

Funding Call 2

About Wessex Health Partners:

- [Wessex Health Partners](#) (WHP) is the region's academic health science strategic partnership of NHS and HEI organisations across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and Dorset including Health Innovation Wessex. Our common purpose is through working in partnership, to accelerate improvements in health and social care through research, innovation, and training for the benefit of the public and patients in Wessex and globally.
- Our ambitions are to
 - improve the region's collective ability to tackle the greatest challenges facing the Wessex health and care system, and
 - generate greater collaborative and interdisciplinary research to speed the **discovery, development** and **deployment** of innovation at scale
- As partners, we do this through seeking alignment within our strategies, working collaboratively to produce synergy, learning together and sharing knowledge nationally and internationally.
- The strategic workstreams of WHP are:
 - Connecting research and innovation to the health and care challenges in Wessex
 - Collaborating to increase research capability and capacity for shared themes
 - Systematic translation and adoption of innovation to accelerate and amplify benefits
 - Developing the workforce to discover, develop, and deploy research and innovation
 - Enhancing discoverability of information and data through our Secure Data Environment
- Within Wessex Health Partners, sits the Wessex Experimental Medicine Network (WEMN), which brings together our partners from across Wessex to collaboratively develop and deliver experimental medicine, aligned and in collaboration with the activities of the NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre, and of relevance to the patient and public. Please see appendix one for relevant information on WEMN.

Wessex Health Partners Funding Applications:

- Wessex Health Partners (WHP) has been established to support **new ways of working**.
- A total sum of up to **£200k** is available per annum to **pump-prime activities** which accelerate the impact of the WHP strategic alliance.
- A further **£50k per annum** is available to support activities aligned with the aims and themes of the **Wessex Experimental Medicine Network (WEMN)** (*Appendix 1*).
- It is expected that most awards will be for <£5k. Awards of >£5k may be granted with a guide to the upper limit for a single award being £20k. The larger the award the more compelling the justification will need to be.
- Funding applications are now invited for the WHP and WEMN pump-prime funding.
- Please note that the proposed **closing date** is Thursday 31st October 2024 however, we expect to open for further opportunities in the future.
- It is hoped to be able to advise on funding outcomes by early January 2025 for requests for >£5k. For funding requests for <£5k, the WHP core team may be able to provide a quicker response, and will do so on an individual basis
- An overview of the process and guidance is provided in Appendix 2.



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- Potential applicants are advised to discuss their idea and application with their founding partner representative on the WHP steering group, listed in Appendix 3, and the WHP core team prior to submission.
- The process will include submitting the Funding Application, which if successful may be followed by further discussion to explore the application further. The discussion will be with the WHP SLT and/or the WEMN team and may include a subject expert.
- For WHP grants, lead applicants must be a substantive employee of a WHP founding partner and must include collaborators from other WHP partner institutions. Please see appendix 1 for additional WEMN funding criteria.
- Applications must be sponsored by one of the WHP strategic alliance founding partner organisations (Appendix 4).
- Applicants should emphasise the ways in which the activity will provide a unique contribution to existing health and care, providing clear evidence of its added value over and above 'business as usual'.
- Proposals fostering new collaborations between WHP institutions and covering a wide geographical area across Wessex are particularly welcomed.
- Applications are for pump-prime funding and should indicate which funding streams will be targeted for future funding.





1. Proposed name of project / initiative			
2. Which funding stream are you targeting for future funding?			
3. Lead Contact Details			
Name:		Title:	
Position:		Employing Organisation:	
Email:		Phone:	
4. WHP partner organisations involved (<i>whilst not all partners need to be involved, an ambition of WHP is to increase pan-Wessex collaboration</i>)			
Organisation			Tick
Bournemouth University			
AECC University College			
NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board			
Dorset County Hospital NHS FT			
Dorset HealthCare University NHS FT			
University Hospital Dorset NHS FT			
University of Portsmouth			
University of Southampton			
HloW Integrated Care Board			
Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT			
Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS FT			
Solent NHS FT			
Southern Health NHS FT			
University Hospital Southampton NHS FT			
Health Innovation Wessex			
5. Signed off by WHP Board Member of Sponsor Organisation: <i>Sponsor organisation must be a founding partner of the WHP strategic alliance – Appendix 4</i>			
Name:			
Signature:			
Date:			



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- 6. List of collaborators for your project/initiative** (please also identify the overall lead and co-leads, their organisational affiliations and current roles):

Name	Organisation	Job Role

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- 7. Provide a high-level description of the project/initiative taking into consideration lay readers** (max 150 words):

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- 8. Summarise how the project/initiative will accelerate the impact of the Wessex Health Partners strategic alliance** (max 150 words):

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- 9. Summarise how your project/initiative would add value to what is already underway or planned** (max 150 words):

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- 10. Proposed Management structure of the project/initiative** (max 150 words):

-
- 11. Please explain why this is a priority for the Wessex population.** (max 100 words)



12. Summarise how the project/initiative has already engaged with other WHP founding partners (max 150 words):

13. Briefly explain patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) plans associated with the proposed project/initiative (max 100 words):

14. What is the funding sum you are requesting for your project/initiative? Please provide a breakdown of what the funding will be used for. Please indicate within the breakdown within which institution the costs and spend are based.

