Dr Melanie Rees-Roberts
Research Programme Manager

**NIHR SPARC awards
Info webinar
ARC KSS research week 2023**

ARCKSSacademy@kent.ac.uk
https://arc-kss.nihr.ac.uk/

Today's session – NIHR SPARC awards

1. Overview of the NIHR SPARC award scheme

2. Experience of current SPARC awardee (10 mins) – Deborah Ikhile

3. Q and A – pop your hand up or post in the chat

The session is being recorded and will be posted on our website for all to view

If you do not want to be in the recording, please keep your camera off and ask questions in the chat.

https://arc-kss.nihr.ac.uk/

What the NIHR SPARC awards enable.

network, train in a specific skill or collaborate with other researchers/specialists.

optimise and enhance the individuals' research training as well as their **CV and academic career**.

https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/academic-career-development-in-nihr-infrastructure-and-nihr-schools#one

NIHR SPARC awards

Stream 1 - SPARC

NIHR academy members only

SPARC award

NIHR academy members

Up to £5000 to do a placement in another part of the NIHR infrastructure.

Stream 2 – LA SPARC

LA employees only

LA SPARC award

Employees of Local authorities

£15,000 to do a placement within an NIHR organisation

NIHR academy members only

LA SPARC award

NIHR academy members

Up to £15,000 to do a placement in a local authority.

https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/academic-career-development-in-nihr-infrastructure-and-nihr-schools#one

NIHR Academy members - eligibility

- NIHR Senior Investigators/Research professors
- NIHR Research Training Award Holders:
  - Research Professors
  - Fellowships
    - Academic fellowships e.g. advanced fellowships
    - ACF/CLs/ICA fellows and CLs/SCLs
  - **NIHR Academy members based across NIHR Infrastructure, Schools and Global Health Research where:**
    - **Undertaking a formal training/career development award, which should be competitive, include a training plan and have a defined end point (such as an application for further funding).**
    - **Receive at least 25% funding from the NIHR/co-funding for salary/stipend over the lifetime of the individual's award.**
    - **Be hosted in a setting with a remit for research capacity development**

We have enquired with the NIHR academy and they will accept funded post-doctoral researchers – talk to us if you are unsure about eligibility.

https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/academy.htm#three

SPARC – where and what can I do?
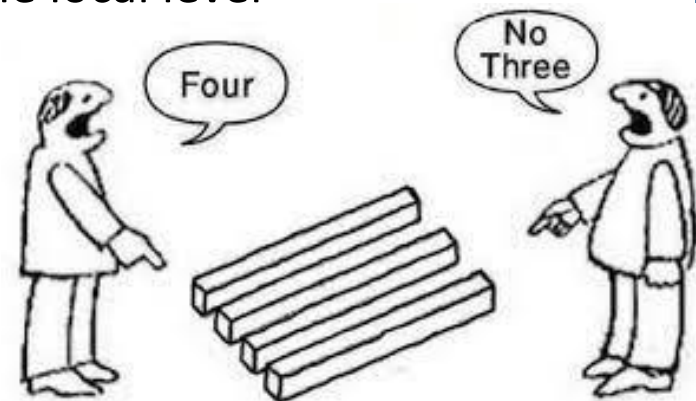
Where can I go?

- Browse <u>where can I go guide</u> for NIHR and other organisations

What sort of things can I do:

- Developing skills and/or research career - bespoke programme for you
- Building links and knowledge of research in academia/parts of NIHR
- Experiencing research/practice from a different perspective
- Spend time on placement in a Local authority/provider of local authority commissioned service setting
- Developing partnerships and joint ways of working
- Hear the issues and challenges being faced at the local level
- Share knowledge and experience
- Co-create research connected with practice

Highlight areas:

- Multiple long-term conditions
- Industry/commercial sector

SPARC – practical bits

What funding is available:

- SPARC - £5000, timeframe dependent on activities
  - NIHR academy members only
- LA SPARC - £15000, timeframe dependent on activities
  - NIHR Academy members or LA employees
  - NB - Can request funding to cover LA supervisor costs

How do apply:

- Call will be advertised over summer/early autumn
- Contact us at ARCKSSacademy@kent.ac.uk for advice or if you would like a placement within ARC KSS
- Fill in an **application form in the Aramis system (link below)**

Online info webpage: Academic Career Development in NIHR Infrastructure and NIHR Schools | NIHR

Application system: https://aramis.nihr.ac.uk/Login

What does an application look like?

