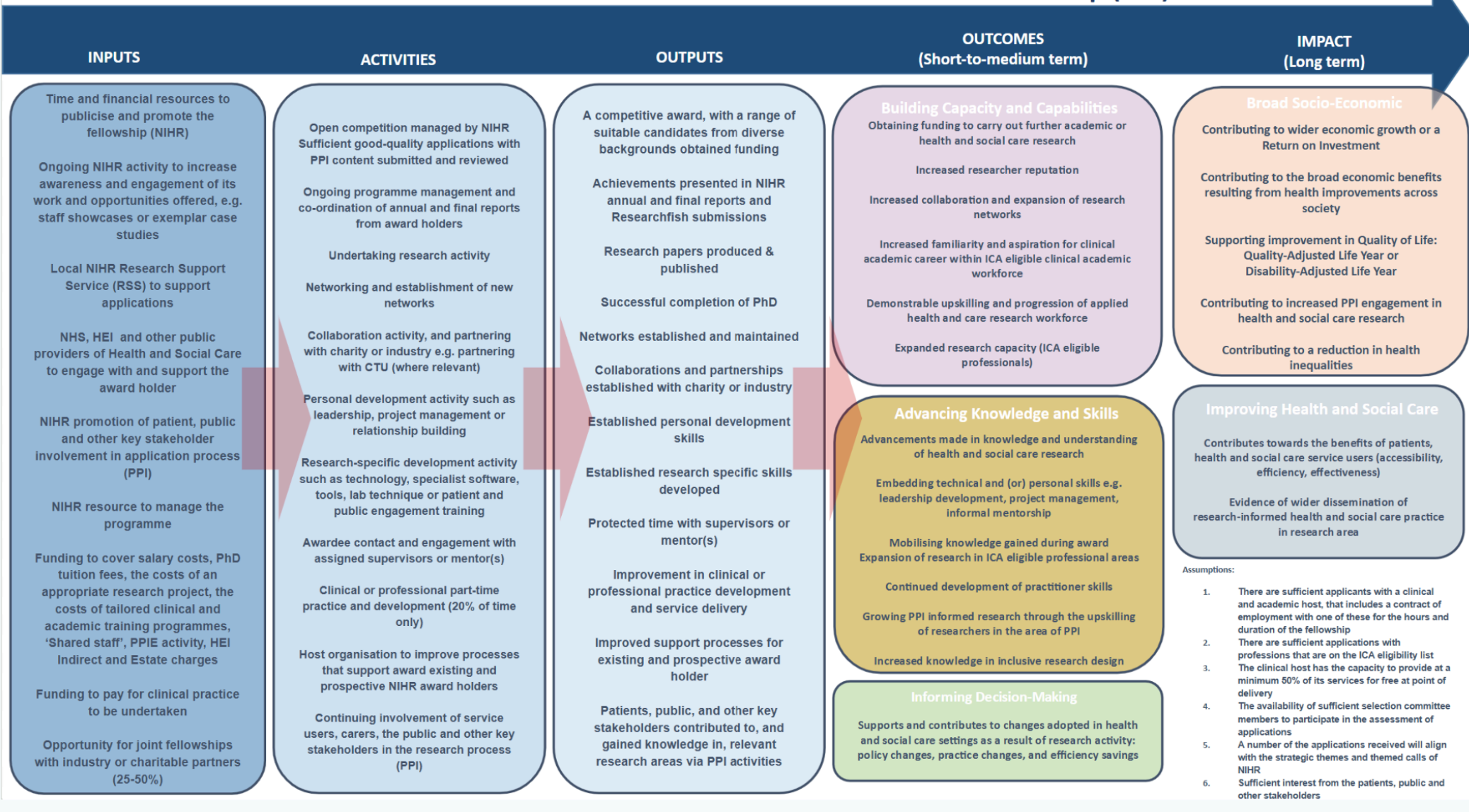




NIHR Doctoral Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship (ICA) Logic Model

Rachel Czyzewska, James Fenton, Helen Harris-Joseph, Emma Knowles, Henry Mbawa-Jr, Chris Stevenson

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)
Updated: October 2023

Key words: NIHR Doctoral Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship, DCAF, ICA, doctoral researchers, registered healthcare professionals, NIHR Logic Model, outcomes, clinical academics

Introduction

The Doctoral Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship (DCAF), formerly the Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship (CDRF), is part of the NIHR Integrated Clinical and Practitioner Academic (ICA) Programme, which is a scheme to support the research careers of health and social care professionals, excluding doctors and dentists. The DCAF scheme funds registered healthcare professionals to undertake a PhD by research and to concurrently undertake further professional development and practice. As a career development award, it supports the core workstream 'Attracting, training and supporting the best researchers... to tackle complex health and social care challenges' from Best Research for Best Health: The Next Chapter. In turn, this will contribute to the overarching mission of the NIHR which is to improve the health and wealth of the nation.

The NIHR uses logic models to visually represent how a programme or research award is expected to achieve the outcomes, and resultant impact, that are defined during the development process of a programme or research award. A logic model then becomes an important tool in the process of evaluating a programme or award, which in turn guides a learning process of how a programme can be altered to better achieve its aims. The logic model is a linear flow diagram that reads from left to right, and is divided into the following sections: inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes and impact.