15. What is the proposed project start date and duration?

SECTION TWO - for applications for Wessex Experimental Medicine Network funding only (See Appendix 1 for guidance)

16. Does your project/initiative sit within the aims and themes of the WEMN?

Yes

No

If you are unsure, please contact the WEMN team (WEMN@uhs.nhs.uk)

*If you answered **YES** to the above question, please complete the following sections. Please note this does not preclude you from being considered for WHP funding.*



17. Which of the following scientific aims below does your project/initiative fit?

Aim	Tick all that apply
Identifying target interventions through mechanistic exploration in human (metabolic/immune/infective/behavioural/environmental)	
Testing and refining interventions, including vaccines and therapeutics, in patients/healthy volunteers to demonstrate proof-of-concept	
Evaluating efficacy of novel nutritional, pharmaceutical, physical, behavioural and digital interventions to promote resilience and prevent/manage disease	
Developing validated biomarkers/phenomarkers and predictive algorithms to individualise interventions relevant to real world NHS use	
Translating our innovations for patient and population benefit through effective dissemination into national/international guidelines and policy	

18. Please indicate within which of the following NIHR Southampton BRC research themes your project/initiative fits, or complete number 6 'Other'.

WEMN Research Theme	Tick all that apply / add detail
1. Nutrition, Lifestyle and Metabolism (NLM)	
2. Respiratory and Allergy (RA)	
3. Data, Health and Society (DHS)	
4. Microbiology, Immunology and Infection (MII)	
5. Perioperative and Critical Care (PCC)	
6. Other (please define)	

Please submit your application at any time before the next review, as this may afford the opportunity to provide feedback to develop your application prior to the **closing date** for receipt of applications on Thursday 31st October 2024.

Please submit applications to Wessex Health Partners: enquiries@wessexhp.org.uk



Appendix 1 Wessex Experimental Medicine Network (WEMN)

The Wessex NIHR Experimental Medicine Network (WEMN) brings together NHS and HEI partners from across Wessex to collaboratively develop and deliver experimental medicine aligned with the activities of the [NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre \(BRC\)](#) and of relevance to the patient and public that we serve. The clinical director of WEMN and director of the NIHR Southampton BRC is Professor Mike Grocott, senior programme manager for the BRC is Dr Kay Mitchell, and programme lead for WEMN is Dr Ruth Challis. Enquiries regarding WEMN may be sent to WEMN@uhs.nhs.uk.

- The proposal must be considered as experimental medicine, or a key activity to promote and support future experimental medicine.
- The proposal should meet an unmet health need within the Wessex region.
- Lead applicants must be a substantive employee of a WHP founding partner and must include collaborators from other WHP partner institutions.
- Applications must be led, or co-led, by a substantive employee who is not based in the University of Southampton, or University Hospital Southampton.
- Proposals fostering new collaborations between WHP institutions and covering a wide geographical area across Wessex are particularly welcomed.

Project alignment with the scientific aims and research themes of the existing NIHR Southampton BRC, please see the BRC aims and research these below, are welcomed but are not required for an award if the other requirements of experimental medicine, health need, and Wessex collaborations are fully met.

Current NIHR Southampton BRC aims are to develop individualised interventions (precision medicine) to enhance physiological, metabolic and psychological resilience to disease, injury and the consequences of ageing by:

- identifying target interventions through mechanistic exploration in human (metabolic/immune/infective/behavioural/environmental)
- testing and refining interventions, including vaccines and therapeutics, in patients/healthy volunteers to demonstrate proof-of-concept
- evaluating efficacy of novel nutritional, pharmaceutical, physical, behavioural and digital interventions to promote resilience and prevent/manage disease
- developing validated biomarkers/phenomarkers and predictive algorithms to individualise interventions relevant to real world NHS use
- translating our innovations for patient and population benefit through effective dissemination into national/international guidelines and policy

Current NIHR Southampton BRC research themes are:

1. **Nutrition, Lifestyle and Metabolism (NLM):** improving health and resilience across the lifecourse, addressing patient and population needs through improving diet quality/nutrient status, smoking/alcohol behaviours, physical activity, obesity/body composition and cardiometabolic musculoskeletal and immune health.
2. **Respiratory and Allergy (RA):** delivering preventive interventions for allergy and respiratory disease, identifying biomarkers to provide earlier and more accurate diagnosis and personalise therapy, and utilising our ex-vivo models and innovative trial designs to accelerate identification of new therapeutic approaches.



