

A horizontal bar composed of several colored segments: green, teal, orange, purple, and blue.

# NIHR Research Fellowships

## Applying for NIHR fellowships

September 2016

NIHR School for Primary Care Research Trainees Meeting

*Nicola Melody*

*Senior Programme Manager (NIHR Fellowships)*

*NIHR Trainees Co-ordinating Centre*

# National Institute for Health Research

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**NIHR**

at **10**

improving the health and  
wealth of the nation  
through research

## ***The research arm of the NHS***

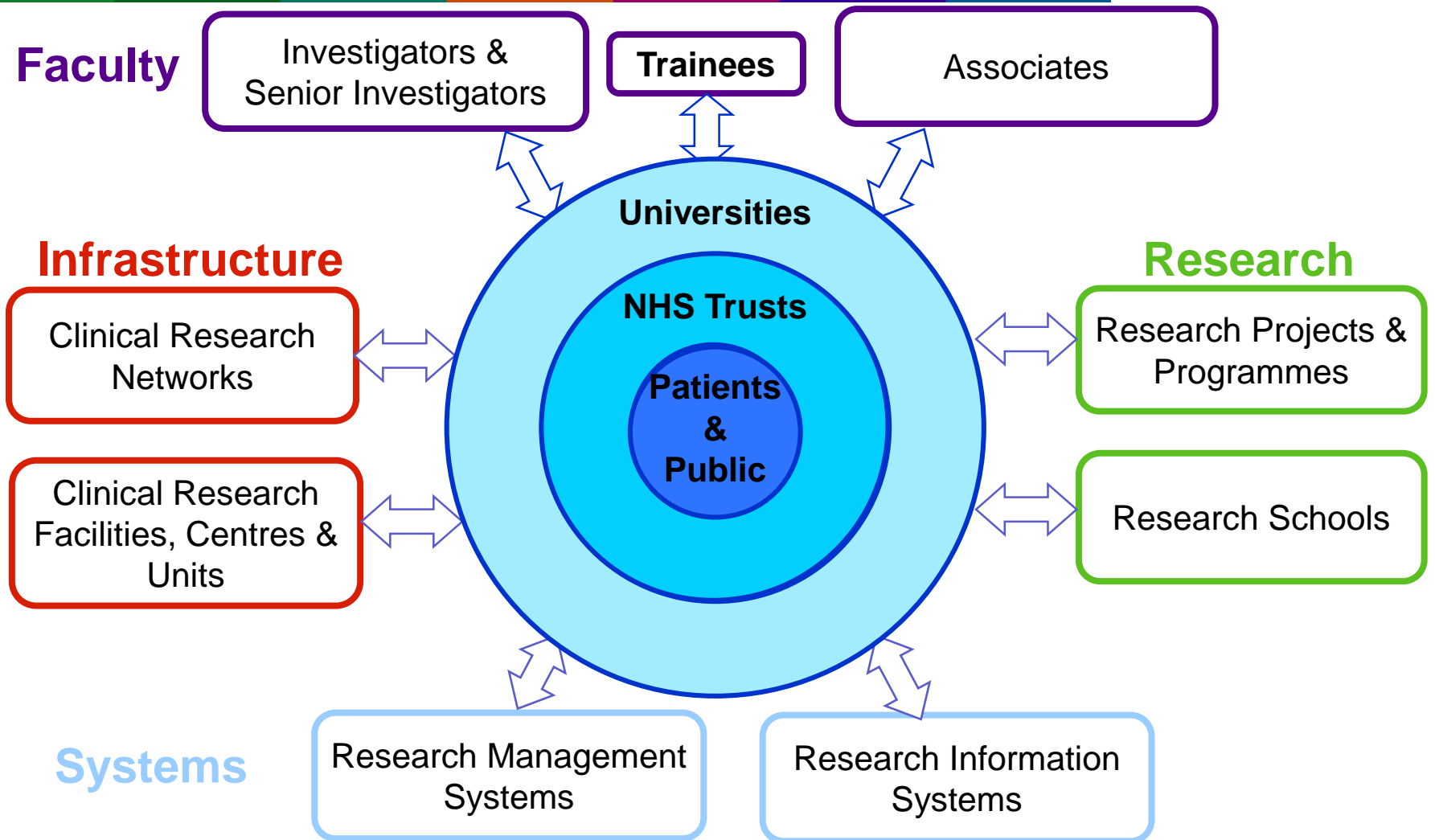
Established in 2006 as a vehicle  
for implementing Government's  
strategy for applied health  
research

