

from the Research Design Service East Midlands

---

## Charitable funding as an alternative to NIHR funding for health research

Many researchers aim for NIHR funding but sometimes struggle to meet the eligibility criteria or to fit their project within the NIHR remit. Charitable funding may be a viable option. The RDS can support you in your application for applied health research funding from national charities.

### Charitable funding for basic science and translational research

Charities also fund applied health research, for instance treatment evaluation studies (which involve testing and evaluation of interventions in human clinical/applied settings, e.g. RCTs). They also fund research on individual patient needs and practitioner experiences, including research into quality of life, disease self-management and palliative care. In addition, they would consider funding research that examines healthcare at an organisational level, including service provision as well as welfare, economic and policy issues. Organisations taking part in the recent UK Clinical Research Collaboration's UK Health Research Analysis funded applied health research to the value of nearly £400 million during 2014 (<http://www.hrcsonline.net/pages/uk-health-research-analysis-2014>). Perhaps they would fund your research?

### Charitable funding for fellowships

You may have come across NIHR fellowships: doctoral, post-doctoral, career development, senior research, and transitional. But did you know that medical charities also offer fellowships? For instance, Action Medical Research for Children offer a research training fellowship where you can also independently register for a PhD, the MRC offers various levels of clinical and non-clinical fellowships (e.g. clinician scientist, career development), the Stroke Association offers a postgraduate fellowship, to name just a few. When considering applying for a fellowship, it is worthwhile looking at different funders to see which best suits your needs.

### Charitable funding leading to international follow-on funding

Some research teams' main source of income is charitable funding, whilst others use it as a stepping stone to other funding sources. Analysis into the impact of charitable funding by the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) showed that further funding was received as a result of research teams' initial research grant: 31% of this was from other charities; 21% from research councils; 17% from NIHR/NHS and 29% was attracted from funders overseas in 22 countries and the European Union. The remaining 2% was from private (1%) and academic (1%) sources (<http://www.amrc.org.uk/publications/a-taste-of-research-impact-methodology>).

### Impact of charitable funding

As well as leading to further funding, research funded by charities can also have direct impact. Analysis by the AMRC found that, between 2012 and 2014: charity-funded research was cited in guidance, such as clinical guidelines, clinical reviews, other policy documents, and systematic reviews (14%); people funded by charities provided expert advice to government, for instance giving evidence to a government review, implementing a circular, rapid advice or letter, e.g. Ministry of Health, membership of a guideline committee, participation in an advisory committee, and participation in a national consultation (42%); and research findings were used to influence training for practitioners or researchers (44%).

### Charities and the NIHR working together

A recent workshop, organised jointly by AMRC and NIHR, highlighted why medical research charities need the NIHR and vice versa. Charities have strong interactions with patient groups, and there is a drive for research with clear patient benefit. Charities understand that they need to make sure that the research that they fund has the best chance to make a difference. The key is in collaborations and working together (<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/newsroom/amrc-and-nihr-working-together-to-get-the-most-out-of-clinical-research/3046?diaryentryid=9762>). Charitable funding should not be seen as the 'poor relation' to NIHR. Charitable research funding results in direct impact, can lead to follow-on funding, and has the stamp of approval from NIHR.

### How the RDS can help

The RDS can support you in preparing your applications for applied health research funding. We have a wealth of experience in providing advice to increase the competitiveness of your bid, and our staff regularly observe funding panel meetings where applications are discussed and awarded. If the application process includes an interview, RDS EM can help you to prepare for this, including a practice interview if appropriate. The charitable funding process is similar to that of the NIHR, but there are often differences depending on which charity you choose. Often, the application form is shorter, and will have a disease-specific focus. The RDS can help you to write an application that is competitive and of high-quality. To discuss NIHR and charitable funding opportunities for your research, complete our short enquiry form (<http://www.rds-eastmidlands.nihr.ac.uk/submit-request>), and we will be touch.

# Training from CLAHRC East Midlands

For East Midlands healthcare staff & researchers

Writing for publication, 11 Dec 2015

<http://bit.ly/1WOPQi1>

## UK Health Research Analysis 2014

The third in the quinquennial series of UK Health Research Analyses, covering the 2014 calendar year, expanded the analysis to include 64 UK charity and public health research funders.

August 2015

<http://www.hrcsonline.net/pages/uk-health-research-analysis-2014>

### Identifying and recruiting participants for health research: A public dialogue for the Health Research Authority

The Health Research Authority (HRA) in conjunction with Sciencewise commissioned OPM Group to run a public dialogue on identifying and recruiting participants for health research.