The application form is not onorous – but start early
-   Summary info – employing organisation,
          placement information e.g. host institution
-   CV
-   Contact details and supervisor details
-   Overview of experience to date
-   Proposed title of placement, start date and length
-   Placement plan
-   Benefits and impact of the placement on your research, training and career, and how you will know whether it has been a successful placement.
-   Statement of support from placement supervisor – **plan this early**
-   Budget
-   Signatories
-   Uploads – Gantt chart or other uploads

Timelines

The SPARC Awards are released in **late summer/early autumn for applications.**

Check your eligibility and **get in touch with us** if you are interested to put in an application – **ARCKSSacademy@kent.ac.uk**

Find all details of SPARC on NIHR website: Academic Career Development in NIHR Infrastructure and NIHR Schools | NIHR

Some recent placements

ARC KSS PhD student – placement with ARC North East North Cumbria

Wanted to understand commissioning perspective from another region to put regional work in perspective:

- Funding allowed 1 month on site placement in ARC NENC
- Link and learn about different commissioning contexts

Local authority employee – placement with ARC KSS

Teacher in a local authority in London – worked in virtual schools provision
- Wanted to do a placement within ARC KSS to build skills in research
- Aim to move towards doctoral fellowship

Public health consultant – placement with ARC KSS

Wanted links to academia to support local research/evaluation project
- To build skills in research with academic supervision –a project
- Aim to move towards doctoral fellowship

ARC KSS post-doctoral researcher – placement with ARC North Thames

What if I'm not eligible

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Kent, Surrey and Sussex

SOMETHING FOR ALL

New this year – Development and Skills Enhancement award – **now open to all post-doctoral researchers!**

CLINICAL AND ACADEMIC

- post-doctoral level funding
- support early to mid-career researchers in gaining specific skills and experience to underpin the next phase of their research career.
- A DSE award provides funding for:
  - The salary of the award holder for up to 1 year
  - Training and development costs up to £5,000
  - Conference costs up to £1,000
  - Mentorship costs up to £1,000

Full Economic Costings (FEC) are not covered by this award.

Especially interested to hear from those in:
- health data science
- clinical trials
- entrepreneurship and working with industry
- those aspiring to start an academic career
- returning from a career break.

SPARC awards for collaboration
NIHR academy members of local authority employees

NIHR ICA and LAAF programme

- Internship
- Pre-doctoral Clinical Academic Fellowship
- Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship
- Clinical Lectureship
- Senior Clinical Lectureship

NIHR fellowship awards

- Pre-doctoral fellowships
- Doctoral fellowships
- Advanced fellowships
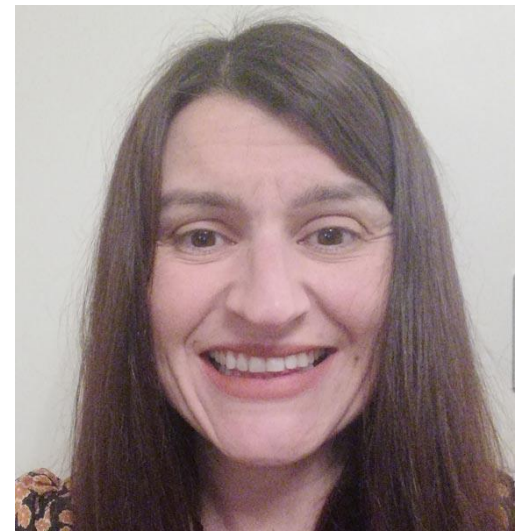
Meet the ARC KSS academy team

Prof Sally Kendall   Dr Melanie Rees-Roberts   Debbie Hayward

Supporting you to achieve your research goals:
- Get in touch: ARCKSSacademy@kent.ac.uk
- Visit our website for support available

NIHR Short Placement Award for Research Collaboration

Dr Deborah Ikhile
Research Fellow
ARC KSS Primary and Community Health Services Theme
Brighton and Sussex Medical School
D.Ikhile@bsms.ac.uk

