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~ TAKE FIVE ~
November 2013

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 November 2013 edition of ‘Take Five’, from the Yorkshire and Humber RDS. This regular email update is packed full of events, research funding opportunities and the latest health news – all in neat little sets of five.

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

Upcoming events
For more details about events 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

We are currently developing a number of their Learning Events as online resources, please see: http://www.rds-yh.nihr.ac.uk/learning-events/podcasts.aspx

We also have videos of a number of past RDS events, please see: http://www.rds-yh.nihr.ac.uk/learning-events/video-resources.aspx

Current awareness

1. Free friendship phone service for older people launched
A free 24-hour dedicated helpline for older people across the UK has been launched by Esther Rantzen. ‘The Silver Line’ aims to combat loneliness in the over-65s by providing friendship, information and advice through calls to trained volunteers. Chairwoman Ms Rantzen said she hoped the phone line number, 0800 4 70 80 90, would be remembered by all older people when they needed friendship or advice. The phone line is funded by a £5m grant from the Big Lottery
Fund. The Department of Health has said that loneliness causes serious physical and mental damage. More than half of the UK's over-75s live alone.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-25056351

2. **Hospital discharges: figures highlight impact of delays**
NHS figures have highlighted the growing impact of delays in discharging patients in England once they are fit to leave hospital. Last month the number of days "lost" by patients who needed the beds was the highest for more than three years. Senior doctors working in accident and emergency departments say it is a major cause for concern. NHS England said it was aware of the problem, but care working groups across the country were tackling it. The problem facing the health service is about making sure patients who are fit to leave hospital can recover in the right place, and their beds are made available to others who need them. Figures from NHS England show the number of hospital bed days lost because of delayed discharges in October was 78,424. That is up nearly 8,000 on the same time last year, and the highest since monthly data was first published in August 2010.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-25059887

3. **Supermarket energy drink ban for under 16s**
Morrisons supermarket has banned children under the age of 16 from buying high caffeine energy drinks. The staff at some of the supermarket branches will challenge customers to prove their age. The ban has been brought in because of health fears about extreme-caffeine intake by children with energy drinks. The restrictions apply to certain brands with more than 150mg of caffeine per litre. It will affect Red Bull which has 320mg, Monster (338mg) and Relentless (320mg). Morrisons is the first major UK retailer to ban the drinks.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/25052241

4. **Eating nuts 'may prolong life'**
People who regularly eat nuts appear to live longer, according to the largest study of its kind. The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, suggested the greatest benefit was in those munching on a daily portion. The US team said nut eaters were likely to also have healthy lifestyles, but the nuts themselves were also contributing to their longer lifespan. The British Heart Foundation said more research was needed to prove the link

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-25026705

5. **Baby steps to saving lives**
Each year, one in 10 babies around the world will be born prematurely and over a million of those will die. But could measuring the size of a baby's feet help save lives? In the final weeks of pregnancy, the idea of going into early labour might not seem like such a bad thing. But giving birth prematurely - officially classed as before 37 weeks gestation - can lead to long-term health effects. Depending on quite how early the baby is born, infants can either be completely unaffected or left with permanent disability and learning difficulties. The issue of prematurity is particularly pronounced in South Asian and Sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for over 80% of
the deaths caused by pre-term birth complications. In rural Tanzania, for example, about one in every 30 premature babies won't make it past four weeks. However, most of those lives could be saved with simple advice for mothers. And that advice, says an international group of researchers, could start with just a footprint.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-24728460

Funding opportunities (projects and programmes)

1. MRC & other funders
   Closing Date: 7 January 2014
   MRC, in partnership with the DH, Wellcome Trust, CRUK, BHF, ARUK and Research Councils are seeking expressions of interest from internationally recognised institutions with a proven track record in cutting-edge clinical research. Discussions are also on-going with devolved administrations about the potential for partnership funding.
   The overall objectives of this initiative will be to support innovation in clinical research - funding the novel technologies and facilities, which will most effectively advance the UK’s ability to explore new areas in clinical research, and to enhance translational capability and partnerships with industry.
   The call will be organised around three themes:
   1. Innovative technologies for stratified and experimental medicine (including clinical sensing & imaging and ex vivo analysis).
   2. Dementia research. As well as public sector funding for the UK Dementia Platform (Neurodegeneration Programme), partners will consider discrete proposals for other clinical research technology enhancements for dementia and neurodegeneration.
   3. Single cell-level functional genomics
   Expressions of interest from all UK Universities with medical schools are invited by 7 January 2014 with funding decisions made in July for spend in 2015/16. Note: Each University may submit a maximum of one EoI for each of the above areas.

2. NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Programme - call for proposals
   Closing Date: 22 January 2014
   The NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme invites research proposals which are related to the day-to-day practice of health service staff and is concerned with having an impact on the health or well-being of patients and users of the NHS. As a responsive rather than a commissioning programme, RfPB does not seek to name specific topic areas and welcomes applications on a wide range of issues and aims to fund high quality research that will be directed at achieving benefit for users of the NHS in England. The programme supports applications which are regionally derived and applications which have emerged from interaction with patients and the public, which relate to patient and service user experience, and which have been drawn up in association with a relevant group of service users.
   Please note, in addition to usual commissioning arrangements, researchers can apply to the Preventing the development and spread of Antimicrobial Resistance call through this competition.
The closing date for applications is 22 January 2014 at 13:00.  
http://www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/RfPB/apply/Pages/calls.aspx

3. NIHR HS&DR Programme - Researcher-led and Themed Calls
Closing Date: 1 February 2014
The NIHR Health Services and Design Research (HS&DR) Programme has the following funding opportunities open for applications:
• Researcher-led call:
The HS&DR Programme is now accepting applications to its researcher-led workstream. The closing date for applications is 1pm on 30 January 2014.
• AMR Themed Call:
The HS&DR Programme is also currently running a themed call on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The closing date for this is 1pm on 30 January 2014.
Please see the link below for application form and guidance notes.
http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/funding#?tab=hsdr

4. NIHR Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme - commissioned calls open
Closing Date: 4 February 2014
The NIHR EME Programme is accepting applications to its commissioned workstream. Applicants are invited to submit proposals on the following research areas by 1pm on 3 February 2014:
• 13/118 Active implantable medical devices*
*Please note that there will be an event to support this call. For more information and to reserve your place, please visit: https://emeimplantdevices.eventbrite.co.uk/
• 13/119 Autism spectrum disorders
• 13/120 Non-respiratory sleep disorders
• 13/121 Mechanisms of action of bariatric surgery
• 13/122 Mechanisms of action of health intervention
In order to help you with your application, a webinar will run for each of the research topics. Dates for these webinars can be found on the EME website - http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/funding/eme-commissioned
http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/funding/eme-commissioned?src=mail_alert_October_2013_01

5. Efficacy and mechanism evaluation programme – researcher-led workstream
Closing Date: 27 February 2014
The National Institute for Health Research invites applications for the researcher-led workstream under its efficacy and mechanism evaluation programme. Applications should concern interventions based in or used by the NHS and its partners. The remit of the programme includes clinical trials and evaluative studies of novel and repurposed interventions. Intervention includes any method used to promote health, prevent and treat disease and improve rehabilitation or long-term care. Technologies are not confined to new drugs but include procedures, devices, tests, settings of care, screening programmes and any intervention used in the treatment, prevention or diagnosis of disease. Support is given for studies in patients which seek to:
• evaluate clinical efficacy of interventions where there is already evidence to support the use of the intervention in humans;
• add significantly to our understanding of biological or behavioural processes;
• explore new scientific principles;
• include the development or testing of new methodologies.

Researchers at higher education institutions, research institutes and independent research organisations in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are eligible to apply. Proposals should demonstrate a multidisciplinary team with appropriate skills and experience, including an appropriately experienced statistician on the study team. Co-applicants may be based outside the UK, and if necessary research can be conducted overseas. Applications proposing joint funding arrangements or collaboration with other organisations are welcome.  
http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/funding/eme-researcher-led

Funding opportunities (fellowships)

