NIHR HPRU EZI STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUNDING CALLS 2015/2016

The NIHR HPRU in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections is pleased to announce the launch of three research funding calls as part of its 2015/2016 Strategic Research Funding. There are different funding calls to pump prime collaborative EZI-related research projects.

**Open Call:** To support research which brings together new collaborators to the HPRU EZI who are not currently directly involved in HPRU EZI research. The total budget available is £35,000. Applicants should apply for awards between £5,000-£10,000. All costs must be clearly justified on the application form. Please note the HPRU is unable to fund directly allocated or overhead/estate costs. **Deadline for return of applications: 4.00 pm on Wednesday 19 August 2015.**

**Cross HPRU EZI Theme Collaborations:** This pump priming initiative seeks to fund research collaborations across the HPRU EZI themes, or with other NIHR supported entities or external stakeholders (including Industry). The total budget available is £30,000. Applicants should apply for awards between £5,000-£10,000. All costs must be clearly justified on the application form. Please note the HPRU is unable to fund directly allocated or overhead/estate costs. **Deadline for return of applications: 4.00 pm on Wednesday 19 August 2015.**

**Cross NIHR Infrastructure Facility Collaborations Match Funded Pump Priming Scheme:** This pump priming initiative seeks to match fund research projects to create a strategic collaboration between HPRU EZI and one or more NIHR Infrastructure facility (HPRUs, BRCs or CLAHRCs for example). The HPRU will provide up to £15,000 per project (Pay and Non-Pay costs) to successful applications on condition that the applicants identify equal amounts of matched funding. The final total of no less than £30,000 will thus provide the Pay and Non-Pay costs of a 6-12 month project. **Deadline for return of applications now extended until: 4.00 pm on Monday 24 August 2015.**

Guidance and Applications are available via this [link](#), or for more information please contact Adele Maggs, NIHR HPRU Senior Manager at [amaggs@liv.ac.uk](mailto:amaggs@liv.ac.uk)
EBOLA PAPER PUBLISHED IN NATURE


Over the past year, the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa has progressed amongst concerns about the speed the virus could evolve and the impact this could have on vaccines, diagnostics and treatment. Research has shown that the evolution of Ebola virus is unlikely to impact on the effectiveness of current treatments. Teams from the University of Liverpool and Public Health England (PHE), in collaboration with the University of Bristol and other international teams, used blood samples taken from patients and compared changes in the genetic material of the virus throughout the outbreak. They were able to show that the outbreak had a single point of origin and predicted that diagnostics and treatment would be effective on the current form of the virus. Read more here.

MEDIA COVERAGE FOR ‘EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE RISK IN THE UK’ PAPER

A paper authored by PHE’s Jolyon Medlock and Steve Leach is now one of the 50 most popular Lancet articles of all time for news and social media interest. The article highlights how climate change could accelerate the emergence of vector-borne diseases, such as dengue fever, chikungunya and West Nile virus, in the UK. Findings indicate that diseases transmitted by mosquitoes and ticks (e.g. malaria, West Nile, chikungunya and Lyme disease) are on the rise and have spread into new territories across Europe over the past decade. Read more here.

NWZG/NCZR ANNUAL ZOONOSES CONFERENCE

The North West Zoonoses Group/National Consortium for Zoonosis Research held its Annual Zoonoses Conference on 9 July 2015 at the University of Liverpool, on the theme of Food Safety. Professor Kenton Morgan chaired the conference. The keynote lecture was given by Professor Martin Maiden of the University of Oxford on ‘Tracking Campylobacter’ and PhD student Ellen Murphy gave a research update on ‘What risk do peri-domestic rodents pose to food security?’ The HPRU EZI and the HPRU in Gastrointestinal Infections supported the conference, which attracted 75 attendees.
MRES-PHD STUDENT RESEARCH RETREAT
Public Health England Porton Down hosted the first MRes-PhD Student Research Retreat on 12 and 13 March 2015. Tom Solomon began the meeting with an Introduction to the HPRU and the unique partnership with PHE, followed by student project presentations and a talk on Intellectual Property. A dinner arranged in Salisbury provided further networking opportunities and the meeting closed with a talk on the History of Porton Down and tour of the facility. Pictured are Tom Solomon and Julian Hiscox with Liverpool-based students arriving at Porton Down.

