

NIHR Academic Careers

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*National Institute for
Health Research*

Overview

Why a **formalised research** post?

Application Process

Draw on (very) early experience of NIHR

GASTROS Study

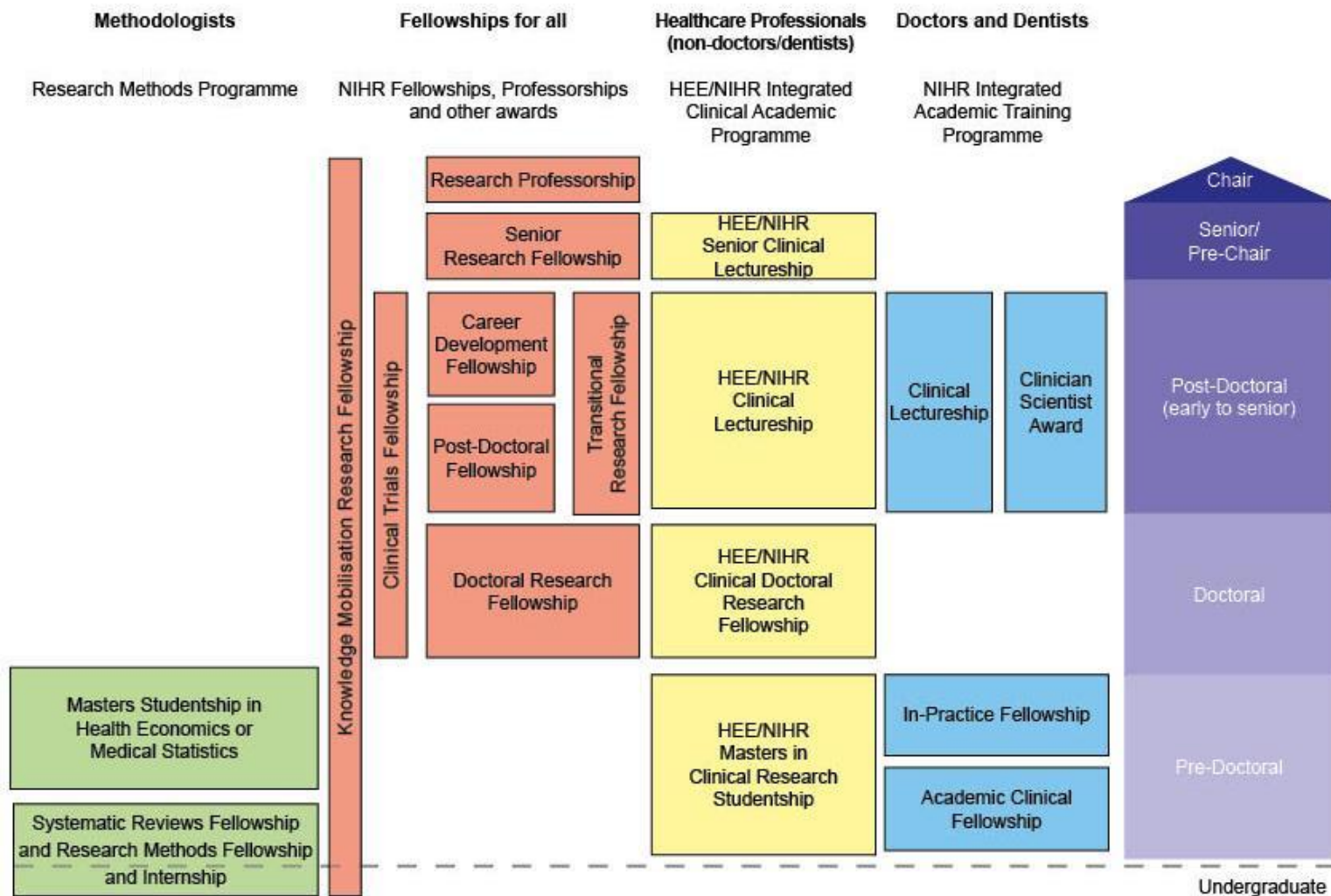
What is the NIHR?

It is a large, **multi-faceted** and nationally distributed organisation.

NIHR people, facilities and systems represent the **most integrated clinical research system** in the world.

Supports **career development**

NIHR Opportunities



Positives

- Formal recognition of research effort
 - Difficult to get through Trusts
 - Part-time/full-time
- Huge support infrastructure
 - Training
 - Design service
 - Clinical Research Networks
 - National Portfolio
- Career ladder

Challenges – Surgeon's Perspective

- Commitment
 - Time
 - Deadlines, reports
 - *Is this really a drawback?*
- Impact on clinical experience
 - Trainee/consultant
 - Depends on your study
- Impact on clinical service

Why am I doing this now?

- Appointed in 2013
 - Surgeon level reporting
 - National audit outcomes
- Issue directly affected me and my patients
- Formal research training limited
- Credibility to make an impact
- Access to funding and infrastructure to achieve this

Ultimately have to ask yourself

What are your **research aspirations?**

Research Leader?

Recruiter?

Practice evidence based medicine?

