Leicester-Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF)

*Crossing discipline, ethnic and social boundaries to promote health*

Professor Andrew Fry
Grant holder
Purposes of the ISSF award

• To develop and embed strategic areas of mutual importance to the University and Wellcome Trust.

• To reach within and across the biomedical and clinical sciences, public health, social sciences and medical humanities.

• To support activity that will leverage, or lead to, sustainable change and long-term impact at the University.
Leicester ISSF award – funding and duration

• Competitive call to all UK institutions that receive significant Wellcome Trust funding.

• Leicester was awarded £1.5m for 5 years (i.e. £300k per annum) that will run from 2017-2022 subject to mid-term review.

• Equal match from the institution, providing overall funding of £600k per annum (£3m in total).
The Leicester WT ISSF award

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Will support a programme of transformative change at Leicester.

Will draw on our distinctive strengths that span our WT-funded biomedical, humanities and social science research.

Will underpin four key strategic research priorities of the University:

- **Precision Medicine**
- **Ethnic Health & Migration**
- **Structural & Chemical Biology**
- **New Health Agendas In The Social Science And Humanities**
Priority 1: Precision Medicine

Lead – Professor Martin Tobin (WT Investigator)

- Leicester has world-leading expertise in several clinical disciplines, including cardiovascular, renal and respiratory (inflammatory & infectious) disease, cancer and diabetes.

- **Leicester Precision Medicine Institute** (LPMI) – joint UoL-UHL partnership – focus on the patient rather than disease, from understanding mechanisms to implementation of new treatments.

- Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) cross cutting theme and Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre focus on cancer diagnostics.

- Improve health and remove inequality, particularly among our ethnically diverse communities.
Priority 2: Ethnic Health & Migration

Lead – Professor Kamlesh Khunti (NIHR Senior Investigator)

- Leicester has highest proportion of non-white residents (55%) in UK, with a particularly large proportion of South Asians.
- We have a unique opportunity not only to explore the differences in disease patterns but also to address health inequalities.
- Creation of new Ethnic Health Network – inward and outward facing.
- Increased interdisciplinary research on migration, diversity and inclusion agendas.
- Opportunity to share knowledge and translate findings to low and middle income countries supporting national ODA priorities.
- New opportunities for health research with Leicester Migration Network and Unit for Diversity, Inclusion & Community Engagement.
Priority 3: Structural & Chemical Biology

Lead – Professor John Schwabe (WT Investigator)

- Leicester has international reputation for excellence in structural biology in both fundamental and applied research; integrating this now with rapidly growing discipline of chemical biology.
- **Leicester Institute for Structural & Chemical Biology** (LISCB) – joint between two Science Colleges (CMBSP & CSE).
- Synergy with LPMI and Leicester Drug Discovery and Diagnostics Centre, allowing it to respond to new funding opportunities through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.
- Key new developments in cryo-EM and single molecule imaging.
Priority 4: New Health Agendas in the Social Sciences and Humanities

 Leads – Professor Martin Halliwell & Professor Steve King

• Social scientists at Leicester are major recipients of Wellcome Trust funding and Leicester is renowned for medical humanities research.

• Applied social science in health policy research and evaluation – SAPPHIRE with key commissioning groups, including Department of Health and Health Education England.

• Interdisciplinary projects in Medical Humanities around medical education and practice, including mental health, history of medicine and doctor-patient relationships.

• Seek to explore social implications of migrant and ethnic health, disability and stigma in ethnic communities and public perception of scientific knowledge.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Lead: Dr Kate Williams

We are committed to ensuring that Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is embedded in the delivery of each of our ISSF schemes.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Each ISSF Executive Committee member will be given training to ensure:
- Transparent processes and clear guidelines for funding and recruitment decisions
- Criteria for all schemes face EDI review
- Gender balance on all recruiting and decision making panels (including chairs)
- Deadlines compatible with school breaks

We want to encourage applications from returners to science:
- Early Career Fellowships
- Discipline Bridges
- Institutional Partnerships
ISSF Funding Schemes

• Early Career Researchers

• Translation and Innovation

• Discipline Bridges

• Institutional Partnerships

• Public Engagement
Early Career Fellowships Scheme

Leads: Professor Martin Halliwell, Professor Steve King & Professor Ruth Luthi-Carter

We will empower Early Career Fellows to perform ground-breaking research, leading to discipline-shaping outcomes. This support will enable them to:

- Lead a novel research project within one of the University’s strategic priority areas
- Develop and submit research proposals and funding applications to establish an independent research program
- Plan and lead the development of new techniques and novel approaches
Early Career Fellowships Scheme

• Enhance own and institutional reputation by publishing results in significant peer-reviewed journals and disseminating the results at international conferences.