£1b annual spend

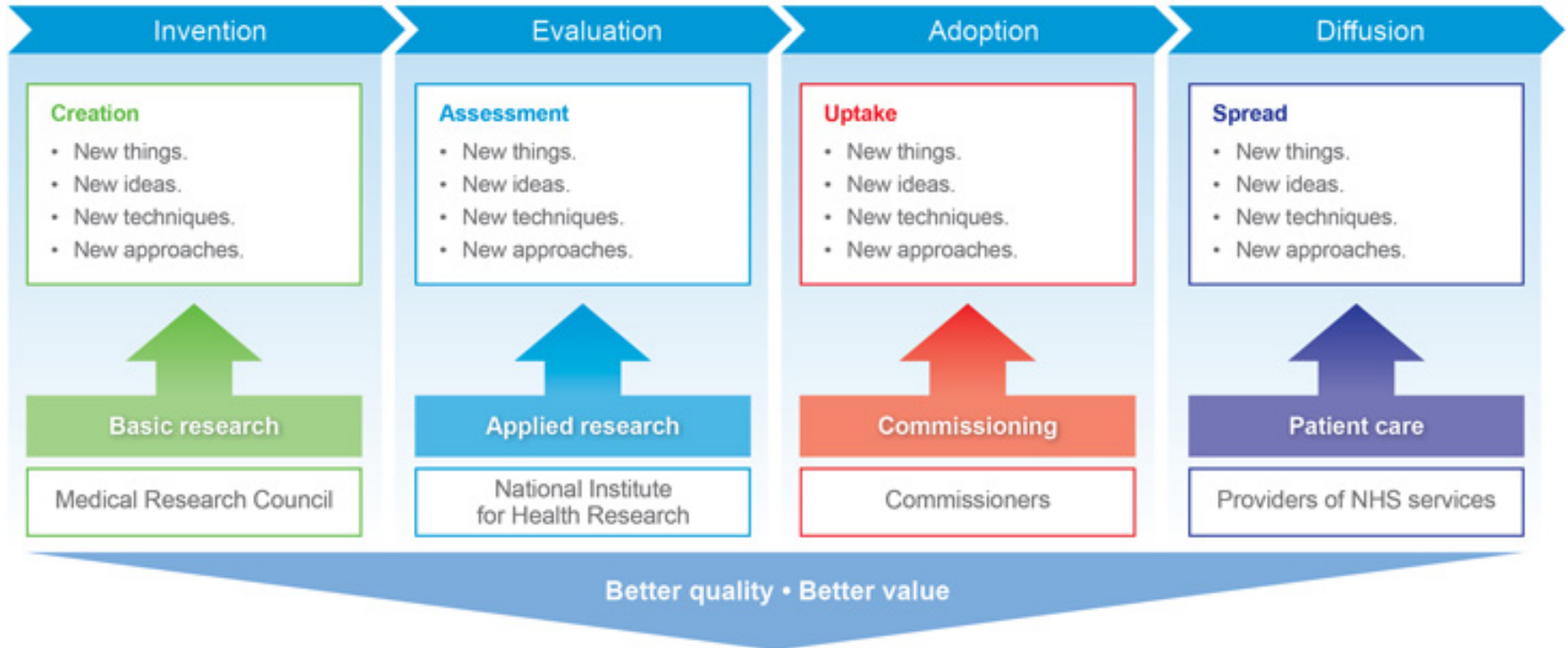
### ***Vision***

To improve the health and wealth  
of the nation through research

# The NIHR Health Research System



# The research pathway





# NIHR Remit

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- People and patient based clinical, applied health or social care research.
- Patients, samples or data from patients, people who are not patients, populations, health technology assessment or health services research
- *No basic research or work involving animals and/or animal tissue*
- Biomarkers – grey area
- Clearly demonstrate the potential to have an impact on the needs of patients and the public within 5 years of its completion
- NIHR is also prepared to support research into medical education

# Medical Education Research



*'The NIHR is also prepared to support high quality research into 'medical education' (defined broadly as education for healthcare providers). Whilst this area of research need not fulfil the criterion of having 'potential for benefiting patients and the public within 5 years of its completion', it is expected that the research will have the potential to have practical application.'*



# Trainees Coordinating Centre

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## Research Capacity Development

TCC provides training and career development awards in order to:

- build a leading NHS Research Faculty
- develop research careers, research leaders and collaborators.

