys.

Dietary nitrate, found in abundance in vegetables such as beetroot, can increase levels of nitric oxide in the body. 'The benefits would be substantial'



This research is being led by Prof Amrita Ahluwalia Co-Director and Prof of Vascular Pharmacology at QMUL's [William Harvey Research Institute](#) and Dr Dan Jones, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Trials (pictured above), along with Prof Anthony Mathur, Director of Intervention, Barts Heart Centre. They will divide patients into two groups, one group taking nitrate capsules and the other group taking placebo capsules that do not contain nitrate.

Kidney function will then be measured and compared in both groups before the procedure, and two days and three months after to see if dietary nitrate makes a difference. It is hoped that this work will help reduce the risk of kidney damage and lead to better long-term survival for patients following coronary angiography.

Research suggests vapers may be vulnerable to lung infections

A study, led by [Prof Jonathan Grigg](#) of QMUL's [Blizard Institute](#) suggests that the vapour from e-cigarettes helps pneumonia-causing bacteria stick to the cells that line the airways. This research, published in the [European Respiratory Journal](#), included experiments with cells, mice and humans. It showed that e-cigarette vapour had an effect similar to the reported effects of traditional cigarette smoke or particulate matter from fossil-fuel pollution, both of which are known to

increase susceptibility to lung infection with pneumococcal bacteria.



The research examined the effects of e-cigarette vapour on a molecule produced by the cells that line the airways, called platelet-activating factor receptor (PAFR). Previous research by Prof Grigg's group has shown that pneumococcal bacteria use PAFR to help them stick to airway cells, which in turn increases the ability of bacteria to invade body tissues and cause disease. Research has also shown that PAFR levels increase in response to smoking, passive smoking, pollution and welding fumes.

The team began by looking at human nose lining cells in the lab and exposed some cells to e-cigarette vapour, some containing nicotine and some without, while other cells were not exposed. Cells exposed to either nicotine-containing or nicotine-free vapour produced levels of PAFR that were three times higher. When researchers introduced pneumococcal bacteria to these cells, they found that exposure to either nicotine-containing or nicotine-free vapour doubled the amount of bacteria that stuck to airway cells.

Finally, the team studied PAFR levels in cells lining the nose of 17 people. Of these, ten were regular users of nicotine-containing e-cigarettes, one used nicotine-free e-cigarettes, and six were not vapers. First, PAFR levels in the airways of all 17 volunteers were measured. Then, vapers were asked to take at least ten puffs on their e-cigarettes over five minutes. One hour after vaping, PAFR levels on airway cells increased three-fold.

Results suggest that vaping makes the airways more vulnerable to bacteria sticking to airway lining cells. If this occurs when a vaper gets exposed to the pneumococcal bacterium, this could

increase the risk of infection. Prof Grigg and his team hope to continue to study vaping and infections in humans and to look at the effects of using newly launched 'heat-not-burn' e-cigarettes. This research paper was published in [Eur Respir](#)

Cracking the anti-cancer properties of aspirin

An international study, led by QMUL and funded with a £5 million grant from Cancer Research UK, has been launched to answer the final questions before aspirin is recommended to reduce cancer risk.

Studies have estimated that widespread use of low-dose aspirin could lead to a 10 per cent drop in the number of people dying from some cancers, but for every 17 lives saved by preventing cancer or heart attacks there would be 2 deaths caused by strokes, bleeding or ulcers. While research has shown that taking aspirin for 10 years would have benefits for most people between the ages of 50 and 70 years, there needs to be a way to identify those who are at a high risk of bleeding to enable it to be used more widely.

To address this, [Cancer Research UK's](#) epidemiology expert [Prof Jack Cuzick](#), of QMUL's [Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine](#), is leading an international collaboration of experts to find out who is likely to benefit most from the drug and who is at greater risk of bleeding side effects. The researchers will also investigate what the best dose is, how long to take it for and how aspirin works to reduce cancer risk.



While the mechanism that aspirin uses to reduce pain is well known, little is known regarding how aspirin cuts cancer risk. The researchers hope to unravel this,

which could lead to a new drug designed to have the same benefits of aspirin but without the side-effects.

Bringing together researchers who've not had the opportunity to work together

The researchers, a collaboration of lab researchers, epidemiologists and clinical trial experts from institutes including [Harvard University](#), [Newcastle University](#) and [University College London](#) will also explore why aspirin appears to only have a powerful effect on some cancer types. There is strong

evidence that aspirin reduces the risk of bowel cancer, some evidence it can cut the risk of stomach and oesophageal cancers, and potentially a number of other cancer types.

