
Clinical academic careers: How can NIHR incubator help



What is a clinical academic career?

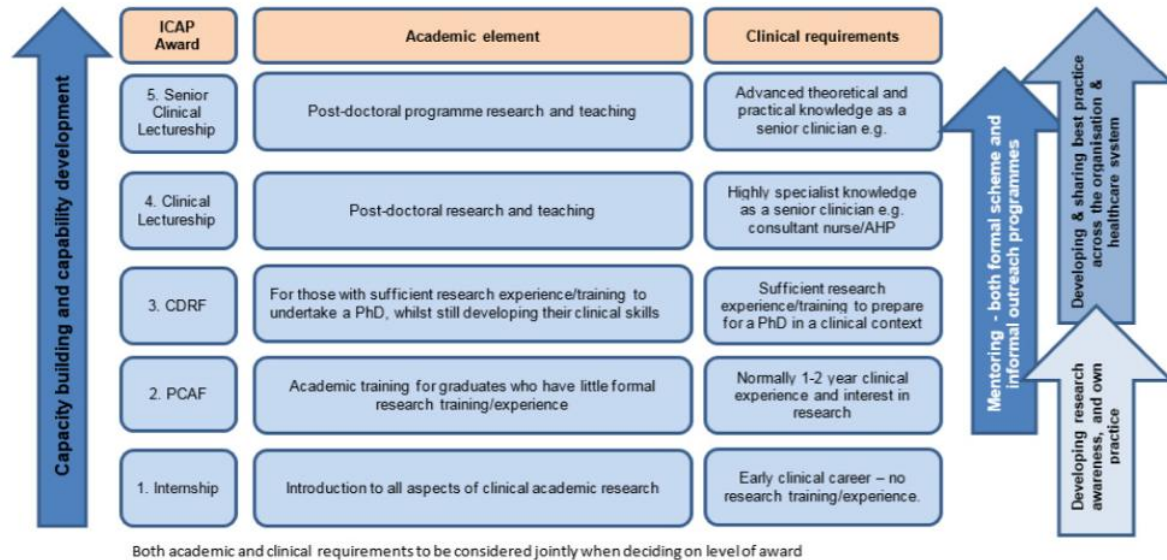
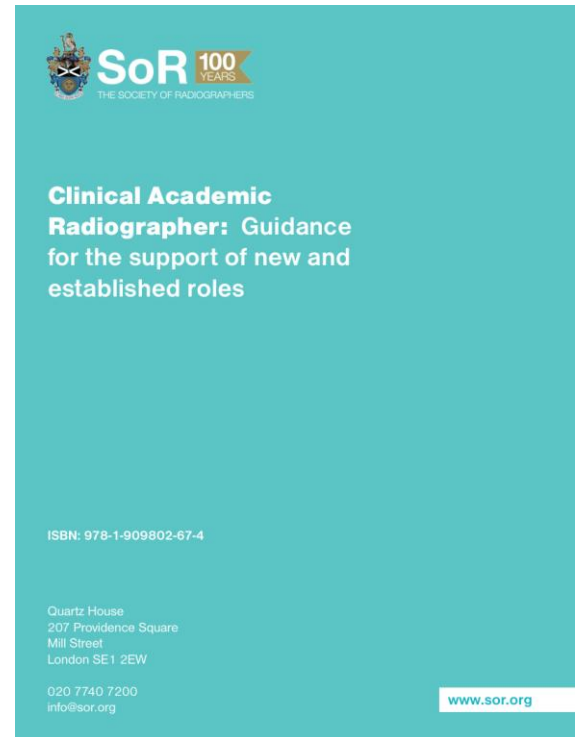


Figure 2: Career progression as a Clinical Academic (10).



NIHR opportunities

Our research career development funding programmes

Predoctoral-level opportunities

Awards to help you advance your health and social care research career at masters level. Our Predoctoral Award offers support for individuals working in health and care, local authority settings, primary care, and methodology.



Doctoral-level opportunities

Funding and salaried time to help you complete a PhD in applied health or social care research.



Postdoctoral-level opportunities

Fellowships and development opportunities to support your career development post PhD. Includes our Fellowship Programme, Global Health Programme, Integrated Academic Training Programme, Integrated Clinical and Practitioner Academic Programme and Local Authority Academic Fellowship Programme.



