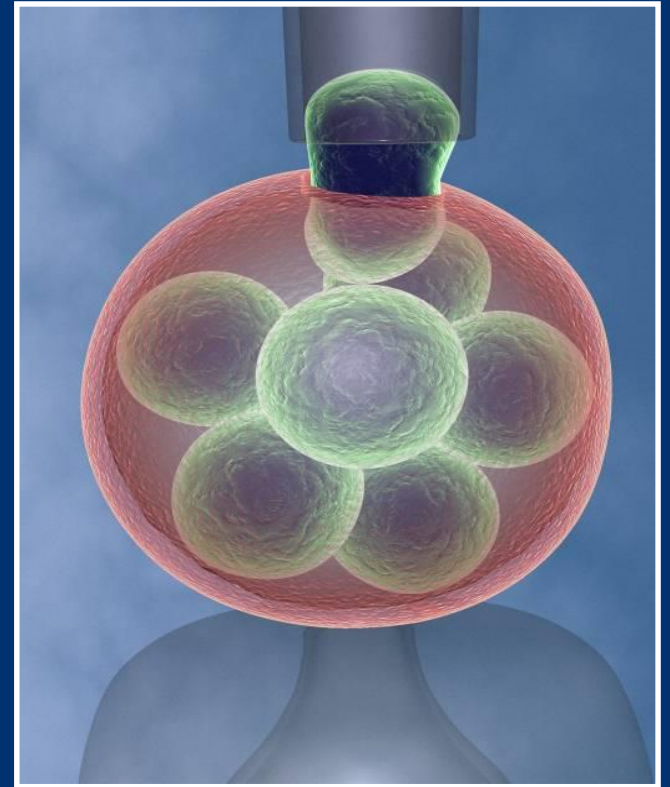


# Funding at Wellcome



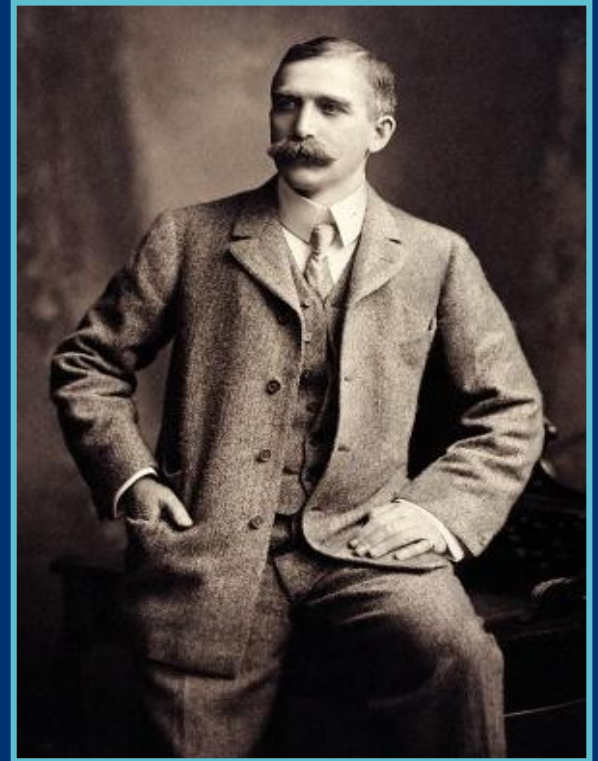
# Wellcome

**We are an independent global charitable foundation dedicated to understanding and improving health.**

**We were established in 1936 under the will of Sir Henry Wellcome.