Thank you for taking the time to apply for the MRC and NIHR Better Methods, Better Research Programme Chair role.

We appreciate that you are busy, so please note that during your application you will be asked to provide the following information. Please check that you have this information to hand as you begin:

- A list (30-60 words) of the key areas of your expertise
- Details of Peer Review Committees/Panel membership
- Examples of how you have contributed to the wider research community (approx. 250 words)
- A short CV (5-6 pages max) available to attach with this application, titled surname, first name
- A short paragraph (approx 300 words) about your justification for applying

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact MRC.EventsandCommitteesTeam@mrc.ukri.org.

This survey has been created using an accessible theme and following the accessible survey checklist. An accessible survey is designed so that people with varying hearing, movement, sight, and cognitive abilities can complete it. However, if you require the application in a different format please contact MRC.EventsandCommitteesTeam@mrc.ukri.org.

The deadline for application submissions is 16:00 (UK time) Friday 30 September 2022.

How UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will use your personal data

We use the personal data you give us to:

- **manage recruitment to current vacancies,**
- **help us identify potential members for other panels and committees, and**
- **to publish membership details on the UK Research and Innovation website under each Board and Panel's individual category on the following page www.ukri.org/about-us/mrc/board-and-panel-membership/.**

We will store your data securely and handle it in line with UK data protection legislation.

If you would like to know more, including how to exercise your data protection rights, please see the UKRI privacy notice (https://www.ukri.org/about-us/privacy-notice/).

For all individuals, the information provided will be retained for up to one year. For appointed individuals , the information is retained in accordance with the UKRI retention schedule (for more details please refer to the UK Research and Innovation Privacy Notice).

For information on how Survey Monkey uses your data, please refer to their Privacy Policy.

Your Information

1. Title

○ Mr   ○ Dr

○ Mrs   ○ Professor

○ Ms

Other (please specify)

[   ]

* 2. Forename

[   ]

* 3. Surname

[   ]

4. Date of Birth

Please enter your date of birth

Date

[DD/MM/YYYY]   [   ]

* 5. Name of organisation you are currently employed by

[   ]

* 6. Type of Organisation

○ University   ○ MRC Unit/Institute

○ Industry   ○ Other

Other (please specify) e.g. NHS, Government Organisation

[   ]

* 7. Organisation address and contact details

Address

Address line 2

City/Town

County

Post Code

Country

Email Address*
This should be the email you would use to communicate with UKRI via Je-S or the Innovation Funding Service (IFS) to make a grant application or provide peer review comments. It may be used to link this application to information UKRI already holds about you

Phone Number

The MRC values the diverse skills and experience of the members of its boards and panels and is committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all.

Why we're asking

Conducting diversity monitoring of our boards and panels is one of the ways in which we seek to embed equality, diversity, and inclusion in all we do to ensure that the ways in which we fund embrace a diversity of thought, people, geographical locations, and ideas. Find out more about <u>MRC</u> and <u>UKRI</u> support for equality, diversity and inclusion.

The confidential information obtained in this section will be used for monitoring purposes and will not affect the assessment of your application, which will be evaluated based on your skills, aptitudes and abilities.

Rather, the information you provide will help us to:

- **Identify under-representation – where we need to do more to attract, support or retain certain under-represented groups. We have set targets to increase the representation of women (50%) and members from ethnic minority groups (24%) across our standing boards/panels.**

- **Ensure fairness – by reviewing our processes to ensure they are fair and transparent, and do not have an adverse impact on any particular group.**

- **Assess impact – and track progress, and the extent to which we are achieving our diversity and inclusion aims.**

- **Respond to individual needs – of board and panel members, such as through providing reasonable adjustments.**

Where there is evidenced need, MRC may take appropriate and proportionate interventions including in final membership decisions. This is in accordance with our duty to advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

We recognise that some individuals may still regard this information as private and have therefore included the option of 'prefer not to say' in all categories.

* 8. Please indicate your gender

[   ]

* 9. Please indicate your ethnicity

[   ]

Other (please specify)

[   ]

* 10. Do you identify as having a disability or long-term condition? If you are unsure, please consult the definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010

[ ]

11. Further information about your disability or long-term condition and any reasonable adjustments required. We endeavour to support you to fully participate in a board or panel, should you be successful. (optional)

[ ]

Expertise

* 12. Please list the key areas of your expertise (30 - 60 words).

13. Are you clinically qualified/clinically active?

○ Yes

○ No

14. We are seeking to include digital skills across all MRC Boards and Panels, please select if you have any qualifications or applied expertise directly related to the following areas:

☐ Information or computer science, including artificial intelligence

☐ Data engineering, operations, systems or infrastructure

☐ Software or programming

Experience

* 15. Please list up to five peer review committees/panels that you have been a member of and your tenure in the format:

Funding organisation, Committee/Panel, tenure

If you have no previous experience on a review committee/panel, then please write N/A

Experience 1   [   ]

Experience 2   [   ]

Experience 3   [   ]

Experience 4   [   ]

Experience 5   [   ]

Justification for application

* 16. Please provide relevant supporting examples of how you have contributed to the wider research community (approx. 250 words)

This section can include various activities you have engaged in to progress the research community. It can be used to mention:

- Commitments including editing, reviewing, committee work and your contributions to the evaluation of researchers and research projects.
- The organisation of events that have benefited your research community.
- Contributions to increasing research integrity and improving research culture (e.g. advancing and promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion, staff network involvement, mobility of researchers, engagement and outreach, reward and recognition of researchers' various activities etc).

