



University College London

Wellcome Trust visit, 28th March 2017

Erica Pufall, Frederik Seelig, Bibi Oni and Paul Woodgate

Recent Wellcome developments

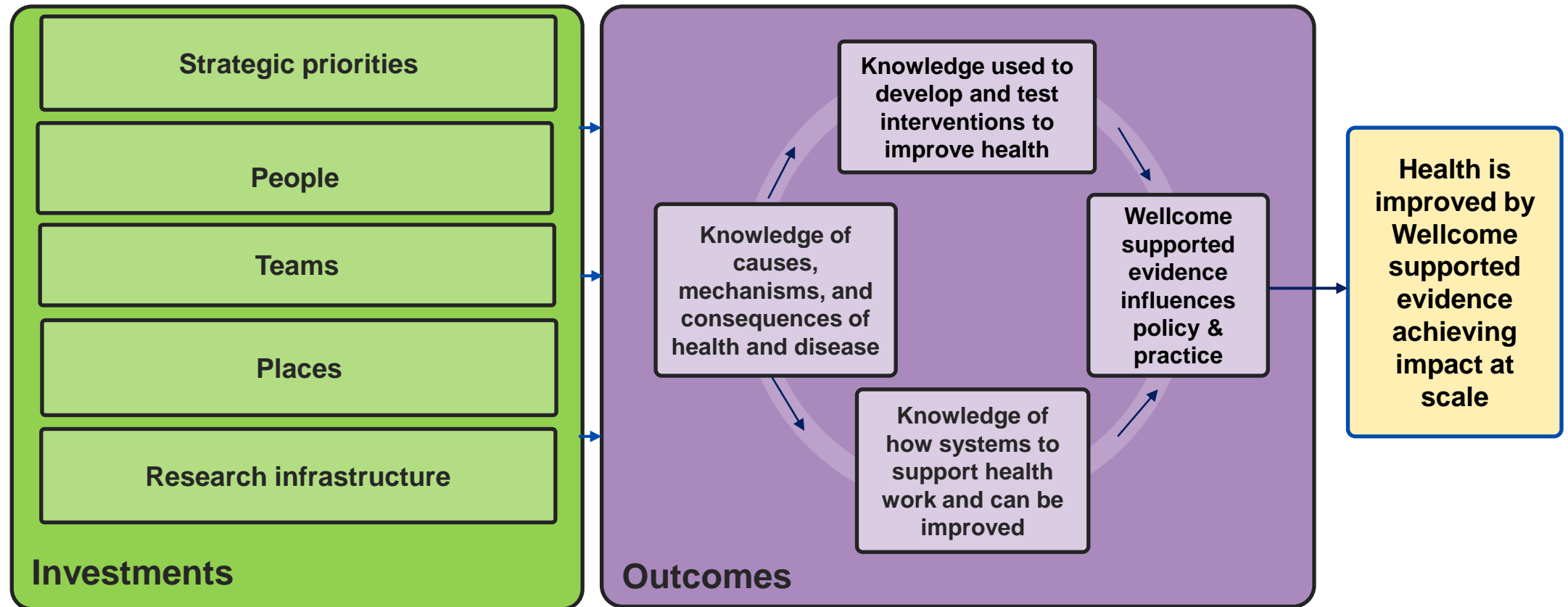
1. Next 5 years

- £1 billion a year
- Maintain commitment to response mode funding
- Additional spend on priority platforms

2. New Director of Science - Jim Smith

3. New Science strategy

Wellcome Trust Science Strategy



Direction of travel: population health

1. Strengthen existing partnership schemes and establish new ones
2. Diversify scientific portfolio
3. Bigger, interdisciplinary grants (collaborative awards) to tackle problems of public health importance
4. Develop mechanisms for supporting evidence into action



Myth busters

- Wellcome is not just a biomedical funder
- We do fund population health
- We do want to have a diverse range of science in our portfolio
- We do care about health impact via translation into policy and practice
- Your proposals do not have to be as ambitious as possible to be funded – you can apply for less funding than is available and still be competitive
- You do not have to be a very senior professor to be considered for Investigator Awards – you will be judged relative to your career level



