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Royal Marsden and ICR students attend NIHR Training Camp

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Three students from The Royal Marsden and The Institute for Cancer Research (ICR) have attended a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) training camp to learn how to prepare a grant application.

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The [NIHR](#) [5] funds the Biomedical Research Centre at The Royal Marsden and the [ICR](#) [6], and its training camp is only open to NIHR-supported students nominated through BRCs.

Dr Ben O'Leary, Specialist Registrar and NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow was joined by Dr Kate Young, NIHR Clinical Research Fellow, as well as Ann Muls, Macmillan Nurse Consultant and NIHR Clinical Doctoral Research Fellow.

The three-day intense annual event involved workshops, guest speakers who have established research careers as well as poster presentations and opportunities for networking and mentoring.

Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health, also spoke to the students in an after dinner speech about the importance of research in the NHS and the nurturing them as the future generation of researchers.

This year's course focused on preparing a grant application and was set up as a simulation, working in small groups with a day to prepare an application which they presented to a panel. Dr O'Leary and Ann Muls were both on winning teams.

Dr Naureen Starling, BRC Training Lead and mentor at the camp, said: 'The NIHR invests significantly in the development of future clinical researchers across professions and the training camps are extremely useful to our students. This simulation exercise mirrored 'The Apprentice/Dragon's Den' but in a research context. Congratulations to our three attendees who were chosen to attend this excellent learning experience.'

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