

March 2024

NIHR | School for Primary Care Research

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SPCR Funding Opportunities

NIHR | School for Primary Care Research

The George Lewith essay competition for medical students is now open!



Open to all UK Medical Students
Deadline: 12noon, 19 April 2024



George Lewith Prize 2024

The NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) is welcoming applications from medical students for the George Lewith prize.

All medical students at a UK university are eligible to apply for the prize, which will cover their registration fees for the [Society for Academic Primary Care \(SAPC\) annual scientific meeting](#), held this year on the 3-5 July.

Applications need to be submitted by **12noon on Friday 19 April 2024**:
applications.spcr@keele.ac.uk

More information about the George Lewith Prize can be found [here](#).

SPCR Undergraduate Student Internships 2024

The NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) are pleased to launch the Undergraduate Student Internship Programme. The programme is open to all undergraduate students, from any degree based at a UK university. The deadline for applications is **13:00 on Thursday 28 March 2024**



Find out more: [SPCR Undergraduate Programme](#)

Three NIHR Research Schools' Mental Health Programme Funding Calls

Our Three NIHR Research Schools' Mental Health Programme Funding calls are open!

How to apply

Completed application forms should be emailed to c.ashmore@keele.ac.uk by **3.30pm on 28 March 2024**. Only information included in the standard application form will be considered.

[Go to funding details](#)



SPCR PhD Studentships

The nine SPCR member universities are now recruiting for their 2024 PhD Studentships. New opportunities will be added as they are made available.

[PhD Studentships in Primary Care 2024](#)

Dementia Research Doctoral Studentships

15 Doctoral Studentships focusing on dementia-related practice are now available. New opportunities will be added as they are made available.

[Find out more on the School for Social Care Research website](#)



NIHR | School for Primary Care Research

Public Involvement & Engagement Fund

Application Deadline
**1pm on
23 May 2024**

Funding Call Now Open!

The graphic includes a network of people icons and a money bag icon with a pound symbol (£).

Public Involvement & Engagement Fund

SPCR has launched a new PPIE funding call to provide researchers with funds to explore and develop new relationships with groups, organisations and communities currently under-served by research or health and care in general.

Funding can be requested for up to £8,000 for projects up to 18 months. Applicants do not have to apply for the full £8,000 and smaller funding requests are welcomed as well. The SPCR aims to fund a combination of smaller and larger projects. The funding is open to researchers based in the NIHR SPCR member departments.

The SPCR will also be holding a webinar about this funding call on Thursday 18th April (14.00 – 14.45). [Please register here to be sent a link to join the webinar.](#)

Applicants will be required to submit a video and an application form detailing their project. The deadline to apply is **1pm on Thursday 23rd May 2024.**

[To find out more about the fund and apply click here.](#)

SPCR News



Congratulations to Dr Faraz Mughal

Congratulations to former SPCR GP Career Progression Fellow (current NIHR Doctoral Fellow), Dr Faraz Mughal from Keele University, whose study researchers have praised as among the best research in the country by the British Journal of General Practice.

[Go to the full article](#)



SPCR Elizabeth Murray Fellowship

Congratulations to Hollie Birkinshaw, from the University of Southampton, who has recently been awarded the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) Elizabeth Murray Fellowship.

The decision was made, by the SPCR Board, that the highest-ranking awardee would be offered their fellowship in memory of Professor Elizabeth Murray who died in April 2023.

[Go to the full article](#)



NIHR Alert: Diabetes remission linked to lower risk of heart attack and stroke

Researchers assessed whether diabetes remission, even for a short period, reduces people's long-term risk of cardiovascular disease. The study shows that remission is linked with a lower risk of cardiovascular complications. This should reassure people with type 2 diabetes and clinicians that achieving remission is possible and has long-term health benefits.

The study was funded by the NIHR School for Primary Care Research; Project No. SPCR2014-10043 PI: Hajira Dambha-Miller

[Go to the full NIHR alert](#)



The Stoma Support Study

The SPCR Stoma Support Study was recently carried out at Keele University. The study, led by Dr Benjamin Saunders, built on previous qualitative research in which the Keele team found that young people, aged 16-35, with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and who have stoma surgery, commonly experience emotional distress that is often not identified and/or not well-managed in clinical settings.

[Read the full article](#)



Impact Case study: Preventing early heart disease in high-risk patients

Use of new software developed with NIHR SPCR funding is identifying more patients at high risk of early heart disease and heart attacks. Earlier diagnosis and treatment are saving lives and shaping healthcare policy.

[Read more](#)

SPCR Blogs

Development of a 'best practice' guide on the safe use of medicines after discharge from mental health hospitals



SCPR Award holder, Richard Keers, discusses working in the new Improving Medication Safety theme as part of the NIHR Greater Manchester Patient Safety Research Collaboration. [SPCR Funding Project 646](#): Framework for medicines optimisation and safety in primary care post mental health discharge.

Reblogged with permission from [GM PSTRC](#)..

