



# Health Research Capacity Strengthening

## Wellcome Trust perspectives

Val Snewin

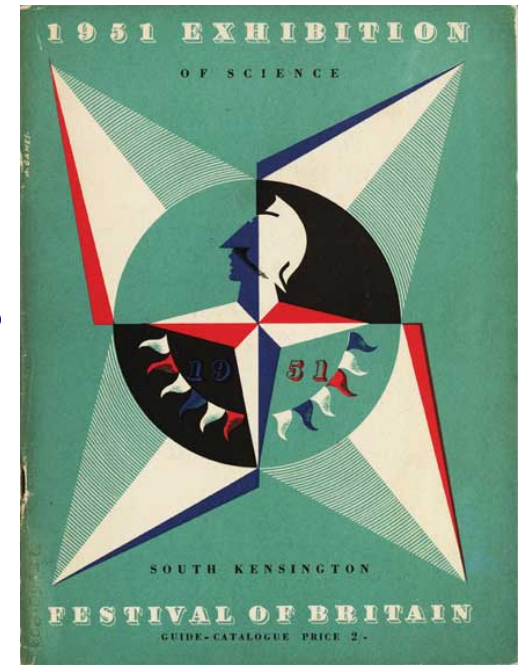
14 October 2009

5<sup>th</sup> EDCTP Forum, Arusha

# International funding: Henry Wellcome's legacy

- Support over 3000 health researchers in more than 50 different countries
- Total spend is approx £600 million p.a. (~\$US 1 billion p.a.)
- £70 million p.a. for international activities

*“We will continue to fund internationally and expect that this element of our funding will increase.”*



# Grand Challenges in Global Health



Co-funding of three projects with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

- Antigen design and delivery for mucosal protection against HIV-1 infection
- Drugs for treatment of latent tuberculosis (Douglas Young)
- Genetics of protective immunity against malaria (MalariaGEN)

Wellcome Trust: £14.5 million

Grand Challenges  
in Global Health

# Clinical Trials and Product Development

- Helen McShane TB vaccine candidate MVA85A phase IIb prime boost efficacy clinical trial, based in South Africa £4.5 million WT and £4.5 million Aeras



MSD • Wellcome Trust  
**Hilleman Laboratories**  
*Developing vaccines for global health*

- Hilleman Laboratories WT-Merck joint venture not-for-profit affordable vaccine development £45 million from each partner over 7 years



**Medicines for Malaria Venture**

- Medicine for Malaria Venture (MMV) £10 million core support over 5 years



- “Feeding the research pipeline”
  - £8 million to University of Dundee
  - £10 million with MMV, Singapore Economic Development Board, Novartis



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# Our philosophy: People

## Networks

**Major Overseas Programmes**  
(centres, satellites, hub and spokes)



**Teams**  
(programmes, fellowships)



**People**  
(projects, fellowships)



# Fellowship schemes for Developing Country researchers\*



\*which aim to stimulate and foster research on public health and tropical medicine

# Support the Research Environment



*“To promote the best conditions for research and the use of knowledge”*

# Initiative to Strengthen Health Research Capacity in Africa (ISHReCA)

**Aim:** promote self-sustaining pools of researchers capable of initiating and carrying out high quality health research in Africa

**Mission:** facilitating translation of research products into policy and practice through integrated approaches to capacity building at individual, institutional and system levels

## **ISHReCA Steering Committee members:**

Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Ghana, South Africa, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso, Mozambique