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3. **Data, Health and Society (DHS):** moving beyond data science to harness computer science, artificial intelligence and exploration of societal implications to create a trusted and trustworthy learning healthcare system.
4. **Microbiology, Immunology and Infection (MII):** delivering innovative solutions to infectious threats and help overcome antimicrobial resistance by conducting experimental evaluation of novel vaccines and other prevention strategies, as well as advanced diagnostics and therapies.
5. **Perioperative and Critical Care (PCC):** developing, evaluating and individualising interventions to promote, rebuild and maintain resilience across surgical and critical care pathways.



Appendix 2 Overview of Process

1. **Idea:** an employee of a WHP founding partner (the lead) has an idea which they consider has potential to accelerate achievement of the WHP ambitions or WEMN aims.
2. **Initial discussions:** The lead discusses the idea with their employing organisations' WHP Founding Partner Steering Group (SG) or Board member who will provide a steer on the ambitions of WHP and consider with the lead whether the idea falls within the remit of this call, i.e., that it has potential to accelerate achievement of the WHP ambitions or WEMN aims. Further discussion can be arranged with the WHP SLT and/or the WEMN team prior to submission by contacting enquiries@wessexhp.org.uk or WEMN@uhs.nhs.uk
3. **General queries:** Please contact the WHP core team at: enquiries@wessexhp.org.uk
4. **Research department/finance team approval:** Please ensure you have contacted your research department to appraise them of the intention to submit an application. The research department will also advise on who you need to speak to for costings support in the finance team. Your organisation may require several weeks' notice.
5. **Complete Funding Application:** The lead will complete a Funding Application ensuring that descriptions take into consideration lay readers.
6. **Assessment of Funding Applications:** The funding applications will be reviewed by the WHP SLT. Those considered to fall within the scope of the Wessex Experimental Medicine Network (WEMN) will be reviewed by the WHP SLT with the WEMN Director and BRC Senior Programme Manager (or nominated individuals), together with subject experts co-opted to advise or contribute to the decision making. Lead applicants may be invited for a discussion to explore the application further. Whilst applications will be judged on quality, WHP will be seeking to promote equity of funding awards across founding partners. Founding partners, may be asked by the WHP SLT, to prioritise applications.
7. **Decision Funding Award:**
 - If the funding request is <£5k the decision to fund or not will be made by the funding application reviewers.
 - If the funding request is >£5k, and considered within remit, including the remit of the WEMN, the reviewer decisions will be reviewed and WEMN funding approved by the BRC Board, WHP funding by the WHP Steering Group. Members of the BRC Board or the WHP steering group who have a conflict of interest (COI) will declare their COI and excuse themselves from the specific part of the process.
8. **Communication:** Decisions will be communicated to the lead applicant and copied to the relevant WHP Board, Steering Group member, and Research and Development lead at the lead institution.
9. **Award acceptance:** For successful applicants an email response accepting the award will be followed by an award letter that will detail the terms and conditions and financial arrangements, together with an award acceptance statement to be signed by the lead applicant's organisation.
10. **Feedback:** Detailed feedback will not routinely be provided. There will be no process to appeal a decision. Unsuccessful applications may be resubmitted.
11. **Reporting:** Recipients of WHP awards will be required to provide written and verbal reports on request on at least a 6 monthly basis and/or a final report. Awardees may also be requested to complete a proforma for additional reporting to the WHP Board, or the BRC Board for WEMN funded awards.



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Appendix 3 WHP Steering Group members

