

NIHR Researchfish Update: 2018

The NIHR has a responsibility to demonstrate the value and impact of the research it funds. We capture information from researchers and trainees on the outputs, outcomes and impact of our awards through Researchfish. The information gathered is then reported to both the Government and the public to demonstrate the need for further pioneering research for the benefit of patients, the public and the economy.

Researchfish is a vital tool in our toolbox, collecting detailed information directly from NIHR-funded researchers. It allows us to maintain a longer term relationship with award holders and capture new developments and impacts arising from their research during and after award completion.

We are using our Researchfish data in a variety of ways. We build impact case studies and write reports to share with our stakeholders. The data extracted from Researchfish is currently being used in impact assessment exercises for the NIHR Public Health Research programme and Public

Our use of Researchfish:

- ❖ NIHR has over 8,500 personal and research awards in Researchfish, tracking information on the outputs, outcomes and impact of our funded research since 2012
- ❖ Data for this update was extracted for analysis September 2018
- ❖ In 2018, 98% of awards expected to provide a submission did so

www.nihr.ac.uk/researchfish

Health Overview, and the NIHR/MRC Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation programme. We are undertaking collaborative work with Marie Curie using Researchfish data to assess the impact of our combined investment in palliative and end of life care research. Finally, we use Researchfish returns to populate the threaded publication information on the NIHR Journals Library.



Why we assess impact

Formally assessing the impact of research provides us with data to support several important tasks:

- **improving** accountability by improving reporting to government, the public and other stakeholders.
- **enhancing** the evidence base for the impact of applied health research, to better advocate for funding.
- **connecting** impacts and new developments with the original research across time.
- **helping** the Government and NIHR understand how best to allocate resources.
- **highlighting** potential avenues for continuous improvement.

Impact assessment offers five benefits:

Better
accountability

Ability to
analyse

Information
for advocacy

Evidence for
allocation



Continuous improvement

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For a full review of the NIHR's activities, see the NIHR Annual Report.

Using evidence to influence policy

Since 2012, NIHR award holders reported giving evidence to a government review 189 times. Some serve as members of committees, or by participating in working groups and providing advice on best evidence to Government departments, service commissioners and healthcare leaders, and this helps turn better knowledge into better care.

NIHR award holders also report participating in advisory committees and national consultations. By actively advising and contributing to clinical governance, and influencing key health and care services, non-NHS organisations and companies, our award holders ensure that future policy directions are informed by high quality research evidence.

I have contributed to a White Paper on minimum unit pricing for alcohol. I have also chaired a committee advising the Health Minister on government policy on minimum unit pricing for alcohol.

Professor Simon Moore
Professor of Public Health Research
Cardiff University

Since 2012, NIHR award holders reported participation in



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Another productive way to maximise the usefulness of research is to participate in National consultations. NIHR award holders report preparing responses and contributing to such consultations to highlight challenges, suggest improvements and provide support to service planning and commissioning.

I am Chair of the Pharmacovigilance Expert Advisory Group that advises the MHRA through the Commission on Human Medicines on drug safety issues in the UK and in Europe. Advice from that committee leads to safety updates, important prescribing information to minimise risk, and occasionally restrictions to the use of the drug or withdrawal of the drug. The work of the committee has impact on every aspect of clinical care in the NHS where drugs are prescribed.

Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed
David Weatherall Chair of Medicine
University of Liverpool

Since 2012, NIHR award holders reported giving evidence to a government review



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Our award holders have also been providing evidence to Government reviews, inquiries, committees and forums informing officials, NHS and life science industries of the latest evidence.

We gave evidence to a Government Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs - Ketamine. We contributed to the recommendation that Ketamine be upgraded to Class B drug but that no restrictions on access for research use and use for treatment of depression should be in place.

Rupert McShane
Consultant Psychiatrist
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust



Using evidence to influence practice

It is when research findings change the course of care or treatment that research really makes its impact on health and well-being. A crucial step in developing health and care practice is to ensure that findings from research inform guidelines and training information.

Through Researchfish, NIHR award holders report influencing the development of practice through:

- **local or national clinical guidelines** – by presenting or submitting evidence to inform guideline development
- **clinical reviews** - to help inform and influence clinical practice
- **policy documents** - in proposals from public bodies and organisations which have subsequent impacts on health and care
- **systematic reviews** - updates to reviews of the current evidence base to inform policy and decision-making



Influencing future practice through education and training is also important and up to date research is included in curriculum programmes run by Higher Education Institutions and in training programmes for staff. We are delighted that we now have nearly 1,400 reported instances of our award holders feeding their findings directly into the training of the next generation of health and care practitioners and researchers.