Professorships and Senior Investigators Award

Funding if you are an established senior researcher and future leader. Includes our Senior Investigator Award and our Research Professorships.



NIHR incubator



NIHR | National Institute for
Health and Care Research

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Incubators to support research careers



Build research capacity on a national level
Identify the barriers and suggest solutions
Creating identifiable communities
Provide bespoke training and development

Who are we and what are doing?

Running research events and symposiums.

Sharing advice on:-

How to develop research careers,

How to apply for fellowships.

Signposting to, and sharing, resources.

Connecting research interested radiographers

Developing a cohort of Radiographer researchers

To offer support and guidance



Prof Helen McNair

Role: Chair
Therapeutic
Royal Marsden NHS
Foundation Trust and
Institute of Cancer
Research



Dr Tim Donovan

Role: Deputy Chair
Diagnostic
University of Cumbria



Prof Karen Knapp

Role: Academic Rep
Diagnostic
University of Exeter



Prof Heidi Probst

Role: Academic Rep
Therapeutic
Sheffield Hallam
University



Prof Jonathan McConnell

Role: Mentoring Rep
Diagnostic
University of Salford



Dr Tracy O'Regan

Role: Professional
Body Rep
Society and Royal College
of Radiographers



Matthew Beasley

Role: PhD Rep
Therapeutic
Leeds Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust and Leeds
University



Meera Sharma

Role: Academic Rep
Diagnostic
Fair, Accessible, Inclusive
Research for AHPs



Dr Ruth Reeve

Role: Sonographer
Rep
Diagnostic
Portsmouth Hospitals
NHS Trust and SCPRA
holder



Angela Baker

Role: Service
Manager Rep
Therapeutic
Barts Health NHS Trust



Anna Lidgate

Role: Programme
Coordinator

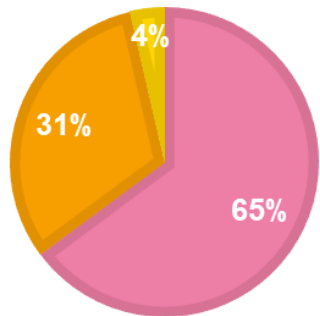


Our profiles page
gives more details of
our Steering Group
members and their
career paths

Current status of radiographer research in UK

60% no involvement in any kind of research

970 responses



- 629 Diagnostic radiographers
- 306 Therapeutic radiographers
- 35 Nuclear medicine technologists

Not knowing where to find opportunities to get involved

Lack of knowledge and training in research- where to begin?

Absence of a recognised professional development pathway in research for therapeutic radiographers