**

**We are funded from a private endowment ~ £26 Billion**

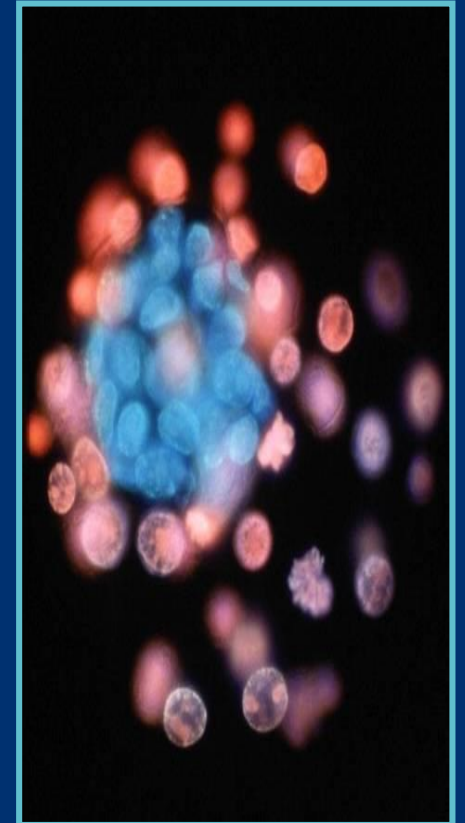
**We expect to spend ~£5 billion on charitable activities over the next five years**



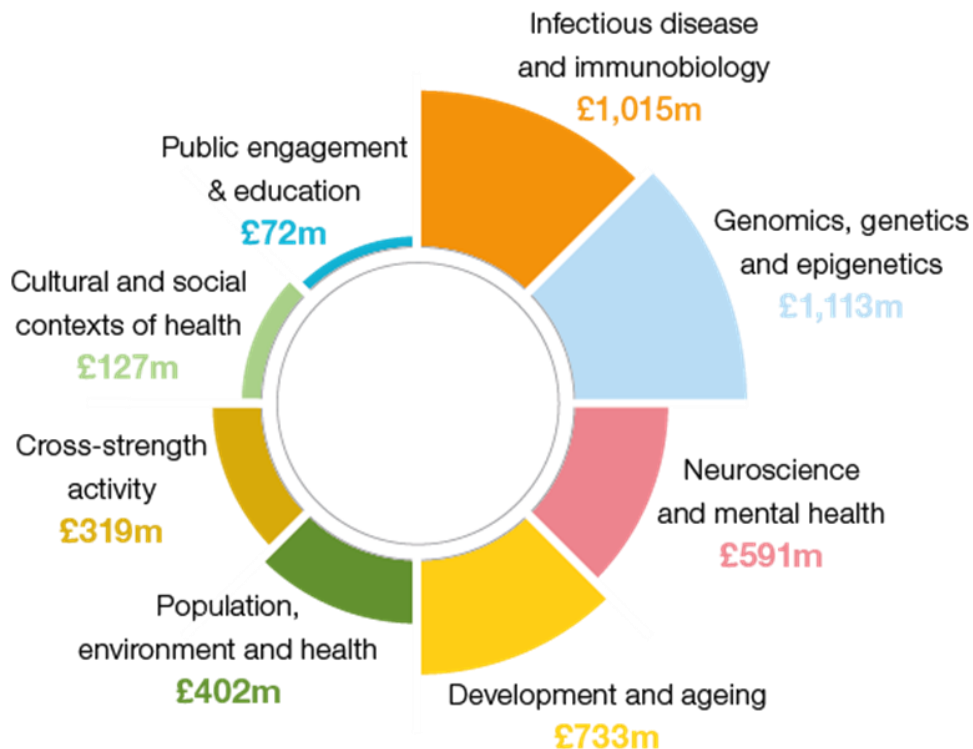
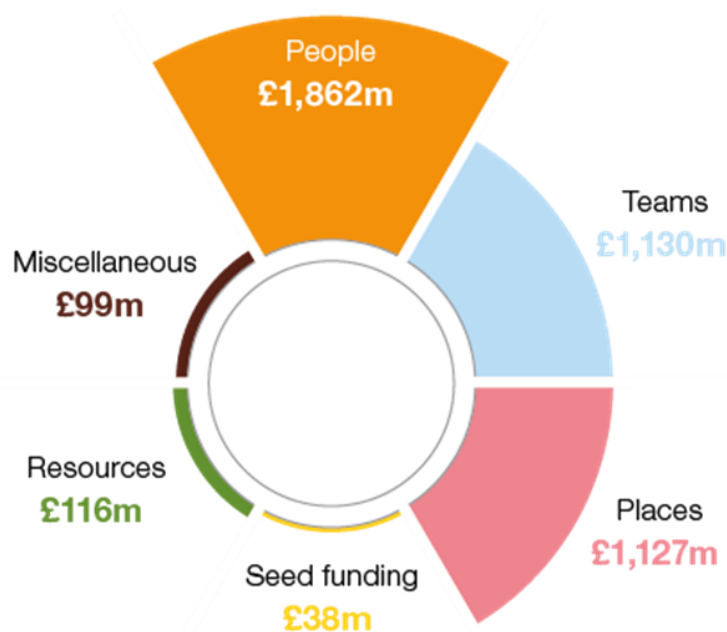
# What we do

