

Joint Research Management Office

Research News Bulletin

Issue 116

17 December 2020

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Local Covid-19 Vaccine Trial Centre opens

Residents of East London have been encouraged to sign up to take part in local Covid-19 vaccine studies at the new Barts Health Vaccines Trials Centre, based in Bethnal Green Library.

Staff from all hospital sites across Barts Health, together with Queen Mary researchers, are working together, alongside Medical School students and Trust volunteers, to run the trial at the centre. The public has been encouraged to help the urgent search for safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines that might work for both everyone plus some niche groups, such as those with impaired immune systems, by volunteering for phase three trials. The Centre was set up with an unprecedented speed at this landmark community hub.



Covid-19 can affect anyone and everyone, but it disproportionality affects people from various diverse backgrounds, including, in our area, the Asian and Jewish communities. Research has shown that people from some communities were more likely to die from Covid-19, although this may be more due to health and lifestyle issues, and higher

instances of community poverty, rather than specific race-related factors.

The Barts Health Vaccines Trials Centre at Bethnal Green Library is, therefore, encouraging people from all backgrounds and ethnicities, plus various health groups, to take part in this trial to ensure any vaccines developed work for everyone.

Chloe Orkin, Professor of HIV Medicine at Queen Mary and clinical director of the Barts Health Vaccine Trials Centre, said that "Offering vaccine research adds to our Covid-19 treatment research which has already saved lives. I am really excited and proud to be leading this effort to offer both our staff and the people of east London this opportunity to take part in a vaccine study. The hope is that our participation will lead to a safe and effective vaccine for our patients, ourselves and our families and a return to normal life".

The centre hopes to work on a variety of general and targeted vaccines to test their safety and effectiveness, before their approval for use in the UK and elsewhere by the MHRA. Over the last few weeks, the centre has been working with the UK Government's Vaccine Taskforce to trial a two-dose vaccine developed by The Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. That study will recruit up to 30,000 people worldwide with 6,000 of them in the UK, and Barts Health is looking to recruit around 400 participants.

There are calls for the centre to remain open, after the pandemic, to support other types of community-based research activity but that would depend on securing additional funding.

If you want to know more about taking part in this clinical trial, visit the [Barts Health NHS Trust website](https://www.bartshealth.nhs.uk) or email covidresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net

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JRMO activity

A key part of JRMO work in the past few months has been the support of the Covid-19 Review Committee, which continues to meet weekly. Since the start of the pandemic, the Covid-19 Review committee has met 35 times and reviewed a total of 367 projects, 37 of which have been approved and are currently on going. According to EDGE, researchers at Barts Health and Queen Mary have managed to recruit 4,898 participants into our various Covid-19 studies.

JRMO oversight and monitoring of studies continues and after an initial suspension of many studies, the JRMO has worked with local teams to restart, or start from fresh, 277 studies. Guidance on restart can be found on the [JRMO website](#). Following the [NIHR's Framework](#), researchers should note that priority is being given to studies that provide urgent treatment for patient benefit. Contact research.governance@qmul.ac.uk for further information on restarting clinical research projects. Further guidance and links can be found on the [JRMO website's Covid-19 page](#).

In the last three months, the JRMO has issued Sponsorship with conditions for 39 clinical studies, taking an average of 25 days to issue Sponsorship, including PI response times. 1 of those studies was a CTIMP, 10 were interventional studies and 28 were research studies.

Melissa Anderson joined the JRMO as the Head of Operations (Post Award) in August, replacing Kemi Oluwole and Philip Diamond joined as Senior Governance Officer in November, replacing Jack Biddle.

Improvements in QMERC application process

A service improvement project has recently been undertaken by the Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee (QMERC) and the Research Ethics team based in the JRMO to optimise the ethics review process. Staff and students are now requested to complete the [new QMERC Research Ethics Application form](#) which applies to all studies whether they are to be submitted for Committee review, or via the fast track system (now known as low-risk approval). The new form has many important benefits over the previous system: it encourages researchers to reflect on key ethical issues, it will lead to more complete applications which require fewer requests for further information from the Facilitators and the Committee; it provides detailed question-specific guidance to support applicants.

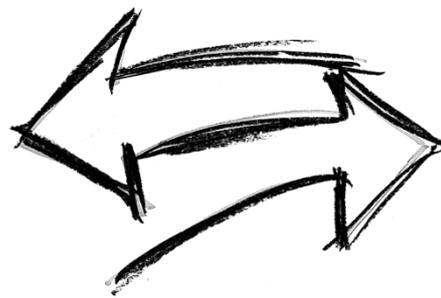
The [newly revised and user-friendly Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form templates and guidance](#) suggest what information may need to be included to support researchers with developing these tools. All researchers should familiarise themselves with the content of the [QMERC website](#) which contains current application forms, guidance, training tools (including guidance videos to be released in the new year), the [requirements for international research](#), the [exemptions from QMERC ethical approval](#), [closing dates for submissions](#) and [current Covid-19 guidance](#). Please update your policies and procedures as applicable. The team are available for advice and support by contacting research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk.

