



## **BEST RESEARCH FOR BEST HEALTH**

### **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 3.4**

#### **NIHR FACULTY COLLEGE OF SENIOR INVESTIGATORS**

*Best Research for Best Health*<sup>1</sup> set out a 5-year Research and Development Strategy for the NHS in England. This Implementation Plan provides more details on one of the key components of that strategy: The NIHR College of Senior Investigators. This document will be regularly updated. The latest version should be used.

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#### **Aim**

- The aim of the College of the NIHR Senior Investigators is to support, value and incentivise the key individuals who are making the most outstanding contribution to applied people-focussed health research in the NIHR.
- This will help to attract, develop and retain the best research professionals to conduct and support people-based research that meets the current and future needs of patients and the public.

#### **Purpose**

- NIHR Senior Investigators provide visible leadership in NIHR by forming the NIHR College.
- The NIHR College is a key source of advice to the Director of the NIHR.
- Formation of the college rewards the most outstanding researchers who are conducting NIHR- and Department of Health Policy Research Programme funded research.

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<sup>1</sup> *Best Research for Best Health*: A New National Health Research Strategy. The NHS contribution to health research in England. Department of Health. 2006.

## Eligibility

- NIHR Senior Investigators are the most prominent and prestigious researchers funded by the NIHR and the most outstanding leaders of patient and people based research.
- NIHR Senior Investigators are selected from amongst the NIHR Investigators through competition, by an international peer-review panel.
- Selection criteria include the excellence of their research in comparison to other research in their field, the relevance of their research to patients and the public, the impact of their research on healthcare and public health, and the impact of their personal leadership on patient and people-based research.

## Funding

- In addition to the element of their salary cost funded from NIHR/PRP sources which confers NIHR Investigator status, Senior Investigators are awarded a recurrent NIHR Senior Investigator's Discretionary Fund of £15,000 a year.
- The Discretionary Fund may be used flexibly at the Senior Investigator's professional discretion, within their employers' governance arrangements.
- NHS Institutions with whom Senior Investigators are associated and who are eligible for Flexibility & Sustainability Funding (FSF - see Implementation Plan 5.7) attract an element of FSF worth £75k per Senior Investigator.

## College of Senior Investigators

- NIHR Senior Investigators form the NIHR College which:
  - provides research leadership to the NIHR Faculty including help in planning and speaking at events, mentoring clinical trainees and aligned activities;
  - provides expert advice to the Director of the NIHR;
  - promotes applied patient and people based research in health and social care;
  - is a prestigious body with events for members including an annual conference.

## National Competition for Senior Investigators

- By March 2010, the NIHR expects to have appointed approximately 200 Senior Investigators through national competitions held annually.
- Further annual competitions will be held to maintain the College of Senior Investigators at around this number.
- The first 100 Senior Investigators took up post in April 2008, and a further 63 were appointed following the second annual competition from 1 April 2009. The outcome of the third annual competition will be announced in March 2010.

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