

# Joint Research Management Office

# Research News Bulletin

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# Research headlines

## Barts Health Innovations in Healthcare Awards 2016

This year's Barts Health Innovation Innovations in Healthcare event will take place on 29 November. The following awards will be made:

- **Innovation of the Year Award £1,500** - This award is for an innovative idea that can be developed into a product (e.g. app, device, diagnostic test).
- **'Dragon's Den'-Style Competition Award £1,500** - Open to candidates who can pitch their innovation to a panel of industry experts.
- **Service Improvement Award £1000** - This award is open to all ideas that represent a service improvement within NHS.
- **Collaboration Award-Barts Health and QMUL £1000** - The award will be made to collaborating teams/ researchers from Barts Health and QMUL developing their innovation in collaboration. This could be for a commercial idea or service improvement.

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

For application forms email Dr Natasa Levicar, QMI on [n.levicar@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:n.levicar@qmul.ac.uk)

Completed Innovations in Healthcare Competition forms should be submitted by Wednesday 9 November 2016 5pm to [n.levicar@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:n.levicar@qmul.ac.uk). The awards ceremony will take place on 29 November 2016.

## EDGE compulsory for research records

Everyone who is responsible for maintaining online records about NIHR Portfolio Projects should now be using the EDGE system to do this. That includes PIs, research delivery staff, support staff, trial and study co-ordinator, and staff in the JRMO.

EDGE is the system that has now been approved by the NIHR Clinical Research Network for the ongoing management and support of clinical trials. To date various systems have been used across England and Wales for this purpose but from January 2017 only EDGE can be used.

All trial recruitment will need to be backdated to 1 April 2016 as a minimum. Recruitment can be imported using CPMS data for all active projects.

Training on EDGE is available to all users and I would urge you to take this up as soon as possible - if you have not already done so.

General information about EDGE can be found [at the 'EDGE Clinical' website here](#) and you can log onto the [actual EDGE NHS system here](#) and click on Support Section of EDGE and then click on "Need some help?". In addition a [short video of the EDGE system can be viewed here](#).

If you have any questions about local implementation of EDGE please contact Elizabeth Clough, R&D Governance Operations Manager in the JRMO, at [elizabeth.clough@bartshealth.nhs.uk](mailto:elizabeth.clough@bartshealth.nhs.uk)

## More patients needed for the 100,000 genomes project?

Most people have probably heard of genomics, the study of our genes and the DNA that links them. It is at the frontier of medical science, and the NHS is seeking to become the first health service in the world to offer personalised medicine as a routine part of care.

Barts Health has joined the national drive and needs to obtain blood samples and cancer cells from the biopsy from willing patients.

There is no cost – in fact, we receive a small fee for every sample we take – and the only downside is that patients need to fill in a consent form to enable research to take place according to agreed ethical guidelines.

Our focus to date has been on establishing a central library of information about the genomes of cancer patients, but take up here, as at other NHS Trusts, remains behind target.

Anyone with suitable patients should contact the 100K Genome team on (020) 3246 0115.

For more information about the 100,000 Genome Project [see the 100,000 Genome Project website](#) or [The North Thames NHS Genomic Medicine Centre website](#).

## HRA approval update

HRA Approval is the new process for the NHS in England that brings together the assessment of governance and legal compliance, undertaken by HRA staff, with the independent REC opinion provided through the UK Health Departments' Research Ethics Service. It replaces the need for local checks of legal compliance and related matters by each participating organisation in England. This allows participating organisations to focus their resources on assessing, arranging and confirming their capacity and capability to deliver the study.

The HRA is continuing to publish updated performance information for HRA Approval which is now fully implemented for all study types taking place in the NHS in England. The latest report showing performance to the end of June is [available on the HRA website](#).

This shows that the volume of new requests for HRA Approval, for existing studies with some sites or with REC approval, has decreased significantly. Most studies that had study-wide review or sites set up and have requested HRA Approval for new sites have been issued HRA Approval. Numbers of new applications for HRA Approval continue in line with expectations and timelines for new applications continue to be delivered in line with expectations. In addition the volume of amendments being received has decreased significantly and requests have been cleansed to remove duplicates.

The HRA continues to work to process amendments and put in place further measures including quicker internal arrangements.

The HRA has also apologised for not always been able to respond to requests for status updates and provide information about timelines and escalation prioritisation. To view the full HRA Approval performance update [please visit the HRA website here](#).

## Deadline for uploading accruals to NIHR Patient Recruitment Database: 24 October

We have been reminded by our Local Comprehensive Research Network that we are approaching an important deadline in the Network calendar. Each year the NIHR stipulate a cut-off date upon which they will base recruitment numbers for the year and this then determines the amount of cash the Network will receive in the next financial year. This year's cut-off date is the 24 October.

