**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 Linzy Houchen-Wolloff ([Linzy.Houchen@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:Linzy.Houchen@uhl-tr.nhs.uk) and [lw326@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:lw326@leicester.ac.uk)), Professor William Green ([w.green@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:w.green@leicester.ac.uk)), Dr Mark Orme ([mwo4@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:mwo4@leicester.ac.uk))

**Project Title:** Adaptation and testing of Your Covid Recovery© to address ethnicity, language and digital divide health inequalities.

**Project Description:**

A high proportion of individuals experience persistent COVID symptoms after their acute COVID infection. These symptoms have a profound effect on the individual’s quality of life as they impair their ability to perform activities of daily living. To support people throughout their COVID recovery, the Your COVID Recovery® programme was developed. In addition to traditional face-to-face rehabilitation, this programme includes a digital rehabilitation programme, paper-based rehabilitation manual, and an open access website with information on how to relieve and manage COVID symptoms. To date, over 1700 patients have enrolled onto the digital rehabilitation programme in the UK. However, despite minority ethnic groups being disproportionally affected by COVID, 85% of individuals using the digital rehabilitation programme self-report as White British. The aim of this project is to increase minority ethnic group participation in the Your COVID Recovery programme by designing a new culturally appropriate version. This may include the web, paper-based or face-to-face platforms to offer a menu of choices for patients. This programme will then be implemented in an underrepresented/minority ethnic group to determine if it effectively improves COVID symptoms, exercise tolerance and health-related quality of life.

The successful candidate will be based in the Respiratory BRC at Glenfield hospital.

**References:**

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3. Yates T, Zaccardi F, Islam N, et al. Obesity, Ethnicity, and Risk of Critical Care, Mechanical Ventilation, and Mortality in Patients Admitted to Hospital with COVID-19: Analysis of the ISARIC CCP-UK Cohort. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2021 Jul;29(7):1223-1230.

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12. Daynes E, Gerlis C, Chaplin E, et al. Early experiences of rehabilitation for individuals post-COVID to improve fatigue, breathlessness exercise capacity and cognition - A cohort study. Chron Respir Dis. 2021 Jan-Dec;18:14799731211015691.

13. Philip KE, Cartwright LL, Westlake D, et al. Music and dance in respiratory disease management in Uganda: a qualitative study of patient and healthcare professional perspectives. BMJ Open. 2021 Sep 23;11(9):e053189.

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15. Taalaibekova A, Oleinik A, Magdieva K et al. (2021). The Development of Support for People Following COVID-19 Infection in Kyrgyzstan: Survey Study of Patients and Clinical Workers. Pre-print: 10.21203/rs.3.rs-1010492/v1.

16. Short Report on Long COVID 22.7.2021 This report is provided at the request of SAGE and includes information from ongoing studies investigating long COVID including the COVID-19 Longitudinal Health and Wellbeing National Core Study-CONVALESCENCE Study, REACT-2, PHOSP-COVID, ONS’s COVID-19 Infection Survey (CIS) and the COVID Symptom Study App. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/1007511/S1327\_Short\_Long\_COVID\_report.pdf

**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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