1. Wellcome Trust  
Research training fellowships  
Closing Date: 7 February 2014  
The Wellcome Trust invites applications for its research training fellowships. These support medical, dental, veterinary or clinical psychology graduates who have little or no research training, but who wish to develop a long-term career in academic medicine. Applications are encouraged from individuals who wish to undertake substantial training towards a PhD or MD qualification through high-quality research in an appropriate unit or clinical research facility. Fellowships are open to individuals with a relevant connection to the European Economic Area for fellowships to be held in a UK or Republic of Ireland institution. Applicants should not normally be more than 10 years from the date of their first medical, dental or veterinary qualification and should have completed general professional training, Sponsoring laboratories must be in an eligible NHS or academic institution in the UK or RoI. Candidates may request to spend up to three months overseas during the fellowship. For candidates who are carrying out research in public health and tropical medicine in a developing country location, the duration of the fellowship may be spent overseas. The proposed research must fall within the trust’s normal funding remit. Fellowships normally provide research expenses and salary for a period of two to three years. In exceptional cases a fellowship may be for up to four years for those who wish to undertake relevant master’s training or diploma course. Candidates who wish to pursue research in epidemiology or bioinformatics, and need to undertake a diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene or a master’s degree as an essential entry point, may be considered for an extra year’s funding and course fees.  
http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/Fellowships/Clinical-fellowships/WTD004435.htm
2. **Medical Research Council**

**Senior non-clinical fellowship**

**Closing Date: 30 April 2014**

The Medical Research Council invites applications for its senior non-clinical fellowship. This provides non-clinical researchers of exceptional ability with opportunities to develop themselves to be research leaders. Applicants should be proven independent researchers with a track record of excellence in their scientific field who demonstrate significant promise as future research leaders. Proposals are encouraged across all areas of MRC’s remit from basic molecular science to applied clinical research.

Applicants normally hold a PhD or DPhil and have at least six years’ postdoctoral research experience in academia or the wider economy at the time of the closing date. Applications from current MRC career development award holders are particularly welcome. There are no residence eligibility restrictions for this fellowship. Candidates from outside the UK must establish with their proposed host research organisation prior to application that they may reside and work in the UK, and it is the responsibility of the research organisation to ensure that all necessary permits are in place for the fellow.

The award provides a personal salary for the fellow, research support staff, research consumables expenses and capital equipment for the research project, travel costs and other items under full economic costs at a UK research organisation. The fellowship may be awarded for any period up to seven years.

[http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Fundingopportunities/Fellowships/Non-clinical/Careerdevelopmentaward/Seniornonclinical/MRC001826](http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Fundingopportunities/Fellowships/Non-clinical/Careerdevelopmentaward/Seniornonclinical/MRC001826)

3. **Medical Research Council**

**Population health scientist fellowship**

**Closing Date: 17 June 2014**

The Medical Research Council invites applications for its population health scientist fellowship. This provides support for research and specific training for pre- and postdoctoral researchers and clinical scientists, including specialist trainees, general practitioners, dentists, nurses, midwives and members of the allied health professions. Disciplines relevant to the scheme include: social, clinical, life course and genetic epidemiology; biostatistics; health demography; medical sociology; health psychology; medical anthropology; human geography; health economics.

Postdoctoral applicants should hold a PhD or DPhil in a relevant discipline, or expect to do so by the time of taking up the award, and have no more than four years post-PhD research experience at the application closing date. Fellows may be based at UK universities, medical or dental schools, research council institutes and units, charity-funded research centres, or other approved academic institutions.

At the pre-doctoral level, the fellowship provides a personal salary up to but not including NHS consultant level. A research training support grant of up to £20,000 per year is also provided, covering consumables, PhD fees, equipment, conference travel and other course fees. At the postdoctoral level the award provides the fellow’s competitive salary, research training costs, research consumables expenses, travel costs and capital equipment appropriate for the research
project, and all other relevant costs under full economic costs. Fellowships are usually awarded for three years, but fellows may occasionally apply for a period of up to four years.

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Fundingopportunities/Fellowships/Specialist/Populationhealthscientist/MRC004704

4. Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research

Clinician scientist award
Closing Date: 1 August 2014
Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, together with the Academy of Medical Sciences, invites applications for its clinician scientist award. This aims to promote recruitment into academic haematology. The award provides support for PhD-qualified haematologists in training to combine postdoctoral research with the completion of specialist training. Up to four years of support at specialist registrar level is available.

http://leukaemiaandlymphomaresearch.org.uk/research/researchers/funding-opportunities

5. Bone Cancer Research Trust

Research fellowships
Closing Date: 26 September 2014
The Bone Cancer Research Trust invites applications for its research fellowships. These fellowships are for individuals committed to a career in academic clinically related research in bone cancers. They support a specific clearly described piece of research in collaboration with a recognised researcher in the field. Joint applications are expected from supervisors and candidates. Applicants must be resident in the UK or Ireland.

