

Joint Research Management Office

Research News Bulletin

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Need to know

Landmark agreement reached for cutting-edge life sciences facility in Whitechapel

The creation of a new cutting-edge life sciences facility to bring new treatments to patients faster moved a step closer yesterday as a landmark agreement was signed by Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and Barts Health NHS Trust.



The Principal of QMUL, Simon Gaskell, signed a headline agreement with the Chief Executive of Barts Health, Alwen Williams, for the purchase of land at Whitechapel to support their joint aspirations in the life sciences.

The agreement will provide QMUL with land sufficient to develop 40,000 square metres of space that will support research, innovation and education activities in life sciences, drawing on QMUL's expertise in specialist areas such as genomics and the clinical capability of the country's largest NHS trust.

This comes in the week the Government published its Life Sciences Industrial Strategy, which includes recommendations to ensure the right infrastructure is in place to support the growth of life sciences clusters and networks, and to improve collaboration with the NHS for late-stage clinical trials.

The agreement with Barts Health is a landmark development for QMUL and unlocks a hugely significant opportunity for the University and the Trust to create a world-leading life sciences centre, working in partnership with the wider NHS, other

universities, commercial companies and charitable organisations.

It will enable them to capitalise on the scale of the country's largest group of NHS hospitals and its extensive specialist services, the world-leading reputation of the university in life sciences research and education, and the extraordinary diversity of the local population that both institutions serve.

More information on QMUL's life sciences plans at Whitechapel will be provided over the coming months and can be found [here](#). Information about Barts Health's plans for life sciences is available [here](#).

New Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research published

A new Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research has been published by the Health Research Authority (HRA). This policy framework sets out principles of good practice in the management and conduct of health and social care research in the UK.

These principles protect and promote the interests of patients, service users and the public in health and social care research, by describing ethical conduct and proportionate, assurance-based management of health and social care research, so as to support and facilitate high-quality research in the UK that has the confidence of patients, service users and the public.

Particular aspects to note are:

- New clarity on the indemnity arrangements for HRA Approval and sets out the status of the Framework as statutory guidance to which NHS Trusts in England must have regard under the Care Act 2014.
- Strong emphasis on fostering proportionate approaches to arrangements for managing research, and ensuring research funding is spent on research and not on disproportionate bureaucracy.

The policy framework applies to health and social care research involving patients, service users or their relatives or carers. This includes research involving them indirectly, for example using information that the NHS or social care services have collected about them. The HRA and the health departments in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have developed the policy framework following [public consultation](#). It replaces the separate Research Governance Frameworks in each UK country with a single, modern set of principles for the whole UK.

[The full UK Framework for Health and Social Care Research can be accessed here.](#)

More information about this and the related public consultation can be found [here](#).

The JRMO will be running training courses on this in due course and will of course incorporate aspects of change relating to this new framework into its regular GCP and other training courses.

CTU registrations

The UKCRC Registered CTUs Network has recently recognised both of Barts Health's Clinical Trials Units.

To be eligible to apply, CTUs had to demonstrate they were capable of centrally coordinating multi-centre clinical trials and other well-designed studies, taking overall responsibility for the design, conduct, data management, publicity and analysis of a trial in line with appropriate standards and regulations. The registration process was coordinated in the University of Leeds by the UKCRC Registered CTU Network Secretariat on behalf of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration.

A full list of the Registered Clinical Trials Units is available at www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk

More information about the Pragmatic Clinical Trial Unit, led by Prof Sandra Eldridge, and the Barts Clinical Trials Unit, led by Prof Peter Sasieni, can be found [here](#).

Preparing for changes to data privacy law

The UK Government recently published a new [Data Protection Bill](#). This is intended to implement new data privacy standards as set out in EU legislation that applies from May 2018. Working with the NHS Confederation the Information Governance Alliance has published a [briefing document which is available here](#).

This briefing highlights the headline impacts that need to be considered by health organisations to prepare for the changes. All those who work with data and information need to be aware of these changes and in touch with their Data Protection Officer to work through what this means to them and their teams.

