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The NIHR Research Design Service
for Yorkshire & the Humber

'TAKE FIVE' – July 2011

Join our **email alert list** to receive our newsletter, 'Take Five' (monthly funding update) and information about events and other RDS activities - www.rds-yh.nihr.ac.uk

Welcome to the July 2011 edition of 'Take Five', from the 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

Current Awareness

1. [NHS chiefs warn of rising hospital waiting times](#)

Financial problems in the NHS are likely to cause a rise in waiting times in England, health chiefs believe. Mike Farrar, the head of the NHS Confederation, said the difficulties could even lead to the 18-week limit for elective operations being broken. He made the warning after feedback from senior NHS managers showed many feared it would get harder for patients to access care in the next 12 months. But ministers insisted waiting times would remain low.

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

2. [Non-invasive embryo gene screen](#)

Fertility doctors say they have found a non-invasive way to screen IVF embryos for genetic abnormalities. The current method involves taking cells from the embryo itself, which experts fear may be harmful. Now UK researchers say it is possible to run the same checks on cells surrounding the fertilised egg that are normally thrown away. The test could tell a woman if her baby was likely to have a condition like Down's syndrome. It would not only be less invasive, but cheaper too.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14029983>

3. [IVF checklist 'increases success'](#)

Experts say they have found a way to avoid the higher risk of twins through IVF without reducing the success rate. Internationally, clinics often transfer more than one embryo per IVF cycle to boost the odds of it working. But this is riskier for mother and baby and some governments, including the UK, recommend single embryo transfer. Now doctors say they can predict who will get pregnant with one embryo using a checklist of questions, and so only transfer more where essential.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14012498>

4. [Social care revamp: Pressure on to find money](#)

The government is under pressure to consider tax rises and further spending cuts to find the money to pay for the overhaul of social care. An independent review has recommended individual costs be capped at £35,000 - a move which would cost

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£1.7bn a year. Ministers have said they will consider the proposals, but the Treasury is known to have reservations.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14017252>

5. ['Quit smoking' drug linked to heart risk](#)

A drug used by smokers to help them quit increases the risk of heart attacks and other serious cardiovascular problems, research says. An international team reviewed studies involving more than 8,000 smokers, and found more of those taking Champix fell ill than those on dummy drugs. The review, [in the Canadian Medical Association Journal](#), suggests smokers should not use the drug to stop. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14015089>

Funding Opportunities (Projects and Programmes)

1. [National Institute for Health Research Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre \(NETSCC\) Public Health Research \(PHR\) Programme - Researcher-led](#)

There are no fixed limits on the duration of projects or funding and proposals should be tailored to fully address the problem.
Amount of funding available: unspecified
Closing date: 15 August 2011
Duration: unspecified
<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=12865>

2. [National Institute for Health Research Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre \(NETSCC\) Public Health Research \(PHR\) Programme - Researcher-led](#)

There are no fixed limits on the duration of projects or funding and proposals should be tailored to fully address the problem.
Amount of funding available: unspecified
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3. [British Heart Foundation Programme Grants](#)

Award may include: Staff (e.g. technician, research assistant, postdoctoral salaries) (N.B. excluding PhD studentships); Research consumables, directly attributable to the project; Research equipment essential for the project.
Amount of funding available: > £100K
Closing date: 31 August 2011
Duration: > 3 years
<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=57>

4. [Cancer Research UK Population Research Committee Programme Grant](#)

No set value. Funding decisions are made on the basis of scientific merit. Funding is normally provided for up to 60 months.
Amount of funding available: > £100K
Closing date: 10 November 2011
Duration: > 3 years
<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=13976>

5. [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
Closing date: 31 August 2011
Duration: > 3 years
<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=6728>

Funding Opportunities (Fellowships)

1. [MRC - Medical Research Council MRC/Pancreatic Cancer UK Clinical Research Training Fellowship](#)

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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).

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 15 September 2011

Duration: > 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=15913>

2. [MRC - Medical Research Council Career Development Award](#)

The fellowship provides a competitive salary, research support staff, research consumables expenses, travel costs and capital equipment appropriate for the research project under full economic costs. The award also provides funding for research training outside the UK. Higher requests for resources must be justified in terms of delivering the objectives of the research proposal. An MRC career development award may be awarded for any period up to five years.

