

C4T 2024 Call: Wellcome Trust and NIHR Manchester BRC priority areas

The Wellcome Trust Priority areas are:

Infectious Disease

Wellcome's work will focus on achieving the long-term outcome of a 'reduced risk and impact of infectious diseases' by targeting the factors leading to escalation. The infectious disease programme seeks to:

- gain a greater understanding of the mechanisms underlying the sources and drivers of infectious diseases
- drive a paradigm shift from reacting to current infectious diseases to a predictive and preventative approach
- create a new generation of affordable products and tools and facilitate their implementation and hence their impact.

More information can be found [here](#).

Climate health:

Wellcome aim to put health at the heart of climate action. The climate and health programme aims to support:

- a transformational advance in the availability, access and use of research and evidence on the direct and indirect effects on health of climate change at local, national, regional, and global levels
- a transformational advance in the availability, access and use of climate change mitigation actions that have a disproportionately positive benefit to health
- a transformational advance in the availability, access and use of mitigation-pathway-dependent climate change adaptations to protect health in vulnerable communities
- the development of a global Climate and Health research, policy, and practice community that requests and uses evidence to inform policy and drive urgent actions.

More information can be found [here](#).

Mental Health:

Wellcome want to transform the ability to intervene as early as possible in mental health problems that affect the most people – and include the most disabling conditions. The mental health programme seeks to:

- gain a better understanding of how the brain, body, and environment interact in depression, anxiety, and psychosis so that we can spot potential points for early intervention
- find better ways of identifying and grouping people with – or at risk of – these conditions so that we can provide more timely and personalised interventions
- find new and improved ways of intervening. This could involve things that an individual does for themselves, are provided by a healthcare professional, or are provided by policies or practices in wider society.

More information can be found [here](#).

The NIHR Manchester BRC clusters and themes are:

Cluster	Themes
Cancer	Prevention and Early Detection Advanced Radiotherapy Precision Medicine Living with and beyond cancer
Inflammation	Rheumatic Musculoskeletal Diseases Respiratory Medicine Dermatology: Cutaneous Inflammation and Repair Integrative Cardiovascular Medicine
Disease Complexity and Multi-morbidity	Next Generation Phenotyping and Diagnostics Next Generation Therapeutics
High Burden Under researched conditions	Hearing Health Mental Health Rare Conditions

To be eligible for NIHR BRC funding proposals should also reflect the BRC Strategic Priorities:

- To drive personalised healthcare for care for all - this is to include all age, all-inclusive populations. We hold a strong focus on EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion), health inequities and/or recruitment from areas of high unmet need
- To transform disease management and prevention
- To encourage, develop and promote key working partnerships to deliver high quality translational research that addresses key important health and care challenges across Greater Manchester, Lancashire and South Cumbria
- Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement is expected at all stages and a Team Science/Team Research approach actively encouraged

If you have selected Next Generation Therapeutics (NGT) the NIHR BRC NGT priority areas are:

1. *Programme 1: A methodological and inclusive platform*
 - Development of methods to inform more effective value proposition and pharmacological/pharmaceutical evaluation to identify areas of greatest unmet need with maximal likelihood of success
 - Widening access to NGT trials by developing methodologies that ensure populations across our region have access to NGT studies. This may include working with the Inclusive Research Oversight Board (IROB) as well as Patient Public Involvement Engagement and Participation (PPIEP). Contact Translation Manchester if support is needed for this.
2. *Programme 2: Designing innovative trial designs*
 - Development of clinically and prognostically relevant surrogate/patient-reported endpoints for PoC trials.
 - Development of molecular stratifiers and pharmacogenomics to inform the design of endotype-driven innovative trials and/or development of novel trial methods.
3. *Programme 3: Precision therapeutics of high-risk groups and high burden diseases*
 - Optimisation work to progress intervention studies that:
 - target people at risk of high burden disease (spanning the BRC clusters)
 - enable use of novel/repurposed therapeutics to treat refractory disease
 - identify targets of fibrosis and disease application
4. *Programme 4: Nanoscale-based technologies and advanced biomaterials to improve health*
 - Nanomaterials and biomaterials as novel interventions, drug delivery system or similar
5. *Programme 5: ATMPs for resistant cancers and rare conditions*
 - Development of cell-based delivery system to enhance immunotherapy and gene editing techniques

Additionally, for the NIHR BRC funded projects priority will be given to proposals following the criteria below:

- 1) Projects that currently sit at T1 and beyond in the translational pipeline. (D3/D4 projects may be considered if robust impact plan is submitted)
- 2) Research **MUST** sit cross **at least two** BRC research clusters; Cancer, Inflammation, Disease Complexity and Multimorbidity, High Burden, Under

Researched Conditions. Use the link for more information:

<https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/>

- 3) Include detail on wider collaborators such as partner NHS Trusts/HEIs (e.g. Blackpool, Preston NHS Trusts, MMU/University of Salford); other NIHR infrastructure (e.g. Manchester CRF, ARC or PSRC) and industry and partnership; which could support leverage of external funding (grants, commercial funding etc)

Please link in directly with our Strategic Project Manager if further detail is required:

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