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## Residential Research School - Brittany, France



As an integral part of its work of providing advice and support to researchers developing research proposals, the RDS-SW is organising a **Residential Research School in Brittany, France in April 2010.**

With the support of NHS Trusts from across the South West, the Research School will build on six years of experience of running residential research schools for health service researchers, from the South West.

The Residential Research School will provide:

- protected time dedicated to the development of research projects;
- the experience of working as part of a professional research team;
- coaching in the skills of writing research proposals and grant applications;
- “hands-on” experience of the methodological, technical, and practical issues in planning and explaining research.

The aim of the Residential Research School is that, by the end of the School, participants will have developed a research proposal which they will be able to take forward as a high quality funding application.

Participants come to the Residential Research School in project teams comprising three members. Selection for the School is through an open competition in which the teams bid for a place in the form of a research proposal. The proposals are reviewed by the RDS scientific committee with appropriate advice from clinical and academic colleagues.

### **“This is an exciting and unique opportunity”**

The primary criterion for selection is the potential of the research ideas to attract peer reviewed funding from a major national research funding organisation.

Teams are expected to meet the costs of attendance at the School, but funding to cover the costs is often available for employees of the Trusts who support the School.

This is an exciting and unique opportunity for research teams in the South West. Further information and details of how to apply can be found on the following page. We look forward to receiving many interesting applications from researchers across the South West.

*Dr Paul Ewings*

Director, RDS - South West

## Residential Research School (continued)

**20th - 26th April 2010**

*(dates to be confirmed)*

At the Research School, teams will be able to develop proposals which will be competitive for research funding, with the dedicated time and support of a team of experts



who have over one hundred years' research experience and many millions of pounds of peer review funding between them.

Full details of the School can be found on the RDS-SW website at: [www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk)

The Residential Research School will be held in Quimper, Brittany from 20th - 26th April 2010 inclusive (dates to be confirmed). Accommodation is at the Mercure Hotel.



Applications for the 2010 School must be made using the application form available from the RDS-SW website.



The **deadline** for the submission of full applications is **5pm Friday 30th November 2009.**



For further advice or information please contact Debbie Marsh on 01823 344178 or email: [Debbie.Marsh@tst.nhs.uk](mailto:Debbie.Marsh@tst.nhs.uk)

## Staff News

### Dr Elsa Marques

Dr Elsa Marques has been appointed to the post of RDS Consultant. Elsa is originally from Portugal and her background is in Growth Economics and her dissertation looked at analytical and econometric models to explain macroeconomic growth through microeconomic child demand and cultural factors of couples' fertility decisions.

She obtained her PhD in Economics at the University of South Carolina in the USA and has spent the last 8 years as a Research Assistant and an Assistant Professor in academic settings between the USA and Portugal.

Elsa will be specialising in Health Economics for the RDS-SW and is based in the Bristol Office.

### Dr Alan Buckingham

Dr Alan Buckingham has also been appointed to the post of RDS Consultant. Previously, Alan worked for twelve years as a sociologist, first at Sussex and then Bath Spa Universities – where his training, teaching and research have all focussed on research methodology and research design.



Alan's particular area of expertise rests in survey methods and he will also be specialising in statistics and questionnaire design for the RDS-SW and is based in the Bath Office.

## Grant Applications Workshop, Plymouth

**The RDS–SW is running a one-day workshop on 2nd December 2009 in Plymouth for researchers who are developing proposals with the intention of applying for a grant.**

The workshop does not provide detailed training in research methodology, rather it more generally covers the full range of issues inherent in developing a successful grant application.

The RDS has a particular interest in supporting applications to the Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) Programme, and this workshop will be particularly useful for people wishing to apply to that scheme. However, it is also relevant for those applying to other NIHR funding schemes and indeed

other applied health research funders such as national charities.

Competition for these grants is fierce and the workshop aims to help participants understand how to improve their chances of success.



The workshop is directed more at researchers with some experience than novices, and is intended to allow them to turn good applications into excellent ones.

This **free** full day workshop will be held at the ITTC Building, Tamar Science Park, 1 Davy Road, Plymouth on **Wednesday 2nd December 2009**.

It will comprise short talks and group work on different elements of the application.

