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RfPB Funding Limit Increased

The NIHR Research for Patient Benefit programme (RfPB) has announced that the funding available through the programme has increased from up to £250,000 to up to £350,000 per project, for up to 36 months. This change comes into effect from Competition 19, (21st September 2012, 1pm deadline).

RfPB funds regionally-derived applied research projects in health services and social care. The programme aims to realise, through research evidence, the potential for improving, expanding and strengthening the way that healthcare is

delivered for patients, the public and the NHS.

The change in funding limit will also affect applications to the NIHR call for Applied Research in Surgery – researchers are able to apply to this call though both RfPB Competitions 18 and 19, but will only be eligible for the higher funding amount if they apply through Competition 19.

For further information and to apply to RfPB visit:
www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/RfPB/



Launch of the Research Integrity Concordat

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity, published on the 11 July, sets out five commitments that those engaged in research should make to help ensure that the highest standards of rigour and integrity are maintained.

The NIHR is a signatory to the Concordat, as a committed advocate of good practice in research. The Concordat is vital in protecting and promoting research good conduct so that it continues to command public confidence, safeguards participants and maintains the UK's reputation for excellent research.

The concordat was developed between July 2011 and July 2012 by a working group that represented universities, government departments and the major funders of UK research. The concordat will:

- provide better coordination of existing approaches to research integrity
- enable more effective communication of efforts to ensure that the highest standards of rigour and integrity continue to underpin all our research
- encourage greater transparency and accountability at both institutional and sector levels
- stimulate reflection on current practices to identify where improvements can be made

To download the concordat visit:
www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Publications/Pages/concordattosupportresearchintegrity.aspx



League table reveals increases in NHS Trust research activity

The NIHR Clinical Research Network has published the 2012 league table, revealing the extent of clinical research activity across the NHS in England. It shows the Trusts that are leading the way in delivering clinical research opportunities for patients, as well as a comparison to last year's data, revealing which Trusts have made a significant step-change in their research activity.

The league table details the number of studies undertaken by each individual Trust, and the number of patients they recruit into those studies. Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT) is the highest performing PCT in the country in terms of the number of patients recruited in 2011/12 (8,817), closely followed by Bristol PCT (5,636).

For the first time this year the table also categorises NHS Trusts into organisations with similar characteristics, which allows comparisons to be made between Trusts in similar circumstances. Viewing the data in this way demonstrates that NHS organisations of all types and sizes are increasing the reach of research and giving more patients the chance to take part. Care, mental health and ambulance Trusts - traditionally areas of lower research activity - are amongst the top ten Trusts that have achieved the largest per cent increase in the amount of research studies they undertake.

Developing a research-active culture brings a host of benefits for patients, clinicians and the NHS. It drives innovation, gives rise to better and more cost-effective treatments, and creates opportunities for staff development. Growing evidence also suggests that NHS organisations that are research-active appear to do better in overall performance.

Dr Jonathan Sheffield, Chief Executive of the NIHR Clinical Research Network, which provides specialist research nurses and resources to enable NHS Trusts to deliver clinical research opportunities for patients, sees the league table as evidence of the growing profile of research throughout the NHS:

"This year we're able to report that 99% of NHS Trusts in England were involved in delivering research during 2011/12 and with their help we recruited almost 600,000 patients, which was a fantastic achievement. We know from recent polls that patients want to see the NHS do research, and they want the chance to get involved. The league table helps us recognise the research commitment of NHS staff throughout England and shows that clinical research is not just for the large teaching hospitals - it is absolutely core business for all NHS Trusts."

Commenting on the league table results, Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Adviser, Department of Health, said:

"This data from the NIHR Clinical Research Network is encouraging and shows us that high quality research is happening but we need to keep pushing for research to have the profile it deserves with both doctors and their patients."

To view the 2012 research activity league table visit:
www.guardian.co.uk/healthcare-network-nihr-clinical-research-zone/table/2012-trust-research-activity



Diagnostic Evidence Co-operatives competition 2012

A new, open, two-stage competition to designate and fund National Institute for Health Research Diagnostic Evidence Co-operatives (NIHR DECs) is now open. The scheme aims to provide NIHR infrastructure funding for NHS Organisations to act as centres of expertise to catalyse the generation of evidence on IVDs that is required by the NHS and by industry.