Clinical Research Nursing Strategy shows research nurses as 'visible leaders'

The NIHR Clinical Research Network has released a new strategy setting out the direction of travel for Clinical Research Nurses. The strategy reflects the NIHR mission to "provide a health research system in which the NHS supports outstanding individuals working in world class facilities, conducting leading edge research focused on the needs of patients and the public". The strategy sets out four strategic goals:

- (i) Creating a clinical research culture that is patient and public focused
- (ii) Promoting innovation in research delivery practice to include the use of digital technologies to improve data quality and enable novel ways of using resources
- (iii) Improving awareness and understanding of the speciality of clinical research nursing and its contribution and impact
- (iv) Developing leaders to share best clinical research nursing practice locally, nationally and internationally

Pharmacy set-up templates and forms now available

Following a network wide review of pharmacy set up templates currently in use across North Thames, our team has been hard at work creating standardised forms and guidance notes to support all pharmacies setting up clinical trials.

The CRN has created a standardised suite

of ten checklists and forms to support pharmacy staff and guidance Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enable learning and continuous process involvement.

For more information please contact Claudio.Melchiorri@nihr.ac.uk. The [checklists and forms can be downloaded here](#).

JRMO news

Senior management changes

Prof Rupert Pearse

At the start of October Prof Rupert Pearse was appointed as Joint Clinical Director of Research and Development by Barts Health NHS Trust and QMUL.

Rupert will be working to develop a more effective clinical research infrastructure, improving both the quality and quantity of clinical studies led from QMUL and Barts Health NHS



Trust. Working closely with the JRMO he will focus on 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.

Having joined the William Harvey Research Institute at QMUL in 2006 as a Senior Lecturer in Intensive Care Medicine, Rupert was promoted to Prof in 2014, and was recently awarded an NIHR Research Professorship recognising his world-leading research and clinical expertise in intensive care medicine. Rupert works as a consultant on the Adult Critical Care Unit at the Royal London Hospital, and leads the Critical Care and Perioperative Medicine Research Group. He has a very broad experience in clinical research including a number of large multi-centre studies, and was appointed Director of the UK Perioperative Medicine Clinical

Trials Network in 2015, a role which also involves the development of effective infrastructure for successful clinical research.

Rupert will be bringing a breadth of experience and understanding to this role and, with a strong background in strategic leadership and insight, he aims to transform and vitalise the clinical trials portfolio of both the university and the Trust.

Dr Mays Jawad

Also at the beginning of October Dr Mays Jawad joined the JRMO as the Governance Operations Manager.



Mays joined us from Guy's and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust where she was working as maternity cover in a

similar role. Her previous roles have included Research Portfolio Manager at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Clinical Trials Manager at University College London and Research Governance Manager at CRN: East Midlands). Prior to that, she was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Nottingham and a Research Assistant at the University of Oxford.

Mays is also a member of the Fulham National Research Ethics Committee and a British Quality Foundation (BQF) Certified Green Belt in Lean 6 Sigma

(Process improvement). Her extensive experience makes her a great addition to the JRMO team.

Mays is based in the JRMO Whitechapel office - telephone 020 7882 7275, email: Mays.jawad@bartshealth.nhs.uk.

Generic JRMO email accounts

Please note that when contacting teams within the JRMO it is usually best to use the various group email accounts that have been created, rather than sending things to individual team members. Should individuals be out of the office for any reason colleagues will see your email this way!

The following teams have generic email accounts:

Research Support Unit (RSU):
research.support@bartshealth.nhs.uk

Research Governance team:

- Research submissions should be sent to: research.submissions@bartshealth.nhs.uk
- Research amendments should be sent to: research.amendments@bartshealth.nhs.uk
- Research training: research.training@bartshealth.nhs.uk
- Research monitoring: research.monitoring@bartshealth.nhs.uk
- Research study closure: research.closure@bartshealth.nhs.uk
- Research safety: research.safety@bartshealth.nhs.uk

Costing and contracting team:

- Barts Health pre-award (costing and contracts) requests should be sent to: research.preaward@bartshealth.nhs.uk
- QMUL pre-award (costing and contracting) requests should go through WorkTribe, but questions about [WorkTribe](#) can be sent to: jrmo-worktribe-costing@qmul.ac.uk

Paperless Pre-Costing Questionnaires

The JRMO is now operating a paperless Pre-Costing Questionnaire (PCQ) system.

The Costing and Contracting team has adopted an online version of the old PCQ to work alongside 'Worktribe', the new research grants management system.