New standard contract and agreement 'Decision Trees'

A new page has gone live in the Costing & Contracting section of the [JRMO website](#). The page contains several 'decision trees' that set out the steps involved and the correct person or team to contact in a variety of standard agreement- and contract-related scenarios.

The maps make it clear where academic or professional services staff, and others, need to go for assistance in each scenario. The aim is to improve the chances that contractual and agreement queries will be directed to the appropriate teams and individuals in the first instance.

For further information please contact the [JRMO helpdesk](#).



Network de-harmonisation

The JRMO has been working with colleagues in our Local Comprehensive Research Network (CRN) to transfer responsibility for setting up and approving clinical trials and research studies back from the Network to the JRMO. The Network and study teams have assessed the prioritisation of their studies and those who have not confirmed this have been contacted (The PIs and Sponsors) to confirm that their study will no longer be set up via the CRN. On EDGE those 'de-harmonised' studies will be reset to 'date site invited', site status changed to 'feasibility' and any local service department approvals uploaded to EDGE.

As over 100 studies are transitioning to the JRMO's Research Governance Team from the CRN, all researchers must contact the JRMO, at research.governance@qmul.ac.uk, to confirm that they need their study set-up and provide estimated timelines for first patient recruitment along with the relevant local study pack.

Brexit updates

The MHRA published guidance in September on the regulation of medicines and medical

devices at the end of the transition period. To help ensure continuity of supply of medicines and medical devices from 1st January 2021, especially in a non-negotiated outcome with the EU, the UK will unilaterally recognise certain EU regulatory processes for a time-limited period. This recognition is known as 'standstill'. You can find more detail in the [UK Government guidance online](#). The guidance also contains information about registration of clinical trials, publishing trial results and future requirements.

In October, the MHRA published a further set of guidance relating to the movement of goods after the end of the transition period. Links to this new and updated guidance are below. As part of its role as the UK's standalone medicines and medical devices regulator, the MHRA will continue to publish post-transition guidance to support its stakeholders. All guidance published to date can be found [here](#). The Health Research Authority (HRA) has promised to publish further guidance but this is yet to be released.

For suppliers of blood, organs, tissues and cells, new guidance was published at the beginning of November concerning quality and safety from 1 January 2021. This guidance can be found [here](#) for organs, tissues and cells and [here](#) for blood and blood components.

The JRMO is reviewing all sponsored studies to ensure that we are ready. Queen Mary will no longer be able to be the legal sponsor of clinical trials taking place in Europe so we have put in place a Memorandum of Understanding with Malta, Queen Mary University of London, to be our legal representative in Europe. Going forwards a European site will need to take on a legal representative role for us as Sponsor. We have also been working with study teams to ensure contingency plans are in place in case of disruption to any goods (e.g. IMP, devices, Kits etc) coming from Europe or indeed leaving to Europe. Further updates on the impact of Brexit and compliance with any new regulations or laws will be issued online once the position is clear. Training on these may also be provided in due course.

New EU Unit portal

To keep up to speed with research activity the JRMO EU Unit has launched the [EU Unit Portal](#) to provide regular updates of EU research funding information to support academics, researchers and research administrators navigate this complex landscape. UK collaboration with EU partners can and will continue beyond 2020, and the [EU Unit Portal](#) provides Brexit-related updates, funding calendar, early access to the key funder calls and documentation, bespoke guidance and news of events, including:

- European research funding - open calls
- Horizon Europe (2021-2027) – future calls
- Funding Calendar
- Brexit and UK continued participation in EU programmes
- Events, news, Twitter

Additional information can be found [on the JRMO website](#).

JRMO SOPS and Guidance changes

Since October the JRMO has published two new [guidance documents](#):

- Guidance for site study teams and sponsors for remote monitoring and source data verification
- EDGE Manual

2 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and their associated documents have been revised:

[SOP 23 Risk Assessment](#)

- AD 1: JRMO MHRA regulated Comprehensive Risk Assessment Tool
- AD 2: JRMO Interventional Studies Risk Assessment Tool
- AD 3: JRMO Research Studies Risk Assessment Tool

[SOP 39 Personal Access Arrangements for Undertaking Research \(including Research Passport Process\)](#)

- AD 1: LoA University Research Template
- AD 2: LoA NHS Researcher Template
- AD 3: Barts Health Honorary Research Contract
- AD 4: Barts Health Honorary Contract Policy

Our research

Bowel Research UK: Lower bowel holds secret to weight loss

A human Phase I trial led by [Dr Madusha Peiris](#), supported by Bowel Research UK and the John Moulton Foundation has found that specific nutrients delivered to the colon can reduce food intake and may be an important tool in tackling the nation's obesity crisis and associated diseases, such as bowel cancer and diabetes. The double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled, crossover study was conducted amongst 20 volunteers with a body mass index (BMI) of 30-40.

