

e-bulletin

RDS NW – www.rds-nw.nihr.ac.uk

May 2013

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International Clinical Trials day – 20 May 2013

The NIHR is launching a new campaign to empower patients and encourage engagement in clinical research – and we are calling on all NIHR-funded researchers to take part.

The "It's OK to ask" campaign launches on International Clinical Trials Day (20 May) and is aimed at encouraging patients and their carers to ask their doctors about clinical research and whether it is right for them.

At present, patients are often unaware of clinical research opportunities unless they are asked to take part by a clinician. Whilst the clinician-initiated approach to recruitment has been very successful, the NIHR also wants to empower patients to start conversations about research if they want to. This could have a positive impact on the speed of recruitment to studies and the general research culture across healthcare providers, which would be beneficial to researchers.

Whilst the main part of the campaign will be patient-focused, the NIHR is calling upon individual researchers and research groups to show that they back the drive to empower patients in clinical research.

To show your support, we are asking you to take a picture of yourself with the "OK to ask" campaign badge and do one of the following:

Tweet it to @OfficialNIHR with the hashtag #NIHRoktoask, Email it to oktoask@nihr.ac.uk or Share it via the facebook page at www.facebook.com/NIHRoktoask.

Be creative with your pictures - the bigger, brighter and more unusual the picture, the better! You can find other resources to help you promote the campaign at www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/oktoask.



To apply for free RDS NW research design advice, download the [RDS NW advice request form here](#).

Funding opportunities

NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) - Challenge Awards

Closing date: 29 May 2013

The NIHR i4i Challenge Awards seeks to identify those medical technologies with the greatest potential clinical benefit, along with how they might be integrated into clinical decision and treatment pathways and be implemented on a large scale. Research proposals are invited from NHS organisations or other providers of NHS services in England, in cooperation with commercial and Higher Education Institution (HEI) partners as appropriate, to develop non-pharmaceutical, implantable technologies for sight or hearing loss.

[Further information.](#)

DH Academic Health Science Centres competition

Closing date: 31 May 2013

The role of the newly designated AHSCs will be to increase strategic alignment of NHS providers and their university partner, specifically in world-class research, health education and patient care, in order to improve health and healthcare delivery, including through increased translation of discoveries from basic science into benefits for patients. AHSCs will be able to realise their potential as drivers of economic growth through research partnerships with commercial life science organisations. Designation will be for five years from 1 April 2014.

[Further information.](#)

NIHR/MRC EME Programme – Commissioned work stream

Closing date: 03 June 2013

The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme invites research proposals to evaluate innovative and novel healthcare treatments and tests delivered through industry-academia-NHS collaborations, which address priority areas of unmet need in the following areas: Alcohol and substance misuse in younger people (to exclude nicotine) and Radionuclide imaging in non-malignant disease.

[Further information.](#)

Events and training

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme seminar.

5 June 2013 - Manchester

An event to bring together clinicians, academics and service users.

[Further information.](#)

Showcasing Service User Involvement in Mental Health Research: Implementation of Real-Life Collaborations

17 June 2013 - Manchester

This seminar is one of a series which aims to give researchers a better understanding of funding priorities, application processes and future plans and an opportunity for dialogue with panel members and successful grant holders.

[Further information.](#)

The National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Funding Programme Seminar

4 October 2013 - Liverpool

Presentations to include information on applying to the HTA and EME programmes and how the RDS NW can help you to apply.

[Further information.](#)

Approaching funding deadlines

- [NIHR HS&DR](#) - commissioned - **16 May 2013** - [details](#).
- [NIHR](#) Primary Care Interventions call - **22 May 2013** - [details](#).
- [NIHR HS&DR](#) - commissioned - **30 May 2013** - [details](#).