There are a large range of awards available at different levels and to suit different work arrangements, types of NHS staff and career paths.

# NIHR RESEARCH CAREER PATHWAYS

Methodologists

Fellowships for all

Healthcare Professionals  
(non-doctors/dentists)

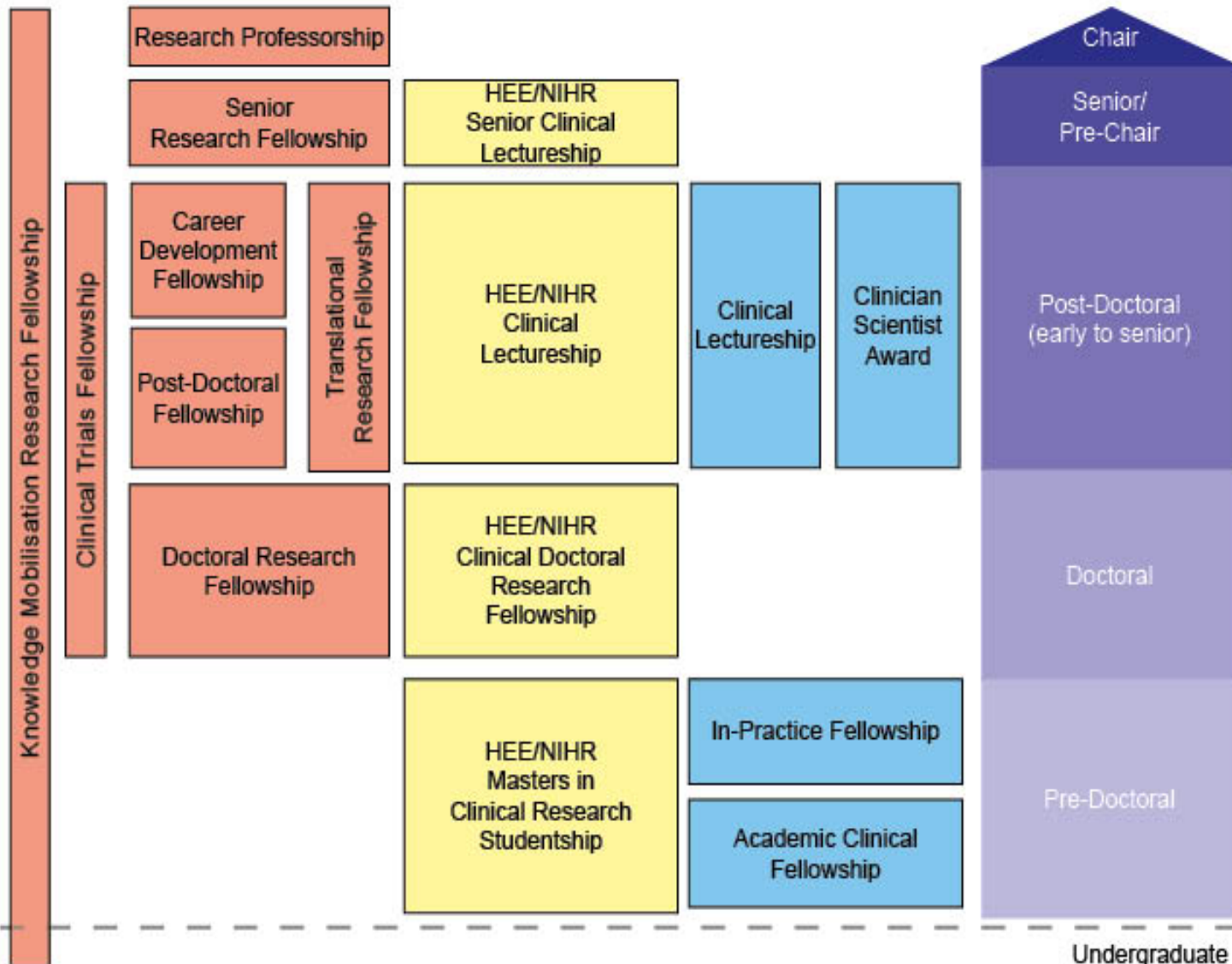
Doctors and Dentists

Research Methods Programme

NIHR Fellowships, Professorships  
and other awards

HEE/NIHR Integrated  
Clinical Academic  
Programme

NIHR Integrated  
Academic Training  
Programme





# NIHR RESEARCH CAREER PATHWAYS

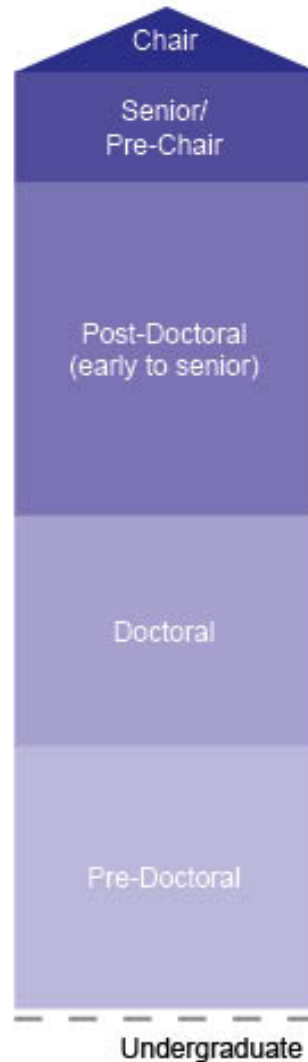
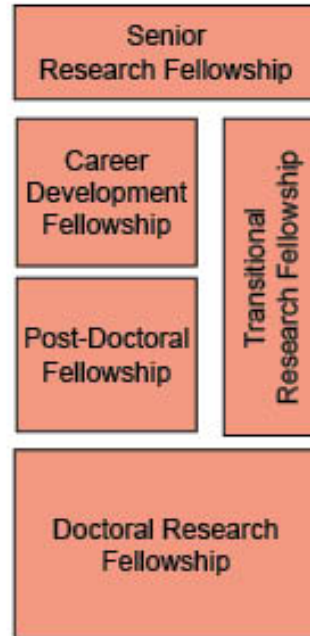
Methodologists

Fellowships for all

Healthcare Professionals  
(non-doctors/dentists)

Doctors and Dentists

NIHR Fellowships, Professorships  
and other awards



# NIHR Fellowships Programme

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**NIHR Fellowships are personal research training awards.**

Funding covers:

- Salary
- Tuition fees (for PhD at Doctoral level)
- Research costs
- Fully-funded training and development programme
- Awards are 3 years full time (with part-time options), or 5 years for SRF
- Can be based at HEI or NHS Trust, or other eligible organisation
- Annual competition for all levels
- **Next launch – October 2016**

## Doctoral Research Fellowship (NIHR DRF)

Doctoral Training Award  
3 Years Full Time

