

View this in your browser.

R&D Newsletter - November 2025

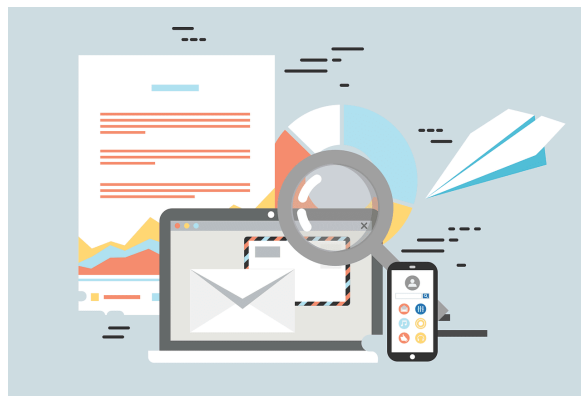
Welcome to the latest edition of the R&D Newsletter.
Each month we bring you the latest research updates, training opportunities, upcoming events and other useful insights.



Dr Kate Baker, programme leader at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, speaking at our recent public open evening about Paediatric Translational Research.

Contents

- Research Updates (local & national)
- Latest News
- Funding, Fellowships & Opportunities
- Courses and Training
- Upcoming Events
- EDI Update
- R&D Book Club



Research Updates



Local Updates

GCP Certification Uploads to EDGE

The CUH Research and Development Department has transitioned from ReDA to EDGE for study set-up and management procedures for all portfolio and non-portfolio research

studies taking place at CUH.

From **Monday 12th January 2026**, **CVs and GCP certificates** will be managed via **EDGE**. Please note: this change applies **only to CVs and GCP certificates** – not to Trial Master Files, Investigator Site Files, or Pharmacy Files.

For existing EDGE users

- Check that your **CV and GCP certificates** have been uploaded to EDGE.
- Guidance is available by logging in to EDGE, selecting '**Documents**' from the left-hand menu, and then '**CUH EDGE User Guides**'.

For new EDGE users

- The CUH EDGE Team is offering a series of **online and classroom-based training sessions** and **drop-in sessions** throughout 2025/26 for all research staff.
- Contact the CUH EDGE Team at cuh.edge@nhs.net for training availability or any queries.

Book your GCP training

- Book your course via the **NIHR website**.
- For questions about your GCP certificate, renewal dates, or other queries, contact cuh.gcptraining@nhs.net.

Early phase and late phase PIs wanted

As part of CUH's strategy and the ambition articulated in the [Life Sciences Sector Plan - GOV.UK](#) to boost clinical trials expertise on campus, Cambridge BRC are looking to identify research-active NHS consultants or academics who would be interested to do more:

- Early phase clinical trials (phase 1b/2a) or experimental medicine studies
- Later phase commercial trials (phase 3 or 4)

We are looking for new ways to provide support in terms of training, access to research nurses and also pump-priming salary support for these activities. There is no commitment as this stage – but if anyone is interested then please contact amy.keeble1@nhs.net

Important News - NEW Research Study Metrics

Early this year the Government announced a commitment to speed up the set-up of clinical trials. As part of this commitment, sites in England are expected to recruit their first participant for a study within 90-days of a study receiving regulatory approval, or the

site being selected to take part, whichever comes later. To enable reporting of the performance of NHS trusts in England against the 90-day target, all sites will be measured on research study data held on the NIHR portfolio.

This metric comprises two distinct stages of site set-up:

1. Time from HRA approval or date site selected, to site opening - target is 60 days.
2. Time from site opening to first participant recruited - target is 30 days.

DHSC strongly advise sites to begin set up processes as soon as possible in parallel to regulatory assessments to help them meet the target of site opening within 60 days. From April 2026, the RDN's funding model in England will allocate 20% of delivery funding towards achieving these performance metrics, improving study delivery and driving growth. Our Research Nurses are supported by RDN funding so it is important that we actively strive to achieve these metrics.

NEW HRA Site Selection Letter for Commercial Studies

The HRA will soon be introducing a new site selection letter for commercially sponsored studies. The aim of this letter is to obtain a commitment to begin site set up activities when a site is selected, so that regulatory activities are conducted in parallel alongside a site assessing their capacity and capability to deliver the study. This means that feasibility should be conducted at an earlier stage during pre-site selection discussions, before a commitment to site selection is made.

The HRA understand this will be a culture change for many NHS organisations who, having been used to having approved documents as part of assessment, will be assessing their capacity and capability on documents not yet approved. The national amendments process already acknowledges that amendments can be implemented subject to regulatory approvals and are therefore assessed in parallel. This also paves the way for eventual removal of the local information pack, which has typically signified the start of a site set up.

