

Research & Innovation Monthly E-bulletin

January 2013

Welcome to this edition of the R&I Monthly E-bulletin. This month's issue provides the usual funding opportunities, updates from our charitable partners and departmental news. If you have an item to add to February's bulletin please email it to robyn.jackson@uhbristol.nhs.uk by **Monday 18th February**.

This month's message from David Wynick

I am pleased to announce the latest Above & Beyond and UH Bristol Research Capability Funding (RCF) joint call for small research grants. Up to £20,000 can be applied for to pump-prime research projects that will lead on to larger applications to either the NIHR or other funding bodies.

We seek applications from a broad spectrum of staff, from those just starting out in research to the very experienced. This call is for both medical staff and all non-medical professionals, for example, allied health professionals, nurses, midwives and healthcare scientists are eligible to apply. To maximise the quality of your application I would encourage collaboration with experienced researchers from either of our partner universities, and suggest you allow plenty of time to develop your submission.

Full details of both calls are available [here](#).

With best wishes
Professor David Wynick
Director of Research

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R&I Departmental News

Publicity for all NIHR Grants – Guidance for Researchers

All research staff in the Trust should be aware that the NIHR need to be contacted before any publicity, including presenting or publishing research findings, is released. The Trust and all NIHR grant holders are bound by the terms of the NIHR contract, which requires us to notify them before any publicity. This includes speaking to the media, sending out press releases, papers and

presentations/abstracts at meetings, websites and anything else that might be picked up by the media. If we do not comply with this the NIHR have the right to terminate the contract.

Guidance has been drawn up by the R&I Department in partnership with the Trust Communications Team which can be downloaded [here](#). If any publicity is released directly from the R&I Department we will have informed the NIHR, the Principal Investigator of the study and the Trust Communications Team prior to release.

The Opportunities and Challenges the 70 Day First Patient First Visit Target Brings

For you to recruit your first patient into your study within 70 days of submitting your application to R&I requires a huge change in how we all manage research applications and setup processes. It means that by the time you are ready to submit your paperwork the initial discussions and setup with support departments and HR should already be in place. However, what this target also means is that we are now forced to **identify** and **address** the hold-ups in the study setup process.

We would like to emphasise that this 70 day target does NOT mean that we want to stop initiating research with patients with rare diseases. This is a recognised and accepted cause of missing the 70 day target by the NIHR and as long as that reason code is selected on EDGE the study will be reported as such. Improved patient care through excellent research remains our priority. Therefore we can use these targets as an opportunity to minimise delays in initiating our research for those studies which are held up unnecessarily. If you are experiencing particular issues with study setup please contact the Research Operations Manager, Jessica Bisset on extension 20227 or via Jessica.bisset@uhbristol.nhs.uk

NIHR Studies Open to New Sites

The latest reports detailing Portfolio studies that are seeking new sites are available to download from the WCLRN website:

<http://www.crnc.nihr.ac.uk/Resources/NIHR%20CRN%20CC/Networks/CCRN/Western/Documents/Studies%20open%20to%20new%20sites%20-%20all%20reports.zip>

Please remember that all Topic Specific network (TCRN) managers have asked that Trusts contact them before approaching Chief Investigators/Coordinators of studies identified in the reports as there may be an existing history of engagement with these studies by the networks. If you would like support in accessing this information or advice about whether or how to express interest in a study, R&I is happy to help you. For paediatric studies, please contact Ruth Allen (medicines – ruth.allen@bristol.ac.uk) or Susan George (non-medicines – susan.george@uhbristol.nhs.uk) before submitting an expression of interest.

EDGE v2.0 has been released!