Population Health Science Team



Mary De
Silva
Head of
Department



Branwen
Hennig
Senior Portfolio
Lead



Kori
Cook
Portfolio
Advisor



Sinead
Mathias
Departmental
Coordinator



Erica
Pufall
Portfolio
Advisor



Sophie
Hawkesworth
Portfolio
Lead

Population Health Grants Management Team



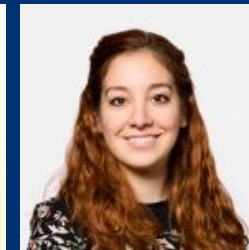
Katherine
McCurrie
Team Manager



Bibi Oni
Senior Grants
Advisor



Rebecca
Grayson
Grants Advisor



Tristana
Perez
Grants Advisor




Freddie
Seelig
Grants Advisor



Funding Schemes

Freddie Seelig & Paul Woodgate, 28th March 2017

Scheme finder

Funding What we do About us News 

Scheme finder Managing a grant

Filter schemes

Biomedical science research	>	
Population health research	>	
Product development and applied research	>	
Humanities and social science	>	
Public engagement and creative industries	>	

Scheme at a glance

- Brief summary of criteria
- Drop-down points:
 - ‘Eligibility and suitability’
 - ‘What we offer’
 - ‘How to apply’

Assessment Process

- Assess eligibility & suitability
- Publications
- Current funding or awards
- Give advice

Preliminary Application

Full Application

Written Peer Review

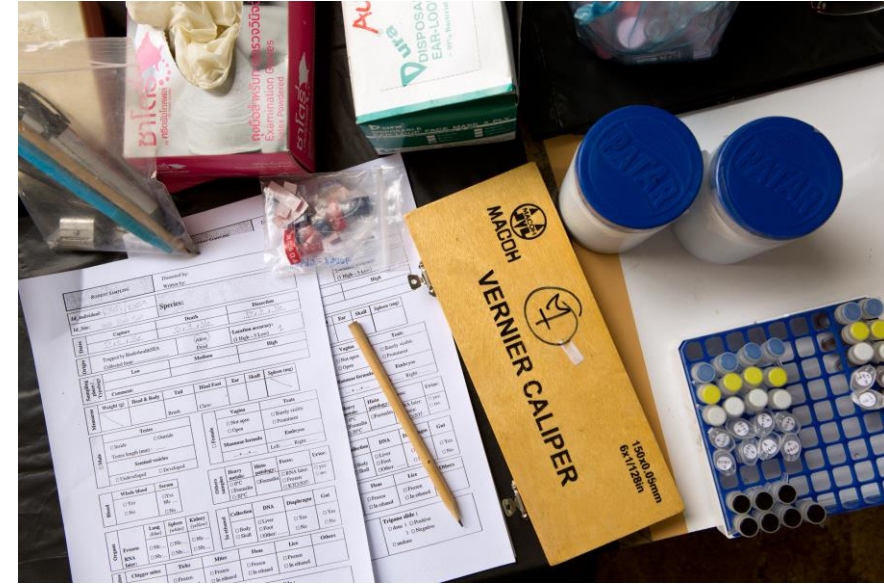
Shortlisting

Interview

By Interview Committee with broad science expertise

Assessment Criteria

- Track record
- Research vision
- Quality and importance of the research question
- The feasibility of the approach
- The appropriateness of the resources
- The quality and suitability of the research environment



Population Health remit

Content: Exploration of biologic, genetic, behavioural, social, and environmental factors as causes of, interventions in, and treatments for the physical and mental ill health and wellbeing of populations.

Disciplines: Epidemiology, demography, social science, health economics, informatics, healthcare systems, policy, etc.

Methodologies: Variety of methods and study designs including multifactorial studies of disease and complex interactions using longitudinal and case-control studies, small/pilot non-pharmacological intervention studies, etc.

Humanities & Social Science remit

We fund research in the humanities and social sciences that addresses any aspect of health.

