

HELP CHOOSE HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECTS THAT MATTER TO YOUR COMMUNITY



Who are we?

The **Pears Cumbria School of Medicine (PCSM) Research Hub** supports health research at the new Pears Cumbria School of Medicine (PCSM). The PCSM is a partnership between the University of Cumbria, Imperial College London and the North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust (NCIC).

Why we're involving community partners

Community voices can check that health research is relevant, respectful, and responsive to local views. As a community partner, your insights will help shape which projects are funded and how the researchers work with patients and the wider public. You will bring important views and experiences to the process of selecting applicants.

What are we doing?

We plan to award **up to £50,000 to eight health research projects** that build stronger research partnerships between the University of Cumbria and the NHS. Applications are open from **15 May to 15 July 2025**, and we'll decide who gets funding by **16 August 2025**.

Who are we looking for?

The PCSM Research Hub is looking for **two community partners based in Cumbria** to help us review and choose which health research projects should receive funding.

Who can apply?

If you live in Cumbria, care about health in your community, and are comfortable reading and commenting on written documents, we'd love to hear from you. It's helpful if you've been involved in patient groups, community organisations, or similar projects — but it's not required. You don't need to be an expert in health care or know about health research.

What you'll do

As a community partner, you will:

- Review, score and, if you want, comment on research project applications, especially how they plan to involve and benefit communities. Guidance on how to do this will be provided. You can do this in your own time, or — if you prefer — choose to do so in our Carlisle office during working hours.
- Share your views with our review panel, which includes Profs Sophie Day, Jonathan Weber, Mark Thursz, and Mary Morrell. You can either join the full panel to share your views or do so via Prof Day or Prof Weber.

We expect your involvement will take 10-20 hours, including reading, scoring, and sharing your reviews with the panel.

Support and Reimbursement

You'll be supported throughout by Dr Hugh Martin, Manager of the PCSM Research Hub. We'll reimburse your time at £25 per hour plus reasonable expenses (e.g. public transport travel and/or £5 towards data), in line with National Institute for Health and Care Research guidance. You can choose reimbursement via GiftPay — a digital voucher valid at a wide range of retailers — or bank transfer. We'll guide you through the process securely.

How to apply

Please send a short letter, email, or voice note (audio recording) to:

✉ pcsmresearchhub@cumbria.ac.uk
📞 or call us on **01228-242-991**

by 5pm on Monday, 30 June 2025. **Tell us:**

- ✍ A bit about yourself and your connection to Cumbria;
- ✍ Any relevant experience (e.g. community groups, patient feedback, health charities, or involvement in research);
- ✍ Why you're interested in this opportunity.