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R&D Newsletter - October 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of the R&D Newsletter.
Each month we bring you the latest research updates, training opportunities, upcoming events and other useful insights.



Sian Cowell, Research Inclusion Manager, with colleagues at a recent PPI/E Event

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- Latest News - Research Highlights
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Local Updates



Cambridge University Hospital is part of a DHSC-led pilot linking research participants' NHS numbers to their Edge accounts to improve diversity data. The pilot uses existing data, centrally linked by EDGE, to connect NHS numbers with demographics like age, sex, and postcode, enhancing research inclusivity without collecting new information.

[Learn more about the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) in Health and Care Research Pilot](#)

National Updates



The Health Research Authority has released its final guidance to help researchers and sponsors prepare for upcoming legal changes to the running of clinical trials in the UK.

The changes are due to take effect from 28 April 2026.

[Learn more from hra.nhs.uk](https://hra.nhs.uk)

A link to the YouTube recording of the HRA Research Transparency Webinar can be found at the bottom of the newsletter!

Latest News - Research Highlights

Early Crohn's disease treatment improves quality of life and could save NHS up to £20m per year, study shows

Early Crohn's disease treatment improves quality of life and could save NHS up to £20m per year, study shows 23 October 2025 A team of doctors in Cambridge are calling for changes to how Crohn's disease is treated following an economic analysis of recent ground-breaking research. The analysis shows that early effective treatment of newly diagnosed Crohn's disease and preventing ...

[Read more](#)

Cambridge Hospital begins innovative liver cancer treatment for first NHS patients in Europe



Cambridge Hospital begins innovative liver cancer treatment for first NHS patients in Europe 22 October 2025 Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CUH) has become the first hospital in Europe to deliver histotripsy treatment to a patient outside of a clinical trial, after being fast-tracked by the Government - marking a major milestone in NHS cancer care. The pioneering procedure ...

[Read more](#)

'Disease in a dish' study of progressive MS finds critical role for unusual type of brain cell

'Disease in a dish' study of progressive MS finds critical role for unusual type of brain cell Photo credit: Adobe 10 October 2025 Scientists have identified an unusual type of brain cell that may play a vital role in progressive multiple sclerosis (MS), likely contributing to the persistent inflammation characteristic of the disease. The discovery, supported by the NIHR Cambridge ...

[Read more](#)

Funding, Fellowships and Opportunities

FUNDED BY

NIHR | National Institute for
Health and Care Research

[Latest NIHR funding opportunities](#)

Policy Research Programme

[NIHR Work and Health Research Awards Round 2](#)

Research Programme for Social Care (RPSC)

[RPSC - September 2025](#)

Themed call

[Early action to prevent poor health outcomes](#)

Read the [full list of funding opportunities](#).



What: a new Research Grant Collaboration Agreement has been endorsed by the HRA for immediate use

Who: NHS and HSC organisations, and higher education institutions, who collaborate together on non-commercial healthcare research projects

Where: UK wide (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)

When: for use from Thursday 4 September 2025

A new Research Grant Collaboration Agreement has been endorsed by the Health Research Authority for use across the UK.

The contract was developed by the Research and Development Forum's [Research Contracts Group](#) and endorsed by the Four Nations Contracting Leads.

The template contract is [now available on the IRAS website](#).

We recommend that this is used as the contract between NHS and HSC organisations, and higher education institutions, which have jointly received funding and are collaborating on a research project taking place in the NHS or HSC.

The template is designed to complement the suite of existing Brunswick agreement templates on the [Association of Research Managers and Administrators \(ARMA\) website](#) and [model non-commercial agreement templates](#) on the IRAS website.

If your study is being grant funded by the [National Institute of Health and Care Research](#), there are optional clauses to choose, and alternative clauses which can be selected instead for other funders, as appropriate.

The aim of this template is to help speed up and streamline contracting on research collaborations. It does not replace the model non-commercial agreement (mNCA), organisation information document (OID) or other template agreements which are between the sponsor and participating NHS or HSC organisations.

Feedback and queries on the Research Grant Collaboration Agreement can be shared with the Research and Development Forum Contracts Group by emailing info@rdforum.org.uk

[View the Research Grant Collaboration Agreement](#)



[The Evelyn Trust](#) is a grant-making charity supporting medical research and health & wellbeing projects in Cambridgeshire.

Each year The Trust make grants of up to £250,000 totalling between £500,000 and about £1.5 million.

The Trust aims to benefit a broad range of projects over time. Grants must benefit charitable or non-profit making organizations. Grants must be significant in the context of the project and are one-off for that particular project.

The two large grant programmes are for (1) Medical Research and (2) Health and Wellbeing projects; the application deadline for both is **14th November 2025**.

There is a simple first-stage process involving an outline application, the results of which will be known by the end of **January 2026**.