• Develop potential public and commercial exploitation of the research findings.

• Originate and deliver public engagement activities.
Early Career Fellowships Scheme

• We’re looking for the brightest and most enthusiastic early career researchers to design modern solutions to multidisciplinary research, outreach and impact.

• We will provide support for these early career fellows to lead to a competitive application for independence to WT, RCUK or other funder.

• We anticipate funding 3-4 internal and 1 external candidate annually creating a cohort of 5 fellows at any one time that will be distributed across the four strategic priorities and split between science and humanities. Awards will be based on CV, project quality, likelihood of follow-on support, and relevance to ISSF strategic priorities.
Early Career Fellowships Scheme

The Fellowship Award includes:

• Salary support at Grade 7/8 for a maximum of 12 months (Internal) or 24 months (External)

• Support for project costs up to £15,000 per year

• Mentorship from senior colleagues

• Research and Enterprise Training and Career Development Support from the Research and Enterprise Division (RED)

• Peer support as part of a multidisciplinary ISSF Early Career Fellow Cohort

• Access to Core University Research Infrastructure

• Dissemination and public engagement support from RED, Impact Leads, and the ISSF Public Engagement Manager
Translation and Innovation Scheme

*Leads: Dr Alasdair Gaw & Professor Steve King*

New funding of £25,000 per year will be available, in conjunction with existing MRC Confidence in Concept award schemes, for Projects with commercial relevance in the biomedical sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities that may impact on:

- Patient outcomes and experiences
- The organisation and operation of health care systems
- Patient understandings of and engagement with illness and consequent healthcare
- The depth and reach of planning and diagnostic tools for medical stakeholders and policy makers
Translation and Innovation Scheme

Translational medical humanities and social science might include projects on:

• Bringing new medical devices or processes to clinical use or commercial exploitation

• Evaluation, development or commercial exploitation of databases that can help in the planning of health systems or the targeting of health care resources

• Significant policy interventions, for instance on the use and circulation of patient case records by third parties

• The development of targeted and lasting interventions in health policy, the patient journey or clinical practice using new research in the humanities

• Exploitable work on disease prevention, including diet, pollution and lifestyle
Translation and Innovation Scheme

In particular we want to encourage collaborative projects that fuse together science/social science/arts and humanities, probably bringing together existing projects to generate new value.
We want to encourage researchers to explore existing projects from new angles through collaboration with other disciplines.

We are offering seed grants to all University of Leicester staff, individuals or groups, typically 1-12 weeks, range £500 to £10,000 to initiate cross-disciplinary activity.
Discipline Bridges

• ‘Cross-disciplinary’
  – a broad, flexible definition
  – Examples: mathematician and neuroscientist, historian and epidemiologist, sociologist and geneticist, or team of structural biologists and poet
  – Needs an output, e.g. grant application, paper, seminar, conference proposal, public engagement event

• Process
  – Very basic application form
  – Video presentation of 4 minutes maximum
    • Accessible outline of the project
    • Show how it is cross-disciplinary
    • Describe the measurable outcomes that will be achieved
Discipline Bridges

• Scale of awards: typically cover a period of 1-12 weeks, and a range of £500 -£10,000

• Guidance is available at: www.le.ac.uk/issf

• First deadline for 2017: 1st May
Institutional Partnerships Scheme

Lead: Professor Andrea Cooper, Professor Martin Halliwell, Professor Martyn Mahaut-Smith & Professor John Schwabe

Three streams:

- Strategic Partner Exchanges
- Equipment Sharing
- Crick Seminar Series
Institutional Partnerships
Inter-institutional exchanges

We want to provide access to expert training and techniques through exchanges with other Research Institutions in the UK or Overseas.