**We want to improve health by:**

- **Understanding the processes that underpin life**
- **Exploring the way social, historical and ethical factors affect how people experience healthcare**
- **Developing new technologies, treatments and diagnostics**
- **Engaging the public**
- **Influencing healthcare policy**



# Our current grant portfolio



*Note: The categories 'Places' and 'Genomics, genomics & epigenetics' in the above charts each include £550m for Sanger Centre operating costs over 5 years.*

# Our current grant portfolio

## Global distribution of our funding



# How we organise our funding

## ‘Primary’

- Funding is response-mode and competitive
- We fund (mainly): UK, Ireland & LMICs
- Last year we received requests totalling ~£8 billion
- We spent approximately £900 million in 2016-17
- Response-mode will continue at similar levels to current

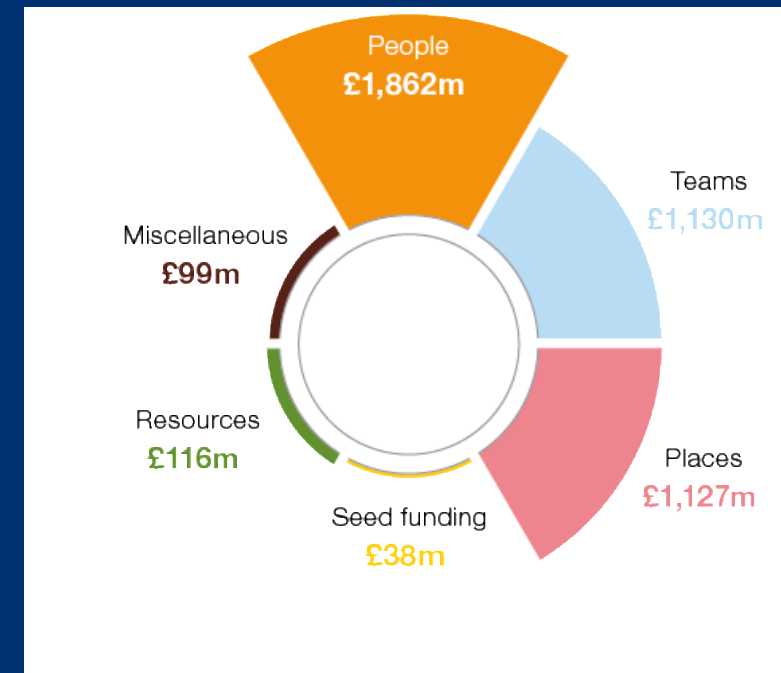
## ‘Reserve’

- **Strategic Initiatives to deliver very specific outputs and outcomes.**
- **Largely not open response-mode.**

# Primary funding

## Response mode funding for:

- **People** - support for individuals and career pathways.
- **Teams** - support for research groups.
- **Places** – core support for centres of excellence and building capacity (including the ISSF)
- **Seeds** - to develop ideas for future support.
- **Resources** - for enabling work and equipment that underpins research.