When a researcher submits a new PCQ through 'Worktribe' it will generate an email to the Costing and Contracting Team. The aim of a PCQ remains the same - to provide the JRMO with enough information for them to build a costing during the bid development phase – but it is no longer a stand-alone document.

PCQ information will be used by the Costing and Contracting Team to build a costing in Worktribe. If you have a QMUL login you can access Worktribe and the online PCQ [here](#). If you have any queries about the PCQ or Worktribe you should email: jrmo-worktribe-costing@qmul.ac.uk

Alternatively, if you are a Barts Health employee without a QMUL log-in please contact the team at: research.preaward@bartshealth.nhs.uk.

Local research

New bladder cancer medicine launched

Research at Barts Health has led to the first new bladder cancer medicine trial in forty years. A global trial led by St Bartholomew's Hospital has seen the first new drug approved to treat people with bladder cancer for forty years.

Over 100 patients took part in a series of studies into the effectiveness of atezolizumab aimed at changing the practice of cancer treatment. Results showed an increase in the proportion of patients who remained cancer-free with limited side effects when taking atezolizumab compared to chemotherapy,

the standard form of treatment. Chemotherapy alone is not associated with long-term remission. When combined with atezolizumab, 25% of patients achieved long term remission (over 12 months).

Atezolizumab, one of a new class of autoimmune therapies that boosts the body's natural defence system to turn and fight cancer, has now been granted regulatory approval and is a new hope for those whom chemotherapy fails.



Prof Thomas Powles, consultant oncologist at Barts Health NHS Trust, said: "Our research is changing the way we target tumours and treat people with cancer. I am pleased that the new immune therapies, such as atezolizumab, are giving patients a chance of long term remission from bladder cancer."

New trials will now be led by St Bartholomew's as medics attempt to improve outcomes and completely replace chemotherapy in the treatment of cancer. St Bartholomew's success in immune research was one of a range of 'outstanding' practices hailed by health regulator the Care Quality Commission following a recent inspection at Britain's oldest hospital.

The report (published 20 September 2017) highlights that patients enrolled in cancer trials are among the first to benefit from innovative medicines under development.

For more information [follow this link](#)

Vitamin D protects against severe asthma attacks

Taking oral vitamin D supplements in addition to standard asthma medication could halve the risk of asthma attacks requiring hospital attendance, according to research led by Queen Mary University of London (QMUL).

Asthma affects more than 300 million people worldwide and is estimated to cause almost 400,000 deaths annually. Asthma deaths arise primarily during episodes of acute worsening of symptoms, known as attacks or 'exacerbations', which are commonly triggered by viral upper respiratory infections.

Vitamin D is thought to protect against such attacks by boosting immune responses to respiratory viruses and dampening down harmful airway inflammation.

The new study, funded by the [National Institute for Health Research](#), and published in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, collated and analysed the individual data from 955 participants in seven randomised controlled trials, which tested the use of vitamin D supplements. Overall, the researchers found that vitamin D supplementation resulted in:



- 30% reduction in the rate of asthma attacks requiring treatment with steroid tablets or injections - from 0.43 events per person per year to 0.30.
- 50% reduction in the risk of experiencing at least one asthma attack requiring Accident and Emergency Department attendance and/or hospitalisation - from 6% of people experiencing such an event to 3 per cent.

Vitamin D supplementation was found to be safe at the doses administered. No instances of excessively high calcium levels or renal stones were seen, and serious adverse events were evenly distributed between participants taking vitamin D and those on placebo.

Lead researcher [Prof Adrian Martineau](#) said: "These results add to the ever growing body of evidence that vitamin D can support immune function as well as bone health. On average, three people in the UK die from asthma attacks every day. Vitamin D is safe to take and relatively inexpensive so supplementation represents a potentially cost-effective strategy to reduce this problem."

Research paper: 'Vitamin D supplementation to prevent asthma exacerbations: systematic review and meta-analysis of individual participant data'. David A Jolliffe, Lauren Greenberg, Richard Hooper, Christopher Griffiths, Carlos Camargo Jr, Conor Kerley, Megan Jensen, David Mauger, Iwona Stelmach, Mitsuyoshi Urashima, Adrian Martineau [The Lancet Respiratory Medicine](#).