Dr Peiris explained, "this study could have huge implications for the country's health, including a potential reduction in incidence rates for diseases such as bowel cancer and also the need for obesity surgery."

Queen Mary has patent-protected the unique combination of nutrients that will be marketed as a nutraceutical product. The clinical study featured in Channel 4 "[How to Beat... fat](#)" in early October, available now online.

Nudges fail more often than is reported, experts warn

Research led by Queen Mary has shown that despite the widespread use of behavioural interventions across society, failed interventions are surprisingly common. The researchers looked at published failed behavioural interventions across all areas that impact society, from healthy eating and organ donation to tax compliance. They showed that whilst any type of behavioural intervention, applied in any type of setting, could be liable to fail, certain types of intervention were more likely to fail.

Current behavioural change programmes focus largely on promoting successes. This new study suggests that improved understanding of why and how interventions fail could help develop successful behavioural interventions in future; avoiding wasting time and money on interventions that are most likely to fail.

For the study, published in [Trends in Cognitive Sciences](#), the researchers analysed 65 articles, published between 2008 and 2019,

which identified failed behavioural interventions, including nudges. They identified eight different types of failures in total, which include 'backfires' whereby the introduction of the nudge intervention made the behavioural problem worse rather than better.

Dr Magda Osman, Reader in Experimental Psychology at Queen Mary, said "Our analysis provides the first attempt to systematically examine behavioural interventions that fail. We have shown that failures are quite common and can occur with nudges applied in any type of setting. We found that there are different types of failures, from interventions that simply don't achieve any behavioural change, to those that achieve negative changes such as backfire effects."



In the article, the researchers also show the benefits of using computational causal modelling techniques to map out the different factors that can influence specific behavioural interventions and their likelihood of success. This would allow decision-makers to map out, in advance, what might work, as well as what might undermine the intervention ahead of time.

Understanding why behavioural changes fail, and being able to anticipate possible types of failures when designing interventions could help to save time and public funds invested in these techniques, and overall increase their success in achieving the desired behavioural change. The research team also included scientists from King's College London, the University of Erfurt, Germany and the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, Germany. The study was supported by

funding from UKRI's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and Economic and Social Science Research Council.

Covid-19 and maternal health

A new project, led by Queen Mary University of London and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, will study whether changes to maternity care during the Covid-19 pandemic have affected existing inequalities. The study is funded by The Health Foundation.

In England, there are significant inequalities in maternity care and outcomes, with Black women five times more likely to die than white women during pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period. During the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been changes to the way maternity care is delivered. Care provision has had to be modified and maternity units have faced staffing shortages. The effects of these changes on maternity outcomes have not yet been measured, and it is unclear whether these changes have widened or narrowed existing inequalities.



Principal Investigator [Dr Stamatina Iliodromiti](#), Senior Lecturer in Women's Health and Reproductive Medicine at Queen Mary University, is leading this research project that will use data routinely collected during maternity care to identify changes to outcomes for women and babies during the pandemic, and whether these were related to particular changes in maternity services offered. The study will then identify any maternity units

where changes in practice during the pandemic narrowed existing gaps in outcomes between women from different ethnic groups, or units where the impact on existing inequalities was as small as possible.

Shai Gohir, RCOG Women's Voices Lead and co-applicant on the project, said: "Recent statistics around adverse outcomes for BAME women in multiple areas of healthcare shows just how essential it is that action is taken to highlight, address and tackle these disparities that are costing lives. It is clear that there is a significant gap in understanding the factors that result in a higher risk of morbidity and mortality for Black, Asian and other ethnic minority women in the UK. Women of ethnic minority groups have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19 infection but it is unclear what has contributed to this disparity. This project will help us to better understand the impact of the virus on BAME groups. Importantly, the involvement of women throughout this project will keep it grounded in what is actually important to women."

The project will be carried out in partnership with the Caribbean and African Health Network and the University of Bristol, and last for one year, beginning at the start of 2021.

More information on this study can be found on [The Health Foundation website](#).