By 24 October we need to have all of our accruals loaded onto the system if we are to maximise our 2017-18 Network income and indeed the cash that will ultimately come into the Trust from the LCRN.

All research groups are urged to focus on ensuring that they are up-to-date with loading up their accruals. If you foresee any problems in your area please contact Gerry Leonard, Director of Research Development to discuss: [gerry.leonard@bartshealth.nhs.uk](mailto:gerry.leonard@bartshealth.nhs.uk). It may be possible to assist groups with up-loading data, but only if we know there is likely to be a problem very soon!

## MRC-industry asset sharing initiative

The MRC, in collaboration with 6 leading pharmaceutical companies - AstraZeneca, GSK, J&J, Pfizer, Takeda and UCB -, has launched an up to £5 million funding initiative for proposals aiming to re-purpose a selected pool of pre-clinical/clinical stage compound assets.

General information & List of assets [are available here, on the MRC website](#). This includes compounds that are good tools to test the importance of the relevant mechanism of action in preclinical models or have sufficient clinical data to enable the exploration of clinical hypotheses.

### Scope & Potential outputs

- Focus on new, previously unexplored areas of clinical research (outside participating company development plans and do not replicate previous or existing studies)
- Pre-clinical and clinical data on the relevance of the selected mechanisms and compounds in new disease areas (all disease areas within the MRC portfolio will be considered)
- Pre-clinical and clinical data to support patient stratification strategies in clinical development.
- Data to support the validation of translational models (in vitro and in vivo).

For more information and to arrange a discussion on a project-by-project basis, please contact the Business Development team by email to Maria Mastrogiannaki: [m.mastrogiannaki@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:m.mastrogiannaki@qmul.ac.uk). The deadline for applications is 12 October 2016.

### Secrets of a successful Press Release

A [really useful tip-sheet from Vuelio](#) is available which helps break down the anatomy of a press release and lists the key points every press release must address. With advice from PR Coach Debbie Leven you can now make sure every section of your copy is pitch-perfect.

With this tip sheet you will get:

- A visual breakdown of the key elements of a press release
- A detailed look at what every paragraph of a press release must include
- Expert tips on the dos and don'ts of press release writing

For more information and to [download the tip-sheet please click here](#). Make sure your press releases work as hard as they can to tell your story.

### UKCRC Tissue Directory goes live

The UKCRC Tissue Directory is now live for medical researchers wanting to source human tissue for their studies. The

Directory is intended to be a first port of call for researchers needing human samples; it has functionality to search for both collections and capabilities. This means that if it does not return what you need you can search for other platforms with the potential to source it:

- [Search](#) for the type of tissue you want (see our page on SNOMED coding for help with this: "[What is SNOMED-CT](#)"). You can also search using our helpful disease [list](#). Tick the capabilities box if you want to search for services.
- View Biobanks that store or can collect the samples - you can add them to your contact list by clicking contact.
- Message the biobank(s) about your research using the contact list. They manage all requests themselves on a case by case basis.

The Directory will grow over time and we welcome any feedback you may have. We need to work together to optimise the use of existing capabilities in the UK. [Register now](#) if you have something to offer the research community. If you have any issues, please [contact the team by clicking here](#).

### CRN news

- **CRN: North Thames Annual Delivery Report.** The CRN: North Thames Annual Delivery Report has been published and [is now available to view on the CRN's website](#). The Report covers compliance with the Department of Health and Host Trust agreement, performance of the local network in relation to national NIHR CRN Performance Indicators and contribution towards that – both broken down into clinical specialities. In addition it includes a report on progress on various other local initiatives and innovations plus an overview of the network's financial management.
- **NIHR CRN Advanced Leadership Programme** - The first NIHR CRN Advanced Leadership Programme (ALP), launched last week, is designed to improve and increase good leadership across the research

community. [To read more about this please click here.](#)

- **NIHR Research Activity League table coming soon** - The NIHR Clinical Research Network 2015/16 NHS Research Activity League Table, showing the extent of research activity in NHS trusts in England will be released on 25 October 2016. [To read more about this please click here.](#)

### New JRMO SOPs online

The JRMO has released some more revised or new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This brings to the end a major ongoing review of SOPs. All SOPs have a change control box detailing what has been updated and when so please

ensure that those you are using on clinical trials accord with the latest models.

SOPs published or re-published since the last R&D News Bulletin are:

- **SOP 7: [Costing and contracts](#)**
- [JRMO contract checklist](#) (the same as for SOP 11)
- **SOP 15: [QMUL REC application procedure](#)**
- **SOP 16: [Data protection for research projects](#)**
- [Research data protection checklist](#)
- **SOP 26c: [Pharmacovigilance processing for the JRMO](#)**
- **SOP 29: [Document control](#)**
- **SOP 45, template 3: [co-ordinating team delegation log](#)**

All JRMO SOPs are [available at our website](#).