Research and Development Culture Index

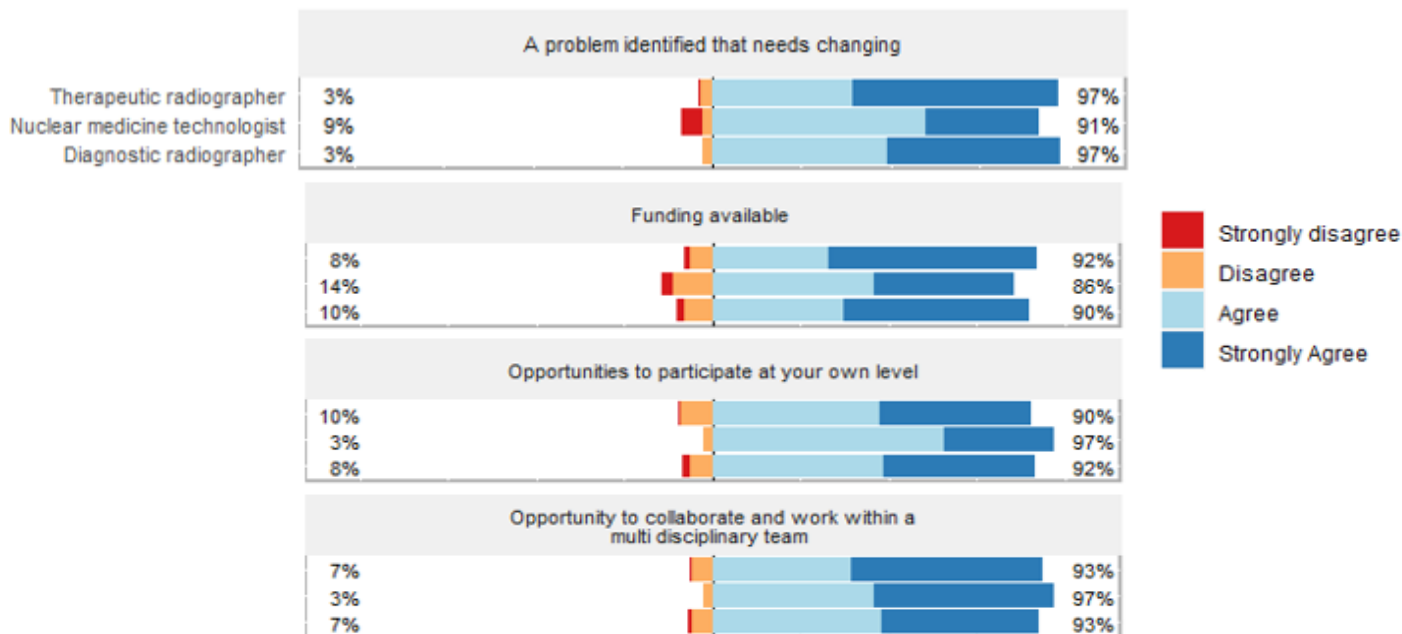
Research and development Culture Index	Domain
I know how professional practice is influenced by research	Personal
I am very keen to use research in professional practice	Personal
I would like more opportunities to share professional practice development ideas and/or research and/or information across my institution	Personal
I would like to learn about research activity during the next 6 months	Personal
Development of my professional practice/role is valued as part of my job	Work
I understand research terminology	Personal
There are people around to help and support me to change and/or develop professional practice	Organisational
There is opportunity to develop professional practice in my area	Work
There are opportunities to reflect on my work/practice	Work
I have access to training and development opportunities which give me the skills to question and investigate practice	Organisational
There is strong professional leadership	Organisational
I feel confident about using research in professional practice	Personal
The development work that I do links with the Directorate's (or division/institutions) plans	Work
My discipline here works as equal partners with other disciplines in order to change or develop practice	Work
There are regular staff meetings to explore ideas	Work

89%

44%

NIHR Incubator for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Radiotherapy

What factors enable participating in or leading research?



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Research
Developing and connecting diagnostic and therapeutic research

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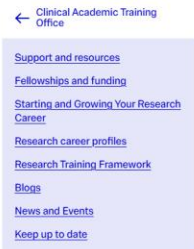
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Radiographers Incubator



Image credit: Thomas Angus, Imperial College London



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Fellowship and funding

Starting and growing your research career

Research career profiles

Research training framework

Blogs

News and Events

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NHS Foundation Trust

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Cancer Research

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Radiographers Incubator



Image credit: Thomas Angus, Imperial College London

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The **ROYAL MARSDEN**
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News and Events

NIHR Webinar: Overcome imposter phenomenon

Learn the impact imposter phenomenon can have on your life and discover techniques to overcome it.

Research suggests that up to 80% of professionals will experience imposter phenomenon at some point in their careers. This can lead to decreased job performance or burnout.

This 1-hour webinar explores practical tips for managing imposter phenomenon, from both an individual and wider lens.

In this webinar, you will:

- uncover what imposter phenomenon looks like and the impact it has on wellbeing and performance
- explore 3 techniques to challenge negative self-talk and leverage strengths to overcome these situations and own your potential
- learn practical tools to bring the techniques to life and make imposter phenomenon a thing of the past

4th November, 1- 2pm

→ **To register click here**

RadResearch - What Makes a Successful PhD Application

Are you thinking about applying for a PhD and want to make your application stand out? Don't miss this upcoming session with Dr. Gemma Clunie, Lead Clinical Academic for AHPs, Division of Medicine and Integrated Care. Dr. Clunie will introduce the 5 Ps of a strong PhD funding application, and a Q&A session will follow.

19 November 2025, 1-2pm

→ **For more information
and to register**

Write to Rise:A REDiC retreat

Write to Rise: A REDiC retreat for transformative fellowship and grant writing
9 - 11 February 2026
Nailcote Hall Hotel & Country Club, Coventry

This retreat aims to empower racially minoritised professionals in developing competitive applications and rising in their careers through impactful writing.

Details inc. programme, eligibility criteria and how to apply will be posted on our website [redic-incubator.com] [redic-incubator.com] shortly.

Applications will open September 2025.