NIHR Fellowship Application Process

Principles & Process



Before Application

- Assemble a **strong team**
- Think outside the box
 - Research methodologists
 - Health economists
 - Qualitative researchers
 - Patients
 - People who have the **time/expertise/passion**
 - People who will help you achieve **your** goals

Application Process

1. Person/Team

- Track record
- **appropriate** experience for level of application

2. Project

- Impact on patients within 5 years of completion
- Patient and public involvement

3. Training

- To complete project
- To develop you as a future research leader

4. Place

- Support
- Track Record

Interview

- 5 minute presentation
- 20 minutes of questions
 - Do you believe in your study?
 - How will you mitigate your weaknesses?
 - You are not the finished article!
 - How will you overcome obstacles?

Successful Application

- 2015
 - 162 applicants, 33 awarded (20%)
- Patience!
- Negotiation process
 - Up to 6 months after the start date
- Ethics and the rest...



GASTROS

Standardising Outcome Reporting in
Gastric Cancer Surgery Research



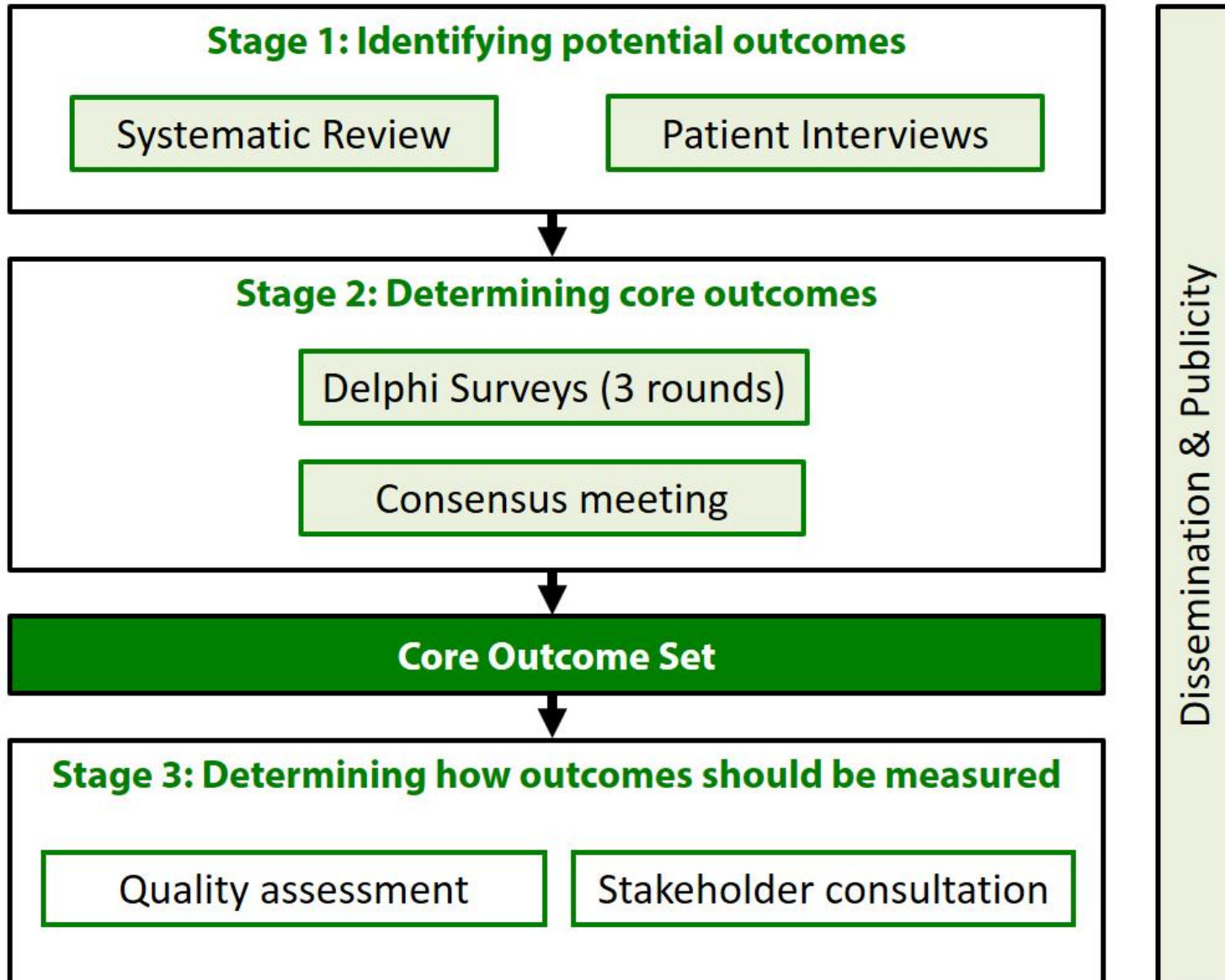
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GASTROS Study

- Therapeutic surgical intervention trials
- **Inconsistent** outcomes reporting
- Cannot reliably compare or synthesize data

Solution?

‘Core Outcome Set’



My Team

- Iain Bruce (Primary Supervisor)
 - Paula Williamson (COMET)
 - Anne-Marie Glenny (Cochrane)
 - Jane Blazeby
 - Caroline Sanders (QR)
-
- Catherine Wright (Admin)
 - Nailah Brown (Admin)

Other Support

- Study Advisory Group
- International Centres
- NIHR CRN
- COMET
- MRC Hubs Research & Trials Methodology

Key Points

- Excellent opportunities within NIHR structure
- *Can* be done as a consultant
- Must have a **strong team**
- Must have **support from unit**

Thank You

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www.GASTROSStudy.org