## Local research update

### Dr Tom Abbott recognised for outstanding contribution to NHS research

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network has announced the winners of the research awards run in partnership with the Royal College of Physicians (the College). The awards recognise outstanding contributions of NHS consultants and trainees who are active in research.

Dr Tom Abbott, Clinical Research Training Fellow, Barts Health NHS Trust was one of the ten winners. Applicants were required to outline their contribution to the leadership of several NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio studies with a particular focus on:

- How they demonstrate clinical leadership enabling their organisation to increase its participation in clinical studies
- How they engaged with patients to inform them of new opportunities to participate in clinical research
- Their contribution to successful delivery of clinical research studies, with a particular emphasis on industry (commercial contract) studies.

This year's competition was strong and that strong field is a good indicator of local commitment to research from both consultants and trainees across the country, leading clinical studies to improve outcomes for patients in the NHS.

Trainee award winners will be invited to attend the Royal College of Physicians new members' ceremony on 18 January 2017. Consultant award winners will be invited to the Harveian Oration on 20 October 2016.

### Toys and 'enriched' surroundings help mice fight infection

Mice that are given toys and placed in stimulating surroundings have healthier immune systems, according to a study by QMUL.

Little is known about the influence of environmental factors on the immune system, but factors such as pollution, location, psychological state and social status have been proposed as determinants in the development of human autoimmune disorders. The research, published in [Frontiers in Immunology](#), provides the first evidence that an enriched environment influences the

function of T cells - a type of white blood cell that is essential for immunity, and involved in HIV, rheumatoid arthritis and other chronic diseases.

The study found that a simple set of alterations to a mouse's living space for a brief period of time caused dramatic changes to their T cells which made them more prone to having a protective inflammatory effect.

Mice were housed either in normal or 'enriched' environments for two weeks. The normal environment consisted of a standard mouse cage filled with sawdust and nesting material. To provide a richer, 'multisensorial' standard of living, the enriched environment had a wider cage with wood shavings and toys, including a coloured nest-box, fabric tube, running wheel and swing.

Lead researcher Prof Fulvio D'Acquisto from QMUL's William Harvey Research Institute reported that after only two weeks in an enriched environment with plenty of toys and space, the mice's immune systems were completely different and seemed to be better prepared for fighting infections. That effect is remarkable because the mice had not been given any drugs, just improved housing conditions; in effect a holiday. More information can be found in the research paper: ['Impact of enriched environment on murine T cell differentiation and gene expression profile'](#).

### **New Barts Mouse cryopreservation facility**

The Barts Mouse Cryopreservation Facility has now opened.

This new facility will offer the possibility to cryopreserve transgenic murine lines by freezing embryos and sperm. Additional services available will be transportation, recovering of the frozen transgenic lines (thawing of embryos and/or sperm) revitalisation of cryopreserved transgenic lines to bring them back to shelf and IVF of transgenic lines. Importantly this service will enable investigators to store transgenic murine lines that are not immediately needed for experimental purposes but which may be required for future experiments.

For the first year the Mouse Cryopreservation Facility will be open only to our School because we have already a long list of people who are interested in using it. But thereafter it is hoped to extend the service to external users. The new service will avoid unnecessary animal breeding and is aimed to generate more space in service units. Look out for further information on the QMUL website.

### **Two-thirds of cervical cancer deaths prevented by screening**

Cervical screening prevents 70% of cervical cancer deaths and if all eligible women regularly attended screening this would rise to 83%, according to research led by QMUL.

The new research, funded by Cancer Research UK and led by Prof Peter Sasieni, and published in the [British Journal of Cancer](#), is the first to establish the impact that screening has on deaths from cervical cancer by using screening information from women who have been diagnosed with the disease.

The researchers studied the records of more than 11,000 women in England who had been diagnosed with cervical cancer and found that, without screening, an additional 1,827 more women would die from the disease. But if all women aged between 25 and 64 were screened regularly, an extra 347 lives could be saved – extensively reducing the number of deaths from the disease.

The biggest impact of screening is among women aged between 50-64 where there would be five times more women dying from cervical cancer if there were no screening.

In England around 800 women die from cervical cancer each year. Cervical cancer screening is offered in the UK to women aged between 25 and 64. The screening programme invites women every three years between the 25 and 49; after that they are invited every five years until they're 64.

For more information see the research paper 'Impact of cervical screening on cervical cancer mortality: estimation using

stage-specific results from a nested case-control study' in the [British Journal of Cancer](#).

### **£6.5m grant to launch new heart disease Biomedical Research Centre**

East Londoners are set to benefit from a £6.5m national grant that will enable world-leading researchers to turn theories within laboratories into reality, improving the care of local people with heart disease.

The funding was secured by Barts Health and QMUL following a successful bid to provide a 'one stop' integrated discovery science and treatment centre in the heart of London to research heart and blood vessel (cardiovascular) disease.