Since 2012, NIHR award holders reported participation in



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We participated in a Department of Health Round table meeting on specialist preterm birth services provision in November 2017 and have influenced the National Maternity Strategy 'Safer Maternity Care'. Following a round table meeting with the Department of Health in November 2017, the addition of target to reduce preterm birth from 8 to 6% by 2025 was introduced, with the recognition that 30 preterm clinics are already in a position to provide specialist care. A national referral guideline and strategy has since been developed (by the UKPCN) to ensure women at risk are identified and referred for specialist care in a timely fashion, and this is due to be published by the end of the year.

Jenny Carter
HEE/NIHR Clinical Doctoral Research Fellow and
Research Midwife
King's College, London and Guy's & St Thomas' NHS
Foundation Trust

East London CCG has commissioned implementation of peer support workers on all mental health inpatient wards in East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT), explicitly following the model employed in my pilot RCT. This intervention improves outcomes through the addition of one City and Guilds trained peer support worker per ward in adult mental health services.

Professor Alan Simpson
Professor of Collaborative Mental Health Nursing
Centre for Mental Health Research, School of Health
Sciences, City University of London



Keeping patients at the heart of research

Researchfish offers a unique opportunity to gain insight into the benefits of involving patients and the public in research. Since 2016, NIHR award holders have been asked to describe how patients are involved in their research and to explain the benefits of this involvement.

In different studies we work with both The National Deaf Children's Society and The National Autistic Society. These collaborations have brought valuable contributions to our research, bringing the perspectives of service users and their families into the heart of our work.

Barry Wright
Chair in Child Mental Health
Hull York Medical School (University of York) and
Leeds & York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

NIHR's national advisory group INVOLVE defines 'involvement' as active involvement between people who use services, carers and researchers, rather than the use of people as participants in research (or as research 'subjects'). Many people describe involvement as doing research with or by people who use services, rather than to, about or for them.

Involvement is not the only way to participate in research outside trials. INVOLVE uses the term 'engagement' in research to express activity "where information and knowledge about research is provided and disseminated, for example science festivals, open days and media coverage."

NIHR award holders collaborate with patients and the public to:

- **design** relevant and well-articulated research questions.
- **manage** and oversee study delivery and ensure that research methods are easy to understand and acceptable to study participants.
- **support** data analysis and interpretation and to write up and disseminate research findings.

Keeping patients at the heart of research, Researchfish data demonstrates how involving patients and the public in research enhances the reach, quality and impact of research. Involving people provides wider perspectives and opens new directions for future research.

Researchfish is proving itself to be an increasingly important tool in helping the NIHR understand the impact of public involvement and engagement in our research. We are learning where the current emphasis of involvement lies as well as those areas where we need to develop our partnership further with patients, carers and the public. By working collaboratively with other funders I am also hopeful we will have data that will enable us to improve and strengthen the approach to public involvement across the entire UK health research system.

Simon Denegri
NIHR National Director for Patients, Carers and the Public

We have been working closely with other funders to develop a common PPI question set for use in Researchfish. Fifteen funders (including the NIHR) in the United Kingdom, Europe, North America and New Zealand used this new question set in 2018. Cross-funder analysis of this data set reflects what we have seen in the NIHR: that involvement in the early stages of research activities (such as identifying research questions, study design and development) is widespread. But involvement in the later stages of research (such as data analysis, writing up and sharing research findings) is much less common practice.

Using the new question set

As of October 2018, the new question set has generated a total of 1,481 responses from researchers. These researchers are based all over the world, and the data they have provided describes how people are involved in research, the factors that contribute to successful involvement, and the challenges researchers face. Critically, researchers also explain what difference involvement made to their research.

Global collaboration

Working with others is key to interpreting the results of research, sharing research findings and working out how findings can be applied in practice. Analysis suggests that researchers who collaborate internationally are most likely to be impactful¹.

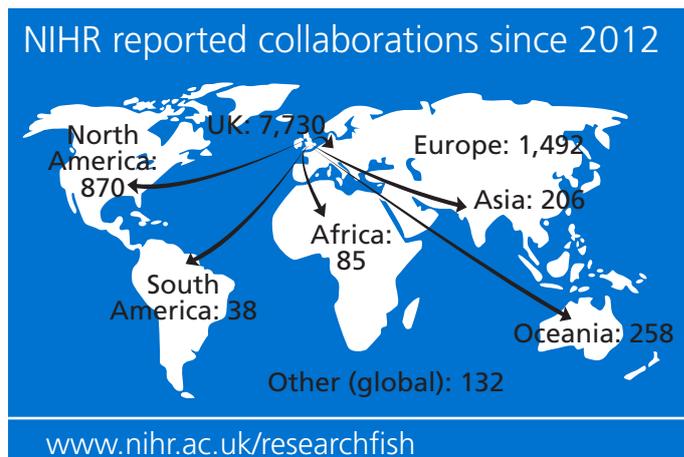
I worked alongside the lead pharmacologist and flight Surgeons at NASA Johnson Space Center. This allowed me to access the necessary experience and expertise so that I could complete my research project.