The specific objectives of the dialogue were:

1. To inform the development of the HRA's new UK wide Policy Framework to replace the Research Governance Framework and its associated operational guidance.
2. To provide opportunities for members of the public and patients to discuss and explore their aspirations and concerns about the governance of health research in relation to recruitment, data and consent.

<http://www.hra.nhs.uk/documents/2015/07/hra-sciencewise-dialogue-report-final-july-2015-recruiting-participants.pdf>

## Stepped Wedge Randomized Controlled Trials – read the series now!

Guest edited by Professor David Torgerson this new series reviews previous stepped wedge studies, explores key issues of design and forms a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge of the design.

There is often a tension between policy makers wishing to implement a novel intervention and researchers wanting time to do a controlled evaluation. One trial design that can address this tension is the stepped wedge randomised trial. In a stepped wedge trial, all groups or clusters of participants eventually receive the intervention, but the implementation is staggered in a random fashion allowing a robust evaluation to take place. Recently there has been an upsurge in interest in the design, which is not yet well understood. [This series of papers reviews previous stepped wedge studies](#) and explores key

issues of design, forming a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge of the design.

[http://www.trialsjournal.com/series/SteppedWedge?utm\\_campaign=BMC21370B&utm\\_medium=BMCemail&utm\\_source=Teradata](http://www.trialsjournal.com/series/SteppedWedge?utm_campaign=BMC21370B&utm_medium=BMCemail&utm_source=Teradata)

## RDS Grant Writing Retreat

The NIHR Research Design Service (RDS) is offering a unique opportunity for health and social care professionals across England to attend a week-long residential Grant Writing Retreat in June 2016. The purpose of the Retreat is to give busy professionals dedicated time to rapidly progress their research idea into fundable proposals.

<http://www.rds-eastmidlands.nihr.ac.uk/residential-grant-writing-retreat>

## National CLAHRC impact brochure

This features case studies with details of successful examples of CLAHRC work and the impact it has had.

**CLAHRCs have high impact in terms of implementation of research findings to save lives, add value and promote partnerships with industry.**

CLAHRC East Midlands case studies include:

- **The Leicester Self Assessment and Walking Away from Diabetes** - identifying those at-risk from type 2 diabetes, and helping to prevent its onset (pp 5-9)
- **IMPAKT** - a software tool for GPs that identifies patients at risk from early onset Chronic Kidney Disease and provides resources for their management (pp 14-15)
- **Emergency Care and Acute Illness** - reducing hospital admissions (pp 18-19)
- **Individual Placement and Support** - helping people with long term mental health issues back into work (pp 36-37)

<http://www.clahrc-em.nihr.ac.uk/clahrc-em-nihr/documents/nihr-clahrc-world-class-research-making-a-difference.pdf>

## Age UK annual publication of disease profiles in later life

The Age UK [almanac of disease profiles in later life](#): A reference on the frequency of major diseases, conditions and syndromes affecting older people in in England.

This report is based on a series of studies carried out by the University of Exeter Medical School Ageing Research Group that reveal the current landscape of age-related disease prevalence and prescribing for people aged 60 to 100+, using data from the Clinical Practice Research Datalink, Hospital Episode Statistics and other sources.

[http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Research/Age\\_UK\\_almanac\\_FINAL\\_9Oct15.pdf?dtrk=true](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Research/Age_UK_almanac_FINAL_9Oct15.pdf?dtrk=true)

## Over 7,000 people will learn more about 'Improving Healthcare through Clinical Research' through online course

The launch of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN) and University of Leeds massive open online course (MOOC), has seen sign-up figures reach over 7,000 people.

The course entitled 'Improving Healthcare through Clinical Research' is a free online course looking at the detail of research and how we do it. Brought to life through case studies, the course covers topics such as; how research is helping to find new ways of treating and providing care for some of the major diseases including cancer and dementia. It also focuses on important ethical questions raised by clinical research.

Over four weeks the course includes;

- Learning about the roles of different members of a research team
- Hearing from people who have taken part in clinical research studies
- The ethical and scientific principles that underpin the research process
- Getting a better understanding of the challenges of conducting clinical research and the benefits to modern healthcare

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/clinical-research/1>

For more details see the website [www.rds-eastmidlands.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.rds-eastmidlands.nihr.ac.uk)

For general enquiries contact:  
[enquiries-lnr@rds-eastmidlands.org.uk](mailto:enquiries-lnr@rds-eastmidlands.org.uk)  
Tel: 0116 252 3276 for Leicester  
(covering Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland)  
[enquiries-ndl@rds-eastmidlands.org.uk](mailto:enquiries-ndl@rds-eastmidlands.org.uk)  
Tel: 0115 970 9310 for Nottingham  
(covering Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire)

## NIHR HTA Programme is supporting The Lancet REWARD campaign

The NIHR is actively taking on the agenda to add value in research and through the NIHR HTA Programme is supporting *The Lancet's* Reduce research Waste And Reward Diligence (REWARD) campaign. The REWARD campaign is inviting researchers to think about how they work and can increase value and reduce waste.