**Secretariat:** Tropical Disease Research (TDR) WHO

**See:** [www.tropika.net](http://www.tropika.net)



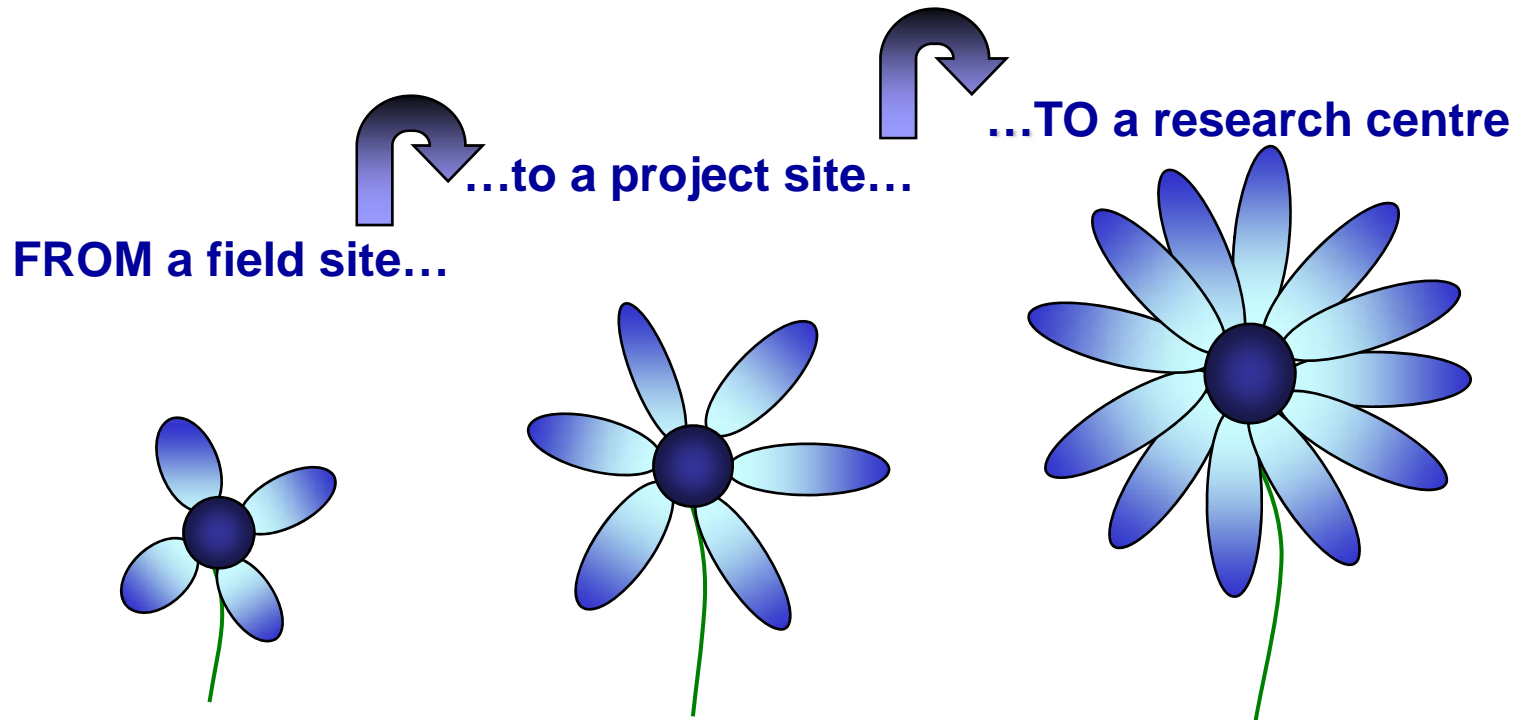
**ISHReCA**  
Initiative to Strengthen Health  
Research Capacity in Africa



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# Build and nurture multi-faceted vibrant research institutions

## Evolution of a Field Site into a Mature Research Centre



Institutional development should accompany human resources strengthening - to ensure centres offer careers and longer term perspectives for researchers



## Research capacity in Africa



# African Institutions Initiative

## Strengthening African Higher Education and Research Institutes

- Create equitable and sustainable networks and partnerships between institutions, through South-South and North-South linkages
- Build critical mass of local research capacity geared to national priorities
- Support human resources and infrastructure necessary for the development of administrative, governance, finance and management
- Develop and build leadership at individual, institutional and national levels so countries can better initiate and lead research activities
- Support research leaders to act as role models to enthuse younger scientists to develop research careers

[www.wellcome.ac.uk/globalhealth](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/globalhealth)