R&D are involved in these conversations and will update our researchers and support services when more is announced.

HRA 'Plan and Manage' Service

Researchers will be familiar with using IRAS for their regulatory submissions. The HRA are developing a new digital service called 'Plan and Manage' Health and Care Research which is expected to be fully operational by Summer 2027.

This is a long awaited transition that will digitise the end-to-end research journey, allowing users to plan and prepare new research, make changes to existing research and

review and approve research applications in a seamless way.

The transition will occur in stages with different categories of studies and we will announce and support researchers as these arise.



National Updates

New NIHR sex and gender in research policy launching soon.

As of 10 November 2025, NIHR domestic research applications must account for sex and gender. This [policy](#) follows the introduction of inclusive research design requirements in 2024 and is the next step in NIHR becoming an inclusive funder.

See [policy](#) and [application guidance](#) for further details.



Video: How the new RDN funding model works

The new [RDN funding model](#), launching in April 2026, will standardise how funding is distributed to NHS Trusts and wider care settings across England. Delivery organisations are being supported by their RRDN teams with full implementation planning drop-in sessions, finance advice, and supporting materials.

Watch the video linked below to understand how the new funding model will work in practice. If you have any questions please contact our team at oe.rrdn@nihr.ac.uk

Watch the video



It is now just less than 6 months until the [most significant update to UK clinical trials regulations](#) in two decades come into force.

Sponsors, researchers and anyone involved in setting up and running clinical trials of medicines in the UK must follow the amended regulations from **28 April 2026**.

HRA have published [final guidance](#) covering the areas of the regulations which have been a key focus. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has published [separate guidance](#) covering the key areas of the regulations which they have been focusing on.

Both organisations will continue to share information in the lead up to the deadline to ensure there is an adequate amount of support available.

Janet Messer, Director of Approvals at the HRA, and James Pound, Interim Executive Director, Innovation and Compliance at the MHRA, have written a blog to mark the countdown. Their blog explores the benefits of the updated regulations, our joint commitment to support their successful implementation, a look ahead to the next six months, and information for sponsors and researchers on how to start preparing now.

[Link to blog](#)

Research transparency event recording

If you missed the recent Research Transparency Webinar, focusing on the [clinical trials regulation](#) changes that 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

Guidance for developing and submitting an inclusion and diversity plan second draft



HRA are looking for more studies to join their pilot to help develop draft inclusion and diversity guidance. The pilot is for sponsors and researchers who are invited to develop an Inclusion and Diversity Plan and submit it as part of an application for review by a REC.

We launched the pilot in May following the publication of the [updated draft of guidance](#) for how to develop an Inclusion and Diversity Plan.

Five studies taking part in the pilot have now submitted plans with their applications, and they have been reviewed by an ethics committee.

We're currently gathering feedback from the sponsors, researchers and ethics committee members on the experience of developing a plan and reviewing a plan as part of an application.

Ahead of the pilot closing, we would like more studies to take part. If you're a sponsor or researcher who will be submitting an application between now and the end of 2025 and would like to get involved, please email engagement.team@hra.nhs.uk

Launch of advisory group on simplified arrangements for consent

An advisory group and review network has been established to help HRA develop a set of principles for simplified arrangements for seeking and evidencing consent in low-intervention trials.

The advisory group, which met for the first time last week, is made up of 12 members and includes HRA staff, members of Research Ethics Committees (RECs), researchers and sponsors, legal experts, and members of the public. The group will be supported by a wider review network who will offer additional insights and expertise.

The principles they're developing will provide guidance for those looking to use simplified arrangements and will assist REC members in evaluating the ethical considerations of using simplified arrangements.

[To find out more](#)

Latest News

[NIHR launches £13.7m investment into brain tumour research, with Cambridge researcher to have crucial role](#)

NIHR launches £13.7m investment into brain tumour research, with Cambridge researcher to have crucial role 19 December 2025 The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) has today announced a £13.7 million investment that will support ground-breaking research to develop novel brain tumour treatments in the UK, with Cambridge researcher, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgical Oncology, Richard Mair, to have ...



[Read more](#)

[Looking back over 2025: a year in highlights](#)



Thank you Researchers and Participants! As 2025 draws to a close, we've put together a snapshot of some of our key research stories over the year. We'd like to thank everyone who took part in our research over 2025 - from the researchers who started it, to the support services behind the scenes and of course the patients and members ...

[Read more](#)

[Detection of heart disease can be improved by using new measurements, Cambridge researchers show](#)

Detection of heart disease can be improved by using new measurements, Cambridge researchers show Doctors use information about a person's age, cholesterol, and blood pressure to predict who might develop cardiovascular disease (CVD) and prescribe medication, for example, statins to try to prevent CVD in people predicted to be at high risk. Technological advancements now make it possible to cheaply ...



