



NHS

**National Institute for
Health Research**

www.rds-yh.nihr.ac.uk

The NIHR Research Design Service
for Yorkshire & the Humber

‘TAKE FIVE’ – September 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 September 2011 edition of ‘Take Five’, from the Yorkshire and Humber RDS, 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 Learning Events

For more details about learning 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

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>

Current Awareness

1. Bird flu fear as mutant strain hits China and Vietnam

Avian flu shows signs of a resurgence, while a mutant strain - able to sidestep vaccines - could be spreading in Asia, the United Nations has warned. The variant appeared in Vietnam and China and its risk to humans cannot be predicted, veterinary officials said. Virus circulation in Vietnam threatens Thailand, Malaysia and Cambodia, where eight people have died after becoming infected this year, they warned. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-14709024>

2. Bad sleep ups blood pressure risk

Elderly men who spend little time in deep sleep could be at risk of developing high blood pressure, according to US scientists. A study on 784 patients, in the journal Hypertension, showed those getting the least deep sleep were at 83% greater risk than those getting the most. Researchers say they would expect a similar effect in women. The British Heart Foundation said it was important for everyone to prioritise sleep. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14681570>

3. ‘Devastating divide’ in access to new cancer drugs

A cancer charity has warned that a "devastating divide" has opened up between England, Scotland and Wales when it comes to accessing new drugs. According to research by the Rarer Cancers Foundation (RCF) people in Scotland are three times less likely to get access to a newer cancer drug than their neighbours in England. In Wales patients were five times less likely to get access to the treatments. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-14707373>

4. ‘Tough action’ needed on obesity

Tougher action - including taxing junk food - is needed by all governments if the obesity crisis is going to be tackled, experts say. The international group of researchers, who have published a series of articles in The Lancet, said no country had yet

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got to grips with the problem. They said changes in society meant it was getting harder for people to live healthy lives. And they warned without state action, health systems could become swamped. Obesity-related problems, such as diabetes, were now accounting for between 2% and 6% of health care costs in most countries. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14669203>

5. **Chocolate may protect the brain and heart**

Eating high levels of chocolate could reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke, according to a review of previous research. Data from 114,009 patients suggested risk was cut by about a third, according to a study [published on the BMJ website](#). But the researchers warned that excessive consumption would result in other illnesses. The British Heart Foundation said there were better ways to protect the heart. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14679497>

Funding Opportunities (Projects and Programmes)

1. [National Institute for Health Research \(NIHR\) - Central Commissioning Facility \(CCF\)](#)

[Programme Grants for Applied Research](#)

The Programme Grants for Applied Research funding scheme will have an annual budget of £75 million once it reaches full capacity. Individual awards are for a maximum of £2 million over a period of three to five years. The amount of funding awarded, however, is determined by the scale and nature of the research activity to be conducted.

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 17 October 2011

Duration: > 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=9482>

2. [ESRC - \(Economic and Social Research Council\)](#)

[ORA Guidance - Open Research Area in Europe for the Social Sciences](#)

The following funding limits applied: - ANR €200,000 per year - DFG No maximum limit - ESRC A minimum of £100k and a maximum of £750,000 at 100% fEC (£600,000 at 80% fEC), per project - NWO Up to €250,000 per project. For full details of funding arrangements see their website.

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 30 September 2011

Duration: unspecified

<http://rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=15460>

3. [British Heart Foundation](#)

[Project 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. Due to financial constraints the committee will only consider applications that do not exceed £300,000.

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: Apply Anytime

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=54>

4. [Cancer Research UK](#)

[Stroke Association](#)

[Research Project Grants](#)

Grants are limited to a maximum of £70,000 per annum for up to three years (up to a maximum of £210,000).

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 03 February 2012

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=889>

5. [Arthritis Research UK](#)

[Programme Grants \(Outline Proposals\)](#)

Programmes provide funding of up to £1,200,000 over 5 years for the salaries of academic and technical staff plus running costs and small items of essential equipment. Salaries will be according to age and experience on the appropriate scientific or clinical salary scale.

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 14 December 2011

Duration: > 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=4663>

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Funding Opportunities (Fellowships)

1. [British Heart Foundation](#)

[Intermediate Basic Science Research Fellowships](#)

Awards may include: Salary of applicant; Salary of a technician or research assistant if required and fully justified; Research consumables, directly attributable to the project; Research equipment essential for the project.

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: Apply Anytime

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=7447>

2. [Epilepsy Research UK](#)

[Fellowship Grant](#)

£150,000 - £200,000.

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 30 September 2011

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=1307>

3. [Kidney Research UK](#)

[Senior Non-Clinical Fellowships](#)

The salary will be based on the appropriate university scale and an allowance for consumables and small items of equipment is available.

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 25 November 2011

Duration: > 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=464>

4. [Stroke Association](#)

[Junior Research Training Fellowships](#)

Applications are invited for Junior Research Training Fellowships of £35,000 per year for up to three years depending on suitable progress.

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 13 January 2012

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=13482>

5. [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>

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. [Epilepsy Action](#)

[PhD Studentship](#)

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£75,000 is allocated for the PhD. Funding will cover tuition fees at £3,466, maintenance stipend of £13,590 outside London and £15,250 within London, and £1,000 research budget. The remaining funds may be available, on application, to the holder of the studentship for travel, conferences, dissemination etc.

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

Closing date: 07 October 2011

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=11350>

3. [Ataxia UK](#)

[PhD Studentship](#)

The amount of funding available is unspecified.

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

Closing date: 11 October 2011

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=7664>

4. [Hospital Infection Society](#)

[Major Research Grant](#)

Up to £33,000 per annum for 1-3 years.

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

Closing date: 31 July 2011

Duration: 1 year - 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=167>

5. [Laura Crane Trust](#)

[PhD Studentships](#)

Up to £80,000 available in total.

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

Closing date: Apply Anytime

Duration: Unspecified

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=1997>

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. [strokesupportgroup](#)

This web site provides an online stroke support group helping those who have suffered a stroke.

www.strokesupportgroup.org/

2. [Multiple Sclerosis Research Training and Education](#)

Charity dedicated to research and extending knowledge about MS with the aim of providing better treatment and hastening a cure.

www.ms-research.org.uk/

3. [Sirius Project](#)

Sirius Project is a collection of resources for people who self-injure, with a focus on self-help. www.siriusproject.org/

4. [sympathectomy](#)

This site provides accurate information for patients and health care professionals on hyperhidrosis (over sweating) and facial blushing (flushing). www.sympathectomy.co.uk

5. [Health, Environment and Work](#)

This site provides educational files on occupational and environmental health and medicine, with an authoritative academic-medical authorship. www.aqius.com/hew/

And finally...the Metro reports...

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'Llamas excel at dog school and learn to fetch and roll over'

Dogs may be man's best friend, but are they man's best-trained friends? A bunch of loopy llamas, who have come top in obedience lessons, could certainly challenge that.

Read more: <http://www.metro.co.uk/weird/873517-llamas-excel-at-dog-training-school-and-learn-to-fetch-and-roll-over#ixzz1WWAzA1zT>

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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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