EBOLA MODELLING WORK AND ANALYSIS PRESENTED TO US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
In March 2015 Jon Read was invited to present our Ebola modelling work and analysis to various US Government agencies in Washington DC, USA, including the Department of State, Homeland Security, Military, Federal Aviation Authority and Department of Health and Human Services.

NIHR HPRU EZI WEBSITE & TWITTER
Our website address is www.hpruezi.nihr.ac.uk and Twitter name is @HPRUezii

Please don’t forget to let us know about any news items, public engagement events, or anything similar, for the website, Twitter and next edition of this newsletter.

EVENTS
BSP Autumn Symposium 2015 - ‘One Health: parasites and beyond…”
14-15 September 2015, Royal Veterinary College, London
The British Society of Parasitology (BSP) invites you to a two day symposium focused on One Health with a special emphasis on parasites. One Health promotes collaboration between multiple disciplines including biology, human and veterinary medicine, environmental sciences, economics and social sciences in order to improve human, animal and environmental health. In this symposium experts in different fields will be brought together to explore how an interdisciplinary approach can improve control of parasitic diseases of humans and animals.

BSP would like to invite abstracts for posters, prioritising early career researchers. BSP student members submitting an abstract are entitled to apply for a travel award to attend the meeting (further information here). The abstract deadline for posters is 14 August 2015. Find out more and register here.
Public Health England Annual Conference 2015

15-16 September 2015, University of Warwick

Public Health England 2015 will bring together over 1,400 participants from a wide range of organisations, to learn, meet each other and share knowledge and experience.

The theme of this year’s conference is Evidence into Action, and the conference will promote and showcase applied science and research, translation and implementation for impact. It is anticipated that the conference will be of interest to representatives from across the health and social care system interested in applied prevention research, programmes and policy.

The outline of the six track programme is now available, covering a wide range of topics from across the breadth of public health. Subject to parliamentary business, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health, and Jane Ellison MP, Minister for Public Health, will give keynote addresses. Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer, will also speak at the conference. It is now possible to book places to attend one or both days of the conference, and there is also an option to join the pre-conference workshops. Please note that in previous years places have been oversubscribed, and so early booking is advised.

Find out more and register here.

VACANCIES AND STUDENTSHIPS

Tenure Track Fellow (Non Clinical) in Health Protection (Leading to Lectureship)

We will shortly be recruiting to a Tenure Track Fellow post. For further information on this post please contact Adele Maggs, Senior Manager of the HPRU EZI.

Please note that the remaining HPRU EZI PhD studentships will be advertised shortly, for an expected October 2015 start.

STAFF UPDATES

Alan Radford has become Theme Leader of the Risk Assessment of Emerging and Zoonotic Threats theme, replacing Malcolm Bennett. We would like to thank Malcolm for all his work on the HPRU and particularly within the Risk theme.

Marcus Blagrove has started with us in a three-year Arbovirologist post within the Vector Biology and Climate Modelling theme.

Maya Wardeh has joined us as a Postdoctoral Research Associate within the Risk Assessment of Emerging and Zoonotic Threats theme, working on the Zoonotic Potential of Novel Pathogens project.
NIHR HPRU PHE PhD Student Introductory Day
A one-day induction to Public Health England (PHE) open to all full- and part-time HPRU PhD students was held on 23 July 2015 at Public Health England, Colindale. The event was organised by Jim McLauchlin and Neil Woodford to generate a collegiate environment for PhD students within Health Protection Research Units and provide a broad background on PHE, and included group activities and a tour of the Colindale site.

Raquel Medialdea Carrera and Sarah Brun Bar-Yaacov have now returned from Public Health England deployments to Sierra Leone. Raquel has written about her experience as a volunteer working in a diagnostic unit at an Ebola Treatment Centre in the Institute of Infection and Global Health’s ‘The Centrifuge’ blog here.

