NHS

National Institute for Health Research

The National Institute for Health Research Central Commissioning Facility

the gateway to research programmes

Programme Grants for Applied Research
Invention for Innovation (i4i)
Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)
Research for Innovation, Speculation and Creativity (RISC)

Commissioning health research

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) provides the framework through which NHS research is managed in England. Its Central Commissioning Facility (NIHR CCF) is a primary gateway for NHS clinicians and related health researchers seeking funding from the NIHR.

What we do

Our principal function is to operate an online application facility and peer review process to commission health research funded by the NIHR.

We underpin this through robust patient and public involvement.

Peer review

Peer review enables the NIHR to have confidence in the value and suitability of research proposals for patients and the NHS. Independent peer reviews of research proposals are pivotal to the health research commissioning process at NIHR CCF. Peer reviewers are drawn from all areas of health services research and public health - from clinicians and other health professionals to policy-makers and academics.

Patient and public involvement

One of the important criteria for assessing research proposals is the way the research team has involved - and plans to involve - patients and/or the public. Patient and public involvement (PPI) means that people are active partners in the research process by, for example, advising on a research project, assisting in the project design, or in carrying out the research, rather than being the 'subjects' of research.

Lay review

Another dimension to PPI is the involvement of members of the public in providing lay reviews for research proposals. This public contribution complements and extends the professional perspective. The lay review does this through commenting on the acceptability of the proposed research to the patient and on the significance of the perceived outcomes.

We always welcome new peer and lay reviewers.

NIHR Research Programmes

We manage calls for the following NIHR programmes (see overleaf for details):

- Programme Grants for Applied Research and Programme Development Grants
- Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)
- Invention for Innovation (i4i) calls including the Future Product Development funding streams and Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI)
- Research for Innovation, Speculation and Creativity (RISC).

The NIHR Research Schools also report into the NIHR CCF.

NIHR Faculty and Infrastructure

We manage other funding competitions and monitor existing awards for the NIHR Faculty and Infrastructure workstrands such as:

- Biomedical Research Centres and Units (Infrastructure)
- Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care CLAHRCs (Infrastructure)
- Research Design Services (Infrastructure)
- Research Centres for NHS Patient Safety and Service Quality (Infrastructure)
- Senior Investigators (Faculty).

Contacting the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility

Researchers

Researchers can find out more about calls for research proposals for any of the NIHR programmes managed by NIHR CCF at **www.nihr-ccf.org.uk**

Peer reviewers

Clinicians, academic health researchers and other related health specialists can express an interest in peer review for NIHR CCF programmes to **info@nihr-ccf.org.uk**

Lay reviewers

Members of the public can register their interest in becoming involved as a lay reviewer for the NIHR CCF on the Patient and Public Involvement page at **www.nihr-ccf.org.uk**

Programme Grants for Applied Research

NIHR **Programme Grants for Applied Research** are prestigious, substantial open awards for leading research groups able to demonstrate an impressive track record of achievement in applied health research to tackle high priority health issues.

Purpose

NIHR **Programme Grants for Applied Research** aim to provide evidence to improve health outcomes in England and seek to fund in particular:

- Areas of priority or need for the NHS
- Research where other funders may not be focused such as on conditions causing a significant disease burden
- The long-term development of top-quality applied research groups working in the NHS.

'…in-depth, high-level collaborations'

Funding

Each grant funds a series of related projects which form a coherent programme theme. Awards will be for a maximum of £2m over a period of up to five years.

NEW Programme Development Grants

Programme Development Grants (£20k-£100k over a period of 6-18 months) have been launched to provide funding to enable a research team to undertake preparatory work that will position them to submit a successful Programme Grant application in a subsequent funding competition.

NIHR CCF • 020 8943 8991 • email: programme.grants@nihr-ccf.org.uk • www.nihr-ccf.org.uk

Invention for Innovation (i4i)

The NIHR **Invention for Innovation (i4i)** Programme is a direct response to the need to accelerate the innovation process - turning inventive ideas into new products to meet the demands of a 21st century health service.

Purpose

- **i4i** has combined the New and Emerging Applications of Technology (NEAT) and Health Technology Devices (HTD) programmes with additional funding opportunities to identify promising healthcare technologies
- **i4i** Future Product Development (FPD) funding is positioned at the 'upstream' part of the innovation process, close to ideas generators, and will replace NEAT and HTD
- **i4i** funds translational research, extending between basic research and pre-clinical trials or health technology assessments, from FPD and SBRI projects to the pilot Healthcare Technology Co-operatives (HTCs) and other partnerships under the Challenge Fund for Innovation.

'…supporting projects to success'

Funding

i4i FPD is divided into three funding streams to match the innovation process as closely as possible: FPD1 (feasibility study up to £100k/one year), FPD2 (applied research project £150k-£250k/up to three years), FPD3a (commercial viability study up to £100k and 75% funding/one year) and FPD3b (collaborative applied research project £100k-£300k and 50% funding/three years).

NIHR CCF • 020 8943 8988 • email: i4i.Programme@nihr-ccf.org.uk • www.nihr-ccf.org.uk

Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)

The NIHR **Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)** Programme is a nationally co-ordinated funding stream for regionally commissioned NHS research.

Purpose

RfPB projects investigate ways to improve patients' experience of the NHS through research in the following areas:

- The way that NHS services are provided and used
- The effectiveness and value of interventions
- Alternative means for providing healthcare
- Innovations and developments in health and social care.

'…transforming patient experience'

Funding

There are ten regional funding committees. Budgets are in proportion to the regional population. Each research project can last for up to 36 months with an award of up to £250k.

NIHR CCF • 020 8943 8990 • email: rfpb@nihr-ccf.org.uk • www.nihr-ccf.org.uk

Research for Innovation, Speculation and Creativity (RISC)

The NIHR **Research for Innovation, Speculation and Creativity (RISC)** Programme supports new and radical research proposals with the potential to create a step change in the way patients are cared for, managed and treated.

Purpose

- **RISC** awards grants for speculative, novel proposals that have the potential for high impact but which are unlikely to gain support during traditional peer review processes
- **RISC** complements the Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) Programme by providing a stream for applications that are, as yet, too speculative for RfPB
- **RISC** enables grant holders to be able to apply to RfPB to further develop the research theme.

‘…paradigm-changing projects’

Funding

The maximum grant is £200k per project and awards are normally for 12-18 months in duration.

NIHR CCF • 020 8943 8450 • email: risc@nihr-ccf.org.uk • www.nihr-ccf.org.uk

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

The NIHR is delivering the government's health research and development strategy **'Best Research for Best Health'** by building a vibrant and world-class research environment in England. It is:

- Establishing the NHS as an internationally recognised centre of research excellence
- Commissioning research focused on improving health and care
- Attracting, developing and retaining the best research professionals to carry out people-based research
- Strengthening and streamlining systems for research
- Acting as a sound custodian of public money for public good.

Visit the NIHR website at **www.nihr.ac.uk**.

The NIHR Central Commissioning Facility is operated by a dedicated programme management team in the Life & Food Sciences Division at science-based company LGC in Teddington, Middlesex. LGC jointly manages the secretariat for the i4i Future Product Development funding streams and SBRI with Quotec Ltd.

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