What is ‘TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH’?

Pronunciation:
/trænζˈleɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ /rɪˈsef,tʃ, ˈriːsef,tʃ/

noun:
the process of applying ideas, insights, and discoveries generated through basic scientific inquiry to the treatment or prevention of human disease

‘systematic effort to convert basic research knowledge into practical applications to enhance human health and well being’

‘applying knowledge from basic biology and clinical trials to techniques and tools that address critical medical needs’

‘research process that investigates and translates nonclinical research results into clinical applications’

‘involves moving knowledge and discovery gained from the basic sciences to its application in clinical and community settings’
Who are Translation Manchester?

- In 2018 the University of Manchester was awarded a Wellcome Trust Translational Partnership Award (TPA).
- The TPA provides funding to support the progression of academic health related research into real world benefit for patients and society.
- The TPA award is delivered through Translation Manchester.
Translation Manchester: Aims of the TPA

To facilitate a demonstrable shift in the translational research culture, engagement & productivity at the University of Manchester by co-ordinating activity across the ‘One Manchester’ system.

**SUPPORT** translational research
Providing direct and indirect support for translational research activities.

**CONNECT** across disciplines
Remove barriers between disciplines and create better links between science, technology and innovation.

**INNOVATE** with industry
Promote commercialisation activities and enable collaborations with industry.

**CHANGE** the culture
Build a translational research culture amongst researchers, raising both their awareness and aspirations in this area.
What do Translation Manchester do?

We support the progression of translational research and the adoption of a new translational research culture through these six key areas:

- **Direct research support**
  - Coordinate Internal Funding Calls
  - Identify Translational Research Opportunities
  - Support Translation Research Grant Applications

- **Establish connections**
  - Translation Manchester Research Network (TMRN)
  - Research Connections Tool

- **Identify and overcome translational hurdles**
  - Access to Patient Data
  - Access to Samples
  - Access to Informatics Expertise
  - Engaging External Expertise

- **Develop pipelines**
  - Engage Researchers in Translational Research
  - Promote Translational Research Culture

- **Training and events**
  - Translation Manchester Symposia
  - Workshops
  - Translational Research Skills Training
  - Training for Translational Research Support Staff

- **Translational Funding**
  - A2E
  - P4T
  - Innovation Labs
  - ECR Competition
  - Flexible Strategic Fund
The **translational pathway** illustrates the journey from research to implementation. The journey isn’t always linear and can move forwards and backwards along the pathway.

*Where is your research currently at on the translational pathway?*

*What hurdles or bottlenecks are preventing your progression along the continuum?*
Identify and Overcome Hurdles

Translational Research Survey

As a part of its "Innovation for Impact" strategy, the Wellcome Trust (WT) has been investing in institutional Translational Partnership awards (ITPA) to enable researchers and organisations to turn ideas and discoveries into treatments, products and cures for diseases. WT estimates that 90% of its current funding is allocated to discovery science, and through this initiative they seek to increase the number of WT-funded researchers engaged in translational research.

UoM was amongst the first 5 institutions to pilot the scheme in 2018 and has so far received £1.2m investment from Wellcome for its translational activities. The overall aim of the scheme is to build better links between science, technology and innovation by removing barriers between disciplines and making it easier to take the first translational step. We have recently been invited to submit a renewal application for a further 3 years (£2.4m); as part of our preparations we want to identify the priorities and bottlenecks that researchers experience when engaged, or trying to engage, in translational research at Manchester.

The ITPA constitutes a devolved funding budget that enables us to address the particular needs of our institution and translational ecosystem. Your participation in this short survey will help identify the bottlenecks and hurdles in translational research and is an opportunity for you to highlight the barriers that you have encountered in translating your research.

This survey should not take more than 5-10 minutes to complete, it is intended to be anonymous, and the results will be shared with the Wellcome Trust as part of our renewal bid.

- 28% Funding for proof of concept studies and/or IP development
- 17% Bioinformatician/biostatistician support
- 17% Access to clinical samples
- 13% Access to technical expertise
- 10% Coordinator/clinical trials manager
- 15% Other
Translation starts at the **Discovery Stages**

How to be Proactive

1. Engage with scientist and clinicians to explore the unmet need
2. Explore patient and public engagement
3. Build your team, collaborate and expand your network
4. Protect the intellectual property
5. Weigh up the competition and the market
6. Consider the health economics
7. Reach out to funders
8. Find out about the regulatory bodies and their requirements
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Access 2 Expertise

• Engage technical expertise external to their immediate research group
  - Bioinformatics/biostatistics
  - Research nurse
  - Software/app design
  - Regulatory advice

• Not intended to fund an entire project, designed to overcome a bottleneck or hurdle, maximum £25k for projects 6-9 months in duration

• Salary or consultancy costs, not consumables focused

• Budget £125k per year (calls in 2021, 2022, 2023)

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Projects 4 Translation

• Overcome a specific hurdle or bottleneck that is preventing progression along the translational pathway
  - Prototype manufacturing
  - Proof of concept
  - Patient centred research
  - Collaborating with industry

• Not intended to fund an entire project, designed to overcome a bottleneck or hurdle, maximum £55k for projects 6-9 months in duration

• Salary and consumable costs

• Budget £220k per year (calls in 2021, 2022, 2023)

For details on the next call contact us translation@manchester.ac.uk
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To find out more about how we can help you progress your translational research and learn about our current activities and training schemes contact the team and request a 1-2-1 meeting with a Translational Research Facilitator

translation@manchester.ac.uk