

Joint Research Management Office

Research News Bulletin

Issue 124

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Be part of the PRES – the Participant in Research Experience Survey

Every year, the NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) asks thousands of participants to give feedback on their experience of taking part in research, as a way of demonstrating to research participants that their contribution is valued, and to help improve the way research studies are designed and delivered, now and in the future.

PRES enables us to gather feedback from study participants on their research experience and use that feedback to help shape future research practice. It helps research teams understand what they are doing well and identify changes to help improve the experience of participants taking part in research at Barts Health. All study participants are eligible to complete PRES.

Since the introduction of [PRES at Barts Health and Queen Mary](#), we have been one of the best-performing Trusts in the North Thames

Clinical Research Network (CRN), exceeding our survey response targets and outperforming other Trusts across the region.

Our PRES target for 22/23, based on 3% of our total recruitment to NIHR Portfolio studies in 21/22, is 455 survey responses. As we approach the halfway mark in the survey's yearly cycle, Barts Health has submitted just 48 responses: around 10% of our overall target.

We urgently need more researchers to help deliver PRES for their study participants, if we are to meet our 22/23 target.

Please get in touch to find out more about delivering PRES to your study participants.

Contact Neeta or James, our Research Engagement team at patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net



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~ Please remember to upload your recruitment data regularly ~

It is the responsibility of the research team to ensure the EDGE record is accurate and that all research activity (recruitment) is recorded.

If you need any EDGE training or require further EDGE accounts, please contact zabed.ahmed@qmul.ac.uk in the JRMO

New Research Directors appointed

A new team of Deputy Directors of Clinical Research has been appointed jointly by Barts Health NHS Trust and Queen Mary University of London, to support the work of recently appointed Director of Clinical Research, Prof Rupert Pearse.

These new posts represent a significant investment in research infrastructure by both Barts Health and Queen Mary FMD and bring a new range of skills and experience to bear in growing and supporting the clinical research portfolio of both organisations.

Prof Rupert Pearse welcomed the new appointments and said “I would like to thank those who stepped forward for these various roles. We now have a strong and diverse team in place with a huge amount of experience and expertise. It’s a very exciting time for clinical research across Barts Health and Queen Mary University of London with lots of major projects on the go or waiting to start”.

The new appointments are:

- Dr Manish Saxena, NIHR Speciality Research lead for Diabetes for North Thames CRN and Academic Co-lead for Commercial Partnerships and Innovation for Barts FMD. He will be leading on clinical trials and data management infrastructure issues.
- Prof Klaus Schmierer, Consultant Neurologist at The Royal London Hospital and Professor of Neurology at the Blizard Institute, Queen Mary University of London. He will be leading on CRF-related matters and research governance.
- Dr Sophie Welch, Senior Research Nurse in the Cardiac Research Department is in her second year of the Executive MBA programme at Ashridge Hult Business School. Currently on maternity leave, Sophie will be leading on workforce, community engagement and equality diversity and inclusion (EDI).
- Dr Stephen Kelly, Rheumatology Consultant at Barts Health, continues in post as a Deputy Clinical Director of Clinical Research, leading on business development (securing new research projects), whilst Dr Kieran McCafferty is moving to become Director of the new Barts NIHR Clinical Research Facility.

In addition, further related appointments have been made:

Director of Clinical Research Facilities

Dr Kieran McCafferty has been appointed into this new strategic role of Clinical Research Facilities Director, responsible for the new Barts NIHR Clinical Research Facility. Kieran is a Consultant in Renal Medicine who has been North Thames NIHR renal speciality lead for the last six years, Deputy National NIHR Renal Speciality Lead for four years and co-chairs the UK Kidney Research consortium clinical study group. He was previously appointed as Clinical Director of the existing Royal London and Whipps Cross CRFs in 2018.

Deputy Director of Clinical Research - development roles

With a strong field of applicants and a need to build our clinical research leadership team, we made two additional appointments:

- Dr Vickie McDonald, Consultant Haematologist at Barts Health whose research focusses on immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) and who has since 2017 led the ITP service, developing clinical trials and taking over the chief investigator role of the ITP registry.
- Ms Imogen Skene, Senior Research Nurse in Emergency Medicine with ten years’ experience in research, delivery and patient recruitment to clinical international, national, and local research studies in the emergency setting.

Vickie and Imogen will work, in a developmental capacity, supporting research governance, workforce (which has specific medical and NMAHP elements), community engagement and EDI.

The Deputy Director of Clinical Research posts will be for an initial three-year period, from 1st October 2022. Further information about the work of the [JRMO can be found on its website.](#)



NIHR Regional Research Delivery Networks

The NIHR has announced that from 2024, the NIHR Clinical Research Network will become the NIHR Research Delivery Network.

The 15 current Local Clinical Research Networks (LCRNs) will be realigned to map onto the NHS England regions. Coverage of the whole of England will be delivered through 12 NIHR Regional Research Delivery Networks (RRDNs). This is the first component of the arrangements for the new NIHR Regional Research Delivery Networks (RRDNs) confirmed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

RDS Network boundaries will be the same as NHS England Regional Office boundaries and those of the Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) operating within the regions, and also with most local authority boundaries. That will provide even more focus on regional collaboration, influence and development with the local NHS and care system, to meet the needs of people within a region, while facilitating joint working with the NHS and ICSs. [View more detail on the RRDNs and the next steps in this process.](#)



The selection process for organisations who will host the regional networks, after the current contracts expire in March 2024, will start in October 2022. Further details will follow in the coming weeks. The process will be run by the NIHR Clinical Research Network Coordinating Centre (CRNCC), on behalf of DHSC.

Further information will be made available soon, but in the meantime the NIHR is compiling an FAQ and any questions can be sent to lcfn.support@nihr.ac.uk. Information will also be placed on the NIHR website in the [CRN section](#).

NIHR launches new publishing platform for all types of research

The NIHR has launched a new publishing platform that allows researchers to publish any research output they wish to share, supporting transparency, reproducibility and impact from publicly funded research.

[NIHR Open Research](#) allows researchers to publish not only study findings but also incremental findings, case reports and even negative findings, thus supporting the entire life cycle of research.

Following a successful pilot, NIHR Open Research has now been opened up to all types of research output from across NIHR programmes, infrastructure, schools and units. This approach means that NIHR researchers can put any information from their studies into the public domain, increasing the discoverability and reach of their research.