Queen Mary scientists receive donation from Emulate, Inc to support Covid-19 research

Researchers from the Blizard Institute at Queen Mary University of London will use miniaturised living systems with human cells, known as organ-chips, donated by Emulate, Inc to investigate how Covid-19 affects the lungs.

The donation was awarded to [Prof Daniel Pennington](#) and [Dr Neil McCarthy](#) as part of the Organs-on-Chips against Covid-19 initiative run by the [UK Organ-on-a-chip Technologies Network](#). Through this research project, the scientists hope to improve understanding of how Covid-19 affects the lungs and identify new ways to treat patients with severe disease.

Organs-on-Chips contain tiny hollow channels lined by living human cells that recreate the physical and mechanical environment experienced by cells within the human body.

The research team will use Emulate's new Lung-Chips models to compare the effects of plasma from severe Covid-19 patients and healthy controls on human lung cells. Prof Pennington said: "As we continue to learn



more about Covid-19, it's becoming clear that the virus doesn't only damage the lungs. Recent studies have shown that it may also affect blood vessels suggesting that there is an important vascular component to this disease. We hope to use this donation from Emulate, Inc to investigate how Covid-19 disrupts the interactions between endothelial cells that cover the surface of blood vessels and epithelial cells lining the lungs. Our findings could help to uncover new targets for potential therapeutic interventions against the disease."

The new project will build on the existing relationship between Queen Mary and Emulate, Inc through [the Queen Mary + Emulate Organs-on-Chips Centre](#). The centre was established in January 2020 and provides access to Emulate's Organs-on-Chips technology enabling researchers to develop organ models of their design for use in a wide variety of experiments and drug development programmes. More information can be found in the news story [Queen Mary opens organs on chips centre for advancements in medical research and drug development](#).

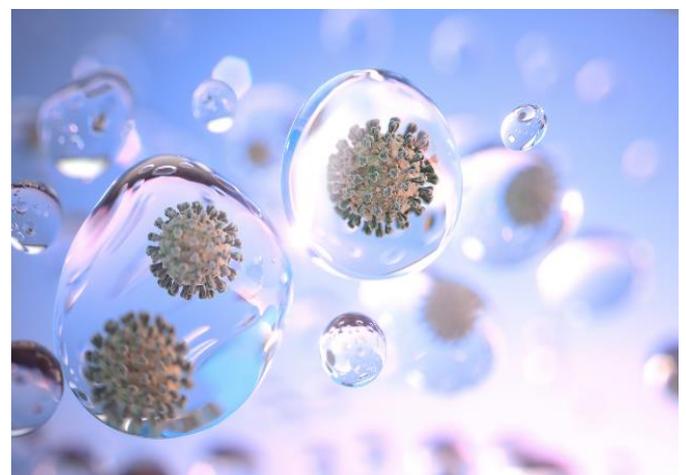
Existing UV light technology has potential to reduce Covid-19 transmission indoors

A recent study has shown that UV light technology already used to prevent the spread of other airborne diseases in buildings has the potential to be effective against Covid-19.

The research, [published in the journal PeerJ](#), found that upper room UV germicidal irradiation (UVGI) can kill SARS-CoV-2 virus particles, which can be transmitted by aerosolised droplets that float in the air. UVC is known to be very effective at 'killing' or inactivating, microorganisms however this type of UV light is harmful to humans. Upper room UVGI cleverly uses UVC light to create an irradiation field above the heads of room occupants so it can disinfect the air whilst keeping people within the room safe.

The study, led by researchers from Queen Mary University of London and Leeds Beckett University, tested the feasibility of upper-room UVGI to reduce Covid-19 transmission by analysing historical published data examining the effect of UV irradiation on coronaviruses. Evaluating all the data, the research team showed that SARS-CoV-2 virus particles found in the air are likely to be susceptible to UVC, and also that the levels of UVC light required to inactivate the virus would be practical and safe for upper room applications.

It is now becoming widely accepted that transmission of SARS-CoV-2 virus particles through tiny respiratory droplets, is one of the main ways Covid-19 spreads between people. The risk of airborne transmission is especially high in poorly ventilated buildings and there is an urgent need for technologies to reduce the spread of Covid-19 within these spaces. Finding ways to minimise the risk of transmission, particularly in buildings is becoming increasingly important.



Wearing masks and opening windows are effective ways to minimise the spread of Covid-19 indoors, these measures aren't always practical, especially in winter.

Technology could protect indoor spaces such as offices, or restaurants and bars, and help to allow us to start to return to 'normal' life safely. Dr Eldad Avital, Reader in Computational (& Experimental) Fluids and Acoustics at Queen Mary, said: "Now it becomes more of an engineering problem of how we can use this technique to prevent the spread in buildings. This is where computational fluid dynamics becomes important as it can start to address questions around how many UVGI lights are needed and where they should be used.