Research Careers/Grants Framework



Research Skills Training, Leadership Development and Mentoring

SUPERVISED

GUIDED

INDEPENDENT

FELLOWSHIPS

AWARDS

Master's Fellowships

Master's Awards

Vacation Scholarships

4 year PhD Programmes

Clinical PhD Programmes

Doctoral Studentships

PhD

Clinical Research Career Development Fellowships

Research Fellowships

Sir Henry Wellcome Fellowships

Training Fellowships

University Awards

Research Career Re-entry Fellowships

Intermediate Fellowships

Sir Henry Dale Fellowships

Seed Awards

Small Grants

Principal Research Fellowships

Senior Research Fellowships

Senior Fellowships

Innovator Awards

Investigator Awards

Biomedical Resources & Multi-user Equipment Grants

Collaborative Awards

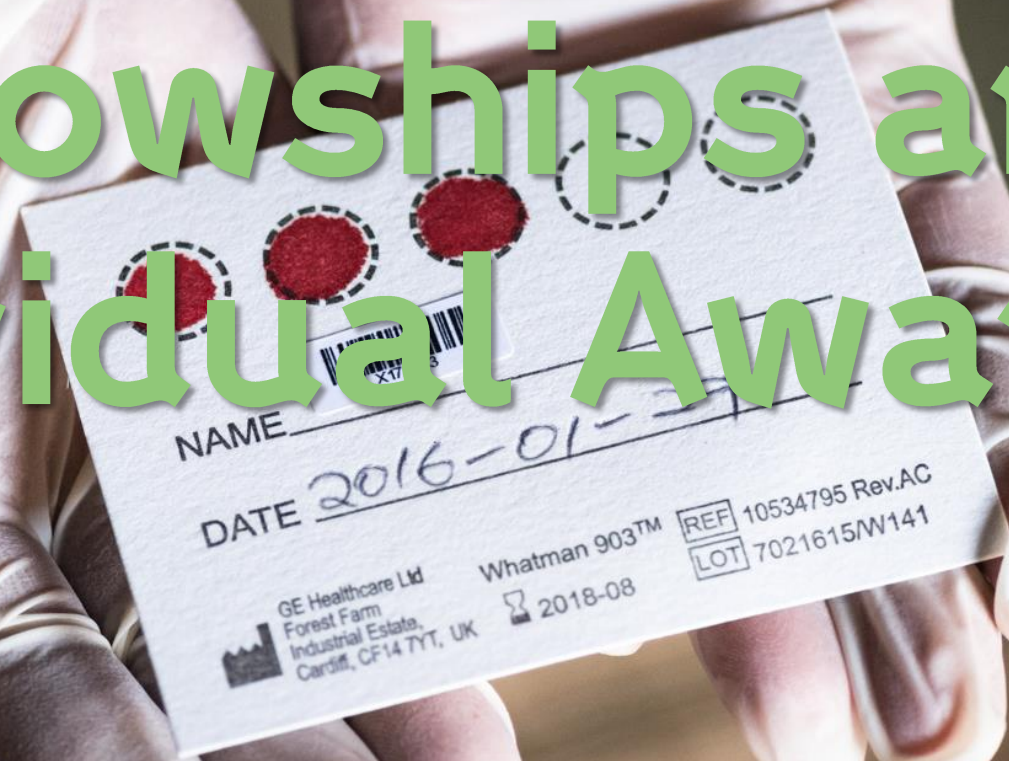
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCIENCE

CLINICAL

PH & TM

Fellowships and Individual Awards



Fellowships

Clinical

- UK or RoI applicants only

Basic (i.e. not clinical)

- UK, RoI, or LMIC applicants
- Non-clinical researchers

PH&TM fellowships

- LMIC
- Clinical or Basic applicants

Humanities & Social Science

- To attract, train and retain the best researchers
- Schemes designed for each stage of the research career
- Research projects can be based in the lab, the clinic or the field and may involve experimental or theoretical approaches

UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

Removal of time-based eligibility

- Scheme eligibility more flexible but what we're looking for has not changed. Standards will not be lowered.
- Years post doc may be used as a guide but the focus will be on experience, degree of independence and research vision.
- We will consider what stage you're at, what you want to do next and whether you're ready for the next step rather than how long it's taken to get there.



Supervised & Guided Schemes



Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowships

Purpose: To support researchers who want to undertake a guided period of research and will go on to lead their own independent research.

Eligibility: Final year of PhD or early-career researcher.

Support: Flexible support of £250k for four years, including salary and research expenses.

Rounds: Applications considered twice a year.

UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

Clinical Research Career Development Fellowships

Purpose: Enables medical, dental, veterinary and clinical psychology graduates to continue their research at postdoctoral level and develop scientific independence.

Eligibility: Clinical qualification and completed thesis for a higher degree, preferably a PhD.

Support: Up to eight years and the flexibility to balance research and clinical responsibilities. Split into two stages, neither of which longer than 5 years. Up to £1 million for each stage, covering salary and research expenses.

Rounds: Applications considered twice a year.

UK

LMIC

Basic

Clinical

Research Fellowships (Humanities & Social Science)



Dr Claire Thompson

LSHTM

Understanding the health and wellbeing challenges of UK food poverty and food aid: a qualitative study

- Up to three years (whole time equivalent/part time considered)
- Researcher's salary
- Research expenses
- Up to £275,000 direct costs
- Strong support from mentor/supervisor and host department
- Research Awards for Health Professionals

Research Career Re-entry Fellowships



Purpose: Supports postdoctoral research scientists to re-establish their scientific careers after a break.

