

# Joint Research Management Office Research News Bulletin

Issue 132

5 April 2024

The Research News Bulletin is edited by Nick Good ~ [nicholas.good@nhs.net](mailto:nicholas.good@nhs.net)

## JRMO Research Governance Key Workers announced

The JRMO's Research Governance team recently launched a one-year pilot of a new key worker scheme in which team members cover particular Themes.

Each Theme covers a group of related clinical specialisms. It has its own Senior Research Governance Officer (SRGO) and two Research Governance Officers (RGO) responsible for reviewing and approving all new submissions and amendments, for both sponsored and hosted research, in that Theme. An exception is Theme 4, covering Data and AI, which is overseen by our Data and AI Research Governance Lead.

This new structure should enable JRMO and local research teams to build stronger working relationships and create a greater level of understanding, as well as promote greater ownership and understanding of studies. Throughout the trial, the team is keen to receive internal and external feedback.

Regular reports will be run to understand the impact these changes have on team performance and wider metrics. It will also enable ongoing checks on study volumes in themes, so there may be some adjustments along the way.

This pilot will not affect the way new study submissions and amendments are made to us, so please do not contact individuals directly in the first instance, but continue to use the research governance mailbox ([research.governance@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:research.governance@qmul.ac.uk)) or research amendments mailbox ([research.amendments@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:research.amendments@qmul.ac.uk)) as appropriate. If you have any questions or feedback please contact Sarah Webb, Research Performance and Governance Manager at [sarah.webb@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.webb@qmul.ac.uk).

Please see below the full breakdown of themes and associated governance officers:

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4
SRGO: Xiaoyu Yang RGO: Ameya Nath, Fortunate Kambuku	SRGO: Vacant post* RGO: Vishal Singh, Sandra Burke	SRGO: Safia Ornelas RGO: Rahela Ali, Hilal Hakkoymaz	SRGO: Michael Garvey-Eckett
Anaesthesia, Peri-operative Medicine & Pain Management Cancer Critical Care Health Services & Delivery Research Inflammatory & Immune (rheumatology) Injuries and Emergencies Intensive Care Mental Health Musculoskeletal Disorders Pharmacy/ Imaging/ Radiology/ Other Renal Disorders Surgery	Blood/ Haematology/ Pathology (XY) Cardiovascular Disease (SO) Dementias and Neurodegeneration (SO) Dermatology/ Skin (XY) Ear, Nose and Throat (XY) Genetics (XY) Ophthalmology (XY) Oral & Dental Health/ Dentistry (XY) Primary Care (XY) Respiratory Disorders (XY) Stroke (SO) Vascular Medicine (SO)	Children/ Paediatrics Diabetes Gastroenterology Hepatology Infection Metabolic & Endocrine Disorders Neurological Disorders Maternity & Reproductive Health Women's Health	Data AI

\* Due to the SRGO vacancy within Theme 2, the oversight of specialisms has been divided between our two SRGOs who will provide cover to the sponsored studies as an interim measure: SO = Safia Ornelas; XY = Xiaoyu Yang.

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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](mailto:zabed.ahmed@qmul.ac.uk) in the JRMO

## International Clinical Trials Day 2024

International Clinical Trials Day (ICTD) on 23 May is fast approaching!

Each year ICTD provides an opportunity for our researchers to present their work and help build better and more meaningful engagement with our local population.

The themes this year are research transparency and knowledge mobilisation.

Researchers from across the Trust and FMD have the opportunity to showcase the many different and innovative ways they are engaging patients and the public in their work.

On 23 May, the keynote speaker at our flagship event - **5.30 – 7 pm** in the Perrin lecture theatre, Blizard Building, Whitechapel - is Clive Collett, Head of Policy & Engagement at the Health Research Authority (HRA). Clive, along with members of the HRA's public advisory group, will present some of their work in this important area, aligning with their 'Make it Public' strategy. The event programme also includes Barts Health and Queen Mary staff, trial participants and public contributors, who are committed to making research inclusive and accessible to all. Registration details will be circulated in early April.

The team is seeking speakers for the main event and researchers to host their own public and/ or staff engagement activities for ICTD. Topics for the main event might include innovative ways to recruit participants or share study progress reports with participants, using creative methods to disseminate study results to different audiences, highlighting success stories in engaging underserved communities or other ways of overcoming barriers to participation/ involvement in clinical research.