[More information is available on the NIHR website](#) or visit [NIHR Open Research to find out how to submit outputs from your research](#)

BARTS CHARITY

Barts Charity launches new five-year strategy

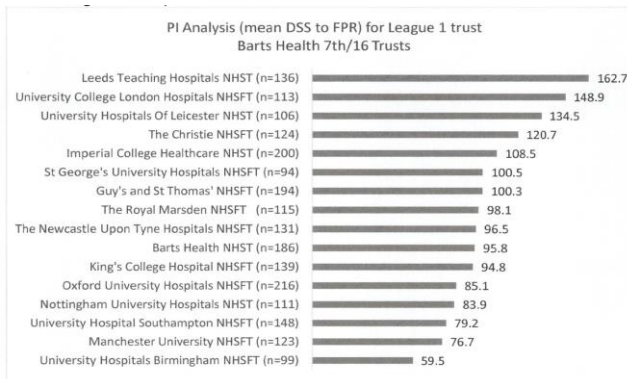
Barts Charity's 2022-2027 strategy aims to build on its strong foundations and guide its grant giving of £150m+ over the next five years.

Central to this strategy is the importance of the charity's partnerships with Barts Health and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at Queen Mary, which enables the charity to identify, develop and support transformational healthcare and research projects that will make life-changing improvements for the people of East London.

Sitting under a refreshed and more tightly focused vision and mission, is a set of five overarching strategic objectives that will direct the charity's activity over the next five years. Read more on the [Barts Charity website](#).

Performance in Delivery (PID) update

Of 186 studies analysed, average time take from receipt of local study pack to recruitment of first patient was 95.8 days which puts Barts Health in 7th place in the league 1 table (Trusts with similar size studies):



As can be seen, the fastest Trust (University Hospitals of Birmingham) was able to recruit a patient within an average of 59.5 days.

88 commercial studies closed here in this quarter (highest in the country) with 54.5 % of studies achieving their target! In comparison, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust submitted 33 studies and 72.7 achieved their target.

Clearly, we need to improve our timelines in study set-up and delivery of our research portfolio. Better feasibility as well as early engagement with support departments and JRMO colleagues together with setting realistic timelines and recruitment targets will help us achieve this. Given the size of our research portfolio it is important that each speciality sets up a priority list and shares it with the JRMO and support departments so that set up work is better aligned, and delays are avoided.

In addition, reasons for delays should be recorded on EDGE for JRMO use to avoid chasing for updates ahead of the quarterly NIHR PID submissions. Attributes for this have been set up on EDGE for study teams to complete recording delays from confirmation of capacity and capability to recruitment of first patient. Please contact Mays Jawad (m.jawad@qmul.ac.uk) for further information.

JRMO research governance update

- Welcome back to Mays Jawad who has returned from maternity leave to resume her role as Research Governance Operations Manager. We extend a big thank you to Ginette Hoare who covered for her over the last year. Mays reports that she is going out to various departments for a catch-up and has begun to review all the research governance processes. If anyone wishes to meet up with Mays to discuss processes, please contact her at: m.jawad@qmul.ac.uk
- JRMO virtual drop-in sessions have returned [see below](#).
- **JRMO Audits – your views sought.** During October feedback on JRMO clinical research audits is being sought to help improve our processes. Anyone who has experienced a recent JRMO audit is being asked to complete a short anonymous survey form. If you are interested, please email Amy Schou - a.schou@qmul.ac.uk - to receive a survey form.
- Data cleaning by JRMO Research governance is ongoing. We need to ensure each project on EDGE is up to date and accurate. Please contact m.jawad@qmul.ac.uk for further information.
- Currently we are working on closing off historic research studies which have planned end dates prior to 2020 without any extension notification. If this is a sponsored study then an end of trial notification (SOP 18a and 18b) must be submitted by the study team. It would be extremely helpful if EDGE users looked at their project and updated the records to reflect the correct study status as the JRMO do not get notified of study closures/withdrawal for studies.
- It is a REC condition of favourable opinion to submit annual progress reports (APRs) by the study team for our sponsored studies. As per SOP 19, the draft APR must be first sent to the JRMO Research governance inbox for review prior to regulatory body submission. Please also submit any historic APRs that did not follow SOP 19 so we can update our records and upload to EDGE.

QMERC news

As we begin a new academic year the Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee has been looking back on a very busy period of research applications and research support.

In little over a year, with significant staff shortages and staff changes, it has received 548 new applications and 77 amendments, supported in the approval and set up of 10 Devolved School Research Ethics Committees (DSRECs).

The team has enjoyed working with academic colleagues in devolving responsibility for ethical review, demonstrating flexibility to accommodate the expertise in different disciplines and embedding ethics at all levels within the faculties. There are now DSRECs operational in the Schools of Politics & International Relations, Linguistics, Psychology, Sports Medicine, Business & Management, Institute of Health & Sciences Education, Electronic Engineering & Computer Science, Global Public Health, Geography.



The membership of our Review Panels is healthier than ever, with at least one representative from each of the three Faculties, plus Professional Services, plus two external lay members. New members are always welcome.

Ethics approval must be obtained before study start!

Perhaps as a result of greater engagement with the Faculties and Research and Education leads, we have received a number of notifications about research starting without prior ethical approval being sought or confirmed. This is a breach of [Queen Mary](#)

[policy](#) and each case is investigated by the QMERC Chairs, with recommendations made about corrective and preventative action including the immediate use of the research data and any further penalties. We also received a number of studies submitted very close to the estimated study start date and/or dissertation deadline, which puts unnecessary pressures onto both researchers and the ethics team. All those seeking approval should note that ethical approval cannot be granted retrospectively.

Incomplete applications also slow down the process so the team has created an [18-minute training video](#) to give advice and guidance on how to submit a successful ethics application.

A new online application form ('QMethics') is being implemented and is due to go live in early 2023. This will improve the applicant experience, being project-specific and relevant to your study; whilst also being a portal for you to log in and see the live status of your project at any given time.

The team is currently recruiting s Senior Research Ethics Facilitator so please bear with them.

All queries, new applications and amendments should be sent to research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk and more information about the application process can be found [on the JRMO website](#).

Standard Operating Procedure changes

Since the last R&D News Bulletin was published, the following SOPs and associated documents have been updated and released:

SOP 14 Review of Clinical Research including Scientific and Departmental Review

- Associated Document 1: Review of Clinical Guidance
- Associated Document 2: Template Terms of Reference
- Associated Document 3: Scientific Peer Review template
- Associated Document 4: Review Form

These and all JRMO SOPs can be found [on the JRMO website](#)

Our research

Be part of the CMV victory trial

This clinical trial is sponsored by Moderna. Moderna is studying mRNA-1647, an investigational vaccine, to understand whether it can help your immune system protect against cytomegalovirus (CMV). Its purpose is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of mRNA-1647, an investigational vaccine (a vaccine not yet approved by a country's drug regulatory agency) against CMV, and the safety of the vaccine in women who test positive for prior exposure to CMV.



