

Additional information to support Dementia Capacity programme applications

As part of an £11.8 million national [investment](#) into dementia research by the NIHR and the Alzheimer's Society, we are offering three East Midlands research fellowships focused on planning, leading, and supporting research into applied dementia care research.

NIHR Applied Research Collaborations are nationwide and cover a wide range of topics, including research into the prevention, detection and diagnosis of disease and the development of interventions; the evaluation of interventions; the management of disease; and the provision of health and care services. More details about the ARCs can be found here: <https://arc-em.nihr.ac.uk/> and <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/collaborating-in-applied-health-research.htm>.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to develop and undertake applied dementia research, supported through participation in a learning and development programme as part of a national cohort of NIHR Fellows. The research programme will focus on the needs of people with dementia in under-served groups, addressing:

- (1) Needs of people with young onset dementia;
- (2) Access to technology and needs of people with dementia from underserved groups.

The three fellowships will augment the programme of dementia research already underway in the ARC's Mental Health and Wellbeing theme, and extend its scope within the region. All posts will have access to a wide range of career development opportunities to. By the end of the fellowships, successful applicants will have consolidated their research leadership skills, built new collaborations and networks, and laid sound foundations for their own programme of independent research.

[About the research programme](#)

The thematic programme of work to be undertaken links to NIHR Dementia Highlight Notice priorities e.g. NICE's 2018 dementia research priority 'self-management' (such as our current PRIDE self-management app PhD study), Alzheimer's Society priorities to: (a) use technology to enhance quality of life, (b) understand and meet needs (c) personalise interventions; plus the Consensus statement on Post-Covid dementia research priorities to 'ensure people who cannot use or possess technology are not left behind' by supporting care with digital interventions.

The 50,000+ people with young-onset dementia (<65) (YOD) living in the UK (3600+ in the East Midlands) are marginalised, underserved and understudied, with often delayed diagnosis and specific needs (e.g. employment, parenting) related to age of dementia onset. Covid-19 has caused great social isolation, since YOD is much less common than late-onset dementia. Use of technology for online support has increased rapidly and we are reviewing online YOD peer support groups and coproducing best practice guidance.

This research programme will scope people with YOD's technology needs and social media engagement, identify group members, enrol a facilitator using consensus guidelines, and establish online peer support groups in all 5 East Midlands counties. Many people with dementia use technology to facilitate independence and communicate with friends/family increasing since Covid-19, but others lack technology and/or appropriate support and face

social/digital exclusion, especially so for underserved and marginalised populations linked to ethnicity, poverty, lack of family support, frailty, and social/geographical isolation. We will link with local NHS services, support groups and charitable organisations to identify a diversity of people with dementia from underserved groups across the region and scope their needs, access to, and interest in using digital technology.

Our work develops East Midlands' dementia research, with the population focus away from local teaching hospital hubs. Building on existing strengths this will enhance regional collaboration and capacity building, linking with other national research teams through the Cross-ARC Frailty and Digital Themes plus NIHR Mental Health Medtech Co-operative (NIHR MindTech). In Leicester, one of the UK's most ethnically diverse cities (45% White British), we will work with the Centre for Ethnic Health Research.

Results from each study will provide a solid platform to extend the work both in terms of NIHR and related Fellowship applications. Successful applicants will be supported to extend their leadership skills and experience, and mentored to develop their own project ideas and secure funding to implement them. The work programme will establish a Patient Public Involvement group to maximise PPI involvement, working with the PPI Coordinator at the Institute of Mental Health, and link with the ARC's PPI group.

The fellowship is funded by NIHR ARC East Midlands (through awards from the NIHR and the Alzheimers Society). Successful applicants will therefore work closely with members of the ARC, and the wider NIHR ARC Dementia network to contribute to wider capacity-building activities.

Eligibility criteria

The Fellowships are open to individuals already engaged in applied dementia care research and those from other backgrounds wishing to move into this area of research. We are seeking applications from a wide range of professional backgrounds, settings and disciplines, including but not limited to health and care (health professional and social care practitioners), social sciences and data sciences.

Evidence of experience and leadership potential will be sought during the recruitment process, and includes research experience, publications, indicators of esteem (such as prizes, awards, invitations to speak), external income generation and other evidence of being on a trajectory to research leadership. Excellent organisational and communication skills are also essential for this role, and the ability to travel to selected locations.

Application procedure

Informal enquiries are very welcome. Please contact Professor Martin Orrell (m.orrell@nottingham.ac.uk) or Dr Emma Rowley (emma.rowley@nottingham.ac.uk) for further information.

Please note – applications emailed to these addresses will not be accepted; only applications submitted via the University of Nottingham's online vacancy portal will be reviewed.