One thing we know is particularly important for these systems is air movement, so for them to work effectively in poorly ventilated spaces, you might need to use ceiling fans or other devices to ensure that larger aerosol particles are adequately irradiated."

The research team are now focusing their efforts on understanding how UV air disinfection technologies could be put into practice. One project they're currently working on will investigate the use of a low-cost air purifier system to 'disinfect' air based on the UVC technology. "The idea is that air could be taken out of the room using an air purifier and disinfected with UVC light before the 'clean' air is then put back into the room," said Dr Avital.

Another interesting area the team is looking into is using ionisers to disinfect the air. These systems release negative ions into the air which latch on to positive ions, such as viruses, making them heavier. This causes them to fall to the ground or onto surfaces, where they can then be removed using normal cleaning approaches.

Queen Mary researcher elected as President of prestigious Cardiology Association

Steffen Petersen, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at Queen Mary University of London, has been elected as President of the

European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI).



The EACVI is an association within the European Society of Cardiology which aims to promote excellence in clinical diagnosis, research, technical development, and education in cardiovascular imaging. The association has more than 8,000 members including cardiologists, sonographers, nurses, basic scientists and allied professionals.

On his appointment, Prof Petersen said: "I am excited and grateful to have been given this chance by thousands of our association's members, and I am committed to our mission of promoting excellence in cardiovascular imaging. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected us all, changing us and our environments. Thus, we need to reflect and be ready to change: firstly, how we practice cardiac imaging to best serve our patients; secondly, how we support and deliver the highest quality research that will impact patients positively; thirdly, how we have the broadest reach through innovative high-quality education; and last but not least how we better engage with our patients."

Prof Petersen will act as President-Elect for the first two years, followed by two years as President, ending with two years as Past President.

Events

REFLECT AND CONNECT 25-29 January 2021

NHS R&D Forum, in partnership with the Research Quality Association (RQA), is running a series of online research-related sessions on the theme of 'Reflect and Connect'. Each will last around 45-minutes (12pm, 2pm and 5pm) and there will be an opportunity to ask questions of each speaker.

Topics will include:

- Recognising the contribution and impact of the nurse and midwifery research workforce throughout Covid-19
- The future of R&D in the UK
- Public Involvement in a Public Health Emergency
- Cost of Covid-19
- The future of industry research and rebuilding the charity sector
- Stop, start, restart

Speakers, from key Government Departments and regulators, members of our R&D community, as well as research leads, will include Prof Jean White, Chief Nursing Officer Wales, Jim Elliott, Public Involvement Lead, HRA, Janet Messer, Director of Approvals Service, HRA, Emma Lowe, DHSC, William Van T'Hoff, NIHR and NHS R&D Forum, and Philip Smith UKRD/RDFORUM Finance Group.

For more information and to book your place see [NHS R&D Forum online](#).

Launch of the Barts Centre for Squamous Cancer

The Barts Centre for Squamous Cancer

launches on 27 January when there will be an afternoon virtual symposium.

You can join the team for an afternoon of exciting talks showcasing cutting edge squamous cancer research. This will include a keynote presentation from **Prof Jennifer Grandis (UCSF)**, an international leader in the field.

Barts Centre for Squamous Cancer is a new centre of excellence dedicated to improving detection, treatment, and quality of life for patients with squamous cancer. It is a cross-institute collaborative centre at Queen Mary University of London, bringing together research groups with diverse expertise from across the School of Medicine and Dentistry to tackle the problem of squamous cancer and drive clinical innovation.

Registration is free and further details can be found [on the BCS website](#). Applicants will receive a meeting link a few days before the event.

Complex Innovative Design (CID) Trials Podcasts

WFC, working with the Health Research Authority (HRA), Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (ECMC) network, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and others have created a series of podcasts covering CID trials and the practicalities of running them. CID trials are becoming more common in the UK, and have been used as part of researching treatment for those infected with Covid-19, as we have seen with both the ACCORD and RECOVERY trials. The podcasts can be accessed [on the Wendy Fisher Consulting website](#).

Training

JRMO research governance training

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, JRMO GCP training is currently being delivered online, using a mix of MS Teams tutorial, pre-reading and undertaking the NIHR Introduction

to GCP. This approach helps keep the online element shorter and more focussed on Barts Health and Queen Mary requirements, CI responsibilities and JRMO SOPs. Please note that places on these courses are limited to 25 people per session.

Barts Health staff and Queen Mary staff and students should book research governance training using the [Queen Mary CPD online booking system](#), but please note you will need a QMUL email address to do this from 5 October 2020.

