

Joint Research Management Office

Research News Bulletin

Issue 126

16 February 2023

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UKRI's new funding service launches



UK Research and Innovation

Launched in 2018, UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) has now begun its transition to providing a more straightforward, research funding service.

The Simpler and Better Funding (SBF) programme is currently working with all councils to roll out opportunities across all its council funding areas. A key aspect of this is moving applications from the Je-S system to the SBF system in a structured way during 2023. Each award will have its own 'how to apply details' but in general applications to the MRC Research Board with closing dates up to May will continue through Je-S. It is anticipated that MRC Research Board applications will be through the UKRI Funding Service from autumn 2023 although this is to be confirmed in due course. For further information on this and other Council transition plans see the [UKRI website](#).

You can also visit the [SBF web pages](#) for further information on the programme and the new funding service. This Bulletin will be carrying key UKRI funding from the MRC and other bodies that relate to clinical and associated research. It can be found [below](#) in this Bulletin.

UKRI is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). It is an umbrella body for the UK's nine research councils: Arts and Humanities Research Council; Biotechnology and Biological

Sciences Research Council; Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council; Economic and Social Research Council; Medical Research Council; Natural Environment Research Council; Science and Technology Facilities Council; Innovate UK; and Research England.

The UKRI's six strategic objectives are:

- people and careers: making the UK the most attractive destination for talented people and teams from the UK and around the world;
- places: securing the UK's position as a globally leading research and innovation nation with outstanding institutions, infrastructures, sectors and clusters across the breadth of the country;
- ideas: advancing the frontiers of human knowledge and innovation by enabling the UK to seize opportunities from emerging research trends, multidisciplinary approaches and new concepts and markets;
- innovation: delivering the government's vision for the UK as an innovation nation, through the concerted action of Innovate UK and wider UKRI;
- impacts: focusing the UK's world-class science and innovation to target global and national challenges, create and exploit tomorrow's technologies, and build the high-growth business sectors of the future; and
- organisation: supported by a world-class organisation, making UKRI the most efficient, effective and agile organisation it can be.

You can read the full [UKRI corporate plan for 2022 to 2025](#) on its website.

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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

Barts ED Research Team outstanding contribution to research

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) and NIHR Clinical Research Network has recognised the Royal London Hospital ED Research Team's outstanding contribution to the NIHR portfolio studies in 2020-2022.

The award, announced in December, recognises the team's significant contribution to recruitment across numerous NIHR Portfolio adopted studies and their work engaging with patients to inform them of new opportunities to participate in NIHR CRN clinical research

The team delivered 34 NIHR Portfolio studies and recruited 5,687 patients between 2020 and 2022, becoming the highest recruiting team in London.

The team consists of a consultant, nurse leads, delivery nurses, two senior nurses doing PhDs, study-specific Associate Principal Investigators and a locally recruited academic clinical fellow. The research nurses are embedded in the ED direct care team, facilitating clinician engagement. We are physically present in the department and have research cover 16 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In addition to NIHR Portfolio studies the team has significantly increased its NIHR commercial research over the past 2 years, with 5 active studies recruiting 426 patients. The team led the Trust's response during the pandemic of 2020-21, making significant contributions to the RECOVERY trial, delivering recruitment and managing the trial, training staff working in the three EDs and four acute hospitals within the trust, overseeing the governance of the trial, and appointing the Trust's first Associate PI. To address accessibility and infection control issues during the pandemic the team developed and pioneered a novel e-consenting platform for NIHR priority studies.

When electronic prescribing went live at Barts in August 2021, the team designed and implemented the Trust's first clinical-trial-specific electronic prescription. This helped improve CTIMP prescription accuracy, patient safety, and accessibility for clinicians.

The team also leads and hosts a quarterly regional NIHR Trauma and Emergency Care meeting, which is attended by research teams from several EDs across London. This group provides recruitment support at sites with smaller CRN research teams. In addition, the

team established an ED Patient and Public Involvement group in 2017. Explaining patient perspectives has been invaluable in supporting the delivery of NIHR studies.

The award was presented at the [RCEM Research Engagement Day](#), on Friday 20 January 2023 at Octavia House, London.

Call to action: International Clinical Trials Day 2023

With May 20th on the horizon, the Research Engagement Team has started preparing for International Clinical Trials Day 2023 (ICTD).

At last year's event '**Research Matters: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Healthcare Research**', they highlighted Barts Health and Queen Mary's commitment to ensuring our research is inclusive, offering equality of opportunity and access to healthcare research and working to better engage with people and groups from all backgrounds. The working idea for this year's event is a celebration of all the excellent work we have done in the past year to further demonstrate our commitment to inclusive research. Several exciting new projects have emerged during this time, and ICTD would be a fitting event to showcase them.

But the team would like to hear your thoughts, including potential themes and venues for the flagship event. Also, ask the team any questions you may have. For instance, do you want to be a speaker at the flagship event? Do you have a participant you would like to feature? Do you need help planning a fun, interactive researcher-led activity?