Margaux Meslé has started in the HPRU EZI PhD studentship ‘Assessing the importation risk of zoonotic and emerging pathogens from UK and global perspectives’, in the Epidemiological Approaches theme, with supervisors Jon Read and Rob Christley of the University of Liverpool, and Ian Hall and Steve Leach of Public Health England. Margaux is an MSc graduate in Control of Infectious Diseases from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, with experience in disease and public health mapping, analysis and control. She is a talented archer, and has won numerous archery awards and competitions.

Viruses journal is inviting applications for two Travel Awards for postdoctoral students and PhD students to attend a conference in 2016. Applicants should submit an abstract on their work, CV, justification letter and letter of support from their mentor by 30 September 2015. The Awards will consist of 800 Swiss Francs each. Further information here.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT, IMPACT AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

IGH Public Involvement Panel (including NIHR HPRU EZI)
The Institute of Infection and Global Health Public Involvement Panel (including the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections) has recently been established. The Public Involvement Panel (PIP) held its inaugural meeting on 20 July 2015, co-chaired by Dr Fiona McGill (IGH) and Kath Charters (Lay Member).
The panel is a convenient way for HPRU EZI members to access the input of patients, public, farmers, pet owners etc, to have their unique input to your research. Most health research funders including the NIHR now require some form of public involvement/engagement, and we hope that this panel will be a way of providing you with that input.
The panel has a wide range of interests including HIV, Gastrointestinal Infections, Respiratory Infections, Hepatitis, Sepsis, Animal Health, Meningitis and Encephalitis, Antibiotic Resistance, Food Safety, and the interaction between human and animal health.

We hope to have three researchers present at each meeting. Meetings will be held 3-4 times a year but things may be considered via email in between. You can present at any time in the research process - if you just have an idea you want some lay input for, if you are currently putting in an application or even if you already have funding but require some assistance in carrying out/disseminating the research.

Ways in which the PIP can assist you in your research:

- Provide a new pair of eyes to provide new ideas
- Help write lay summaries
- Review applications to funders that require public involvement
- Help you present your research in an easy to understand manner
- Provide you with easy access to patients to be on steering committees for clinical studies/trials, etc
- Improve your success rate by having more than just a ‘tick box’ when it comes to applying to major funders
- Find members of the public who may be willing to speak to the media if there is a relevant news item.

If you would like to present your research to the PIP, please contact Fiona McGill fmcgill@liv.ac.uk

The HPRU EZI was well-represented at the recent Gordon Research Conference on Infections of the Nervous System, held at The Chinese University of Hong Kong from 14-19 June 2015. Lisa Ng was Conference Chair, and Tom Solomon Vice-Chair, with the conference also attended by Mike Griffiths.

On 23 March 2015 Tom Solomon lectured on Emerging Infections of the Central Nervous System at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

HPRU EZI research on emerging brain infections was described in the Liverpool Neurological Infectious Diseases Course held at Liverpool Medical Institution on 7 and 8 May 2015.

Tom Solomon has joined the Data Safety and Monitoring Committee of a GSK ChAd3--EBO-Z vaccine trial.

Raquel Medialdea Carrera spoke to students on careers in science, medical research, and Ebola, at a Higher Education Event organised by Winstanley College Biology Department in Wigan on 25 June 2015.
Marcus Blagrove and Liz McGinley volunteered for our HPRU EZI stall at The Big Bang Fair North West 2015, held at Aintree Racecourse on 8 July 2015. Marcus and Liz talked to interested pupils about mosquitoes and ticks, and their giant gold tick and mosquito cage attracted a lot of attention!

NIHR COMMUNICATIONS

Notification of press releases

The Department of Health (DH) has raised concern about the number of press releases received with extremely short notice. They very much encourage press releases to increase the visibility of NIHR-funded research. However, as per our NIHR HPRU contract, we are required to notify the Communications team at the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (CCF), of the intention to issue a press release 28 calendar days prior to it being issued. We are also required to send a draft copy of the proposed press release to the Communications team at least 14 calendar days before the date intended for release.

Whilst we are aware that these timescales are not always possible to meet, every effort should be made to give the Communications team as much time as possible so that the release can be flagged to DH and give them time to read and comment on NIHR content before it is issued.