Eligibility: A continuous career break of at least two years, with a strong research track record or potential demonstrated before the career break (normally with at least two years' postdoctoral research experience).

Support: Awards can be for up to 4 years, covering salary, research expenses, and re-training costs e.g. MSc.

Rounds: Considered twice a year.

UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

Sir Henry Dale Fellowships

Purpose: This scheme provides support for postdoctoral researchers who aim to become independent scientists leading their own groups.

Eligibility: Candidates will have a PhD and significant postdoctoral research experience.

Support: 5 year award, potentially renewable for 3 further years. Includes salary and research expenses.

Rounds: Applications considered three times a year.

UK

LMIC

Basic

Clinical

Seed Awards

Purpose: To help researchers develop novel ideas that will go on to form part of larger grant applications to the Wellcome Trust or elsewhere.

Eligibility: PhD or equivalent higher degree. Not for discrete projects with no follow-on plans or bridge funding or short-term fellowships.

Support: Up to £100,000, for up to 2 years, covering research expenses but not salary.

Rounds: Considered three times a year.



UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

Humanities & Social Science Small Grants/Seed Awards



Dr Sahra Gibbon

UCL

*Genetics as Public Health in Brazil.
Integrating Rare Genetic Disease
and Beyond*

- Funding to explore novel ideas and develop competitive larger applications
- Funds to support teaching buyout / research leave, and research expenses
- Research assistants and consultants can be included
- Sexuality & Health call
- 2017 relaunch, watch this space!

Independent Schemes



University Awards



Dr Duncan Wilson

University of Manchester

Species loss and the ecology of human-animal health: Understanding and preventing extinction in the twentieth century and beyond

- Normally up to five years
- Full salary for first three years, 50% in fourth year, 25% in fifth year
- Research expenses for first three years
- Helping universities to attract and retain outstanding researchers
- Requires significant institutional support

Senior Research Fellowships



Purpose: This scheme provides support for established independent researchers who are leaders in their scientific field.

Eligibility: Candidates must have a PhD and significant postdoctoral research experience and be leading their own independent research programme.

Support: 5 year award including salary and research expenses. Renewable for five year periods with 50% fellowship salary funded by the host institution.

Rounds: Applications considered three times a year.

UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

Principal Research Fellowships

Purpose: Provide long-term funding for basic, clinical, and public health researchers of international standing.

Eligibility: International standing with an established track record in research at the highest level.

Support: 7 year award including salary and research expenses. Renewable for five year periods with 50% fellowship salary funded by the host institution.

Rounds: Applications are considered throughout the year.



UK

LMIC

Basic

Clinical

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Investigator Awards

Purpose: Flexible funding support to researchers at all career stages working on important questions of relevance to our scientific remit.

Eligibility: Early-stage researcher: show that you can innovate and drive advances in your field of study. Mid-career or senior researcher: Achieved more in terms of originality and impact of your research, gaining research grant support, and training and mentoring others.

Support: Up to 7 years funding, from under £500,000 to around £3 million. Covers research expenses. Salary should be covered by host organisation.

Rounds: Applications considered two to three times a year.

UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

Public Health and Tropical Medicine Schemes



PH&TM Master's Fellowships

Purpose: To provide junior researchers with the opportunity to gain research experience and training in public health and tropical medicine at Master's degree level.

Eligibility: From a LMIC, hold a clinical or non-clinical undergraduate degree in a subject relevant to public health or tropical medicine, and be at an early career stage with limited research experience.

Support: Stipend, travel costs, and tuition fees for 12 month Master's degree and 18 months independent research.

Rounds: Three times a year.

UK

LMIC

Basic

Clinical

PH&TM Training Fellowships

Purpose: PhD funding for medical, biomedical or Master's degree graduates or funding for postdoctoral training.

Eligibility: You should be from a LMIC, have a degree in medicine or a subject relevant to public health or tropical medicine. You should also have some initial research experience if applying for a PhD, or no more than three years' postdoctoral experience if applying for postdoctoral training.

Support: 3-4 years funding covering salary, research costs, and course fees at a LMIC institution.

Rounds: Applications twice a year.

UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

PH&TM Intermediate Fellowships

Purpose: This scheme helps mid-career researchers from low- and middle-income countries establish independent research programmes in those countries.

Eligibility: From a LMIC, 3 – 6 years postdoctoral experience, with good record of achievements and publications.

Support: 5 years of funding covering salary and research expenses at a LMIC institution.

Rounds: Applications considered twice a year.