### ***Applicant:***

*Some previous research experience*

*Some outputs from research*

*Evidence of commitment to research  
career*

## Post Doctoral Research Fellowship (NIHR PDF)

Early Post Doctoral Fellowship  
3 years Full Time

Eligibility:  $\leq 3$  yrs WTE post-  
doc research experience

### ***Applicant:***

*PhD submitted and awarded before  
interview.*

*Outputs from research*

*Evidence of commitment to  
research career*

**Research experience from award of PhD to application**



# NIHR Fellowships Programme



National Institute for  
Health Research

## Career Development Fellowship (NIHR CDF)

Later Post-Doctoral Fellowship  
3 Years Full Time

Eligibility:  $\leq 7/8$  yrs WTE post-doc  
research experience

### **Applicant:**

*PhD/MD and postdoctoral experience*  
*Significant output from research*  
*Evidence of increasing independence*  
*Experience of developing research  
skills of others*

## Senior Research Fellowship (NIHR SRF)

Most Senior NIHR Fellowship

5 years ( $\rightarrow$  Chair)

### **Applicant:**

*Significant postdoctoral experience*  
*Outstanding publication record*  
*Independence*  
*Leadership potential*  
*Record of research capacity  
development*

## Transitional Research Fellowship (NIHR TRF)

Postdoctoral Award designed to support researchers looking to transition into, or back into, applied health or clinical research

