UHCW Research Institutes for Excellence

Institute for Cardio-Metabolic Medicine

Institute for Applied & Translational Technologies in Surgery

Institute for Health Equity & Social Care

Institute for Precision Diagnostics & Translational Medicine

R&D
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Research Funding Newsletter

Nov 2026

NHS
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

Key Highlights

Institutes for Excellence Poster Success at Central England Health Partnership (CEHP) Research Showcase

Congratulations to the research teams from UHCW and Coventry University who received multiple awards in recognition of their outstanding research and collaboration. The COBIx project, led by UHCW's Institute for Precision Diagnostics & Translational Medicine, was awarded Best Poster in the Research, Innovation and Presentation category. In addition, collaborative research evaluating the iCAhRE programme received the"Collaboration in Action" Poster Award, highlighting the strength of partnership working across organisations. Further success came to the Institute for Health Equity and Social Care with the"Public Vote" Poster Award for research exploring barriers to accessing Martha's Rule among diverse communities, reflecting the continued commitment of our researchers to advancing health equity, patient safety and innovation.

UHCW Colleagues receives prestigious NIHR Developing Research Leader Award

Congratulations to Alice Taylor, Dietitian, UHCW NHS Trust, on receiving the 2026 NIHR Developing Research Leaders Award. The programme will support her to develop research leadership skills and embed research within the Trust.
For more on NIHR DRL, **CLICK HERE**.

Institutes for Excellence Represent UHCW at Centre for Doctoral Training in Artificial Intelligence Launch Event

Representatives from the Institutes recently attended the launch of the Centre for Doctoral Training in Artificial Intelligence at Coventry University. Researchers, academics and industry partners explored the opportunities and challenges of AI implementation across healthcare. The event emphasised the importance of collaboration between technology developers, clinicians, patients and NHS services. Following the launch, the Institutes will explore opportunities to work with the Centre to ensure AI research addresses real-world healthcare challenges, supporting the development of impactful, implementable solutions that improve patient care and outcomes.

Professor Faizel Osman Co-Authors Landmark International Guidance on Hybrid AF Ablation

Congratulations to Professor Faizel Osman on co-authoring new international guidance on hybrid AF ablation.

This landmark achievement highlights both his global leadership in cardiovascular research and the growing impact of the Institute for Cardio-Metabolic Medicine (ICMM), demonstrating how UHCW researchers are helping shape NHS care pathways and improve patient outcomes worldwide. Please read the full article **HERE.**

News & Events

New NIHR Policy Introduces 12-Month Resubmission Restriction:
The NIHR has launched a new Application Resubmission Policy restricting resubmission of unsuccessful applications for 12 months unless applicants are invited to resubmit. The policy aims to improve application quality, reduce assessment pressures, and strengthen the efficiency of funding processes. Read the full policy from **HERE**.

Is your research inclusive?
The NIHR Research Support Service (RSS) has launched a Research Inclusion Toolkit aimed at health and social care researchers at all career stages. The toolkit supports researchers to make their studies more inclusive, helping to reduce health inequalities and meet NIHR funding requirements for inclusive research design: NIHR RSS Research Inclusion Toolkit

UHCW Professor Launches New Book Exploring Obesity Beyond GLP-1 Treatments
Professor Tom Barber, Consultant Endocrinologist at UHCW and Professor of Endocrinology at the University of Warwick, launched his new book, Obesity: Life Beyond the GLP-1 Injection, on the 5th of November 2026. The book provides an accessible, evidence-based exploration of obesity, covering topics such as metabolism, the gut microbiome, physical activity, GLP-1 therapies, BMI limitations and weight-related stigma. Emphasising obesity as a complex chronic health condition, it aims to bridge the gap between scientific advances and public understanding.

Subie Scholz Receives NIHR Funding
Congratulations to Subie Scholz, Research and Development Research Sister at UHCW, on securing an NIHR Pre-Application Support Fund (PASF) award. The funding will support the development of her doctoral fellowship application, focusing on workforce inclusion, equitable career progression, and inclusive leadership within the NHS. This achievement marks an important step in her clinical-academic career and reflects UHCW's commitment to supporting research and professional development.