Interested parties to contact Neeta and James at [patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net](mailto:patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net) with 'ICTD24' in the subject line.



## JRMO Research Project Admin Handbook published

The JRMO has produced a new Research Project Administration Handbook. This is a comprehensive guide designed to navigate Queen Mary researchers and Professional Services staff through the intricate and dynamic process of managing research projects from inception to completion.

Research administration is a complex discipline that involves bringing together various activities essential for the successful planning, execution, and closure of research endeavours. This handbook explores the key stages and components of the research administration lifecycle and provides an overview of the various teams within the research and innovation landscape at Queen Mary.



The Handbook can be accessed on SharePoint and linked through from the [About Us page](#) of the JRMO website.

## The challenges of modern archiving

Sam Rolfe, Business Development Director at Arkivum, Barts Health's archive partner has produced a very interesting [blog](#) on how long-term online record retention and data management poses issues and opportunities for clinical trial sites in the years ahead.

Sandra Blake, Corporate Records Manager for Barts Health, explains in the article how Barts moved from paper records in 2022 and used a risk-based approach to procure Arkivum's

system. Now that it has an approved digital archive in place, it has been possible to mitigate the risk and accept hybrid (paper and digital) transfer requests. She confirms that it is very satisfying to know that the Trust can now provide a full, long-term records storage service that meets all the required standards.

The SCRS (Society for Clinical Research Sites) recently published their [2023 Site Landscape Survey](#) in which they covered record retention for the first time. It found that the majority of sites (60%) felt uncomfortable with long-term archiving which is likely leading to over 70% not wanting to offer long-term document storage to the sponsors and CROs they are engaged with. In addition, many sites cited a lack of budget support to cover long-term storage, an area which will need significant rethinking in the future.

You can [read the full blog on the Arkivum website](#).

## Flexible Research Funds info now on JRMO website

A new page setting out FAQs about Flexible Research Funds (FRFs) can now be found [on the JRMO website](#).

FRFs are designed to provide flexible funding to Queen Mary employed research leaders, enabling them to support the running of their research group and to meet costs which cannot be met from ongoing grants (e.g. travelling to collaborators, purchasing new items of equipment, undertaking speculative research). The scheme recognises and rewards researchers who bring overhead-bearing research funding to the institution. When an overhead-bearing grant is secured, an allocation equal to 20% of the overhead earned is returned to the FRF account(s) of the investigators on the grant. FRF allocations will be based on the forecast research overhead spend for the University's financial year.

Information about what FRFs can be spent on, what they can contribute to or whether they can be shared or pooled with the researchers, plus more questions can be found [on the JRMO website](#).

There is no formal mechanism to pool FRFs, but you may choose to agree with your colleagues to put your funds together to

support larger items. Researchers have discretion on how to spend their FRFs.

FRF codes and reports are generated by the faculty finance team. Please contact the FMD Finance Partner Richard Stenning - [r.stenning@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:r.stenning@qmul.ac.uk) - with any questions.

## NIHR welcomes Government's response to independent review of research bureaucracy

The Government's response to Professor Adam Tickell's independent review of research bureaucracy was published in February. It highlights a considerable amount of NIHR work already underway.

Read more: [NIHR welcomes Government's response to independent review of research bureaucracy](#)



## Sign up for 'HRA Now'

'[HRA Now](#)' can send you everything you need to know where there are changes to the way we work.

These are some recent important updates you may have missed from [HRA Now](#):

- [clarification of HRA policy on the registration of CTIMPs taking place in the UK and EU](#)
- [updates to the commercial and non-commercial model agreements](#)
- [applicant attendance at CAG meetings and changes to CAG mainline](#)

[You can sign up to receive operational updates.](#)



# Our research

## Volunteers sought for mpox vaccine study

Londoners are being invited to join a study looking at the effectiveness of an investigational vaccine for mpox.

The study is the first that Moderna is running entirely in the UK. It's open at:

- Mile End Hospital, part of Barts Health NHS Trust
- Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust
- University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

You can read about this opportunity [on the NIHR website](#).



## Prof Nikolaos Donos awarded IADR Distinguished Scientist award

Prof Donos, Director of Research and Head of Clinical Research at the Institute of Dentistry, was presented with the award - the highest international award in the field of Periodontology - at the 102nd General Session and Exhibition of the International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (IADR).

