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

Sep 2026

NHS
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

Key Highlights

UHCW Colleagues Receive Prestigious NIHR Research Awards

Congratulations to Dr Helen Elliott-Mainwaring and Dr Ven Gee Lim on receiving the highly prestigious National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Senior Clinical and Practitioner Research Award (SCPRA). Over the next five years, the award will provide provide protected time to focus on reserach and academic development, lead projects and prepare funding applications.
This superb achievement reflects Helen and Ven's dedication, expertise and commitment to advancing research and improving patient care.
UHCW has now had 7 SCPRA fellows leading post-doctoral research across the Trust.

IBSM Awards 2026 shortlist

Congratulations to the R&D Multi-Omics Clinical Research Platform for being shortlisted for the IBMS Awards 2026! Achieving 2nd place in the 'Best Use of Innovation or Technology' category and earning a highly commended award is a fantastic accomplishment. Well done to the entire team for their outstanding work and innovation!
For more information on the Multi-Omics unit, click here.

PhD and NIHR Pre-Application Support Fund Awarded

Congratulations to Dr Lucy Silvester, Consultant Physiotherapist, on passing her PhD viva with no amendments required, an exceptional achievement. Her research has developed an evidence-based rehabilitation programme for adults recovering from complex traumatic injuries.
Lucy has also recently secured a highly competitive NIHR Pre-Application Support Fund, providing protected time and development opportunities to enable her to prepare further reserach funding applications. This should enable her to continue to advance rehabilitation research, build clinical academic capacity, and improve outcomes for patients recovering from complex traumatic injuries.
For more information on the NIHR Pre-Application Support Fund, click here.

ICMM Researcher selected for Global Diabetes Programme

Congratulations to Dr Tim Robbins who has been successfully awarded a place on the Advanced Treatments & Therapeutics for Diabetes Interventional Diabetes Programme.
This highly competitive programme recruited participants globally, with only 30 places available, making Tim's selection a testament to his growing reputation as an academic clinician and leader in his field. The programme presents opportunities for international collaboration, knowledge exchange and future research partnerships that will help ensure UHCW remains at the forefront of innovation in diabetes treatment.

News & Events

An impressive 57 research proposals were submitted between April and June 2026. A fantastic achievement and a testament to the dedication and collaboration of everyone involved.

Could Virtual Reality Improve the Dialysis Experience?
Dr Emma Murphy, Associate Clinical Professor at the Centre for Care Excellence, UHCW NHS Trust and Coventry University, has been featured by Kidney Research UK (KRUK) for her research exploring whether virtual reality (VR) can improve the dialysis experience.
Funded by a £40,000 KRUK Nurse Start-Up Grant, the study will investigate whether immersive VR experiences can help reduce symptoms such as pain, fatigue, anxiety and low mood during treatment, offering a potential non-drug approach to improving patient wellbeing.
Read the full KRUK feature here.

6 - 7 October 2026 | Venue: Leeds and online
The 2026 NIHR Academy Members' Conference will be held on 6 and 7 October at The Queens Hotel, Leeds. It is a hybrid event with virtual attendance possible. The conference is aimed at early career researchers and you must be an NIHR Academy Member to attend in-person.
Delegates will: hear from inspirational speakers, attend workshops, network with fellow members
The theme this year will explore the shift from analogue to digital within health and social care and also celebrate 20 years of NIHR research.

6-15 October 2026 | Venue: UHCW
R&D will be hosting a Training Week, featuring a range of sessions designed to help staff learn more about research and development. Highlights include *Leading Research*, *Intellectual Property*, and *An Introduction to Patient and Public Involvement*, alongside many other valuable workshops.
To view the full programme and book your place, please click here.

20 October 2026 | Venue: Danubius Hotel Regents Park, London, NW8 7JT
NIHR Health Technology Assessment (HTA) / NIHR RSS social care workshop 2026
Join for an interactive, in-person writing workshop designed to help researchers create robust, successful applications for Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme social care funding.

4 December 2026 | Venue: UHCW Clinical Sciences Building
The 21st Clinical Challenges Forum (CCF) Organised by the Institute for Applied and Translational Technology in Surgery (IATTS), brings together colleagues from UHCW, the University of Warwick, and Coventry University to share research updates and explore new collaborative opportunities that can improve patient outcomes.
The December forum will include updates from the RIDDLE and TERABOTICS studies, insights into CEBIS support for research and clinical activities, and tours of the Gait and Multiomics Laboratories. Please email IATTS@uhcw.nhs.uk to register.