Any questions or suggestions to James or Neeta at patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net



Last push for PRES

With just over a month until the deadline of **31st March**, we are asking for a big final push from all our research teams who administer PRES.

We have done well to record 330 surveys to date, but we have a long way to go to reach our target of 455 responses. Please be aware of this deadline and ensure that all surveys are uploaded well in advance. We also want to remind you that we have excellent [patient research champions](#) who are available to help you with PRES. If your team has a backlog of completed surveys and is concerned that your team does not have time to upload them, please let us know as soon as possible. Please visit [the JRMO website PRES page](#) to find out more.

Are you an adult aged 50 or older who has not had a pneumonia vaccine this year?

If so, please consider taking part in the STRIDE-IO study.

Pneumonia is caused by bacteria called *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. These germs can cause serious infections in the ears, nose, lungs, blood or brain. Vaccines help the body fight infections due to diseases like pneumococcal disease and may help prevent serious illnesses. New vaccines must be tested to show that they work.



The STRIDE-10 study is testing an investigational study vaccine (V116) to see if it can help protect against pneumococcal disease. This study is testing V116 in adults who have not previously received any pneumococcal vaccine and will compare V116

to Pneumovax23® (pneumococcal 23-valent vaccine).

Pneumovax23® is approved for preventing pneumococcal disease in some countries but may not be approved in your country.

This study will evaluate the safety of V116 and see how well the vaccine works and how your body responds to it.

You may be eligible for this study if you are aged 50 or older and:

- have not previously received any pneumococcal vaccine
- have not had a positive test (culture) for pneumococcal disease within the last 3 years
- if you are a female able to have children, you are not currently pregnant or breastfeeding, and agree not to breastfeed or become pregnant for at least 6 weeks after receiving the study vaccination

For more information, including the possible risks and benefits of participation, please contact Armida Balawon -

a.balawon@qmul.ac.uk / 020 7882 5669 or Francis Galera f.galera@qmul.ac.uk / 020 7882 5705.

NIHR survey: what helps or hinders clinical research?

Every day clinical research is being carried out on a specific illness, condition, treatment or therapy, the results of which could help save lives and improve the quality of care for thousands of people every year.

The Health Research Authority (HRA) and its partners want to improve the way clinical research happens, so that more people can take part, in ways that are best for them. You can help them by completing their survey. The survey asks about your experiences or views of UK research and what you think helps or blocks more people from taking part in research. It also asks for views on [six proposed hallmarks](#) of what the HRA thinks clinical research looks like when it is people-centred

The survey takes around five to twenty minutes depending on how much information you wish to share and you can [access the survey here](#).

Your views will help the HRA hear what is important to people about taking part in research about their health, treatment, therapy or care; find out what makes it possible for people to take part in research; and find out what researchers can do to improve research for people to take part and what makes it difficult for them to do so. Anyone can respond: patients, carers, healthcare professionals, researchers and members of the public.



You can [read more about what clinical research is and why the HRA is focussing on it](#) and if you have any questions you can contact communications@hra.nhs.uk adding 'People-Centred Clinical Research Project' in the subject box and they will arrange a call with you.

Take part in the Festival of Communities 2023

The Festival of Communities returns on the weekend of 10-11 June 2023. It will take place in Stepney Green Park on the Saturday and the Queen Mary Mile End Campus on the Sunday.

Exploring living and learning together in Tower Hamlets, the Festival of Communities is a collaboration between Queen Mary and local-

based organisations, with over 8,000 local residents joining us in 2022.

The team is looking for projects to take part by running a hands-on activity, demonstration, stall, exhibit or in other ways – they are specifically open to fun and creative ideas! The CPE team is available to offer advice on engagement ideas and help with activity design through Festival [information and 1:1 advice sessions](#). There is also a hands-on engagement [training session](#).

Collaborative projects between Queen Mary and Barts Health with a Queen Mary budget code can [apply for up to £500](#) of funding through the Centre for Public Engagement to support activities which wouldn't be able to happen otherwise.

The contact the team please visit the [Festival website](#) or email festival@qmul.ac.uk for more details. The funding opportunity closes at the end of the day on **Thursday 30th March**.



Our research

Ten-minute scan enables detection and cure of the commonest cause of high blood pressure

Doctors at Barts Hospital, Cambridge University Hospital, and Queen Mary University have led research using a new type

of CT scan to light up tiny nodules in a hormone gland and cure high blood pressure by their removal. The nodules are discovered in one-in-twenty people with high blood pressure.

Published today in [Nature Medicine](#), the research solves a problem that first surfaced in

the 1960s of how to detect the hormone producing nodules without a difficult catheter study that is available in only a handful of hospitals and often fails. The research also found that, when combined with a urine test, the scan detects a group of patients who come off all their blood pressure medicines after treatment.



128 people participated in the study of a new scan after doctors found that their Hypertension (high blood pressure) was caused by a steroid hormone, aldosterone. The scan found that in two-thirds of patients with elevated aldosterone secretion, this is coming from a benign nodule in just one of the adrenal glands, which can then be safely removed. The scan uses a very short-acting dose of metomidate, a radioactive dye that sticks only to the aldosterone-producing nodule. The scan was as accurate as the old catheter test, but quick, painless and technically successful in every patient.