Appointments to positions of responsibility such as committee membership and corporate roles within your department, institution or organisation, and recognition by invitation within your sector.

17. Are there any circumstances that you would like to be taken into consideration that may have influenced your career progression as a researcher, for example: disability/illness, career breaks, caring and childcare responsibilities, secondments, volunteering, part-time work and other relevant experience (including time spent in different sectors), etc.? (approx. 250 words)

Suitability for Appointment

A positive answer to any of the below questions will not necessarily prevent from you being considered for Board/Panel membership. However, MRC Head Office staff will contact you to discuss the circumstances before taking your application forward.

* 18. Have you ever been found guilty of scientific misconduct?

○ Yes

○ No

* 19. Are there any allegations of scientific misconduct against you currently under investigation?

○ Yes

○ No

* 20. Is there anything that might compromise or bring into question your suitability to hold a public appointment, such as personal bankruptcy or a recent criminal conviction?

○ Yes

○ No

CV

* 21. Please attach a short CV (max 6 pages) ensuring this is uploaded titled **surname, first name**, containing only relevant information and recent publications.

Please ensure the document is saved as "surname, first name" before uploading.

Choose File   Choose File   No file chosen

The MRC and NIHR are currently seeking a new chair for the MRC-NIHR Better Methods, Better Research Programme (BMBR) to commence their appointment on 1 April 2023. Panel Chairs are normally appointed for four years.

BMBR remit combines improving methodological capability (novel research methods being used by others) and improving methodological capacity (research to improve research decisions being taken by others). The BMBR Panel Chair will need to value and include diverse research expertise, backgrounds, experience-levels and contributions to work together in assessment of each application and development of wider strategy.

Full details about the scheme can be found on the UKRI website: https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/better-methods-better-research/ and,

https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/develop-guidance-for-better-research-methods/

Recent awards are found here:

https://www.ukri.org/publications/better-methods-better-research-funding-decisions/

(Please note, further information can be found by entering award reference numbers at https://gtr.ukri.org/)

Candidates may be invited to attend a brief interview.

Key aspects of the role:

- **Chairing all BMBR panel meetings (currently two per year), ensuring all funding decisions are objective, fair and robust, and that all members' views are taken into account**
- **Ensuring both effective delivery of MRC and UKRI strategy across the Panel remit, and that funding decisions reflect strategic priorities**
- **Contributing to the ongoing development of MRC's methodology strategy and providing advice relevant to methodology research into broader MRC, NIHR and UKRI strategy as required**
- **Oversight of key aspects of post award monitoring (noting BMBR awards do not include formal post-award milestones or gateways as standard)**

Person specification:

Candidates should have experience of leading a major research activity, or equivalent, and be proven strategic thinkers. They should have a track record of undertaking and championing methodology research.

Applicants should demonstrate that they have the time and skills to contribute across a range of MRC strategic and governance issues and participate in active professional networks beyond existing methodology research communities.

Suitable candidates should demonstrate:

- **A broad understanding of biomedical, health and/or clinical research and an extensive track record of research contributions.**
- **A keen interest in methodology research and a thorough understanding of the relevant research landscape, funding mechanisms and pathways to clinical impact and commercialisation.**
- **Proven ability to exercise judgment across a broad spectrum of policy and research issues.**
- **Experience of conducting peer review with a major funder e.g. UKRI, NIHR, Wellcome Trust, Cancer Research UK, or equivalent.**
- **Excellent communication skills and experience of chairing in a complex area.**
- **Ability to work effectively within the public sector's requirements for accountability and openness, and within financial constraints.**
- **Commitment to the mission and broad objectives of the MRC and NIHR.**

The MRC and NIHR value the diverse skills, experience and leadership of the members of its boards and panels and is committed to achieving equality of treatment for all. Please contact bmbr@mrc.ukri.org to discuss any questions or suggestions you may have.

Commitment:

The BMBR Panel meets twice each year, with two-day meetings taking place in May and November. Typically, around 30-35

22. BMBR Panel Chair

☐ I would like to apply to be the BMBR Panel Chair

* 23. Please outline how you meet the criteria listed in the person specification above, along with your motivation for applying for this role. (Approx 300 words)

24. Where did you hear about the Board and Panel Vacancies?

- ◯ Email from MRC
- ◯ MRC Website
- ◯ Professional Body
- ◯ Research Institution
- ◯ Word of mouth
- ◯ Twitter
- ◯ Other (please specify)

  [   ]