The latest version of EDGE was released on the 14th of January 2013 at 8am. Here is a brief overview of what EDGE administrators will find in the new release:

- New options to add information to Patient Attribute Reports
- Study name management
- New workflow defaults based on the type of study
- Enhancement of workflow reports
- Fine tuning of Project Attribute Report fields

- Functionality to allow Administrators to share Project Attribute Reports
- Site-specific filtering
- Management of Historical Patient Imports
- Team Calendar functionality
- UKCRN ID search functionality

EDGE Handy Hint #8: Use the mail system on the home screen to send secure e-mail to other users of EDGE

NIHR Clinical Research Network Proposals for the designation of clinical themes

The NIHR Clinical Research Networks will be reconfigured over the next 1-2 years and a single Local Research Network will be formed out of the current comprehensive and topic specific networks. As a result, clinical themes will be created which group existing topics and specialties so that research can be delivered through the single network effectively. We have received a [proposal document](#) which requests comments on the proposals for the designation of the themes; a table of the new groupings can be found on page 15. If you would like to comment on the proposals, please email them to robyn.jackson@uhbristol.nhs.uk by Monday 4th February. We will return a collated response via the WCLRN.

NIHR Launches new Clinical Trials Toolkit for Researchers

The NIHR has now launched the new [Clinical Trials Toolkit](#) website. This innovative website is designed to help researchers navigate through the complex landscape of setting up and managing clinical trials in line with regulatory requirements.

Based on the design of a tube map, the CT Toolkit uses an interactive colour-coded route map to differentiate between legal and good practice requirements. This provides essential information at the 'stations' along the route and gives the users an idea of the critical path for trial set-up and delivery.

Although primarily aimed at those involved in publicly funded Clinical Trials of Investigational Medicinal Products (CTIMPs), the CT Toolkit will also benefit researchers and R&D staff working on trials in other areas, who will find useful information and guidance of relevance to the wider trials environment. The site also signposts users to resources such as the National Research Ethics Service (NRES), Health Research Authority (HRA) and Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA) websites.

Update from Above & Beyond

Do Something Amazing and Go Above & Beyond For Our Hospitals in 2013!



Many of us have made a New Year's Resolution to take more exercise, and we might like to know that keeping it up will make us feel really good! So if you are looking for a challenge why not do something amazing and help yourself and our hospitals at the same time?!

Your hospitals' charity Above & Beyond raises funds for all of Bristol's



nine central hospitals, to make a real difference to patient care in our city – including by funding research grants as mentioned in Professor Wynick’s introduction. The charity has an exciting calendar of challenges for 2013 – whether it’s taking on the Forest of Dean Spring Trail, training for a Triathlon, climbing Kilimanjaro, running the Bristol 10k or cycling to Paris – there’s something for everyone.

If you want to exercise, feel good and take on a challenge that will help our hospitals – why not get in touch with Above & Beyond? Just contact Adrian in the charity’s friendly fundraising team on 0117 3700 485 or email Adrian.brown@aboveandbeyond.org.uk. You can also visit www.aboveandbeyond.org.uk to find out more information on upcoming fundraising activities.

Celebrating Successes

ErlaPara Study Recruits First Patient Within a Week of Study Being Opened!

This study is looking into pain control of patients who have had Thoracic Surgery. Led by Dr Kamalanathan, Dr Molyneux, Dr Rasburnand and the ITU Research Nurses, this study is sponsored by the David Telling Trust. Half of the patients involved will receive a local anaesthetic (paravertable) block at the beginning of their operation and half will receive the block towards the end of the operation. Patients will be monitored to see which group (if any) have better pain control after the operation. Congratulations to the team who managed to recruit their first patient within a week of opening the study.

Society of Cardiac MRI Young Investigator Award (Clinical)

Congratulations to Elisa Macalinden, cardiology clinical research fellow at the Bristol Heart Institute, who is among four nominees worldwide to be shortlisted for the International award of Young Investigator Award (Clinical) at the Society of Cardiac MRI conference to be held in San Francisco in February. Elisa, who is currently doing a PhD on cardiac magnetic resonance in acute coronary syndromes, will be presenting her work at the conference on a project she has been running looking at different sequences to assess myocardial edema, the inflammation that occurs at the time of a heart attack.