By partnering with the technology industry and other academics including Yale University in the USA, the new National Institute for Health Research Biomedical Research Centre (NIHR BRC) aims to encourage the development of new medical devices that will improve and save lives. Barts Health and QMUL are among 20 NHS and university partnerships across England to be awarded funding through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). Further information on the awards is available on the [Department of Health website](#).

### **Vitamin D could reduce asthma attacks**

Taking an oral vitamin D supplement in addition to standard asthma medication is likely to reduce severe asthma attacks, according to research led by Queen Mary University of London (QMUL).

Asthma is a common chronic disease affecting about 300 million people worldwide, with symptoms including wheezing, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath.

Low blood levels of vitamin D have been linked to increased risk of asthma attacks in children and adults with asthma. There has been a growing interest in the potential role of vitamin D in asthma management because it might help to reduce upper respiratory infections (such as the common cold) that can lead to exacerbations of asthma.

The team led by author of the [Cochrane Review study](#), Prof Adrian Martineau looked at seven trials involving 435 children and two studies, involving 658 adults, from a broad range of countries including Canada, India, Japan, Poland, the UK, and the US. The majority of people recruited to the studies had mild to moderate asthma, and a minority had severe asthma. Most people continued to take their usual asthma medication while participating in the studies.

The researchers found that giving an oral vitamin D supplement reduced the risk of severe asthma attacks requiring hospital admission or emergency department attendance from 6 per cent to around 3 per cent. They also found that vitamin D supplementation reduced the rate of asthma attacks needing treatment with steroid tablets, but that vitamin D did not improve lung function or day-to-day asthma symptoms. Further analyses to investigate these questions are on-going, and results should be available in the next few months."

**For more information see the** research paper: '[Vitamin D for the management of asthma](#)', in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2016, Issue 8.

## Events

### **William Harvey Day 2016**

William Harvey Day 2016 will be held on 18 October at the West Smithfield campus aka St Bartholomew's Hospital. This flagship research day for the faculty gives the chance for staff and students to hear

from internal speakers about the work they are undertaking as well as keynotes from experts external to the Faculty. There is a Poster Competition open to all staff and students and following feedback from last year we are expanding the number of places available for posters. [For more](#)

[information and to book your place please click here.](#)

## **Research and Technology Commercialisation Open Sessions**

QMI has started an initiative to offer support and consultation to scientists that want to explore the commercial opportunities of their ideas. Sessions aim to provide support on intellectual property issues and guidance to advance research ideas along the commercial development pathway. For further details please email Beatrice Lana [b.lana@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:b.lana@qmul.ac.uk) or [follow this link to see the 2016 calendar on QMI latest news.](#)

### **Upcoming sessions:**

- Tues October 11 - Blizzard Institute, common tables on the first floor
- Weds, October 12 - Charterhouse square, The Shield café
- Tues November 8 - Blizzard Institute, common tables on the first floor
- Weds November 9 - Charterhouse square, The Shield café
- Tues December 6 - Blizzard Institute, common tables on the first floor
- Weds December 7 - Charterhouse square, The Shield café

## **UCL Infection, Immunology and Inflammation Symposium 2016**

Registration is now open for the annual UCL Infection, Immunology and Inflammation Symposium on Tuesday 8 November 2016 at the UCL Institute of Education.

This event, organised by the [UCL Personalised Medicine Domain](#) and held in partnership with [UCLPartners](#), will bring researchers together from across UCL, [Queen Mary University of London \(QMUL\)](#) and beyond, enabling cross-disciplinary interaction and encouraging new collaborations.

Eminent speakers from UCL, QMUL and our partner organisations will present their ground-breaking work and answer your questions.

[For more information and to register to attend, please click on this link.](#)

## **Building careers in clinical research conference**

The Clinfield organised conference, [Building Careers in Clinical Research](#), will take place on November 17 at SOAS in London.

The event will be an opportunity to visit stands from the Global Research Nurses Network, the International Association for Clinical Research Nurses, the Florence Nightingale Foundation, the Imperial Lab Skills for Clinical Research Staff team and the NIHR Dissemination Centre. Stuart Fleming-Cain, Revalidation Lead Nurse at Imperial College Healthcare Trust, will offer information and support to those looking to better understand the new revalidation process for nurses and midwives.

To register for [Building Careers in Clinical Research please click here.](#)

## **Joint NIHR CRN/ UK Pharmacogenetics and stratified medicine network workshop**

The UK Pharmacogenetics and Stratified Medicine Network is holding a focused workshop in partnership with the NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) entitled "A Roadmap for Delivery of Stratified Medicine Research within the NHS" on Wednesday 2 November 2016 at BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

The event will have speakers describe the challenges associated with delivery of stratified medicine studies to a selected audience of around 50 delegates from CRN, NHS, academia, funders, industry, regulatory bodies, and patient groups. Delegates will be invited to join discussion groups to debate and offer solutions to address some of these challenges. At the end of the day the findings of the discussion groups will be summarized and debated further with all delegates. Following the meeting the speakers and discussion group rapporteurs will be asked to contribute to a

position paper to be published in a leading peer reviewed scientific journal.