One or two days’ notice of intention to issue a press release, and/or sight of a draft, is not sufficient for handling and in such instances the Communications team will require an explanation as to why notification was not given earlier. This also allows the maximum opportunities for DH to consider where appropriate whether a supportive quote from Ministers or the Chief Medical Officer would be helpful.

Please note that this obligation continues after the end of the research period.

Please check that the following are in place when submitting the draft press release (all embargoes are noted as the
Communications team is internal to the process, including for any press releases to be issued by the publisher/another funder).

Press release checklist:

- Note that the NIHR Identity Guidelines specify 28 days notification of a press release and sight of a draft copy 14 days before it is due to go out.
- Make early mention of the NIHR funding or support e.g. “researchers funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the research arm of the NHS, at ....”, or “NIHR-funded”, or “NIHR-supported researchers at....”
- If ‘NIHR’ is used alone early on in a press release, include the name of the relevant NIHR programme or facility later in the release or in the notes to editors.
- Attach a copy of the research paper/report if this is the subject of the release (or arranged to be submitted).
- Indicate actual or estimated issue date.
- Include the NIHR boilerplate (below).

Notes for editors

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is funded by the Department of Health to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. Since its establishment in April 2006, the NIHR has transformed research in the NHS. It has increased the volume of applied health research for the benefit of patients and the public, driven faster translation of basic science discoveries into tangible benefits for patients and the economy, and developed and supported the people who conduct and contribute to applied health research. The NIHR plays a key role in the Government’s strategy for economic growth, attracting investment by the life-sciences industries through its world-class infrastructure for health research. Together, the NIHR people, programmes, centres of excellence and systems represent the most integrated health research system in the world. For further information, visit the NIHR website (www.nihr.ac.uk).

Please contact the HPRU EZI Office at hpruezi@liv.ac.uk if you wish to submit a press release to the Communications team at the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility, noting the above timescales.

The NIHR is delighted to invite you to visit the new One NIHR Google site and explore its resources on the Hub.

One NIHR is for the different people funded by, supported by and working for the NIHR. One NIHR is a unifying NIHR identity and provides the tools that different stakeholders across the organisation need to talk about the NIHR in their working lives. For a quick overview, watch Chief Medical Officer Professor Dame Sally C. Davies introduce One NIHR in this film clip.

There is a dedicated One NIHR page for everyone working or otherwise a part of the NIHR based in the NIHR Infrastructure, Schools, Research Centres and Units, as well as in the NIHR Coordinating Centres, plus a page for Research Nurses.

One NIHR is supported by an ‘I am NIHR’ pin badge - please contact the HPRU EZI Office if you would like a pin badge.
Congratulations to the following who have published in recent months. Please don’t forget to put the HPRU EZI address/acknowledgement in your publications, because this is required by NIHR.

Available from: http://www.parasitesandvectors.com/content/8/1/86


Available from: http://www.parasitesandvectors.com/content/8/1/239

Available from: http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/176/22/574.abstract

Available from: http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20864


Available from: http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature14594.html


Acknowledging the NIHR HPRU in Publications

Acknowledging the NIHR HPRU is vital as we need to capture all your relevant work. If it says NIHR HPRU in the address it counts, and if it doesn’t say it, it doesn’t count: simple! Please do remember to acknowledge the NIHR HPRU - even if the work is not directly completely funded by the unit, you are supported by the unit in some form or other. This acknowledgement is one of the requirements of being a member of the NIHR HPRU, and is stipulated by the NIHR.

Anything published by any NIHR HPRU in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections Investigators should have one of the following included as an address, in addition to your usual address:

- NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections, Liverpool, L69 7BE
- NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections, Porton Down, UK
- NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections, Colindale, UK
Where a publication is a result of work directly funded by the NIHR HPRU, this too needs to be acknowledged with the following statement and disclaimer.