→ **Further information will
be posted on their
website shortly**

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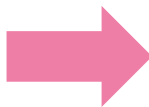
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The **ROYAL MARSDEN**
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Cancer Research

Starting and growing your research career

10 min videos pre meeting

Presentation 1: Clinical Academics in Research



Presentation 2: Funding Opportunities for Research



Presentation 3: Radiographer Research Skills Development Framework



Presentation 4: Audit, Service Evaluation and Research



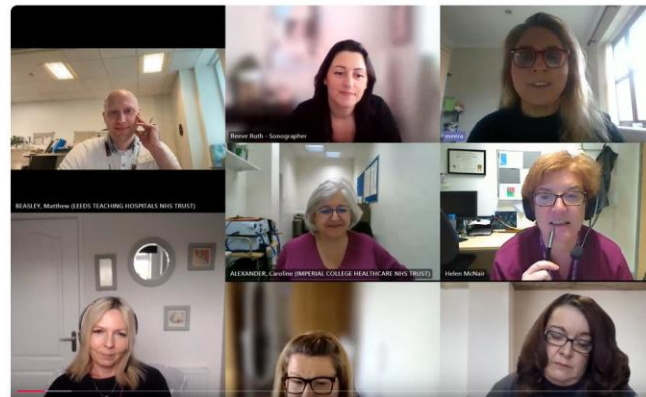
Presentation 5: Starting your Research Journey



Starting and Growing Your Research Career Q&A event, 18 November 2024



1 hour Q and A



UKIO- 2024 and 2025

**Radiography
Research**
Developing and connecting diagnostic and therapeutic researchers



UKIO- 2025

Expert researchers including steering group

Radiographers attending conferences

More than 20 1:1 sessions

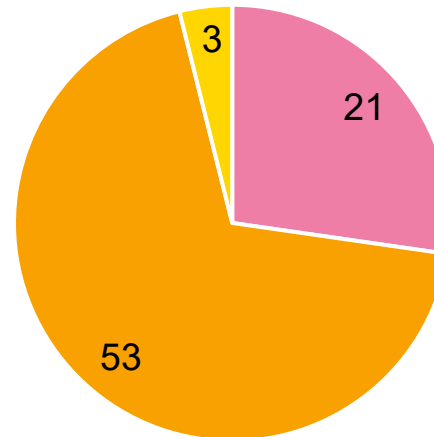


In person research day March 2025 -Leeds

Attended by 84 people (110 expected)

09:00	Registration and refreshment
09:50	Welcome and introduction to the programme and the Incubator: Prof Helen McNair , Chair and Incubator Lead, Dr Tim Donovan , Deputy Chair
10:10	NIHR & Funding Pathways: Humaira Abbas , Richard Milham <i>An introduction to NIHR and how it can support a research career.</i>
10:25	My journey becoming a Clinical Academic: Dr Ruth Reeve <i>Ruth gives an overview of her career becoming a clinical academic.</i>
10:40	Refreshment break/networking
11:00	Mini Masterclass Workshops (choose one at registration) Workshop A – Writing a Dissemination Plan: uncover the vital role a dissemination plan plays in amplifying your research impact. Prof Heidi Probst Workshop B – Crafting Your Professional Narrative: strengthen your ability to promote yourself and your research ambitions to colleagues, collaborators, potential supervisors, and funders. Dr Ines Perpetuo Workshop C – PPIE: an introduction to PPIE in health research, highlighting its vital role in ensuring research is relevant, impactful, and inclusive. Holly Schofield