Antidote to synthetic cannabis intoxication found in slimming drug

Early research from Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) has potentially found an antidote that can rapidly stop the intoxicating effects of cannabis and synthetic cannabinoids. Synthetic cannabinoids, such as 'Spice' and 'Black Mamba', are becoming an increasing problem, especially with young people and within the homeless and prison populations, due to their low cost and odourless properties. Their enhanced strength compared to cannabis is leading to an increasing number of severe adverse reactions and deaths.

The study, published in the [British Journal of Pharmacology](#), looked at mice that were experiencing the effects of synthetic cannabinoid intoxication, to see the effects of treating them with a molecule known as AM251. AM251 blocked the action of the synthetic cannabinoid on one of the brain receptors and led to a loss of the cannabinoid-related behavioural effects within a few minutes. This included a

significant loss of sedation within 20 minutes.

Research lead [Prof David Baker](#) from QMUL's [Blizard Institute](#) reported that the most rapid way to develop an antidote would be to re-develop one of the slimming drugs, known as rimonabant, which also blocks the cannabinoid system on which cannabis acts. Synthetic cannabis can get people very intoxicated and there are an increasing number of deaths reported. This could be due to cannabinoids making your heart race, leading to heart issues. It can also cause seizures.

What the research has found was an ability to turn off the 'high' within a few minutes. Although it is fairly common to be use a molecule such as this to turn off the 'high' once the intoxicating effects had already started. For more information on the study see [Medicine MBBS](#).

For the full research paper see: 'Antidote to cannabinoid intoxication: the CB1 receptor inverse agonist, AM251, reverses hypothermic effects of the CB1 receptor agonist, CB-13, in mice'. Gareth Pryce, David Baker. [British Journal of Pharmacology](#).

Children born prematurely have greater risk of cognitive difficulties

Babies born preterm have a greater risk of developing cognitive, motor and behavioural difficulties and these problems persist throughout school years.

The research found that preterm children had lower scores on IQ tests, motor skills, reading and spelling at primary school age, and that this remained through to secondary school. Children born preterm were also twice as likely to be diagnosed with Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) than term-born children.

Lead author [Prof Shakila Thangaratinam](#), from Barts Research Centre for Women's Health (BARC) said: "The safety of both mother and baby will always be of paramount importance when making decisions on timing of delivery. However, we've shown that developmental effects of prematurity persist beyond immediate childhood. So individuals, organisations

and services involved in the long term care of children should take gestational age at delivery into account while making assessments, and in management decisions.”



In the UK, around 60,000 babies are born prematurely each year. Short term complications of preterm birth for the child include higher risk of respiratory complications, sepsis, and bleeding into the brain. These children are also at risk of cognitive, motor, and behavioural difficulties, but there is little evidence on these effects in later life.

The analysis, published in [BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists](#), looked at 74 separate studies, of 64,061 children born between 1980 and 2016. The team compared children born preterm and at term, looking at their cognitive, motor, behavioural and academic performance at various stages: 2–4 years (preschool), 4–11 years (primary school), 11–18 years (secondary school) and over 18 years (higher education).

The results show preterm children had lower cognitive scores on a range of IQ tests and in motor skills, behaviour, reading, mathematics and spelling at primary school age, and this remained through to secondary school age, except for mathematics. In addition, preterm children lagged behind term peers in working memory and processing speed and this persisted after school age, with possible adverse effects on academic achievement.

The research paper is: 'Cognitive, motor, behavioural and academic performances of children born preterm: a meta-analysis

and systematic review involving 64,061 children': [BJOG 2017](#).

New toothpaste uses latest research to put minerals back into teeth

Researchers at QMUL have launched a new toothpaste, which repairs decaying teeth using 'bioactive' glass.

Most people regard glass as being chemically stable and inert. This is certainly the case for the type of glass used in windows, which importantly, doesn't dissolve in the rain. But a team at QMUL's Institute of Dentistry have been developing quickly-dissolving glass to be used in toothpaste and dental fillings. The 'bioactive' glass forms a chemical that mimics tooth and bone mineral, and is able to put back the lost mineral in decayed teeth.

The new remineralising toothpaste is called 'BioMinC', and has been launched by the team's spin out company BioMin Technologies Ltd.



