

NIPHRN Newsletter

August 2026



Welcome to the NIPHRN monthly newsletter. NIPHRN can support your public health research by helping you develop your research idea, *identify collaborators by circulating your idea across the network to form a Research Development Group (RDG)*, *providing methodology support through our new Methods Clinic*, *as well as PPIE support and seed funding*. Network membership is free and you can [register here](#) to receive updates and bulletins. For more information, questions, suggestions or for an RDG proposal form contact us at info@niphrn.org.uk

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NIPHRN Events

NIPHRN Methods Clinic



Thinking of public health project? Need support with a research or methodological question?

Our Methods Clinic provides free, accessible 1-1 methodological consultation with members of the NIPHRN team

- ✓ One-to-one advice and guidance
- ✓ Upto 30-minute sessions
- ✓ Delivered online via Microsoft Teams

✓ Held quarterly on the last Friday of Aug, Nov, February

Whatever stage your project is at, we are here to offer you methodological support in moving it forward.

 Next Clinic on Friday 28th August

 Online via Teams

 Register now [Click here](#)

For any other enquires, email info@niphrn.org.uk

NIPHRN Webinars

“Parity and its unintended effect on folic acid supplementation”

Speaker: Utibe Ebong, Doctoral Researcher, School of Medicine, Ulster University

 2nd September 2026

 1.00–2.00 pm

 Online via Teams

 Register now [Click here](#)

“Moving behind system maps: Achieving change”

Speaker: Prof. Claire Griffiths, Professor of Social Work, Leeds Beckett

 15th October 2026

 1.00–2.00 pm

 Online via Teams

 Register now [Click here](#)

For any queries please email: info@niphrn.org.uk

Public Health Research Conference 2026

Evaluating Public Health Interventions

Highlights include:

- . Invited guest speakers
- . Ongoing researcher highlights
- . 3-2-1 sessions, for rapid, succinct and impactful presentations

 6th November 2026

 10am–2pm (Registration from 9.30am)

↓ In-person at NIVCA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB

 [Delegate Registration – Fill in form](#) (closes 30th Oct)

Abstract submission: 3-2-1 sessions

Open to all, but we would especially encourage submissions from ECR and PhD students - 3 min presentations, with 2 slides and 1 question.

- Maximum of 1000 characters for abstracts (approx. 150 words)
- Abstract submission closes 5pm, Tuesday 6th October 2026.

[Abstract Submission – Fill in form](#)

This is a great opportunity, especially for ECR, to network and hear of ongoing public health research within Northern Ireland.

For further information email: info@niphrn.org.uk

Other events

Building Research Partnerships (NI) Training

 Tuesday 29th September 2026 9.30am – 2.30pm

↓ In-person at NIVCA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB

👉 [Registration](#) (places allocated on a first come, first served basis)

Exploring Breastfeeding and Human Milk Research

This all-island research meeting brings together researchers, practitioners, community organisations and anyone with an interest in breastfeeding and human milk research. The event aims to share current research, identify priority research questions, and encourage collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to improve health and equity outcomes for women and children across the island of Ireland.

 **03-04 September 2026**

📍 **Dundalk Institute of Technology, Dundalk, Ireland**

👉 Register here: [All-Island Breastfeeding and Human Milk Research Meeting 03-04 September 2026 – Fill in form](#)

8th International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health (LEPH2026)

Topics include mental health crisis response, co-response models, trauma-informed approaches, violence prevention, and partnership working across health, policing and social care sectors.

 **06-09 September 2026**

📍 **Leeds, England, UK**

 **Registration closes:** 21 August 2026

👉 Register here: <https://leph2026.org>

Sustainable Healthcare: Caring for People and Planet Conference

 **15 September 2026**

📍 [Great Hall, Lanyon Building, Queen's University Belfast Belfast, Northern Ireland](#)

👉 Register here: [Eventbrite page](#).

Supported by the HSC Research & Development Division of the Public Health Agency.

International Conference on Communication in Healthcare (ICCH 2026)

 **14-18 September 2026**

📍 **Assembly Buildings, Belfast, Northern Ireland**

👉 Register here: <https://fitwise.eventsair.com/icch2026>

Mindset-XR Innovation Roadshow: Transforming Mental Health Through Extended Reality

Discover how extended reality (XR) technologies are transforming mental health support and explore the growing evidence behind their impact.

 **20 October 2026**

 **[Central Belfast](#)**

 **Register here: [Free Tickets link available](#)**

Funding Opportunities



September 2026

Senior Investigators Award Cohort 20

 14 September 2026

 ~£20k–£35k/year

 [Senior Investigator award webinar](#) on 07 July 2026

 [NIHR funding opportunities](#)

Applicants from Northern Ireland, please contact Dr Sorcha Finnegan before starting an application: Sorcha.Finnegan@hscni.net.