# Research Capacity Strengthening

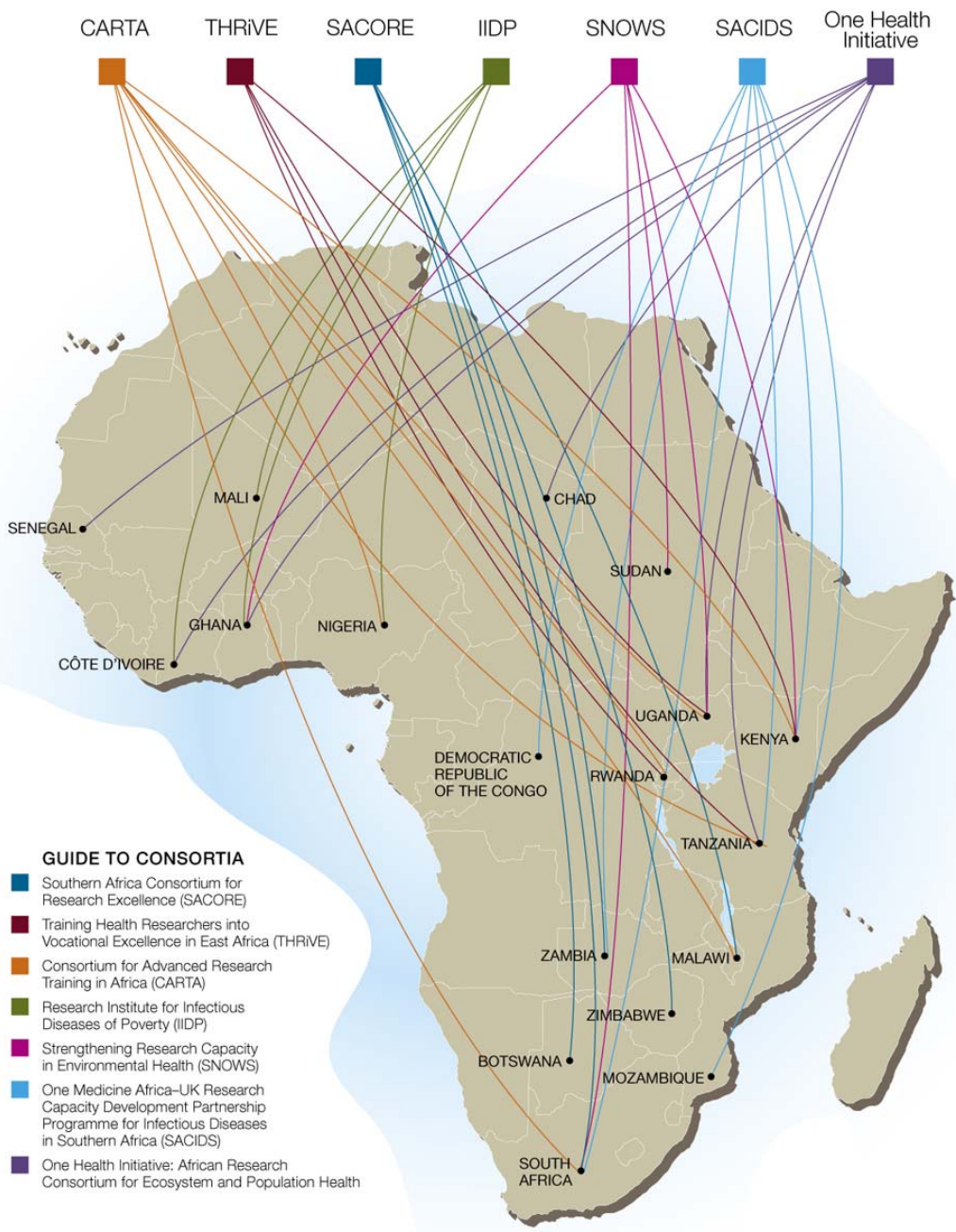
## EDCTP Networks of Excellence

- Clinical trial focus through training and institutional support
- HIV, malaria and TB
- Regional networks of excellence leading to a Pan African initiative