Funding available for PhD candidates is up to £150,000. MD candidates may receive up to £225,000.

http://www.bonecancerresearch.org.uk/hcp_rz_how_to_apply_for_a_grant.php

Funding opportunities (studentships)

1. Leverhulme Trust

Study abroad studentships
Closing Date: 13 January 2014
The Leverhulme Trust invites applications for its study abroad studentships. These support an extended period of advanced study or research at a centre of learning overseas, excluding the US. Eligible applicants must have been resident in the UK for at least five years and hold an undergraduate degree from a UK institution. Applicants should also either be a student at the time of application or have been registered as a student within the last eight years.

Studentships comprise £17,000 per year for basic maintenance costs and a dependent partner allowance of £6,000 for a period of 12 to 24 months. Awards may include further allowances, such as tuition fees and a contribution to essential research costs, at the trust's discretion.

http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/funding/SAS/SAS.cfm
2. **Postgraduate education programme**  
**European Chiropractors’ Union, GB**  
**Closing Date: 1 February 2014**  
The European Chiropractors’ Union invites applications to its postgraduate education programme. Bursaries are available to graduate chiropractors who wish to pursue research in an academic setting through research degrees. The aim of this programme is to develop research capabilities within the chiropractic profession. Research, which should improve knowledge and understanding in relation to the practice of chiropractic, should address one of the following areas of interest:  
- basic science;  
- clinical and population sciences;  
- chiropractic-related research.  
Applicants must be enrolled in a postgraduate programme in a university or ECCE-approved chiropractic college having the necessary facilities or connections with a university. Applicants must be eligible for membership of their national chiropractic association. Support is limited to expenses resulting from fees.  

3. **Royal College of Nursing**  
**Barbers company clinical nursing scholarship**  
**Closing Date: 28 February 2014**  
The Royal College of Nursing invites applications for the Barbers company clinical nursing scholarship. This award aims to enable nurses in clinical nursing to undertake further education, research or a clinical project. The scholarship of up to £7,500 is offered for the fees or subsistence of a nurse normally undertaking a taught master’s programme relevant to nursing or research, in an academic department in the UK or at an approved academic department of nursing overseas. Please note that funding opportunities sometimes change. The details provided in this update may therefore be incorrect. Always check the details on the funder web pages.  

4. **Novel and emerging technologies grant**  
**Heart Research UK**  
**Closing Date: 1 April 2014**  
Heart Research UK invites applications for its novel and emerging technologies grant. This supports research on novel and emerging technologies and their application to cardiovascular disease prevention and treatment. The grant may support approaches including tissue and bioengineering, development of new devices, bioimaging and -materials, nanotechnology, genomic and proteomic approaches, computational biology and bioinformatics. Emerging technologies or strategies in the management of risk factors or evaluation of invasive or surgical procedures or similar may also be supported.  
In addition to research costs, the grant may include support for attending a conference, dissemination of research findings, and a PhD studentship consisting of a stipend of up to £16,000 per year and research costs up to £5,000 per year. The maximum funding amount available is £200,000.
5. **Waterloo Foundation**

**Child development – ADHD and factors under parents’ influence**

**Closing Date: 4 July 2014**

The Waterloo Foundation invites applications for its child development grants for research related to epilepsy. The foundation is interested in the common and co-occurring neuro-developmental conditions of dyslexia, developmental coordination disorder and ADHD, along with Rolandic epilepsy and developmental trauma, and has a particular interest in factors under parents’ influence. In 2014, research funding will support projects that account for the fact that these children are often affected in more than one domain. Successful applications will focus on two or more of the conditions in the foundation’s strategy. This call focuses particularly on:

• ADHD and primary impairment in the attention domain;
• factors under parents’ influence, such as sleep and diet.

Applicants should be based at universities.

Up to £50,000 is available for the direct costs of a research project. The foundation might support studentships, but generally does so as a match-funding. A maximum of 5 per cent can be used for conference attendance.


**And finally, the Metro reports…**

“Squirrel ruins family’s game of Jenga while looking for popcorn”


Please note that funding opportunities sometimes change. The details provided in this update may therefore be incorrect. Always check the details on the funder web pages.
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 the online ‘Request for Advice and Support’ form on the Advice and Support page of our website and we will be in touch to arrange an appointment.

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.