

Update from NRS Reproductive Health and Childbirth Specialty Group

March 2021



NIHR Announcement. Closure of the UPH Portal

The UPH Group will no longer be accepting applications for UPH priority. The priority framework still exists and studies should be prioritised on this basis. Please see below for the announcement through the NIHR bulletin.

NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research

URGENT PUBLIC HEALTH STUDIES UPDATE

Applications no longer being accepted for studies to be designated as Urgent Public Health

Due to the drop in COVID-19 case numbers and significant progress with the vaccine roll-out, we are no longer accepting applications for studies to be designated as Urgent Public Health (UPH). The submission portal has therefore been closed.

If you wish for your study to be included onto the NIHR CRN Portfolio and to access NIHR CRN Study Support Services, please [visit our NIHR CRN Portfolio webpage](#).

Existing UPH studies will continue to be prioritised in the coming weeks, and new COVID-19 portfolio studies will be supported in line with local priorities and capacity, alongside studies into other disease areas.

If you have any queries, please contact covid19application@nihr.ac.uk.

The future of UK clinical research delivery

UK Government's Policy Paper
23/03/2021



A UK vision to unleash the full potential of clinical research delivery to tackle health inequalities, bolster economic recovery and to improve the lives of people across the UK.

[Full document.](#)

Key changes to UK amendment process

The devolved administrations, the HRA and the MHRA have agreed to make two key changes to the UK amendment process with effect from 25 March 2021, including an update to the amendment tool. [Full details](#)

COVID-19 UPH STUDIES. UPDATE

PAN-COVID Pregnancy and Neonatal Outcomes in COVID-19. CPMS 45571
<https://pan-covid.org/> PAN-COVID

The recruitment as of 26/03/2021 was over 7882 participants from 14 countries and 181 hospital sites.

Recruitment is coming to an end and the study team is very grateful for the commitment of all sites.

Scottish participating sites are NHS Grampian, Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Lanarkshire, Lothian and Tayside.

They have all exceeded their targets, many congratulations!

The next PAN-COVID Live Session will be hosted on Tuesday April 13th, 2021 at 11 am. This will be a celebratory Live Session to mark the end of the study.

Programme of National Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Workshops

Open to all! Policy makers, researchers, patients and lay members and those from the third sector. Workshops will take place on Zoom. Please follow the links below to register via Eventbrite:

Date/time	Workshop
Monday 12 April 9:30-12:00	What Can We do to Develop a More Visible PPI Community in Scotland?
Wednesday 14 April 13:00-15:30	How do We Further Increase, Build and Sustain PPI in Scotland?
Monday 19 April 9:30-12:00	PPI in Neuroprogressive and Dementia Research in the NHS and Care Settings
Tuesday 20 April 13:00-15:30	PPI During Covid-19: Working with Covid and Long Covid Patients
Friday 23 April 13:00-15:30	Preparing Patients for Getting Involved in PPI Activities
Wednesday 28 April 13:00-15:30	What Can We do to Develop a More Visible PPI Community in Scotland?*
Friday 30 April 9:30-12:00	How do We Further Increase, Build and Sustain PPI in Scotland?*

Very Happy Easter to everyone!

From Abha and Txaro



GOOD NEWS STORIES. NEW STUDIES

ESPrIT2. A multi-centre randomised controlled trial to determine the effectiveness of laparoscopic removal of isolated superficial peritoneal endometriosis for the management of chronic pelvic pain in women. CPMS 48838. IRAS 291525.

CIs: Dr Lucy Whitaker and Professor Andrew Horne, University of Edinburgh. Funder: NIHR/HTA.



Endometriosis affects 1 in 10 women and the most common subtype is superficial peritoneal endometriosis (SPE). Existing management options for SPE include medical and surgical treatment. The most recent Cochrane review in support of surgery to treat endometriosis associated pain included only one study of 16 women. Furthermore recurrence of pain occurs in up to 87% of women in the first two years after surgery and around 50% of women will undergo repeat procedures.

ESPrIT2 is a major UK NIHR/HTA-funded randomised controlled trial to determine if removal of SPE is effective in the treatment of chronic pelvic pain. The study aims to randomise 400 women who have SPE alone identified at diagnostic laparoscopy within 70 NHS hospitals across the UK. At laparoscopy, participants will be randomised to either having their endometriosis removed by ablation/excision/or a combination of both (surgeon's decision) or to diagnostic laparoscopy only.

If you are interested in being a recruiting site please contact Ann Doust on etmt@ed.ac.uk or complete the feasibility form <https://crh-redcap.igmm.ed.ac.uk/surveys/?s=3NMKDHNTM>

Dr Lucky Saraswat, NHS Grampian, reports on an EU research project that Aberdeen and Edinburgh are engaged in.

FEMaLe. The research and innovation programme 'Finding Endometriosis through Machine Learning' is led by Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Denmark, and has been awarded an EU H2020 grant for 5.9 million Euros.



FEMaLe has several work packages based on a framework of 'P4 Medicine' (predictive, preventative, personalized, participatory) to develop a platform that converts multi-dimensional population datasets into a personalised predictive model to improve care for women with endometriosis – all via machine learning and artificial intelligence. It will get valid estimates on the extent and geographical distribution of debilitating pelvic pain in women and get an estimate of the health related and social consequences of diagnostic delay, but also to develop a phenotype description of women with endometriosis to help achieve early diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis with pelvic pain.

Further, FEMaLe will facilitate high resolution stratification of people with endometriosis, making it possible to identify subtype-specific risk factors and gain insight in possible new drug targets or drug repurposing opportunities. This will enable shared decision making in both primary and secondary care as part of a personalised pathway, raise awareness, health literacy, and empowerment with an ultimate objective to improve quality of life in women with endometriosis.

Please let us know if you are interested in participating.

Newly funded study. Dr Lucky Saraswat has been awarded an NHS Grampian Endowment Research Grant to undertake the study: 'Exploring experiences, information and support needs of women with endometriosis during the COVID pandemic'.

Many Congratulations!

Please send us your Good News stories, queries, etc:
Abha (abha.maheshwari@abdn.ac.uk) or
Txaro (maria.amezaga@nhs.scot)