## Wellcome Trust African Institutions Initiative

- University focus on finance, leadership, training and other institutional support
- ‘Health’ in broadest sense
- Consortia of institutions (north and south, universities and research institutes)





# African Institutions Initiative

- 7 awards made to consortia involving 70 institutions (50 in Africa)
- 5 year period, starting August 2009
- £28m in total



## Research capacity in Africa



### **AfriqueOne: African Research Consortium for Ecosystem and Population Health**

Director: Professor Bassirou Bonfoh, Centre Suisse de Recherche Scientifique en Cote d'Ivoire

### **CARTA: Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa**

Director: Dr Alex Ezeh, African Population and Health Research Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

### **SACIDS: One Medicine Africa-UK Research Capacity Development Partnership Programme for Infectious Diseases in Southern Africa**

Director: Professor Mark Rweyemamu, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania

### **SACORE: Southern Africa Consortium for Research Excellence**

Director: Dr Newton Kumwenda, Malawi College of Medicine, Malawi

### **THRiVE: Training Health Researchers into Vocational Excellence in East Africa**

Director: Professor Nelson Sewankambo, Makerere University, Uganda

### **SNOWS: Strengthening research capacity in environmental health**

Director: Professor Esi Awuah, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Ghana

### **IIDP: Research Institute for Infectious Diseases of Poverty**

Director: Dr Margaret Gyapong, Dodowa Health Research Centre, Ghana Health Service