If you are already booked on a course, you will not lose your place if you have an NHS.NET email address. However, if you wish to join a GCP or Governance course or book onto one of these in the future and you do not have a QMUL email account, please email cpd@qmul.ac.uk and the team will manually add you to the course.

JRMO courses are also open to staff working on NIHR portfolio studies across North Thames free of charge and to external participants for a fee. Individuals in either group should contact research.governance@qmul.ac.uk for course details and fee information.

Please note the following:

- New users need to register before booking (select the register button on the site and follow the instructions) with a Queen Mary email address
- All users will be asked to select an appropriate course
- Please ensure that you read the details of each course and meet the description of the target audience;
- Select a date and course to meet your needs
- Once you have made your booking, you will receive an automated email to confirm your place
- We can only accept booking through the above route

More detail on all these courses is available on the ['What training do I need' webpage](#).

WFC Training

Due to current restrictions on travel and group meetings, it is not possible to deliver face-to-face training at the moment, but WFC can arrange online training sessions or take face-to-face bookings for later in the year if preferred.

WFC recognises that your needs are unique and an off-the-shelf solution is rarely sufficient. As such, we offer our selection of training, education and workforce development courses on a hosted basis only.

Hosted courses are capped at 15 delegates (face-to-face) to ensure that an entire team can attend. Hosted courses are delivered upon the request of a client; the client provides the training venue and the course is scheduled according to their needs. The content of the course is developed to be fully bespoke to the client.

Contact WFC to discuss your bespoke needs for 2020.

Recent courses have included:

- Understanding and applying AcoRD principles (Including a module covering the use of the SoECAT and NHS England ETC process)
- Informed consent for research
- Clinical protocol development
- Principles of clinical research involving human subjects
- Regulatory compliance in clinical research
- Effective sponsorship of research

Free Courses in England

Gain a free Level 2 qualification thanks to funding from the UK Education & Skills Funding Agency and come out of lockdown stronger, smarter and more qualified!

Simply choose your course, register your interest and our team will be in touch to get you going online from your own home. The 5 most popular courses during lockdown were:

- [Awareness of Mental Health Problems](#)
- [Understanding Children & Young People's Mental Health](#)
- [Principles of Team Leading](#)
- [Understanding Autism](#)
- [Mental Health First Aid](#)

The enrolment process is simple and easy, our advisers will walk you through each step. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please call our helpful team on 0800 001 5910, or [visit the Free Courses website](#) to view our full range of over 55 courses.

Research funding

NIHR funding

- [Travel and subsistence funding to support LMIC engagement during the Covid-19 outbreak](#)

Closes: 31 December 2020

These awards will provide travel and subsistence funding to appropriately qualified public health professionals, clinicians and academics who wish to offer science and technical advice to support the immediate response to Covid-19 in low and middle-income countries.

- [Public Health Research Programme Rapid Funding Scheme](#)

Closes: 31 December 2020

The RFS has been set up to provide the public health research community with an accelerated route to funding for small-scale, short and time-sensitive proposals that demonstrate a need for a rapid commissioning process to be followed.

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

Closes: 1 January 2021

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

- [20/28 Repair and rehabilitation of hand flexor tendon injury](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 6 January 2021

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

- [20/99 HTA Cystic Fibrosis](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 6 January 2021

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage one applications for this funding opportunity.

- [20/89 Health Technology Assessment Programme Researcher-led \(evidence synthesis\)](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 6 January 2021

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.

- [20/90 Health Technology Assessment Programme Researcher-led \(primary research\)](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 6 January 2021

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.

- [20/114 Unlocking data to inform public health policy and practice](#)

Closes: 1pm on 7 January 2021

The Public Health Research Programme is accepting stage 2 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic

- [Invention for Innovation - Challenge Awards Call 11](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 12 January 2021

The i4i Challenge award supports innovations by addressing the translational gap between the clinical evaluation of technologies and their adoption by funding the assessment of MedTech innovations in real-world healthcare settings.

- [Programme Development Grants - Competition 29](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 13 January 2021

Applications are invited for Programme Development Grant funding. Programme Development Grants are designed to increase the rate and number of successful applications for a full Programme Grant by supporting the completion of the necessary preparatory work to suitably position the research team to submit a competitive Programme Grant application.

- [20/118 Methodological development in public health](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 15 January 2021

The Public Health Research Programme (PHR) accepting stage 2 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.

- [Research for Social Care - Competition 3](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 20 January 2021

The Research for Social Care (RfSC) programme is holding its third call for research proposals that generate evidence to improve, expand and strengthen the way adult social care is delivered for users of care services, carers and the public.

