

Cancer Alliances London Research Fellowship Programme – Call for Projects 2021/22

Now in its 6th year, the four Cancer Alliances across London have come together once again to announce a new round of 12-month research fellowships. With continued support from the NIHR BRC at RMH/ICR, 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, proposal template 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 they wish 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 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, and this now comprises the four London-based Cancer Alliances. 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 each Alliance's work programme and accelerate translation of evidence into policy.

With the publication of the NHS Long Term Plan¹ (LTP), Cancer Alliances now have a role in the implementation and empowerment of cancer innovation. There are opportunities to work together on the shared vision of achieving the aims of the LTP.

The Pan London Cancer Alliances Research Consortium Steering Group has identified the following potential areas of focus for 2021/22:

- **Cancer inequalities:** exploring variations in all aspects of cancer care throughout the patient journey, including screening, treatment and supportive care. These aspects could apply to geriatric oncology as well as other age groups, and hard to reach communities. Also, could include assessment of the impact of Covid or the anticipated patient backlog on cancer care/services.
- **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.

¹ <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 and Clinical Research Practitioners²

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 2021/22 funding year. A breakdown of costs will be requested at the joint application stage.

Next Steps

Closing date for research proposals, using the attached template, is Friday 24th September. Please send completed proposals to RMPartners.Research@nhs.net

Please circulate this email to interested colleagues.

For any queries, please contact RM Partners Research & Innovation Lead, Dr Michelle Chen: RMPartners.Research@nhs.net

² [CRP Directory /NIHR](#)

Appendix

Process and Timelines 2021/2022

