

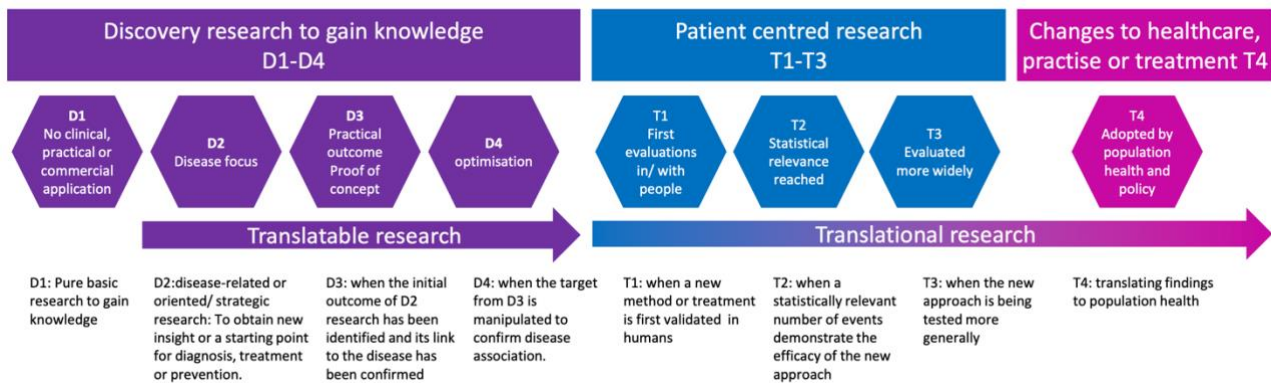
Access To Tissue (A2T) 2023 Application Brief

Who is supporting this call?

The University of Manchester is in receipt of the **Institutional Translational Partnership Award (TPA)** from Wellcome which is managed by [Translation Manchester](#). Supported by the TPA, we run an annual call for [Translation Manchester Accelerator Awards](#) to pump-prime research aimed at translating discoveries into healthcare impact and patient benefit. The [Access to Tissue \(A2T\)](#) scheme is one of the schemes in this call.

What research does the A2T fund?

The A2T scheme enables investigators to access tissue samples from biobanks that are part of the [Translation Manchester Research Network](#) allowing the research to progress along the [translational pathway](#). Projects at any stage of the translational pathway are eligible for A2T awards, nevertheless the vision to translation should be clearly stated. Projects must move the research along the pathway (i.e. D2 to D3 or T1 to T2) as a result of the tissues obtained with A2T funding.



Translational research projects supported by A2T funding should aim to address an area of unmet clinical need or improve an aspect of healthcare delivery. This scheme is not intended to fund an entire project, we will not fund any researchers time or consumables to undertake the experimental work with the sample purchased with A2T funds. A2T is solely intended to allow the purchase of tissue samples from one of the biobanks within the [Translation Manchester Research Network](#). For biobanks that provide academics with free access to samples, costs for other biobank services might be included. All funds should still be allocated to the biobank.

What type of tissue can I get access to via A2T funds?

The following biobanks are part of the Translation Manchester Research Network:

- Manchester Foundation Trust (MFT) Biobank
- Northern Care Alliance Research Collection (NCARC)
- Manchester Cancer Research Centre Biobank (MCRC)
- Manchester Allergy, Respiratory and Thoracic Surgery Biobank (ManARTS)
- Salford Biorepository
- Manchester Brain Bank

- Manchester Brain Tumour Biorepository and Brain Tumour North West (BTNW)
- Complex Wounds at Manchester Biobank
- Renal Biobank
- NIHR BioResource Centre

Contact details for each biobank are provided within our [TMRN booklet](#). Additionally, you can access presentations from our [Translation Manchester Biobank Showcase](#), where some of the biobanks provided information on the type of tissues available and the processes required to request and obtain tissue samples.

The funding can be used to obtain any type of human tissues that suits your translational research needs. This could be fresh tissue, frozen, embedded; it can be sources from healthy volunteers or from patient cohorts; it can be retrospectively purchased from existing biobank storage, or freshly collected for your own research needs.

