

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR NIHR SENIOR INVESTIGATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2011 ROUND

NIHR guidance for applicants for NIHR nomination to ACCEA

The Research Faculty Branch of the DH R&D Directorate has prepared this guidance to assist NIHR Senior Investigators applying for NIHR nomination for national level (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum) Clinical Excellence Awards in the 2011 round. It should be read together with Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA) guidance¹.

1. Clinical Excellence Awards

Clinical Excellence Awards recognise and reward NHS consultants and academic General Practitioners who perform 'over and above' the standard expected of their role. To be a successful applicant you will need to demonstrate achievements in developing and delivering high quality patient care, and continuous improvement in the NHS.

ACCEA administers these awards and provides detailed guidance on the Scheme, which all applicants should consult before making an application². The NIHR nomination process runs along a similar timescale to the ACCEA application process. NIHR will ensure that its ranking and citation will be submitted on-time to ACCEA. However, it is the responsibility of the individual applicant to ensure that his or her application, fully completed (including part 2), is submitted to ACCEA via the online system by the closing date. Details of the NIHR nomination processes can be found in section 4 of this document.

2. Eligibility for Clinical Excellence Awards

You can apply for a Clinical Excellence Award if you are:

- a fully registered medical or dental practitioner who is included on the register of the GMC or the specialist list of the GDC and hold a substantive contract as an NHS consultant, with at least one year's experience as a consultant; or
- an academic GP holding a substantive contract appointment as a clinical academic at the equivalent of senior lecturer or above, with a higher education institute and/or the MRC. Academic GP applicants must work half their hours as an academic, be a practising clinician providing some direct NHS services, and undertake at least five programmed activities or equivalent sessions that benefits the NHS, including teaching and research; or
- a consultant who is a registered medical or dental practitioner and holds an honorary NHS contract. Eligibility for awards is defined in the

¹ <http://www.dh.gov.uk/ab/ACCEA/index.htm>

² <http://www.dh.gov.uk/ab/ACCEA/index.htm>

contribution made to the NHS, using wider terms than direct patient care. Whole time academic clinical consultants who undertake at least five programmed clinical activities or equivalent sessional time of benefit to the NHS, including teaching and clinical research qualify for a whole Clinical Excellence Award; or

- a Postgraduate Dean appointed in competition from both general practitioners (GP) and consultants and with responsibilities for Postgraduate trainees across all specialties.

Please see ACCEA guidance for more detail³.

3. NIHR nominations to ACCEA

NIHR, as a nominating body, is invited to make a specific number of rank ordered recommendations to ACCEA in each round. As a nominating body NIHR can nominate those applying for national level awards: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

It is unlikely that applications for higher awards will be successful until at least four years have elapsed at their current award level. However, it may be possible in exceptional circumstances to move up more quickly if significant development can be demonstrated.

First application for national level awards must always be for Bronze awards: holders of national awards may apply only for awards that are one level higher than their existing award.

NIHR would not expect to support anyone who does not already hold an employer based award.

4. The NIHR process

NIHR is responsible for providing citations, ordering applications, and submitting its nominations directly to ACCEA. NIHR cannot upload a nomination for any individual unless the individual is registered online with ACCEA – so please register as soon as possible.

You will receive confirmation that NIHR has nominated you through your on-line application form. An NIHR nomination does not guarantee an applicant's success but does ensure that their application is seen and considered by ACCEA.

In this round NIHR will focus efforts on:

- Senior Investigators who are already in receipt of national level awards (Bronze, Silver or Gold) and who intend to apply for an up-graded award in the 2011 round;

³ <http://www.dh.gov.uk/ab/ACCEA/index.htm>

- Senior Investigators who are eligible but are not yet in receipt of a national award and who intend to apply in the 2011 round.

Attached at Annex 1 is a flow chart of the key dates for NIHR nominations to ACCEA. Any applications for NIHR nomination after the closing date will not be considered and therefore will not be included in the NIHR ranking submitted to ACCEA.

Information needed by NIHR:

- By September 13th 2010: A notification of 'intention to apply to NIHR for nomination' including your GMC number, your institution, your current award level, how many years you have held your current award and the level of award for which you are seeking support.
- By 18th October 2010: A copy of your formal ACCEA application form (if you have not completed the form, your latest draft version will suffice).
- By 18th October 2010: A covering letter/email of no more than 250 words reminding the NIHR committee of your relevant achievements in research that are directly relevant to improving the health of patients and the public. Thus, applicants should briefly include reference to:
 - a. The quality and volume of excellent research.
 - b. The relevance of the research portfolio to the health of patients and the public.
 - c. The impact of the research on improvements in healthcare and public health.
 - d. The impact of the leadership of the individual on patient and people-based research.

This information is important as it will inform the basis of the NIHR citation to ACCEA if NIHR provide a nomination for you.

All information should be sent either by post or email to:

Carolina Arevalo
c/o Karen Bhogal
Research Faculty Branch
Research & Development Directorate
Department of Health
Room 132
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS
Email: Carolina.Arevalo@dh.gsi.gov.uk

The NIHR Assessment Process

NIHR will establish a committee to advise on the selection of ACCEA nominees. This committee for the 2011 round will consist of a Chair and four other members including two Platinum award holding NIHR Senior Investigators and a lay member. The committee will be administered by the Research Faculty Branch at the Department of Health.

Queries relating to this process can be directed to:

Carolina Arevalo

Carolina.Arevalo@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0207 210 5038

Ann Deehan

Ann.Deehan@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0207 210 3850

Annex 1: Key Deadlines for applications for NIHR nomination to ACCEA for Clinical Excellence Awards.

