

**School for  
Primary Care  
Research**

*Increasing the evidence base  
for primary care practice*

**NHS**

***National Institute for  
Health Research***

# Trainees' Induction Pack



**NIHR** at 10

# Welcome

It's a pleasure to Welcome you to the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR). Since its inception, the NIHR has supported training of the next generation of health researchers through their early training. We do not just want to train you academically, we want to prepare you for a longer term research career and we want your experience as a student or fellow to be as good as it can be. Your training lead will provide you with the support to get you through your training.

As a trainee funded by the NIHR you automatically become a member of the NIHR Faculty, which is at the heart of what we do. The Faculty includes all NIHR funded people working in the NHS, universities and registered charities in England. It is a vibrant and unique research community that includes some of our most eminent health researchers from NIHR Investigators to the people who deliver health research.

There is a dedicated webpage on the NIHR Faculty ([www.nihr.ac.uk/our-faculty/](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/our-faculty/)). The page includes a Welcome pack, which will give you an overview of the NIHR and the services it provides as well as other important information, so please take some time to read through it.

**Professor Dame Sally C. Davies**  
**Chief Medical Officer**  
**Chief Scientific Adviser**

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the NIHR School for Primary Care Research, a unique family dedicated to improving primary health care for patients through research excellence.

Since our inception almost a decade ago we have been committed to training and supporting the next generation of primary care researchers. Our multi-disciplinary focus provides the perfect learning environment that is strongly supported by the unique collaboration of the top nine English departments of primary care.

In addition to being a member of the wider NIHR Faculty you will also be able to access a wide range of resources to enhance your training and development through the School and your department. Each host institution has a named training lead to support your transition towards an independent academic career. You will work with leading primary care investigators who are committed to helping you develop as a primary care researcher.

I hope you enjoy your time as a NIHR SPCR student or fellow. Make the most of the available opportunities and we look forward to hearing about all of your future success stories.

**Professor Christian Mallen**  
**NIHR School for Primary Care Research Training Director**  
**Keele University**



## Overview

Established in 2006, the NIHR School for Primary Care Research is a partnership between nine leading academic centres for primary care research in England. Bringing together academics and practitioners from across the country, the School collaborates on cutting edge, topical primary care studies that have an impact both at policy level and in general practices around the country. Our partners are based in primary care departments at the Universities of Bristol, Cambridge, Keele, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Southampton and University College London.

Our mission is to increase the evidence base for primary care practice, and to develop research capacity in primary care.

In addition to conducting high profile research, we attract the best new researchers into our capacity programme and offer trainees support and networking opportunities through an extensive training and events programme.

With renewed NIHR funding for the next five years, the School aims to increase and improve research awareness in the sector, provide strategic leadership to support the development of primary care research and contribute to ongoing efforts to build research capacity amongst partners.

Our research complements other NIHR funding streams and work undertaken in NIHR funded infrastructure units. Studies encompass primary care and general practice, with some research at the interface between primary and secondary care.

Our researchers work within the parameters of the following primary care themes:

- **Disease prevention and diagnosis**
- **Non-communicable disease and ageing**
- **Acute care**
- **Organisation and delivery of care**
- **Research innovation and new technologies.**

## Capacity and development

The School's research capacity and development programme aims to add to rather than replicate the training opportunities provided by the NIHR Training Coordinating Centre (TCC) and other funding agencies such as the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Wellcome Trust.

We offer training opportunities to remedy short-supply in areas of particular methodological importance to primary care research, e.g. statistical expertise, health economics expertise and health psychology expertise. The opportunities take the form of PhD studentships, clinical and non-clinical fellowships.

The SPCR awards are designed to supplement the national schemes led by the NIHR Training Coordinating Centre. They are advertised nationally by the SPCR and awarded after rigorous peer review. Applications are made centrally with candidates indicating their preferred host department. Each university will offer specific training opportunities reflecting their own areas of expertise.





## Directorate

The School's Directorate are here to support you in many practical aspects of your award.

