**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:**  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)), Claire Lawson ([cl417@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:cl417@leicester.ac.uk)), Carolyn Tarrant (ccp3@le.ac.uk)

**Project Title:** Understanding and addressing health inequalities in cardiac rehabilitation understanding barriers and increasing access

**Project Description:**

Cardiac rehabilitation (CR) is an established intervention that improves functional status, quality of life, reduces subsequent cardiovascular disease events and hospitalisations. However, the cardiac rehabilitation service is underutilised, and there are significant disparities in CR uptake particularly by race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status. Leicester has a high South Asians population, where the cardio-vascular risk is higher than in other groups. The aim of this project is to firstly use large datasets (e.g. CPRD) to investigate patterns of referral, uptake, completion and effectiveness of CR by SES and ethnicity. Qualitative research methods will be used to explore the sociocultural needs and perceptions of people living with CVD in socioeconomically deprived areas of Leicester and/or of South-Asian ethnicity, their family or carers, referrers, public health and service providers in relation to CR. This large dataset analysis and the qualitative study will help understand the barriers and facilitators to cardiac rehabilitation and inform the adaptation of the existing evidence based intervention.

Based in the Centre for Exercise and Rehabilitation Science at the Glenfield campus, the successful candidate will be supported by experts in the field and within a co-operative environment, hosting many Allied Health Professionals.

**References:**

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3. [National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation (NACR) Report 2020 | BHF](https://www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/publications/statistics/national-audit-of-cardiac-rehabilitation-quality-and-outcomes-report-2020) https://www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/publications/statistics/national-audit-of-cardiac-rehabilitation-quality-and-outcomes-report-2020# (accessed 3rd Jan 2022)
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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*
* *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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