

# NIHR Southampton BRC and Wessex SDE joint funding call 2025

**NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) and Wessex Secure Data Environment (SDE) partnership to enable data science projects using the SDE. This is to help further integrate NIHR infrastructure within the BRC and will serve as a model for other SDEs.**

The Southampton Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) and Wessex Secure Data Environment (SDE) partnership has funds available to support projects aligned with the BRC and SDE objectives. This funding scheme aims to generate actionable data insights that healthcare professionals can utilise to enhance the health and resilience of individuals and populations.

The Wessex SDE provides researchers with secure, governed access to healthcare data from NHS providers across multiple institutions. By offering a streamlined, safe, and efficient pathway to access sensitive healthcare information, the SDE facilitates the exploration of key health-related questions. Its infrastructure ensures data is de-identified and accessed only within a controlled environment, maintaining the highest standards of data security and confidentiality. These features aim to accelerate the effective use of data for research and innovation, fostering improvements in healthcare delivery and outcomes across the region.

The Southampton BRC, a collaboration between the University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). The BRC's mission is to translate cutting-edge scientific discoveries into new treatments, technologies, and care models that directly improve patient health outcomes, supported by a robust data ecosystem enabled by the Wessex SDE.

## Eligibility

- Research projects must be led by the BRC Data, Health and Society theme (DHS) and one other theme within the BRC: Nutrition, Lifestyle and Metabolism (NLM), Respiratory and Allergy (RA), Microbiology, Immunology and Infection (MII), or Perioperative and Critical Care (PCC).
- Projects must include one or more regional partner/s from HIOW/Dorset (listed in appendix A)
- The primary focus should be on clinical data, with relatively small data volumes anticipated for this funding round. While multimodal data (e.g., genomic and image analysis) can be accommodated within the SDE, these may significantly increase costs. Analysis can be done with any Python and R package within Jupyter Notebooks inside the SDE
- The project must report outcomes within 12-18 months, with funding drawn down based on the following defined deliverables:
  - a) Submission of a detailed project plan, including data access and analysis milestones, within two months of project initiation.
  - b) Regular progress reports, submitted quarterly, demonstrating alignment with project objectives and BRC SMART objectives.
  - c) Completion of initial data analysis, including a summary of findings and implications,

within the first 9-12 months.

d) Delivery of a final report within 12-18 months, detailing project outcomes, key insights, and their potential impact on healthcare delivery or research.

e) Presentation of findings to stakeholders, including BRC and regional partners, through a workshop or seminar by the end of the project period.

- The project needs to report within 12-18 months and funding can be drawn-down based on defined deliverables within the active project timeframe:

## Costings

- **Funding Management:** Funding will be managed by UHS R&D as grant funds to be disbursed against approved costs.
- **Total Funding Available:** The BRC has allocated £100,000, and the SDE has allocated up to £300,000 for research proposals under this scheme. The total number of projects funded will depend on the quality and anticipated impact of the proposals.
- **The funding cap:** For individual projects is £60,000, distributed across different categories (outlined below).
- **£10,000** for technical platform costs. (SDE)
- **£30,000** for project management support and data extraction time for the participating Trusts. (SDE)
- **£20,000** allocated to research costs specific to the relevant BRC theme(s).

**The SDE funding** must be used for the purposes of data extraction, curation and access, or activities directly related to these aspects of the project.

## Review process

- Grant call opens **14<sup>th</sup> January 2025**
- Closing date for applications is **10<sup>th</sup> February 2025**
- Applications will only be accepted via a fully completed application form – appendix A – and must be accompanied by the appropriate UHS costing template. Please contact the UHS Research Grants Team for support with costings [Researchgrants@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:Researchgrants@uhs.nhs.uk)
- Applications to be sent to [BRC-applications@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:BRC-applications@uhs.nhs.uk)
- Outcome letters (award letters for successful applications) will be sent no later than **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**.
- Funding allocated to grant cost centres by end March 2025.
- Applications will be internally peer reviewed. Priority will be given to applications of strategic importance to the BRC. The final decision will be made by the BRC and Wessex SDE partnership research panel.

