

Director of Research: Remarks

Chris Williams

School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, UK

May 2020

COVID disruption and PDRAs

- ▶ From the start of the travel restrictions, we were concerned about the effect on RAs, especially those whose contracts will be ending in 2020
- ▶ The University centrally has not specified a policy, but has asked Schools to handle this issue
- ▶ Funders' rules/policies vary from funder to funder
- ▶ Sol has identified all those whose contracts are due to end this year, and Portfolio Managers have looked at what arrangements are in place
- ▶ Most PDRAs already have plans in place, or rearrangement of funding has allowed for extensions
- ▶ Sol exploring local opportunities for those where alternate funding cannot be found
- ▶ If concerned: PDRAs - talk to PI; PIs - talk to Portfolio Manager

Principal's Innovation Award

- ▶ Open to all research staff including PDRAs
- ▶ Competition will help create and support big, new, radical ideas which could be aimed at ARPA and other funding sources
- ▶ High risk, blue sky projects that have transformative potential
- ▶ There will be up to 10 prizes of approximately £10k each
- ▶ The prize will also include a package of support from ERO/EI
- ▶ Prize to be spent on proof-of-principle experiments, reports, buy out etc.
- ▶ Both single applicant and team applications from any academic staff member including PDRAs
- ▶ Applications (one page) close at 5pm on 15th May 2020.