The award was established to recognise, encourage, and stimulate outstanding

achievements in research in periodontal disease. It is awarded annually to scientists who have contributed significant research in this field.



Prof Donos, who is also Professor and Chair of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry, and Director of the Centre for Oral Clinical Research at the Institute of Dentistry, has research interests spanning systematic reviews leading to treatment guidelines, translational research, experimental medicine studies as well as randomized controlled clinical trials in the area of wound healing, soft and hard tissue regeneration, implant dentistry, and periodontal medicine.

## Nutrient-based alternative to weight-loss drugs enters next stage of testing

Enterika, an exciting new spinout company from Queen Mary has secured £50k from Innovate UK to test how different doses of their novel drug-free weight-loss pill impact how much people eat. The results will lead to larger studies to assess how much weight you can lose.

Enterika emerged out of a decade of Queen Mary research which discovered that people feel fuller when certain combinations of nutrients to the lower gut are targeted. That in turn releases hormones into the bloodstream and activates sensory nerves to suppress appetite. Suppressing appetite is a known way of reducing overeating to tackle obesity.

Where Enterika differs from current weight-loss products is that it uses naturally occurring dietary nutrients rather than drugs. This makes it substantially cheaper than rival products, making it more accessible to anyone who needs it. This matters because obesity is often more prevalent in poorer communities.



In Britain, a third of adults in the most deprived areas are categorised as obese, compared to a fifth in more prosperous areas.

Dr Madusha Peiris, founder of Enterika and a senior lecturer in neuroscience at Queen Mary, commented: "Obesity is a global public health issue requiring safe, effective, accessible, and complementary treatments to reduce how much people eat. We have demonstrated in a clinical trial that our nutrient-based approach can reduce food intake now we need to show how different doses have different effects. This will allow us to produce a product that is natural but clinically proven and validated to the same standard as a pharmaceutical drug."

No other company or institution is pursuing this nutrient-based approach so with the right backing,

Enterika's patented technology could therefore be a major disruptor in the anti-obesity market – estimated to be worth around £5 billion a year and growing fast.

The final product will be natural but clinically proven and validated in a placebo-controlled trial like a pharmaceutical drug. It will only be available to those who clinically need it. The £50K from Innovate UK is an 'Unlocking UK Potential: Build' Award that supports founders from communities underrepresented in innovation, such as women and people from minority ethnic backgrounds.

You can follow [Queen Mary Innovation on LinkedIn](#) to stay up to date with Queen Mary spinouts.

## First new treatment for deadly cancer in 15 years

Researchers from Barts Health and Queen Mary have developed the first new treatment for mesothelioma, a type of lung cancer, in 15 years.

[Results from the phase 3 ATOMIC-meso clinical trial](#) showed that combining a new drug (ADI-PEG20) with traditional chemotherapy helped patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) live longer.

Of the nearly 250 patients on the trial, many of whom were patients at St Bartholomew's Hospital, around half were given the new drug plus traditional chemotherapy and the other half the traditional chemotherapy alone. Those given the combination of chemotherapy and new drug lived on average nearly two months longer. They were also nearly four times more likely to be alive three years after their diagnosis.

The phase 3 clinical trial, [published in JAMA Oncology](#) and sponsored by Polaris Pharmaceuticals, has unveiled a breakthrough in the treatment of MPM, a rare and often rapidly fatal form of cancer associated with asbestos exposure which has limited therapeutic options. On traditional chemotherapy alone the disease is rarely cured, and it has one of the lowest 5-year survival rates of any solid cancer at around 5-10%. This trial found that the combination treatment increased the median survival of participants by 1.6 months, and quadrupled the survival at 36 months, compared to placebo-chemotherapy.



Prof Peter Szlosarek who works at the [Barts Cancer Centre](#) at St Bartholomew's Hospital and led the trial said: "It's truly wonderful to see the research into the arginine starvation of cancer cells come to fruition. This discovery is something I have been working on from its earliest stages in the lab, right the way through to a treatment which is now improving the lives of people with mesothelioma. I would like to thank all the patients and families, researchers and their teams, particularly those at St Bartholomew's Hospital, as well as Polaris Pharmaceuticals for their commitment to developing a new cancer treatment for our patients."