Organisation	Name	Title	Email
Bournemouth University	Jane Murphy	Deputy Dean for Research, Faculty of Health & Social Sciences	jmurphy@bournemouth.ac.uk
NHS Dorset ICB	Ash Boreham	Deputy Chief Officer Strategy and Transformation NHS Dorset	Ashleigh.boreham@nhsdorset.nhs.uk
Dorset County Hospital NHS FT	Nathan Curtis	Clinical Lead for Research & Development	Nathan.Curtis@dchft.nhs.uk
Dorset County Hospital NHS FT	Sarah Doyle	Clinical Lead & Head of Research	Sarah.Doyle@dchft.nhs.uk
Dorset HealthCare University NHS FT	Paul Walters	Associate Medical Director for Research & Development	Paul.Walters1@nhs.net
Dorset HealthCare University NHS FT	Carole Walford	Lead for Innovation & Research	carole.walford@nhs.net
University Hospital Dorset NHS FT	Rob Willington	Clinical Director for Research and Development	robert.willington@uhd.nhs.uk
Health Sciences University	Julie Northam	Head of Research	jnortham@aecc.ac.uk
University of Portsmouth	Joy Watts	Associate Dean (Research and Innovation)	Joy.Watts@port.ac.uk
University of Southampton	Mary Barker	Deputy Director of Institute for Life Sciences	meb@mrc.soton.ac.uk
HIoW ICB	Vicki Osman-Hicks	Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism)	vicki.osman-hicks@nhs.net
Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT	Natasha Chigbo	Head of Research and Development	natasha.chigbo@hhft.nhs.uk
Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS FT	Alex Jones	Head of Research Operations	alexandra.jones@porthosp.nhs.uk
Solent NHS FT	Sarah Williams	Director of Research & Improvement	sarah.williams@solent.nhs.uk
Southern Health NHS FT	Peter Phiri	Director of Research & Innovation	peter.phiri@southernhealth.nhs.uk
University Hospital Southampton NHS FT	Karen Underwood	Director of Research & Development	Karen.Underwood@uhs.nhs.uk
Health Innovation Wessex	Richard Booth	Deputy Chief Executive Officer & Director of Innovation Adoption	richard.booth@hiwessex.net
University Hospital Southampton NHS FT	Saul Faust	NIHR CRN Clinical Director	s.faust@soton.ac.uk
University Hospital Southampton NHS FT	Mike Grocott	NIHR WEMN Clinical Director	mike.grocott@soton.ac.uk
University of Southampton	Alison Richardson	NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Wessex Director	alison.richardson@soton.ac.uk
University of Southampton	Cathy Bowen	NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Wessex Director Designate	C.J.Bowen@soton.ac.uk
University Hospital Southampton NHS FT	Chris Kipps	Secure Data Environment Director	christopher.kipps@uhs.nhs.uk
University of Southampton	Issy Reading	Research Support Service Director	I.C.Reading@soton.ac.uk





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Southern Health NHS FT	Heather Mitchell	Executive Director of Strategy & Infrastructure Transformation / Strategy Lead HIOW locality	Heather.Mitchell@southernhealth.nhs.uk
Wessex Clinical Research Network	Clare Rook	Chief Operating Officer	clare.rook@nhr.ac.uk
University of Southampton/NIHR School for Primary Care	Hazel Everitt	Deputy Academic Capacity Development Lead	H.A.Everitt@soton.ac.uk





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Appendix 4 WHP Board Members

Organisation	Name	Title	Email
Bournemouth University	Anand Pandyan	Executive Dean	apandyan@bournemouth.ac.uk
NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board	Paul Johnson	Chief Medical Officer	paul.johnson@nhsdorset.nhs.uk
Dorset County Hospital NHS FT	Alastair Hutchison	Executive Medical Director	alastair.hutchison@dchft.nhs.uk
Dorset HealthCare University NHS FT	Andrew Dean	Interim Chief Medical Officer	andrew.dean2@nhs.net
University Hospital Dorset NHS FT	Peter Wilson	Chief Medical Officer	Peter.Wilson@uhd.nhs.uk
Health Sciences University	Kevin McGhee	Deputy Vice-Chancellor	kmcghee@aecc.ac.uk
University of Portsmouth NHS FT	Richard Thelwell	Interim Executive Dean, Science and Health	Richard.Thelwell@port.ac.uk
University of Southampton	Diana Eccles	Dean of Medicine	D.M.Eccles@soton.ac.uk
HloW Integrated Care Board	Lara Alloway	Chief Medical Officer	lara.alloway1@nhs.net
Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT	Shirlene Oh	Chief Strategy and Population Health Officer	shirlene.oh@hhft.nhs.uk
Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS FT	Anoop Chauhan	Executive Director of Research	anoop.chauhan@porthosp.nhs.uk
Solent NHS FT	Daniel Baylis	Chief Medical Officer and Deputy CEO	daniel.baylis@solent.nhs.uk
Southern Health NHS FT	Viki Laakkonen	Interim Chief Medical Officer	Victoria.Laakkonen@southernhealth.nhs.uk
University Hospital Southampton NHS FT	Karen Underwood	Director of Research & Development	Karen.Underwood@uhs.nhs.uk
Health Innovation Wessex	Nicola Bent	Acting Chief Executive Officer	nicola.bent@hiwessex.net

