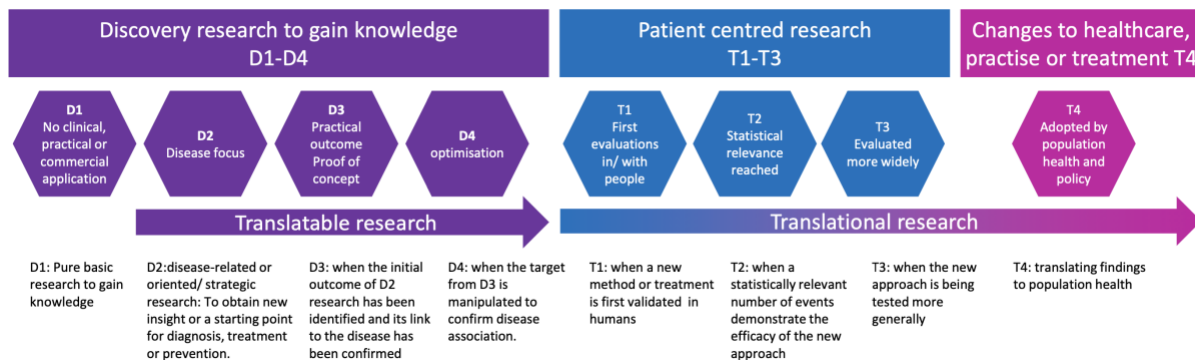


**Wellcome Trust Institutional Translational Partnership Award (TPA)
University of Manchester
Access To Expertise (A2E) 2021**

What research does the A2E fund?

The A2E scheme enables investigators to access necessary technical expertise (external to their immediate research group) in order to overcome a bottleneck or hurdle, thereby allowing the research to progress along the [translational pathway](#). Projects at any stage of the translational pathway are eligible for A2E awards, nevertheless the vision to translation should be clearly stated. Projects must move the research to the next stage of the pathway (i.e. D2 to D3 or T1 to T2) as a result of the A2E funding.



Translational research projects should address an area of unmet clinical need, or improve an aspect of healthcare delivery. We have identified that lack of access to appropriate expertise in a timely manner can be a barrier to translation. This scheme is not intended to fund an entire project, the A2E award will allow researchers to access expertise external to their research group in order to overcome a **specific bottle neck or hurdle** by enabling;

- Access to appropriate **technical expertise**
 - **Bioinformatics or biostatistics** expertise to maximally capitalise on large data sets
 - Buy out dedicated time for **trials physicians and nurses** to interact fully with academics, **collect patient samples** or enable academics to spend time in a clinical setting
 - **Software, app design or programming** expertise
 - External **methodology expertise** or access to unique **research models**
- Access to complex and specific **regulatory advice**
- Recruitment of external **mentors/entrepreneurs** in residence to guide academics in engaging with translational research with tailored routes to clinic/market
- Secondment in a **clinical or industrial environment**
- Analysis of **health economics/market research/patient need** and competitive landscapes

This list is not exhaustive, and other methods of overcoming research challenges by accessing expertise will also be considered. The expert who will be engaged in the project through the A2E funding should **already have been identified** and be available to work on the project should the application be successful.

The Wellcome Trust and UoM wish to promote academic-industry interactions through the TPA scheme, applicants are therefore encouraged to explore how the A2E could be used to develop these interactions. We advise applicants to discuss their industry interactions with their [Faculty's Business Engagement Team](#) and the [Contracts Manager](#) for your school/department. Investigators are strongly advised to consult with a clinician on the area of unmet need that their project is addressing.

Projects could be linked to the following:

- [NIHR BRC themes](#) (advanced radiotherapy; cancer precision medicine; cancer prevention and early detection; dermatology; hearing health; musculoskeletal diseases; respiratory diseases)
- [FBMH research domains](#) (cardiovascular, endocrine and metabolic science; cellular and developmental systems; evolution, systems and genomics; infection, immunity, inflammation and repair; neuroscience and mental health; cancer; applied health; digital health)
- [MAHSC research domains](#) (cancer, cardiovascular and diabetes, inflammation and repair, neuroscience, women and children).
- [FSE research themes](#) with a link to healthcare
- [FH research](#) with a link to healthcare
- [University research beacons](#) linked to medicine and healthcare (advanced materials; global inequalities; industrial biotechnology; cancer)
- Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Matrix Research [themes](#)
- COVID-19 related research

The A2E will not support:

- Fundamental or basic research that is not translational
- Entire translational projects
- Projects with no clear translational agenda or applied outcomes
- Staff between posts/funding (i.e. as “bridging” funds)
- PhD studentships
- Continuation or extension of existing research grants

What funding is available and what is the project duration?