[You can watch Prof Szlosarek discuss the ATOMIC-meso trial online.](#)

The trial is the culmination of 20 years of research at the [Barts Cancer Institute](#) that began with Prof Szlosarek's discovery that MPM cancer cells don't have a protein called ASS1 which they need to make their own arginine so they can grow. This new treatment works by stopping the MPM cells from taking arginine from the blood, and because they can't make their own, they starve and die.

More research, including more trials, is planned to figure out if ADI-PEG20 can also be used as a treatment for patients who have sarcoma or glioblastoma multiforme (a type of brain tumour) and in the future, potentially other types of cancer.

[This trial](#) was run by Queen Mary University of London, in collaboration with Barts Health NHS Trust and funded by Polaris Pharmaceutical.

## 'Tech vest' can detect early signs of heart disease

Researchers at [Barts Heart Centre](#) have found that a reusable 'vest' can detect a potentially fatal heart condition much sooner than currently possible.

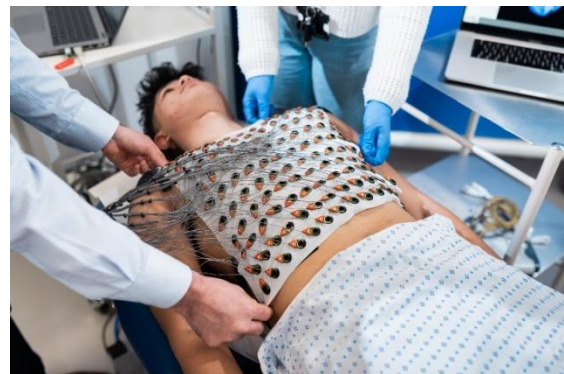
[They found that](#) by looking at the electrical changes in a person's heart, doctors can tell if a person has the heart condition [hypertrophic cardiomyopathy](#) (HCM) earlier than today's tests. This could help patients get the care they need sooner.

HCM affects around 1 in 500 people in the UK. Caused by a mistake in a person's DNA (known as a mutation), it makes the muscles

of the heart wall thick and stiff, limiting how well it works. HCM can lead to heart failure in some people and is the most common cause of sudden unexpected death in young people.

Researchers at Barts Heart Centre and University College London were able to find these electrical changes using an electrocardiographic imaging (ECGI) 'vest' which has 256 sensors on it. These sensors can give a detailed map of the 'electrics' of a person's heart in just five minutes, something which until now would involve an invasive, expensive and time-consuming procedure. From this electric map, doctors can tell if the person's heart is healthy or is showing signs of disease.

Dr George Joy, the study lead said: "By finding subtle electrical abnormalities using our new technique, we can detect hypertrophic cardiomyopathy earlier. This is important as it means we can potentially act earlier, providing new treatment to slow the disease as well as fast-tracking individuals to clinical trials that have the potential to stop the disease entirely."



Co-lead, Dr Luis Lopes, also based at Barts Heart Centre added: "Next steps of the research include repeating these results in a larger group of patients and following individuals over time to see how these early electrical changes affect the risk of life-threatening heart rhythms later on."

The study involved 200 patients and nearly 40 healthy volunteers from across London, including from Barts Heart Centre. Patients included people diagnosed with HCM and people with the mutation but no signs of the disease.

The team found that the vest could identify HCM 1 in 4 people who, when tested using the standard ways of diagnosing the disease (an [MRI](#) or a 12-lead [ECG](#)), showed no signs of the disease.



This follows previous work by the same researchers which showed that an 'advanced cardiac MRI' could be used to [detect early](#)

[structural changes](#) in HCM that are not present on conventional tests. You can read the [full research paper in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology](#).

## Events

### RCN Education Forum National Conference and Exhibition 2024 23-24 April 2024

NIHR Nursing and Midwifery is hosting a face-to-face full-day event to celebrate International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day on 8th May at Conference Aston, Birmingham.

They are keen to get representation from nurses and midwives working across all health and care sectors and aim to make this a truly inclusive event that recognises and celebrates the diverse roles and settings where nurses and midwives practice. It will be an occasion to celebrate the achievements of research-minded and research-active nurses and midwives and for those who are research curious to find out more about how they can become more involved in supporting, delivering and leading research.

