

# CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR NIHR SENIOR INVESTIGATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2010 ROUND

## NIHR guidance for applicants for NIHR nomination to ACCEA

NIHR Faculty Branch has prepared this guidance to assist NIHR Senior Investigators applying for NIHR nomination for national level (Bronze, Silver or Gold) Clinical Excellence Awards in the 2010 round. It should be read together with Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA) guidance<sup>1</sup>.

### 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 application<sup>2</sup>. 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 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

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dh.gov.uk/ab/ACCEA/Awardsround/index.htm#jumpTo5>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dh.gov.uk/ab/ACCEA/Awardsround/index.htm#jumpTo5>

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 detail<sup>3</sup>.

### **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 only nominate those applying for national level awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Different arrangements apply for Platinum applications.

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.

As this is the first year that NIHR will nominate to ACCEA we have decided to focus our efforts on:

- Senior Investigators who are already in receipt of national level awards (Bronze or Silver) for at least three years and who intend to apply for an up-graded award in the 2010 round;

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.dh.gov.uk/ab/ACCEA/Awardsround/index.htm#jumpTo5>

- Senior Investigators who are eligible but are not yet in receipt of a national award and who intend to apply in the 2010 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 16<sup>th</sup> 2009: A notification of 'intention to apply to NIHR for nomination' including your GMC number.
- By 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009: A copy of your formal ACCEA application form (if you have not completed the form, your latest draft version will suffice).
- By 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009: A covering letter/email of no more than 250 words reminding the NIHR committee of your relevant achievements in research that is 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:

Karen Bhogal  
NIHR Faculty Branch  
Department of Health  
Room 726  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
London SE1 8UG  
Email: [Karen.Bhogal@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Bhogal@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 2010 round will consist of a Chair and four other members including one Platinum award holding NIHR Senior

Investigator and a lay member. The committee will be administered by the NIHR Faculty Branch at the Department of Health.

Queries relating to this process can be directed to:

Karen Bhogal

[Karen.Bhogal@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Bhogal@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

Tel: 0207 972 1260

Ann Deehan

[Ann.Deehan@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Ann.Deehan@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

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