- [20/140 Faecal immunochemical test \(FIT\) based tools to triage patients in primary care](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 27 January 2021

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

- [20/70 Self-neglect in the community](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 28 January 2021
The Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream.
- [20/115 Health and social care workforce](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 4 February 2021
The Health Services and Delivery Research Programme is accepting stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity.
- [20/112 Health Service & Delivery Research Programme \(Evidence Synthesis Researcher-led\)](#)
Closes: 1pm on 4 February 2021
The Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme is accepting stage 2 evidence synthesis applications to their researcher-led workstream.
- [20/113 Health Services & Delivery Researcher Programme \(Standard Researcher-led\)](#)
Closes: 1pm on 4 February 2021
The Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.
- [20/101 HS&DR Cystic Fibrosis](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 4 February 2021
The Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to this funding opportunity.
- [20/136 Public Health Research Programme researcher-led](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 30 March 2021
The Public Health Research Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.
- [20/135 Continuing priority research topics of interest to the PHR Programme](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 30 March 2021
The Public Health Research Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.
- [20/142 Prehabilitation: Living with and beyond cancer](#)
Closes: 13:00 on 30 March 2021
We are accepting Stage 1 applications for this funding opportunity.

- [20/119 Public health interventions led by or involving the police](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 30 March 2021.

The Public Health Research Programme (PHR) accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.

- [20/120 Food taxes and subsidies](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 30 March 2021

The Public Health Research Programme (PHR) accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.

- [20/121 Indoor air quality](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 30 March 2021

The Public Health Research Programme (PHR) accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.

- [20/122 Multi-agency approaches to tackling illicit tobacco](#)

Closes: 113:00 on 30 March 2021

The Public Health Research Programme (PHR) accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic.

- [20/126 Imaging in paediatric osteomyelitis *Australian collaborations welcome*](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 31 March 2021

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

- [20/127 Occupational advice initiated before planned surgery for lower limb joint replacement *Australian collaborations welcome*](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 31 March 2021

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

- [20/128 Routine measurement of gastric residual volume in paediatric critical care *Australian collaborations welcome*](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 31 March 2021

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

- [20/129 Routine measurement of gastric residual volume in neonatal critical care *Australian collaborations welcome*](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 31 March 2021

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications

to their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic.

- [20/130 Intensive Interaction for children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities *Australian collaborations welcome*](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 31 March 2021

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

- [20/131 Corticosteroid induction regimens for children and young people with juvenile idiopathic arthritis *Australian collaborations welcome*](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 31 March 2021

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

- [20/132 Sexual health promotion for people with severe mental illness *Australian collaborations welcome*](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 31 March 2021

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

- [20/133 Pre-operative exclusive enteral nutrition for Crohn's disease *Australian collaborations welcome*](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 31 March 2021

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

- [20/134 Psychological intervention for treatment-resistant generalised anxiety disorder in older adults *Australian collaborations welcome*](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 31 March 2021

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

- [20/110 Prophylactic antibiotics in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 31 March 2021

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream, in the areas of primary research and evidence synthesis.

- [20/77 Treatment of recurrent patella dislocation *Australian collaborations welcome*](#)

Closes: 13:00 on 31 March 2021

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

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

MRC and UKRI funding

- [UKRI open call for research and innovation ideas to address Covid-19](#)

Proposals are invited for short-term projects addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak. Closing date: 31 Dec 2020 16:00 GMT

- [MRC clinical research training fellowships](#)

You can get funding to support predoctoral and postdoctoral research proposals across any area of MRC's remit to improve human health. You can apply for a fellowship lasting between two and four years but they usually last for three. The funding will cover your salary and related expenses. Closing date: 7 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [MRC clinician scientist fellowship](#)

If you are a talented clinically-active healthcare professional with a higher medical or clinical degree, we can help you become an independent investigator. You can get funding for a research and training programme lasting up to five years and offering personal and career development. Closing date: 7 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [ESRC-MOST UK-Taiwan networking grant](#)

This opportunity seeks to improve the connectivity between the UK and Taiwan social science research communities. Proposals should contain a UK component, to be funded by ESRC, and a Taiwan component, to be funded by MOST. Applications to ESRC for the UK component must be submitted by a UK research organisation eligible for UKRI funding. Closing date: 7 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [NERC standard and new investigator grant](#)

This funding opportunity supports researchers to carry out world-class research projects in any area of environmental science within our remit. You can apply for funding of up to £800,000 (at 100% full economic cost). We will fund 80% of your project's full economic cost. Closing date: 12 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [MRC Molecular and cellular medicine new investigator research grant: Jan 2021](#)

Funding is available from MRC's Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board to support researchers ready to progress to independence through their first major grant as a principal investigator. There is no limit to the funding that you can request. This funding opportunity runs three times every year. Closing date: 12 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [MRC Molecular and cellular medicine partnership grant](#)