Full details can be found on the [RCN registration site](#)

### London Nurses Making Research Matter - A RoadMap for Nurses conference 3 May 2024

The pan-London NMAHP leads for the North & South CRNs are organising an event for Band 5 & 6 nurses. It is primarily aimed at nurses who work outside of research, such as those on the ward or in out-patient, but we also welcome nurses who have recently started working within research.

The title of the event is "Making Research Matter – A Roadmap for Nurses" and will take place on Friday 3 May 2024 at the Ambassadors in London.

This full-day event is an introduction for nurses to the role of research in nursing practice and ways to get involved. Registration is free for

registered nurses working in London from all areas of practice ***inclusive of staff with no previous research experience***.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided. The day will centre around sessions encompassing "Research: A Vision for Nursing", "Research – My Journey" and "Research – the Impact" with notable speakers including Professor Ruth Endacott, NIHR Director of Nursing & Midwifery, and Dr Joanne Cooper, Head of Nursing Research NHS England as well as other local research leaders within the pan-London areas.

Registration is free for registered nurses working in London from all areas of practice. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. For more information and to book, please [visit the NHS England events webpage](#).

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Laura McCabe: [Laura.McCabe@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:Laura.McCabe@gstt.nhs.uk)

### JRMO drop-in sessions

JRMO drop-in sessions continue to take place on the **second Wednesday of every month, from 10 am to noon**. 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](mailto: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.



The team looks forward to seeing you!

## Lunchtime Research Talks at the Royal London Hospital

Monthly research talks have been running at the Royal London for almost a year now. These events started small and are now running as hybrid meetings, live and via MS Teams.

The talks aim to foster and sustain Barts Health clinical research environment. They are delivered by guest speakers or members of clinical research teams on a wide range of topics. They provide an open forum in an informal setting to share best practices and engage with topics relating to embedding research, clinical research delivery and workforce development.

They usually last an hour, including a presentation followed by a discussion. Everyone is welcome, topics will likely be of particular interest to the research delivery workforce and clinical staff looking to learn about research. Sessions are hybrid, no need to register for online attendance.

Room size is limited so please contact the team if you are planning to attend in person.

- **Upcoming talk:** Thursday 18 April 2 – 3 pm: **Implementation science to improve delivery of care - Dr Tim Stephens, nurse, researcher & implementation scientist**

Tim works with the Critical Care and Perioperative Medicines research group. He will present an overview of his career in nursing & research, and discuss developing innovative solutions to improving the delivery of acute care, using implementation science and quality improvement.

For more details and to book a place please contact Imogen Skene at [i.skene@nhs.net](mailto:i.skene@nhs.net)

## NIHR Associate Principal Investigator (PI) Scheme hosts the Research Learning Lectures

The [NIHR Associate Principal Investigator \(PI\) Scheme](#) hosts the Research Learning Lectures; a series of lectures for anyone in Health and Social Care interested in learning more about research.



The lectures will cover a variety of topics relating to basic science, clinical trial methodology and statistics. Providing career advice for anyone who wishes to know more about research or work towards a career in research or academia. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from and put questions to research experts from across the world. For more information, please visit the [NIHR website](#).

Upcoming lectures:

- **Health Economics in Clinical Trials**  
26 April 2024, 1 – 2 pm  
Speaker: Dr Caroline Clarke (MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL); Chair: Hannah Rush (Dr Claire Vale (MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL))
- **Experiences in UK-US Fulbright Programme**  
7 May 2024, 2 – 3 pm  
Speaker: Prof Charlotte Summers (University of Cambridge); Chair: Dr Kiran Reddy / Dr Bronwen Connolly (Queen's University Belfast)

More lectures are on the way. Please see [the Research Learning website](#) for more information in due course. You can also browse the future lectures in the series and register for those in advance. If you have any questions, please contact the Associate PI Scheme team at [associatepischeme@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:associatepischeme@nihr.ac.uk)

## NIHR BRC Oxford Cardiovascular 'masterclass' talks

The Oxford BRC Cardiovascular theme has organised a series of 'masterclass' talks all are hybrid and take place 1 – 2 pm on the stated days online and at the Richard Doll Lecture Theatre, Oxford:

- **Developing blood-based longitudinal studies in low-resource settings: the challenge and opportunity**  
Speaker: Prof [Sarah Lewington](#)

Date: 9 May 2024

[Register here](#)