We will sponsor inward and outward activities to promote inter-institutional exchange of expertise. Funds awarded via a rapid, reviewed, and ongoing application process.
Institutional Partnerships
Midlands Innovation Consortium

We want to strengthen relationships with the other Midlands universities by facilitating the use of equipment across the Midlands Innovation Consortium. Funds awarded via a rapid, reviewed, and ongoing application process.
Institutional Partnerships
Build a partnership with the Francis Crick Institute

WTISSF will sponsor seminar series at UoL for Crick Faculty.
University of Leicester will have access to the Crick Open lectures series.
Public Engagement Scheme

Leads: Dr Elizabeth Hurren, Dr Cas Kramer & Dr Marie Nugent

We aim to use ISSF scheme to embed Public Engagement within our institution through:

• Providing training opportunities

• Providing seed grants for new Public Engagement events, activities and ideas

• Creating an institutionally recognised award for Public Engagement to enhance reward and recognition
Public Engagement - Training

- We will provide fantastic training opportunities internally as well as offer grants to send people on external training courses.
- Applications for external training courses are welcome throughout the year.
Public Engagement – Seed grants

• Seed grants for events, activities and ideas
• Grants will be awarded on the basis of being interdisciplinary, considerate of reaching diverse groups, and suitable for expansion as Wellcome Trust Public Engagement Fund applications (£5,000 - £3m).
• Rolling applications for seed grants up to £500; with deadlines of 1 May and 1 Nov for grants between £500 and £3,000.
• Work with Marie Nugent, full-time ISSF Public Engagement Scheme Manager, to develop your idea for maximum impact and reach to suit your research area and target audience.
Governance

• **WT-ISSF Governance Board**
  Chair – Prof Iain Gillespie, PVC R&E
  WT representatives – Roger Blake, Chloe Sheppard
  External representative – David Brook (Nottingham)
  Will meet annually

• **WT-ISSF Executive Board**
  Chair – Prof Andrew Fry
  Priority & Funding Scheme Leads
  Will meet quarterly

• **WT-ISSF Administrator**
  Anna Harding, Assistant Registrar
  Will provide reports to Wellcome Trust
Leicester-ISSF Executive Committee

Prof Andrew Fry      Grantholder and Chair of the Committee
Prof Mark Jobling    WT Key Funder Working Group Lead
Anna Harding        ISSF Administrator
Prof Martin Tobin   Priority 1 Lead / WT Investigator
Prof Kamlesh Khunti  Priority 2 Lead / NIHR Senior Investigator
Prof John Schwabe   Priority 3 Lead / WT Investigator
Prof Martin Halliwell Priority 4 Co-Lead
Prof Steve King      Priority 4 Co-Lead
Dr Kate Williams    Equality Lead / DPVC Equality & Diversity
Prof Ruth Luthi-Carter ECR Lead
Dr Alasdair Gaw      T&I Lead / College Director of Enterprise
Dr John Cromby      Discipline Bridges Lead
Prof Andrea Cooper  Institutional Partnerships Lead (Crick)
Prof Martyn Mahaut-Smith  Institutional Partnerships Lead (Midlands)
Dr Elizabeth Hurren  PE Lead / WT Programme Grant Holder
Dr Cas Kramer        PE Lead / College Head of Public Engagement
Dr Marie Nugent      Public Engagement Manager
Prof David Brook (Nottingham) External advisor

[Wellcome]
Institutional Strategic Support Fund

Leicester’s Wellcome Trust funded Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF)

The Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) enables universities in the UK and Ireland to invest in areas that are of mutual strategic importance to Wellcome and the individual institutions. These are within and across medical and clinical sciences, public health, social sciences and medical humanities.

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The latest ISSF award to Leicester is a five year award spanning academic years 2018/19 to 2020/21. Funding of £600,000 for Years 4 and 5 is subject to WT’s acceptance and approval of a progress report and an updated plan for the use of funds. The sum of £300k per calendar year is available from the Wellcome Trust (£1.5M total).

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