This work is supported by the Cancer Research UK [Catalyst Award](#), which supports population health researchers to come together and tackle research problems over and above what they could do individually, with funding of up to £5 million over five years.

Events

Innovation in Healthcare Awards 2018

Barts Health's Innovation Day is Wednesday 16 May 2018, and this year's Awards' Ceremony will take place in the Pathology Museum at St Bartholomew's Hospital, 4-7pm on that day.

The day is dedicated to healthcare innovations, digital health and medical devices.

There will be presentations by start-up companies from Digital Health Accelerator London, and that will be followed by the Barts Health Innovation Awards Ceremony. The day will conclude with a networking reception. Innovations day is free to attend and open to all Barts Health NHS and QMUL staff.

If you would like to come along please contact Dr Natasa Levicar on n.levicar@qmul.ac.uk

This year's awards are:

Innovation of the Year - this award of £1,000 is for an innovative idea that can be developed into a product. Examples are an 'app', a device or a diagnostic test.

'Dragon's Den'-Style Competition - an award of £1,000 open to candidates who can pitch their innovation to a panel of industry experts.

Service Improvement - this award of £1,000 is open to all ideas that represent a service improvement within NHS.

Collaboration between Barts Health and QMUL - this award of £1,000 will be made to collaborating teams/ researchers from Barts Health and QMUL developing their innovation together. This could be for a commercial idea or as a service improvement.



Entries for all the awards will also be considered for Crowdfunding on the Barts Health Crowdfunding platform.

For application forms and further details email Dr Natasa Levicar, QMI: n.levicar@qmul.ac.uk. All Entries must be submitted by Monday 30 April 2018, 5pm to n.levicar@qmul.ac.uk

More information can be found [on the JRMO website](#).

NELFT NHS Foundation Trust Annual R&D Open Day

The NELFT NHS Foundation Trust Annual [R&D Open Day](#) will take place on Tuesday 15 May 2018. Everyone is welcome to attend and the day is designed both for those who are actively involved in research and for those interested in the area. It will be held at CEME conference centre, Rainham, RM13 8EU from 9am to 4:30pm.

The programme is yet to be confirmed but you are welcome to start booking your tickets by [clicking on this link](#). If you are interested in taking part in the research competition or if you require any further information please contact Krisha.hirani@nelft.nhs.uk.

JRMO drop-in sessions

The JRMO Governance Team is running monthly research advice drop-in sessions in the JRMO on the last Wednesday of the month, 10am to 12 noon. Imminent dates are 25 April and 30 May.

There is no need to book - please just turn up with any questions about research governance or project set-up you may have. These could be general queries about the process of setting up a research study, or more detailed points about a specific proposal or study you are working on.



Information about setting up and managing research projects can be found [on the JRMO website](#) or email questions to: research.support@bartshealth.nhs.uk

- Wednesday April 18, 9.30am-12.30pm in Whitechapel
- **Facilitation skills for PPI** - Wednesday April 18, 1.30-4.30pm in Whitechapel
- **How to write the PPI section of a grant form** - Wednesday 9 May, 9.30am-12.30pm in Whitechapel
- **Finders keepers? How to access and sustain patients and the public for involvement in research** - Wednesday 9 May, 1.30-4.30pm in Whitechapel

For the full programme and to book your place please [visit the UCLH website here](#) or contact the Engagement and Diffusion team at patientsinresearch@bartshealth.nhs.uk

For patients, carers and members of the public interested in getting involved in research at Barts Health, [please visit the Barts Health website](#).

For more information about conducting research at Barts Health and QMUL, including research governance processes and SOPs, [please visit the JRMO website](#).



PPI workshops in Whitechapel

We are running a series of Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) workshops for researchers, funded by the Wellcome Trust, supported by UCLP, and hosted by Barts Health and QMUL. Dates are:

- **Finders keepers? How to access and sustain patients and the public for involvement in research** -

RDS London drop-in clinics

RDS London holds regular next drop-in clinics for researchers preparing applications to NIHR Applied Health Streams (RfPB, EME, HTA, Programme Grants, Programme Development Grants and Fellowships) or medical charities. Drop-ins take place in East London on the last Friday of the month. RDS London can support researchers at all stages of

preparing grant applications. Advice and guidance can be provided on study design, identifying a research team and targeting an appropriate funding stream.

The next East London clinics will be held on Fridays 27 April, 25 May, and 29 June,

12 – 2pm. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day: Room G15, Yvonne Carter Building, 58 Turner Street, London, E1 2AD (reception: 020 7882 5882).

[For more information please click here.](#)

Training

JRMO GCP training

It is QMUL and BH policy that all researchers conducting research at our sites must attend appropriate training. It is mandated that all researchers of MHRA regulated trials must complete a GCP course and refresh it every 2 years. The same is advised as best practice for all other researchers.