- **What the NIHR want**

Speaker: Prof [Marian Knight](#)

Date: 17 June 2024

[Register here](#)

- **Big Data and the NHS: Challenges and Opportunities**

Speaker: Prof [Eva Morris](#)

Date: 10 September 2024

[Register here](#)

- **Using AI and imaging in translational epidemiology**

Speaker: Prof [Charalambos Antoniadis](#)

Date: 19 September 2024,

[Register here](#)

- **Exploiting genetic data to unravel our understanding of disease**

Speaker: Prof [Jemma Hopewell](#)

Date: 14 October 2024

[Register here](#)

## 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](#)

New dates for training in July have now been announced and these and others can be found [on the JRMO website](#). Most courses are now delivered by Zoom.

To book a course please email [research.governance@qmul.ac.uk](mailto: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. Your place will be confirmed by email.



### SBK Healthcare Events & Training

[SBK Healthcare](#) provides training for clinical research that covers topics from quality assurance, skills development, preparing for inspections, and information governance, to support research in specific clinical areas.

In addition, they run several interactive forums and free webinars and have various video training resources. More information about all that can be found on their website: <https://www.sbk-healthcare.co.uk/>

If you are interested in attending any of the courses you can contact Nichola Cadwallader - [nichola.cadwallader@sbk-healthcare.co.uk](mailto:nichola.cadwallader@sbk-healthcare.co.uk) - quote 'JRMO' in the subject line of your email and she may be able to offer a reduced rate.

### Human Tissue Act and the Implications for Research

This course provides an overview of the human tissue legislation in the UK and the role and importance of the Human Tissue Authority (HTA). This course is for research staff and students who need to be trained to take consent for research studies, and to understand the rules governing the use of human tissue, set out in the Human Tissue Act, before working with human tissue and/or data.

Upcoming dates are:

25 April 2024 2-3 pm via Teams

13 June 2024 2-3 pm via Teams

19 Sept 2024 2-3 pm via Teams

14 Nov 2024 2-3 pm via Teams

Bookings can be made by contacting Katie Ersapah, Human Tissue Resource Centre Manager at [k.ersapah@nhs.net](mailto:k.ersapah@nhs.net)



## NIHR | National Institute for Health Research

### 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 for 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.



## The Centre for Ethnic Health Research

national centre for tackling health inequalities

### 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](#).

## NIHR | National Institute for Health Research

### Courses now live on NIHR Learn

The NIHR's new learning platform, [NIHR Learn is](#) now live.

All courses have now been moved over from the old LMS platform and training for all users is available.

You can read about [why the move to NIHR Learn](#) or contact the HRA learning and development team at [training@hra.nhs.uk](mailto:training@hra.nhs.uk) for further information.

# Research funding

## NIHR grant calls

**NIHR** | National Institute  
for Health Research

- [23/171 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: 1 pm on 23 April 2024
- [23/173 NIHR NICE rolling call \(EME Programme\)](#)  
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity.  
Closes: 13:00 on 23 April 2024
- [23/170 EME Platform studies to efficiently evaluate the efficacy of multiple interventions](#)  
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream.  
Closes: 13:00 on 23 April 2024
- [23/172 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.  
Closes: 13:00 on 23 April 2024
- [23/175 Public Health Programme researcher-led](#)  
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.  
Closes: 13:00 on 23 April 2024
- [23/176 NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling call \(PHR Programme\)](#)  
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.  
Closes: 13:00 on 23 April 2024
- [23/177 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 23 April 2024
- [23/178 Continuing areas of research interest to the PHR Programme](#)  
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for these topics.  
Closes: 13:00 on 23 April 2024
- [23/174 Optimising treatment duration with immunomodulators to reduce overtreatment \(EME Programme\)](#)  
The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream.  
Closes: 1 pm on 23 April 2024
- [23/147 Men's mental health](#)  
The Public Health Research Programme (PHR) is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.  
Closes: 13:00 on 23 April 2024
- [23/143 Application Development Award \(ADA\): Data mapping as the first step to understanding e-cigarettes better through modelling](#)  
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme is accepting direct-to-Stage 2 applications for this funding opportunity.  
Closes: 13:00 on 23 April 2024
- [23/149 Faith-based groups and the impacts on health and health inequalities](#)  
The Public Health Research Programme (PHR) is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.  
Closes: 13:00 on 23 April 2024
- [RfPB Under-represented disciplines and specialisms highlight notice: Allied Health Professionals](#)  
The Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme invites applications from allied health professionals to the third highlight notice addressing the NIHR strategy to strengthen careers of under-represented disciplines and specialisms.  
Closes: 24 April 2024
- [24/4 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.  
Closes: 13:00 on 1 May 2024
- [24/3 NIHR NICE Rolling Call \(HTA Programme\)](#)