Places at the workshop are limited so please contact Vanessa Poustie [Vanessa.Poustie@nih.ac.uk](mailto:Vanessa.Poustie@nih.ac.uk) or further information and to express an interest in attending.

### **BRC workshop: implementing patient and public involvement**

Course dates: Monday 10 October and Friday 11 November This is an introductory session for anyone wishing to find out about patient and public involvement (PPI) in research. The session will cover practical aspects of involving patients and members of the public in the research process.

The course will cover the key issues and challenges of PPI, and will provide participants with an understanding of the methods and resources available to involve patients and the public in the various stages of the research process including the design, the grant application, management and dissemination. Participants will be provided with real examples and advice on the key factors to consider when planning and implementing. [For more information and to book a place please click here.](#)

### **Incontinence research workshop**

Incontinence research has been cited by patients with long-term health conditions as an area of priority to address their unmet needs in improving quality of life. A free one-day workshop on Friday 2 December 2016 at Guy's Hospital, London, has been developed by the above group of health charities and organisations. The workshop will focus on increasing research into incontinence in people with long-term health conditions.

The workshop will address planning and seeking funding for incontinence research. This will include breakout sessions focussing on collaborative working and networking to develop research questions.

[For more information and to book a place please click here.](#)

### **CamBioScience's 2-day super-intensive course 'Genome Editing: CRISPR Design & Strategy'**

The next 'Genome Editing: CRISPR Design & Strategy' hands on training course will be hosted at Homerton College, University of Cambridge on the 21-22 November 2016.

Hands-on Lab sessions will help you get to grips with the key practical steps necessary to successfully apply the technology. Discussion sessions and Individualised CRISPR clinics with leading scientists will answer the burning questions you have about your specific project and help you avoid the common pitfalls! Major academic and industry figures in the field will give keynote talks on their latest research and technological advances.

Knowledge will be tested at the conclusion of the course and will receive a Certificate of Completion endorsed by CamBioScience, Homerton College & the Cambridge Stem Cell Institute. The course is aimed at junior group leaders, R&D team leaders, postdoctoral scientists, PhD students, experienced masters level students and senior research assistants from both academia and industry. Some experience of molecular biology and/or genetics is required. The course teaching will focus heavily on manipulation of mammalian genomes so applicants with an interest in this system will be prioritised.

For more information and to book visit [the CamBioScience website here](#). Enquiries to: [courses@cambioscience.com](mailto:courses@cambioscience.com). Early Registration (reduced price) ends on 31 October 2016.

### **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 21 October and 18 November, both 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

### New NIHR training and development resources

**Clinical Research Podcasts** - Those working in clinical research have many demands on their time, but we are also expected to keep up-to-date with new ideas and developments in our field. The NIHR-CRN has launched a regular podcast which you can download and listen anywhere, in the car or on the train or tube to work. This short resource will take two forms — a 10-12 minute piece focusing on either a single relevant topic in clinical research, or the discussion of a single paper with an expert. The former allows listeners to hear the thoughts and opinions of a whole range of different people involved in clinical research. To access the podcasts [click here and click subscribe](#).

**New MOOC specifically focusing on Cancer research** - Cancer research has advanced rapidly over the past 20 years, leading to exponential growth in our knowledge of cancer biology. Ground-breaking research has led to the development of new, more targeted treatments that are changing the way we treat cancer and providing new hope for patients. This free online course from Cancer Research UK will explore the science behind new targeted cancer treatments, how they work, and the patients they benefit. The course has been designed specifically for research nurses and other members of the clinical research team, and will draw on the knowledge of experts including scientists, clinical research nurses and doctors. Interviews with patients will highlight the side effects targeted treatments can cause and how they impact on patients' quality of life. The course will open for registration at the end of October and run at the start of Jan – please look out for further information.

### JRMO GCP training

To book your place on JRMO run GCP-related training courses please [visit our website](#). Dates for the academic year 2016-17 are now available.

Core courses available are:

- Good Clinical Practice (GCP) full course One day
- GCP refresher 2.5 hours
- Research Governance Framework (RGF) full course 4.5 hours
- RGF refresher 2 hours
- GCP for Pharmacy - full course 4 hours
- GCP for Pharmacy - refresher 2 hours

[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](mailto:research.training@bartshealth.nhs.uk).

