**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. Alice Smith ([alice.smith@le.ac.uk](mailto:alice.smith@le.ac.uk)), Dr. Luke Baker ([lab69@le.ac.uk](mailto:lab69@le.ac.uk)), Dr. Thomas Wilkinson ([tjw26@le.ac.uk](mailto:tjw26@le.ac.uk))

**Project Title:** Understanding the presentation of sarcopenia in those living with frailty and multiple long-term conditions

**Project Description :**

Those with multiple long-term conditions (MLTCs) often suffer from a debilitating degree of frailty including severe muscle weakness which leads to reduced quality of life and poorer outcomes. With the nature of this population being highly complex, a holistic research strategy is required to conduct bench to bedside research in order to understand this phenomenon and develop therapeutic strategies to counter it. As such, this project will use a wide array of research techniques to firstly identify the prevalence of muscle weakness in this population. Which will then be followed up with a patient centred cohort study to allow for the detailed investigation of how muscle weakness presents in this population. As part of this work, the successful candidate will also be able to follow up lines of enquiry through laboratory-based analysis in order to identify molecular contributors to the weakness displayed by this population. This project will provide a genuine opportunity to capture the knowledge required to begin to develop therapeutic interventions for genuine patient benefit.

The successful candidate will be hosted at the Leicester Diabetes Centre, with an established group of healthcare researchers.

**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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