Number of Participants per profession



■ Therapeutic radiographer ■ Diagnostic radiographer ■ Sonographer

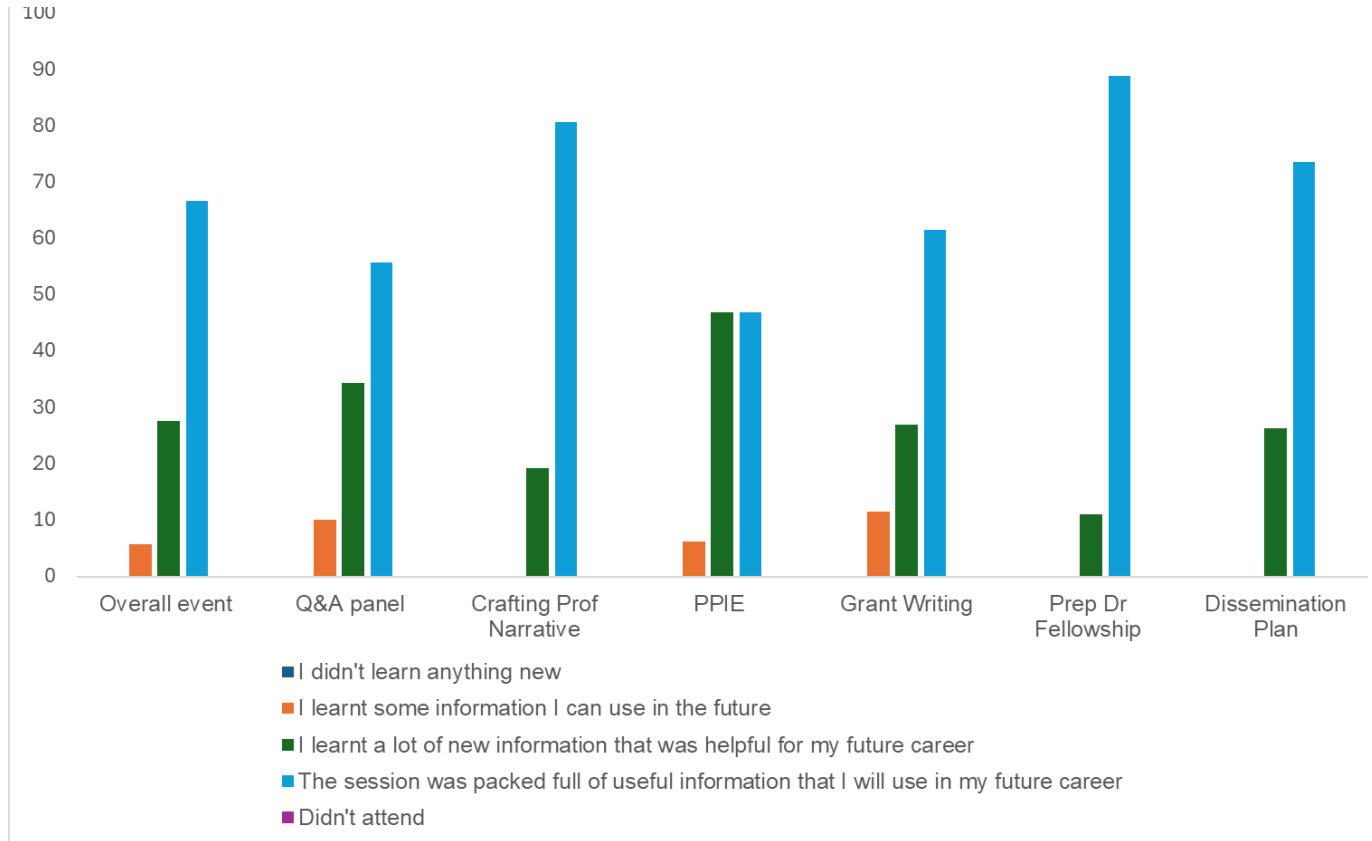
Sessions and networking

13:00	Clinical Academic Route and Research - Question time panel on clinical academic careers and research Dr Ian Simcock (Chair), Prof Helen McNair, Dr Carolyn Costigan, Dr Ruth Reeve, Prof Bev Snaith Explore the clinical academic career route specifically tailored for radiographers, highlighting pathways, opportunities, and the importance of bridging clinical practice with academic research. Ask your burning questions to our panel of experts. 
14:00	Refreshment break/networking
14:30	Mini Masterclass Workshops (choose one at registration) Workshop D – Grant Writing: Making Your Ideas Wonderful and Fundable: learn the key elements that both grant reviewers and funding panels/committees consider crucial in a grant application. Dr Theo Akudjedu Workshop E – Crafting Your Professional Narrative: strengthen your ability to promote yourself and your research ambitions to colleagues, collaborators, potential supervisors, and funders. Dr Ines Perpetuo Workshop F – Preparing a Doctoral Fellowship Application: how to prepare for a doctoral training bursary or doctoral fellowship award. Prof Heidi Probst, Dr Nicholas Courtier, Jessica Eaton
15:30	Summary and event close
16:00	End of Conference

Respondants percentage rating per question



Workshops - % of respondents answer per category for each workshop



Free text Response

Most common positive aspects-
Networking,
Professional narrative session
Q and A session

Anything useful you would like to see covered in future in-person events?’