Eligibility:  $\leq 5$  yrs WTE post-doctoral research experience  
18 months to 2 years, full or part time

### ***Applicant:***

- *PhD/MD and possibly, postdoctoral experience*
- *Basic or experimental scientists moving to applied health or clinical research*
- *Researchers looking to gain training in clinical trials*
- *Applied clinical or health researchers, following a significant career break with clear training needs*
- ***Proposed research must be within the NIHR remit***



# NIHR Knowledge Mobilisation Research Fellowship



*National Institute for  
Health Research*

## What is a KMRF?

- Personal award
- Funds:
  - salary, KM and research costs (no cap)
  - full training and development programme (including an overseas research visit and conferences)
  - 2 years full time (or 3 years at 70% or 4 years at 50% WTE)
- Based at HEI or publicly funded healthcare body (e.g. NHS/social enterprise/public health/local authority)
- Agreed 'hosting' partnership between HEI and healthcare body

## Aims

- build capacity within fields of mobilising knowledge (to support the more effective use of research knowledge), whilst also simultaneously;
- researching implementation processes and impacts.  
(aka implementation and implementation research)

# NIHR RESEARCH CAREER PATHWAYS

## Methodologists

## Fellowships for all

## Healthcare Professionals (non-doctors/dentists)

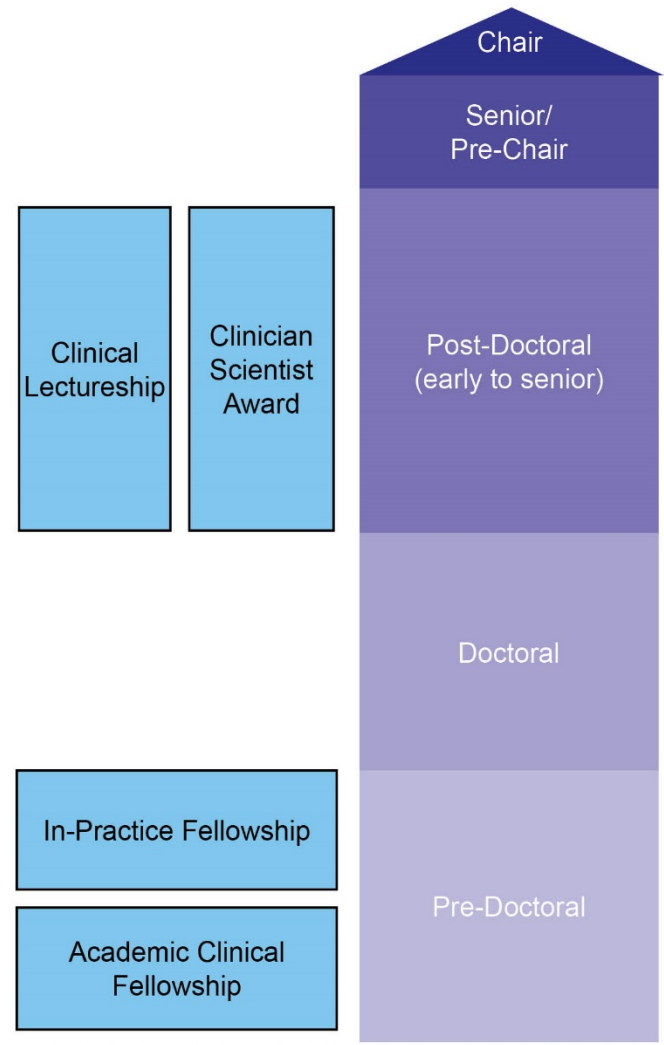
## Doctors and Dentists

Research Methods Programme

NIHR Fellowships, Professorships  
and other awards

HEE/NIHR Integrated  
Clinical Academic  
Programme

NIHR Integrated  
Academic Training  
Programme



Undergraduate

# Integrated Academic Training for Doctors and Dentists

## In-Practice Fellowship

- Pre-doctoral award open to fully-qualified General Practitioners, General Dental Practitioners and Community Dentists
- 50% clinical, 50% academic
- Funding: 50% salary (for academic time), plus £4,500 for training and development and £1,000 for conference attendance

## Aims:

*Completion of a Masters degree, preparation for research training fellowship at doctoral level.*

