

2026 Patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) award for early career researchers in rare disease

1. Application form: deadline Sunday 15 November 2026.

PPIE in research includes Involving (researchers and people with lived experience working as partners, being consultative, collaborative and empowering) and/or Engaging (researchers informing diverse audiences of scientific progress). The judging panel particularly welcomes applications that focus on involvement. Applications are invited from **early career researchers** along with a key PPIE contributor they have worked with. Each member of the pair will need to contribute to this form.

Applications will be accepted for PPIE work that has reached a point of having impact, even though it might not be considered entirely 'finished'. The research it is a part of might be a current programme or project, or have been completed within the last two years.

We define early career researchers as PhD students or post-doctoral researchers (including clinician scientists) who are establishing their career and have not yet applied for grants as an independent principal investigator (PI). Rare diseases are defined as those that affect fewer than 1 in 2,000 people. The award is not limited to particular disciplines and all early career researchers are encouraged to apply, whether their research is in, for example, basic science, therapeutic development, applied/translational or psychosocial research.

Please ensure that if you are including personal information about your public contributor(s) in this application (such as a personal email) that you have secured explicit consent to do so.

1. Name of researcher**2. Researcher declaration. I confirm I am an early career researcher as defined in the terms of this award.**☐ Yes☐ No**3. Researcher declaration. I confirm that I have secured explicit consent for any personal information (such as email addresses of PPIE contributors) given in this application.**☐ Yes☐ Not applicable**4. Name of current research institute****5. Researcher's email address****6. Name of PPIE contributor****7. [Optional] PPIE contributor self-description e.g. living with a rare condition; parent of a child with a rare condition****8. [Optional] PPIE contributor's email address**

9. Plain English summary of your rare disease research, including an outline of your PPIE activities (max 200 words):

10. How did you consider Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in your PPIE activity/approach and implement it throughout? For example, did you identify specific groups that were important to involve and build new relationships to engage them? This could be groups identified by demographics or by their life experience (e.g. 'parents of undiagnosed children'). (max 150 words)

11. How did you determine whether training or information was needed to help PPIE contributors fully engage, and how were these needs addressed? This could be training in tasks such as chairing meetings, or providing background technical information to enable people to understand the research. (max 150 words)

12. What steps were taken to ensure all parties involved in the PPIE activities could benefit from them / contribute to them? For example, 1-2-1 follow-up after meetings, circulation of materials in advance of meetings, provision of materials in different formats. (max 150 words)

13. For the researcher to answer. Please reflect on what you have taken away from the experience, both in terms of what you have learned personally, and how you would improve future PPIE activity. (max 100 words)

14. For the PPIE contributor to answer. Please reflect on what you have taken away from the experience, both in terms of what you have learned personally, and how you would improve future PPIE activity. (max 100 words)

15. How did your PPIE activities create meaningful impact on this research or wider project activities? Feel free to link to any online outputs. (max 250 words)

3. END of APPLICATION

Thank you submitting your application. We will contact all applicants in January/February 2027.