Funding Call 2

**About Wessex Health Partners:**

* [Wessex Health Partners](https://wessexhealthpartners.org.uk/) (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*** ofinnovation 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 Heath 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 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.
* 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.

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| 1. **Proposed name of project / initiative**
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|  |
| 1. **Which funding stream are you targeting for future funding?**
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|  |
| 1. **Lead Contact Details**
 |
| **Name:** |  | **Title:** |  |
| **Position:** |  | **Employing Organisation:** |  |
| **Email:** |  | **Phone:** |  |
| 1. **WHP partner organisations involved** *(whilst not all partners need to be involved, an ambition of WHP is to increase pan-Wessex collaboration)*
 |
| ***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 |  |
| HIoW 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 |  |
| 1. **Signed off by WHP Board Member of Sponsor Organisation:**

*Sponsor organisation must be a founding partner of the WHP strategic alliance –* [*Appendix 4*](#_Appendix_4_) |
| Name: |
| Signature: |
| Date: |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Job Role** |
|  |  |  |

1. **List of collaborators for your project/initiative** *(please also identify the overall lead and co-leads, their organisational affiliations and current roles)***:**
2. **Provide a high-level description of the project/initiative taking into consideration lay readers** *(max 150 words)***:**
3. **Summarise how the project/initiative will accelerate the impact of the Wessex Health Partners strategic alliance** *(max 150 words)***:**
4. **Summarise how your project/initiative would add value to what is already underway or planned** *(max 150 words)***:**
5. **Proposed Management structure of the project/initiative** *(max 150 words)***:**
6. **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)
 |  |
| 1. Respiratory and Allergy (RA)
 |  |
| 1. Data, Health and Society (DHS)
 |  |
| 1. Microbiology, Immunology and Infection (MII)
 |  |
| 1. Perioperative and Critical Care (PCC)
 |  |
| 1. 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](https://www.southamptonbrc.nihr.ac.uk/) (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.
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.
1. ***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.
2. ***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.
3. ***Feedback:*** Detailed feedback will not routinely be provided. There will be no process to appeal a decision. Unsuccessful applications may be resubmitted.
4. ***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.

# Appendix 3 WHP Steering Group members

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| **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 |
| 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@nihr.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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| **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 |
| HIoW 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 or Research & Development | Karen.Underwood@uhs.nhs.uk |
| Health Innovation Wessex | Nicola Bent | Acting Chief Executive Officer | nicola.bent@hiwessex.net |

# Appendix 4 WHP Board Members

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