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The NIHR Research Design Service
for Yorkshire & the Humber

'TAKE FIVE' – June 2011

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Welcome to the June 2011 edition of 'Take Five', from the NIHR Research Design Service for Yorkshire and the Humber, a regular email update, groaning with training events, research funding and the latest health news, and websites in neat little sets of five.

Please do feel free to forward this update to colleagues in your workplace.

Upcoming Training Events

For more details about course run by the RDS for the Yorkshire and the Humber and information about how to book a place on one of these courses please see our website: <http://www.rds-yh.nihr.ac.uk/learning-events.aspx>

1. 06 September 2011 [Making Successful Applications to the Research for Patient Benefit \(RfPB\) Programme \(S\)](#) Sheffield
2. 23 June 2011 [Developing a Proposal for a Systematic Review \(S\)](#) Sheffield
3. 05 July 2011 [Writing grant applications using the NIHR standard application form \(S\)](#) Sheffield

Current Awareness

1. [Deadly E. coli infections still rising in Germany](#)

German researchers are still trying to identify the source of a deadly E. coli outbreak after Spanish cucumbers were found not to have the lethal strain. About 470 patients - mostly in north Germany - have the most severe and potentially fatal symptoms. The E. coli has killed 16 people - 15 in Germany and one in Sweden. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-13613487>

2. [SPF15 sun cream 'not strong enough'](#)

People should use stronger sun cream to protect against cancer, a medical journal has warned. [Guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence](#) (NICE) stated that "SPF 15 is sufficient if applied adequately". However, the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin argued that few people apply enough sun cream, and that SPF 30 should be recommended instead. NICE said the guidelines were balanced and for England, not hotter climates. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-13601433>

3. [New push aims to find cure for Aids virus](#)

More investment is needed to find a cure for HIV, the new head of the International Aids Society has said. Bertrand Audoin admits this might take as long as 25 years, but he says a cure is the only way

to keep ahead of the HIV epidemic in the long term during tough financial times. Sunday sees the 30th anniversary of the first medical reports of a new illness. Some experts have warned that talk of a cure could lead to false hopes, and developing a vaccine would be better.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-13605224>

4. GPs and nurses launch charter for end of life care

Health staff have made seven pledges to patients at the end of their lives. The Charter for End of Life Care aims to ensure patients' remaining days are as comfortable as possible. It includes calls for healthcare teams to do all they can to preserve patients' independence, dignity and sense of personal control. The document, created by the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Nursing, will be sent to 8,500 GP practices in England. The charter is the result of collaboration between patients, nurses, GPs and others involved in health and social care.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-13601446>

5. Campaigners warn over incapacity benefit changes

Government changes to the benefits system are already having a devastating effect on people with mental health problems, campaigners have said. The group, including charity Mind, strongly criticised the work capability assessment (WCA), which will be used to reassess people on incapacity benefit. [In a letter to the Guardian](#), they said the changes were causing "huge" distress and had resulted in suicides. Ministers said the test was being kept under regular review by specialists. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-13611298>

Funding Opportunities (Projects and Programmes)

1. [National Institute for Health Research \(NIHR\) – Central Commissioning Facility \(CCF\) Research for Patient Benefit \(RfPB\) Programme](#)

Funds of up to £25 million each year will be available for the scheme, building up to that amount over the next three years as NHS R&D funding is transformed. Projects supported will normally be up to 36 months in duration with a total maximum cost of £250,000.

Amount of funding available: > £100K (Estimated total funds: £25,000,000)

Closing date: 23 September 2011 (Multiple)

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=9743>

2. [National Institute for Health Research \(NIHR\) – Central Commissioning Facility \(CCF\) Programme Development Grants](#)

Programme Development Grants will provide funding of £20k to £100k (over a period of 6 – 18 months).

Amount of funding available: > £100K (Estimated total funds: £2,000,000)

Closing date: 10 October 2011 (Multiple)

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=13536>

3. [MRC - Medical Research Council Research Grants](#)

Under the research grant scheme applicants may request support for a period of up to five years, which can include: - The salary of the principal investigator and co-investigators - Support for additional posts - research, technical or other consumables - Equipment - Travel costs - Data preservation, data sharing and dissemination costs. The budget for research grant awards will not typically exceed £1 million.

Amount of funding available: > £100K (Estimated total funds: £1,000,000)

Closing date: 01 June 2011 (Multiple)

Infections and Immunity: 1st June 2011

Population and Systems Medicine Board: 8th June 2011

Neurosciences and Mental Health: 22nd June 2011

Molecular and Cellular Medicine: 31 August 2011

Infections and Immunity: 07 September 2011
Population and Systems Medicine Board: 14 September 2011
Neurosciences and Mental Health: 28 September 2011
Duration: > 3 years
<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=6728>

4. [National Institute for Health Research \(NIHR\), Trials and Studies Co-ordinating Centre \(NETSCC\) Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme](#)

Although there is no limit to the amount of money you can ask for on one proposal, applicants should be aware that they will be competing for limited funds. There are no fixed limits on the duration of projects or funding, and proposals should be tailored to fully address the problem. However, applicants should balance the pressing need for the information with the need to follow participants up for long enough to measure important outcomes.

Amount of funding available: not specified

Closing date: 27 July 2011 (Multiple)

Duration: unspecified

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=12453>

5. [MRC - Medical Research Council Methodology Research Programme](#)

All proposals anticipating an MRC expenditure greater than £1.2 million should be discussed with the Programme Manager for MRP before submission.