<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/newsroom/research-news/nihr-hta-programme-is-supporting-the-lancet-reward-campaign/3067>

## NIHR Clinical Research Network strengthens clinical leadership with the appointment of senior clinical academics

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network has appointed eight clinical leaders as Specialty Cluster Leads to help shape clinical research in the UK.

Each Specialty Cluster Lead brings with them significant clinical academic research expertise which will help to increase capacity and capability to deliver more research across England, as well as helping to further improve the quality and productivity of ongoing clinical research.

These new posts form part of a wider framework of clinical leadership which comprises both National and Local Specialty Leads across the full spectrum of disease and healthcare.

A key focus of the new roles is to aid the development of the nation's research infrastructure and workforce and ensure that the UK is well prepared for supporting the clinical studies of the future.

They will achieve this by each spearheading emerging technologies in areas of clinical innovation. This includes sharing the latest intelligence in ground-breaking areas of medicine such as gene therapy, metabolic phenotyping and personalised medicine as well as other pioneering areas of clinical research utilising medical technology and informatics. One of the Leads has a specific focus on developing the next generation of researcher through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) training school.

<https://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/about-crn/meet-team/>

**2014/2015 Guardian NHS research activity league tables have been published and referenced in the Pharma Times**

<https://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/about-crn/our-performance/nhs-research-activity-league-table/>

# NOTICEBOARD

## – NIHR Portfolio Funding Opportunities

### Research for Patient Benefit Programme Competition 28 - Invitation for Applications

Applications are invited for NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) proposals which are related to the day-to-day practice of health service staff and are concerned with having an impact on the health or well-being of patients and users of the NHS on a wide range of issues. The programme supports applications which are regionally derived and applications which have emerged from interaction with patients and the public, which relate to patient and service user experience, and which have been drawn up in association with a relevant group of service users.

**Closing date: 2 December 2015**

<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-opportunities/research-for-patient-benefit-programme-competition-28-invitation-for-applications/2944>

### Invention for Innovation i4i Challenge Awards

i4i Challenge Awards address a particular challenge that is a priority for the NHS

**Closing date: 13 January 2016**

<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/i4i-calls-and-competitions.htm>

### HS&DR researcher-led funding opportunities

The researcher-led workstream welcomes outline proposals on topics or research questions identified by researchers within the programme's remit.

**The following funding opportunities are available:**

15/136 – standard outline proposal

15/137 – evidence synthesis proposal

**Closing date: 14 January 2016**

<http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/funding/hsdr-researcher-led>

### Round 9 of the NIHR Fellowship Programme

NIHR Fellowships support outstanding individuals to become the health research leaders of the future by buying out their salary costs, meeting their training and development costs and by contributing to the research costs needed to complete an identified research project.

Shortlisting for the Doctoral Research Fellowship will take place during April 2015 and interviews will be held in Leeds between the 23rd and 25th of June 2015.

Shortlisting for Postdoctoral, Career Development, Senior Research and Transitional Research Fellowships will take place during April 2015 and interviews will be held between the 14th and 16th of July 2015.

**Closing date: 20 January 2016**

<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/fellowship-programme.htm>

### HTA Commissioned Call

The HTA commissioned workstream commissions research proposals that address specific topics or themes, as identified by the HTA boards and panels. The following commissioning briefs are now available.

Primary Research - two stages (HTA expressions of interest to full proposal)

15/134 - The cost-effectiveness of cascade testing for Familial Hypercholesterolaemia

**Closing date: 21 January 2016**

15/33 - Promising pharmacological therapy for treatment resistant bipolar depression\*

**Closing date: 19 May 2016**

<http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/funding/hta-commissioned>

### Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme - Commissioned call

The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme has launched a joint call with the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme for the following topic:

15/149 - Bipolar Disorder

The EME Programme is keen to receive applications for studies which utilise innovative study designs.

The submission of mechanistic studies added onto existing NIHR-funded studies or included within a proposal to the joint HTA funding opportunity in bipolar disorders are also welcome.

**Closing date: 15 March 2016**

<http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/funding/eme-commissioned>

**The NIHR Research Design Service for the East Midlands provides free support to researchers undertaking health related research. A team of research advisors is able to help with developing and submitting research protocols to national peer-reviewed funding streams.**

To subscribe to our newsletter visit:  
<http://www.rds-eastmidlands.nihr.ac.uk/news?tag=RDSEMNewsletter>