To book a place on JRMO run GCP-related training courses please [visit our website](#).

Core courses available are:

- Good Clinical Practice (GCP) - full day course
- GCP refresher (2½ hours)
- GCP for labs
- Good practice for research studies
- Good practice for interventional studies
- Planning and managing your ethical research project

[For more information on dates and instructions on how to book your places please see the JRMO website](#) or email research.training@bartshealth.nhs.uk.

WFC research skills training

WFC are a leading provider of research skills training in the NHS, taking a holistic and practical approach to learning. All of their courses are developed and delivered by trainers with extensive senior experience in their field of expertise. Uniquely WFC provide on-going support and follow-up to delegates allowing for continued reflection and development. All courses run at our dedicated training venue in central London. Forthcoming courses and dates in London are:

- AcoRD: Calculating and Attributing the Costs of Research – 18 April 2018
- Informed Consent for Research: Actor Facilitation – 23 April 2018 -
- Successful Pharmacy Clinical Trials Team Management – 08 May 2018
- Investigator Site File Management – 10 May 2018
- Research Facilitation – 11 May 2018 -
- Understanding AcoRD for Grant Funders – 18 May 2018

For more information on these courses [please click here](#) and to book you place please email info@wendyfisherconsulting.co.uk

Research funding

NIHR funding deadlines

[NIHR Policy Research Programme Round 20](#) - Closing date: 17 April 2018

The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites proposals on the barriers and enablers to attendance at screening for diabetic retinopathy, understanding the scale and nature of avoidable harm in prison healthcare and congenital heart

disease (CHD) – outcomes and quality measures

[17/113 HTA Mental Health Themed Call \(Primary Research\)](#) - Closing date: 25 April 2018

The HTA Programme are participating in the Themed Call: promotion of good mental health and the prevention or

treatment of mental ill health across the whole life course

[17/147 - Health Technology Assessment Programme researcher-led primary research](#) - Closing date: 25 April 2018

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream (including complex health and care needs in older people theme)

[18/01 - Health Services and Delivery Research Programme \(evidence synthesis\)](#) - Closing date: 26 April 2018

The Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme is accepting stage 2 evidence synthesis applications to their researcher-led workstream

[18/02 - Health Services & Delivery Research Programme: standard researcher-led](#) - Closing date: 26 April 2018

The Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream

[18/09 Health services and interventions for children and young people who have experienced online-facilitated abuse, including online grooming](#) - Closing date: 10 May 2018

The Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream

[18/12 Predicting failure of quality of care in NHS healthcare service provider organisations, and evidence for the interventions that lead to sustained improvement](#) - Closing date: 10 May 2018

The Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream

[18/15 - Non-surgical vs surgical management of unstable ankle fractures](#) - Closing date: 23 May 2018

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic

[18/17 - Antenatal computerised cardiotocography](#) - Closing date: 23 May 2018

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic

[17/138 - Surgery for early osteoarthritis](#) - Closing date: 24 May 2018

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 2 applications to their commissioned workstream for this evidence synthesis topic

[Public Health Review Team](#) - Closing date: 29 May 2018

The Public Health Research Programme is seeking expressions of interest to identify a suitable team able to undertake public health reviews for the PHR Programme during the course of an initial three-year contract.

[18/19 - The cost-effectiveness of venous thromboembolism risk assessment tools for hospital inpatients](#) - Closing date: 30 May 2018

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this evidence synthesis topic

[18/20 - Bronchodilators and corticosteroids in bronchiectasis](#) - Closing date: 30 May 2018

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic

For further information on these and other grants available from the NIHR please see the NIHR website:

<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/current-funding-opportunities/>

To subscribe to the NIHR's themed call mailing list please [click here](#).

BMA MEDFASH prize for improving the quality of HIV and sexual healthcare

MEDFASH was an independent charity dedicated to improving the quality of HIV and sexual healthcare from 1987 to 2016.

The vision of MEDFASH was for everyone who needed it to be able to receive high quality, evidence-based sexual health and HIV care, including preventive interventions.

The BMA MEDFASH prize is open to any health or social care professional or organisation actively involved in the delivery of HIV or sexual healthcare in the UK. Applicants do not have to be a doctor or BMA member to apply.

Applicants may be nominated or self-nominated and should be currently working in HIV or sexual healthcare in the UK. Applicants must submit the following documentation:

- Letter of nomination - this should be a detailed letter of no more than 1,000 words describing the achievements and contributions of the nominee using specific examples wherever possible. Achievements and contributions should address the prize assessment criteria and will be assessed on this basis.
- 2 x letters of support - these should be made by colleagues in a suitable position to appraise the individual or organisation nominated. Letters of support should be no longer than 1,000 words and written in consideration of the prize assessment criteria.
- CV of nominee (if applicant is an individual)
- Bibliography (if relevant)

All documents should be submitted in PDF format to researchgrants@bma.org.uk by Friday 8 June 2018. Please use the subject heading 'BMA MEDFASH APPLICATION' in your email.