### Clinfield research training

Clinical Research runs a number of courses aimed at those new to the field of clinical research as well as those who have gained experience in the field but who would like to refresh their knowledge and skills and pick up tips and tools to enhance their practice. Over the next few months the following training is being offered (click to see more):

- [Clinical Research: Getting Started!](#) - 7 October at NCVO, London
- [Developing Yourself in Clinical Research](#) - 11 October at NCVO, London
- [Informed Consent](#) - 19 October at NCVO, London
- [Meeting the Challenges of Recruitment and Retention in Clinical Research](#) - 3 November at NCVO, London

- [Applying for Ethical Opinion in the NHS](#) - 23 November at NCVO, London

### UCLH PPI workshops for researchers

Workshops for researcher on patient and public involvement (PPI) in research are being run by the NIHR UCLH Biomedical Research Centre with funding from the Wellcome Trust. These workshops are practical and aim to build up researchers' skills in effectively involving lay people in the re-search process, from setting research priorities to designing protocols. Dates and courses are:

#### **Introduction to PPI:**

- 9 November 2016, 10am-4pm, Maple House, Tottenham Court Road

#### **PPI Master Class:**

- 10 November 2016, 10am-1pm, Moorfields Eye Hospital, Old Street

- 6 December 2016, 10am-1pm, Maple House, Tottenham Court Road

#### **Developing facilitation skills for PPI:**

- 11 October 2016, 2-5pm Maple House, Tottenham Court Road
- 15 November 2016, 2.30-5.30pm, Barclay House, Great Ormond Street

#### **How to fill in PPI sections on grant form**

- 17 October 2016, 2-5pm, Moorfields Eye Hospital, Old Street
- 11 November 2016, 10am-1pm Maple House, Tottenham Court Road

#### **Accessing patients and the public**

- 28 November 2016, 10am-1pm City University, Northampton Square

#### **Setting up and supporting a lay panel**

- 11 October 2016, 10am-1pm, Maple House, Tottenham Court Road

[To book a place, please visit the PPI page of the NIHR UCLH Biomedical Research Centre website.](#)

## Research funding

### NIHR funding deadlines

#### **DH Policy Research Programme - Call for Applications**

Closing date: **11 October 2016**

The Department of Health Policy Research Programme invites applications in the following areas:

- Call 1: Research call on Operational Research for Infectious Disease
- Call 2: Vaccine evaluation research – To inform decision making on the national vaccination and immunisation programme (cost effectiveness, safety, schedules and policy)
- Call 3: vCJD research to inform health protection policy and measures
- Call 4: Benefits of General Practices offering patients access to test results.

[Read more about this and apply by clicking here.](#)

#### **Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme - Commissioned call**

Closing date: **1 November 2016**

The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme is accepting applications to

their commissioned workstream for the following topics:

- 16/71 - Difficult to Treat Severe Asthma
- 16/61 Evaluation of new surgical procedures through the use of novel study designs
- 16/70 - Non-Rheumatoid Arthritides
- 16/67 - Mechanisms of action of health interventions
- 16/68 - EME Researcher Led

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

#### **Research for Patient Benefit Programme Competition 31**

Closing date: **23 November 2016**

The NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme invites research proposals which are related to the day-to-day practice of health service staff and is concerned with having an impact on the health or well-being of patients and users of the NHS. As a responsive rather than a commissioning programme, RfPB does not seek to name specific topic areas and welcomes applications on a wide range of

issues and aims to fund high quality research that will be directed at achieving benefit for users of the NHS in England. The programme supports applications which are regionally derived and applications which have emerged from interaction with patients and the public, which relate to patient and service user experience, and which have been drawn up in association with a relevant group of service users.

[Find out more and apply by clicking here.](#)

**Health Technology Assessment Programme - Researcher-led call**  
Closing date: **30 November 2016**

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting applications to their researcher-led workstream as follows:

16/111 - Researcher - led, Expression of Interest to Full proposal  
16/110: Researcher - led, Evidence Synthesis Full.

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

**Public Health Research Programme - Commissioned call**  
Closing date: **5 December 2016**

The Public Health Research Programme is accepting outline applications to their commissioned workstream for the following topics:

16/39 Mid-life and physical exercise  
16/40 Preventing road injuries  
16/41 Sedentary behaviour  
16/50 Sun exposure

[For more information and to apply for Public Health Research Programme Commissioned funding opportunities click here.](#)

**Health Services and Delivery Research Programme**  
Closing date: **12 January 2017**

The Health Services and Delivery Research Programme are accepting

applications to their commissioned workstream as follows:

16/115 - Researcher-led (evidence synthesis)  
16/116 - Researcher-led (standard)  
16/117 - The effectiveness of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)  
16/118 - Medicines optimisation in patients with polypharmacy in primary care settings

[For more information on HS&DR Programme Commissioned funding opportunities, and to apply, click here.](#)

For more information about all NIHR funding opportunities [visit the NIHR website](#). To subscribe to the NIHR's themed call mailing list please [click here](#).