Programme Development Grants (PDG)

 **16 September 2026**

 Typically supports development of major NIHR programmes; award values vary by proposal.

 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-opportunities>

HSDR (Health & Social Care Delivery Research)

 outline applications 16 September 2026

 No fixed upper limit

 [HSDR programme page](#)

 [HSDR Researcher led](#)

 [Improving discharge delivery across Health and Social Care](#)

 [NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling funding opportunity \(HSDR Programme\)](#)

October 2026

Transdisciplinary Fellowships in Public Health Research 2026

 **Deadline: 9 October 2026 (12 noon)**

 Funding: Fellowship for up to 24 months; SPHR expects to fund up to three fellowships

 <https://sphr.nihr.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/nihr-sphr-transdisciplinary-fellowships-in-public-health-research-2026/>

November 2026

Health Technology Assessment (HTA): Reconstruction Surgery for FGM/C Survivors

 **12 November 2026**

 Proposal-led budget.

 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/reconstruction-surgery-fgmc-survivors/2026469>

Speech and Language Therapist-Led Interventions for School-Aged Children with Developmental Language Disorder

 18 November 2026 (Outline application)

 **Funding:** Typically **£300,000 to £500,000**(no formal funding limit)

 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/speech-and-language-therapist-led-interventions-school-aged-children-developmental-language-disorder/2026471>

Interventions for School-Aged Children with a Developmental Stammer

 **Deadline:** 18 November 2026 (Outline application)

 **Funding:** Proposal-led budget; NIHR intends to fund **a single study** [\[nihr.ac.uk\]](https://www.nihr.ac.uk)

 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/interventions-school-aged-children-developmental-stammer/2026472>

Interventions for Children and Young People with Non-Progressive Motor Disorders Affecting Speech

 **Deadline:** 18 November 2026 (Outline application) [\[nihr.ac.uk\]](https://www.nihr.ac.uk)

 **Funding:** Proposal-led budget; NIHR intends to fund **a single study** [\[nihr.ac.uk\]](https://www.nihr.ac.uk)

 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/interventions-children-and-young-people-nonprogressive-motor-disorders-affecting-their-speech/2026473>

December 2026

PHR: Air Quality in Indoor Public Spaces, Workplace Settings and Transport Microenvironments

 **8 December 2026**

 No fixed funding limit.

 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-programmes/public-health-research>

PHR: Using Big Data to Impact Health and Health Inequalities

 **8 December 2026**

 No fixed funding limit.

 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-programmes/public-health-research>

PHR: Housing, Place and the Built Environment for an Ageing Population

 **Deadline:** 8 December 2026 (Outline application)

 **Funding:** No fixed upper funding limit; costs should be fully justified within the proposed study design.

 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/housing-place-and-built-environment-ageing-population/2026380>

PHR: Women's Health Communication

 **Deadline:** 8 December 2026 (Outline application)

 **Funding:** No fixed upper funding limit; costs should be fully justified within the proposed study design.

 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/womens-health-communication/2026379>

Supports research on the effectiveness of **public health messaging and communication interventions** in improving women's and girls' health and reducing

health inequalities, particularly among underserved and marginalised communities.

💡 *Applicant Support Sessions*

📧 Submit a **one-page research outline by 28 August 2026** to phr@nihr.ac.uk
Opportunity to discuss developing applications with the PHR team and refine proposed primary outcomes.

📺 **Webinar Resources PHR**

👤 **Recording and slides available on request,** 📧 Contact: phr@nihr.ac.uk

April 2027

🎓 **PHR: Transition from Education to Employment**

📅 **20 April 2027**

💰 No fixed funding limit.

🔗 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-opportunities>

Focuses on health and health inequality impacts of interventions supporting young people moving into further education or employment.

Webinar for Applicants

📅 Date: 6 October 2026, Time: 1:30pm to 2:45pm

🔗 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/phr-webinar-form>

🏛️ **NIHR HSDR (Health & Social Care Delivery Research)**

📺 **HSDR Researcher-Led**

📅 Researcher-led opportunities available throughout the year.

💰 **Usually no monetary limit or fixed funding period.**

🔗 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-programmes/health-and-social-care-delivery-research>

📺 **HSDR James Lind Alliance Priority Calls**

📅 Rolling opportunity.

💰 No specified upper limit.

