

The Wellcome Trust: an insider perspective



- Sir Henry Wellcome (1853-1936)
- A businessman, collector and philanthropist
- co-founded a multinational pharmaceutical company
- Trust's creation in 1936 upon Henry's death
- The entire share capital of the Wellcome Foundation Ltd to be held in trust by five Trustees.
- Income from the capital should be used for two broad purposes: to advance medical research and understanding of its history.
- 1966-86 Wellcome Foundation evolved from a pharmaceutical company with sales of £32 million to one with sales of over £500 million.
- By 1995 Wellcome Trust had sold most of its shares in Wellcome Foundation to GSK.
- Asset base currently ~18bn

Expenditure 2014/2015:

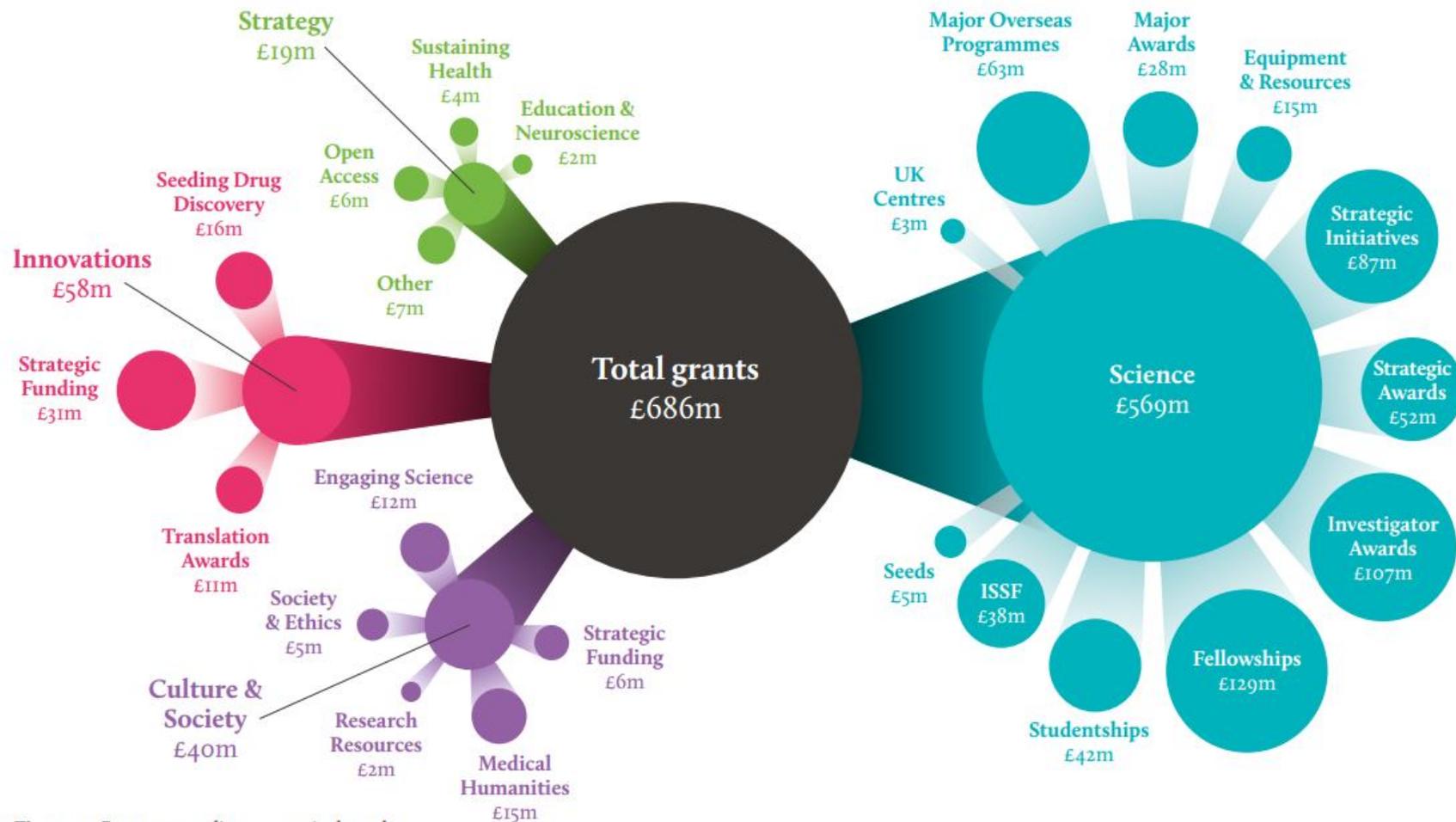


Figure 3. Grant expenditure 2014/15 by value

QMUL and Wellcome:



Rank*	UK Organisation	2014/15					Past five years				
		Number of Awards	Value of Awards	Response-mode Schemes			Number of Awards	Value of Awards	Response-mode Schemes		
Number of Applications	Number of Awards			Award Rate	Number of Applications	Number of Awards			Award Rate		
1	University of Oxford	115	£161,663,388	216	66	31%	512	£433,618,313	901	308	34%
2	University of Cambridge	92	£59,510,183	165	56	34%	400	£303,494,037	707	222	31%
3	University College London	71	£47,566,952	196	47	24%	332	£219,678,329	855	218	25%
4	Imperial College London	48	£31,307,191	139	36	26%	219	£137,920,930	634	147	23%
5	University of Edinburgh	53	£37,990,317	113	34	30%	216	£132,085,850	428	125	29%
6	King's College London	34	£13,120,616	128	29	23%	143	£93,801,161	529	111	21%
7	University of Dundee	12	£9,782,253	24	3	13%	88	£86,889,936	125	43	34%
8	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	32	£16,676,819	66	27	41%	117	£70,719,809	200	86	43%
9	Newcastle University	13	£9,518,533	36	7	19%	82	£50,107,840	173	44	25%
10	University of Glasgow	16	£9,380,974	47	8	17%	92	£48,097,834	217	45	21%
11	University of Bristol	29	£11,055,594	70	12	17%	129	£42,624,303	246	47	19%
12	University of Manchester	32	£12,570,292	72	16	22%	110	£41,731,568	261	53	20%
13	Cardiff University	17	£5,383,171	37	8	22%	78	£40,482,352	162	35	22%
14	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine	13	£4,262,356	18	9	50%	57	£33,830,577	76	37	49%
15	University of Birmingham	20	£4,481,945	60	15	25%	83	£23,927,637	240	42	18%
16	Queen Mary, University of London	13	£8,392,624	55	8	15%	65	£22,821,101	210	40	19%
17	University of Liverpool	21	£7,188,366	39	6	15%	81	£22,652,326	124	24	19%
18	University of Sheffield	8	£3,489,004	47	5	11%	41	£19,930,636	131	25	19%
19	University of York	16	£3,812,282	26	6	23%	68	£19,309,193	83	18	22%
20	University of Warwick	12	£2,584,332	33	7	21%	58	£17,101,600	124	35	28%
21	University of Aberdeen	5	£969,104	18	2	11%	32	£16,420,156	66	15	23%

Updated Strategic Approach:



This framework sets out how we plan to improve health, through three complementary approaches across science, research, and engagement with society:



Advancing ideas
We support great ideas and inspired thinking.



Seizing opportunities
We bring ideas together to make a difference.



Driving reform
We change ways of working so more ideas can flourish.

“The success of our investments, which we manage ourselves and which fund all the work we do, means we intend to spend up to £5 billion over the five years to 2020.”

What does it mean?

1. Response-mode funding
2. Focus areas – themed calls: OPOH, Centres, RHHC, HSRI
3. Science to health; education; diversity

Funding Refresh:

Response mode funding:

- **People:**
 - IAs, Fellowships (Science and HSS)
- **Seeds:**
 - Seed awards (Science and HSS)
 - Pathfinders (Innovations)
 - Development awards, People awards, Small arts awards (PE)
- **Teams:**
 - Collaborative awards (Science and HSS)
 - Portfolio awards (Innovations)
 - Sustaining Excellence awards (PE)
- **Resources:**
 - Biomedical resources, Multi-user equipment, Technology Development (Science)
- **Places:**
 - Centres (UK and MOPs)

Funding Divisions:

wellcome^{trust}

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Funding

We provide more than £700 million a year to support bright minds in science, the humanities and the social sciences, as well as education, public engagement and the application of research to medicine.

We offer a wide variety of funding schemes to support individual researchers, teams, resources, seed ideas and places. We also fund major initiatives in areas which are strategically important, by invitation, but we welcome the opportunity to discuss ideas which might fit with our strategic priorities.

Our funding framework has been refreshed to reflect what we've learnt from our community.

Our funding areas



Biomedical science

Investigating health and disease in humans and animals.



Innovations

Helping the development of innovative, early-stage projects with potential medical applications.



Public engagement

Imaginative and experimental projects that bring biology and medicine to new audiences.



Humanities and social science

Supporting research at the interface of the humanities, social science and health



Strategic funding

Major awards in strategically important research areas.

How to apply

Full details of how to apply are in the individual funding areas of the site. For general information see:

- [New application and grants management system](#)
- [Online applications](#)
- [Grant Conditions](#)
- [Open access](#)
- [Policies and position statements](#)

Grants awarded

Listings of all Wellcome Trust [grants awarded](#) each year, in Excel and PDF formats.

