**Funding Source:** Wellcome Trust

**Proposed start date:** 01.10.2024

**Eligibility:** UK applicants only

**Department/School:** Sociology

**Supervisors:** Dr Natalia Darko (dd253@leicester.ac.uk), Prof. Louise Goff (louise.goff@leicester.ac.uk), Prof. Gerry McCann (gpm12@leicester.ac.uk),

**Project Title:** Enhancing Representation of Black ethnic minority groups in Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Biomedical and Healthcare Research: Strategies for Overcoming Inclusion Barriers and Establishing Trustful Partnerships.

**Project Description:** In biomedical and healthcare research, the representation of underserved Black ethnic minority groups in Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) remains a challenge, perpetuating existing health inequalities. Often, those involved in PPIE are predominantly from dominant ethnicities and belong to higher socio-economic groups. Yet, Black minority ethnic groups facing significant health disparities in areas such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and infectious diseases remain underrepresented in PPIE research. Concerns about trust, stemming from structural racism and healthcare inequalities, can hinder PPIE engagement. This PhD aims to enhance PPIE's relevance and accessibility in Leicestershire by fostering relationships across Black minority groups and addressing barriers to access. The project will involve co-creation strategies with underserved Black minority groups and healthcare researchers to address inclusion challenges and build trust in biomedical research. This will involve: (a) reviewing current PPIE process strategies and assessment frameworks; (b) conducting interviews, community conversations, and co-design workshops with Black minority groups and staff across the BRC; and (c) co-hosting dissemination events and developing an PPI impact measurement model.

**References:**

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**Funding details:**

*Students on this programme will be supported by a generous funding package. This will include:*

* *Postgraduate research fee waiver at standard College of Life Sciences UK rates for three years of the PhD*
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Applicants are required to hold/or expect to obtain a UK Bachelor Degree 2:1 or better in a relevant subject. UK Bachelor Degree 2:2 may be considered, subject to approval from the Dean of the Doctoral College.

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This programme is open to:

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Medical graduates must be registered on a UK/Republic of Ireland specialist training programme or must be a registered GP.

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* Degree Certificates and Transcripts of study already completed and if possible transcript to date of study currently being undertaken
* Evidence of English language proficiency if applicable
* In the reference section please enter the contact details of your two academic referees in the boxes provided or upload letters of reference if already available.
* A filled out Widening Participation Questionnaire

In the funding section please specify that you wish to be considered for **Wellcome Trust LHII DTP**

In the proposal section please provide the name of at least one or at most two of the projects you are interested in (please indicate title and name of supervisor). The first project you list will be taken to be your preferred choice.

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