Professor Morris Brown, co-senior author of the study and Professor of Endocrine Hypertension at Queen Mary University of London, said: "These aldosterone-producing nodules are very small and easily overlooked on a regular CT scan. When they glow for a few minutes after our injection, they are revealed as the obvious cause of Hypertension, which can often then be cured. Until now, 99% are never diagnosed because of the difficulty and unavailability of tests. Hopefully, this is about to change."

Professor William Drake, the co-senior author of the study from St Bartholomew's Hospital and Professor of Clinical Endocrinology at Queen Mary University of London, said: "This study was the result of years of hard work and collaboration between centres across the UK. Much of the 'on the ground' energy and drive came from the talented research fellows who, in addition to doing this innovative work, gave selflessly of their time and energy during the

national pandemic emergency. The future of research in this area is in very safe hands."

In 5-10% of people with Hypertension, the cause is a gene mutation in the adrenal glands, which results in excessive amounts of the steroid hormone, aldosterone, being produced. The impact of this research is therefore very significant.

Research paper: Wu et al. [11C]metomidate PET-CT versus adrenal vein sampling for diagnosing surgically curable primary aldosteronism: a prospective, within-patient trial.

More information can be found on the [Barts Life Sciences website](#).

Researchers identify protein that helps skin cancer spread throughout the body

Research led by Queen Mary University of London, King's College London and the Francis Crick Institute has identified a protein that makes melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer, more aggressive by giving cancer cells the ability to change the shape of their nucleus – a characteristic which allows the cells to migrate and spread around the body.

The [study](#), published today in *Nature Cell Biology*, modelled the behaviour of aggressive melanoma cells that can change the shape of their nucleus to overcome the physical constraints that cancer cells encounter when they migrate through tissues. The study found that these aggressive melanoma cells harboured high levels of a protein called LAP1 and that increased levels of this protein were linked to poor prognosis in melanoma patients.



Melanoma is a type of skin cancer that can spread to other organs in the body. Cancer

spread or 'metastasis' is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths. While metastasis has been extensively studied, the mechanisms by which it occurs are poorly understood. The findings from the study shed new light on a mechanism of melanoma progression and could pave the way for the development of new ways to target melanoma spread. The study was co-led by [Professor Victoria Sanz-Moreno](#) from Queen Mary's Barts Cancer Institute and [Dr Jeremy Carlton](#) from King's College London and The Francis Crick Institute and primarily funded by [Cancer Research UK](#), the [Wellcome Trust](#) and [Barts Charity](#).

In the study, the team challenged aggressive and less-aggressive melanoma cells in laboratory experiments to migrate through pores in an artificial membrane that were smaller than the size of their nucleus. Imaging conducted after the migration experiments showed that the aggressive cells were able to move through the pores more effectively than the less-aggressive ones by forming bulges at the edge of their nucleus called 'blebs'. Genetic analyses of the melanoma cells revealed that the aggressive cells that formed the blebs contained higher levels of the LAP1 protein, which sits within the membrane that surrounds the nucleus (called the nuclear envelope).

When the team blocked the production of the LAP1 protein in aggressive cells and re-challenged them to migrate through pores in laboratory experiments, they found that the cells were less able to form nuclear envelope blebs and less able to squeeze through these gaps. The team also observed the same pattern of LAP1 expression in melanoma samples from patients.

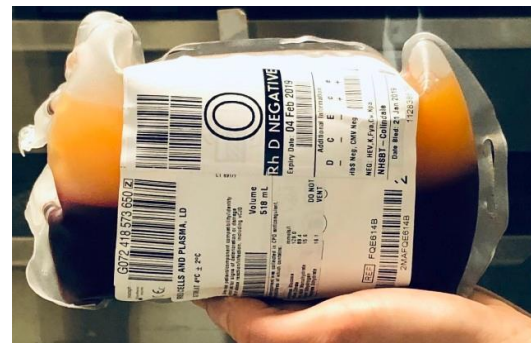
Prof Sanz-Moreno, whose research group is interested in understanding how cancer cells communicate with their environment to promote their growth and spread, said "Melanoma is the most aggressive and deadly type of skin cancer. By combining the expertise of my laboratory with that of Dr Carlton's, we have gained a new mechanistic understanding of how LAP1 contributes to melanoma progression and have shown that LAP1 is a key regulator of melanoma aggressiveness in laboratory and patient models. There are currently no drugs that target LAP1 directly, so looking to the future we would like to investigate ways to target LAP1 and nuclear envelope blebbing to see if

it is possible to block this mechanism of melanoma progression."

More information on this research can be found on the [Queen Mary website](#).

New product combining blood and plasma in one bag saves lives, study finds

A new blood product combining red blood cells and plasma in one bag is associated with better survival from a penetrating major trauma injury, a new study involving Queen Mary University of London has found.