Gates Foundation Grand Challenges Explorations grant opportunities

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is inviting proposals for the next round of [Grand Challenges Explorations \(GCE\)](#) for the following three challenges (application deadline is **May 2, 2018**):

- [Innovations in Immunization Data Management, Use, and Improved Process Efficiency](#);
- [Affordable, Accessible, and Appealing: The Next Generation of Nutrition](#);

- [Tools and Technologies for Broad-Scale Disease Surveillance of Crop Plants in Low-Income Countries](#)

GCE grants have already been awarded to more than 1300 researchers in more than 65 countries. Initial grants are for USD \$100,000 and successful projects are eligible to receive follow-on funding of up to USD \$1 million. Proposals are solicited twice a year for an expanding set of global health and development challenges.

Applications are only two pages, and no preliminary data is required. Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any type of organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies.

Current opportunities include:

- Grand Challenges for Development: [Creating Hope in Conflict: A Humanitarian Grand Challenge](#). Application deadline is **April 12, 2018**.
- Grand Challenges: [Campylobacter spp. Transmission Dynamics in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#). Application deadline is **May 2, 2018**.
- Grand Challenges Explorations – Brazil: [Data Science Approaches to Improve Maternal and Child Health in Brazil](#). Application deadline is **May 2, 2018**.
- Misk Grand Challenges: [Activating Global Citizenship: Building the Next Generation of Global Citizens for the Global Goals](#). Application deadline is **May 2, 2018**.
- Misk Grand Challenges: [Reinventing Teaching and School Leadership: Preparing the Youth with the 21st Century Skills Needed for a Knowledge Economy](#). Application deadline is **May 2, 2018**.

MRC Experimental Medicine Challenge Grant

The MRC is pleased to announce the launch of a [£10m 'Experimental Medicine Challenge Grant' call](#), which aims to support innovative programmes of research into disease pathophysiology, using humans as the experimental animal.

The EMCG scheme will support a range of award scales, from smaller, focussed, more exploratory and highly innovative projects (based e.g. on an intellectually sound hypothesis but perhaps lacking extensive pilot data), to larger programmatic awards based on a more substantial platform of evidence.

There is a two-stage application process: an outline application followed by a full application (by invitation only). The deadline for outline applications is **31 May 2018**. Proposals must be submitted through the Je-S system.

If successful at outline stage, applicants will be invited to submit full applications. The deadline for full applications will be in November 2018 with decisions in February 2019.

Before submission of an outline you should contact the MRC Programme Manager for Experimental Medicine, Dr Rebecca Barlow:
rebecca.barlow@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk
Tel: 0207 395 2204. For other queries please contact:
Experimental.Medicine@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk

MS Society's 2018 Grant Round

The MS Society's 2018 Grant Round is now open, with a submission deadline of **12 noon, 17 April 2018**. For full details about the 2018 Grant Round [please visit the MS Society's website](#).

As in previous grant rounds, all applications will be organised into either our Care and Services or Biomedical research funding streams. We will have four types of award in the 2018 Grant

Round: PHD studentship; Innovative Awards; Project Grants; and Junior Fellowships (Care and Services research only)

All applications will be judged on scientific merit, relevance to MS and their fit with our JLA research priorities, organisational strategy and their [2018 - 2022 Research Strategy](#).

Please read the online guidance available on our website thoroughly before submitting your application. The applicant guidance includes details and links to our Research Strategy, Organisational Strategy and our JLA priorities, all of which should be considered when developing an application. Most funding decisions will likely be communicated in October 2018 with an earliest start date of January 2019. Funding decisions for Junior Fellowships will likely be communicated in August 2018, with an earliest start date of October 2018. All lead applicants must be based at a UK university or NHS institution.

Nursing Times Research Award

This year's [Nursing Times Awards](#) are now open for new applications.

Last year the Research Nursing Team from Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust brought huge kudos to the Trust by winning the award for Clinical Research Nursing and made us immensely proud to have the front runners here in North Thames.

More information can be found [on the Awards website](#),

The closing day for entries is Friday **4 May, 2018**.

Research professional

Research Professional (formerly Research Research) now offer an easy to use self-service sign up: <http://www.researchprofessional.com/>

Funding information: [Further funding information can be found on the Research Professional website – to access click here \(account and password required\)](#).