Last year saw the [launch](#) of their first 'BioMinF' toothpaste which was based on Fluoride-containing glass. This new product instead uses Chloride-containing glass and is designed for people who do not want to use a toothpaste containing fluoride, and for areas of the world where the water is naturally fluoridated, such as parts of India and China.

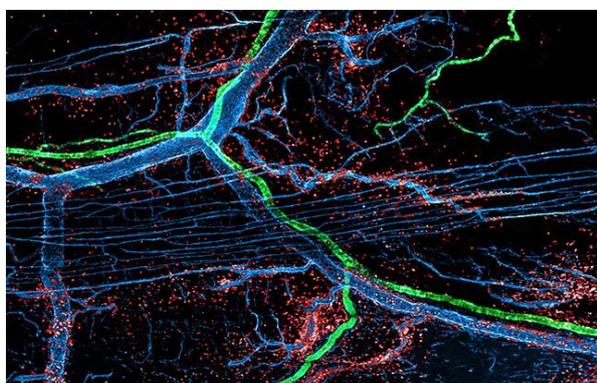
Prof Robert Hill from QMUL's [Institute of Dentistry](#) said: "This toothpaste is unique because it can put back the mineral lost from your teeth after consumption of an acidic drink, but without the use of fluoride. This isn't just for people who have bad

teeth, everyone can potentially benefit from using this new toothpaste.”

The product was developed following the team's [research](#) published this summer in the Royal Society of Chemistry Journal Physical Chemistry B which showed the potential of a glass that uses chlorine instead of fluorine.

QMUL scientist shortlisted in national image competition

An image submitted by a British Heart Foundation-funded researcher has made the shortlist in the charity's annual 'Reflections of Research' image competition.



The image, 'An inflammatory storm', by Dr Tamara Girbl from QMUL's William Harvey Research Institute, captures the immune system at work in a muscle. An injury, caused by infection or tissue damage, has caused white blood cells called neutrophils (pink) - that are normally found in the blood - to breach blood vessel walls (blue and green) and invade the surrounding tissue. This accumulation of neutrophils in the heart or brain can exacerbate damage after a heart attack or stroke. Dr Girbl and her colleagues at QMUL are investigating exactly what causes this accumulation of neutrophils in the hope of finding new, effective therapies to fight cardiovascular diseases.

Dr Tamara Girbl said: "I was very excited to hear that my image was shortlisted and that so many people would get to see it! These competitions are an excellent opportunity for us scientists to share the natural beauty we encounter during our research with the public, but also to draw

attention to the current challenges and progress in cardiovascular research.”

Prof Jack Cuzick wins Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to Prof Jack Cuzick, who has received the Cancer Research UK Lifetime Achievement Award for his work



on cancer prevention and detection.

The prestigious prize is awarded annually to an outstanding researcher who has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to the fight against cancer and has made exceptional advances in the field.

Prof Cuzick, Director of QMUL's Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine and Head of the Centre for Cancer Prevention, said: "I am really delighted with this award. But it's also incredibly important for our field, because cancer prevention tends not to get the recognition that it should. More needs to be done to raise the profile of cancer prevention as an important field of scientific research."

Prof Cuzick was the first to show that the drug tamoxifen was highly effective in the prevention of breast cancer, and subsequently demonstrated the superior efficacy and safety of aromatase inhibitor drugs, which can reduce breast cancer incidence by over 50 per cent. He also developed a widely used model for assessing breast cancer risk, and led work on human papilloma virus DNA testing - now the primary screening method for cervical cancer in many places.

[For more information click here.](#)

QMUL academic awarded honorary PhD from Stockholm University

Prof Magdalena Titirici has received a prestigious Honorary PhD from Stockholm University for her work in sustainable materials for renewable energy.



Prof Titirici was awarded the degree from the Natural Science Faculty

(Chemistry) in recognition of her collaborative research efforts with the Swedish institution. Since joining QMUL in 2013 as a Reader she has gone on to

become Prof in Sustainable Materials Chemistry, working on research such as [making cheap solar cells from shrimp shells](#) and developing batteries from sodium instead of lithium. However, it was during her Postdoc at the Max-Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces when her interest in sustainable materials grew. She said: “My project was to make some well-defined chemicals from biomass and while doing that I came across something else - that you could produce carbons from biomass by mimicking the natural conformation. You can do that in a few hours rather than hundreds of millions of years as nature does it. So you can produce carbon from biomass in a very simple low temperature process a bit like high pressure cooking at home. It’s called hydrothermal carbonisation.” Since then she has continued to explore the various fundamentals of this work, and how it can be used as an alternative to scarce materials in renewable energy.