NHS Blood and Transplant, Queen Mary University London, and Barts Health NHS Trust collaborated on the new study [published in the journal Critical Care](#).

Plasma is the liquid part of the blood. It contains clotting factors which reduce bleeding. NHSBT Blood and Transplant developed a new transfusion product which contained red blood cells and plasma together.

The study recruited 909 major traumatic haemorrhages patients who met the trial criteria. They were treated by Air Ambulances in England during 2018-2020. The patients received either the new product, which contained red blood cells and plasma together in one bag, a separate transfusions of red blood cells and plasma, or red blood cells only.

Overall, the odds of surviving 24 hours were 1.5 times higher in patients who received combined red cells and plasma than those who received red cells alone. The authors say larger trials are needed to confirm these findings.

The primary aim of the trial was to see how the new product compared to the other two, established treatments. There is because there may be practical benefits to carrying out

one transfusion with one bag, instead of separate bags of plasma and red blood cells, which could benefit patients. Further trials would be needed to establish that.

Queen Mary led the research. The product was developed by NHS Blood and Transplant. Barts Health NHS Trust provided clinical data and support.

The trial was funded by London Air Ambulance, Barts Charity, and NHS Blood and Transplant.

Chief Investigator Dr Laura Green, Reader in Transfusion Medicine at Queen Mary and a Consultant Haematologist for NHS Blood and Transplant and Barts Health NHS Trust, said: "The majority of trauma deaths are within three hours. We know patients benefit from getting not just red blood cells but also plasma but it's difficult to quickly carry out multiple transfusions in an urgent pre-hospital setting – such as by the roadside at night following a major crash, where a patient might have minutes to live. The study provides evidence that this new product, which contains both plasma and red blood cells unmixed in one bag, also saves more lives than just giving red blood cells alone. Now it can be explored further as a potentially lifesaving new treatment which can be used outside of hospitals."

The full story can be found [here](#).

VacV biotech spin-out launches

VacV Biotherapeutics Ltd, a Queen Mary spin-out biotech, was launched on 25th January with a party at Charterhouse Square for those who have supported and been integral to its formation and activities to date. Those included the team at QMI, International Research and Innovation, the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult (CGTC) and Consilium Strategic Communications in addition to academic collaborators from QMUL and other Universities.

VacV Biotherapeutics aims to bring groundbreaking cancer immunotherapies to the clinic, with a substantial seed investment by Proxima Ventures of 3 million USD.

The VacV technology platform was developed by a world-class team with over 20 years of experience in the field, founded by Prof. Yaohe

Wang, Prof. Nick Lemoine, Dr Louisa Chard Dunmall and Dr Peng Liu from the Barts Cancer Institute. VacV Biotherapeutics is joined by Professor Hardev Pandha, a medical oncologist from Surrey University and founder of Hox Therapeutics, as Chief Medical Officer and is supported by field-leading oncologists and scientists Prof. Alan Melcher, Prof. Kevin Harrington and Prof. Farzin Farzineh as members of the scientific advisory board.

The VacV technology involves using modified oncolytic Vaccinia viruses as a therapeutic modality and a wealth of preclinical data supports the strong efficacy of the pipeline in multiple hard-to-treat cancers. VacV Biotherapeutics has solved the key problem holding back oncolytic viruses, in particular for the low efficiency of intravenous delivery. The VacV technology has been creatively developed to offer significant advantages over existing immunotherapies, including minimal toxicity, high tumour specificity, and potent and long-term antitumour efficacy. The seed funding that VacV has attracted is supporting the clinical development of two lead products, VacV001 and VacV002 that are entering manufacture in preparation for early-phase clinical trials in cancer patients, including pancreatic and metastatic colorectal cancer patients. It is hoped that the first of these trials will begin recruitment in late 2024.

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

Major new genomics award

Prof Damian Smedley's team, researching computational genomics, recently received a grant of just over £1 million from the US National Institutes of Health. The funding will enable them to continue their role supporting the International Mouse Phenotyping Consortium: IMPC and [mousephenotype.org](#). This project will produce the first complete functional catalogue of a mammalian genome by systematically recording every protein-coding gene in the mouse. In addition, this next phase of the project will fund the characterisation of disease-specific alleles and non-coding, regulatory regions. Professor Smedley leads the healthcare aspect of this project where the knowledge gained from mice can be translated directly into new diagnoses and gene discovery for human rare diseases.

Events

RIDE 2023: Sustaining Innovation, Research and Practice 28-29 March

The seventeenth annual Centre for Online and Distance Education conference on Research in Distance Education (RIDE) focuses in 2023 on Sustaining Innovation and Sustainable Practices.

The virtual and in person conference, taking place across two days, focuses on research and scholarly practices in online, distance, blended, hybrid and hyflex higher education. We aim to provide opportunities to support our communities and our work. Rapid and extensive innovation, development and expansion of the role of blended, online and distance learning has transformed higher education in the last few years.

These changes have introduced opportunities for new ways of working for all involved, but have also placed pressures and stresses on students, staff, systems and technology. We will explore how people-focussed practices have and can be designed and developed through innovation that is sustainable for people, organisations and the planet.