**Academy of Medical Sciences: Springboard 2016**

Springboard offers a bespoke package of support to biomedical researchers at the start of their first independent post to help launch their research careers. This includes funding of up to £100,000 over two years and access to the Academy's acclaimed mentoring and career development programme.

Prospective applicants should contact the [Springboard Champion](#) within their institution in the first instance, as each institution may put forward up to three applications per round. For more information on eligibility, please see the [Academy's Springboard webpage](#).

The submission deadline for eligibility check forms is 19 October 2016; invited full applications must be submitted by 5 December 2016.

**AXA Research Fund Post-Doctoral Fellowships**

The AXA Research Fund is pleased to inform you that the Call for Applications for the Post-Doctoral Fellowships will open October 5 2016. The AXA Research Fund will be offering 25 Post-Doctoral Fellowships amounting up to 130,000 euros each, to support outstanding researchers over a period of 18-24

months. In order to request a slot and update your institution's information, you will receive in the coming days a personalized invitation granting access to our new platform. Please keep in mind that the slot allocation process will be mutualized over the 2 campaigns. As on average, institutions get 1 to 2 slots, please make sure to present the most appropriate candidate(s) at the most appropriate campaign.

Please refer to the Application Guidelines available [on this page](#) for more information on the timeline & Application process.

### **Bayer 'PartnerYourAntibodies'**

Bayer's R&D focuses on identifying and developing novel drugs (including antibodies and antibody derivatives) for treating diseases with high unmet medical need. We are committed to innovation and to translating initial ideas from basic research into novel drugs. Complementing our internal efforts, we are dedicated to fostering collaborations with academic groups, start-up and biotech companies. Funding is available to evaluate novel antibodies or derivatives (Fab, scFv, minibody or similar) and explore its therapeutic potential. Focus on antibodies related to oncology, cardiology (including kidney diseases), hematology, ophthalmology, gynecology addressing a specific target/pathway in a selective manner (functional activity). Deadline for applications: 31 December 2016. [For more information and to apply please click here.](#)

### **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and its funding partners in the Grand Challenges family of grant programs are inviting innovators to apply for the following two grant opportunities.

[Grand Challenges Explorations](#) fosters early-stage discovery research to expand the pipeline of ideas for solving our greatest global health and development challenges. Launched in 2008 with an initial \$100 million commitment from the foundation, Grand Challenges Explorations grants have already been awarded to more than 1200 researchers in more than 65 countries.

Applications on the following four topics are invited to November 9, 2016:

- [Assess Family Planning Needs, Preferences and behaviours to inform innovations in contraceptive technologies](#)
- [Develop Novel Platforms to Accelerate Contraceptive Drug Discovery](#)
- [Design New Solutions to Data Integration for Malaria Elimination](#)
- [Accelerate Development of New Therapies for Childhood Cryptosporidium Infection](#)

### **British Academy funding**

The British Academy provides a variety of grants and fellowships to support academic research, career development and wider engagement across the full range of the humanities and social sciences. Funding opportunities cover UK and international research from the postdoctoral level upwards, supporting the best ideas, individuals and intellectual resources.

- [BA/Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowships](#): Deadline: 16 November 2016
- [Wolfson Research Professorships](#) Deadline: 23 November 2016
- [BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants \(Autumn 2016\)](#) Deadline: 12 October 2016

### **CRUK funding**

- **CRUK Biomarker Project Awards:** Projects on biomarker assay development, validation and qualification for use in the clinical setting, including projects on biomarkers research (predisposition, screening, diagnostic, prognostic, predictive, pharmacological and surrogate response), radiotherapy research, and imaging research. Deadline: 6 December 2016, Funding: up to £100k per year, duration: up to 3 years. [For more information please click here.](#)
- **CRUK Small Molecule Drug Discovery Project Awards:** Projects at all stages of drug discovery from

target identification/validation to early preclinical studies, including associated assay/technology development and drug repositioning studies and collaborative projects between an academic partner and a commercial partner. Next deadline - November 2016, funding: £100k/year, duration: 1-3 years, milestone-driven. [For more information please click here.](#)

- **CRUK Biotherapeutic Drug Discovery Project Awards:** Early stage translational pre-clinical research projects at all stages of drug discovery, from target and pathway identification and validation. Supports early stage translational research with a clear pathway towards further biotherapeutic development. Rolling deadlines: Next deadline - November 2016, Funding: £100k/year, Duration: 1-3 years. [For more information please click here.](#)

### **Fight for Sight Awards for Eye Research**

Fight for Sight, the UK's leading charity dedicated to funding pioneering research to prevent sight loss and treat eye disease, is inviting applications for the following awards:

- **Project Grants**
- **Fight for Sight / CSO Project Grant**
- **Clinical Fellowships**
- **Early Career Investigator Awards**

All awards will be conditional upon addressing Fight for Sight's research priority areas as described in [Fight for Sight's Research Strategy 2012-2017](#). In addition the charity is keen to address the priorities identified by the [Sight Loss and Vision Priority Setting Partnership](#).

