

NEWS

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Launch of the new £5 million Research Design Service for London

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service for London was launched officially today with an Open Day at the iconic City Hall, attended by guests including Professor Robert Lechler, Vice-Principal (Health Schools), Catherine Johns (Head of NHS Research Infrastructure) and Angie Borzychowski (Senior Programme Manager NIHR CCF RfPB) as well as over 100 NHS R&D leads and other London-based researchers.



(L-R) Professor Christine Norton, Professor Irwin Nazareth (UCL), Professor Clive Seale (QMUL), Dr. Peter Lovell, Dr. Elena Kulinskaya (IC)

The Research Design Service (RDS) London is a collaborative project, led by King's College London, in partnership with Imperial College, University College London and Queen Mary University of London. It is the result of a bid coordinated by Professor Charles Wolfe, head of the Division of Health and Social Care research at KCL. The RDS provides advice and guidance to clinicians and academics preparing research proposals for submission to peer-reviewed funding competitions. It is focused on supporting applications for funding from NHS researchers and those working in partnership with the NHS. Priority is given to those applying for NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) funding.

Peter Lovell, Programme Manager for the RDS at King's commented: *'It was a great opportunity to meet with researchers and discuss their needs. Everyone was very enthusiastic about the support we can offer and I feel we can really make an impact on their research'.*

Research support

Using expertise in applied research methods in health and social care, the King's centre offers advice and support in all areas of grant applications including; literature review, research design and methods, patient and public involvement, health economics and statistics.

Researchers can contact the RDS at any stage in the development of their proposal but the service is able to offer the greatest assistance when RDS is involved at an early stage.

Opening the meeting, Professor Christine Norton, Director of the RDS and Associate Dean (Research) at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery at King's said: *'RDS London is part of a*

wider strategy to develop London as a hub for cutting edge clinical research which supports better health for Londoners'. She invited researchers across London to engage with the RDS to develop the service to fit their needs.

Professor Charles Wolfe, who was a guest speaker at the launch said: 'London is the innovation hub for clinical care in Europe and the RDS will harness cutting edge clinical ideas into high quality research projects for Patient Benefit. Supporting Londoners and researchers in this endeavour is long overdue and we are grateful to the NIHR for their support'.



Dr. Peter Lovell, RDS London Programme Manager addressing guests at City Hall

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