An option to attend all sessions,
PhD applications ,
Mentors/mentees,
More individual experience /doctoral journeys
Grant reviewers

Radiography Research

Developing and connecting diagnostic and therapeutic researchers

Welcome to our newsletter, Helen!

We're excited to share our plans for the next six months.

In 2026, we'll be working with Imperial's **Early Career Researcher Institute (ECRI)** on a brand-new series of **masterclasses**, designed to support radiographers at different stages of their research journey. More details will follow soon.

Our **1:1 Research Chats** have also proved very popular, with strong demand from radiographers keen to talk through their ideas and next steps. We're pleased to announce that we've added extra dates to make sure as many people as possible can benefit from these sessions.

261 -Diagnostic radiographers
147 -Therapeutic radiographers
37 -Unknown

Newsletter

1:1 Research Chats for Radiographers

20-minute slots with an experienced researcher — monthly, limited availability

Curious about research? Whether you're shaping an idea, planning a project, or looking for practical next steps, book a focused **20-minute 1:1** with an experienced researcher. Get tailored advice to move forward with confidence.

Who it's for

Radiographers at any stage of their research journey—early ideas to active projects.

What you'll get

- Personalised guidance on your question or idea
- Practical pointers (methods, ethics, funding, dissemination)
- Signposting to useful resources and next steps

Upcoming Dates (first come, first served)

- **14 October 2025** - 12:00–13:00 (UK) - FULLY BOOKED
- **18 November 2025** - 12:00–13:00 (UK) - FULLY BOOKED
- **20 November 2025** - 13:00–14:00 (UK) - FULLY BOOKED
- **3 December 2025** - 12:00–13:00 (UK) - FULLY BOOKED
- **8 December 2025** - 13:00–14:00 (UK) - FULLY BOOKED
- **9 December 2025** - 12:00–13:00 (UK) - FULLY BOOKED

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Early Career Researcher Institute



Early Career Researcher Institute

Webinars

- Managing your Career
- Becoming an Effective Doctoral Researcher
- Travel Grants and Small Grant Applications
- Fellowship Applications: Where to Start?
- Fellowship CVs

Upcoming events



Dr Gemma Clunie

Honorary Clinical Research Fellow in the Patient Experience Research Centre (PERC)

Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Surgery and Cancer at Imperial College London.

Five-year NIHR Senior Clinical and Practitioner Research Award (SCPRA) fellowship.

In 2024 she won a Surgery & Cancer Seedfund grant to complete a pilot study exploring the use of quantitative muscle ultrasound in head and neck cancer patients.

In Dec 2024 won the Early Career Researcher Award for Surgery and Cancer.

What Makes a Successful PhD Application, 19 November from 13:00 - 14:00

Are you thinking about applying for a PhD and want to make your application stand out? Don't miss this upcoming session with **Dr. Gemma Clunie**, Lead Clinical Academic for AHPs, Division of Medicine and Integrated Care.

Dr. Clunie will introduce the **5 Ps of a strong PhD funding application**:

- **Person** – Why you are the right candidate
- **Project** – Building a compelling research proposal
- **Place & People** – Choosing the right supervision and environment
- **Programme** – Identifying training needs and development opportunities
- **Patient & Public Involvement** – Moving beyond the tick box

The presentation will be followed by a Q&A with Dr Emma Hyde, Head of Education and Research at the Society and College of Radiographers, and Dr Nick Courtier, Senior Lecturer in Radiotherapy at Cardiff University.

This is a fantastic opportunity to gain practical insights, hear examples of excellence, and learn top tips to avoid common pitfalls.

Register now to secure your place!

[Register here](#)

Upcoming Events

RadResearch Conference 10 February 2026, Pentahotel, Reading

Plans are shaping up nicely for the RadResearch Conference, taking place on 10 February 2026 at the Pentahotel in Reading. This free, fully subsidised event will feature inspiring keynote talks, practical workshops and networking opportunities to help radiographers build confidence and explore clinical academic pathways.

With travel reimbursement (up to £25) and recognition for CPD, it promises to be a valuable day for anyone curious about or already involved in research. Watch out for an email when registration opens in late October - places are limited.

Join us for a day filled with inspiration, learning, and networking. Don't miss out on this opportunity to advance your career!

Keep Going!



Acknowledgement