### Post-award conditions

- The awardee may be approached by the BRC to provide feedback on the funding scheme which will be used to assess the future potential of the scheme and inform its improvement.
- The awardee must submit **at least three key reports** to the BRC (six months, one year, and final within 18 months or completion), supplemented by **quarterly progress updates** aligned with project milestones.
- Publications resulting from the award must be affiliated with both the BRC (Biomedical Research Centre) and SDE (Wessex Secure Data Environment)

## Appendix A

### Application Form:

Details of Applicant(s)			
Principal Applicant Name (last name, first name, title):			
Academic Unit/Trust Department			
Current Post:		Since:	
	E-mail:		

Co-applicant Name:			
Academic Unit/Trust Department			
Current Post:		Since:	
	E-mail:		

Co-applicant Name:			
Academic Unit/Trust Department			
Current Post:		Since:	
	E-mail:		

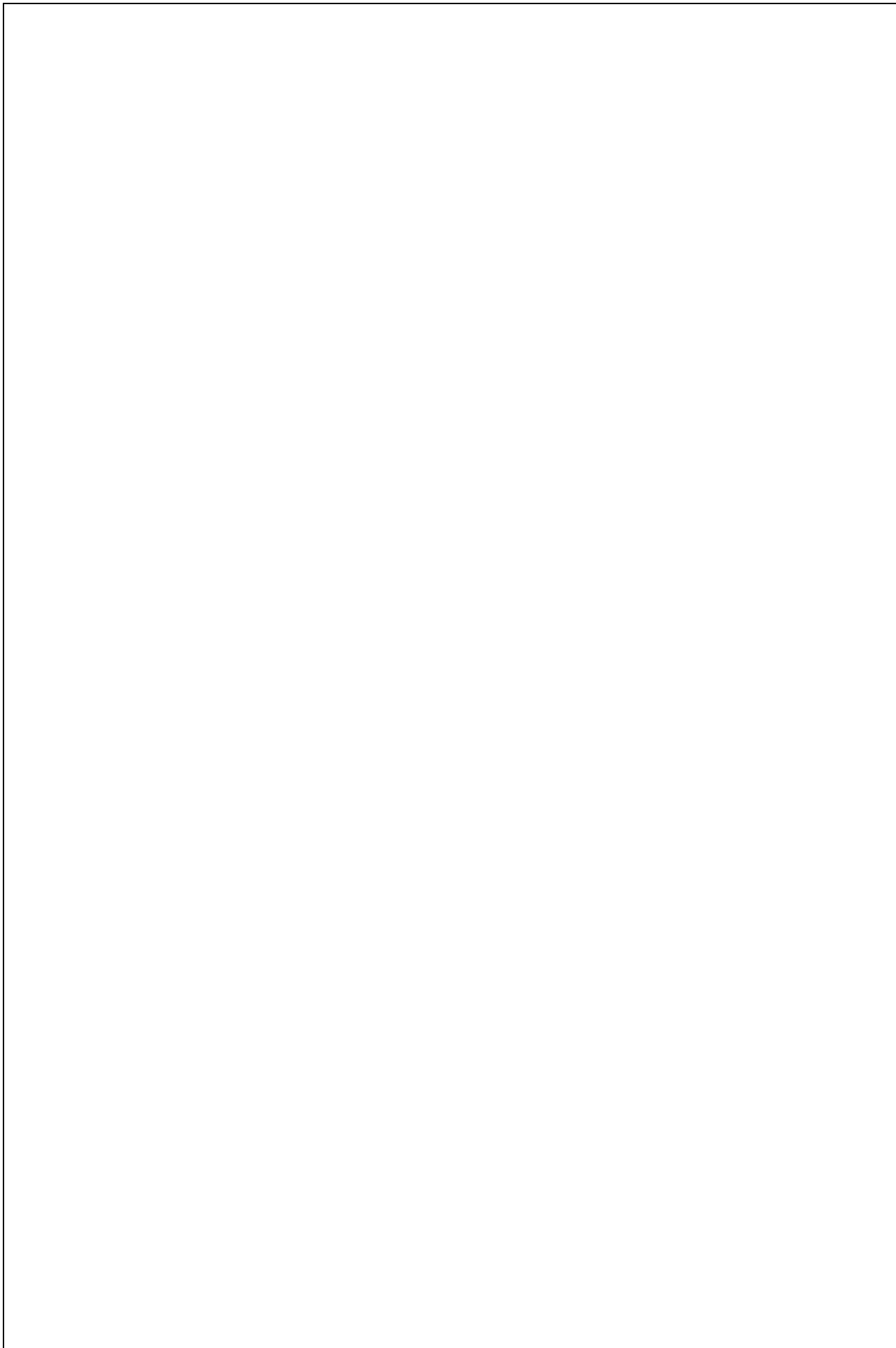
HIOW/Dorset Regional Partner:			
Current Post:		Since:	
	E-mail:		
Signed by Regional/s Partner	Name:	Signature:	
Position:		Date:	