CMV is a leading cause of birth defects around the world. CMV is a common viral infection that usually goes unnoticed or only causes mild symptoms in most people. But if a woman becomes infected with CMV while she is pregnant, she can pass the infection to her unborn baby. This can cause her child to suffer long-term disability due to birth defects, including hearing loss, or even death in very severe cases. Currently, there is no approved vaccine against CMV.

This clinical trial is looking for volunteers. To join this clinical trial, you must be:

- A woman between 16-40 years of age
- In good health
- In close contact with at least one child 5 years of age or younger for at least 8 hours a week, if aged 20 or older
- Not pregnant or planning on becoming pregnant within the next 9 months

Clinical trial staff will explain any additional requirements and answer any questions you or a loved one may have about participation. You may stop participation in the clinical trial at any time, and you do not have to give a reason for doing so.

If you are interested in taking part please contact the local research lead Armida Balawon at a.balawon@qmul.ac.uk or Tel 020 7882 5669 or see [the CMV Victory website](#)

William Harvey Annual Research Review 2022

After two years as an online event, the William Harvey Annual Research Review returned to Charterhouse Square in July. This one-day annual conference is a celebration of cutting-edge scientific research and outstanding achievements at the William Harvey Research Institute.



The 2022 Iain MacIntyre Award for Excellence in Endocrinology was awarded to **Professor Philipa Saunders** from the University of Edinburgh. Prof Saunders's lecture was on "Adventures in endometrial research - bridging the gap between discovery and translational science"

The day also featured several talks from across our three research themes of cardiovascular, endocrine, and inflammation science.

2022 Award winners were:

- **Julia Gutjahr** (CMR) - Oral Communication Prize
- **Vishal Vyas** (BioPharm) - Poster Prize
- **Christina Gkantsinikoudi** (CMR) - Best Image
- **Sara Caxaria** (EMR) - WHRF Lay Communication Prize (1st)
- **Michelle Sugimoto** (BioPharm) - WHRF Lay Communication Prize (Runner-up)
- **Kaya Olczak** (ClinPharm) - WHRF Lay Communication Prize (Runner-up)

The day's talks were followed by a barbeque and party on the Charterhouse Square Campus lawn. Photos from the event can be downloaded from the following [online](#).

Prof Sir Mark Caulfield recognised for services to medicine

Prof Sir Mark Caulfield, Vice Principal for Health at Queen Mary has received an honorary degree from Queen's University Belfast.



Prof Caulfield has made substantial contributions to the discovery of genes related to blood pressure, cardiovascular health, cancer and rare diseases. He was awarded a knighthood in 2019 for his leadership of the [100,000 Genomes Project](#), an initiative that oversaw the sequencing of over 100,000 genomes of patients affected by rare disease or cancer. The project has already delivered life-changing results for patients and has shed light on the important role genomics can play in healthcare, paving the way for a new Genomic Medicine Service.

Professor Caulfield said "It's a great honour to be recognised by Queen's University for work that has put the UK on the map as a world leader in genomics. Most importantly, with the involvement of Northern Ireland the UK NHS has offered thousands of patients new insights into the role of genomics can play in healthcare. It is particularly special to share this occasion with bright, new Queen's graduates who have undoubtedly much to offer the medical world during their careers, and I would like to wish them the best of luck."

Prof Márta Korbonits receives the international Rolf Gaillard Prize for excellence in neuroendocrinology

[Professor Márta Korbonits](#) has received the prestigious Rolf Gaillard Prize from the European Neuroendocrine Association for her outstanding contributions to basic,

translational or clinical research in the field of neuroendocrinology.



Professor Korbonits said "I am honoured to receive this prestigious prize in neuroendocrinology, a field so close to my heart. Research achievements are results of team work and I am grateful for my outstanding mentors, collaborators and trainees helping me over the years to make this journey so enjoyable".

Prof Korbonits is an internationally lead in the field of genetic endocrine tumour syndromes, especially regarding pituitary tumours. She has an outstanding track record on all aspects of academic medicine: original research, teaching, mentoring and scholarship with leading roles in UK & International learned societies. She led ground-breaking work on the hormonal regulation of AMPK activity by ghrelin, cannabinoids and glucocorticoids, resulting most recently in a ground-breaking clinical trial, and is a world-leading expert on genetics of endocrine tumour syndromes, especially familial isolated pituitary adenomas and the pathophysiology of AIP and pioneered patient involvement in her research. Her national and international scholarly activity and enthusiastic postgraduate teaching greatly advanced the field of endocrinology.

Further information about [Endocrinology research](#) at the William Harvey Research Institute.

Powerful drugs could spare patients with suspected multiple sclerosis a lifetime of debilitating symptoms

People with multiple sclerosis (MS) face a worsening symptom as years go by. This debilitating conditions leads to mobility, muscle, bladder and eye problems, but experts now believe that people who have not been formally diagnosed could be treated in the early stages.



At present, the most potent drug treatments that tackle the underlying causes of the neurological disease are reserved for those with more advanced cases. It has been reported in [the Daily Mail](#) that a growing body of research suggests giving these types of medicines before symptoms worsen could keep the condition stable for at least a decade.

Now in a world-first trial, experts at Barts Health and Queen Mary are exploring whether treating patients at the earliest possible stage could prevent some from deteriorating in the first place.

Some 130,000 people in Britain have multiple sclerosis (MS). The disease causes the body's immune system to attack nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, which gradually leads to mobility and eyesight problems, muscle spasms, bladder issues and fatigue. There is no cure.

Patients in the new study will be given a low-risk drug called natalizumab before their diagnosis is confirmed, to see if those in the earliest stage of the disease can benefit. Prof Klaus Schmierer, a neurologist at London's Barts Health NHS Trust and Queen Mary University of London, plans to recruit 40 patients who have visited their GP or A&E unit with symptoms which suggest MS. All will undergo MRI scans to check for at least one brain lesion.

Earlier work by Prof Schmierer and his colleagues suggests some of these cells may drive the inflammation which occurs in MS. The drug stays in the body for only eight weeks – while others can remain for 18 months or more – so if patients are among the 20 per cent or more who have a brain lesion but do not have MS, they can come off it without risking long-term effects. This effectively treats MS in the same way as a stroke – starting treatment

almost straight away, without waiting for a definitive diagnosis. Scientists say the new field of research marks a 'change of mindset' in the understanding of how the condition develops and how it can be treated. It suggests that the microscopic damage to the brain and nervous system caused by the disease starts very early and plays an important role in how the condition progresses.

Dr Emma Gray, at the MS Society charity, has described the research, which will begin in September, as "really exciting; we've realised that elements of MS progression start with the onset of the disease,"

Prof Schmierer said that "In the early stages the brain still has the reserve capacity which can help reboot the connections that MS might have damaged. So if we start treatment early rather than waiting, might it give patients a better chance of really long-term remission? It could represent a huge change in quality of life for patients."

