Grants Academy: *Call Insight session* 
Wellcome Trust New Discovery Research and Challenge-led funding schemes

2nd June 2021
Format

• **Introduction:** Professor Ian Stansfield, SMMSN Director of Research

• Wellcome Trust: discovery research schemes

• Wellcome Trust: challenge-led schemes

• Internal Processes and Support

• Q&A
Wellcome Trust: new research strategy

• New calls publicised Spring 2021; following Wellcome Science Review 2018;

• Moving towards supporting more discovery research and support for earlier career stages in their funding portfolio;

• Challenge-led research in 3 key areas

• Diversity & inclusion and research culture will be embedded across all schemes

• Consult Wellcome webpages and sign up to their Research Update newsletter,
Wellcome Trust: discovery research schemes

For bold, innovative, ambitious research which has the opportunity to make a significant impact on human health challenges.

Wellcome want to fund:

• Research in any discipline providing focussed on developing significant shifts in understanding of life, health & wellbeing; and /or,

• Research to develop methodologies, conceptual frameworks, tools or techniques to benefit health-related research.
Wellcome Trust: 3 discovery research schemes:

- **Wellcome Early-Career Award**
- **Wellcome Career Development Awards**
- **Wellcome Discovery Awards**

Timelines

Calls opening August 21
First deadlines autumn 21
3 calls per annum
Wellcome Early-Career Award

• For early-career researchers who, by the end of the award, will be ready to lead own independent research programme;

• Salary + up to £400K research expenses;

• Usually 5 years (discipline dependent and whether part/full time)

• Generally <3 years postdoc (humanities/soc sci at least 4 years research experience)

Expectations

• Expand technical / methodological skills

• Build collaborative network

• Develop people management skills

• Advance your understanding of research responsibilities and promote positive research culture
Wellcome Career Development Award

• For mid-career researchers with the potential to become international research leaders; ready to lead & drive substantial innovative programmes of work;
• Salary (if reqd) + research expenses;
• Usually 8 years (discipline dependent and whether part/full time);
• If have a permanent academic position must be within 3 years of this.

Expectations

• Develop own research capabilities and leadership skills
• Start training next generation researchers and develop their skills
• Support others to undertake research responsibly and promote a positive culture
• At end of award should have achieved international standing in field
Wellcome Discovery Award

• For established researchers and teams to pursue bold and creative research to deliver significant shifts in understanding that could improve human health & wellbeing
• Costs – justifiable research expenses
• Usually 8 years (discipline dependent and whether part/full time)

Expectations

• Must have international standing as a research leader in field
• Experience of leading innovative and creative research
• Single or multi-disciplinary
• To actively promote a diverse, inclusive research environment at your organisation
• Track record managing and training others
• Teams - < 8; co-Is must make significant contribution, only PI needs permanent post
Discovery Schemes: Application Process

1. Electronic application – Grant Tracker submitted to host organisation to approve

2. Host Organisation submits to Wellcome

3. Wellcome shortlisting – (by science area committee) if shortlisted invited to interview

4. Written expert review – shared ahead of interview

5. Interview (includes Pre-recorded presentation of proposal)

6. Outcome and feedback
Wellcome Challenge-led calls

- Global heat and health;
- Infectious diseases;
- Mental health.

Details of first call announced May 21: Mental Health ‘Data Prizes’
- seed funding for multidisciplinary teams;
- use existing data to create digital solutions such as new software packages, algorithms or scripts, which help address the health problem in question.
- First call: **improving interventions for anxiety and depression in young people**
- expect applications to open in spring 2022.
Usual Internal Grant Support /Process Apply

• Fellowship Support Process (Traffic Light)

• Intention to Submit (ITS) /Supporting Grant Application (SGA) process

• Peer review & Mentorship

• Library of previous grants & panel membership?

• Worktribe

• Rebuttal support & mock interview preparation