Feature – The PATHWAYS Study

The PATHWAYS Study, “Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: Working on Anxiety and Stress”, is a study based at the Bristol Heart Institute led by Principal Investigator Dr Robert Tulloh (Consultant Cardiologist) and Co-investigator Dr Vanessa Garratt (Specialist Clinical Psychologist). They work alongside a team from Social Sciences at the University of Bristol and teams from the Universities of Bath, Somerset, Exeter and Plymouth. This research is a good example of multi-disciplinary team-working for the greater benefit of patients.



Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH) is a chronic, debilitating disease with distressing symptoms and an unpredictable future. Treatment for PAH involves complex, time-consuming, expensive and anxiety-provoking treatments. It is therefore not surprising that individuals living with PAH experience increased levels of depression, anxiety and panic.

The study aims to determine whether Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) can improve physical functioning, and reduce levels of depression, anxiety and the stress hormone cortisol in people with PAH. Health economics will also be evaluated, with the hope of reducing patients use of NHS resources. MBSR is a psychological intervention which takes place in a group setting. Evidence in other chronic conditions, including heart failure, suggests significant improvements in both physical and psychological health following a MBSR intervention.

The pilot study is funded with an NIHR Research for Patient Benefit grant and aims to recruit 42 participants from the South West with PAH. These participants will be randomised to either take part in the MBSR group, or continue their treatment as usual. Standardised measures of depression, anxiety, quality of life and NHS resource use will be administered to participants at baseline, at 2-4 weeks, 6 and 15 months following MBSR or treatment as usual. The team aim for the first group of participants to start the MBSR programme in February 2013 with the study continuing until 2015.

Upcoming Events

Elizabeth Blackwell Institute for Health Research Launch – Thursday 24th January 2013, 12pm-1pm, Reynolds Lecture Theatre, Wills Memorial Building or Thursday 31st January, 4pm-5pm, Lecture Theatre 4, School of Chemistry

This launch event will be hosted by Professor Jeremy Tavare who will be joined by Professor Peter Mathieson, Director of Bristol Health Partners. The newly appointed Institute Manager, Dr Nina Couzin, will also be introduced.

The institute's specific remit is very much cross-Faculty. It aims to foster health research at new and innovative inter-disciplinary boundaries, and support the people doing this research. Bristol Health Partners has been set up to transform the understanding, prevention and treatment of key health problems in Bristol and beyond. The Institute wants to engage with researchers in all fields and has significant funding and resources available to drive strategically important health research in its broadest sense. There are two events scheduled. To register to attend please follow the link:

<https://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/red/ebilaunch>

Gastroenterology & Hepatology Specialty Groups Research Day – The Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Monday 4th February 2013

This research day aims to:

- Promote participation in GI and Liver research; facilitating collaboration among gastroenterologists, hepatologists and endoscopists
- Showcasing research that is already underway
- Highlighting resources available to interested NHS clinicians

For further information please contact laura.purandare@rbch@nhs.uk or on 01202 962376. To register online please visit:

http://www.crnc.nihr.ac.uk/about_us/ccrn/western/news/ghsgresearchday

Paediatric Neurology Masterclass 2013 – 18th-19th April 2013

This event will include:

- Lectures from national and international experts in child neurology
- In-depth updates on current ideas in research and latest research findings
- Developing understanding of the epidemiology, clinical manifestations and treatment of neurological disorders of childhood
- Developing understanding of the pathophysiology underlying these disorders
- For all health professionals and researchers working with children with neurological conditions

For further details please visit <http://www.bristolcns.org/masterclass-2013>

WCLRN Ophthalmology Specialty Group Network Event – 1st March 2013, 2-5pm, Bristol Eye Hospital Lecture Theatre

The aim of this event is to promote current ophthalmology research taking place within the Network, enhance collaboration between researchers and encourage new researchers to get involved. Presentations will be provided by speakers from across the network and Jonathan Sheffield, the Chief Executive of the NIHR, will be attending and will provide his thoughts on research in the NHS.

You can book your place by emailing tom.mullett@uhbristol.nhs.uk or for more information contact Donna Ghezzi on 0117 342 1379.