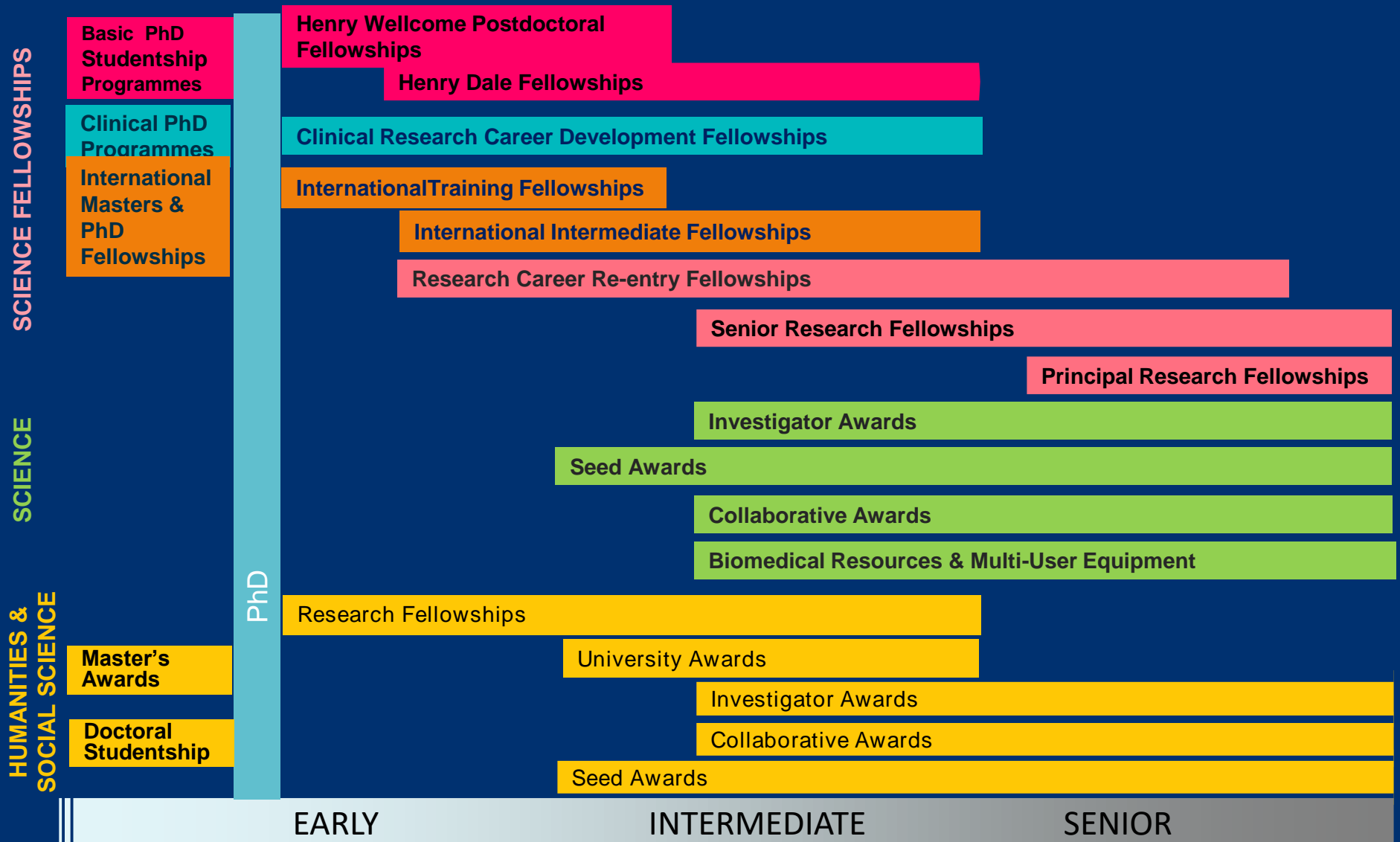


# A new Science strategy: 'Improving health through the best research'

- Creating knowledge
- Strengthening research capability
- Using knowledge effectively
- Promoting an environment in which research can flourish