#arckssresearchweek2023

About me

❑ 2021 – present: Postdoctoral Researcher, Primary and Community Health Services theme, ARC KSS

❑ 2016 – 2020: PhD in Public Health
  ▪ *Examining how to strengthen the Primary Health Care capacity for early breast cancer detection in Uganda: A socioecological approach*

❑ 2014 – 2015: MA in Public Health
  ▪ *Investigating the perceived barriers to early detection of breast cancer in Central Uganda, using a multilevel approach*

❑ 2013 – 2014: MSc Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management
  ▪ *Evaluating the roles of stakeholders in urban development projects: a case study of Hatfield town centre redevelopment*

❑ 2006 – 2011: Aquaculture and Fisheries Management

Introduction

- **Focus:** Two streams
    1. Multiple long-term conditions or multi-morbidity (MLTC-M)
    2. Industry/commercial collaboration

- **Title:** Building research capacity for health promotion interventions to support the management of MLTC-M
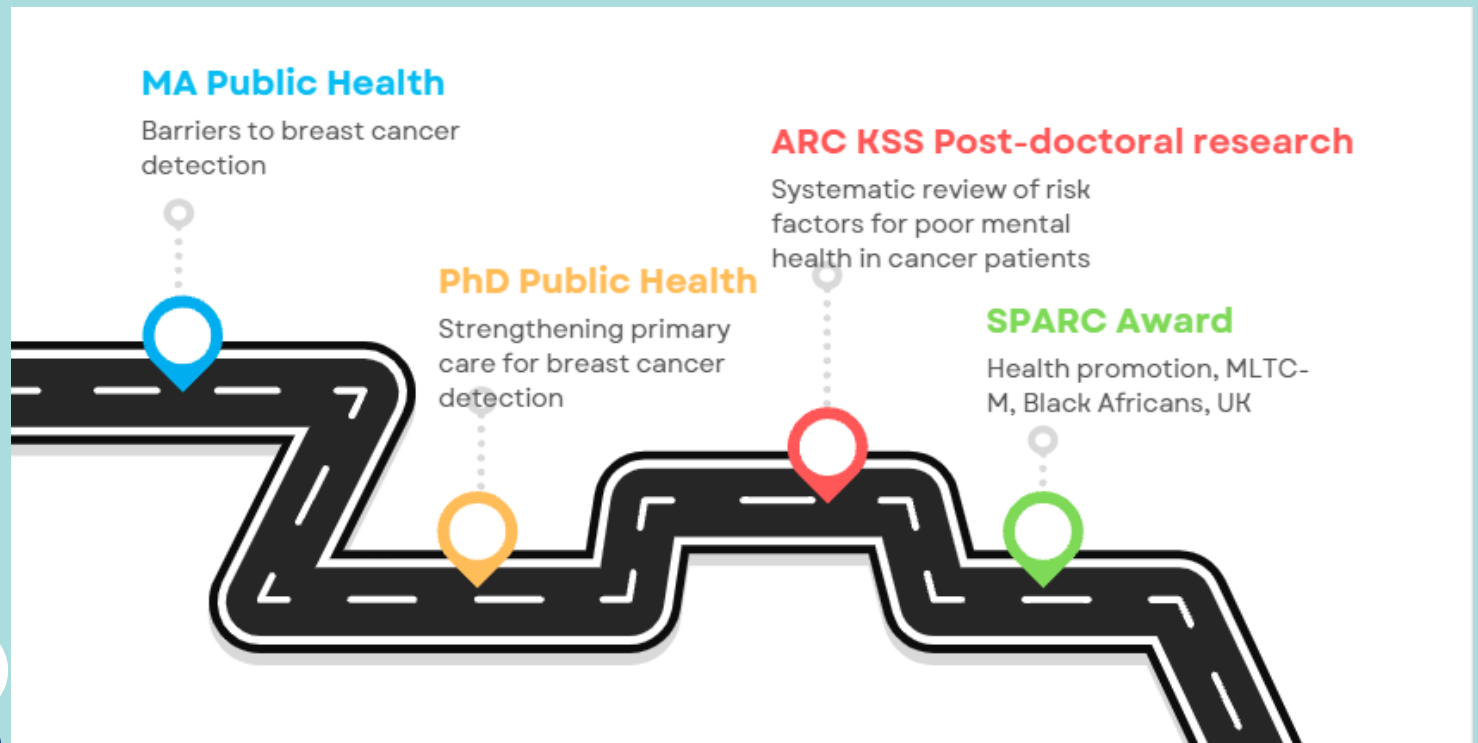