This will be developed through follow-on research funded from other sources and includes evidence which demonstrates the benefit to patients and the healthcare service.

The DECs will focus on clinical areas or themes where evidence of the clinical validity, clinical utility, cost-

effectiveness and care pathway benefits of IVDs has the potential to lead to improvements in healthcare services and the quality of life of NHS patients. NIHR funding will be provided to the NHS Organisation for a four-year period starting 1 September 2013.

The closing date for submission of the Pre-qualifying Questionnaire by the NHS Organisations in England that are interested in being considered for an NIHR Diagnostic Evidence Co-operative is 13.00 on 23 October 2012.

A briefing meeting for potential applicants will be held on 12 September 2012. Up to two people are invited to attend from each organisation. To register for this event please email: tina.hunt@nih-ccf.org.uk

To find out more and to request an application pack visit:
www.ccf.nih.ac.uk/Pages/DECCompetition.aspx



Grant Applications Workshop 1st November 2012 - Bath

The RDS-SW is running a one-day workshop on 1st November 2012 in Bath 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 supports a large number of 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 Grant Applications Workshop is directed at researchers who are considering applying to peer-reviewed funding competitions for applied health or social care research and is intended to allow them to turn good applications into excellent ones.

Researchers will need to send in advance the latest draft of their research proposal. As a minimum they should have a plan for a project but, ideally, a worked up proposal, perhaps even one that has been previously rejected

rejected. Some of these may be selected and used as illustrative material during the workshop. However, all proposals will receive detailed written feedback.



This **free** full day workshop will be held at the University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath, BA2 7AY on **Thursday 1st November 2012**. It will comprise short talks and group work on different elements of the application. The team leading the workshop has a wealth of experience in working collaboratively to develop grant applications for peer reviewed funding.

Applications to attend the workshop should be submitted on the standard form available on the RDS – SW website at: www.rds-sw.nih.ac.uk/events.htm You will also need to attach a copy of your written research proposal at whatever stage it is at now - this can be an early draft or a well worked up application, but as a minimum you need to outline the research question that you want to address, why you think it is an important research question and how you are going to address it. Applications will be reviewed and places awarded to applicants with suitable proposals. The **deadline** for receipt of completed application forms and research proposals is **Monday 10th September 2012**.

For further information, visit the RDS - South West website at: www.rds-sw.nih.ac.uk or contact our Co-ordinating Centre on 01823 342792 or rds-sw@tst.nhs.uk



Programme Grants for Applied Research review published

The NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research programme has published a review of its first six competitions online.

Programme Grants are prestigious awards made by the NIHR to fund high quality research that addresses areas of priority or need for the NHS. Awards of up to £2 million are made for programmes of research lasting between three and five years.

Funding is awarded to the best applied research teams in England from the NHS and academia, who are working together to improve health outcomes in areas such as disease management, safety and quality.

The Programme Grants review provides an overview of the programme and the application process and reviews the outcomes of the first six Programme Grant competitions. As a result of these competitions, 107 awards were made to fund programmes of applied health research that will provide the evidence the NHS needs to improve health outcomes for patients.

The review also contains case studies from eight researchers, who have been awarded Programme Grants across a broad range of health research, including dementia, children's medicines, diabetes and trauma.

Since Programme Grants for Applied Research was launched in 2006, over 120 Programme Grants and more than 20 Programme Development Grants have been awarded.

Some of the research funded most recently through Programme Grants includes the development of a structured screening programme and lifestyle intervention for the prevention of Type 2 diabetes in populations with learning difficulties and an evaluation of community occupational therapy in dementia patients.

The review is available at:
[www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/PGfAR/ Documents/NIHR_PGfAR_review.pdf](http://www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/PGfAR/Documents/NIHR_PGfAR_review.pdf)



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 your 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

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