Grants and Upcoming Awards

Health Technology Assessment Programme: New Calls for Research

Primary Research – Two Stage Outline to Full Proposal

12/201 Management of sciatica (lumbosacral radiculopathy) and suspected sciatica - the deadline for broader brief submissions is 1pm on Friday 1 February 2013. Applicants will be advised as to whether their outline applications have been shortlisted in March 2013.

12/185 Pre-conception care for women with diabetes – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

12/186 Treatments for severe chronic hand eczema – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

12/188 Self-management of pain relief, nausea and constipation for patients approaching the end of life – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

12/190 Cognitive rehabilitation for people with multiple sclerosis – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

12/191 Sexual risk reduction interventions for patients attending sexual health clinics – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

12/192 Home-based health promotion interventions for vulnerable older people – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

[12/193](#) CTI and MRI for women with ovarian cancer – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

[12/194](#) Psychoeducational support for parents with personality disorders who have children with severe emotional and behavioural problems – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

[12/195](#) Validation of a risk prediction model for ocular hypertension – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

[12/197](#) Treating bedwetting in children – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

[12/199](#) Complex decongestive therapy for women with breast-cancer related lymphoedema of the arm – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

Application forms and all associated documents for all commissioned calls are available on the HTA Programme website.

For any further enquiries please contact the HTA Commissioning team: 023 8059 5621 or

htacmsng@southampton.ac.uk

Funding for Clinical Evaluations Now Available from the NIHR Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme

The [EME Programme](#) is now accepting applications to its researcher-led workstream. Applicants are invited to apply by **1pm on Thursday 7 March 2013**.

Application forms and all associated documents for this call are available on the [EME Programme website](#)

New David Telling Research Grant – Call for Proposals

The Trustees of the David Telling Charitable Trust are keen to encourage and strengthen the development of new or early-stage areas of clinical research within UH Bristol. Their normal grant awards of £25,000 are designed to help new researchers get their initial ideas off the ground. The Trust would now like to offer support for the next stage, to allow more established clinical researchers to develop a co-ordinated programmes in a novel area of clinical research by infrastructure funding.

Examples of this might include, but are not limited to:

1. Equipment or resources to set up a specific research-focused tissue bank and/or a data collection database that could be used in translational proof-of-concept clinical studies, aimed at multiple research studies/areas rather than just one project
2. Funding for a salary for a facilitator/theme leader to help build up critical mass for a nascent or developing clinical research area at UH Bristol that is not currently supported.
3. Funding to provide research support staff and/or equipment within a team to pump-prime a novel area of clinical research at UH Bristol which is important to the NHS.

To this end, the David Telling Charitable Trust would like to offer a 3 year grant of up to £175,000, subject to annual review of progress. The initial application should be confined to a two page outline of the proposal, which will be scrutinised by the Advisory Board to ensure that the proposal falls in line with the aims of the Charitable Trust, in particular to support new areas of clinical research rather than add to existing funded programmes. Proposals are open to non-clinicians but animal or non-clinical laboratory-based research is not supported by the Trust. Proposers who pass this initial stage will then be invited to submit a detailed and fully-costed application for scrutiny and external review through the offices of Professor David Wynick, Director of Research at UH Bristol. Please send 8 copies of the 2 page outline proposal and 1 copy of the investigator's CV to Advisory Board David

Telling Charitable Trust, Level 2, Dolphin House, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol, BS2 8HW. The closing date for applications is **8th February 2013**.

NIHR Health Services and Delivery Research Programme – New funding opportunities: Researcher-led Proposals

Our researcher-led calls are open all year round, with three application cut-off dates. The next closing date for applications is **1pm on Thursday 7 February 2013**. Application forms and all associated documents for this call are available on the [HS&DR Programme website](#).

******For this call, we are particularly interested in receiving proposals assessing very rare diseases. This drive for research proposals is part of an NIHR-wide call to increase research in this area. The specification document is available on the HS&DR Programme website [here](#).******

However we are still keen to receive proposals on any topic within the programme remit, through our standard researcher-led funding opportunity.

