

PROCESS OF SELECTION OF NIHR SENIOR INVESTIGATORS

Guidance to applicants

This following guidance was provided to applicants to be NIHR Senior Investigators:

1. NIHR Senior Investigators are to be the most outstanding leaders of patient and people-based research.
2. Only NIHR Investigators can apply to be NIHR Senior Investigators. Individuals must be directly engaged in doing research that is funded by the NIHR or the PRP. Part of their salary will be a "Research Cost" funded by NIHR or PRP. The main NIHR/PRP source of funding for their research related activities will be through funding for NIHR Projects, NIHR Programmes, NIHR Units, NIHR Centres or from PRP.
3. In the round for appointment in April 2008 up to 120 NIHR Senior Investigators may be appointed.
4. The first stage of selection will consist of a review based on written information provided by the applicant together with additional publicly available data. This will include:
 - ◆ a bibliometric review of research publications based on their declared area of research undertaken by RAND;
 - ◆ a review of the data provided by the applicant on their template curriculum vitae.
5. Applications that have been successful at the first stage will be considered by an expert panel.
6. The selection criteria will be:
 - a. The quality and volume of internationally-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 public research.

Information Provided By Applicants

7. The following information was requested from applicants:
 - a. The area of research in which they can demonstrate that they are one of the best researchers in their field in England together with a list of all their research publications over the previous ten years. Applicants were asked to provide Pub Med or ISI numbers for all their publications;
 - b. Of these publications up to ten of their most important publications arising from this research area in the past five years;
 - c. Grant income over the past five years;
 - d. The relevance of the research undertaken to the health of patients and the public;
 - e. Examples of how their research findings have been translated into improvements in healthcare and public health;
 - f. The leadership role of the NIHR Investigator;
 - g. The NIHR Investigator's role in:
 - i. engaging health care users and the general public;
 - ii. engaging health care planners and policy makers, as appropriate.
 - h. Their track record in training researchers in this area.

Selection Process

Stage One

8. The first stage of selection will consist of a review based on written information provided by the applicant together with additional publicly available data. This includes:
- ◆ a bibliometric review of research publications based on their declared area of research undertaken by RAND;
 - ◆ a review of the data provided by the applicant on their template curriculum vitae.

This review will be used to support the panel in short listing applicants for the final panel meeting. Panel members will be asked to use their professional judgement, against the criteria, to form a view about the applicants taking into account only the evidence presented on the application forms and in the reports provided.

Stage Two

9. Panel members will be asked to use their professional judgement, against the criteria, to form a view about the applicants taking into account only the evidence presented on the application forms and in the reports provided.

The criteria for selection are:

- ◆ The quality and volume of internationally-excellent research;
- ◆ The relevance of the research portfolio to the health of patients and the public;
- ◆ The impact of the research on improvements in healthcare and public health;
- ◆ The impact of the leadership of the individual on patient and public research.

NIHR Senior Investigators Panel

Professor Ruth Barrington (Chair)
Dr Mike Burrows
Professor John Caldwell
Professor Sally Davies
Professor Ian Diamond
Dr Diana Dunstan
Dr Russell Hamilton
Mr Ron Kerr
Professor Sir Alex Markham
Professor Catherine Niven
Professor Sir Denis Pereira-Grey
Professor Steven West
Professor John Williams
Mr Roger Wilson

Appointments

10. Applicants will be notified during the first quarter of 2008 whether their application have been successful. Appointments will start from 1st April 2008.
11. NIHR Senior Investigators will normally be appointed for five years. However to ensure a rolling programme of appointments, initial appointments will be made in cohorts of approximately 40 who will be appointed for 5, 4 or 3 years to enable a continuing flow of appointments (see table).

	Number appointed	Length of Service
Year 1	Up to 40	5
	Up to 40	4
	Up to 40	3
Year 2	40	5
Year 3	40	5
Year 4 onwards	40	5