Varsha Jain
Specialty Registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Royal London Hospital,
Bart's Health NHS Trust

The benefits we have gained from collaborations include:

- **sharing** and disseminating research findings
- **reinforcing** existing collaborations and developing new partnerships for future work
- **sharing** information used in business cases for commissioning and developing new services.
- **informing** education and training programmes and promoting good practice amongst peers.

Our Researchfish data shows that NIHR award holders are highly collaborative. Over 65% of reported collaborations are with partners based in the UK, but there is also strong global collaboration further extending the potential for greater dissemination and impact with NIHR research.

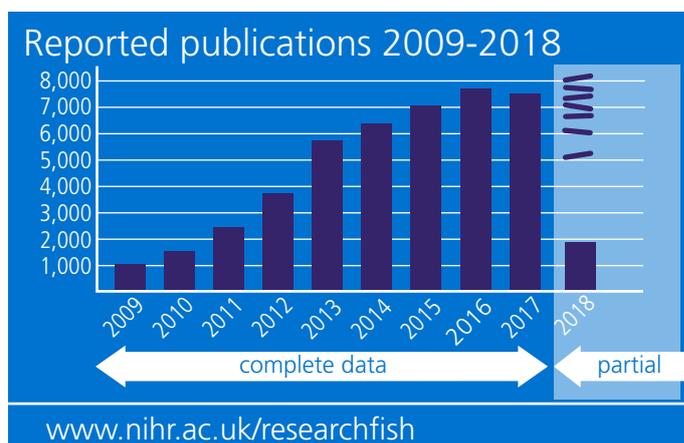


The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, in collaboration with the Robert Pope Foundation of Nova Scotia, established the Balfour M Mount Visiting Professorship in order to bring together key people in the palliative care community to engage in discussion about the physical, psycho-social and spiritual needs of patients requiring palliative care. Professor Higginson was awarded this prestigious Professorship and spent time with clinical care and academic colleagues in Canada to share and discuss the implications of her research on breathlessness, models of care and outcome measurement. This collaboration has enhanced knowledge sharing and increased the reach and impact of the Institute's research on a global scale.

Irene J Higginson
Professor of Palliative Care and Policy
Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London

Publications: sharing research findings

In the last ten years, a total of 45,490 publications have been published from NIHR awards reported in Researchfish, of which 90% are journal articles. There is a steady growth in the number of publications reported to us - reflecting the time lag between study completion and results published. NIHR award holders share research findings with other academics through journal articles, conference abstracts and proceedings, and writing book chapters.



1. Guthrie, Susan, Anne Kirtley, Bryn Garrod, Alexandra Pollitt, Jonathan Grant and Steven Wooding. A 'DECISIVE' approach to research funding: Lessons from three Retrosight studies. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2016. http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1132.html. DOI: 10.7249/RR1132



