

## How to find research funding

This month, we feature two major sources for anyone wanting to finance their research

Research has an integral part to play in the provision of evidence-based practice and high quality patient care<sup>1</sup> but is often hampered by the difficulty in finding funding.

In the 1990s, access to information about funding opportunities was largely serendipitous and obtained from various sources. Research and Development (R&D) departments throughout the NHS invested a large proportion of their time and resources trawling for sources of funding for their researchers and disseminating that information within their trusts. Many researchers have spent fruitless hours looking for suitable grants, and those employed in smaller organisations were further disadvantaged by lack of access to healthcare journals, thus missing calls for tender and other funding information frequently published there.



### 1. RDInfo: health and social care research funding

The advent of RDInfo ([www.rdinfo.org.uk](http://www.rdinfo.org.uk)) with its trio of services has benefited researchers in many ways. The most important is the provision of information about funding 24/7, in a standard format, wherever that funding comes from. R&D departments and researchers in social care, voluntary and community settings can now access this information without leaving their desks. The RDInfo unit is funded by the Department of Health to provide access to details of research funding, training and advice and consists of:

#### RDfunding

This provides information on health and social care research funding opportunities. There are over 1,300 funding organisations who between them offer in excess of 5,000 awards. These range in value from several million to a few hundred pounds. Their close working relationship with the Department of Health means all personal awards and any future responsive funding calls will be posted on their website. Registration for the profiling service enables researchers to keep updated with the latest funding opportunities

targeted to their research areas, such as psychological therapies. In addition, grants can be viewed by closing date, to help timetable the writing of funding applications.

#### RDlearning

This provides information on post-qualification courses, workshops, short courses and conferences. Again, this includes not just postgraduate courses but also a wide variety of other short courses and events provided by professional bodies.

#### RDDirect

This is a signposting service for researchers. Researchers who need help or advice with research can email RDDirect at [info@rddirect.org.uk](mailto:info@rddirect.org.uk) or phone 0113 2951122. The team endeavours to point the researcher to the best possible source of information, which may involve referral to an academic advisor for further assistance.

They produce a number of 'Special Editions' – listings of grants or training courses dealing with a particular topic or discipline. Of particular interest to psychological therapists may

be three of these special editions, one of which includes details of all grants relating to psychologists/psychiatrists, the other two being on training courses for researchers in psychology. Among others, there are special editions for 'new researchers' and 'travel awards'. Additional support is provided through a 'research process flowchart' available on the website – which provides links to resources, presentations and checklists, all designed to guide the researcher through the different stages involved in research.

The services of RDInfo are still evolving, and aim to provide all researchers with comprehensive support at all stages of their research. The staff are always responsive to ideas and suggestions from users and look forward to working closely with more of them in the future. BACP plans to work more closely with RDInfo, to try to improve listings for psychological therapies.

*(Thanks to Christine Parker-Jones, RDInfo, University of Leeds, for this information.)*

#### Reference

1. Department of Health. *The Culyer Report. Supporting research and development in the NHS.* London: HMSO; 1994.

## 2. Directory of Social Change's (DSC) Trustfunding directory ([www.trustfunding.org.uk](http://www.trustfunding.org.uk))

'Trustfunding' details all charitable trusts included within DSC and CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) publications, and is updated regularly throughout the year. It includes information on over 4,200 grant-making trusts with a total of over £3.1 billion a year. DSC has three different websites to search:

### Companies giving funding ([www.companygiving.org.uk](http://www.companygiving.org.uk))

This is a comprehensive database of company support available to voluntary and community organisations. The database contains all those companies in *The Guide to UK Company Giving*, as well as newly discovered large givers. Over 500 companies are featured on this site, giving over £290m in cash donations and more in other forms of community support.

### Government funding ([www.governmentfunding.org.uk](http://www.governmentfunding.org.uk))

This site is an online portal to grants for the voluntary and community sector from the following funders:

- Cabinet Office
- Department for Communities and Local Government
- Department for Education and Skills
- Department of Health
- Home Office
- Government Offices for the Regions

### Grants for individuals ([www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk](http://www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk))

This website contains details of over 3,500 charitable trusts operating

both nationally and locally. The trusts collectively have £362m available each year. They have been very popular with Citizens Advice, school/university welfare offices, other welfare organisations, libraries and other information services. The website aims to include all publicly registered charities which give at least £500 a year to individuals, although most give much more than this.

If you are visiting 'trustfunding' for the first time, you can demo the site and access some of the information prior to paying the subscription. However, details of all the information published online are available in a variety of book versions, many of which should be available from main libraries and can also be purchased directly from the Directory of Social Change ([www.dsc.org.uk/acatalog/Fundraising.html](http://www.dsc.org.uk/acatalog/Fundraising.html))

## Research committee changes

### *BACP welcomes new Chair*

The research committee is a non-executive body that offers BACP a strategic role in formulating the priorities for the research department. It advises on a range of research matters and helps to shape research policy and activity.

We are delighted to announce that Professor Else Guthrie has recently been appointed as the new Chair. Professor Guthrie is Professor of Psychological Medicine and Medical Psychotherapy at the University of Manchester.

Amongst other research, she has shown in formal trial designs how a new brief psychotherapy is effective in unresponsive psychiatric disorder and medically unexplained symptoms. She has further shown its cost effectiveness compared to drug treatment in an MRC-funded trial in IBS. Professor Guthrie has also recently demonstrated the effectiveness of brief psychotherapy in deliberate self-harm. We extend a warm welcome to her in her new role as research committee Chair.

### *Farewell to past Chair*

As Professor Guthrie is appointed it is also timely to give our sincere thanks to the past research committee

Chair, Professor Glenys Parry, Professor of Applied Psychological Therapies at the University of Sheffield. Professor Parry has provided dedication and direction to the research committee and the research team at BACP and we thank her for her commitment and support. We are glad that she will remain a member of the BACP research committee for the next year. You will find individual profiles of other members of the research committee on the BACP research website at [www.bacp.co.uk/research](http://www.bacp.co.uk/research)

### *Feedback welcome*

Please email your comments and contributions for these pages to Kaye Richards, Research Facilitator [kaye.richards@bacp.co.uk](mailto:kaye.richards@bacp.co.uk)

## BACP membership for PhD students

BACP student membership is now available to full-time and part-time doctoral students on taught or non-taught programmes. Doctoral students do not need to undertake a supervised placement to be eligible for student membership. For more details, contact the membership department on 0870 443 5252 or email [membership@bacp.co.uk](mailto:membership@bacp.co.uk)

## Final reminder

The deadline for abstract submissions for the BACP Research Conference, 11-12 May 2007 at York St John University College, is **17 November 2006**. Further information is available on the research website: [www.bacp.co.uk/research/conference2007](http://www.bacp.co.uk/research/conference2007)

## Research surgery dates

If you need to talk to someone about a research project or research dilemma in counselling and psychotherapy, the next research surgery is on Wednesday 22

November 2006, 2-4pm.

To book, please contact Kaye Richards, BACP's research facilitator on 0870 443 5230 or email [kaye.richards@bacp.co.uk](mailto:kaye.richards@bacp.co.uk)