Amount of funding available: unspecified

Closing date: 08 September 2011

Duration: > 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=1251>

3. [Diabetes UK AHP, Nurse and Midwife Research Training Fellowship](#)

Support may be requested for up to three years full time. However, the Fellowship may be held on a part time basis over a longer period. Up to £14,000 per annum and up to £1,500 may be requested for relevant training.

Amount of funding available: £10K - £50K

Closing date: 09 September 2011

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=14050>

4. [Arthritis Research UK Senior Research Fellowship](#)

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 12 October 2011

Duration: > 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=9>

5. [Parkinson's UK Training Fellowships](#)

Funding supports salary costs, a contribution towards research expenses and attendance at appropriate conferences or short courses that will form part of the Fellow's research training.

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 05 December 2011

Duration: > 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=8817>

Funding Opportunities (Studentships)

1. [British Heart Foundation Non-Clinical PhD Studentships](#)

Award may include: Student stipend at current BHF rates; Tuition fees at standard home student rate (set by the research institution); Research consumables, directly attributable to the project, usually less than £10,000 per year.

Amount of funding available: unspecified

Closing date: Apply Anytime

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=7446>

2. [National Eye Research Centre Postgraduate Studentships](#)

Grants for PhD Studentships are for a three-year period and up to £60,000.

Amount of funding available: £10K - £50K

Closing date: 15 January 2012

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=220>

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3. [Science and Technology Facilities Council](#)

[CASE-Plus Studentships](#)

Amount of funding available: unspecified

Closing date: 29 September 2011

Duration: > 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=14277>

4. [Parkinson's UK](#)

[PhD Studentships](#)

Students receive: - a stipend of £15,000 per year (or £16,000 per year if in London) - full PhD tuition fees (at the UK/EU rate) - a contribution of up to £10,000 per year towards research costs

Amount of funding available: £10K - £50K

Closing date: 30 August 2011

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=11869>

5. [Arthritis Research UK](#)

[PhD Studentships](#)

These studentships provide a generous tax-free incremental stipend (linked to the academic 1B scale), UK tuition fees and limited running costs for 3 years.

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

Closing date: 10 August 2011

Duration: > 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=11>

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. [Glycosmedia](#)

This website is dedicated to bringing a free, non-promotional, editorially independent e-mail newsletter to a global audience about developments and news in diabetes.

www.glycosmedia.com/

2. [Prostate.net](#)

Prostate.net is an online resource for men and their partners focusing exclusively on specific condition content around men's prostate health and related disorders. www.prostate.net

3. [Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Congenital Heart Disease Information](#)

This site is an in-depth educational resource for patients with congenital heart disease and their families. It is available to the public on the internet at no charge.

<http://upmc.congenital.org/>

4. [Kidney Patient Guide](#)

This web site is a resource for kidney patients and those who care for them.

www.kidneypatientguide.org.uk/site/contents.php

5. [Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research](#)

This site provides the full text of the current versions of all Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research Fund patient information booklets and leaflets. www.beatbloodcancers.org/

And finally...the Metro reports...

'Cheeky black macaque steals camera to take self-portrait'

David Slater had left his equipment around some crested black macaques when it was snatched by one. 'They were quite mischievous jumping all over my equipment, and it looked like they were already posing for the camera when one hit the button,' the 46-year-old said. Read more: <http://www.metro.co.uk/weird/868306-cheeky-black-macaque-steals-camera-to-take-self-portrait#ixzz1RVCb4Z3h>

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The NIHR Research Design Service
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The National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service for Yorkshire & the Humber (RDS YH) supports researchers to develop and design high quality research proposals for submission to the NIHR and other national, peer-reviewed funding competitions for applied health or social care research. This support is provided free of charge.

If you need [support or specialist advice](#) to turn your ideas into research proposals, or to further develop your existing proposals, then please explore our site to see what we can offer.

Face-to-face advice is available for local researchers, supported by telephone and email. Just complete one of the online 'Request for Advice and Support' forms on the [Advice and Support](#) page of this website and we will be in touch to arrange an appointment.

[Request for RDS Advice and Support - Initial Advice](#)

[Request for RDS Advice and Support - Bespoke Advice](#)

Please contact us if you would like more information at rds-yh@sheffield.ac.uk or telephone our general enquires number on 0114 222 0828 - we look forward to hearing from you.

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