Events

Looking for advice about filling in the PPI section of a grant form?

The next in our series of **Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Workshops** for researchers, will be held on Thursday 9 November (1-4pm) in Whitechapel. This workshop, aimed at newcomers to PPI, will cover how to write the PPI section of a grant form, including basic PPI principles and what funders are looking for. Other workshops are planned too.

Feedback from last year’s programme showed that 65% of attendees had gone on to actively involve patients and the public in their research. Of those, 92% felt the workshop had contributed to their ability to do this effectively.

Full details of these events, including how to book a place, is [on the JRMO website](#).

Alternatively you can contact the Engagement and Diffusion team: patientsinresearch@bartshealth.nhs.uk



EU research funding: Horizon 2020 Information Events Schedule

To coincide with the launch of the EU RTD Framework Programme 'Horizon 2020' work programmes for 2018-2020, QMUL's EU Unit will be delivering a series of information events during November at Mile End and Charterhouse Square. These will cover research funding opportunities under Horizon 2020, the 'Health, Demographic and Wellbeing' work Programme, the Information and Communications Technologies' work programme and Humanities and Social Sciences opportunities (the 'Europe in a Changing World – Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies' work programme).

In addition to the presentations there will be a chance to have 1:1 discussion with the JRMO EU Team.



Until Brexit, the UK remains eligible to apply for EU funding, such as H2020, and the UK government has committed to

underwrite ongoing and submissions made prior to Brexit. So academics and researchers are encouraged to consider applying where appropriate!

If you are interested in attending any of the above events, please email Vicky Byers, v.byers@qmul.ac.uk to register indicating the event(s) you wish to attend.

For more information on the programme of events [please click here](#).

UCLPartners Infection, Immunology and Inflammation (III) Symposium 2017

Registration is now open for the annual UCLPartners Infection, Immunology and

Inflammation Symposium on Tuesday 7 November 2017 at the UCL Institute of Education.

This event, organised by [UCLPartners](#), will bring together researchers from its whole catchment area and beyond, enabling cross-disciplinary interaction and encouraging new collaborations between scientists and clinicians at the forefront of the III field.

Speakers from UCL, QMUL and our partner organisations will present their ground-breaking work and answer your questions. An internationally leading external speaker will give the keynote lecture of the Symposium.

There is no registration fee for this event, and food and drink will be provided free of charge. Due to space limitations timely registration and abstract submission is essential. Abstracts must be submitted using the Eventbrite registration link (below).

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

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 Friday 24 November, 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

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

Practical Monitoring in a Health & Care Setting – 5 & 6 February

NHS Forum is running an intensive, hands-on course for anyone with Sponsor oversight and monitoring responsibilities. Practical work includes review of in-depth mock files, source data and research records plus support with risk assessment and advice from a very experienced NHS training team.

This is a practical two-day course delivered by experienced Monitors who work in the NHS. Sessions include slide presentations but are primarily practical and interactive. An essential workbook will be provided to all delegates. It is designed for all staff involved in monitoring or supervising monitoring of clinical research for example, R&D managers, quality managers, facilitators, research governance staff, study coordinators and investigator site staff.

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

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

Learning about research and its impact - It's easy with MOOC!

The fifth NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is due to run again in November, and is now open for registration.

The NIHR CRN has delivered a total of four MOOCs over the last two years, providing over 21,000 people with access to a flexible learning resource all about clinical research and how it improves healthcare. This free online course has meant that people from all over the world have joined in, building a dynamic online learning community all curious about research, from healthcare professionals to patients and the public.

The MOOC is a four week online course and is free of charge. The course works alongside online materials and online community of learners, and aims to answer some pertinent questions, including: 'How are treatments and cures discovered?' 'What is the impact of clinical research?' 'How do we undertake clinical research?' 'Why do we do clinical research?'

The fifth MOOC, developed by NIHR CRN, University of Leeds and

'FutureLearn', is entitled 'Improving Healthcare through Clinical Research' and will run from 6 November 2017. Over four weeks the course includes: Learning about the roles of different members of a research team; Hearing from people who have taken part in clinical research studies; the ethical and scientific principles that underpin the research process; and getting a better understanding of the challenges of conducting clinical research and the benefits to modern healthcare.