**Next round opens mid-February**



# NIHR RESEARCH CAREER PATHWAYS

Methodologists

Fellowships for all

Healthcare Professionals  
(non-doctors/dentists)

Doctors and Dentists

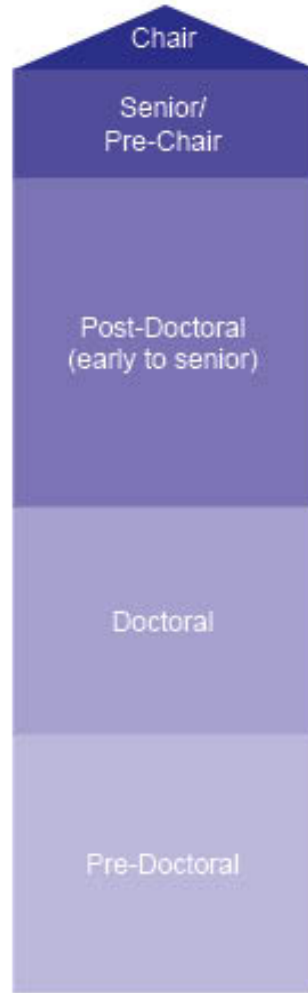
HEE/NIHR Integrated  
Clinical Academic  
Programme

HEE/NIHR  
Senior Clinical  
Lectureship

HEE/NIHR  
Clinical  
Lectureship

HEE/NIHR  
Clinical Doctoral  
Research  
Fellowship

HEE/NIHR  
Masters in  
Clinical Research  
Studentship



Undergraduate

# HEE/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic Programme



The ICA Programme launched in 2015 and represents an amalgamation of the HEE funded Clinical Academic Training (CAT) Programme for Nurses, Midwives and AHPs and the Healthcare Science Research Fellowship (HCS) Programme

The ICA Programme is open to a greater range of professions than the CAT and HCS Programmes combined (now all statutorily registered healthcare professionals excluding doctors and dentists) but retains the CAT Programme's characteristic focus on the development of individuals and careers that **combine clinical research and research leadership with continued clinical practice and clinical development**

# HEE/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) Programme

## Personal Training awards for **Non-Medical** Clinical Academic Healthcare Professionals



### Eligible Professions Include:

- Healthcare Scientists
- Allied Health Professionals
- Nurses
- Midwives
- Health Visitors
- Dental professions (Dental Nurse, Hygienist and Therapist)
- Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technicians
- Osteopaths
- Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians
- Chiropractors
- Clinical Psychologists
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Non-medical public health professionals

## Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship Scheme

PhD while *working and developing* clinically

3 years FT (4 or 5 years PT)

Covers salary, PhD tuition fees, research costs, and training & development costs (both professional and academic)

### ***Applicant:***

- *Must be based at an English NHS Trust, HEI or other healthcare organisation*
- *Must have at least 1 year of professional experience and fellows must hold current registration*
- *Research experience/training that prepares for a PhD*
- *Evidence of commitment to a clinical academic career*
- *Good clinical and academic support*

# Clinical Lectureship and Senior Clinical Lectureship Scheme

## Clinical Lectureship (CL) Lectureship

- 3 year (4 or 5 years PT) post-doctoral award for clinical practice and academic research (50:50)
- Requires support from a partnership of an English HEI and an NHS trust, which must both commit to support the applicant post award
- Up to 50% of salary plus full research, training and development costs
- <5 years WTE post-doctoral research experience
- Min 1 year WTE in clinical practice, current registration and PhD

## Senior Clinical (SCL)

- Senior (pre-Chair) 5 year award for clinical practice and academic research (50:50)
- Requires support from a partnership of an English HEI and an NHS trust, which must both commit to support the applicant post award
- Up to 50% of salary plus full research, training and development costs
- >5 years clinical experience and high research output
- Excellent or exceptionally promising track record as clinical academic researcher (outputs & grants)

# NIHR Themed Calls

- **NIHR wide themed calls in round 9 of the Fellowships Programme were:**
  - The evaluation of interventions or services delivered for older people with multimorbidity (two or more conditions).
  - Treatment and prevention of obesity

Further information can be found on the NIHR Themed Calls website (<http://www.themedcalls.nihr.ac.uk/>).

Still interested in the specialist areas.