Research Funding Opportunities

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

Funder	Summary	Deadline	Submit
NIHR RfPB	The NIHR RfPB programme is accepting outline applications for researcher-led topics that are concerned with increasing the effectiveness of NHS services, providing value for money and benefiting patients.	28 Oct 2026	NOI
NIHR HTA	Health Technology Assessment Application Development Awards is to support and inform a subsequent outline application to the HTA Programme.	12 Nov 2026	NOI
NIHR HTA	Speech and language therapist-led interventions for school-aged children with developmental language disorder improving communication outcomes and cost-effectiveness.	18 Nov 2026	NOI
NIHR HSDR	The Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme is looking to fund high quality, well designed research to provide findings which meet the needs of NHS and social care managers and leaders.	19 Nov 2026	NOI
NIHR BMBR	NIHR BMBR is inviting researcher to develop highly applicable evaluative methodologies to overcome the systemic logistical and design barriers inherent to conducting robust social care research.	01 Dec 2026	NOI
NIHR PHR	Using ‘big data’ to impact health and health inequalities that uses large linked datasets to understand and improve health, reduce health inequalities, and address challenges such as data access, quality, fairness, privacy, and safe use.	08 Dec 2026	NOI
NIHR HTA	NIHR is looking to fund primary research through our researcher-led workstream. They are interested in receiving proposals addressing any health problem in areas not otherwise well covered in their HTA Programme portfolio.	06 Jan 2027	NOI

Career Development Funding Opportunities

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

Funder	Summary	Deadline	Submit
NHS Innovation Accelerator 2027 Intake	The NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA) Fellowship is a three-year programme designed to help proven innovations achieve wider adoption across the health and care system.	27 Sep 2026	NOI
NIHR SRL	The Senior Research Leader (SRL) Programme is a senior research leadership-level funding opportunity. It supports senior nurses, midwives, allied health professionals (AHPs), pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to improve research capacity and capability in their organisation and beyond. This is a single-stage funding opportunity.	07 Oct 2026	NOI
NIHR Mentoring Programme - Mentees	The NIHR Mentoring Programme provides mentors to support early to mid-career NIHR Academy Members. Your mentor can help you to navigate an academic career and career development.	15 Oct 2026	NOI
NIHR Mentoring Programme - Mentors	Through the NIHR Mentoring Programme, you will support a mentee for 12 months. Your mentee will be an NIHR Academy Member. You will help your mentee to navigate their academic career and career development.	15 Oct 2026	NOI
NIHR Academy	The Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice fund successful applicants to spend a year in the United States (US), conducting internationally comparative research.	01 Nov 2026	NOI
NIHR DSE	Development and Skills Enhancement (DSE) Award is a postdoctoral-level funding opportunity. If you are an early to mid-career researcher, it can support you to gain specific skills and experience to underpin the next phase of your research career.	04 Nov 2026	NOI
NIHR Undergraduate Internship Programme	Designed to engage and attract students from underrepresented professions to consider a career in health and social care research through internship placements hosted by early career researchers.	04 Nov 2026	NOI

Researcher Spotlight



Helen Eftekhari is a cardiology nurse researcher and NIHR Senior Research Leader at UHCW and honorary fellow at the University of Warwick. She has over 25 years experience in cardiology nursing supporting people with self-management and has clinical expertise in Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), syncope, and arrhythmia.

Trained as an advanced nurse practitioner, Helen obtained a British Heart Funded PhD from the University of Warwick in 2024, developing and testing a self-management programme for people with POTS. Through her Senior Research Leader award, she is aiming to increase research opportunities for nurses at UHCW.

Helen has presented at national and international forums, published in international journals, is a peer reviewer for multiple journals, and is on the editorial board for the European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing and the British Journal of Cardiac Nursing.
In addtion, she served on the council of the British Association of Nursing in Cardiovascular Care from 2016-2025, being president from 2022-24.

Helen is a nurse advisor to POTS UK charity and STARS charity.

Institute for Cardio-Metabolic Medicine

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Tips & Guidance

- For useful tips on how to improve grant writing skills, check out the following video Essential Guide to Grant Applications 2025 (EGGA) - YouTube
- NIHR Career Development Awards: Success depends on preparation, structured training, supportive mentorship, organisational commitment, patient involvement, and a clear vision for progression. Please Click Here for Tips & Guidance.

Recommended Reading

- Research Delivery Network 5-Year Strategic Plan
- Inclusive and diverse research workforce
- NIHR Annual Report 2025/26



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