

## FACT SHEET 4

### Funding

Funding sources vary depending on the level of research and the content of the study. Therefore, different funding streams are appropriate depending on the focus of the research.

#### National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Funding

The NIHR is funded by 1% of NHS budget (£1 billion) and is seen as the 'research arm of the NHS'. Its aim is to 'improve the health and wealth of the nation through research'. The NIHR offers both Researcher led work stream AND commissioned work streams.

##### Researcher led work stream

- Includes calls for applications on research topics/questions are directly proposed by researchers.
- Also includes highlight notices or themed calls in areas of specific need.
- Applications prioritised on NHS (or other information) need by advisory panels/boards.
- Regular calls occur up to three times year

##### Commissioned work stream

- These are designed to meet the needs of decision makers, typically but not exclusively within NHS.
- Topics are prioritised by expert panels and commissioning briefs advertised to address identified evidence need.
- Regular calls occur up to three times year

There also a variety of NIHR programmes e.g. Health Services and Delivery Research. See [www.nihr.ac.uk/funding](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding) for more details.

#### Alternative sources of funding

Core sources of funding

- *Medical Research Council Fellowships* - <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/skills-careers/Fellowships/>
- *Wellcome Trust* – changes for 2016 – new tailored PhD programmes AND new Post doctoral clinical scientist fellowships - <https://blog.wellcome.ac.uk/2015/07/15/directors-update-refreshing-our-offer-to-clinicians/>
- *Academy of Medical Sciences* - Starter grants for clinical lecturers – up to £30K - <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/careers/funding-schemes/starter-grants/>

## Research charities offer funding such as:

- Cancer Research UK – Diverse range of fellowships  
<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/funding-for-researchers/our-funding-schemes>
- Prostate Cancer UK - <http://prostatecanceruk.org/research/research-we-fund>
- Kidney Research UK - <https://www.kidneyresearchuk.org/research/apply-for-funding>
- British Heart Foundation - <https://www.bhf.org.uk/research/information-for-researchers/what-we-fund>
- Breast Cancer Now <http://breastcancernow.org/breast-cancer-research/funding-for-researchers/apply-for-funding>

## Additional funding sources include:

- Royal Colleges e.g. RCP - James Maxwell Grant Prohit fellowship - <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/james-maxwell-grant-prohit-fellowship>
- EMBO - <http://www.embo.org/funding-awards>
- Human Frontier Science Program - <http://www.hfsp.org/>
- Federation of European Biomedical Societies - <http://www.febs.org/our-activities/fellowships/>
- European Commission - Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions - Research Fellowship Programme - <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>
- The Francis Crick Institute - <https://www.crick.ac.uk/about-us/jobs-and-study/clinical-fellows/crick-nihr-brcs-clinical-training-fellowships/>

## Additional information see

- <http://www.ecat.ed.ac.uk/clinical-academic-careers/fellowships-and-funding/>
- [www.mrc.ac.uk/documents/pdf/review-of-early-career-clinical-academics](http://www.mrc.ac.uk/documents/pdf/review-of-early-career-clinical-academics)
- <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/developing-our-workforce/clinical-academic-careers>

## Funding application advice

- Horizon scan for approaching deadlines
- Double check the remit of the programme
- Examine previously funded projects – e.g. costs, duration, methodology, team
- Objectively assess whether your project sufficiently meets the criteria, weigh up effort/success chances
- Comprehensively outline the importance of your research and how it meets the funders' agenda
- Tailor your application carefully
- Get feedback on your draft application from a range of sources
- Learn from responses, both positive and negative – what would/could/should you do differently?