UK

LMIC

Basic

Clinical

W

Team Awards



Collaborative Awards

Purpose: To fund independent research groups to work together on important scientific problems that can only be solved through collaborative efforts.

Eligibility: Proven research expertise and experience and salary for the award duration.

Support: Up to £4 million, for up to 5 years, covering research expenses.

Rounds: two/three a year.



UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

Biomedical Resource and Technology Development Grants

Purpose: For researchers who want to establish or maintain resources or technology for the benefit of the wider scientific community.

Eligibility: The applicant's salary should be covered by the host organisation.

Support: Funding is up to £1.5 million for 5 years. If you want to submit an application in support of cohorts, please contact us beforehand.

Rounds: Applications considered once a year.

UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

Joint Global Health Trials

Purpose: Wellcome Trust, MRC, NIHR and DFID joint funding of late-stage trials of interventions that will provide evidence to improve health in LMICs by addressing major causes of mortality and morbidity.

Eligibility: Trials should be based in LMICs. Groups based either in the countries where the studies will take place or in the UK are eligible to apply.

Support: Development grants (for 1 – 2 years, up to £150,000 each) or full scale research projects (for up to 5 years). £20 million available per year.

Rounds: Applications considered once a year by the MRC. Next deadline September 2017.

UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

Joint Health Systems Research

Purpose: Wellcome Trust, MRC, ESRC and DFID joint investment to fund research providing evidence to strengthen health systems and improve health outcomes in LMICs.

Eligibility: LMIC based research. Research groups should be based in the study countries or in the UK.

Support: Development grants (1-2 years) or full scale research projects (up to 5 years). £5m available per year.

Rounds: Applications considered once a year by the MRC. Next deadline January 2018.



UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises

Purpose: Partnership between Wellcome Trust and DFID to support research institutes and humanitarian organisations that work in partnership to improve health outcomes in humanitarian crises.

Rounds: Core and rapid response grant funding. Managed by ELRHA (Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance).

Currently undergoing a refresh, more details to be announced soon.

UK	LMIC
Basic	Clinical

> Physical QC List of Tasp Lab Tests *

- > Sample Shipping Log *
- > Snaglist ***
- > Netbook Support *
- > Data Cleaning ***
- > Resolving Queries: Field + Clinic *
- > Lab Results ***
- > Data Synchronization *
- >

* Daily
*** Project

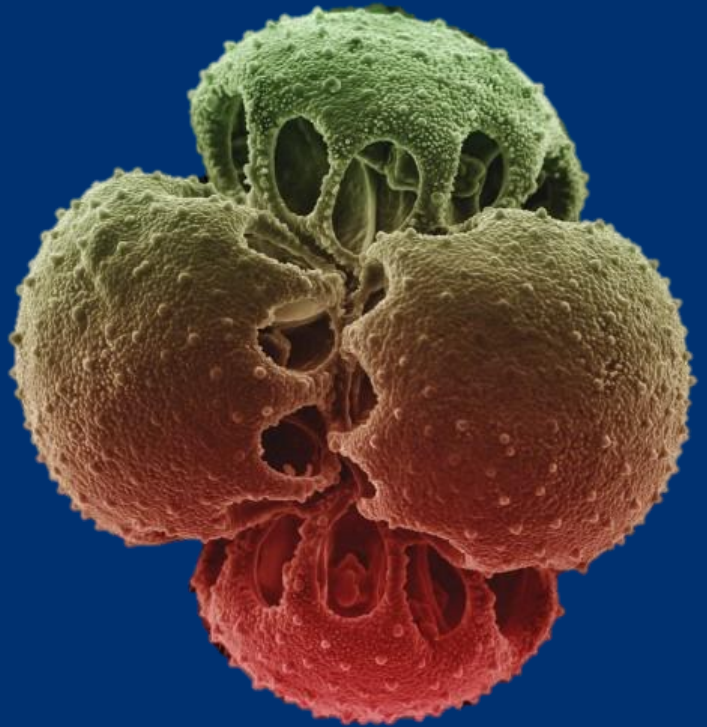
Public Engagement

Public Engagement Funding within Research Grants

Purpose: To support Wellcome Trust researchers to engage the public with their work. Public engagement activities – where researchers can share their ideas with the public and get new perspectives on their research – can inspire learning, enhance research and help to improve health.

Eligibility: For current Wellcome-funded researchers with at least two years of funding remaining or a new applicants to one of our eligible schemes.

Support: No fixed limit to the amount of funding. The level of funding must be justifiable for the scale and scope of your research grant and proposed public engagement programme.



Thank you

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