## Research capacity in Africa



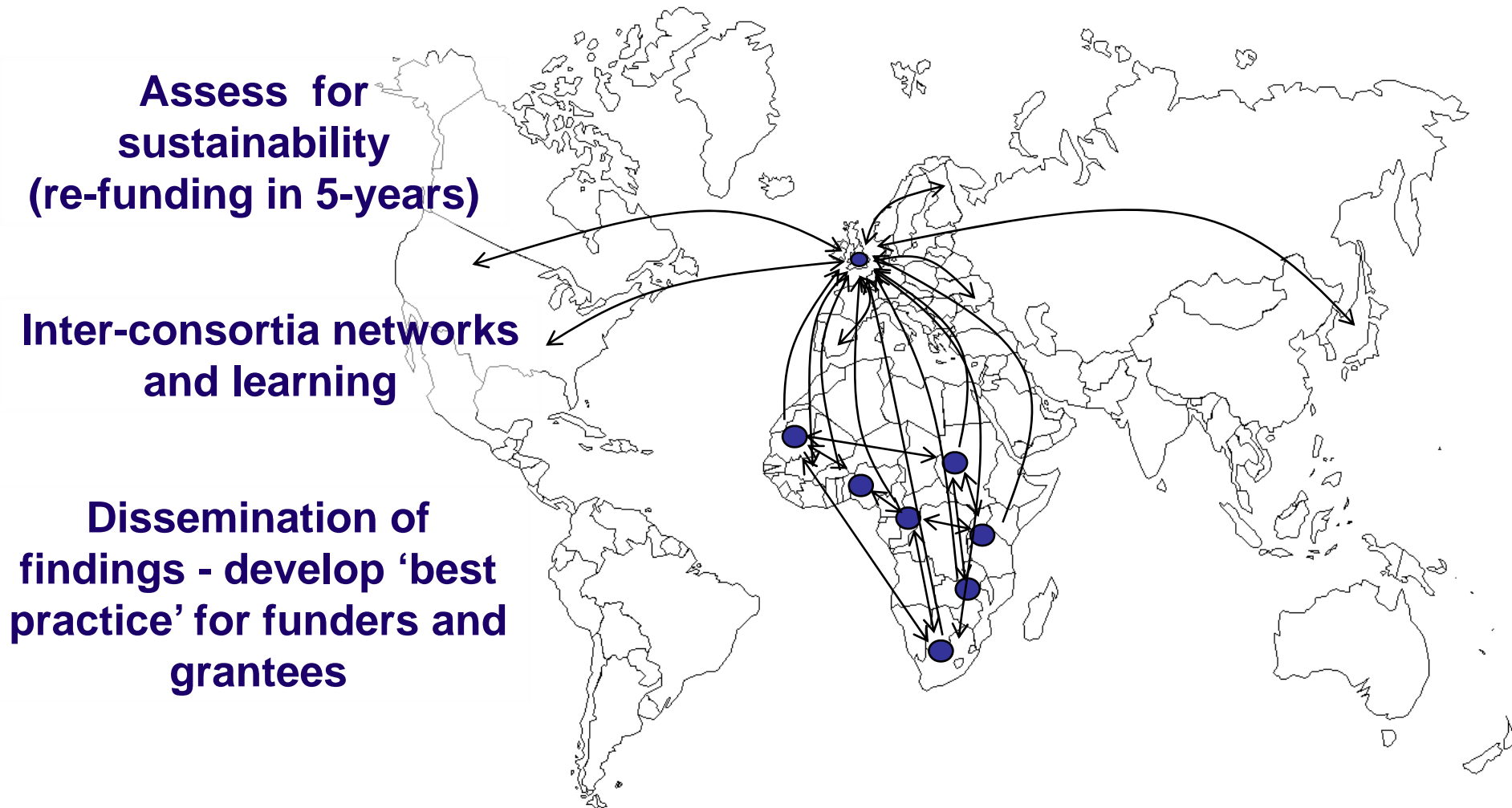
# African Institutions Initiative

Strengthening African Higher Education and Research Institutes

Launch meeting, Arusha, Tanzania, 6-8 October 2009

- ◆ Directors of all consortia and other representatives
- ◆ Sessions on finance, governance and grant management
- ◆ Synergies with other initiatives (e.g. EDCTP Networks)
- ◆ Introduction to evaluation and learning
- ◆ Follow up at INORMS research management conference  
Cape Town, South Africa, April 2010

# Three Levels of Learning and Evaluation



# National Systems

## Health Research Capacity Strengthening Initiative

### Aims:

- strengthen capacity for generation of health research knowledge
- improve its use in evidence-based decision making, policy formulation and implementation
- Focused on Kenya and Malawi

### Mechanism:

Foster and nurture **national** research grant-giving bodies, (£10 million to each country)

- ♦ Consortium for National Health Research Kenya (NGO)
- ♦ National Research Council of Malawi (GoM)

**Implementation Phase:** 5 years from February 2008

**HRCS Learning:** to document the process



*NRCM*

**CNHR**



Consortium for  
National Health Research

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Home

## International funding

### Global Health research activities at the Wellcome Trust

Our international strategy aims to increase funding for research and training in developing and restructuring countries.



The Wellcome Trust is an independent charity funding research to improve human and animal health.

### News and features



#### Update: New £22.5 million centre for bio-medicine

Henry Wellcome Building opens at the University of Leicester.



#### Research: What makes a T cell?

Novel way to treat immune diseases discovered.



#### Research: Cerebral malaria

The eye provides the answer, says new research.



#### Funding: Strategic Award

Functional Imaging Laboratory receives a Strategic Award and Wellcome Trust Centre status.

### Other Wellcome sites



### Coming soon

**20 Nov** : Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowships deadline for preliminary applications

**1 Dec** : Masterclasses in Clinical Neuroscience deadline for applications

**1 Dec** : Four-year PhD Programmes and PhD Programmes for Clinicians deadline for preliminary applications

**18 Dec** : Intermediate and Senior Fellowships in Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Explore the site

Select a subject...

### Current highlights

- ▶ Update: Cognitive Systems highlight notice
- ▶ Funding: New careers schemes launched