The new study follows research which provides clues that this approach might work. An Australian paper published in the *Lancet* in April 2020 showed patients who started taking the drugs within the first two years after diagnosis - but not in its earliest stages - were less likely to see their disability worsen. After ten years, the patients who took the drugs early barely saw their condition change.

It is hoped the trials will be among many to be based at a new Clinical Research Facility at the Royal London Hospital, part of Barts Health NHS Trust. Housed on the 15th floor, in former intensive care wards for covid patients, the revamped facilities are funded by [Barts Charity as part of Barts 900](#).

The CRF hasn't opened yet, but its aims are ambitious. Other planned work includes how different ethnicities respond to blood pressure drugs, studies in cardiovascular disease, diabetic kidney disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. It will have beds for overnight stays, and specialist consulting rooms for gene editing treatments.

Prof Rupert Pearse, an intensive care consultant at the Royal London and Director of Clinical Research said: "The aim is to improve the health of our local population by encouraging more people to take part in trials and building up trust with communities who might be less likely to engage with health professionals. We know there are differences in health outcomes between Black, Asian and

white communities and we want at least half our trial participants to come from traditionally under-represented groups. It could really make an enormous difference and help us to better treat and understand a whole range of diseases.”

Queen Mary research is changing the way we think about bees

Hot on the heels of his new book ‘The Mind of a Bee’, Prof Lars Chittka’s lab shows that bumblebees appear to feel pain.



Prof Lars Chittka’s new book, *The Mind of a Bee*, takes its reader on a journey through the rich inner world of bees – and sets out a compelling argument that bees may have a form consciousness.

Now Prof Chittka’s team have shown that bumblebees can modify their response to ‘noxious’ (painful) stimuli – in a manner that is viewed in other animals as consistent with the ability to feel pain.

The researchers showed that bumblebees are capable of modifying their response to ‘noxious’ (painful) stimuli to get a higher sugar reward. The possibility of insect pain and suffering should therefore be taken seriously, they say.

Prof Chittka, who led the research said “Insects used to be regarded as simple reflex automatons, responding to damaging stimuli only by withdrawal reflexes. Our new work shows that bees’ responses are more flexible and that they can suppress such reflexes when it suits them, for example if there is an extra-sweet treat to be had. Such flexibility is consistent with the capacity of a subjective experience of pain”

In the paper, published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), the researchers used a ‘motivational trade-off paradigm’, where animals must flexibly trade-off two competing motivations. Bees were given the choice between either unheated or noxiously heated (55°C) feeders with different sucrose concentrations and marked by different colours. When both feeders were high-quality and one of them was noxiously heated, bees tended to avoid the heated feeder. But the bees were more likely to use the heated feeders when they contained a higher concentration sucrose.

The team also expanded on the motivational trade-off paradigm by ensuring that the trade-off relied on cues (colours) that the bees had learned to associate with a higher sugar reward. Because the bees used learnt colour cues for their decisions, the trade-off was based on processing in the brain, rather than just peripheral processing. In other words, the bees decided to undergo some pain or discomfort in order to get a higher sugar reward. The researchers say that because of the subjective nature of pain experience, this not a formal proof, but the possibility of insect pain and suffering should be taken seriously.

A nasal spray can prevent Covid-19

[Results](#) from a clinical trial led by Barts Health and Queen Mary researchers show that a nasal spray (pHOXWELL) can reduce infection with SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes Covid-19) by 62%.

The trial was carried out in India between April to July 2021, the peak surge of the highly infectious Delta variant. It involved 556 participants – 275 used pHOXWELL and 281 used a placebo – three times a day. After 45 days, our researchers measured how many antibodies against Covid-19 each person in both groups had.



They found that pHOXWELL was safe and that after 45 days, 13.1% of those in the group that used it had antibodies against the Covid-19 virus, compared to 34.5% in the group who received the placebo. This shows that using pHOXWELL dramatically reduces the chances of developing Covid-19.

Researchers also found that people who used the nasal spray were less likely to experience symptoms than those given the placebo. No serious side effects were reported in either group, and participants noted that the nasal spray was easy to use.

Prof Rakesh Uppal, Director of [Barts Life Sciences](#) said: “pHOXWELL presents a significant breakthrough in preventing people developing Covid-19. We now have an effective tool, previously missing, to fight this virus, and is designed to offer extra protection against Covid-19, in addition to vaccines, face masks and washing our hands. I’m immensely proud of everyone involved in this trial and am extremely grateful to the participants who gave their time to be involved.”

The hope following the trial is for production and distribution of pHOXWELL to commence soon in India initially, before expanding into other regions to best protect people around the world.

The researchers expect that the treatment will be of particular use in areas where vaccination rates remain low and there is a shortage of personal protective equipment for those who need it, such as frontline healthcare workers. pHOXWELL offers 6-8 hours of protection with just two sprays per nostril and is designed to be effective against other airborne respiratory viruses as well. It works by stopping SARS-CoV-2 – the virus that causes Covid-19 – from infecting the nasal mucosa, which is the primary entry point into the body.

Benefits of NHS Breast Screening Programme outweigh the small risk of overdiagnosis

The NHS Breast Screening Programme in England has shown little, if any, evidence of overdiagnosis according to a new study from Queen Mary and King’s College London researchers, funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research Policy Research Programme.



In the UK, breast cancer accounts for 31% of all new cancers diagnosed in women each year, with cases having increased by 4% in the last decade. Despite the rise in cases, deaths caused by breast cancer are declining. This is in part due to early diagnosis of breast cancer through the NHS Breast Screening Programme.

The NHS Breast Screening Programme invites anyone registered with a GP as female aged 50-70 for a screening every three years. Breast cancer screening uses x-rays called mammograms to check breasts for signs of cancer. Despite the benefits of screening, there remains some debate over the potential harms of screening – notably overdiagnosis. Overdiagnosis is not the same as when a test finds something abnormal that turns out not to be cancer (a false-positive). Overdiagnosis is diagnosis of a real cancer which grows so slowly that it would never have actually given any symptoms.

Overdiagnosis may be a consideration when women are thinking about whether or not to participate in breast cancer screening. Until now, estimates of overdiagnosis have varied widely, ranging from less than 5% of screen detected cancers to more than 30%. When a cancer is diagnosed, we cannot tell whether it is overdiagnosed or not, so all cancers need treatment. It is important for women to have reliable estimates of overdiagnosis in order to make an informed decision on whether to be screened or not.

To quantify overdiagnosis in the NHS Breast Screening Programme, Queen Mary and King’s College London researchers undertook a study of 57,493 breast cancer cases diagnosed in 2010 or 2011, matched with 105,653 controls.