To register visit our website [www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/training.htm](http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/training.htm) or contact Sue Anderson at the RDS – South West Plymouth Office at: [sue.anderson@phnt.swest.nhs.uk](mailto:sue.anderson@phnt.swest.nhs.uk) or telephone 01752 439098.

The **deadline** for receipt of completed registration forms and project proposals is **Friday 30th October 2009**.

## Funding Opportunities

There are many sources of funding opportunities for applied health research including the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), Research Councils and major charities.

The RDS - South West works with people developing grant applications mainly on NIHR funding schemes and within that the Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) Programme. However, it is not exclusive to this and does encompass other NIHR funding schemes such as:

- Policy Research Programme (PRP)
- Programme Grants for Applied Research
- Programme Development Grants
- Invention for Innovation Programme (i4i)
- Research for Innovation Speculation & Creativity Programme (RISC)
- Service Delivery & Organisation programme (SDO)
- Health Services Research Programme (HSR)
- Public Health Research Programme (PHR)
- Efficacy & Mechanism Evaluation Partnership Programme (EME)
- Health Technology Assessment programme (HTA)

Further details of these schemes and the deadlines for applying for funding can be found on our Funding Opportunities webpage at: [www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/funding.htm](http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/funding.htm)

In addition to this the RDS-SW **Scientific Committee** provides an excellent opportunity for researchers to obtain a critical review of a proposed grant application **before** this is sent to a funding body.

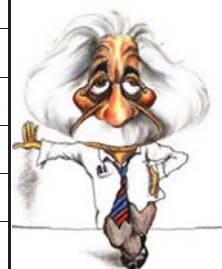
For further information, on the Scientific Committee simply visit the Funding Opportunities webpage at: [www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/funding.htm](http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/funding.htm)

## Word Search

Help Einstein find the 22 research terms in the word search grid below. No need to worry, this is just for fun - however, if you would like to know what each of the terms mean, simply visit the Glossary page on our website at: [www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk)

- ACCURACY
- AETIOLOGY
- BIAS
- CORRELATION
- DATABASE
- EFFICACY
- ETHNOGRAPHY
- HETEROGENEITY
- HYPOTHESIS
- INCIDENCE
- INTERACTION
- MEAN
- MEDIAN
- MINIMISATION
- PLACEBO
- PROTOCOL
- RATE
- RISK
- SAMPLE
- STRATA
- SURVEY
- VARIANCE

A	L	V	A	R	I	A	N	C	E	S	T	B	F	Z	N	E
I	E	A	D	A	N	D	S	A	D	A	L	U	I	W	M	H
N	H	T	Z	A	N	R	A	T	E	M	N	G	D	A	F	E
C	E	C	I	K	T	U	S	V	O	P	P	I	P	D	S	T
I	E	T	O	O	B	A	Q	P	T	L	R	N	L	M	R	E
D	Z	V	H	R	L	G	B	H	P	E	O	T	A	E	H	R
E	Y	F	H	N	R	O	T	A	J	W	T	E	C	D	H	O
N	T	R	J	T	O	E	G	Q	S	O	O	R	E	I	Y	G
C	B	F	Q	A	O	G	L	Y	T	E	C	A	B	A	P	E
E	S	U	R	V	E	Y	R	A	M	F	O	C	O	N	O	N
M	E	A	N	L	K	Y	R	A	T	K	L	T	N	R	T	E
C	W	Q	S	T	R	A	T	A	P	I	A	I	S	X	H	I
G	H	Y	Y	R	K	W	C	W	T	H	O	O	L	L	E	T
R	I	S	K	B	O	O	B	Z	G	N	Y	N	U	K	S	Y
V	N	G	P	I	W	E	F	F	I	C	A	C	Y	E	I	Q
M	I	N	I	M	I	S	A	T	I	O	N	U	S	T	S	X
Q	V	X	A	C	C	U	R	A	C	Y	S	C	X	I	Q	D



## Contact Us

Each RDS office is run by an experienced researcher, well equipped to provide practical and user-friendly advice on the research process and applying for funding. If you are unsure of where the nearest office is, or who best to contact, simply get in touch with the **Co-ordinating Centre, Taunton** on **01823 342792** or **rds-sw@tst.nhs.uk** or visit our website at: [www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk)

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