



Chest
Heart &
Stroke

Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke

Research is at the heart of what we do. Be part of it.

Research is vital to the work we do. Each year, we invite researchers from our local universities and research institutes to apply to our research grants programme. Through this programme, we fund local researchers to carry out high quality research that delivers real benefits to people living with chest, heart, and stroke conditions.

Find out more about our annual Research Grants Programme and how you can apply: <https://nichs.org.uk/research-policy/research/research-application-process/how-to-apply-to-the-srg-programme>

Who can apply to our research programme?

The main applicant must be

- based in Northern Ireland, from an established research institute, and
- demonstrate experience / interest in the fields of chest, heart and stroke illness.

What type of research do we fund?

Our focus is on high quality local research that will deliver real world benefit to people living with chest, heart, and stroke conditions, and their loved ones. We fund research that focuses on these conditions directly, and research that focuses on risk and lifestyle factors. Ideally, we would like the research we fund to produce these outcomes within five years. We welcome applications from all relevant disciplines, including allied health, psychology, nursing; and we will consider suitable PhD applications. Examples of research we’ve funded:



Can an over-the-counter medication for cold sores help in the fight against COPD?

Are severe common cold infections in childhood linked to developing asthma?

Are people less likely to keep using their asthma inhalers when treated with powerful new biologic medicines?

How should we treat dangerous bacteria that grow in intensive care ventilator tubes, in order to prevent VAP (pneumonia)?



Developing a lateral flow device to test for heart failure.

Why do some children develop life threatening heart conditions after a COVID infection?

Can Vitamin B2 be used to lower high blood pressure?

Developing technology that scans the eye to identify risk of CVD.



Can we improve our post-rehab programme for stroke survivors by adding arm exercises?

Designing a programme to help people with stroke to keep active in the longer term.

Testing a new technology that helps stroke survivors improve arm movements using imagery in the form of a computer game

Developing a psychological therapy that’s suitable for stroke survivors with cognitive impairments.



Can we modify a tried and tested Irish post-primary physical activity programme, and deliver it in NI schools?

Can a successful Australian primary school programme be adapted to suit Northern Ireland?

Can providing financial incentives encourage pregnant women to quit smoking?

Why do young people use e-cigs? What are their (and their parents’) attitudes to them?

More information

2025-2026 grant application window opens on Tuesday 27th May 2025, and closes Wednesday 27th August 2025.

See application pack for:

- research strategy
- more about how we choose the research we fund
- Process and research formulation slides (from workshops)
- Plain English summaries of selected research (intended for public)