They estimated the effect of screening on breast cancer risk, and the results were combined with national incidence data to estimate absolute rates of overdiagnosis.

Overdiagnosis was calculated as the cumulative excess of cancers diagnosed in women aged 50-77 attending three-yearly screening between ages 50 and 70 compared with women attending no screens.

The estimated number of cases of overdiagnosis in women attending all screens in the programme was just under 3 per 1000, corresponding to an estimated 3.7% of screen detected cancers overdiagnosed. This is considerably lower than has been suggested in the past. Authors conclude that the NHS Breast Screening Programme is associated, at

worst, with modest overdiagnosis of breast cancer.

Stephen Duffy, Professor of Cancer Screening, Queen Mary and joint lead investigator, said: "These results provide some reassurance that participation in the NHS Breast Screening Programme confers only a low risk of an overdiagnosed breast cancer. Along with the results of our previous study of the effect of screening on breast cancer mortality, this indicates that the benefit of screening in preventing deaths from breast cancer outweighs the small risk of overdiagnosis."

Events

JRMO 'lunch and learn'

Every month the JRMO hosts a lunchtime seminar that is either 'drop-in' at Dept W, or available online. September's seminar was 'The Exciting world of Clinical Research Audits' and the October session, due to take place on 19th Oct between 1 and 2 pm, is entitled '**Contract specifics: the Lambert vs Brunswick agreement**'.

This seminar will take place in Dept W, Room 1.20, 1.21 and 1.22 - or you can join via MS Teams: Meeting ID: 323 054 812 190
Passcode: A9ensd

JRMO drop-in sessions

JRMO drop-in sessions returned in late 2021 and are now being held - virtually - on the second Wednesday of every month, 10-11 am. Confirmed dates are: 12 October, 9 November and 14 December 2022.

To attend a session during that time please [follow this MS Teams link](#)

You can of course continue to contact the team at any time
- research.governance@qmul.ac.uk - if you have a query regarding research governance, amendments or other GCP-related matters.

If you have a question about any of the following, come along and the team will be available on a first-come-first-served basis:
Study set-up

- Research governance and sponsorship

- Research ethics
- GCP advice
- Research passports and staff access
- Finance and funding
- Costing and contracts
- Patient and public involvement

Wolfson Institute of Population Health (WIPH) talk: How I got my Fellowship, Thursday 29 September, 1pm

In this session colleagues in the Wolfson Institute of Population Health (WIPH) will be joined by Ashwin Kalra, who has recently been awarded the Barts Charity Clinical Research Training Fellowship Scheme A. He will talk about his experience of being awarded this fellowship and give insights about applying for fellowships and common challenges in interviews.

This specific fellowship has now been discontinued, but the experience will be very valuable to anyone thinking of applying to [Healthcare Professional Clinical Research Training Fellowships](#), or indeed other clinical fellowships. This will be followed by a Q&A session. The session will be chaired by Prof. Trevor Sheldon who will also bring his valuable knowledge of different fellowship schemes and what funders are looking for in a good fellowship application.

The session will be targeted at early career and mid-career researchers, but all staff from across the Institute are welcome to join. Due to the nature of this fellowship we are encouraging participation beyond the Institute,

and very much welcome clinicians who may be interested in applying for a Fellowship in the future. We look forward to seeing you there! Please [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Join the upcoming Women in Science and the impact of Covid-19 workshop

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the biomedical research and clinical workforce have been staggering. Globally, this has also been associated with inequalities in health care access and outcomes, heightened anxiety and depression, reports of bias and discrimination, as well as increased violence against women and girls. Women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine) have also faced difficulties related to research, careers and families as well as mental and physical health. However, the pandemic has also created an opportunity to engage in discussions on how to address career issues for women in STEM, and to highlight the voices of women scientists across the world.

On **Tuesday 4 Oct 2022**, 12-1.30pm, FMD is hosting an international panel discussion on Women in Science and the impact of Covid-19 with academic women from across the globe. It will discuss our experiences, what we have learned from them and how we can do things differently.

Registration: [Online MS Webinar](#)

GOSH BRC Academic Training Event – 19-20 November 2022

The NIHR and Great Ormond Street Hospital Biomedical Research Centre (NIHR GOSH BRC) is to host its next Academic Training Event on the weekend of 19-20 November 2022 at [Ashridge House in Hertfordshire](#).

The event is for early career researchers from across the UK who are working to improve the lives of children and young people through clinical and laboratory-based research programmes. The event programme has been developed with a wide range of disciplines and specialities in mind, including clinicians, non-clinical researchers, nurses, AHPs, pharmacists, dentists and health care scientists. There will be three sessions in the programme aiming to support attendees as

they move towards becoming independent researchers.

Each session will feature a workshop as well as presentations from speakers including Professor Lucy Chappell (Chief Executive Officer of the NIHR, Professor of Obstetrics at King's College London and Honorary Consultant Obstetrician) and Professor Sir Terence Stephenson (Professor of Child Health at the Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, Chair of the Health Research Authority for England and Honorary Consultant Paediatrician).

All applications are welcome, but to get the most out of the programme, attendees will be post graduate and either a postdoctoral researcher or towards the end of their PhD with prior experience in a relevant profession; nurses, AHPs, pharmacists, laboratory technicians and others. It will be a residential event and will be held at Ashridge Business School, a picturesque country estate and stately home in Hertfordshire: [Wedding & Conference Venue in Hertfordshire: Ashridge House](#). We have space for around 50 attendees with accommodation for Saturday night and food provided at a subsidised cost of just £70.

Further information about the event can be found on at [NIHR GOSH BRC Academic Training Weekend | Great Ormond Street Hospital](#)



Training

JRMO GCP Training

Both Queen Mary and Barts Health require all those undertaking clinical research at our sites to attend appropriate training. It is mandated that all researchers conducting MHRA regulated trials must complete a GCP course and refresh it every two years. The same is advised as the best practice for all other researchers.

More details regarding research specific training can be found in [JRMO SOP 34a Researcher Training](#) and [SOP 12b Associated Document 2: JRMO Sponsorship review proportionality document](#)

To **book** on to a course please email research.governance@qmul.ac.uk with the subject title 'GCP COURSE BOOKING', including in the body of the email the name of JRMO course you wish to attend (see below). Your place will be confirmed by email.

JRMO GCP training is currently being delivered online, via Zoom.