Costs will be provided for 100% of directly incurred costs only, up to **£25,000**. The A2E award will fund projects with a duration of 6-9 months (but will exceptionally consider projects up to 12 months). Due to the short timeframe, projects should have the necessary resources readily available and in place. Applications will, in part, be judged on their feasibility and deliverability within timeframe.

Strict adherence to spending regulations will be mandatory for successful applicants. Expenditure will be permitted to the end of the agreed time-frame for the project. No spending will be permitted after this date. Clearance of invoices will be permitted for 3 months after the project end date.

Who is eligible to apply?

The scheme is open to applicants from FBMH, FSE and FH undertaking health related translational research. The lead applicant's contract of employment should exceed the duration of the proposed project and cover the duration of a potential follow on project. Applications are welcomed from both UoM researchers and partner NHS Trust clinicians.

Post-doctoral researchers are also encouraged to apply with a senior academic as co-PI or co-I. For post-doctoral researchers, their current contract of employment with the university must cover the duration of the proposed project. The senior academic will be considered as a guarantor on applications made by post-doctoral researchers and will be expected to oversee completion of the project and potential follow on projects. Awardees from the 2020 call are not eligible to apply unless their project is completed, refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for details.

How do I apply?

The application form can be downloaded from our [website](#). Before submitting your application, please contact Translation Manchester notifying us of your intent to apply so that we can provide advice and confirm the eligibility of your project.

Please include the following information in your email to translation@manchester.ac.uk

- Name(s) of the applicant and co-PI/co-I(s), faculty, school/department
- Project title
- Brief overview of the unmet clinical need been addressed by the research
- Where on the translational research pipeline your current project sits and where it aims to go (e.g. D1 to D2, or T2 to T3)
- The expertise which you need to engage in the project and the specific hurdle or bottleneck that will be overcome.

Funding call opens	Monday 5 th July
RSMs costings deadline	Monday 26 th July
Application deadline	Thursday 26 th August
Notification of outcomes	w/c 25 th October
Projects start	November onwards

If you are applying, Research Support Managers (RSMs) and Research Support Officers (RSOs) **must be contacted** as soon as possible. Applications might not be accepted for processing if RSMs/RSOs have not been notified by Monday 26th July 2020. All projects should be costed (100% fEC). Contact details for the RSMs/RSOs in your faculty can be found [here](#).

Applicants with projects that will require support from the Contracts team should have identified and contacted the [Contracts Manager](#) in their school/department to make them aware support will be needed when project starts. This is essential to prevent any delays due to contracts, if awarded.

Given the ongoing **COVID-19** pandemic, we ask applicants to consider if/how the project could be undertaken if remote working and/or restricted lab access comes into force during the project.

Additional Information

Intellectual Property

You are not required to seek consent from Wellcome before you make any commercial use of, or grant to any third party any exploitation rights over, any Wellcome-funded intellectual property that arises from the A2E Award. Nevertheless, **you will be required to accept Wellcome's standard [revenue-and-equity sharing agreement](#) as set out in [Wellcome's grant conditions](#)**. This includes the requirement to report to Wellcome once a year on IP and commercialisation activities; this will be performed by The University of Manchester Innovation Factory (former UMIP).

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to submit a short interim report halfway through the project and a final report at the end of the project. Applicants will be contacted to report on their post-award progress up to 5 years after the award has been completed. This is mandatory to ensure evaluation of the translational impact of this scheme. You will also be required to engage with Translation Manchester activities such as blogs and events.

Previous A2E awards

Information on projects that have been funded by the A2E scheme in 2018, 2019 and 2020 including case studies can be found at www.translation.manchester.ac.uk.

Proposals MUST be submitted to translation@manchester.ac.uk

The final application deadline is 5pm Thursday, 26th August 2021.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Notification of outcome will be week commencing 25th October, 2021 via email to the PI.

For any other query refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for the 2021 call or contact translation@manchester.ac.uk.