### Senior Scientific Manager

Georgina Fletcher  
georgina.fletcher@phc.ox.ac.uk

### Finance Officer

Karen Rhodes  
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### Communications Officer

Kate Farrington  
katie.farrington@phc.ox.ac.uk

## Training leads

### Training Director

Christian Mallen (Keele)

### University of Bristol

Ali Heawood and Rebecca Barnes

### University of Cambridge

Fiona Walter

### Keele University

Carolyn Chew-Graham

### University of Manchester

Aneez Esmail

### Newcastle University

Barbara Hanratty

### University of Nottingham

Nadeem Qureshi

### University of Oxford

Katherine Tucker and Kay Wang

### University of Southampton

George Lewith and Mike Thomas

### University College London

Elizabeth Murray

## Funding opportunities

### Clinical training awards for ST3 GP trainees

These awards for GP vocational trainees are made to run for two years at ST3 level, subject to the availability of regional support and NHS funding (we fund only the 0.5wte academic component of the training).

### GP career progression awards

With an increasing demand for part-time academic training from clinicians who do not wish to lose clinical competencies, we have introduced part time GP Career Progression awards.

### PhD studentship awards

These awards are available to those with limited primary care experience (e.g. Masters-level training). The awards offer traditional project-specific training in shortage-areas of particular importance to primary care. They focus on non-clinical disciplines (e.g. medical statistics, health economics, health psychology).

### Fellowship awards

These are available to those with some previous research experience, such as those who have worked as research associates in primary care research. However, these awards are not generally based around a specified single project but may involve attachment to a Clinical Trials Unit or similar research grouping involved in a programme of large-scale research. The awards will be open to all disciplines relevant to primary care research, clinical and non-clinical.

## Additional School supported opportunities

### The NIHR Experimental Research Training Camp

is a three-day intense annual event for NIHR trainees from the Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs), Biomedical Research Units (BRUs), Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRCs), Patient Safety Translational Research Centres (PSTRCs) and the School of Primary Care. It is a challenging event that offers workshops, guest speakers who have established research careers as well as poster presentations and opportunities for networking and mentoring.

### The Oxford International Primary Care Research Leadership Programme

was originally established as part of the Brisbane Initiative. It is designed to foster and develop future leaders in primary care research. The programme consists of three residential meetings in Oxford designed to help participants explore different aspects of leadership in primary care research. SPCR

departments are invited to nominate one candidate who has demonstrated the potential to become a future leader in primary care research.

**Transdisciplinary Understanding and Training on Research - Primary Health Care (TUTOR-PHC)** is a one year course with an innovative curriculum in primary health care research skills and interdisciplinary theory and process. It includes a three day symposium in Toronto, online workshops and discussion groups. Participants also have the opportunity to present their research projects to peers and receive interdisciplinary feedback.

**Please visit:** [www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/trainees](http://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/trainees)

## Mentoring programme

At the annual NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) trainees' meeting, training leads are frequently asked about mentoring opportunities for primary healthcare scientists. The majority of our trainees are not medically qualified and as such cannot access mentoring opportunities provided by the Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) or local Vocational Training Schemes (VTS). Recognising the need to provide support and mentorship to primary healthcare scientists, the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) developed a scheme in 2013 to support early/mid stage researchers.

Rather than establishing a separate mentoring scheme to support primary healthcare scientists working within the SPCR, we are working alongside the SAPC to provide additional capacity for SPCR trainees. This builds on the success of the SAPC scheme and provides independent mentoring opportunities within the School.

**Please visit** [www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/trainees/mentoring\\_scheme](http://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/trainees/mentoring_scheme)

## Reporting requirements

As a SPCR trainee you will be expected to:

- Attend the annual School trainees' meeting in September of each year of your award and present a poster of your research in progress.
- Complete an annual monitoring form about your research and training and development.
- Complete a final report at the end of your award.
- Inform the School's Communications Officer when you have a publication (see section on NIHR communications policy). All research resulting from your award must be correctly attributed to the School.

- If your circumstances change e.g. you plan to move to part time, you are on extended sick leave etc and the dates of your award need to be amended you must inform the School's Senior Scientific Manager.

