

Building capacity in oral health research

For policy relevant research and research-informed policy



Welcome! Thank you for your interest in joining the mailing list for the NIHR-supported incubator in oral health research: informing policy across the UK.

The incubator started in July 2025 and is being funded by the NIHR for three years. The incubator is led by Professor Zoe Marshman, University of Sheffield and Professor Chris Vernazza, Newcastle University.

The aims of the incubator are to identify barriers to careers in oral health research and increase research capacity and skills development in early-mid career researchers such that this workforce can conduct high-quality policy relevant research. We will create a community and sustainable network of links and collaborations between researchers, stakeholders and policymakers to benefit future research outputs and impact. We will work with the NIHR Academy and training stakeholders to address existing barriers to applied oral health research. Finally, we will advocate for new funding opportunities for early-mid career researchers to perform policy-relevant oral-health research.

Please find an information pack attached which includes the following:

1. NIHR Research Opportunities for Dental Professionals
2. Oral Health-specific Research Grant Information

Some useful websites are also provided below:

- [Oral Health Incubator](#)
- [NIHR-supported incubators](#)
- [NIHR funding opportunities](#)
- [NIHR research opportunities for oral healthcare professionals](#)
- [Clinical Academic Training and Careers Hub \(Catch\)](#)
- [NIHR Academy core slide deck](#)

We will keep in touch with news, activities and exciting opportunities.

Kind regards,

Incubator in Oral Health Research Team



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NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

Research? Is that for me.....

Opportunities to develop a research career are available for **any registered dental professional**, including those working in dental practice.

If you are looking at ways to enhance your career then becoming involved in research can lead to many opportunities. The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) offer funding to pay you at your normal rate to spend time completing academic qualifications (like a masters or PhD) and research projects. You also apply for money towards training courses and conference attendance.

There are 3 main different funding streams depending on your experience, you can apply at any stage or work up through them. There is also an additional support fund which can be used to help you develop applications.



Stage One: Pre- doctoral award

Designed to advance
your career to masters level
Gives protected time to
develop a PhD application
12 month full time award
(part time available)
Up to 20% clinical time

For example:
A dental therapist
completing a research
masters

Funding available for:
Salary
Conference fees
Training
Working with people and
communities



Stage Two: Doctoral Award

Opportunity to complete a PhD
on a research topic
of your choice
3-year full time programme
(part time available)
Up to 20% clinical time

For example:
A dental nurse completing a
PhD researching into mental
health support for DCPs

Funding available for:
Salary
Conference fees
Training
Working with people and
communities
Research costs



Stage Three: Post- doctoral Award

Opportunity to complete further
research on a topic
of your choice to support your
academic career development
Between 2 to 5 year
full time programme
(part time available)
Up to 40% clinical time

For example:
A dental hygienist with a
PhD leading research into
periodontal treatment

Funding available for:
Salary
Conference fees
Training
Working with people and
communities
Research costs
Research support

Extra help: Pre-application support fund

If you aren't quite ready to submit an application to the other awards you can apply for up to 12 months flexible funding to give you time to improve your CV. Funding is available for salary support, training and development, conference attendance and mentoring.

For example:

A dentist who wants to apply for a doctoral award who already has a masters but needs some additional research skills and wants to conduct a scoping review in their area of interest to determine the focus for their PhD

[For more information about building a research career visit the NIHR-Supported Incubator in Oral Health website](#)

or email: oralhealthincubator@sheffield.ac.uk

Oral Health-Specific Research Grant Information

Funder	Grant Name	Amount	Details
NIHR	Highlight notice in Oral Health for NIHR Doctoral and Postdoctoral Awards and the Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) Programme	Up to £500,000 (for RfPB)	Doctoral and Postdoctoral awards launched in April 2026; RfPB programme launches in July 2026.
University of Manchester/Dental Health Unit in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania	Colgate Award for Research Excellence (CARE)	Up to 30,000 USD	Early career researchers in academic institutions, specifically targeting advancements in global oral health. Deadline extended to 30th June 2026.
Royal College of Surgeons England	Oral and Dental Research Pump priming grants	Up to £10,000	RCS of Eng members (plus specialist society members)
Oral and Dental Research Trust	Haleon Awards	Up to £7,500	Pre-doctoral and up to 5 years post doc
Oral and Dental Research Trust	Colgate Robin Davies DCP Awards	Up to £5,000	DCPs Investigations of clinical relevance, particularly in the field of preventative care
Oral and Dental Research Trust and British Society for Oral and Dental Research	Crispin Scully Award	Up to £6,000	This call is open to all disciplines in oral and dental research
Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh	James Weir Research Grants	Up to £10,000	College members
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow	TC White Researcher Grant	Up to £10,000	College members up to 10 years qualified, or currently undertaking a MSc or PhD
The Borrow Foundation	Grants	Not defined on website	Research related to reducing inequalities in children's oral health, DPH in LMICs and implementation research
The MPS foundation	Grants	Up to £200,000 for a 12-36 month project,	Research into 5 areas: impact of

		up to £60,000 for a 3-24 month project	human factors on patient safety, outcomes and risk, impact of processes and delivery models on patient safety, outcomes and risk, the personal and professional wellbeing of health professionals and team, impact of digital integration and technology on patient safety, outcomes and risk, evaluation of the effectiveness of teaching and learning innovations
British Society of Periodontology and Implantology	BSP Research Grant	Up to £5,000	Research with a clear application in periodontology
British Endodontic Society	Grant for Research Work	Up to £35,000	Member of British Endodontic Society in research relating to endodontology
Society for Advancement of Anaesthesia in Dentistry	Research Grant	Up to £5,000	Research relating to pain and anxiety control
British Society for Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	Small Research Grant	Up to £1,500	Member of BSOMP or sponsored by one
British Society of Gerodontology	Research Prize	Up to £5,000	Pre-doctoral, member of BSG
Association for the Study of Medical Education	Small Grants	Up to £5000	ASME members, research in the field of healthcare education
Eklund Foundation	Research grant	Total pot is E250000	Experimental as well as clinical studies in all fields of dentistry. Projects related to periodontology, implantology, and cariology will be prioritised.

Please note:

- These funding programmes are subject to change
- Some specialist societies offer research prizes which are not included in this list