- **Purpose:** *...develop the **skills** and **practical experience** required to tackle health inequalities in multiple long-term conditions or multi-morbidity (MLTC-M) in Black Africans*
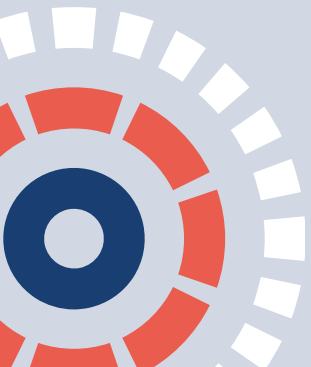
Why I applied for the NIHR SPARC

- Career development

- Enhancing my capacity in health promotion research and practice in the UK

MA Public Health
Barriers to breast cancer detection

PhD Public Health
Strengthening primary care for breast cancer detection

ARC KSS Post-doctoral research
Systematic review of risk factors for poor mental health in cancer patients

SPARC Award
Health promotion, MLTC-M, Black Africans, UK

Host Details

- ✓ Multidisciplinary perspectives
- ✓ Social determinants of health
- ✓ Health inequalities
- ✓ Engagement with an ethnically diverse population
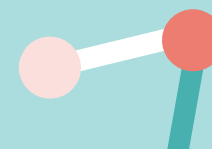
MY NIHR SPARC ACTIVITIES

May 2023 - October 2023

1	**UMBRELLA REVIEW**	Register a systematic review of review protocol
2	**RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT**	Building a Well Communities Research Consortium to address health disparities through integrated care systems
3	**COLLABORATION**	ARC North Thames members, partners, local communites
4	**CONSULTATIONS**	With Black African communities
5	**RESEARCH TRAINING**	Evidence for Policy & Practice Information Centre

Application process

Application timeline

NIHR SPARC 2022 Call open — **28th Sept 2022**

Notification of successful SPARC award from NIHR — **3rd March 2023**

30th Sept 2022 — ARC KSS Academy SPARC Session

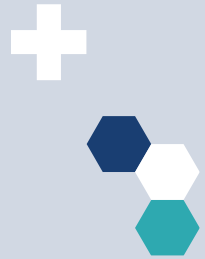**23rd Nov 2022** — Application submitted

Emailed ARC KSS Academy about my intention to apply — **4th Oct 2022**

Introductory email from ARC KSS to Host — **20th October 2022**

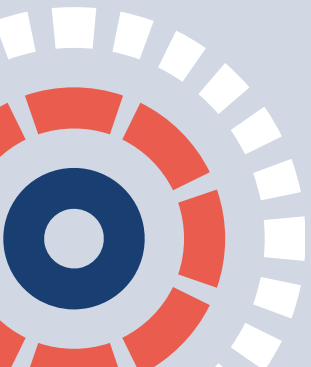# Benefits and emerging outcomes

Confidence boost

Expanding my professional network

New cross-ARC collaboration with LSHTM

Connections with local organisations

Summary

- Seek support from the ARC KSS Academy team

- Show clearly how the SPARC complements/builds on your research background and professional experience

- Align your proposal with the NIHR objectives, national priorities…but keep it simple

- Provide a clear rationale for:
  - Applying
  - Choosing selected ARC, host institution and host supervisor

- Time management is key
  - Start early- the earlier the better
  - Discuss with potential supervisor as early as possible
  - Aim to click submit 48 hours before the deadline

- Prepare first, second, third drafts ☺

- Keep everyone updated
  - ARC KSS Academy Team, Current supervisor, Host supervisor, Research Development Office

Thanks for listening

www.arc-kss.nihr.ac.uk

@arc_kss

#arckssresearchweek2023