## Communications policy

The NIHR identity guidelines have been produced to ensure consistency across all communications produced by the NIHR and the School. The policy states that all researchers and trainees publishing or presenting work, in any form, should use the correct NIHR funding acknowledgement and disclaimer. This and other branding guidelines can be found in the identity guidelines on the School's website: [www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/links](http://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/links)

The communications process, below, ensures all news, publications, poster and powerpoint presentations, press releases and attribute statements are known to and approved by the NIHR and DH before being published or released. They should include the following funding statement and disclaimer:

**This research is funded by the National Institute of Health Research School for Primary Care Research (NIHR SPCR). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR, the NHS or the Department of Health.**

Press releases are also to include the NIHR boilerplate.

The powerpoint and poster templates are designed to be used to represent all School funded work. These templates are available on the website: [www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/documents](http://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/documents).

When using Twitter to promote research please include the SPCR Twitter handle: @NIHRSPCR



## About the NIHR

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is a large multi-faceted and nationally distributed organisation. It is funded through the Department of Health to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. Together, NIHR people, facilities and systems represent the most integrated clinical research system in the world, driving research from bench to bedside for the benefit of patients and the economy.

Since its establishment, the NIHR has transformed research in the NHS. It has increased the volume of applied health research for the benefit of patients and the public, driven faster translation of basic science discoveries into tangible benefits for patients and the economy, and developed and supported the people who conduct and contribute to applied health research. [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk)

### What is One NIHR?

As the research arm of the NHS, more than 25,000 people engaged in leading research belong to the NIHR, its networks or coordinating centres. All of whom work towards improving the health and wealth of the nation through research as One NIHR. [www.one.nihr.ac.uk/](http://www.one.nihr.ac.uk/)

The NIHR funds many different roles across the whole research pathway. They fund training for healthcare professionals to pursue their research ideas, the investigators that lead on research projects and the research nurses on the ground who deliver research.

NIHR trainees are the researchers of the future. A highly educated health research workforce is a prerequisite for the nation's capability to undertake and attract world-class health research.

### Ways you can promote the NIHR

The NIHR have developed a set of resources to help everyone funded by, supported by and working for the NIHR. These can be found on their website: [www.one.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.one.nihr.ac.uk).

In addition, as a trainee there are some other small

things you can do which collectively can make a big contribution in raising awareness of the NIHR:

- Wear a 'I am NIHR' badge - you can collect one from a number of NIHR locations
- Tell your colleagues that you are funded or supported by the NIHR
- Include your NIHR award title wherever possible
- Share NIHR news with your colleagues and associates
- Take part in the New Media Competition

### Make it clear

The NIHR is committed to making sure that each research study it funds has a clear and concise plain English summary. It is important that this information explains the research as a whole and is easy to read and understand. From May 2014 a good quality plain English summary, submitted as part of the standard application form, became a requirement of NIHR funding. Guidance has been developed for researchers and for board and panel members. Find out more: [www.invo.org.uk/makeitclear/](http://www.invo.org.uk/makeitclear/)

### OK to ask

International Clinical Trials Day (ICTD) is usually held on 20 May every year to mark the anniversary of the start of James Lind's famous trial into the causes of scurvy in 1747. The NIHR celebrates this day with an 'OK to ask' campaign, a call on patients and carers to ask their doctor about NHS research they can take part in. Everyone can get involved in the campaign; patients, medical professionals and the public.

Find out more: [www.nihr.ac.uk/oktoask](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/oktoask)

James Lind Alliance: [www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/](http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/)

University of Manchester's PATient Centred Trials (PACT): [www.population-health.manchester.ac.uk/patientcentredtrials/](http://www.population-health.manchester.ac.uk/patientcentredtrials/)