NIHR New Media Competition 2012 – Communicating Your Research

During the summer of 2012, a pilot NIHR YouTube video was launched to a target audience at the NIHR Summer School. The aim of the competition was for NIHR funded researchers to create a video to enthuse audiences about their research and it resulted in three prizes being awarded. Due to the interest received, the NIHR have decided to open a new competition that is open to all current NIHR Researchers. If you are an NIHR researcher interested in communicating your research this is an opportunity to:

- Enthuse patients, colleagues, your friends and family, and the public about your research
- Communicate your clinical/applied health/social care research
- Get creative and use your media skills to get the NIHR message about research out
- Win prizes! There is a £250 book token up for grabs for the best entry and prizes for the runners up.

For details of eligibility, how to enter and assessment criteria please click here:

<http://www.nihrtcc.nhs.uk/NIHR%20Media%20Competition/index.html>. The closing date for applications is the **22nd of March 2013**.

Training & Employment Opportunities

WCLRN Dry Ice Training – 20th February 2013, Bristol, 1pm-4:30pm

This course is being held at the Education Centre and is aimed at clinical research staff preparing or working on NIHR adopted studies who will be dealing with dry ice. Preference will be given to those staff. The objectives of the course are to review the legislation, safe handling and disposal of dry ice and be provided with a standard operating procedure. Workshop contents include:

- Risk assessments and controlling risks
- Properties of dry ice
- Hazard identification and control
- Storage
- Handling
- Use
- Disposal of product and packaging
- Transportation and dispatch of dry ice
- Packaging, labelling and dispatch of biological materials
- General precautions

- First Aid
- Written test
- Questions

For a booking form and any queries please contact donnaburnham@nhs.net

People and Research West of England FREE Workshop! “Get Involved in Shaping Research and Building Partnerships Workshop” – 31st January 2013, UH Bristol Education Centre

Have you ever wanted to get involved in research and don't know where to start? Are you a researcher who would like to involve patients and carers in your research, but don't know how to recruit and make best use of their skills and experiences? This free workshop will outline the different types of research methods and terminology used in research and how patients and carers can get involved as well as exploring the issues related to becoming and being involved in research. The course is aimed at people interested in getting involved in research and researchers interested in involving patients and carers in their research. This is a one day workshop being held from 10am till 4:30pm. Information on how to register can be found [here](#).

Roche Online Biological Therapies and Cancer Educational Resource

Please find a link below to an educational resource, supported by Roche Pharmaceuticals, designed and developed by a panel of expert oncology nurses. It is intended as a tool for oncology nurse educators to use to improve understanding of state-of-the-art cancer research and therapies. The tool can be accessed here: http://www.cancernurse.eu/education/biological_therapies.html

Essential Skills Training for Research Staff – 19th February 2013, Whitefriars, Bristol

This course is aimed primarily at clinical research staff preparing or working on NIHR adopted studies within the Western CLRN Region and preference will be given to those staff. For a programme and booking form please contact donnaburnham@nhs.net

RDS Grant Applications Workshop – 25th April 2013, Buckfast Abbey, Devon

The Research Design Service (RDS) are now accepting applications for the Grant Applications Workshop being held on the 25th April at Buckfast Abbey in Devon.

This workshop is open to healthcare professionals and academic partners working within the South West who are preparing research proposals for submission to peer-reviewed funding competitions for applied health or social care research. They welcome applications from researchers who are at an early stage of their project as well as those who have a well worked up application.

Applications should be made using the standard form available via the [RDS SW Website](#). Please note that as well as completing the application form, you will also need to attach a copy of your written research proposal at whatever stage it is at now – as a minimum you will 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 without this information will not be considered.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications forms and research proposals is **Monday 4th March 2013**. Applications will be reviewed and places awarded to applicants with suitable proposals. You will learn the outcome of your application in mid-late March 2013.