Get involved

Join our user panel and help us make our websites the best that they can be, from the comfort of your own chair.

Strategic Funding



Europe and Global Challenges Initiative

Joint funding initiative for research related to global challenges such as migration, climate change and global health.



Our Planet, Our Health

We support transdisciplinary research that connects environment and health.



Wellcome Trust Centres

Funding for world-leading groups proposing novel and innovative ways of tackling important research and translational questions.



Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises

Support to improve health outcomes by strengthening the evidence base for public health interventions in humanitarian crises.



Health Systems Research Initiative

Support for research to improve health systems in low- and middle-income countries.

Strategic funding is available to support major awards in research areas judged to be strategically important, informed by dialogue with researchers and the wider community.

Applications will be invited, but open to discussion of research ideas that fit with our areas of strength, and that might be suitable for an invitation.

Targeted calls for initiatives to develop and support strategically important topics.

Biomedical Science

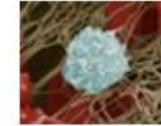
- Support research into all aspects of science: from molecules and cells vital to life, through the spread of diseases or the vectors of disease across the globe, to clinical and public health research to improve the quality of healthcare.
- Research can be based in the laboratory, the clinic or the field, and may involve experimental or theoretical approaches.

Our funding schemes



Investigator Awards

Funding for world-class researchers and clinicians with a compelling long-term vision for their research.



Fellowships

Funding for non-tenured researchers and clinicians at every stage of their career.



Seed Awards

Funding to support the generation of new ideas.



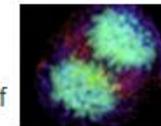
Collaborative Awards

Funding for collaborative research by teams.



Multi-user equipment grants

Support for multi-user items of equipment.



PhD funding and undergraduate opportunities

Support for postgraduate and undergraduate study.



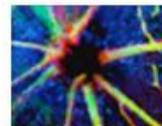
Biomedical resource and technology development grants

Support to establish or maintain biomedical resources.



Global health trials scheme

Support for late-stage trials of interventions to help improve health in low- and middle-income countries.



Other schemes

International Research Scholars Programme, Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers, Springboard Awards and Daniel Turnberg Travel Fellowship.

Innovations

Aims to bridge the gap between fundamental research and commercial application by funding applied research and development projects to a stage where they are attractive to a follow-on funder, such as venture capital firms, industry and public-private partnerships.

Can fund institutes and companies (through Programme-related investment)

Key criterion is that the project addresses an unfilled medical need or is an enabling tool in healthcare research and development.

Schemes:

- Translation awards – preliminary application deadline - 13 June 2016
- Pathfinders - 20 June 2016
- Portfolio awards - rolling

Humanities and Social Science

- Support visionary research in the humanities and social sciences that addresses any aspect of human or animal health.
- Research can be conceptual or applied, normative or empirical. It can be grounded in the methodologies of just one discipline or located at the intersection of many.

Our funding schemes



Investigator Awards

Funding for world-class researchers to address the most important questions.



University Awards

Support enabling universities to attract and retain outstanding research staff.



Research Fellowships

Support for individuals not in established academic posts.



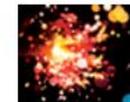
Master's Awards

Funding for individuals to undertake a one-year Master's course



Secondment Fellowships

Secondments for Trust-funded early-career researchers outside academia.



Seed Awards

Funding to support the generation of new ideas.



Research Awards for Health Professionals

Funding for health professionals to carry out a period of research



Collaborative Awards

Funding for collaborative research by teams.



Doctoral Studentships

Support for scholars to undertake a full-time doctoral degree



Research Resources Awards

Funding for libraries and archives, and research bursaries.



Small Grants

Support for small-scale research projects, scoping exercises or meetings.



Wellcome Trust Centres

Funding for world-leading groups proposing novel and innovative ways of tackling important research and

Public Engagement

"We aim to support innovative projects that allow people to consider, question and debate the key issues raised by research connected to health and the human condition."

From August 2016 there will not be any Engaging Science funding schemes open for new applications. We're pausing in our current funding cycle to review the way we fund public engagement projects. [You can read more details on our blog.](#) If you have already submitted an application for a current deadline it will still be considered.

The new funding framework will be announced in November 2016 with the first deadlines for submission in early 2017.

Recent scheme changes - Science

- Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowships – extended eligibility
- End to Research Training Fellowships (Clinicians)
- New Clinical PhD Training Programmes
- New Postdoctoral Clinical Scientist Fellowship – launch this spring
- ‘Investigator Awards’ – no Senior/New categories