Inputs

The first section in the logic model for the NIHR Doctoral Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship is the 'inputs'. The inputs are the resources that are made

available so that the programme can operate and achieve its defined goals. The inputs in this logic model are:

- Time and financial resources to publicise and promote the fellowship (NIHR)
- Ongoing NIHR activity to increase awareness and engagement of its work and opportunities offered, e.g. staff showcases or exemplar case studies
- Local NIHR Research Support Service (RSS) to support applications
- NHS, HEI and other public providers of Health and Social Care to engage with and support the award holder
- NIHR promotion of patient, public and other key stakeholder involvement in application process (PPI)
- NIHR resource to manage the programme
- Funding to cover salary costs, PhD tuition fees, the costs of an appropriate research project, the costs of tailored clinical and academic training programmes, 'Shared staff', PPIE activity, HEI Indirect and Estate charges
- Funding to pay for clinical practice to be undertaken
- Opportunity for joint fellowships with industry or charitable partners (25-50%)

Activities

Following the logic model from left to right, the next part of this logic model is the activities section. These are the activities of the NIHR and the researchers who hold the awards, using the resources provided by the logic model inputs.

The activities to be undertaken by the NIHR are:

- Open competition managed by NIHR
- Sufficient good-quality applications with PPI content submitted and reviewed
- Ongoing programme management and co-ordination of annual and final reports from award holders
- Undertaking research activity
- Networking and establishment of new networks
- Collaboration activity, and partnering with charity or industry e.g. partnering with CTU (where relevant)
- Personal development activity such as leadership, project management or relationship building
- Research-specific development activity such as technology, specialist software, tools, lab technique or patient and public engagement training
- Awardee contact and engagement with assigned supervisors or mentor(s)
- Clinical or professional part-time practice and development (20% of time only)
- Host organisation to improve processes that support award existing and prospective NIHR award holders

- Continuing involvement of service users, carers, the public and other key stakeholders in the research process (PPI)

Outputs

The next stage in the logic model, after the activities section, are the outputs. The outputs arise as a direct result of the previously defined activities. The outputs for this logic model are:

- A competitive award, with a range of suitable candidates from diverse backgrounds obtained funding
- Achievements presented in NIHR annual and final reports and
- Researchfish submissions
- Research papers produced & published
- Successful completion of PhD
- Networks established and maintained
- Collaborations and partnerships established with charity or industry
- Established personal development skills
- Established research specific skills developed
- Protected time with supervisors or mentor(s)
- Improvement in clinical or professional practice development and service delivery
- Improved support processes for existing and prospective award holder
- Patients, public, and other key stakeholders contributed to, and gained knowledge in, relevant research areas via PPI activities

Outcomes

The fourth part of the logic model is the outcomes section. Outcomes are the measurable, often medium-to-long-term, changes that we expect to see as a result of the programme or award taking place. The outcomes for this model are divided into the following five different sub-sections: building capacity, advancing knowledge and skills, informing decision-making, broad socio-economic, and health impact. The outcomes within each of the five subsections are listed here:

Building Capacity and Capabilities:

- Obtaining funding to carry out further academic or health and social care research
- Increased researcher reputation
- Increased collaboration and expansion of research networks

- Increased familiarity and aspiration for clinical academic career within ICA eligible clinical academic workforce
- Demonstrable upskilling and progression of applied health and care research workforce
- Expanded research capacity (ICA eligible professionals)

Advancing Knowledge and Skills:

- Advancements made in knowledge and understanding of health and social care research
- Embedding technical and (or) personal skills e.g. leadership development, project management, informal mentorship
- Mobilising knowledge gained during award
- Expansion of research in ICA eligible professional areas
- Continued development of practitioner skills
- Growing PPI informed research through the upskilling of researchers in the area of PPI
- Increased knowledge in inclusive research design

Informing Decision-Making:

- Supports and contributes to changes adopted in health and social care settings as a result of research activity: policy changes, practice changes, and efficiency savings

Broad Socio-Economic:

- Contributing to wider economic growth or a Return on Investment
- Contributing to the broad economic benefits resulting from health improvements across society
- Supporting improvement in Quality of Life: Quality-Adjusted Life Year or Disability-Adjusted Life Year
- Contributing to increased PPI engagement in health and social care research
- Contributing to a reduction in health inequalities

Improving Health and Social Care:

- Contributes towards patient and care receiver benefit (accessibility, efficiency, effectiveness)
- Evidence of wider dissemination of research-informed health and social care practice in research area

Assumptions

The assumptions included within the logic model are underlying principles, ideas, and beliefs that we hold about how an award will work. The assumptions may be about a number of different things, such as the external or internal environment of the award, relevant stakeholders participation, or the problem that it seeks to address. The assumptions included in this logic model are:

- There are sufficient applicants with a clinical and academic host, that includes a contract of employment with one of these for the hours and duration of the fellowship
- There are sufficient applications with professions that are on the ICA eligibility list
- The clinical host has the capacity to provide at a minimum 50% of its services for free at point of delivery
- The availability of sufficient selection committee members to participate in the assessment of applications
- A number of the applications received will align with the strategic themes and themed calls of NIHR
- Sufficient interest from the patients, public and other stakeholders

Contributions and acknowledgements

The NIHR supports the principles of open research, including full and appropriate recognition of the many varied contributions to the creation of knowledge. Those that have contributed to this work are listed alphabetically according to their surname.

Authors	Position in NIHR
Rachel Czyzewska	Senior Impact Manager
James Fenton	Assistant Director of the Integrated Pathways Team
Helen Harris-Joseph	Assistant Director of the Evaluation, Business Intelligence and Impact
Emma Knowles	Senior Impact Manager (former)
Henry Mbawa Jr.	Senior Programme Manager
Chris Stevenson	Senior Impact Manager (former)