[Registration is free through the website](#)

JRMO drop-in sessions

JRMO drop-in sessions take place on the second Wednesday of every month, 10-11 am.

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

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 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 the JRMO course you wish to attend (see below). Your place will be confirmed by email.

JRMO Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training is currently being delivered online, via Zoom.

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

- GCP Refresher - 21 February, 13.30 – 16.00
- Governance Training Course: Managing a Study – 22 February, 13.30 – 16.00
- GCP for non-CTIMP research – 1 March, 13.30 – 17.00
- GCP Refresher - 14 March, 13.30 – 16.00
- GCP for MHRA Regulated Studies – 22-23 March, 9.30 – 12.00
- GCP for Laboratory staff – 29-30 March, 13.30 – 16.00
- GCP for Clinical Investigations (ISO14155) – 19 April, 13.30 – 16.00
- GCP Refresher - 20 April, 13.30 – 16.00
- Governance Training Course: Data management and Databases – 26-27 April, 9.30 – 12.00

Online Workshop: How to apply for NIHR funding

Thursday, 23 February, 11am-12 noon

The [Lifelong Health](#) team is partnering with the [NIHR Research Design Service](#) to host an interactive session about applying for NIHR funding. This online workshop is open to academics and research support staff at all career stages and will cover both fellowships and research grants. Professor Steph Taylor and Dr Liz Steed will lead the session and there will be plenty of time for questions.

If you would like to attend, please register on Zoom using the button below. As part of the registration process, you can submit questions for the Q&A session in advance

[To register for this event please click here.](#)

PPIE Training Opportunities

NIHR Learning for Involvement

- **Centre for BME Health BAME Toolkit:** The Centre for BME Health has produced a checklist to help researchers when designing and recruiting to studies, as well as when conducting PPIE activities. The toolkit aims to capture best practices and provide researchers with a framework on how to improve the participation of people from ethnic minorities in research. Available on their [website](#).
- **Improving Inclusivity within Research:** BAME groups are more likely to suffer from poorer health outcomes and health and social care inequalities and are less likely to be represented in health and social care research studies. This [training module and toolkit](#) from CRN East Midlands and the Centre for BME Health will help your research become more inclusive of ethnic minority groups.
- **Patient and Public Involvement Toolkit:** Involving People's Public and Patient Involvement [Toolkit](#) is a very useful resource which will take you through each stage of the engagement process. This will help you understand what you are trying to achieve, plan how you will achieve it, produce a report based on your findings, and inform how your services can meet the needs of local people better.

NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) North Thames

The NIHR ARC has made a series of workshops and webinars readily available on its [website](#). The webinar titled 'Patient and public involvement in research and co-production' offers an introduction to PPIE, covering what it is, who is involved, why it is important, and how it can be done effectively. Public contributors share their experiences of integrating PPIE into their work and provide real-world context for the session. Click [here](#) to view on their Youtube channel.

UCL BRC PPIE Training

University College London's BRC provides regular PPIE training sessions for researchers.

The award-winning sessions build up researchers' skills and confidence in involving laypeople in activities, including setting research priorities and designing protocols. Evaluation in BMJOpen (Yu et al. 2021) showed marked increases in researchers' PPIE confidence after our training.

There are five modules available, including an introduction to PPIE and sessions on running focus groups, finding people and filling in grant applications. You can attend all 5 modules to build up knowledge progressively or you can pick the one that best suits you.

The training is available to all researchers, although non-UCL/ UCLH/UCLP-related staff do have to pay a small fee for each workshop attended.

For more information, please visit [the UCLH BRC website](#).

Queen Mary Centre for Public Engagement: Introduction to involving patients in your work

This workshop will introduce how engaging patients, carers and the public can serve as an effective means to inform health-related research throughout the research process. When? Wednesday 15 February: 2 pm-4 pm [Book the Introduction to involving patients in your work session](#) (search course code: RD-PE-006)

Please note: Barts staff are welcome to attend the session but may be unable to book using the online system. If this is the case, please

contact the CPE directly to book your space via publicengagement@qmul.ac.uk

Research funding

NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research

NIHR grant calls

- [Global HPSR Call 3 Projects](#)
The Global Health Research Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for Global Health Policy and Systems Research Projects and consortia.
Closes: 13:00 on 15 March 2023
- [22/143 Improving services for people living with Diabetes](#)
The Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme in partnership with Diabetes UK is inviting applications to understand how services can be improved for people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes.
Closes: 13:00 on 15 March 2023
- [22/563 Evaluating new models of care for children and young people with excess weight and related complications](#)
The Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme wants to fund a high-quality research evaluation of a national programme of Complications from Excess Weight (CEW) clinics for children and young people.
Closes: 13:00 on 15 March 2023
- [22/164 Health and Social Care Delivery Research Programme researcher-led](#)
The Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity.
Closes: 13:00 on 24 March 2023
- [22/165 NIHR NICE rolling call \(HSDR Programme\)](#)
The Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity.
Closes: 13:00 on 24 March 2023
- [22/166 Rehabilitation and care following stroke \(HTA Programme\)](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this broad brief topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
- [22/148 Surgical treatment of proximal ACL ruptures with ACL repair or ACL reconstruction](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
- [22/149 Surgery for pectus excavatum](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
- [22/150 Intravesical treatments for recurrent urinary tract infection \(rUTI\) in women](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
- [22/152 Through-knee versus above-knee major limb amputation](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
- [22/154 Bisphosphonate therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
- [22/155 Oral versus intramuscular glucocorticoids in rheumatoid arthritis](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
- [22/156 Children and young people's mental health \(HTA Programme\)](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this broad brief topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023

- Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023

 - [22/157 Interventions to reduce hospital-based medication administration errors](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this broad brief topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
 - [22/158 Inhibition of the renin-angiotensin system in takotsubo cardiomyopathy](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
 - [22/167 Imaging pathways for investigation following heart failure diagnosis](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
 - [22/168 The diagnostic accuracy of colon capsule endoscopy](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
 - [22/131 Management of antipsychotic-induced sexual dysfunction](#)
The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 29 March 2023
 - [22/554 Continuing priority research topics of interest to the PHR Programme](#)
These represent enduring gaps in our portfolio that we would like to fill with high-quality research.
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
 - [22/555 Public Health Research Programme researcher-led](#)
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme are accepting Stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
 - [22/553 NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling call \(PHR Programme\)](#)
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme are accepting Stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
- [22/552 NIHR NICE rolling call \(PHR Programme\)](#)
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity.
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
- [22/551 Interventions to promote mental health and well-being among young women](#)
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
- [22/556 Children and young people's mental health \(PHR Programme\)](#)
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
- [22/558 Palliative and end-of-life care \(PHR Programme\)](#)
The Public Health Research Programme invites applications for Palliative and End of Life Care research
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
- [22/140 Reducing inequalities in the prevention and diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections](#)
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
- [22/139 Interventions to increase the health and well-being of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK](#)
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
- [22/138 Health and health inequality impacts of place-based interventions](#)
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
- [22/137 Health and health inequality impacts of electric scooters and electric bikes](#)
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
- [22/144 Workforce Health](#)

- The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.
Closes: 13:00 on 4 April 2023
- [**23/12 Health Determinant Research Collaborations \(HDRCs\)**](#)
The NIHR wishes to fund a second round of innovative research collaborations between local government and the academic sector that focus on improving the wider determinants, or drivers, of health.
Closes: 13:00 on 18 April 2023
 - [**22/557 Palliative and end-of-life care \(EME Programme\)**](#)
The EME Programme invites applications for Palliative and End of Life Care research.
Closes: 13:00 on 25 April 2023
 - [**22/564 Evaluating the Efficacy of Metformin in Tuberous Sclerosis Complex**](#)
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream.
Closes: 13:00 on 25 April 2023
 - [**22/161 NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling call \(EME Programme\)**](#)
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme is accepting stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity. The programme recognises the importance of the research priorities identified by the James Lind Alliance (JLA) Priority Setting Partnerships (PSP) and is interested in receiving high-quality applications which address them.
Closes: 13:00 on 25 April 2023
 - [**22/160 NIHR NICE rolling call \(EME Programme\)**](#)
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for 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.
Closes: 13:00 on 25 April 2023
 - [**22/159 Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme researcher-led**](#)
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.
Closes: 13:00 on 25 April 2023
 - [**22/162 Rehabilitation and care following stroke \(EME Programme\)**](#)
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream.
Closes: 13:00 on 25 April 2023
 - [**22/163 Children and young people's mental health \(EME Programme\)**](#)
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream.
Closes: 13:00 on 25 April 2023
 - [**22/559 Motor neurone disease \(EME Programme\)**](#)
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme is accepting stage one applications to their commissioned workstream
Closes: 13:00 on 25 April 2023
 - [**22/561 Palliative and end-of-life care \(HSDR Programme\)**](#)
The Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme invites applications for Palliative and End of Life Care research.
Closes: 13:00 on 26 April 2023
 - [**23/2 Health Technology Assessment Programme researcher-led \(evidence synthesis\)**](#)
The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity. The HTA 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.
Closes: 13:00 on 3 May 2023
 - [**23/3 NIHR NICE rolling call \(HTA Programme\)**](#)
The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for 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.
Closes: 13:00 on 3 May 2023
 - [**23/4 NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling call \(HTA Programme\)**](#)
The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity. The programme recognises the importance of the research priorities

identified by the James Lind Alliance (JLA) Priority Setting Partnerships (PSP) and is interested in receiving high-quality applications which address them.