Successful applicants will be invited to the second stage, where they are asked to submit a full application with a detailed budget by early **April 2026**.

Outcomes are communicated by the end of **June 2026**, with funding available from as early as **July 2026**. It may help to know that in 2025, successful Medical Research grants were awarded an average of £133,000.

Find out more about the grant guidelines and application process below:

Our Grants - The Evelyn Trust



Kidney disease ends here.



Translation Accelerator Kidney Awards

Kidney Research UK > Research > Kidney research grants > Translation Accelerator Kidney Awards

The new Translation Accelerator Kidney Award Scheme (TAKA) will provide funding and support to accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into new, effective solutions to help prevent, protect and treat kidney disease.

These awards will enable researchers to address key scientific and technical questions in kidney-related research, supporting projects with a clearly defined pathway to new therapies, devices, and diagnostics.

Application information

Applications from researchers in UK-based higher education institutions, NHS clinicians and clinical researchers, and allied healthcare professionals. Collaborative approaches and team approaches are encouraged.

Applications will be assessed in two stages; initial expression of interest (EOI) followed by full application.

Expression of interest:

The application process will open on 01 October 2025 for submission of EOI forms which outline the required level of funding, a brief project proposal and a statement of translational impact. Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria, before further review from our independent external panel.

Closing date is 31st October 2025 Kidney Awards

[Learn more from Kidney Research UK](#)

Courses and Training

Inclusivity training for affiliated health and care research staff

NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research



Inclusivity training for health and care researchers

Six NIHR Biomedical Research Centres: **Barts**, **Birmingham**, **Cambridge**, **Moorfields**, **Oxford** and **Oxford Health** in collaboration bring to you a series of engaging online training sessions with experts and researchers to help embed inclusion in your research.



Reaching Beyond the Usual: Inclusive approaches to research with a focus on intersectionality with **Cherish Boxall**

Mon 17 Nov 2025 - 10.00 am-11.30 am

Help researchers optimise research accessibility and consider a variety of approaches that take into account the interconnected nature of individuals and groups to enhance equity.

For any questions about this session, please contact:
Andreia Costa, Project Manager, training.ohbrc@psych.ox.ac.uk



Ethnicity Inclusion training with **Prof. Shaun Treweek**

Mon 24 Nov 2025 - 10.30 am-12.00 pm

An informative session on the practical tools needed for ethnicity inclusion in health research. Covering the NIHR INCLUDE Ethnicity Framework, useful resources and researcher(s) case study.

For any questions about this session, please contact:
Mili Kalia, EDI Manager, Mili.Kalia@ouh.nhs.uk



Socio-economic Disadvantage Inclusion training with **Dr. Heidi R Green**

Mon 8 Dec 2025 - 10.00 am-11.30 am

Providing strategies to reduce barriers in health inequalities and understand challenges faced by disadvantaged communities. The session includes a case study and the NIHR INCLUDE Socio-economic Disadvantage Framework.

For any questions about this session, please contact:
Georgina Norris, PPIE Coordinator, georgina.norris3@nhs.net

We will be repeating these sessions in 2026!

Six NIHR Biomedical Research Centres: **Barts**, **Birmingham**, **Cambridge**, **Moorfields**, **Oxford** and **Oxford Health** in collaboration bring to you a series of engaging online training sessions with experts and researchers to help embed inclusion in your research.

- Reaching Beyond the Usual: Inclusive approaches to research with a focus on intersectionality with Cherish Boxall - Mon 17 Nov, 10am to 11.30am
- Ethnicity Inclusion training with Prof. Shaun Treweek - Mon 24 Nov, 10.30am to 12.00pm
- Socio-economic Disadvantage Inclusion training with Dr Heidi R Green - Mon 8 Dec, 10am to 11.30am

These sessions are for affiliated research staff **ONLY**, the training is free but has been funded by the BRC's listed above (NIHR Cambridge BRC, includes East Anglia research staff).

The three sessions will be repeated again in 2026. Please complete the [Expression of Interest form](#) and indicate you are interested in hearing about 2026 dates, once available. To book or if you have any questions, email Georgina: georgina.norris3@nhs.net



BRC Data Science and Population Health Theme and Office for Translational Research Workshop

Software as a Medical Device - 13th November 2025

In-person event | 10am start

Agenda

- Introduction, aims and goals, overview of OTR - Anita Petiot
- Regulatory support, what is a medical device and software as a medical device - Reza Salek
- Presentation by Cognidox eQMS (Quality Management)
- IP by Cambridge Enterprise
- 1-on-1 clinic answer questions for individual staff/students

Location: Biomedical Campus (exact venue to be confirmed closer to the date).

To secure a place, please contact: ea35@medschl.cam.ac.uk and cc bg339@cam.ca.uk

Upcoming Events

NIHR | National Institute for
Health and Care Research

Research Inclusion webinar series

Breaking Barriers, Building an Inclusion Culture

3 November 2025 | Online



Please join us for the next in our series of Research Inclusion webinars, exploring work happening around the East of England to increase research opportunities for under-represented people.

