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Are you considering your first research grant? - register for RDS NW event

Our next event is aimed at health and social care professionals in the North West of England who want to submit to a research grant funding application. This event is intended for people who are less experienced at applying for research funding and may be considering their first research grant submission. This event is not suitable for anyone who has previously had a research grant.

The event is being held at The Foresight Centre in Liverpool on Wednesday 11 March, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. Find out more about the event and [sign up via Eventbrite here](#).

RDS Blog: Using natural experiments to evaluate population health interventions

Population health interventions are essential to reduce health inequalities and tackle other public health priorities, but often due to practical, political and ethical reasons they are not amenable to randomised trial manipulation. Natural experiment approaches are a way of providing evidence in such circumstances, but as our blog this month discusses they need to draw on a combination of methods to deliver results.

[Read the full blog here](#) which has been written by Louise Hayes and Bronia Arnott, Senior Research Methodologists from RDS North East & North Cumbria.

Where can I find out more? If your appetite for natural experiments has been whetted by this blog the MRC provide guidance on how to conduct them: <https://mrc.ukri.org/documents/pdf/natural-experiments-guidance/>

Remember [contact us here](#) at RDS NW for free and confidential advice on your research application and help with natural experiments.

NIHR Podcast: The prevalence of multimorbidity

Prof Bower, School for Primary Care Research academic lead at the University of Manchester, talks about the growing prevalence of multimorbidity, what it means for patients and their care and what we can do differently to tackle it. He highlights some important NIHR-supported research in this area. [Listen here](#).

NIHR joins colleagues to improve UK research culture

Results of a survey of over 4,000 researchers, published by Wellcome Trust, have revealed high levels of stress and insecurity with many researchers experiencing long hours and aggressive working conditions. The survey was published as part of their initiative to reimagine research and improve the culture for all. The next steps of Wellcome's Research Culture work include a series of town hall meetings at universities across the UK to discuss the issues raised in the survey and will culminate in a 'Reimagine Research' summit in London in March. [Find out more](#)

Events and Webinars

[RDS NW Developing funding proposals: First grants](#)

11 March 2020 – Liverpool

Registration now open

[Alzheimer's Society Annual Conference](#)

18 – 19 May 2020 - London

[NHS R&D NW 'Lets Talk Research' Conference](#)

25 June 2020 – Gorton, Manchester

[Comet VIII Meeting](#)

8 - 9 October 2020 – Liverpool

Early registration advised

More event and funding information on our [website here](#).

Approaching funding deadlines

[Research for Patient Benefit Programme – Comp. 41](#)

Closing date – 18 March 2020

Funding opportunities

[NIHR 19/134 Public Health Research Programme Researcher-led](#)

Closing date – 24 March 2020

[MRC Adolescence, Mental Health and the Developing Mind initiative - Pre-call announcement](#)

Open date – 30 March. Closing date - 30 June 2020

Please always check with the event organiser or funder for up-to-date information