

Cancer Alliances London Research Fellowship Programme - Call for Projects 2022/23

Now in its 7th 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 BRCs, 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 part time fellowships over a longer period. Research projects that lead to the completion of a higher degree are desired.

Cancer Alliances & Research

In 2016, the Pan London Cancer Alliances Research Consortium was established, and this now comprises all the 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, 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 22/23 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. A particular focus this year is the use of digital health and its role in identifying and addressing inequalities and inequities along the cancer pathway.
- **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.

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 supervisory within the host organisation/Trust within the 22/23 funding year. A breakdown of costs will be requested at the joint application stage.

Next Steps

Closing date for research proposals is Friday 9th September. Please send completed proposals on the provided template 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 2022/2023