- **Funding:** This work was supported by the National Institute for Health Research Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections at the University of Liverpool.
- **Disclaimer:** The research was funded by the National Institute for Health Research Health Protection Research Unit (NIHR HPRU) in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections at the University of Liverpool in partnership with Public Health England (PHE) and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR, the Department of Health or Public Health England.

**NIHR HPRU RELATED Publication approval**

Submission: A draft of research articles/papers should be submitted to the NIHR at the same time as submission for publication or at least 28 days before the date intended for publication, whichever is earlier. This should be done via the NIHR HPRU admin team: hpruezi@liv.ac.uk

NB If you have published, but it has not been listed here, please let us know about it!

**GRANT SUCCESS**

HPRU members have been successful in obtaining the following research funding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<th>Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Miles Carroll</td>
<td>MOFÍNA (Consortium researching rapid ‘in the field’ Ebola test)</td>
<td>Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)</td>
<td>£1,000,000</td>
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<td>Dr Rob Christley (Co-Investigator) &amp; Dr Alan Radford (Co-Investigator)</td>
<td>Fully Integrated, real-time detection, diagnosis and control of community infection outbreaks</td>
<td>Wellcome Trust</td>
<td>£227,921.00</td>
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<td>Dr Mike Griffiths (PI) &amp; Professor Bill Paxton (Co-Investigator)</td>
<td>University of Liverpool Confidence in Concept Program - Enhancing Translation</td>
<td>Medical Research Council</td>
<td>£42,480.00</td>
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<td>Dr Mike Griffiths (Co-Investigator) &amp; Professor Tom Solomon (Co-Investigator)</td>
<td>Non-invasive measurement of intracranial pressure and cerebral oxygenation in paediatric brain injury</td>
<td>UK Children's Neurological Research Campaign</td>
<td>£5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Mike Griffiths (Co-Investigator)</td>
<td>NIMBI feasibility study - Non-invasive measurement of intracranial pressure and cerebral oxygenation in paediatric brain injury protocol</td>
<td>Alder Hey Children's Charity</td>
<td>£4,300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Institution</td>
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<td>Professor Julian Hiscox</td>
<td>Pathogen Proteomics</td>
<td>The Pirbright Institute</td>
<td>£192,608.22</td>
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<td>Dr Philip McCall</td>
<td>Peri-domestic behaviour of African malaria vectors</td>
<td>Medical Research Council</td>
<td>£914,272</td>
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<td>Dr Georgios Pollakis (Co-Investigator)</td>
<td>University of Liverpool Confidence in Concept Program - Enhancing Translation</td>
<td>Medical Research Council</td>
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<td>Professor Tom Solomon</td>
<td>PhD Placement Programme</td>
<td>Department for Business, Innovation and Skills</td>
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<td>Professor Steve Torr</td>
<td>Life on the edge: tackling human African trypanosomiasis on the edge of wilderness areas</td>
<td>Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council</td>
<td>£612,098</td>
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<td>Professor Steve Torr</td>
<td>Combating Human African Trypanosomias (HAT)</td>
<td>Al Ansari Exchange</td>
<td>£169,081</td>
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<td>Professor Nicola Williams</td>
<td>Sources, Seasonality, Transmission and Control: Campylobacter and human behaviour in a changing environment</td>
<td>Medical Research Council</td>
<td>£62,550.00</td>
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**NEW MEMBERS**

- **Dr Dean Everett**, Senior Lecturer in Molecular Microbiology, Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of Liverpool
- **Professor Eric Fevre**, Chair of Veterinary Infectious Diseases, Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of Liverpool
- **Dr Lorraine McElhinney**, Deputy, Wildlife Zoonoses and Vector Borne Disease Research Group, Animal and Plant Health Agency
- **Dr Fiona McGill**, NIHR Doctoral Research Fellow, Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of Liverpool
- **Filippo Tatullo**, MRes-PhD Student at University of Liverpool and National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)

**SUBMIT YOUR NEWS**

If you have any items for inclusion in the next newsletter please send them to hpruezi@liv.ac.uk

NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections

**Website** | [http://www.hpruezi.nihr.ac.uk/](http://www.hpruezi.nihr.ac.uk/)  
**Twitter** | [@HPRUezi](http://twitter.com/@HPRUezi)