Amount of funding available: > £100K (Estimated total funds: £1,200,000)

Closing date: apply anytime

Duration: unspecified

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=15820>

Funding Opportunities (Fellowships)

1. [British Heart Foundation Clinical Research Training Fellowship](#)

Awards may include: Salary of applicant; Research consumables, directly attributable to the project, usually less than £10,000 per year.

Amount of funding available: £50K - £100K

Closing date: Apply Anytime

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=9577>

2. [British Skin Foundation Fellowship](#)

The BSF Fellowship is to support a clinician at a U.K or R.O.I based institution. The BSF Fellowship is a fixed amount of £62,000. No 'top-ups' or extensions are available for any reason. The maximum duration of the BSF Fellowship is 1 year

Amount of funding available: £50K - £100K

Closing date: 26 August 2011

Duration: 6 months - 1 year

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=1941>

3. [Kidney Research UK Career Development Fellowship](#)

Financial support will be based upon an appropriate point on current NHS or University pay scales. An allowance for consumables will be available.

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 25 November 2011

Duration: unspecified

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=7198>

4. [Alzheimer's Research UK Senior Research Fellowship](#)
 This scheme can cover Fellow salary, support staff and running costs up to a total of £330,000 over three years. Prospective Fellows must have secured a sponsor (a senior established investigator in the institution where the Fellowship is to be held). Fellowships must be applied for by the prospective Fellow, not the sponsor. There is one application round each year.
 Amount of funding available: > £100K
 Closing date: 15 January 2012
 Duration: unspecified
<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=14896>

5. [MRC - Medical Research Council MRC/British Lung Foundation Clinical Research Training Fellowships](#)
 At the pre-doctoral level, the fellowship provides a competitive personal salary up to but not including NHS consultant level, and a research training support grant of up to £15,000 per year (or £45,000 over the three year period). This may cover consumables, PhD fees, equipment, conference travel, other course fees; however, each item must be separately costed and justified. At the post-doctoral level, the fellowship provides a competitive personal salary, up to but not including NHS consultant level, research expenses, and travel costs at an appropriate level for the research, under full economic costs (FEC).
 Amount of funding available: £50K - £100K
 Closing date: 15 September 2011
 Duration: 1 year - 3 years
<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=13683>

Funding Opportunities (Studentships)

1. [Alzheimer's Research UK PhD Scholarship](#)
 PhD Scholarships provide a stipend of £15,000 per annum (£16,000 in London), PhD tuition fees at the Home/EU rate and research/travel costs of £10,000 per year. The award is for three years and is for a full PhD programme; it does not cover funding gaps for students who have already started their studies.
 Amount of funding available: £50K - £100K
 Closing date: 31 October 2011
 Duration: 1 year - 3 years
<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=1766>

2. [Breast Cancer Campaign PhD Studentships](#)
 Average of £90,000 - 3 years.
 Amount of funding available: £50K - £100K
 Closing date: 01 July 2011
 Duration: > 3 years
<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=6085>

3. [British Skin Foundation Studentship](#)
 The BSF Studentship is a fixed amount of £81,000 (£27k per year for 3 years). No 'top-ups' or extensions are available for any reason. The maximum duration of the BSF Studentship is 3 years
 Amount of funding available: £50K - £100K
 Closing date: 26 August 2011
 Duration: 1 year - 3 years
<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=4636>

4. [Diabetes UK PhD Studentship Grants](#)

The awards offered are as follows: London Stipend: Year 1 - £15,000, Year 2 - £15,500 and Year 3 - £16,000 Outside London Stipend: Year 1 - £13,000, Year 2 - £13,500 and Year 3 - £14,000

Amount of funding available: £50K - £100K

Closing date: 30 September 2011

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=552>

5. [Royal National Institute for the Deaf \(RNID\)](#)

[PhD Studentships](#)

Duration: three years or four years for established 4-year programmes.

<http://www.rnid.org.uk/Content.aspx?id=101972&ciid=370756>

Amount of funding available: unspecified

Closing date: 19 September 2011

Duration: > 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=7648>

Health Websites/Gateways/portals

Sadly Intute is no longer updating its list of new health websites, so for the time being we will be using HON (Health on the Net) Code.

http://www.hon.ch/HONcode/Pro/LatestActivity/recentSites_reeval_United_Kingdom.html

http://www.hon.ch/HONcode/Patients/LatestActivity/recentSites_USA.html

1. [yourchildshealth](#)

This site is aimed at introducing parents and patients to the best health sites on the web. It covers from pregnancy to teenage years. www.yourchildshealth.nhs.uk/

2. [Wounds Group](#)

The Cochrane Wounds Group. <http://wounds.cochrane.org/>

3. [Lab Tests Online UK](#)

This site provides information on common laboratory tests for the general public. It also has descriptions of a number of common conditions and how laboratory tests are performed. www.labtestsonline.org.uk/

4. [EmpowHER](#)

EmpowHER provides an innovative set of online resources that are 100 percent focused on helping women improve their health and well-being. www.empowher.com/

5. [IVFConnections.com](#)

IVFConnections is a news, education and support community for people who are affected by infertility. IVFConnections has over 500 articles and a thriving discussion forum. www.IVFConnections.com

And finally...the Metro reports...

Candwich: Sandwich in a can goes on sale

The American makers of the Candwich, a sandwich in a can which can be dispensed by vending machines and is opened like a can of Coke, say it's the best thing since sliced bread. The Candwich, which has a shelf life of a year, has just gone on sale in the US and online, selling for £7 for a four-pack or £44 for 24. Twelve flavours are planned, including US-style peanut butter and grape jelly, BBQ chicken and pepperoni pizza. Read more: <http://www.metro.co.uk/weird/864889-finally-a-sandwich-in-a-can-check-out-the-candwich#ixzz1O1xSOk1C>