The following courses are available to book for the 2022-2023 academic year:

- **GCP002 Good Clinical Practice (GCP) - Full course** 28/09/2022 - 29/09/2022 13:30 - 16:00
- **GCP 011 Governance Training Course - Study Set Up** 04/10/2022 - 05/10/2022 13:30 - 17:00
- **GCP008A Good Clinical Practice for non-CTIMP research** 12/10/2022 - 13/10/2022 13:30 - 16:00
- **GCP003 Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Refresher** 26/10/2022 09:30 - 12:00
- **GCP002 Good Clinical Practice (GCP) - Full course** 09/11/2022 - 10/11/2022 14:00 - 16:30
- **GCP 012 Governance Training Course - Managing a Study** 23/11/2022 - 24/11/2022 09:30 - 12:00
- **GCP015 GCP for Clinical Investigations (ISO14155)** 01/12/2022 13:30 - 16:30
- **GCP 013 Governance Training Course - Data management and databases.** 07/12/2022 - 08/12/2022 09:30 - 12:00
- **GCP003 Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Refresher** 14/12/2022 09:30 - 12:00

Research funding

NIHR funding highlights

- [22/124 A platform trial to evaluate therapeutic interventions for Influenza](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 29 September 2022
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting straight to Stage 2 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
- [Future-Focused Leadership Programme - Emerging Research Leaders Cohort 1](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 30 September 2022
Find out more about the Emerging Research Leaders programme which supports early to mid-career researchers to develop your capabilities and effectiveness as a leader.
- [NIHR Regional Research Delivery Networks: Host Organisation Expressions of Interest](#)
Closes: 2 October 2022

Organisations invited to express an interest in hosting one of 12 NIHR Regional Research Delivery Network leadership teams.

- [Policy Research Programme - Mixed methods evaluation of Adult Social Care workforce reforms](#)
Closes: 1pm on 4 October 2022
The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications for the call Mixed methods evaluation of Adult Social Care workforce reforms
- [Policy Research Programme - Investigating Variation in Pay in Adult Social Care](#)
Closes: 1pm on 4 October 2022
The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications for the call Variation in pay in adult social care and relationship with workforce and outcomes

- [Policy Research Programme - Screening for gambling-related harm within mental health and drug alcohol services](#)
Closes: 1pm on 4 October 2022
The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications for the call The feasibility of routine screening for gambling-related harm within mental health and drug and alcohol services
 - [Policy Research Programme - Evaluation of the 10-year drug strategy investment in the treatment and recovery system in England](#)
Closes: 1pm on 4 October 2022
The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications for the call Evaluation of the 10-year drug strategy investment in treatment and recovery system
 - [Policy Research Programme - Impact of Out of Home Calorie Labelling on people with lived experience of eating disorders](#)
Closes: 1pm on 4 October 2022
The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications for the call Impact of Out of Home Calorie Labelling on people with lived experience of eating disorders
 - [Policy Research Programme - Understanding the implementation of Healthy Weight Coaches role in the weight management system](#)
Closes: 1pm on 4 October 2022
The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications for the call Understanding the implementation of Healthy Weight Coaches role in the weight management system
 - [Policy Research Programme - Evaluation of reforms to the Mental Health Act](#)
Closes: 1pm on 4 October 2022
The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications for the call Evaluation of reforms to the Mental Health Act
 - [Policy Research Programme - Policy Research Units](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 11 October 2022
The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications for NIHR Policy Research Units (PRUs) to run from January 2024-December 2028.
 - [NIHR HealthTech Research Centres 2022](#)
Closes: 13:00h on 2 November 2022
- Applications are welcome for a new NIHR Infrastructure scheme - the NIHR HealthTech Research Centres (HRC).
- [Future-Focused Leadership Programme - Leaders Cohort 1](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 4 November 2022
Find out more about the Leaders programme which aims to develop your capabilities and effectiveness as a leader by identifying and reflecting on your strengths and areas for development.
 - [Establish an integrated UK Rare Disease Research Platform: nodes](#)
Closes: 9 November 2022
Apply for funding to co-ordinate and address challenges in rare diseases and improve the mechanistic understanding, diagnosis and therapy of rare diseases.
 - [NIHR Research Support Service](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 9 November 2022
Applications are welcome for a new NIHR Infrastructure scheme - the NIHR Research Support Service (RSS).
 - [Research for Patient Benefit - Competition 49](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 9 November 2022
Applications are invited for research proposals that are concerned with the day-to-day practice of health service staff, and that have the potential to have an impact on the health or wellbeing of patients and users of the NHS.
 - [22/126 HSDR Rapid Service Evaluation Team 2023](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 10 November 2022
The Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme is accepting stage one applications to this funding opportunity.
 - [HEE/NIHR ICA Advanced Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship \(ACAF\) Round 2](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 15 November 2022
The HEE/NIHR ICA Advanced Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship (ACAF) supports post-doctoral researchers to develop their academic career whilst developing their health or care career.
 - [22/116 NIHR NICE rolling call \(HSDR Programme\)](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 16 November 2022
The Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme is accepting stage one applications to this funding opportunity. The programme is interested in receiving applications to meet recommendations in research identified in

- NICE guidance that has been published or updated since 2015.
- [22/66 HSDR Health Communication and public health messaging](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 16 November 2022
The Health Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme is accepting stage one applications to this funding opportunity.
 - [22/117 Health and Social Care Delivery Research Programme researcher-led](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 16 November 2022
The Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme is accepting stage one applications to this funding opportunity. The programme aims to commission high quality, well designed research which will be carried out by effective and efficient research teams, providing findings which meet the needs of NHS and Social Care managers and leaders.
 - [Clinical Academic Research Partnerships \(CARP\) round 4](#)
Closes: 16:00 on 17 November 2022
The Clinical Academic Research Partnerships (CARP) scheme is a one-to-three-year funding scheme run in partnership between NIHR and the Medical Research Council (MRC).
 - [NIHR Global Health Research Groups](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 23 November 2022
The Global Health Research Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for Global Health Research Groups.
 - [22/127 Adult drug screening and brief interventions in key health, social care and justice settings](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 29 November 2022
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting direct-to-Stage 2 applications to this funding opportunity.
 - [22/118 Public Health Research Programme researcher-led](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 29 November 2022
The Public Health Research Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.
 - [22/121 NIHR NICE rolling call \(PHR Programme\)](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 29 November 2022
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting stage one applications to this funding opportunity. The programme is interested in receiving applications to meet recommendations in research identified in NICE guidance that
- has been published or updated since 2015.
- [22/79 Stop-smoking interventions for under-served groups](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 29 November 2022
The Public Health Research Programme (PHR) is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.
 - [22/122 Motor neurone disease highlight notice \(PHR Programme\)](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 29 November 2022
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting stage one applications to this funding opportunity.
 - [22/67 HTA Health Communication and public health messaging](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 29 November 2022
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
 - [22/56 PHR Health communication and public health messaging](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 29 November 2022
The Public Health Research Programme (PHR) is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.
 - [22/123 Comprehensive geriatric assessment for frail older heart failure patients with preserved ejection fraction](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 30 November 2022
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
 - [22/104 HTA Application Acceleration Award – platform studies in areas considered strategic priorities](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 30 November 2022
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting straight-to-stage 2 applications to their commissioned workstream, for this primary research or evidence synthesis topic.
 - [22/91 Rescue packs in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 30 November 2022
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
 - [22/92 Withdrawing long term macrolides in bronchiectasis](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 30 November 2022