We encourage you to engage in early discussions with the biobank you are planning to access and involve them in the application process. The biobank will need to provide a signed quote as part of the application process (last page of the application form). We also expect that you discuss with the biobank the suitability of the tissues/samples for your proposed work. By signing the application form the biobanks confirm that the discussions have taken place and that they are happy to provide the tissue detailed in the proposal at the agreed price (VAT included).

Do I still need to complete a Biobank application process to obtain the tissue?

Yes, this scheme is to provide the funds. You will still need to liaise with and get approval from the relevant Biobank to order to obtain the tissue. You must speak to the relevant Biobank before submitting your application for funding, to ensure they have the relevant tissue available, obtain a quote and their signature on the application form.

Do I need ethical approvals and material transfer agreements in place before applying?

Before applying to A2T funding, you need to have carefully considered the requirements needed for you to source and utilise human tissues at the University. You might be able to work under the general biobank ethics (which you should refer to in the application form), or you might need to apply from your own ethics. The biobank and/or your local research governance teams should be able to provide advice on this. We also expect the work to be undertaken with A2T funds to be fully compliant with the [Human Tissue Act](#), please use the application form to describe how this will be ensured. If any human tissue is to be stored on university premises, then the university Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity team need to be informed (regardless of where the ethics is held). Information on how to do this can be found [here](#).

A material transfer agreement (MTA) is likely to be required. We do not request you to have material transfer agreements already in place, but careful consideration must be given on the plan to obtain these, and this should be detailed in the proposal. If this is already in place for ongoing projects in your research group, please provide details in the application form. Should a new MTA be needed, we will support this for successful projects by facilitating interactions with the contracts team. If you are unsure on whether a contract/MTA is likely to be needed please contact [Seamus Byers](#) in the [contracts](#)

team and discuss your requirements with the biobank. The Translation Manchester team is also happy to provide advice on this (contact translation@manchester.ac.uk).

Making sure that there is clarity around ethical and governance requirement is essential to prevent any delays when project starts, if awarded.

What funding is available and what is the project duration?

Costs will be provided for 100% of directly incurred costs only, up to **£10,000**, to be used to purchase the tissue from the biobank you will be collaborating with. You might include other costs as courier / travel to collect tissue / samples, depending on the specific project, and these need to be detailed and justified in the proposal.

The A2T award will fund projects with a duration of up to 9 months. Due to the short timeframe, projects should have the necessary resources and approvals readily available and in place, or a clear plan (including timelines) to obtain them. Applications will, in part, be judged on their feasibility and deliverability within timeframe.

Strict adherence to the relevant spending regulations will be mandatory for successful applicants. Expenditure will be permitted to the end of the agreed timeframe for the project; no spending will be permitted after this date, unless approved. We will not accept proposals with an end date beyond 1st November 2024 as this is a hard deadline for expenditure from Wellcome.

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 with honorary contracts at the University of Manchester. 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. Only one application to the A2T scheme is permitted per PI to access tissue from one biobank.

How do I apply?

The application form can be downloaded from our [website](#). Should you need further advice before submission do not hesitate to get in touch with the Translation Manchester team by emailing translation@manchester.ac.uk. You might also want to read the [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) for the TMAA 2023 call. Key timelines for the A2T call are as follow:

Funding call opens	Monday 6 th February 2023
Notify your RSMs *	Friday 24 th February 2023
Application deadline	12 noon Friday 24 th March 2023
Notification of outcomes	w/c 15 th May 2023

Projects start	June onwards
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*If you are applying, Research Support Managers (RSMs) and Research Support Officers (RSOs) should be contacted as soon as possible to make them aware of your application. Please do so by Friday 24th February 2023. Applications do not need to be costed by the RSMs/RSOs, as only quotation from the biobank for the purchase of tissue is required. Nevertheless, post award support might be needed for the management of the award (e.g. contracts and purchase order). Contact details for the RSMs/RSOs in your faculty can be found [here](#).

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 A2T 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.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to submit a short interim report halfway through the project (if longer than 3 months) 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.

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

The final application deadline is 12 noon Friday 24th March 2023.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Notification of outcome will be week commencing 15th May, 2023 via email to the PI.

For any other query refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for the 2023 call or contact translation@manchester.ac.uk.