Congratulations to Dr Michael Backhouse as an NIHR Outstanding Research Leader
Congratulations to Dr Michael Backhouse on being recognised through the NIHR's 20th Anniversary Celebrations as one of the UK's outstanding research leaders. Recipient of the NIHR Rising Research Leaders Prize, he has been recognised for his contributions to clinical research, improving outcomes for people with foot and ankle conditions and advancing patient-centred care.

MPFT STARS Programme 2027
Are you interested in developing your research skills and becoming more involved in research and innovation?
The MPFT STARS Programme is supporting staff across the West Midlands to develop research and innovation skills, helping build confidence, knowledge and experience in research. Open to those new to research and those seeking further development, the programme provides a pathway into research activity and career progression. An introductory webinar will be held on 27 January 2027 (12:00-13:00) for staff interested in learning more about the opportunities available and how to get involved. Please REGISTER your place and find eligibility information from **HERE**.

Research Funding Opportunities

(If you intend to apply for this opportunity, please submit an NOI to notify the Research Development Team.)

Funder	Scheme	Funding Type	Career Stage	Research Area	Value	Frequency	Deadline	Submit
NIHR	HSDR - Researcher-led	Project Grant	All	Health and Social Care Delivery	Varies	Tri-annual	20 Jan 2027	NOI
Blood Cancer UK	Project Grants	Project Grant	Independent Researchers	Blood Cancer	Up to £300,000	Bi-annual/Annual	21 Jan 2027	NOI
BHF	Clinical Study	Clinical Trial / Study	Independent Researchers	Cardiovascular	> £500,000	5 times a year	11 Feb 2027	NOI
NIHR	Decarbonisin the health and social care system	Programme	All	Climate, health and sustainability to help reduce carbon emissions and achieve net zero	£5,000,000	Annual	14 Apr 2027	NOI
NIHR	RfPB	Project Grant	NMAHP (Allied Health Professionals)	Under-represented disciplines and specialisms: Allied Health Professionals	Up to £350,000	Annual	14 Apr 2027	NOI
BHF	Project Grant	Project Grant	Post Doctoral Researcher at any stage	Cardiovascular	£500,000	Continous	Continuously (Rolling)	NOI
Wellcome Trust	Discovery Awards	Programme / Team Grant	Established / Senior Researchers & Teams	Any discipline advancing human life, health, and wellbeing	Average ~£3.5 million (over £5 million faces extra scrutiny)	Continuous (assessed 3 times per year)	Continuously (Rolling)	NOI
UKRI / MRC	MRC: research grant: applicant-led	Project / Partnership / Transition Grant	Early-Independence to Senior Investigators	Applicant-led biomedical, clinical, and health research within MRC remit	Variable (no upper limit; 80% fEC for up to 5 years)	Continuous (Open – no closing date)	Continuously (Rolling)	NOI

