

# Cancer Alliances London Research Fellowship Programme - Call for Projects 2023/24

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Now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, the Pan-London Cancer Alliances Research Consortium is pleased to announce a new round of 12-month cancer research fellowships. With continued support from the NIHR Biomedical Research Centres, we are now **calling on potential supervisors for project titles and a short brief describing the project.**

The appointment process will be in two stages (see appendix for full details of process and timelines):

- a) An invitation to potential supervisors to submit brief proposals, which will form the basis of a shortlist selected by an appropriate panel.
- b) An advertisement based on this shortlist for potential fellows to submit joint applications for the proposed project alongside supervisor with whom he/she wishes to work.

We aim to offer research fellowships to pre-doctoral individuals interested in healthcare improvement, including clinicians, nurses and allied health professionals (AHP) who wish to obtain further research experience. Please see the section below on those qualified to apply. Funding is available on a full time 12-month basis, but we would also consider different models, such as part time fellowships over a longer period. Research projects that lead to the completion of a higher degree are desired.

## Cancer Alliances and Research

In 2016, the Pan London Cancer Alliances Research Consortium was established. It was agreed that by working together and harnessing the benefits of scale across London, a research agenda could be developed that would add value to the Alliances' work programmes and accelerate translation of evidence into policy. With the publication of the NHS Long Term Plan<sup>1</sup> (LTP), Cancer Alliances now have a role in the implementation and empowerment of cancer innovation, and there are opportunities to work together on the shared vision of achieving the LTP.

The Pan-London Cancer Alliances Research Consortium Steering Group have identified the potential areas of focus for 23/24 as the following:

- **Earlier diagnosis:** with a focus on access into primary care and/or diagnostics, or increasing uptake into cancer screening programmes from a population or place-based approach. Also including aspects of improving detection of recurrent cancer and/or surveillance strategies of the high risk.
- **Cancer inequalities:** exploring variations in all aspects of cancer care throughout the patient journey, including screening, treatment and supportive care.
- **Personalised care of people living with and beyond cancer:** optimisation of patient management during and after cancer treatment to improve quality of life and clinical outcomes, including multi-morbidity reviews and generation of evidence base for the cancer care reviews.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/nhs-long-term-plan-version-1.2.pdf>

Successful research proposals are encouraged to focus on:

- A delivery of an intervention, rather than observational research, with the potential to scale up
- Generating evidence for implementation, including understanding the current challenges or cost implications for adoption in the NHS
- Collaboration across cancer alliances, either within existing networks or developing new ones
- Incorporating patient and public input and engagement (PPIE) along all aspects of the project

## Eligibility

Successful projects will be advertised for potential fellows to submit joint applications with the primary supervisor. Following feedback from previous rounds of the fellowship programme, we have made the following changes to the eligibility of the candidates applying for the fellowship award:

- Posts are open to clinical and non-clinical professionals who do not currently hold a PhD or MD
- Non-medical professionals will include nurses, allied health professionals (registered with the relevant professional body), health scientists, analysts and Clinical Research Practitioners<sup>2</sup>.

## Funding

Fellowship funding aims to cover salary or backfill costs to allow for protected research time. Awards will be issued to the primary supervisor within the host organisation/Trust within the 23/24 funding year. A breakdown of costs will be requested at the joint application stage.

## Next Steps

**Closing date for research proposals is Monday 16 October. Please send completed proposals on the provided template to your nominated Cancer Alliance contact.**

**For any queries about the process, please contact Anna Baranski, Associate Programme Director, NCL Cancer Alliance: [uclh.nclcanceralliance@nhs.net](mailto:uclh.nclcanceralliance@nhs.net)**

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<sup>2</sup> [CRP Directory | NIHR](#)

# Appendix

## Process and Timelines 2023/2024