# Support for researchers



# Fellowships

- To attract, train and retain the best researchers (basic and clinical research)
- Schemes designed for each stage of the research career
- Salary of the Fellow provided
- Plus research costs - including the salaries of the Fellow's research team, consumables, equipment and other expenses
- Award size and duration varies, depending on the career stage and scheme
- Over 550 current Fellows.



# Investigator Awards

- For researchers with established academic posts, from newly appointed lecturers to senior professors
- Applicants assessed according to their career stage
- Research question drives duration and value of award.
- Up to 7 years – full research costs supported
- Applications from Joint Investigators considered.
- Over 400 current Investigator Award holders.



# Collaborative Awards

For three or more individuals to deliver something that could not be achieved by any alone

Question driven

OR 'Core' awards to underpin question driven research

'Normally' up to £4 million

Talk to the office before proceeding



# Seed Awards

- New ideas that will underpin larger future grant applications
- Preliminary data gathering, pilot and scoping studies – not discrete projects
- **Eligibility (for Science Seeds):**
  - Salary from organisation (or personal fellowship if no research expenses provided)
  - No funding at similar level to a Seed Award
- Up to £100,000 for up to 2 years
- Only one award per lifetime



# Culture and Society

## Medical Humanities:

Exploring the social, historical and cultural dimensions of scientific knowledge, clinical practice and healthcare policy.

[MHgrants@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:MHgrants@wellcome.ac.uk)

## Society and Ethics:

Research that explores the social and/or ethical aspects of biomedical research and health.

[SEgrants@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:SEgrants@wellcome.ac.uk)



# Public Engagement

- **Funding and support for creative approaches to engaging the public with health research**
- Funding for our researchers
- Funding ideas/projects to engage the public in conversations about health-related research
- Fostering conversations through:
  - the Wellcome Collection (exhibitions, events and activities, Library)
  - Targeted activities (e.g. WT Book Prize, National Science Learning Centre)



# Public health-oriented funding schemes

## **Global Health Trials** (with MRC, DH and DfID)

Phase 3 trials in LMIC settings

Development and full grants

## **Health Systems Research** (with MRC, ESRC and DfID)

## **Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises - R2HC**

(with EHLRA and DfID)

## **Longitudinal Population Studies**

Core support - creation or maintenance up to £5M

Enabling structures – up to £1.5M

# Innovations

*Helping researchers and organisations across the world to transform great ideas, discoveries and inventions into treatments, products and cures for disease*

Innovator awards. Funding healthcare innovations that could have a major and measurable impact on human health.

Innovator awards: Digital technologies



Thermostable oral rotavirus vaccine

[innovations@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:innovations@wellcome.ac.uk)