Closes: 13:00 on 3 May 2023

- [23/6 Motor Neurone Disease \(HTA Programme\)](#)

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity. Closes: 13:00 on 3 May 2023

- [23/5 Management of bone metastasis and skeletal-related events \(SREs\) in patients with advanced cancer](#)

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research or evidence synthesis topic. Closes: 13:00 on 3 May 2023

- [23/1 Health Technology Assessment Programme researcher-led \(primary research\)](#)

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity. The HTA 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. Closes: 13:00 on 3 May 2023

- [22/560 Palliative and end-of-life care \(HTA Programme\)](#)

The Health Technology Assessment Programme invites applications for Palliative and End of Life Care research. Closes: 13:00 on 3 May 2023

- [22/170 Testosterone for the treatment of menopause symptoms beyond altered sexual function](#)

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic. Closes: 13:00 on 3 May 2023

- [22/169 Benefits and harms of maintenance therapy for refractory acne vulgaris or previous relapses by reduced dose isotretinoin regimens](#)

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic. Closes: 13:00 on 24 May 2023

- [23/8 Care \(Education\) and Treatment Reviews \(C\(E\)TRs\) for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people](#)

The Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme is inviting applications to better understand the use, delivery and impact of Care (Education) and Treatment Reviews (C(E)TRs) for adults and children with learning disabilities and/or autistic people. Closes: 13:00 on 31 May 2023

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



**UK Research
and Innovation**

UKRI grant calls

UKRI is developing funding along strategic themes with a variety of co-funders including the MRC. Look out for information on its website relating to its themes:

- Building a green future
- Securing better health, ageing and wellbeing
- Tackling infections
- Building a secure and resilient world
- Creating opportunities, improving outcomes

Currently open UKRI funding includes:

- [Applied global health research](#)
Apply for funding to support research that will address global health challenges and inequities.
Closing date: 16 February
- [MRC Centre of Research Excellence \(CoRE\): round 1](#)
Apply for MRC Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) funding to tackle complex and interdisciplinary health challenges. You must be based at an organisation eligible for MRC funding and meet individual eligibility requirements. MRC CoREs will be funded for up to 14 years, on a 7-plus 7-year basis. Co-funders British Heart Foundation (BHF) for the advanced therapeutics theme. Total fund: £75m.
Closing date: 21 February
- [Sandpit: novel computing for UK defence and security](#)
Apply to attend a 5-day interactive interdisciplinary **sandpit** to develop projects on low size, weight and power computing for UK defence and security

applications. Participants will attend part of the sandpit in person. Total fund: £3m. Closing date: 28 February

- **[UK traumatic brain injury platform](#)**
Apply for funding to establish the UK traumatic brain injury (TBI) platform, comprising 2 parts: a national TBI data hub and a national biomarker resource for TBI. Maximum award: £9m. Closing date: 1 March
- **[EPSRC Centres for Doctoral Training](#)**
Apply for funding for Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) to deliver high-quality, cohort-based doctoral education. Applications are welcome from eligible institutions that can demonstrate the ability to host a CDT by meeting all the criteria detailed in the opportunity. Total fund: £324m. Closing date: 7 March
- **[Co-Centre Programme 2022: collaboration for transformative research and innovation](#)**
The Co-Centre Programme is a new strategic collaborative partnership between Ireland, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, co-funded by industry, which will consolidate research activities across higher education institutes in co-hosted centres. The Co-Centre Programme is open to proposals focused on high-quality research and innovation within the areas of climate, and sustainable and resilient food systems. Closing date: 16 March
- **[Develop a UK digital twinning research community with a NetworkPlus](#)**
Apply for funding to establish a UK research community to address the research challenges in digital twinning, complementing the existing industry-led multisector digital twins community. Total fund: £3m. Closing date: 23 March.
- **[Experimental medicine](#)**
Apply for funding to investigate the causes, progression and treatment of human disease. Your proposal must include an experimental intervention or challenge in humans. You must be based at an eligible research organisation. Any researcher employed by an eligible research organisation, including MRC institutes and units (including those in Gambia and Uganda), can apply for this funding opportunity. You can apply if you hold a fellowship or lectureship. This is an ongoing scheme. Application rounds open every six months, closing in April and October. Total fund: £10m.

Closing date: 19 April

- **[Build on existing Covid-19 infrastructure, partnerships and resources](#)**
Apply for funding to build on existing Covid-19 collaborative infrastructure, partnerships and resources. You must be based at a UK research organisation and eligible for MRC funding. Proposals must be within the remit of MRC's four research boards. Closing date: 24 May

For more information please [visit the UKRI website](#).

International Research and Innovation Funding Opportunities

A bi-monthly bulletin of various international funding opportunities is available on the JRMO International Team's [Sharepoint site](#). It contains a huge number of research funding schemes from the EU and other international sources.

If you don't already have access to that Sharepoint site please contact a [member of the international team](#) to obtain it.



Pandemic preparedness: lessons to learn from Covid-19 across the G7

The British Academy is inviting proposals from UK- and G7-based researchers in the humanities and social sciences as we are aiming to support at least four studies focusing on lessons learned and lessons to learn from the experience within G7 countries of preparing for, adapting and responding to COVID-19 for future pandemic preparedness.

This call for proposals is supported by the UK's Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. Awards will be up to £100,000 (with Full Economic Costing at 80%), for up to 18 months.

Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 17:00 (GMT)**.

Proposals should draw on experience across G7 countries, but where necessary enable deeper analysis, focussing specifically on a subset of countries around particular topics or policy areas. All eligible proposals submitted in response to this call will be assessed by Academy peer reviewers.

The Principal Investigator (PI) must be of postdoctoral or above status (or have equivalent research experience). The PI must hold an established role in an eligible UK university or research institute. The PI's position must last at least the duration of the grant funded by the Academy. Co-applicants are expected to be in the UK and elsewhere in the G7.

All applicants must register in the British Academy's online Flexi-Grant system to enable the processing and assessment of their

application. More information is available [on the British Academy website](#).

Queen Mary Environment & Health MDT fund for pump-priming activities

To support the development of their multidisciplinary research theme Queen Mary's Environment & Health Team is offering funds for pump priming activities. Applications for the second round of funding are currently accepted on an open-call basis. Submissions can be made until 31st March 2023.

For further info, including on how to apply please [see the Queen Mary website](#).



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
- will support a grant application to another funding organisation or pump-prime a new academic-clinical collaboration.

The charity particularly encourages applications from researchers at the start of their independent careers or those who want to develop ideas that are outside their discipline or area of expertise.

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

Barts Charity welcomes applications for this scheme four times a year. **The next deadline for applications is 20 April 2023**

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 the 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 the Research Project Grants scheme on [the Barts Charity website](#).

The next deadline for applications is 13 June 2023



Fellowships and related opportunities



NIHR fellowship highlights

- [NIHR School for Social Care Research \(SSCR\) Membership](#)
The NIHR is inviting academic institutions in England to apply to a new open competition to renew and refresh membership of the NIHR School for Social Care Research (SSCR).
Closes: 13:00 on 15 March 2023
- [Pre-doctoral Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship \(PCAF\) Round 6](#)
The PCAF scheme supports early career researchers to become competitive applicants for a doctoral-level research training fellowship.
Closes: 16 March 2023
- [Pre-doctoral Fellowship \(Round 5\)](#)
NIHR Pre-doctoral Fellowships are designed to support people who are looking to start or advance a career in health and social care research methodology.
Closes: 16 March 2023
- [Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship \(PLAF\) Round 3](#)
The PLAF scheme supports the academic ambitions of individuals employed or engaged, within local authorities or local authority support services.
Closes: 23 March 2023
- [Development and Skills Enhancement Award Round 12](#)
The DSE award is a post-doctoral level award aimed at supporting NIHR Academy Members to gain specific skills and experience to underpin the next phase of their research career.
Closes: 31 March 2023
- [2023 NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowships in Medicine](#)
This award supports doctors to gain research experience as part of their clinical training.
Closes: 31 March 2024
- [2023 NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowships in Dentistry](#)
The NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) is a clinical specialty training post in dentistry that incorporates academic training.
Closes: 31 March 2024

- [2023 NIHR Clinical Lectureships in Dentistry](#)
The NIHR Clinical Lectureship (CL) is a postdoctoral award that provides a clinical and academic training environment for dentists to establish themselves as independent researchers and leaders.
Closes: 31 March 2024
- [NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowships in Dentistry 2022](#)
The NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) is a clinical specialty training post in dentistry that incorporates academic training.
Closes: 31 March 2023
- [NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowships in Medicine 2022](#)
This award supports doctors to gain research experience as part of their clinical training.
Closes 31 March 2023.

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



International Fellowships 2023

The International Fellowships Programme is designed to attract the most promising early career postdoctoral researchers in the humanities and social sciences from around the world. The Fellowships enable researchers to work for three years at a UK research institution to foster long-term international collaborations. This programme provides support for outstanding early career researchers to make the first step towards developing an independent research career through gaining experience across international borders. Each award is expected to involve a specific and protected research focus with the award-holder undertaking high-quality, original research.

Applicants must hold a doctoral degree with no more than seven years of active full-time postdoctoral experience or be in the final stage

of their PhD provided that it will be completed (including viva) before the start date of the fellowship award (or have equivalent research experience). Additionally, applicants must be working outside the UK and not hold UK citizenship at the time of application.

For further information and a full list of eligibility criteria, please consult the programme [scheme notes](#).

Applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System, Flexi-Grant®.

Application and referee statements deadline and current UK host institution approval deadline: **Tuesday 28 March 2023 (17:00 BST)**.

For more information please see [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 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](#).



[Researching motor neurone disease: highlight notice](#)

Apply for funding to research motor neurone disease (MND). You can get funding through any grants from MRC research boards or panels or MRC fellowships. You should apply through the existing funding opportunity that is most relevant to your science area and career stage.

The MRC in partnership with NIHR are seeking to encourage high-quality funding applications in MND to any of our research board or panel grant or fellowship opportunities. MND is a devastating neurodegenerative disease, characterised by loss of motor neurone function. In patients suffering with MND, signals from the motor neurones gradually stop reaching the muscles causing them to weaken, stiffen and waste.

Funding type: Fellowship and grants
Closing date: Open - no closing date

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