[Read more](#)

Funding, Fellowships and Opportunities

FUNDED BY

NIHR | National Institute for
Health and Care Research

1) Bitesize webinar series on NIHR Personal Awards

Advice and guidance for anyone working in public health, social care, local authorities and the voluntary sector who is thinking of applying for an NIHR Personal Award. Find out about the awards, what the application process entails and what support is available to you before you submit your application. There will also be a Q&A session with experts and existing award holders.

45min webinars will be on applying for:

- NIHR Personal Awards (overview)
- NIHR Predoctoral Award
- NIHR Doctoral Award
- NIHR Postdoctoral Award

There will also be an additional webinar on how to write a narrative CV.

Full details can be found on the [NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health website](#).

2) UK-wide partnership with the Addictions Healthcare Goals programme

We would like to share details of a new UK-wide partnership between the NIHR and Office for Life Sciences (OLS) [Addiction Healthcare Goals programme](#) to support individuals from across the UK develop the skills to deliver innovative drug and alcohol addiction research.

Through this exciting new partnership, individuals can apply to upcoming career development opportunities at pre-doctoral, doctoral and post-doctoral levels; including the following awards:

- [NIHR Pre-application Support Fund](#) - Cohort 7 now open
- [NIHR Doctoral Award](#) - Cohort 2 now open
- [NIHR Development and Skills Enhancement \(DSE\) Award](#) (postdoctoral level award) - due to open in **December 2025**
- [NIHR Predoctoral Award](#) - due to open in **January 2026**

We encourage applications from a broad range of groups, disciplines, professions, and sectors.

Visit our website for further details about the recent announcement: [New research partnership to tackle drug and alcohol addiction](#).



NIHR EAST OF ENGLAND RRDN

PPIE INNOVATION GRANT SCHEME REPOSITORY

LAUNCHES
MONDAY 17TH
NOVEMBER
2025

NIHR Research Delivery Network
PPIE Innovation Grant Scheme Repository

BY ACCESSING THE REPOSITORY YOU CAN:

- LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN FUNDED THROUGH THE SCHEME
- SEE POSTERS CREATED FOR THE PROJECTS
- VIEW PROJECTS BY ORGANISATION, LOCATION OR TARGETED UNDERSERVED GROUP

future.nhs.uk/NIHREoE_RRDN_PPIEGrantRepository

The NIHR East of England PPIE Innovation Grant Repository is now LIVE and available to access!

To give greater visibility of the projects that the scheme has funded since 2022, we are excited to share that the NIHR East of England RRDN has created the PPIE Innovation Grant Repository! We hope the repository will be beneficial for regional colleagues to support diversity and inclusion as well as lead to better collaboration.

The repository lists the name of each project, a basic summary and the end of project Poster. The workspace will also contain a spreadsheet naming all projects (to provide a high level overview) and it will list the project lead's name and email address. It has been created so that projects can be searched and/or viewed by type of organisation (Trust, Primary Care, School, etc), geographical location and people group the project reached such as Children and Young People, specific health conditions, people living in areas of high deprivation and ethnic minority groups.

Attached is a [user-guide](#) on how to set up an account for Futures as well as how to access and navigate the workspace. Should you have any questions and/or issues accessing the repository, please e-mail eo.e.rrdn@nihr.ac.uk. If you are interested in learning more about a specific project, please contact the named project lead directly.

The hope is that this resource will be useful in learning more about the array of projects the scheme has supported!

[EoE PPIE Innovation Grant Repository](#)

Courses and Training

Inclusivity training for affiliated health and care research staff

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.

If you are a researcher who is affiliated with any of the six BRC's above (NIHR Cambridge BRC, includes research staff based in East Anglia) you can book a place on these sessions, via the Online poster link below. We will be re-running these sessions in 2026!

- **Socio-economic Disadvantage Inclusion** training with Dr Heidi R Green - Mon 8 Dec, 10am to 11.30am

Online poster with booking links: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/0ea3f857-cb7b-45c2-9503-b7ca7344b1c1>

If you have any questions would like to hear about 2026 dates, when available, please email Georgina: georgina.norris3@nhs.net

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.



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!



The NIHR is hosting the online event, Forging Your Research Pathway: Exploring development opportunities with the NIHR and beyond on Thursday 22nd January 2026, 1.00pm to 4.30pm

This 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

To receive further information about the event and to register, click on '**Reserve a Space**' below.

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

Reserve a Space

Upcoming Events



People, Culture, and Environment Conference

Tuesday 9 December 2025

09:30 - 15:30

William Harvey Lecture
Theatre, Clinical School and
online.