**Dementia and Antimicrobial Resistance remain research priorities for the NIHR.**

# What research do we fund?

- **EME** – 'science driven' exploratory studies supporting clinical science with an ultimate view to improving health or patient care (efficacy, mechanistic, phase 2-3).
- **HTA** – research on the effectiveness, costs and broader impact of healthcare treatments (systematic reviews, large multicentre pragmatic trials or other studies, phase 3-4)
- **HS&DR** – research on the quality, access to and organisation of health services
- **i4i** – new solutions and translational R & D ideas for medical technologies or devices that meet existing or emerging healthcare needs
- **PHR** – evaluates non-NHS public health interventions (but does not fund intervention)
- **PGfAR** – large programme awards for leading applied health research groups to tackle high priority health issues (+ short programme development grants)
- **RfPB** – regionally-funded NHS research arising from daily practice to contribute to improvements



# Pre-application advice

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- Know the process and the remit:
  - Look at the website
  - Read the guidance
  - Contact the NIHR TCC with any queries
  - Talk to the NIHR Research Design Service
  - Don't add PPI as an afterthought!
- Know your audience:
  - Look up previous award holders, panel members, topics
- Talk, talk, talk, before you submit:
  - Supervisor, current awards holders, senior academics, methodological experts, collaborators, mentors, finance office, colleagues etc.





# Application

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- Person
  - Career outputs
  - Trajectory
- Project or programme of research
  - Relevance of the question (literature review)
  - Scientific quality, methodological rigour
  - Appropriate scale and scope and impact
  - Impact of findings
  - Fit with remit
  - Involvement of patients and the public
  - Dissemination: open access, conferences, meetings etc

# Application

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- Training
  - Meets needs of candidate and project, specialist skills and personal and professional development.
  - Coherent with research proposed
    - DRF: PhD taught element, principles underpinning research
    - PDF and CDF: addressing research capacity development
    - SRF: supporting development in a broader sense
    - ICA: similar but ensure clinical development needs are met.

# Application

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## Host Environment

- Institution:
  - RAE/REF rating
  - Track record in relevant field
  - Time and commitment
- Research Support:
  - DRF: up to four supervisors, including PhD supervisors.
  - PDF/CDF/SRF: mentors to support your research, training and future career development.
  - TRF: up to three supervisors for training and development.
  - ICA: clinical and academic (understand challenges)

# Application submission

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- Register on TCCi now
- Liaise with local finance office and required signatories way in advance of the deadline
- Give full consideration to your Plain English summary and Patient and Public Involvement
- Have your application peer reviewed before you submit
- Review guidance notes (again!)
- Do a comprehensive spelling and grammar check

**Fellowships Round 10 will launch in late October 2016**

**PDF/CDF/SRF/TRF will close in December**

**DRF will close in January**

# Interview

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- Practice
  - Mock interviews are usually the worst
  - Practice your presentation
- Presentation
  - Not too many slides
  - Don't go over time
- Behaviour
  - It is OK to be nervous
  - Confident but not over confident
  - Don't get defensive
  - Admit what you don't know and be happy to take advice
  - Relax and be yourself

# Interview

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## The project

- Know it inside and out
- Has anything altered since submission?
- Know the methods and identify the expertise
- Think through alternatives. What if something goes wrong?

## Training and Development

- Identify your training needs
- How will the training support your project and future career intentions

## The future you

- Be clear where you want to be
- What does this fellowship mean to your career?

# Common Weaknesses



**Remit:** Failure to show research important to NHS, benefits patients and/or public in 5yrs

**Clarity & Details:** Research questions not clear; don't show the relevance of the aims and objectives; not enough detail and depth.

**Overambitious:** Research programme not suitable for level of award; not achievable within time frame.

**Applicant:** Person not quite experienced enough for level they are applying (research outputs, independence, etc.); not **your** project

**Training:** Programme too generic and not suited/specific to the applicant's needs and project; too centred around host organisation.

**Value for Money:** Budget unrealistic and/or failure to justify requested resources.

If in doubt; ask!



*National Institute for  
Health Research*

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NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre  
Tel: 0113 346 6260

<http://www.nihr.ac.uk>

Fellowships Webinar:  
16<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
(joint TCC and RDS)

Knowledge Mobilisation  
Research  
Fellowships Webinar:  
7<sup>th</sup> July 2016

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