Career Development Funding Opportunities

Funder	Scheme	Opportunity Type	Career Stage	Purpose	Value	Duration	Deadline	Submit
UKRI / MRC	Professional Doctorate: Clinical Research Training Fellowship (CRTF)	Pre-Doctoral / Doctoral Clinical Fellowship	Registered Healthcare Professionals (Doctors, Nurses, AHPs, Pharmacists, etc.)	Supports registered clinicians to undertake a PhD or professional doctorate and pursue a clinical academic career	80% fEC (salary, tuition fees + research consumables)	2 to 4 years (typically 3 years)	13 Jan, 2027*	NOI
NIHR	Doctoral Award (Cohort 4)	Fellowship	Early-Career Researcher	Develop and advance Doctoral fellowship across health and care research	Salary costs at requested FTE, Training and Development, Laptop	3 years	13 Jan 2027* June 2027 recommended	NOI
NIHR	Postdoctoral Award (Cohort 4)	Career Development Award	Researchers with PhD or submitted PhD thesis; non-professorial postdoctoral stage	Develop and advance postdoctoral research careers across health and care research	Not exceeding £1,200,000	between 2-5 years	14 Jan, 2027*	NOI
NIHR	Future Leader Fellowships (Cohort 2)	Fellowships	Senior Postdoctoral researchers	Support independent research leadership development through funded research and leadership training	up to £1,500,000	7 years	14 Jan, 2027*	NOI
NIHR	Team Science Award (Cohort 4)	Team Development Award	Multi-disciplinary teams	Support teams to develop funding applications	Up to £100,000	Varies	27 Jan 2027	NOI
Academy of Medical Sciences	Cross-Sector Experience Awards	Mobility / Placement Award	Any Career Stage (excluding undergraduates)	Enables health professionals and researchers to work in a different sector (e.g., industry, policy, NHS) to foster innovation	Up to £100,000	3 to 12 months	Nov 2026 – Feb 2027	NOI
Academy of Medical Sciences	Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers	Pump-Priming / Seed Grant	Postdoctoral Clinical Lecturers	Provides research consumables funding to gather preliminary data for competitive longer-term fellowship applications	Up to £40,000	1 to 2 years	Jan-Mar 2027	NOI
Wellcome Trust	Early-Career Awards	Personal Fellowship	Early-Career / Postdoctoral Researchers & Clinicians	Supports researchers ready to design, plan, and deliver an independent project to establish their research identity	Salary + up to £400,000 research expenses	Usually 5 years	Continuously (Rolling)	NOI
Wellcome Trust	Career Development Awards	Personal Fellowship	Mid-Career Researchers & Clinicians (completed clinical training)	Supports mid-career researchers with the potential to become international leaders and drive substantial research programmes	Salary (if eligible) + up to £250,000/year research expenses	Usually 8 years	Continuously (Rolling)	NOI

* Bids should be mostly developed pre-Christmas to be viable

Researcher Spotlight

Subie Scholz is a Research and Development Research Sister at UHCW NHS Trust, with over 20 years of experience in healthcare and clinical research delivery. She is also an NIHR Pre-Doctoral Fellow and NIHR Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Facilitator, with a strong interest in workforce inclusion, wellbeing, and leadership.



In 2024, Subie led a study exploring the impact of meaningful staff recognition as a Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) | DAISY Foundation Fellow and contributed to UHCW's successful Pathway to Excellence® redesignation.

She has also supported research engagement initiatives, including the UHCW Research Café and Research Inclusion Cafés.

Most recently, Subie secured funding through the NIHR Pre-Application Support Fund (PASF), supporting the development of her doctoral fellowship application. Her proposed research will explore the experiences of ethnically diverse healthcare staff and identify approaches to fostering more inclusive workplace cultures and leadership practices.

Institute for Health Equity & Social Care

NHS University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

ihesc@uhcw.nhs.uk

Tips & Guidance

- **Planning a Funding Application** (NIHR): For comprehensive guidance covering research design, funding opportunities, budgeting, regulatory approvals, study setup, knowledge mobilisation, and application development to strengthen competitive research funding submissions, please CLICK HERE.

- **Designing Research** (NIHR): For guidance on developing robust research questions, selecting appropriate methodologies, involving patients and communities, ensuring inclusivity, and maximising impact and funding success, please CLICK HERE.

Recommended Reading

- NIHR Regulatory Approvals and Governance: Explains HRA approval, ethics review, IRAS submissions, study registration, GDPR, and governance requirements.

- UKRI Good Research Resource Hub: It brings together policies, standards and guidance to support researchers, innovators and organisations, nurturing an inclusive research and innovation environment.



Contact & Support

Research Development Team

- 024 7696 6926 | Ext: 26926
- researchgrants@uhcw.nhs.uk
- Research Development website
- 4th Floor Rotunda, UHCW NHS Trust

Research Institutes for Excellence

- Institutes for Excellence website
- 024 7696 6198 | Ext: 26198

Statistical Support

- Need statistical support? Submit the Form.
- Medical.Statistics@uhcw.nhs.uk

or use the QR code



West Midlands Research Support Services

- For expert advice and support on the design and delivery of research, contact NIHR West Midlands RSS

Clinical Evidence Based Information Service (CEBIS)

- Need an evidence search? CEBIS can help.

UHCW Knowledge & Library Services

- Get started with the Library