'People at the Centre: A Great Place to Do Great Work'

Open to all staff, researchers and students, the day will include talks, panel discussions, posters and networking, all focused on how we create a great place to do great work. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

'Our goal is to celebrate what makes our community thrive – putting people first to build a workplace where everyone can succeed, grow, and make a difference. Bringing together leaders, researchers, students and professionals in a series of talks and panel discussions, there will also be a EDI and Research Culture Presentation Awards 2025'

To sign up for the conference, please use the links below:

In-Person Bookings: [School of Clinical Medicine HR Training - People, Culture, and Environment Conference - Tue 9 Dec 2025](#)

Online Bookings: [School of Clinical Medicine HR Training - People, Culture, and Environment Conference - Tue 9 Dec 2025](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to: csedi@admin.cam.ac.uk

From our free webinar series | Your health, our research: short talks, big impact

Who's really in charge? The gut microbiome's secret role in autoimmunity

Discover how understanding the gut could change the future of autoimmune disease treatment.

 Tuesday 2 December | 6-7pm

with Prof Palak Trivedi
University of Birmingham



More than 100 years ago, Nobel Prize winning scientist Paul Ehrlich suggested that the immune system might sometimes attack the body itself – an idea that shocked people at the time. Today, we know this happens in autoimmune diseases, which affect about 4% of people in the world. This leads to conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, autoimmune liver disease, multiple sclerosis, and inflammatory bowel disease.

Many scientists believe changes in the gut microbiome – caused by what we eat, where we live, and our environment – might throw the immune system off balance.

In this webinar, we'll discuss:

- How the gut microbiome and immune system communicate
- How these interactions contribute to the development of autoimmune diseases
- Possible ways to treat autoimmunity by targeting the gut microbiome

Join us to discover how understanding the gut could change the future of autoimmune disease treatment – no science background required.

Our expert

This talk will be delivered by Professor Palak Trivedi, Professor of Cholestatic and Immune-mediated Liver Disease at the University of Birmingham, Honorary Consultant Hepatologist, and clinician scientist at the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Birmingham Biomedical Research Centre.

To find out more and book a space

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Update

This month Sian Cowell, Research Inclusion Manager, has been planning inclusive events in Great Yarmouth and Thetford along with the Cambridge Clinical Research Facility and Research Delivery Network. She has also been working with researchers to put on an event with a charity in Peterborough that supports the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community.



To contact Sian

In the coming weeks, she will be putting an EDI page up on the Cambridge BRC website, sharing a blog of her EDI activities, vlogs and a resource pack for researchers. She will also prepare a monthly calendar highlighting upcoming events.

Other

Using the Be Part of Research registry to support recruitment to your study

Need help recruiting to your study? More than 650,000 people have signed up to the NIHR's Be Part of Research registry to be contacted about studies that interest them. Researchers can apply for the NIHR to contact suitable volunteers on their behalf. For more information visit the [Be Part of Research website](#)



Cambridge South station pop - ups:

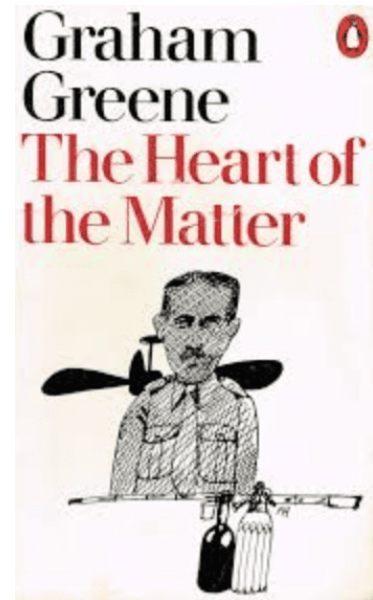
There will be a series of Greater Anglia pop-up sessions this autumn, giving staff the chance to learn more about the new Cambridge South station. The sessions are open to all.

- **Cambridge University Hospitals** – 27 November 2025, 11:30–14:00, Concourse (contact: Rachel Northfield)

R&D Book Club

This month's recommendation comes from Nicola West, Communications Manager, who reread the book over the summer and said 'Set in the 1940s in West Africa, it follows the life of Major Scobie, who is responsible for wartime security. It is a story that beautifully describes love, betrayal, adultery, faith, sin and death and the hopeless climate Scobie finds himself in. It's sad, but in the end you come to understand Scobie's final decision...!'

The Heart of the Matter - Graham Greene



Click to submit an item of interest
to the newsletter

Alternatively, you can e-mail cuh.brccomms@nhs.net using 'Newsletter' in the title or use [this form](#)

To subscribe to the R&D Newsletter



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#)
NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre,
Box 406

Flat 44, Barton House
Hills Road,
Cambridge,
CB2 0QQ