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

- [22/93 The clinical and cost-effectiveness of colesevelam for the treatment of bile acid diarrhoea](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 30 November 2022
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
- [Development and Skills Enhancement Award Round 11](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 30 November 2022
The Development and Skills Enhancement Award (DSE) provides a maximum of 1 year of funding for post-doctoral NIHR Academy Members.
- [22/111 Mechanism of action of social care interventions](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 6 December 2022
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream.
- [22/106 Delivering a sustainable health and care system \(EME Programme\)](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 6 December 2022
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to this NIHR Themed Call for research into the evaluation of interventions or services to support the delivery of a more sustainable UK health and care system, including mitigating the effects of climate change on health and care delivery.
- [22/109 NIHR NICE rolling call \(EME Programme\)](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 6 December 2022
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to this funding opportunity. The programme is interested in receiving applications to meet recommendations in research identified in NICE guidance that has been published or updated since 2015.
- [22/110 Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme researcher-led](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 6 December 2022
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.
- [22/106 Delivering a sustainable health and care system \(EME Programme\)](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 6 December 2022

The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to this NIHR Themed Call for research into the evaluation of interventions or services to support the delivery of a more sustainable UK health and care system, including mitigating the effects of climate change on health and care delivery.

- [Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation - Call 6](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 14 December 2022
Applications are invited for proposals on prevention, treatment, and management in multiple long term conditions in low and middle income countries.
- [Public Health Research Programme Rapid Funding Scheme](#)
Closes: 29 December 2023
The RFS has been set up to provide the public health research community with an accelerated route to funding for small-scale, short and time sensitive proposals that demonstrate a need for a rapid commissioning process to be followed.

Information on all NIHR funding can be found on the [NIHR Funding website](#).

NIHR Global Health Research Groups – Fourth Call Launched

Deadline: 23 October 2022 (internal, see below).

Awards will be up to £3 million over a period of up to 4 years are available to NIHR Global Health Research Groups. Please see the [full guidance on proposed funding](#).

The NIHR will *not* accept the same or substantially similar applications across multiple NIHR global research calls. Please view the [eligibility guidance for further information](#).

The NIHR Global Health Research Groups programme funds research to: Build global research capacity by supporting specialist UK researchers to pivot to global health through new equitable and diverse UK-LMIC partnerships and networks. Support UK-LMIC partnerships seeking to expand research programmes into new health areas and/or geographies. Deliver high quality applied global health research targeted at the needs of people in LMICs, including e.g., scoping

studies, needs analyses, economic analyses, pilot studies and potentially trials. Generate robust new scientific evidence that will improve health outcomes for people in low resource settings through improving practice and informing policy. Develop research leaders of the future and strengthen research management capability to support sustainability in partner countries.

Queen Mary FMD is taking a coordinated approach as follows:

- (i) Submit [online form outlining proposed submission](#) - this is for coordination and tracking purposes – internal deadline **23 October 2022**
- (ii) Submit succinct CV outlining 4* papers and major grant awards from 2015 – internal deadline 23 October 2022
- (iii) Prepare bid submission through [NIHR online portal](#). As part of the submission, we will be aiming to provide a short statement linked to one of FMD's research themes - please contact enh-mdt@qmul.ac.uk for further support.
- (iv) Submit stage 1 application by 13:00 (UK Time) **23 November 2022**
- (v) Confirm that you have submitted a completed stage 1 application by contacting enh-mdt@qmul.ac.uk **Further information**

For further information, you can contact the NIHR directly at nihrglobalhealth@nih.ac.uk, and Pauline Whitelaw at p.whitelaw@qmul.ac.uk (Research Project Manager, Environment & Health MDT).

Research Partnership opportunity for research-qualified health professionals

The NIHR Academy round 4 of the [Clinical Academic Research Partnerships \(CARP\)](#) scheme is now open for applications (closing at 4pm on 17 November 2022).

This scheme funds research-qualified health professionals, not currently undertaking any substantial research activity, to form a collaborative high-quality research partnership with established biomedical and applied health researchers. The scheme is run in partnership between NIHR and the Medical Research Council (MRC). [Find out more about the scheme](#). If you have any questions regarding this opportunity, please contact carp@mrc.ukri.org.

If you would like to explore a partnership with researchers in the Wolfson Institute of Population Health you can find more information on [the Wolfson website](#)



Barts Charity Research Seed Grants

Barts Charity Research Seed Grants help to seed innovative research focused on health-related problems. This scheme provides funding up to £75,000 to support the generation of research data and information that aims to enhance our understanding of health and illness and could lead to improved lives in East London, and will support a grant application to another funding organisation or pump-prime a new academic-clinical collaboration.

We particularly encourage applications from researchers at the start of their independent career or those who want to develop ideas that are outside their discipline or area of expertise. You can find out more about our Research Seed Grants on the [Barts Charity website](#).

Applications are welcome applications for this scheme four times a year. **The next deadline for applications is 20 October 2022**

Barts Charity Research Project Grants

Barts Charity supports Research Project Grants to help advance research focused on health-related problems of local and international significance. The scheme provides funding up to £600,000 to support innovative research that:

- enhances our understanding of health and illness
- has potential to lead to improved lives in East London
- will generate research outputs of international significance which could form the basis of substantial ongoing support from other funders

You can find out more about our Research Project Grants scheme on [the Barts Charity website](#).

The new application form is now live on Barts Charity website. **The next deadline for applications is 6 October 2022**

Public Engagement Grant Schemes now open for applications

The Centre for Public Engagement (CPE) Large Grants are an annual opportunity to apply for between £1,000 and £10,000 to support the delivery of projects that engage the public with Queen Mary research, teaching, or core business. The scheme is open to applications from all students and staff with any level of public engagement experience. For more information visit the [CPE website](#):

The CPE Small Grants are a monthly opportunity for students and staff to apply for up to £1,000 to support public engagement and PPI projects. The deadline for the first round is **15 October 2022**.



British Academy funding for Writing Workshops

The British Academy is inviting proposals seeking to deliver one or more [Writing Workshops in developing countries](#). These workshops should aim to develop the skills of early career researchers, including supporting and promoting the uptake of their research in journals and publications. Through the Writing Workshops programme, the British Academy aims to encourage and support early career researchers in developing countries to publish in high-impact journals in the fields of the humanities and social sciences, to stimulate professional networks, develop research partnerships, provide advice on career development and promote the uptake of research emanating from developing countries. The Writing Workshops programme is in effect making a career intervention, instilling and aiming to change long-term academic culture, and engaging with the wider ecosystem researchers inhabit.