🔗 <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-programmes/health-and-social-care-delivery-research>



**UK Research
and Innovation**

September 2026

🔄 **UKRI Sector Transition Fellowships**

📅 10 September 2026

💰 £180k–£280k

🔗 [MRC / UKRI opportunities page](#)

🚀 **Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA)**

📅 15 September 2026

💰 £1M–£10M (institutional allocation)

🔗 [MRC / UKRI opportunities page](#)

🎓 **MRC Fellowships**

📅 **15 September 2026**

💰 Fellowship funding varies according to scheme.

<https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/>

November 2026

MRC Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme (DPFS)

 ~November 2026 (forecast)

 Typically **£100k–£1M+**, depending on development stage

UK Obesity Research Institute

 **19 November 2026**

 Part of a **£72 million investment** in obesity research infrastructure.

 <https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/>



The **NI Chest, Heart and Stroke Scientific Research Grants Programme 2026/27**

Open for high-quality research improving prevention, services, and outcomes in chest, heart, and stroke conditions

 28 August 2026 (4pm)

 ~£400,000

 application pack [here](#). A recording of the online Workshop is available [here](#)



Tendering opportunity

The Health Foundation-Creating Health-Supportive Workplaces: A Test and Learn Project

 **Deadline:** 7 September 2026 (12 noon)

 **Funding:** **£200,000 to £265,000** (inclusive of VAT, expenses, and related costs)

[\[health.org.uk\]](https://www.health.org.uk)

 <https://www.health.org.uk/funding-and-partnerships/current-opportunities/itt-creating-health-supportive-workplaces-a-test-and-learn-project>

Invitation to tender for organisations with expertise in employer engagement, behavioural change, and participatory design to develop and test approaches that support employee health and help prevent people leaving work due to health conditions.

Other Opportunities

NIHR Survey Invitation

 The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) is inviting people with an interest in public health research to complete a short survey evaluating the **Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Teams (PHIRST)** scheme.

 The survey aims to understand how effectively PHIRST supports local government decision-making and identify ways to improve its impact. Public health practitioners,

commissioners, managers, researchers, and others involved in delivering or evaluating public health initiatives across the UK are encouraged to take part.

 **Complete the survey:** [PHIRST Survey](#).

Public Consultation: high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) Promotion Restrictions in Northern Ireland

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Department of Health are seeking views on proposals to restrict the promotion of HFSS foods.

 Consultation closes 21 October 2026

 How to respond

-  [Online: https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/doh-1/consultation-on-restricting-promotions-of-hfss/consultation/intro/](https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/doh-1/consultation-on-restricting-promotions-of-hfss/consultation/intro/)
-  Executive.Support@food.gov.uk
-  Post: Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland, 10A-C Clarendon Road, Belfast, BT1 3BG

MosquitoNI – Call for Citizen Scientists!

Mosquitoes are an important part of the natural environment, but some species can be a biting nuisance and may carry viruses that pose a risk to public health.

 The **MosquitoNI** project is investigating the mosquito species present across Northern Ireland and the viruses they may carry. Researchers are seeking support from the public to help monitor mosquito populations by reporting sightings.

 **Seen a mosquito?** [Report a Mosquito through this link](#)

News and Resources

New All-Island Public Health Knowledge Hub Project Officially Launched

The Institute of Public Health (IPH) has launched the **Public Health Knowledge Hub (PHKH) Project**, a €2.4 million PEACEPLUS-funded initiative to strengthen public health knowledge and support evidence-informed policymaking across the island of Ireland. Launched in Dundalk on 24 June, the project is led by IPH in partnership with the Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing at Ulster University and the Global Brain Health Institute at Trinity College Dublin.

The PHKH Project will develop a new all-island public health survey, bring together public health data from across the island, and create a digital platform to support policymakers, researchers, public health professionals, community organisations and the wider public.

 Access the launch recording and highlights video: [Official launch recording and highlights](#)

 Visit the PHKH website: publichealthknowledgehub.org.

New resource cards produced to help people with learning disabilities

New resource cards co-created to start conversations about belonging for people with learning disabilities to help drive action and a greater sense of belonging.

The SPHR '[Show me how and where you belong](#)' project explored the experiences of diverse groups of people with learning disabilities. Feeling like you belong is a key aspect of human experience. There are strong links between the sense of belonging and good overall health. People with learning disabilities experience less belonging, they also experience stark intersectional differences in health outcomes.

👉 To read more see the [NIHR website](#).

NIPHRN services

Do you have a research idea?

Research methods questions?

Need help with PPIE for a public health research grant?

Are you a practitioner interested in public health research?

Email: info@niphrn.org.uk to contact the [NIPHRN](#) team

Prof. Mark Tully, Network Director

Dr Anita Yakkundi, Network Coordinator

Dr Helen McAneney, Research Support Officer



NIPHRN is a HSC R&D Division, PHA funded initiative to support Public Health Research



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Contact us:

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