# Assessment process



# Assessment criteria

Person

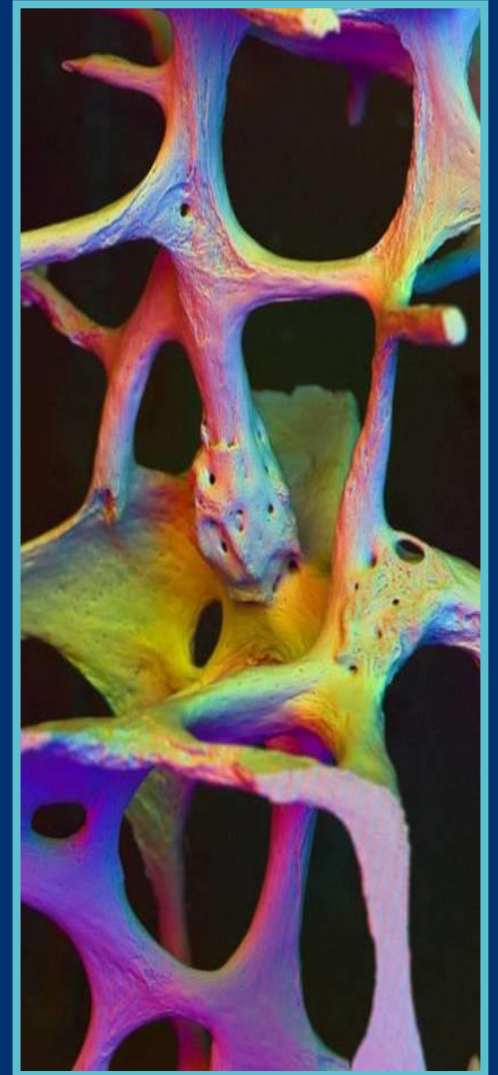
Programme

Place

**‘Grantsmanship’**

‘Good writing will not save bad ideas,  
but bad writing can kill good ones’

Jacob Kraicer *The Art of Grantsmanship* 1997



# Assessment criteria – ‘3Ps’

## Person

What is your track record?

What is your vision of how the funding will contribute to your career?

What are your longer-term aspirations?



# Assessment criteria – ‘3Ps’

[this is the most important slide in this deck]

## Programme

What is your question?

Is it interesting and/or important?

Can you answer your question?

Are the resources requested appropriate?

*Think less about what you will do, and more about what you will **achieve** by doing it*



# Programme (and comments you do not want to receive).....

## *Strong hypothesis/vision/important research question*

‘This project will lead to a number of high profile papers, but will have no actual impact in the real world’

‘It looks like they have all this great technology but no good ideas... So they went to some one else... and they don’t have any either...’

## *Be realistic*

‘This is a wonderful project... it’s a shame they don’t have a cat in hell’s chance of actually achieving it.’

## *Relevant approaches*

‘They have come up with a brilliant untestable hypothesis.’

## *Back-up plan(s)*

‘...one weakness in the proposal is that there is no alternative plan should the proposed approach not yield information relevant to the hypothesis proposed...’

# Programme (and comments you do not want to receive).....

## *Persuasive but unbiased arguments*

‘The applicant says that this is completely novel, which is of course true if you ignore all the previous work that has been done in this area...’

## *Preliminary data and appropriate expertise*

‘...it involves techniques with which the applicant appears to have no prior experience and for which no preliminary data are proposed...’

## *Get a second opinion, proof read & spell check*

‘The poor writing, referencing and proof reading of this application significantly detract from its overall quality’

‘There is something reminiscent of monkeys on typewriters about this proposal...’

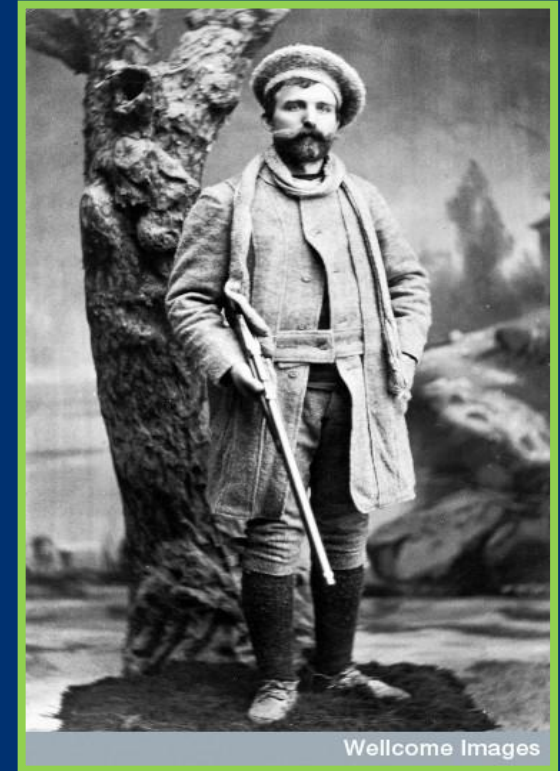
# Assessment criteria – ‘3Ps’

## Place

Who is/are your sponsor(s)?