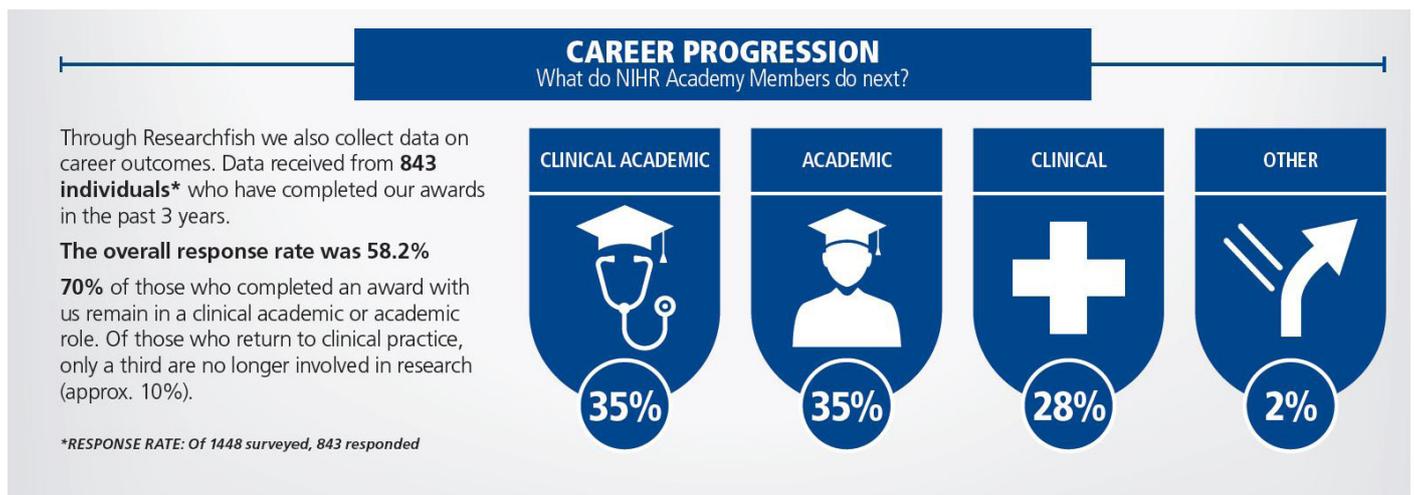
Investing in people

The NIHR Academy introduced the Researchfish Career Tracker in 2016 to capture the career progression of NIHR Academy Members. These questions explore issues such as the experience of undertaking an NIHR award, how much time award holders spend on research and future career plans. Analysis of the information allows NIHR to analyse and develop our training and support programmes.

For the 2018 submission period, a total of 1,448 award holders were asked to participate in our Researchfish Career Tracker, and 843 award holders provided a response. Our analysis shows that 70% of those undertaking an NIHR Academy award are doing so as they wish to pursue or further their academic career, or because they wish to pursue a clinical academic career. In addition, 85% reported that they had achieved what they set out to by undertaking their NIHR Academy award.

My NIHR award provided me with an excellent opportunity to have protected time for research. I have had the privilege to work with very inspiring scientists and in collaboration with the clinicians. I have undertaken a translational project which I wouldn't have had the opportunity of at my stage in training otherwise. This has proven invaluable in accelerating my career path towards higher degrees including preparation for an external PhD grant to achieve my ambition to be a clinician-scientist.

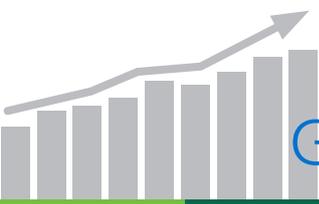
Dr Jonathan Lim
Imperial Wellcome 4i Clinical Research Fellow
The Francis Crick Institute & Imperial College London



The NIHR Research Professorship has been transformative to my research career. It has allowed me to focus on developing the programme of research my specialty needed, building my team, and growing the skills to lead these. The appointment to a range of research leadership positions early in my UK career has put me at the heart of clinical research in ENT, Hearing and Balance. It has helped me to gain the trust and respect from professional organisations, and together to develop a national research agenda.

Professor Anne GM Schilder
NIHR Senior Investigator
University College London Ear Institute and RNTNEH





Growth and development

The NIHR is actively engaged in Researchfish governance and development activity. We contribute to the Researchfish Steering Board and associated subgroups. Through the Interoperability Steering Group we are working closely with representatives from UK Research and Innovation, research organisations and Researchfish to improve the flow of information between information systems and reduce duplication of effort.

We are currently leading on a set of questions to gain better insight into the impacts research has on the education, training and professional development of others. We have worked with

research funding charities to further develop cross-funder PPI questions. We are also working with other funders to improve how information can be shared to support comparative analysis.

We continue to support work to improve use of unique identifiers such as ORCID, and encourage researchers to link their Researchfish and ORCID accounts. Giving permission via individual account profiles for the two systems to share publications and award data saves time inputting information and improves data quality.

Throughout 2018 we have worked to develop our website. Part of this development will see summary information submitted via Researchfish which is due to launch next year. To support this and other activity, we have also worked to ensure award holders and research organisations have a good understanding of how we use the information you provide to us. Find out more on our website at www.nihr.ac.uk/researchfish.

In 2018, the NIHR fully implemented its sanctions approach. A small number of awards that failed to provide a submission had sanctions applied. We are hugely grateful to award holders who provide detailed information to our annual submission.

How does NIHR help develop Researchfish?

- ❖ Strategic advice and leadership
- ❖ Collaboration with other funders
- ❖ Helping to improve the question set
- ❖ Enhancing system interoperability

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Get Involved

NIHR researchers and NIHR-funded research organisations are strongly encouraged to get involved with the Researchfish submission process and shaping future developments through the subgroups. If you'd like to get involved please email support@researchfish.com.

The NIHR remains committed to ensuring that the submission process is as straightforward as possible. Visit the NIHR website to access the regularly updated guidance and downloadable resources. Contact the NIHR evaluation team directly via evaluation@nihr.ac.uk for more information.

The next Researchfish submission window opens on



**Monday 4th
February 2019**

and closes at 4pm

**Thursday 14th
March 2019**

www.nihr.ac.uk/researchfish