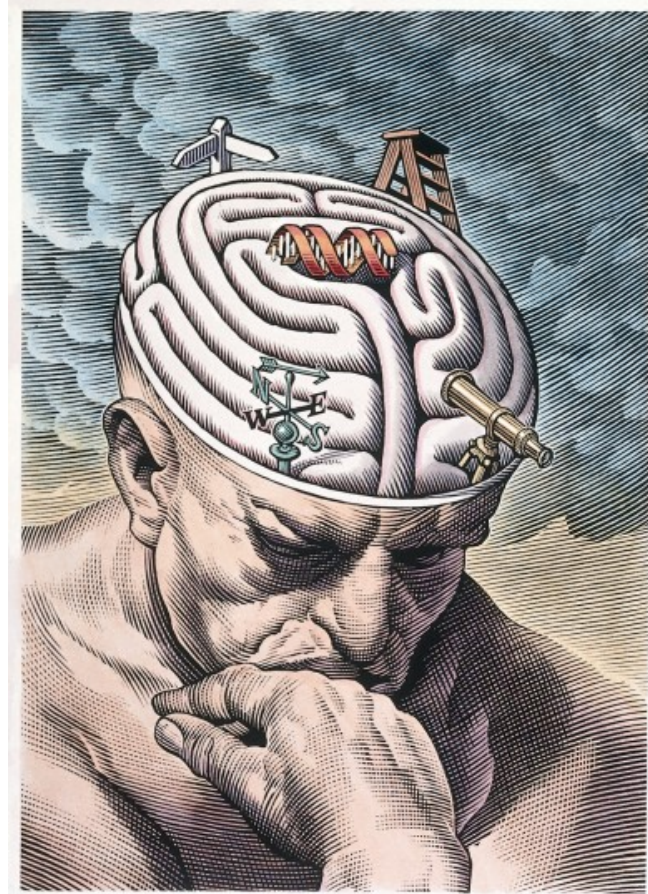
### Quicklinks

- ▶ Advanced Courses
- ▶ Conference Centre (Cambridge)
- ▶ eGrants (apply online)
- ▶ International funding
- ▶ Jobs at the Wellcome Trust
- ▶ Open access
- ▶ Scientific conferences
- ▶ Strategic Awards

See: [www.wellcome.ac.uk/globalhealth](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/globalhealth)

# Biomedical Ethics - Low and Middle Income country applicants

- **Research Studentships:** training in research and methods
- **Research Travel Grants:** short-term collaborative research and networking
- **Symposia:** ethical issues arising from research or healthcare practice in Low and Middle income countries
- **Project Grants:** research project on biomedical ethics
- **Applications must demonstrate local relevance**



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# International Engagement Awards

- £30,000 awards, committee meetings, held twice a year
- 15 awards at 1st meeting, ~£0.5 million
- Partnerships, NGOs and communities:
  - ♦ local audiences, policy makers
  - ♦ national and continent-wide examples
  - ♦ global networks
- Listening to ‘other voices’
- Open mind for engagement





## SUPPORTING EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING

Call for proposals: enhancing capacity to  
apply research evidence in policy making

- Objectives:
  - ✓ Develop & implement interventions that enhance policy maker and civil society capacity to use health research evidence in policy making and dialogue
  - ✓ Evaluate strategies employed
- Focus on low income countries
- More info: [www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/en/](http://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/en/)

# Strategic Awards in Africa (Feb 2008)

1. **Alison Elliott** - Infection and Immunity Research and Training for Uganda: research capacity of the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Entebbe with Makerere University, £1 million.
2. **Rob Wilkinson** - Centre for Clinical Infectious Diseases research, Cape Town, South Africa, £3 million.
3. **Brian Greenwood** – MCDC, Capacity Development in Malaria Research in Africa, building on the Gates Malaria Partnership programme, £7.3 million.
4. **Kevin Marsh** - Developing Research Capacity and Leadership in East Africa from the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya, £8 million.





# Wellcome Trust/Department for Biotechnology India Alliance

- Launched in September 2008
- £8m WT and £8m DBT per year (5 years)
- Headquarters in India
- CEO and grants team in place
- Funding committees to make first awards in Autumn 2009
- Awards at key stages:
  - early career fellowships
  - intermediate fellowships
  - senior fellowships
- [www.wellcomedbt.org](http://www.wellcomedbt.org)



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Department of Biotechnology  
Ministry of Science and Technology

# What does success look like for us?

- Qualitative and quantitative data (not just numbers)
- Sustainable institutional change and ‘ripples’

