



Our Strategy

Wellcome's ambitions for 2022 and beyond

March 2022

What we do

We improve health for everyone by funding research, building global partnerships and advocacy campaigns to support science.

We work with people and organisations using science to solve health challenges.

We fund discovery research into life, health and wellbeing, and we support research to find solutions to three health challenges: mental health, infectious disease and climate change.

Our strategy



Diversity and Inclusion and Research Culture will be embedded into the work we fund and do.

Why Discovery Research

Potential to transform the way we understand life, health and wellbeing

- Supporting bold and creative ideas that will change the way we understand life, health and wellbeing.
- Giving researchers the time and resources to be ambitious, take risks and apply innovative approaches to tackle difficult problems.
- Considering new tools and technologies, often game-changers, of equal merit to hypothesis-driven research.
- Being truly open to diverse disciplines, teamwork and collaboration.

Discovery research we support may, but does not have to, relate to mental health, infectious disease or climate and health, as long as there's ultimately a link to human health.

Discovery Research: Activity

Schemes

Early Career Awards

Career Development Awards

Discovery Awards

Direct Activity

We can act directly to solve particular bottlenecks and barriers – this may include support for capacity development and enabling resources.

We will invest in physical and data infrastructures, institutes and platforms to enable field-opening research

Discovery Research: remit

- **Fundamental processes** that underpin biology
- **Complexities of human health and disease** including clinical and population-based approaches
- **Development of methodologies**, conceptual frameworks technologies, tools or techniques that could benefit health-related research
- **Needs, values** and **priorities** of the people and communities affected by disease and health disparities
- **Social, cultural, political** and **historical contexts** of human health and disease.

It excludes activities that are not grounded in discovery research:

- **Purely translational research**, including clinical trials to test and develop interventions and treatments
- Proposals that are primarily **implementation science**
- Large-scale **population-level interventions** and trials
- Studies on **companion and exotic animals**, except as models for human disease

Mental Health

Wellcome is helping to drive a step-change in mental health science to find more effective mental health solutions

- Building a more **integrated field of mental health science** that combines expertise, including lived experience
- funding a broad range of research to **understand how anxiety, depression and psychosis develop** and how they **resolve**
- driving the development of **better ways to intervene early** in relation anxiety, depression and psychosis as early as possible

What to look out for

Mental Health Award: research to illuminate how effective interventions work – opens March 2022

Improving Cognitive & Functional Outcomes in People Experiencing, or at risk of Psychotic Symptoms - opens March 2022

Mental Health Data Prize: secondary analysis of existing datasets to illuminate mental health trajectories – April 2022

Mental Health: remit

We will fund people and teams doing **research from the sub-cellular to the social**, including – but not limited to – biologists, chemists, clinician-researchers, data scientists, developmentalists, economists, ethicists, historians, neuroscientists, psychiatrists, psychologists and social scientists.

We will fund **clinical research for potential new and improved early mental health interventions**, both pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical, for anxiety, depression and psychosis.

Applicants are expected to meaningfully **involve people with lived experience** at multiple stages of the research

You must use the currently **agreed core measures** in your research unless you can demonstrate exceptional reasons not to

We will not fund

- research into **mental health conditions other** than anxiety, depression and psychosis.

The funding schemes in our Discovery Research programme are open to applications relating to any and all mental health conditions.

Infectious Disease

Wellcome is focusing on preventing and stopping future escalations of infectious diseases

- funding cutting-edge science to understand what **causes** outbreaks and what **drives** the escalation of infectious diseases
- ensuring **sustainability and equity** are considered throughout the development of **effective, trustworthy and accessible** tools

What to look out for

- Digital Technology Development Awards (Climate-Sensitive Infectious Disease Modelling) - closing in March 2022
- Covid-19: understanding the biological significance of SARS-CoV-2 variants – closing in April 2022

Infectious Disease: remit

We will fund research that advances scientific understanding of the **genetic, pathogenic, immunological, human, social and environmental sources and drivers** of infectious diseases

- How organisms persist in reservoirs and become sources of infection
- Mechanisms underlying:
 - pathogenesis, transmission and increased virulence
 - host responses and adaptation
 - emergence of resistance and escape from vaccines and antibodies
- Impacts of climate change and the environment
- How human behaviour, culture and society can drive infectious disease

Affordable products and interventions, working with others to bring them to impact

We will not fund

- activities that **focus only on high-income settings**, such as unaffordable products or those reliant on cold chains
- research that **does not relate either to understanding sources and drivers** of infectious disease, or to developing products to prevent or stop the escalation of infectious diseases

The funding schemes in our Discovery Research programme are open to a broader range of applications relating to any infectious diseases

Climate and Health

Wellcome is bringing health to the heart of climate change action

- supporting science to urgently generate **evidence** that spurs action
- informing actions to **mitigate and adapt** to climate change by evidence of their impacts on health
- advocating for **coordination and cooperation** – essential in building a healthy sustainable future

What to look out for

Evaluation of heat adaptation solutions – open from 8th March 2022 – please see website

Understanding the direct impacts of heat on health in women and children – opens May 2022

Transforming the conduct and use of analysis on the health co-benefits of climate change mitigation – mid-2022

How to keep in touch

If you have specific questions about our funding opportunities

- Use the contact form, accessed by clicking on ‘send us a message’.
- There is also a phone number and a live chat option - available 9-5 Monday – Friday

For general updates

- Subscribe to the newsletter wellcome.org/funding

Contact us

If you have a question about eligibility, what we offer or our funding remit, contact our grants information officers:

 [Send us a message](#)

 [\(0\)20 7611 5757](tel:(0)20 7611 5757)

We do not answer questions on the scope or competitiveness of proposals.



Any questions

[wellcome.org](https://www.wellcome.org)