Lead applicants must be based at a UK university or eligible research institute and be of postdoctoral or above status (or have equivalent research experience). The lead

applicant must either be in a permanent position at the institution or have a fixed-term position for the duration of the award. Each application must have at least one co-applicant based in an [ODA-eligible country](#).

Awards are set at a maximum of £30,000. Applications can only be submitted online using the British Academy's online Flexi-Grant® Grant Management System (GMS) system, Deadline: 9 November 2022, 17.00 UK time.

[Find out more in the British Academy website.](#)

BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants

The British Academy is now accepting applications for the BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants scheme. The deadline for applications is 5pm (GMT) on Wednesday 9 November 2022.

BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants are available to support primary research in the humanities and social sciences. These awards, up to £10,000 in value and tenable for up to 24 months, are provided to cover the cost of the expenses arising from a defined research project. Please read the [scheme guidance notes](#) and [FAQs](#) carefully. If you have any questions, please contact grants@thebritishacademy.ac.uk

APEX Awards

APEX awards are a funding opportunity designed to promote collaboration across academic disciplines through the support of world-leading interdisciplinary research projects.

The British Academy is inviting applications from established (independent) researchers employed at a UK university, or not-for-profit research institution, with a strong track record in their respective area, to an exciting opportunity to pursue genuine interdisciplinary and curiosity-driven research to benefit wider society. Successful applicants will be expected to work in collaboration with relevant researchers from other disciplines.

Applications must be within the remit of more than one of the three Academies, and awards of up to £100,000 to fund staff costs can be

held for up to 24 months with no more than 25 per cent of the total requested used for associated research costs. Successful applicants will also have the opportunity to apply separately for up to £10,000 to create and lead public engagement projects linked to their APEX award.

Closing date: **2 November 2022, 3:00pm**

To find out more about this call, or if you have any questions, please contact: apex@royalsociety.org.

British Academy Research Projects scheme

The British Academy is now accepting applications for the British Academy Research Projects scheme. The deadline for applications is 17:00 (GMT) on Friday 9 December 2022.

The Academy Research Projects are intended to offer the kitemarking of academic excellence to major long-term infrastructural projects or research facilities, intended to produce fundamental works of scholarship rather than to produce interpretative works or monographs. The call is aimed at scholars in both humanities and social sciences, and on this occasion the Academy is particularly interested in collaborative projects intended to provide infrastructural resources for other researchers and the wider public, which have a clear focus on longer term sustainability, and a clear plan to move to financial self-stability after a fixed period of core funding from the Academy.

The application form is available on the Academy's Flexi-Grant® system. If you have any questions, please contact grants@thebritishacademy.ac.uk or [visit the British Academy website](#).

Centre for Public Engagement grant schemes

The Centre for Public Engagement grant schemes are now open for applications to support public engagement activities across Queen Mary.



The schemes are designed to support all Queen Mary students and staff and their community partners to design and deliver projects or activities that engage public groups with research, teaching, and other core business of the University to ensure our work is shared, shaped, and conducted with the public as partners in the process.

Large Grants:

The CPE's Large Grants are an annual scheme that provides between £1,000 and £10,000 of funding for projects that engage the public with work at Queen Mary. Large Grants are designed to support projects with a large scope, scale, or legacy, that will contribute to meeting the University's strategic priorities. The scheme is open for applications until midnight on **Monday 7 November 2022**. [Find out more about the Large Grants](#)

Small Grants:

The Small Grants are a monthly scheme that provides up to £600 or £1,000 of funding to support students, staff, and their community partners to deliver small scale or pilot activities which engage the public with work happening at Queen Mary. The scheme is open with a rolling deadline of the 15 of each month until May 2023. The first round closes on **15 October 2022**. [Find out more about the Small Grants](#)

Advice Surgeries for Grant Schemes

To help develop your public engagement ideas for submission to the CPE Grant Schemes we run Advice Surgeries which are open to all. The Advice Surgeries allow you to have 30 minutes of tailored, 1-2-1 support with a member of staff from the Centre for Public Engagement. In these we can provide you support with your ideas: from planning timelines, through to the practical delivery, and even evaluation of your work. Applicants that access support from the CPE in advance of their submission are much more likely to be successful in securing funding. [Click here for Large Grants Surgery Dates & Bookings](#)

Fellowships and related opportunities



Barts Charity: Healthcare Professional Clinical Research Training Fellowships

Barts Charity recently launched a new PhD Fellowship scheme that provides opportunities for local Healthcare Professionals to undertake research that enhances our understanding of health and illness and could lead to better health for East London.

The 3-year PhD Fellowship scheme is open to all Healthcare Professionals: [Allied Healthcare Professionals](#), clinicians, including GPs, [Healthcare Scientists](#), midwives, nurses, pharmacists, and psychologists. Further details about the scheme can be found on the [Barts Charity website](#).

The deadline for submission of applications is 4 November 2022. Interviews will take place in March 2023.

threats. We wish to open the scheme more widely when possible. There is an immediate need to provide support for these researchers to enable them to have the space to continue their work. The Programme is receiving £3 million of government funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Nuffield Foundation, an independent charitable trust, is contributing £0.5 million towards the scheme.

For more information, please visit [the British Academy website](#).

Visiting Fellowships 2023

The British Academy is now accepting applications for the Visiting Fellowships 2023. The deadline for applications is 17:00 (GMT) on Wednesday 30 November 2022.

Through this programme, the Academy aims to: enhance and build new links between scholars from around the globe and in the UK; foster opportunities and encourage the development of new and future partnerships for collaborative research into the humanities and social sciences; enable academics from across the globe to undertake research and / or professional development with UK colleagues; and strengthen the UK's research bases in the humanities and the social sciences.

Visiting Fellows must be of postdoctoral level or above, or have equivalent research experience at the time of application, and applicants must demonstrate that they have been in contact with their UK host institution prior to applying. The maximum funding available is £33,000 and applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), Flexi-Grant®.

For more information [visit the British Academy website](#).



Researchers at Risk Fellowships

The British Academy with [Cara \(the Council for At-Risk Academics\)](#) is establishing *Researchers at Risk Fellowships Programme* with the support of the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society. The Fellowships will cover the natural sciences, medical sciences, engineering, humanities, and social sciences with applications made via UK-based institutions. This Programme is a response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has exposed Ukrainian-based researchers to direct

Research professional

Research Professional (formerly Research Research) has an easy-to-use sign-up process: <http://www.researchprofessional.com/>

Funding information: [Up-to-the minute information about all types of research funding can be found on the Research Professional website – to access this click here \(account and password required\).](#)