For: All health and care research staff in the East of England

When: Monday 3 November 2025, 11:00-12:00

Where: Online

This session will look at the work of the Luton, Essex & Herts Valley Agile team and will focus specifically on getting their Mobile research unit up and running, their work with local Mosques, and their 'Mega event' engagement events.

Please register below to receive details on how to join.

[Register to attend](#)

Don't miss out on this free in-person public event!

Thursday 20 November 2025

Public open event on Thursday 20 November 2025

Translational research in infants, children and young people



Afternoon talks: 4.00pm to 5.00pm



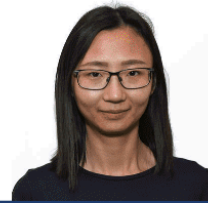

Poster exhibition and refreshments: 5.10pm to 5.50pm

Evening talks: 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Many common physical and mental health conditions develop or begin to develop during infancy and childhood, adversely affecting life experiences and outcomes for children and adults alike.

However, the early years also offer opportunities for diagnosis, early treatment or other interventions that can improve outcomes, preventing the development of health conditions or reducing their impact.

Join three Cambridge researchers, either in the afternoon (4-5pm) or evening (6-7pm) who have specialised in research in infants, children and young people research (CYP).

			
Dr. Anna Moore Winter Early Detection, Better Outcomes: How Big Data is Transforming Children's Mental Health Research	Dr. Kate Baker How Rare Disorders in Childhood affect Brain Development and Learning	Chenqu Suo How A Young Patient's Diagnostic Journey Transformed our Understanding of a Rare Disease, CRMO	Poster exhibition -chat with Infant and CYP researchers over light refreshments in-between the repeated talks

How to book

Register for only **ONE** session on Eventbrite
<https://bit.ly/CYPafter>
<https://bit.ly/CYPeve>

Venue

The Hexagon,
 Frank Lee Centre
 Addenbrooke's Hospital
 Cambs, CB2 0SN

More info

Contact Georgina
georgina.norris3@nhs.net



www.cambridgebrc.nihr.ac.uk

Book via: bit.ly/CYPafterEve

Forging Your Research Pathway: 'Exploring development opportunities with the NIHR and beyond'



Online Event - 22nd January 2026 - 13.00 - 16.30pm **Save the date!**

This half-day event is aimed at alumni of the Associate PI Scheme, the Principal Investigator Pipeline Programme (PIPP) and Clinician Researcher Credentials Framework as well as anyone interested in exploring their next steps in health and care research.

Join us to:

- Hear inspiring alumni stories and career journeys
- Explore development opportunities with the NIHR and beyond
- Gain practical guidance on progressing your research career

Interested in attending?

Please save the date for now and if you would like to receive further information about the event and how to register, please add your details to this [Expression of Interest Form](#) and we will contact you as soon as more details are available.

Who can attend the event?

Whilst the event and agenda are primarily aimed at Alumni, we do still want to encourage Health and Care professionals to feel welcomed - the event is open to all.

If you have any questions, please email the Associate PI Scheme Team at associatepisceme@nihr.ac.uk

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Update

This month our Research Inclusion Manager, Sian Cowell has been visiting various health research events across the Eastern Region & beyond ... including a Women's Health Event in Huntingdon, a Health Research Inclusion Day at the local Mosque and a conference in Sheffield highlighting the importance of understanding equity when recruiting research participants onto a study.



To contact Sian

Other



Research transparency event recording

If you missed the recent Research Transparency Webinar, focusing on the changes that researchers need to prepare for when the [clinical trials regulations](#) come into effect on 28 April 2026, please find a link to the recording below.

Key points:

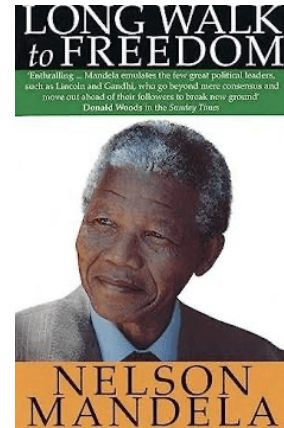
- the perceived barriers to sharing results with participants, and how to overcome them
- the key principles of sharing results with participants, and clarity on HRA approvals requirements
- a case study example of what good participant feedback looks like and the importance of patient and public involvement
- the research transparency changes to the new clinical trials regulations that will come into effect in April 2026

[Watch recording on YouTube](#)

R&D Book Club

This month's recommendation comes from Gail Holloway, Patient Public Involvement Coordinator who said 'As well as the deeply inspirational message behind the book, I was mesmerised by the snake descriptions, they really left me recoiling in disbelief'

Long Walk to Freedom - Nelson Mandela



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to the newsletter

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