Why is this place good for your research?

And good for your career?



# 'Reserve' funding - strategic initiatives

The first six are:

- Vaccines
- Drug Resistant Infections (AMR)
- Mental Health
- Our planet, our health
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Strengthening Research Ecosystems in Africa and Asia
- Science Education

Specific stand-alone teams. Largely NOT open response-mode

To deliver very specific outputs and outcomes

# Vaccines

**Four ways we are taking action:**



A world prepared for epidemics

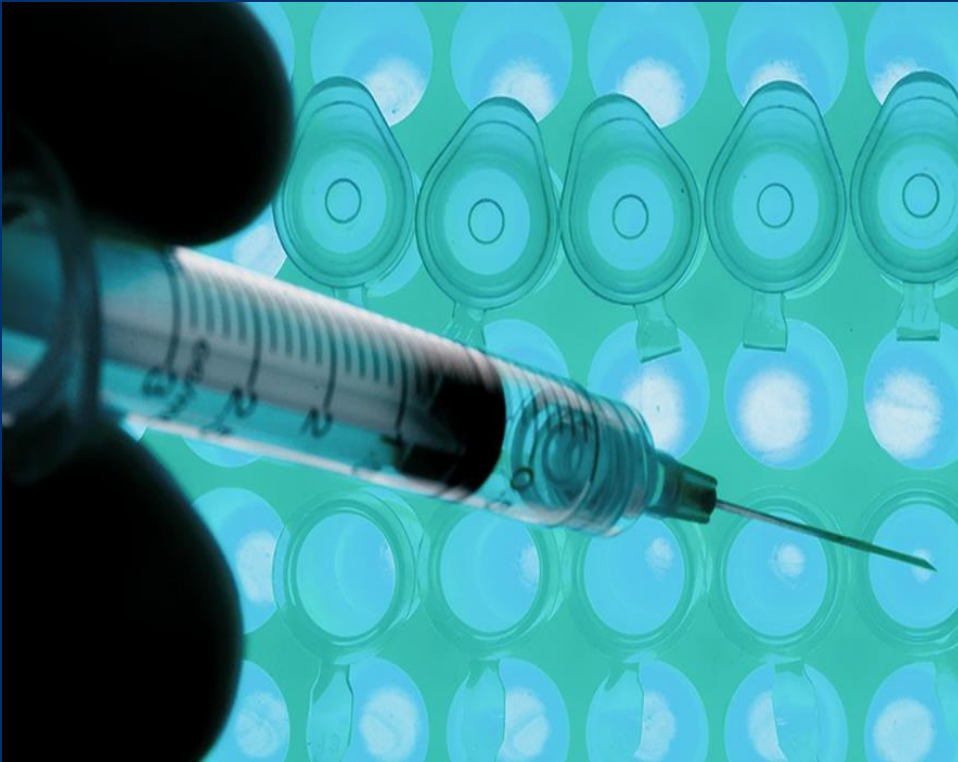
Innovation in vaccine development

Evidence for decision making

Increased vaccine expertise

# Drug resistant infections

**Four ways we are taking action:**



Effective global governance

New treatments

Faster clinical trials

Evidence for decision-making

# Diversity and inclusion

Three ways we are taking action:



Making science more inclusive

Engaging a wider range of people with science and health

Leading by example

# Summary

Check the web site first

Then email one of us (or someone else at Wellcome)

[r.blake@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:r.blake@wellcome.ac.uk)

[c.dempsey@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:c.dempsey@wellcome.ac.uk)

[s.hawkesworth@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:s.hawkesworth@wellcome.ac.uk)

[m.turner@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:m.turner@wellcome.ac.uk)