The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity. Closes: 13:00 on 1 May 2024

- [24/2 Health Technology Assessment Programme Researcher-led \(evidence synthesis\)](#)  
The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity. Closes: 13:00 on 1 May 2024
- [24/1 Health Technology Assessment Programme Researcher-led \(primary research\)](#)  
The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity. Closes: 13:00 on 1 May 2024
- [23/166 L-dopa for neovascular \(wet\) age-related macular degeneration? Can it reduce the need for anti-VEGF injections?](#)  
The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic. Closes: 1 pm on 15 May 2024
- [23/167 Optimising treatment duration with immunomodulators to reduce overtreatment \(HTA Programme\)](#)  
The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic. Closes: 1 pm on 15 May 2024
- [23/152 Clinical prediction models for early-onset neonatal infection](#)  
The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic. Closes: 13:00 on 22 May 2024
- [23/158 Treatment of steroid-resistant ulcerative colitis with tofacitinib compared with infliximab](#)  
The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme is accepting Stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic. Closes: 1 pm on 22 May 2024

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

## 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:

- [UK Japan Engineering Biology for Novel Therapies and Diagnostics Research Collaboration](#)  
Apply for funding to work with researchers in Japan in the field of engineering biology for novel therapies and diagnostics research. You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for MRC funding. You must submit a parallel joint application to the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development. **Closing date:** 16 April 2024 4:00 pm UK time
- [Japan-UK engineering biology for discovery research and cross-cutting technologies](#)  
Apply for grant funding to support research projects focused on the fundamentals of engineering biology and cross-cutting technologies. Your proposal must involve researchers from Japan and the UK. UK applicants must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for BBSRC funding. Japanese applicants must be eligible for JST funding. **Closing date:** 16 April 2024 4:00 pm UK time
- [Experimental medicine stage one](#)  
Apply for funding to undertake mechanistic studies in humans. Your application must include an intervention to investigate the causes, progression, or treatment of human disease. This is an ongoing funding opportunity. Stage one application rounds close every April and October. **Closing date:** 17 April 2024 4:00 pm UK time

- **[Smart grants: Jan 2024](#)**  
UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £25 million for game-changing and commercially viable research and development innovations that can significantly impact the UK economy.  
**Closing date:** 24 April 2024 12:00 pm UK time
- **[Pre-announcement: African Research Leaders](#)**  
Apply for funding to support exceptional early to mid-career African researchers to conduct excellent global health research across sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Researchers should be supported by an enthusiastic local research environment and by a UK-based partner as part of a partnership between the African and UK institutions. Award range: £250,000 - £750,000  
**Closing date:** 24 April 2024 4:00 pm UK time

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

### International and EU Research and Innovation Funding Opportunities

A bi-monthly bulletin of various non-EU international funding opportunities is available on the JRMO International Team's [SharePoint site](#). In addition, EU Horizon funding opportunities are also set out on [SharePoint](#)

Together these contain a huge number of research funding schemes from the EU and other international sources many of which are of relevance to clinical researchers.

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



### British Academy – additional needs funding pot

The British Academy is introducing a new initiative to support researchers with additional

needs. It is inviting current and new award holders who would like to apply for additional funding to support their awards or applications. This funding pot is available for both current award holders and applicants who would like to apply for an award but need support with submitting their applications. In all cases, the Academy will need a case to be set out requesting this support, including a brief explanation as to why these needs cannot be met by the applicant's employing or host university or research organisation. Applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), Flexi-Grant®.

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

*This is a rolling funding call with no deadline, but you are recommended to apply as soon as you are able.*

### ODA Challenge-Oriented Research Grants 2024

The British Academy is inviting proposals on specific global challenges from researchers based in the UK, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, Thailand, Vietnam and/or [Least Developed Countries](#).

