**Funding Source: Wellcome Trust grant**

**Proposed start date: 1 October 2022**

**Closing date for applications: 8 April 2022**

**Eligibility: UK applicants only**

**Department/School:** Health Sciences

**Supervisors:** Dr Enya Daynes ([enya.daynes@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:enya.daynes@uhl-tr.nhs.uk) ), Dr Mark Orme ([mwo4@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:mwo4@leicester.ac.uk)), Prof Sally Singh ([sally.singh@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:sally.singh@uhl-tr.nhs.uk), [ss1119@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:ss1119@leicester.ac.uk))

**Project Title:** Breathlessness perceptions of under-represented groups to develop a culturally tailored symptom-management intervention

**Project Description:**

This project will explore the perceptions of breathlessness in under-represented groups to examine differences in the presentation and management of breathlessness in cardiorespiratory conditions.

Breathlessness is a common and burdensome symptom for people living with cardiorespiratory disease, however under-represented groups with cardiorespiratory conditions have reduced access to key interventions, such as self-management and rehabilitation programmes. There are known distinct sensations of breathlessness, however the presentation of these sensations in under-represented groups is currently unknown. This project will explore the presentations of breathlessness among under-represented groups with cardiorespiratory disease and how it impacts access to healthcare. Upon identifying key contributing factors to access treatment, patient co-design will be utilised to develop and test culturally tailored symptom-based intervention(s).

The successful candidate will be based at the Glenfield site, and embedded in an established research team, including many academic Healthcare Professionals. The supervisors also represent Loughborough University and the Respiratory BRC.

**References:**

1. Chin C, Booth S. Managing breathlessness: a palliative care approach. Postgrad Med J. 2016 Jul;92(1089):393-400. doi: 10.1136/postgradmedj-2015-133578. Epub 2016 Apr 6. PMID: 27053519.
2. Perera, C,. Yusuf, Z., Jayamaha, A., Orme, M., Singh, S., et al Development of culturally appropriate pulmonary rehabilitation for Sri Lanka: A qualitative study. European Respiratory Journal 2021 58:PA3904
3. National Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Audit Programme (NACAP) Key findings and recommendations [Online] published March 2020. Available from <https://www.nacap.org.uk/nacap/welcome.nsf/vwFiles/COPD-AA-2020/$File/NACAP_AACOPD_Org_Audit_National_Report_2020_5.1.pdf?openelement> (accessed 12/01/2022)
4. The National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation Quality and Outcomes report [Online] published 2020. Available from <http://www.bacpr.com/resources/D5A_NACR_Quality_and_Outcomes_Report_2020.pdf> (accessed 12/01/2022)

**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*
* *Wellcome Trust stipend covering your salary for all three years of the PhD*
* *Research grant for training, research and travel costs*

**Entry requirements:**

Applicants are required to hold/or expect to obtain a UK Bachelor Degree 2:1 or better in a relevant subject.

The University of Leicester [English language](https://le.ac.uk/study/research-degrees/entry-reqs/eng-lang-reqs) requirements apply where applicable.

This programme is open to:

* allied health professionals
* nurses
* midwives
* junior doctors
* general practitioners

Fellows recruited to the programme must be practicing healthcare professionals and be registered with a national professional regulatory body (e.g. the General Medical Council, Health and Care Professions Council) in the UK/Republic of Ireland.

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

All fellows must have completed their undergraduate degree and be registered with the relevant professional body.

**Application advice:**

For full application advice and the link to our online application please go do: <https://le.ac.uk/study/research-degrees/funded-opportunities/leicestershire-healthcare-inequalities-improvement-dtp>

With your application, please include:

* CV
* Personal statement explaining your interest in the project, your experience and why we should consider you
* 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.

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).

Upload the Widening Participation form (found on the above link) to the proposal section

**Project / Funding Enquiries to :** [**lhiip@leicester.ac.uk**](mailto:lhiip@leicester.ac.uk)

**Application enquiries to** [**pgradmissions@le.ac.uk**](mailto:pgradmissions@le.ac.uk)

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