# Lothian Clinical Academic Pathways Partnership

# Clinical Academic Research Gateway Funding

# First Steps into Research Opportunities 2025

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| Institution & Department  Research Centre (if appropriate) | Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences (SIPBS), University of Strathclyde;  Pharmacoepidemiology and Health Service Research |
| Contact – name, role & email | Dr Tanja Mueller, Lecturer; [tanja.muller@strath.ac.uk](mailto:tanja.muller@strath.ac.uk)  Dr Amanj Kurdi, Reader; [amanj.baker@strath.ac.uk](mailto:amanj.baker@strath.ac.uk) |
| Research Project/Programme Title | Profiling and assessing medicines use in pregnancy in Scotland: a population-based, whole system prescribing approach using routine data from clinical care |
| Details of Research Project / Programme – *including funder, team members, methodology, stage of implementation* | This project is part of a 4-year PhD project funded by Medical Research Scotland (MRS) and is conducted in collaboration with Public Health Scotland (PHS). The assigned PhD student, who you will work with, is a medical professional who has just started in October 2023.  The overall aim of the project is to gain a deeper understanding of medicine use in pregnancy in general, and in Scotland in particular, with respect to the extent of medicines used; patient characteristics; and alignment of medicine use with treatment guidelines, medicines regulation, and wider policy considerations. The project is currently in its first phase, aimed at gaining an understanding of the topic area (literature based). Subsequent phases will comprise data collection and analyses as well as in-depth stakeholder engagement. |
| Opportunities for candidate  *e.g. attending meetings; data collection; data management; analysis; ethics application; dissemination activities*  (bullet points) | University colleagues who are part of this project are predominantly from the [Pharmacoepidemiology & Health Care Research Group (PEHCR)](https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/subjects/pharmacybiomedicalsciences/pharmacoepidemiologyandhealthcare/) with additional links particularly with [PHS](https://publichealthscotland.scot/). Opportunities could include:   * Meet with PhD students and researchers to better understand the academic career pathway and the role of clinicians in research * Attend research team meetings * Attend research seminars hosted by PhD students, researchers and academics which may involve presentations, participating with a journal club, or reviewing academic writing * Act as an advisor to review documentation aimed at different stakeholders (e.g., lay summaries) * Support the literature search process by identifying newly published research of relevance and/or supporting study selection and data extraction * Support data generation activities (e.g., participant recruitment, data collection, analysis, report writing) * Support research dissemination activities (e.g., develop a poster / abstract from research findings) * Integrate with a team actively writing a paper to understand the publication process |
| Any other considerations or information for potential candidates? (e.g. potential links to other projects, networking opportunities, specific skills needed) | Colleagues within the wider Pharmacoepidemiology & Health Care Research Group welcome PhD applications from Allied Healthcare professionals. There is scope for a successful First Steps into Research applicant to use this opportunity to identify potential PhD supervisors and begin early discussions on a PhD topic. |
| Dates available (awards likely to be made Feb/Mar 2024 for start in Mar/Apr 2024) | January 2024 onwards  Dates can be flexible depending on applicant’s preference. A calendar of Pharmacoepidemiology & Health Care Research meetings and events can be disseminated in advance for the applicant to identify those of most interest. |
| Mentor(s) | To be decided upon depending on applicant’s identified support needs |