#### Aims

This call aims to support ODA-eligible international research collaborations between humanities and social sciences researchers in the UK and researchers in Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, Thailand, Vietnam and/or [Least Developed Countries](#) on the following themes:

- [Antimicrobial Resistance](#)
- [Culture, Heritage and Climate Action](#)
- [Environmental Resilience and Climate Action](#)
- [Pandemic Preparedness](#)
- [Power and Voice in Climate Action](#)
- [Societal Challenges and Approaches to Responsible Technologies](#)
- [Social Determinants of Health](#)
- [Women and Climate Action](#)

The Academy wishes to support diverse policy-relevant thinking related to these challenges. The Academy does not have any pre-determined ideas regarding the exact type of project, outputs, and dissemination of the

research other than that it must be policy-relevant.

Applications must demonstrate a dedicated focus on [Least Developed Countries](#).

The British Academy is offering awards of up to £200k for 18 months in duration with Full Economic Costing (FEC) at 80 per cent. Projects are expected to commence by the end of June 2024.

Applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), FlexiGrant®. The deadline for submissions and host organisation approval is **10 April 2024, 17:00, (BST)**.

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



### Barts Charity Research Seed Grants

Barts Charity Research Seed Grants provide seed funding up to £75,000 to support the generation of research data and information that enhances 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.

The charity particularly encourages 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 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 **11<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

### Barts Charity Research Project Grants

Barts Charity Research Project Grants provide funding up to £600,000 to support innovative research that enhances our understanding of health and illness and could lead to improved lives in East London and will generate research outputs of local and international significance that 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](#).

Barts Charity welcomes applications for this scheme twice a year. The next deadline for applications is **19<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.

## Fellowships and related opportunities

### UKRI fellowships



UK Research and Innovation

- [Pre-announcement: Future Leaders Fellowships: round 9](#)  
Funding to support ambitious research and innovation across UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)'s remit.

**Closing date:** 18 June 2024 4:00 pm UK time

- [Daphne Jackson fellowship](#)  
These fellowships are for those looking to return to a research career after a break. Fellowships combine a personalised retraining programme with a challenging research project.  
**Closing date:** Open - no closing date
- [Researching ME/CFS: highlight notice](#)  
Apply for funding to research myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome, also known as ME/CFS.

**Closing date:** Open - no closing date

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

Apply for funding to research motor neurone disease (MND)

**Closing date:** Open - no closing date

- [Renewal scheme for current Future Leaders Fellows](#)

Successful applicants to the Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF) scheme have the opportunity to extend their four-year fellowship by up to a further three years. Maximum award: £567,000

**Closing date:** Open - no closing date

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

## NIHR fellowships

**NIHR** | National Institute  
for Health Research

Information on all NIHR funding can be found on the [NIHR Funding website](#). There are no open fellowship schemes at present.



## Fully funded Postdoctoral clinical fellowships at the Francis Crick Institute

Applications are invited for [Crick postdoctoral career development fellowships for clinicians](#) at the Francis Crick Institute (the Crick). These fellowships provide funding for one year full-time or two years part-time postdoctoral research experience for clinicians

in a Crick research group. Fellows with their own salary funded via NIHR, their universities or other external funding schemes may also apply to be hosted within a Crick research group.

The fellowships aim to:

- Foster long-term clinical links and collaborations.
- Provide clinicians with a postdoctoral extension of their research experience, and with scientific networking, training and career development opportunities.
- Provide a platform from which fellows may apply for external funding, e.g. clinician scientist fellowships, to be held at the Crick or elsewhere.

Fellows at the Crick are embedded in a vibrant multidisciplinary research community of more than 1000 scientists carrying out research to improve our understanding of health and disease. They benefit from an extensive seminar programme including [Crick lectures](#), [Interest Group seminars and Symposia](#), from clinical academic networking opportunities, and from comprehensive training and career development activities including technical training via [Science Technology Platforms](#), science communication and grant writing.

This opportunity would suit talented and motivated postdoctoral clinicians who are passionate about research and show outstanding potential for continuing a career in academic medicine and research. Applicants should have completed a medical degree, or equivalent clinical professional qualification, and hold, or be about to hold, a research PhD.

Applications for Crick fully funded fellowships will close on **30 April 2024**.

Applications from fellows with funding for their own salary support are welcome at any time.

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