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Broadening participation in research

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So what do we mean

- Broadening for research participants, and for researchers

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And includes communication

Inclusive science communication must be conceptualized as a process of cultural exchange, rather than as a process of translation.

Thus, the goal is not to speak more simply or more loudly, but rather with more understanding and mutualism

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Examples

- The UK HIV PTB study recruits WLWH and negative women from tertiary centres in across London in HIV Perinatal Research Network .. “with the aim offering research participation to all pregnant WLWH accessing care in London”
 - We are establishing patient/peer working groups to involve invested women in the design and acceptability of this study.
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Excellent example

- To maximise participant opportunities in Sierra Leone, we developed local collaborative partnerships, ensuring cultural awareness....
A local research team was built, comprising of healthcare professionals including nurses, optometrists and healthcare assistants, as well as allied staff without healthcare qualifications. This team was trained in clinical research and was responsible for daily conduct of the study. We used local languages and interpreters to ensure accessibility for all participants and shared findings in an accessible manner to optimise long-term impact. Building research infrastructure and enhancing the skills and capacity of local researchers and healthcare professionals are ongoing priorities to further develop the clinical research landscape in Sierra Leone.
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Assumptions ?

- The nature of my research, which is mainly using large datasets looking at child public health, is able to direct understanding of disease prevalence and suggest areas for appropriate resource allocation for children and young people
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Not stupid at all

- To ensure research involving patients with venous leg ulcers maximises participants, I believe that there should be funding put in place to support participants. This encourages participant involvement as their expenses, such as food and travel can be accounted for. This can also encourage a diverse range of participants from different socio-economic backgrounds, cultures, experiences and those that may need additional support for participation in the research.
 - Additionally .. it ensures that the participants are not affected by participating in this research. For example, having to take time off work or childcare costs.
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Also v interesting

- Recruiting individuals to sexual health studies is recognised as one of the most challenging areas in medicine ..
 - During the study design, we actively involved patients with HSDD and experts from the sexual health community to improve the acceptability .. of the study to this patient group. Following these discussions, we employed a three-stage screening process (initially by email followed by telephone and a face-to-face appointment), which allowed the men to feel more at ease.
 - Furthermore, to maximise participation, we used an extensive and multimethod recruitment campaign using advertisements across TfL Tube Stations, local newspapers (Metro and Evening Standard), Facebook and service stations, allowing us to capture the most representative cohort from the general population
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Remember .. WEIRD populations studied

- The vast majority of quantitative human research is comprised of WEIRD populations, “Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich and Democratic” ([Clancy and Davis, 2019](#)).
 - Under-enrolment and underrepresentation in research have detrimental impacts on the scientific method, reducing the generalisability of findings and efficacy of therapies, so delaying pivotal progress.
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Research teams..

- There is strong evidence that teams with greater DEI are more accurate in their decision making, focusing more on facts ([Phillips et al., 2009](#)), reduced groupthink and enhanced decision making ([Gaither et al., 2018](#)).
 - Additionally, increased cultural diversity increases innovativeness ([Nathan and Lee, 2013](#)).
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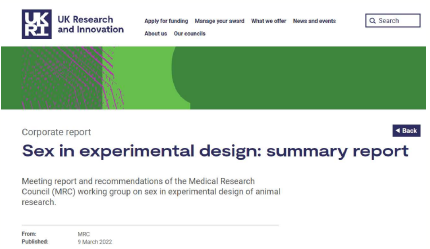
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MRC actions

- **INCLUSION OF BOTH SEXES IN EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN – PUBLIC LAUNCH FROM THE MRC**
| Mar 14, 2022 |
- MRC has announced our new expectations of the inclusion of both sexes in experimental design in research involving animals, and studies that use human and animal tissues and cells. These changes will be coming into effect in late 2022, and applying to all funding in 2023.



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- Neuropathic pain - One research group looking for a cause made a significant discovery when they found that microglia generate neuropathic pain in mice.
- But when the experiments were rerun using both male and female mice, rather than the male mice used in the first experiments, they found that blocking the microglia still reversed the pain in male mice, but had no effect in female mice.
- If treatments had been developed to target microglia, the drugs could have been useless to half of all patients.

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Take home ...

- Broadening participation not only means in study recruits/participants/PEOPLE ..
 - But also research teams
 - Research populations and outcomes should reflect the diverse nature of their population of interest, which is an important basis for acceptance of the accuracy and representativeness of the research output
 - Don't ignore even if your research seems very basic science
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CATO update

Research Software Bursaries (for Doctors and NMAHPPs)

[Research Software Bursary: About the bursary](#)

[Research Software Bursary: Details and Eligibility](#)

[Research Software Bursary: Application process](#)

Research Skills Short Courses Bursary (for Doctors and NMAHPPs)

[Research Skills Short Courses Bursary: About the bursary](#)

[Research Skills Short Courses Bursary: Details and Eligibility](#)

[Research Skills Short Courses Bursary: Application process](#)

CATO Connect Grant (for Doctors and NMAHPPs)

[CATO Connect Grant: About the Bursary](#)

[CATO Connect Grant: Details and Eligibility](#)

[CATO Connect Grant: Application process](#)

Other bursaries available

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CATO update

Imperial Post-Doctoral, Post-CCT Research Fellowship (IPPRF)



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CATO Events

Getting the most out of your Clinical PhD/MD(Res)

Tuesday 8 August, 16.00 - 17.00 (online)

The virtual session will provide information on how Imperial can support your clinical academic aspirations, and information on transitioning from clinical work into the PhD and back into clinical practice/ training or tips on continuing an academic career.

This FREE session is open to Doctors and *NMAHPPs who are current (or recently completed) PhD/MDRes fellows, and planning the next steps of their clinical academic career.



Visit the CATO Events page:
<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/clinical-academic-training-office/>




Scan here
to register

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Research Training Framework



Clinical Research Training Framework

Clinical Research Training Framework

The Imperial College Academic Health Science Centre has developed the Clinical Research Training Framework to **develop the skills that an clinician of any professional background requires in order to support clinical research**. Originally developed in 2019 our second edition of the framework can be used more flexibly and is now easier to use and simpler to complete.

The Framework supports clinical staff in the AHSC organisations* to develop a detailed understanding of research, and research skills, to allow them to become more directly involved in the mission of the AHSC: to accelerate the translation of research discoveries into improvements in human health. The Framework will facilitate staff to support NIHR and industry trials, or develop their own clinical academic careers by proposing competencies, skills and training and suggesting opportunities and resources offered within the AHSC (and beyond).

User feedback

"I found the framework helpful and structured and used it to identify some learning needs when planning my research fellowship." Physiotherapist, ICHT

Access the Framework document [▶](#)

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Thank you

Any questions?

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<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/clinical-academic-training-office>

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