Fight for Sight's grants are allocated to research teams attached to UK academic or medical institutions. The research may be undertaken in the UK or overseas. Awards will be made on a fully competitive and peer reviewed basis. Applications are initially by abstract to be received not later than 5pm on Wednesday 2 November 2016.

### **Fulbright Scholar Awards**

Up to five grants are offered to UK academics and professionals to undertake lecturing, research or a combination of the two in any discipline for a period of 3 to 12 months. Research may be conducted at any accredited US university. Applicants should choose and make arrangements with US host institutions directly and independently. [For further information please click here.](#)

### **Fulbright Urology Foundation Scholar Award**

This award is offered to an academic or professional UK urologist or urology nurse to pursue research for a period of 3 to 12 month at any US institution. The research can be in the biomedical or clinical practice areas, or in the healthcare and social areas, but will focus on the care and treatment, or cause and prevention and cure of those suffering from urological diseases. Application deadline: 6 November 2016,

Detailed information about this award can be found on the [Fulbright website by clicking here.](#)

### **MRC Biomedical Catalyst: Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme (DPFS)**

This scheme is aimed at supporting translational research on novel therapeutics, devices and diagnostics, "repurposing" of existing therapies for new indications, developing candidate therapeutics (e.g. drug discovery), pre-clinical development/ early clinical testing. All disease areas (including global health) and therapeutic modalities (small molecules, peptides, antibodies, vaccines, cell and gene therapy, devices, surgical techniques and psychological approaches) are eligible. Collaboration with industry partners is possible through [MRC Industry Collaboration Agreement](#)

Next deadline: 1 December 2016 (3 deadlines per year), funding/duration: flexible. [For more information please click here.](#)

## MS Society funding opportunities

The MS Society is now accepting applications for two separate commissioning calls, further details can be found on our [the MS Society website](#). The deadline for submission for both of these calls is **12 noon, 24 October 2016**. Please email [research@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:research@mssociety.org.uk) if you have any questions.

## Pfizer R&D's Investigator-Initiated Research programme

This programme is aimed to support research projects related to preclinical and early clinical development activities:

- In vitro or animal studies
- Clinical studies involving approved or unapproved Pfizer therapies
- Observational studies, such as epidemiology studies and certain outcomes research studies where the primary focus is the scientific understanding of disease
- Other types of independent research on disease states (e.g. novel diagnostic screening tools)

Funding is flexible depending on the type of research. [For more information on particular streams and to apply please click here.](#)

## Royal Academy of Engineering

**Enterprise Fellowships:** Royal Academy of Engineering Enterprise Fellowships scheme is now open for applications. Please can you forward this on to those in your network who may be interested, and I am available to answer any questions you or your colleagues may have. The scheme supports both post-doctoral academics and recent graduates.

Enterprise Fellowships stimulate excellence and encourage creativity and innovation in engineering by supporting the founders and leaders of tomorrow's high-tech companies. The awards provide money-can't-buy bespoke support and one-to-one mentoring from the Academy's Fellowship, which is composed of some of the country's most successful engineers from across academia and industry. Support is provided to both university-

based academics wishing to spin-out a company, and also to recent graduates wishing to create a company.

The application deadline is **Monday 17 October**. More details are available on the [Royal Academy of Engineering website](#), or contact the [enterprise](#) team.

## Ingenious Awards:

The latest round of Royal Academy of Engineering Ingenious Awards is now open and the closing date for applications is Monday 17 October, 4pm.

The aims of the *Ingenious Awards* are to inspire creative public engagement with engineering; stimulate engineers to share their stories, passion and expertise in innovative ways with wider audiences; develop engineers' communication and engagement skills; and create debate between engineers and people of all ages to raise awareness of the diversity, nature and impact of engineering.

For more information on how to apply [visit the RA Engineering website by clicking here.](#)

## Royal Society Translation Award

The Royal Society Translation award offers up to £50,000 for scientists to test the technical and economic feasibility of commercialising an aspect of their research. The deadline for applications is 20 October 2016. [For more information please visit the Royal Society website by clicking here.](#)

## Wellcome Trust Collaborative Awards in Science

Support for groups of independent researchers pursuing problems across the areas of science, humanities and social science and innovation. Proposals must address important scientific problems, in an area relevant to the mission of the Wellcome Trust that can only be achieved through a collaborative team effort. Interdisciplinary research collaborations encouraged between basic scientists or medical and veterinary clinicians, and non-biologists, such as mathematicians,

physicists, chemists, engineers and social scientists, are encouraged. Teams should normally consist of no more than seven applicants.

Deadline: 17 November 2016, Funding: Up to £4M over 5 years. [For more information please click here.](#)

**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).