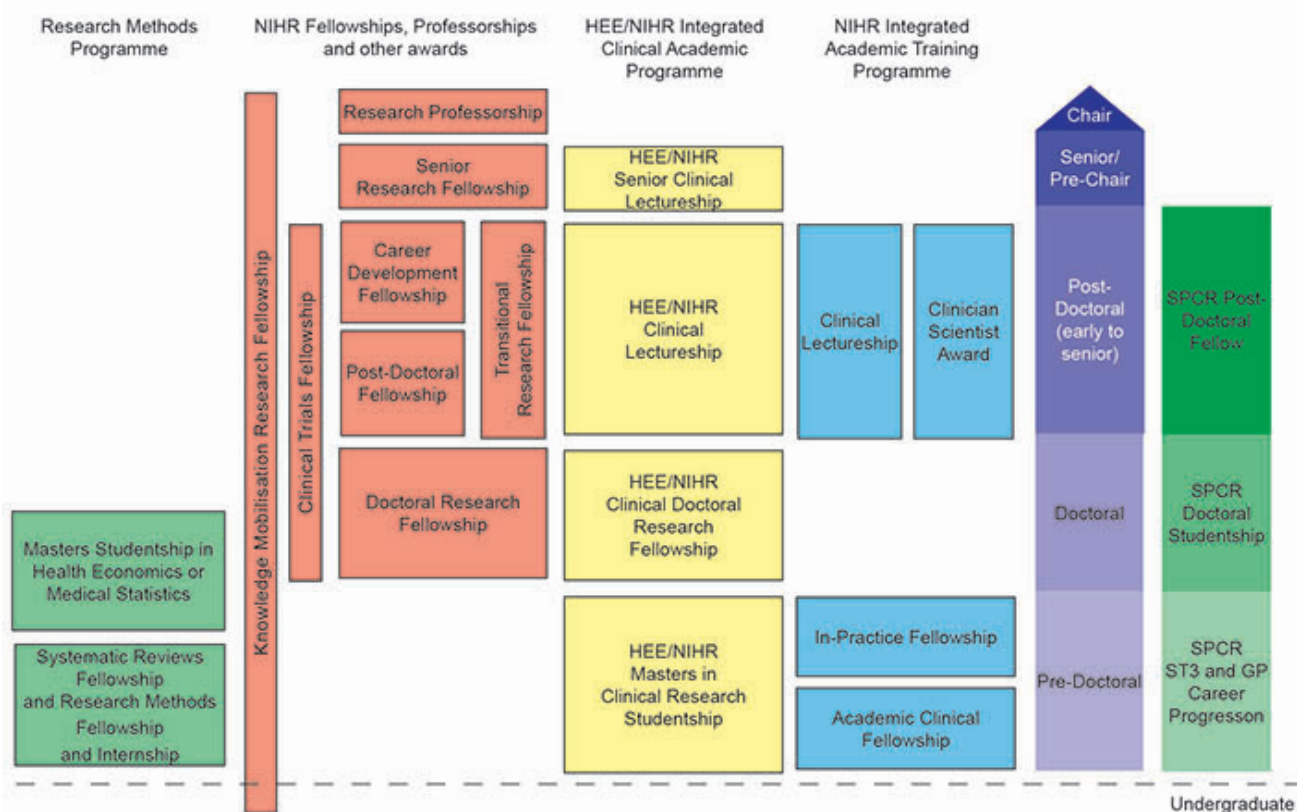
The Faculty World e-magazine focuses on NIHR Faculty members and their achievements and provides news about training and other opportunities. [www.nihr.ac.uk/our-faculty/faculty-world.htm](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/our-faculty/faculty-world.htm)



The diagram illustrates the structure of the Clinical Research Network, centered around three concentric circles representing the core entities: **Patients and Public** (innermost), **NHS Trusts** (middle), and **Universities** (outermost). Surrounding this central core are four main categories, each with specific components and arrows indicating interactions:

- Faculty** (top): Includes **Investigators and Senior Investigators**, **Trainees**, and **Associates**. Arrows point from the central core to these components.
- Infrastructure** (left): Includes **Clinical Research Network** and **Clinical Research Facilities, Centres and Units**. Arrows point from the central core to these components.
- Research** (right): Includes **Research projects and programmes** and **Research Schools**. Arrows point from the central core to these components.
- Systems** (bottom): Includes **Research Information Systems** and **Faster easier clinical research**. Arrows point from the central core to these components.

Methodologists	Fellowships for all	Healthcare Professionals (non-doctors/dentists)	Doctors and Dentists
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## School for Primary Care Research

Website: [www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk)

Twitter: @NIHRSPCR

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