<b>Reginal Partner Organisations</b>	<b>Tick</b>
Bournemouth University	<input type="checkbox"/>
NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dorset County Hospital NHS FT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dorset HealthCare University NHS FT	<input type="checkbox"/>
University Hospital Dorset NHS FT	<input type="checkbox"/>
University of Portsmouth	<input type="checkbox"/>
University of Southampton	<input type="checkbox"/>
HloW Integrated Care Board	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS FT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solent NHS FT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Southern Health NHS FT	<input type="checkbox"/>
University Hospital Southampton NHS FT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health Innovation Wessex	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health Science University	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Details of Current Proposal</b>					
<b>Title of Proposal:</b>					
<b>Expected start date:</b>		<b>Completion date:</b>		<b>Number of months:</b>	

<b>Statement of Proposed Research</b>
<p><i>Your statement, on the following two pages, should include a full scientific and strategic justification. It should not exceed the boxes on the next two pages, using a Lucida Sans font no less than 10 point.</i></p> <p><i>The following are mandatory sections; other sections may be included:</i></p> <p><i>Background, hypothesis and aims</i></p> <p><i>Objectives and/or plan of investigation</i></p> <p><i>Sample size justification of the pilot project</i></p> <p><i>Ethical approval plans</i></p>

*References*



### **Strategy for further funding**

*Please attach a one page outline or abstract of the external funding proposal envisioned to arise from this pump-priming project. In this section, please: (1) explain why this project is essential to apply for external grant funding, (2) provide a clear plan for how data from this research will pump-prime additional substantive funding, including the names of sponsors, collaborators and schemes to be targeted, and when. Maximum: 250 words using a Lucida Sans font no less than 10 point.*

**Alignment with NIHR Research Priorities.** *Maximum: 100 words, ≥10 point.*

**Fit to BRC SMART objectives and/or research aims. Maximum: 100 words, ≥ 10 point.**

Please view BRC SMART objectives here <https://www.uhs.nhs.uk/Media/Southampton-Clinical-Research/Downloads/BRC-2022-2027-SMART-Objectives-ALL-Themes.pdf>

**Collaborative nature of the proposal. Including names of people who will work on the project. Maximum: 100 words, ≥ 10 point.**

**Datasets required: Please provide a full justification of the particular datasets required**

*Please provide details of the data enablement/extraction/curation and access costs associated with obtaining the datasets required*

Item	Quantity	Cost	Funding source


**BRC Theme research costs required:** *Please provide a full justification of the research costs required*

*Please provide details of the BRC Theme research costs associated with working on the datasets requested to deliver proposed outcomes (to include researcher time, dissemination, research inclusion, and training costs).*

Item	Quantity	Cost	Funding source