Funding is available from MRC's Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board to support new partnerships between researchers in the area of molecular and cellular medicine. Funding varies widely for partnerships lasting between one and five years. This funding opportunity runs three times every year. Closing date: 12 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [Healthcare technologies new challenges NetworkPlus](#)

This grant aims to support new interdisciplinary research networks in the area of healthcare technology. You can apply for funding to bring together a variety of communities and stakeholders to grow and shape this research area. Closing date: 13 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [MRC Infections and immunity partnership grants](#)

Funding is available from MRC's Infections and Immunity Board to support new partnerships between researchers in the area of infections and immunity. Funding varies widely for partnerships lasting between one and five years. This funding opportunity runs three times every year. Closing date: 15 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [MRC Infections and immunity new investigator research grants](#)

Funding is available from MRC's Infections and Immunity Board to support researchers ready to progress to independence through their first major grant as a principal investigator. There is no limit to the funding that you can request. This funding opportunity

runs three times every year. Closing date: 15 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [Health systems research initiative call 8 – outline stage](#)

This research grant call funds research to strengthen and improve health systems in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). Applicants based at eligible research organisations in LMICs and the UK are eligible to apply. Closing date: 19 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [Future Leaders Fellowships: Round 6](#)

The Future Leaders Fellowships is a £900 million fund for early career researchers and innovators. It supports research and innovation by outstanding individuals and helps them to establish themselves in universities, UK-registered businesses and other research and innovation environments. Closing date: 19 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [MRC Population and systems medicine partnership grants: Jan 2021](#)

Funding is available from MRC's Population and Systems Medicine Board to support new partnerships between researchers in the area of population and systems medicine. Funding varies widely for partnerships lasting between one and five years. This funding opportunity runs three times every year. Closing date: 20 January 2021 16:00 UK time

- [Transformative healthcare technologies: full proposal stage](#)

This opportunity is only open to applicants successful at the outline stage. Apply for funding to support feasibility studies into high risk and high gain healthcare technology research with the potential to transform healthcare by 2050. Closing date: 10 February 2021 16:00 UK time.

The Paget's Association - Research Funding

The Paget's Association is accepting applications for Research Project Grants, Student Research Bursaries and Paget's Association Educational Awards in the area of Paget's Disease of Bone. The grants and awards will be available for all aspects of research into Paget's Disease of Bone, taking place in the UK. The Paget's Association recognises the impact the pandemic has had across the research sector. For 2021 only, we are introducing a Flexible Funding Scheme

that will consider applications for Paget's Research Recovery Awards and Covid-19-Specific Paget's Research Awards. To find out more information on the grants, awards and Flexible Funding Scheme, including how to apply, please visit [the Paget Association's website](#).

Wellcome Trust-funded 'Health Data in Practice' PhD Programme at Queen Mary University of London.

This 4-year interdisciplinary doctoral training programme adopts a human-centred, contextualised approach to researching health and care data situating your research in the real world of health care practice. It will enable candidates to draw on concepts, disciplines and methods underpinning algorithmic designs, sensing and data capture, human-interactions, qualitative and quantitative evaluation and decision-making, in real-world settings. Candidates will develop into future scientific leaders, able to apply interdisciplinary perspectives to their research and realise the potential of innovations in health data research for the benefit of patients, the public, health care systems, and society. Applicants will be graduates who are expected to hold or to obtain at least an upper second-class degree (or equivalent for EU and overseas candidates) in a relevant qualitative or quantitative subject area, including but not limited to statistics, computer sciences, mathematics, psychology, bioinformatics, biomedical sciences, and qualitative

disciplines including but not confined to anthropology, ethnography, social sciences.

[To find out more and to apply, visit the Queen Mary website](#). Closing date is Wednesday 13 January 2021 (5pm GMT) and interviews will be held in early March. In line with Queen Mary and the Wellcome Trust's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion; if you would like to discuss your eligibility or any mitigating circumstances, please contact the Programme Manager on hdip-dtp@qmul.ac.uk.

Catalyst Grant from Breast Cancer Now

Breast Cancer Now's Catalyst Programme from researchers across the UK and Europe who are interested in investigating Pfizer drugs alone or in combination with other agents that address problems in breast cancer.

Grants are available in awards of up to £400,000, or up to £1.5 million for larger studies of exceptional potential.

We will accept proposals from teams based at a single site or multiple sites in the UK and the rest of Europe. They may address a range of questions around a common theme, or undertake research using several Pfizer drugs, or support multi-centre phase II clinical studies.

The deadline for applications is 5 February 2021. [Visit their website to find out more and to apply for a Catalyst Grant](#).

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