

NIHR ARC North London NHS Foundation Trust (NLFT-ARC)

Co-Director: Call for Applications

NIHR Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs) are regional research infrastructure conducting innovative research that meets the most pressing health and social care needs of our communities and health and social care systems. We focus on research which will directly improve health, the health and social care system, and reduce inequalities

About the role

We are in the final stages of an open competition for a new ARC Programme, which, if awarded will run from 01 April 2026 – 31 March 2031. The outcome of the competition will be announced in October 2025.

We are therefore inviting applications for the role of Co-Director of our proposed ARC, hosted by the North London NHS Foundation Trust: the NIHR ARC North London NHS Foundation Trust (NLFT-ARC). The Co-Director will work closely with the Director of the current ARC (NIHR ARC North Thames), Professor Rosalind Raine, to prepare for and deliver, NLFT-ARC.

We seek a world-leading academic at full professorial level (early/mid stage in response to NIHR's requirement that the co-Director will "ensure succession planning"). Applicants should have a track record of leading significant, applied research in UK government priority areas that achieves national impacts. You should have strategic, change management and communication expertise, and extensive familiarity with NIHR.

The Co-Director will have specific leadership and management responsibilities for aspects of the ARC programme (to be negotiated with the successful applicant). A phased approach to co-Directorship will result in the post-holder taking more prominent roles, as appropriate over time, in the expectation they will become Director should there be a subsequent NIHR ARC funding round.

Applications are open to full (clinical or non-clinical) professors working in any of our partner universities (City St Georges, LSE, LSHTM, QMUL, UCL), including current NIHR ARC North Thames Theme leads and deputies.

The role is available 0.2-0.3FTE (exact FTE will depend on salary level).

Main duties

- Deliver specific NLFT-ARC strategic objectives.
- Provide academic leadership of ARC research, undertaking management, research and educational activities, and make a significant contribution to the overall success of NLFT-ARC.
- Attend (and present at) national, regional and internal leadership meetings and at national/international conferences.
- Expand and maintain NLFT-ARC's strategic relationships across the health and care system.
- Ensure NLFT-ARC addresses the research priorities of health and care providers and the population of North Thames/mid and South Essex
- Provide regional, national and international leadership in the delivery of specific areas of focus (to be negotiated) across NLFT-ARC's programme.
- Develop strong strategic relationships with key stakeholders, including London NHS Foundation Trust (our host Trust), Health Innovation Network (UCLPartners), NLFT-ARC partner universities and health and care organisations, and NLFT-ARC leadership team

- Co-chair (with NLFT-ARC Director) NLFT-ARC Management Board for overall leadership, management and performance of NLFT-ARC strategy and objectives
- Develop in-depth knowledge of all NLFT-ARC domains of activity (research, training, Knowledge Mobilisation, support for Implementation; Public and patient involvement and engagement, Inclusion), and provide strategic leadership and support.

About You: Demonstrable evidence of the following experience and skills

Experience

- PhD, and extensive experience in UK-based applied health research.
- Early/mid stage Full (clinical or non-clinical) Professor or Professorial Research Fellow.
- International reputation in applied health and/or care research.
- Leading complex, multi-organisation and multi-component research programmes of national/international significance.
- Sustained record of applied health and/or care research excellence demonstrated by high impact publications.
- Track record in research knowledge mobilisation, support for implementation and spread of research into practice (specifying if locally, regionally, nationally).
- Track record of leading involvement with communities and/or patients, public, and its impacts.
- Improving research culture and research inclusion in the research workforce and developing an inclusive research portfolio that addresses health and care inequalities.
- Developing research capacity and capability in the health and care system.
- Extensive experience of and engagement with NIHR and Department of Health & Social Care.
- Membership of national or international advisory bodies in relevant scientific areas.

Skills

- Proven leadership ability in university and senior leadership engagement in policy, provider and/or commissioner settings.
- Proven ability to implement successful change management initiatives and formulate strategic plans that reflect and support the priority needs of NLFT-ARC, NIHR, health and care stakeholders.
- Proven ability to recognise and address obstacles and difficulties to enable teams to deliver to time, quality and budget.
- Proven ability to use influence to develop strategies and plans.

Application process

Applications should be made through submission of a full **curriculum vitae (CV) and covering letter** (maximum two pages), explaining how you fulfil each of the required experience and skills criteria outlined above and why you would like the role.

Please submit applications to Prof Rosalind Raine: arc.norththames@ucl.ac.uk

Informal enquiries are welcome via the same email.

NIHR ARC funding is not permitted to be spent on university overheads or estates costs; please ensure your institution will accept ARC funding for this role on this basis.

The deadline for applications is **5.00pm on Wednesday 03 September 2025**. Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed in September 2025.