[Read more in our latest blog post](#)

SPCR Publications

Developing a quality framework for community pharmacy: a systematic review of international literature. Ali Hindi writes for BMJ Open
SPCR Fellowship (Grant reference:C066)



Multiple long-term conditions, loneliness and social isolation: A scoping review of recent quantitative studies. Hilda Hounkpatin writes for Science Direct
SPCR Fellowship (Grant number: C011)



NIHR Updates

NIHR Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship (PLAF)

Round 4 of the NIHR Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship (PLAF) scheme is now open for applications. The NIHR Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship (PLAF) scheme supports individuals based within local authorities and supporting services to undertake a bespoke programme of relevant Masters level training and prepare an application for a subsequent PhD, all on their existing employment contracts and salaries. When taken full-time, standard fellowships have a duration of 12 months, but can also be taken part-time or over a shorter duration. Closes: **28 March 2024**

[Find out more about this scheme](#)

In Practice Fellowship: Now open to health and care professionals working in primary care

The NIHR In-Practice Fellowship (IPF) is now open for applications!

The IPF offers academic training to fully qualified General Practitioners, General Dental Practitioners and Community Dentists, who are in NHS practice in England.

Starting in 2024, the eligibility for this scheme has also been broadened to encompass all other Health and Care Professionals working in the primary care setting. This enhanced offer will enable a larger cohort of health and care professionals to access research training and development, facilitating the advancement of their research careers. Closes: **3 April 2024**.

[Find out more and apply](#)



NIHR Senior Investigators 2024

The NIHR has appointed 43 new Senior Investigators in 2024. 21 Senior Investigators have been appointed for a second term. We are pleased to congratulate our SPCR colleagues in their appointments; Nick Francis (Southampton) and Darren Ashcroft (Manchester). And extend our congratulations to other current / past SPCR collaborators; David Abbott (Bristol), Robbie Foy (Leeds), Victoria Goodwin (Exeter), Melanie Calvert (Birmingham), Cathy Creswell (Oxford), Eileen Kaner (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne) and Richard Riley (Birmingham).

[NIHR Senior Investigators](#) are among the most prominent and prestigious researchers funded by the NIHR and the most outstanding leaders of patient and people-based research within the NIHR research community. NIHR Senior Investigators are critical to augmenting the ongoing success of NIHR, and developing the health research capability fit for the challenges we must meet.

[Find out more about the NIHR Senior Investigators on their website](#)

Government announces nearly £50m of new funding for dementia research

More people with dementia across the UK will be able to take part in research into the condition. This comes after the Government announces £49.9 million of new funding. The investment will go towards a coordinated network of dementia trials sites across the country.

[Read more](#)

Wellcome targeted funding for researchers of Black, Bangladeshi and Pakistani heritage in the UK

Wellcome are launching £20 million in new funding to support researchers of Black, Bangladeshi and Pakistani heritage in the UK to stay in research and advance their careers. The funding will open in the spring. Researchers at a UK higher education institution can apply at any stage of their career from postdoctorate onwards, up to but not including professorship.

[Learn more about this funding](#)

QNI 'Creating Collaborations'

Are you leading a research project and seeking collaboration? We have launched 'Creating Collaborations' for interested researchers to share details about their developing study with the QNI Community Nursing Research Forum members (820+) to build collaborations with suitable members early in their projects. Building collaborations and nurses' involvement in their design and delivery. Fill out the form on our website and if the request aligns with our objectives, we'll be glad to share it with our members.

[Find out more about Creating Collaborations](#)

Events



NIHR Webinar | Excel at Presenting and Public Speaking

Tuesday, 26 March 2024

Overcome the fear of public speaking at our webinar from 1-2pm on 26 March. Attend to improve your ability to present messages in an engaging way, learn strategies to deal with questions, build interaction and much more. Open to NIHR Academy Members/leaders and publicly funded organisations conducting and supporting clinical research within the UK.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



SAPC Mental Health Special Interest Group Primary Care Mental Health Conference

Wednesday, 15 May 2024, [Keele University](#), Staffordshire

We invite you to share your research with fellow researchers and service users at the forthcoming SAPC Mental Health Special Interest Group - Primary Care Mental Health Conference to be held on Wednesday 15th May 2024. The focus of the conference is: **"what is important in primary care mental health research?"**

We have two excellent keynote speakers confirmed at the event, Dr Adam Geraghty from the University of Southampton and Dr Caroline Mitchell from the University of Sheffield. It will certainly be an event not to be missed.

The day will commence at 9.30am and finish at 3.30pm. Refreshments and lunch will be provided throughout the day and free parking will be available. To reduce the need for private transport, we are offering a free shuttle bus service available from 3.45pm onwards from Keele Hall to Stoke on Trent railway station.

The cost for attending will be £40 for SAPC members and £80 for non-SAPC members. Non-members may be able to [join SAPC](#) and become eligible for the SAPC member rate.

Registration deadline is Monday 6 May 2024

[Register here](#)

Any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Claire Ashmore on c.ashmore@keele.ac.uk.

Communications



Three Schools' Mental Health Programme Newsletters

Find out what's happening with the [Three Schools' Mental Health Programme](#). Sign up to the quarterly newsletter, take a look at the [October edition](#).

[Subscribe to the Three Schools' newsletter here](#)

Subscribe to the SPCR newsletter

Details of publications and dissemination work, related to SPCR funded research, can be shared with the School by emailing Heather Gibbs: h.g.gibbs@keele.ac.uk

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