Find out more by watching the MOOC trailer [here](#).

MOOC learning doesn't stop when the course ends. Registered learners have access to the MOOC materials for two weeks after the course has finished. The online learning discussion with moderators and learners is a live experience and better accessed over the 4 weeks while the course is running. You can [sign up now](#) to register for the MOOC.

Research funding

NIHR funding deadlines

- [17/53 - Changing drinking behaviours](#)

Closing date: 14 November 2017

The Public Health Research Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic

- [17/55 - Promoting independence among older people, and disabled people](#)

Closing date: 14 November 2017

The Public Health Research Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic

- [17/54 - Digital interventions for sexual health promotion](#)

Closing date: 14 November 2017

The Public Health Research Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic

- [NIHR Policy Research Programme Call on Epidemiology for Vaccinology](#)

Closing date: 14 November 2017

The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites proposals on the use and development of epidemiological models, tools and technologies to assist with the deployment and clinical trialling of vaccines in outbreak situations.

- [17/92 - Public Health Research Programme researcher-led](#)

Closing date: 21 November 2017

The Public Health Research Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream

- [Research for Patient Benefit Programme - Competition 34](#)

Closing date: 22 November 2017

Applications are invited for research proposals that are concerned with the day-to-day practice of health service staff, and which have the potential to have an impact

on the health or wellbeing of patients and users of the NHS.

- [Programme Development Grants - Competition 20](#)

Closing date: 22 November 2017

Applications are invited for Competition 20 of the Programme Development Grants programme. The deadline for application is 22 November 2017 1pm.

- [17/60 - Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme Researcher-led](#)

Closing date: 28 November 2017

The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme is accepting outline applications to their researcher-led workstream

- [Programme Grants for Applied Research - Competition 25](#)

Closing date: 29 November 2017

Applications are invited for Competition 25 of the Programme Grants for Applied Research programme. The deadline for application is 29

- [17/93 - Health Technology Assessment Programme researcher-led evidence synthesis](#)

Closing date: 5 December 2017

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting evidence synthesis full applications to their researcher-led workstream

- [17/94 - Health Technology Assessment Programme researcher-led primary research](#)

Closing date: 5 December 2017

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)

- [Cochrane review gold open access scheme](#)

Closing date: 1 January 2018

Cochrane Review Authors can apply to have their reviews published under Gold open access, meaning that they are instantly and freely open for all users to access on the Cochrane.

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](#).

Breast cancer risk and prevention research grants

Breast Cancer Now is seeking applications from researchers aiming to tackle gaps in our understanding of the risks of breast cancer, and how this information could be used in prevention. We're particularly interested in research projects aiming to provide evidence to implement risk-adapted screening in the UK. This could include:

- Feasibility or pilot studies within the breast screening service.
- Psychosocial studies to determine the acceptability of risk-adapted screening for women to whom it would be offered.
- Research into the most clinical and cost effective screening modalities for the different risk groups.

Deadline for applications: 12 January 2018. For further information and to apply please visit the [Breast Cancer Now website](#).

Grand Challenges Explorations

Grand Challenges Explorations is an initiative where 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 topics.

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

Applications are being accepted on the following three topics until **Wednesday, November 8, 11:30am Pacific Time:**

- [Novel Approaches for Improving Timeliness of Routine Immunization Birthdose and Healthcare Worker Skill in Low-Resource Settings;](#)
- [Healthy Minds for Adolescent Mothers: Achieving Healthy Outcomes for the Family;](#)
- [Innovations for Integrated Diagnostics Systems](#)

Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry Funded PhD Opportunities

The Trustees of The Medical College of Saint Bartholomew's Hospital Trust (MCSBHT) have offered funding for two research studentships (one in medicine and one in dentistry), for clinically qualified candidates within the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry to commence in October 2018, leading to a PhD degree.

Proposed project outline templates are available from a.wilkinson@qmul.ac.uk, **Document submission:** Please provide all documents as one complete PDF and email as an attachment to Adam Wilkinson (a.wilkinson@qmul.ac.uk) by **Friday 24 November 2017**

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 \(account and password required\).](#)