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# TSB does get research, insists chief

## But agency still has some way to go on creative industries

**RELATIONS BETWEEN** the research councils and the Technology Strategy Board may have been “slightly bizarre” in the past but are now very strong, the TSB’s chief executive has said.

In an interview with *Research Fortnight*, Iain Gray, whose 7-year term ends on 31 October, said there had been a “definite change in the relationship”, with far more cooperation now than in the TSB’s first few years.

Senior research council figures agree. Chris Watkins, director of translational research and industry at the Medical Research Council, says the TSB took some time to work out what it needed to do with the research councils, but that the parties now “have a much greater degree of discussion”.

Celia Caulcott, executive director for innovation and skills at the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, agrees. She says the council had to convince the TSB to work with bioscientists. “We were concerned that if we could not get the TSB to get to grips with biology then we might not have fulfilled our obligations,” she says, adding that TSB staff had to be shown the potential applications of biology. “If you are an automotive engineer, you don’t necessarily see biology as a technology.”

Caulcott joined the BBSRC just one year after the TSB was set up in 2007. She says the research councils “were expected to commit a certain amount of their budget to working with the TSB”. The BBSRC committed to spending at least £50 million of its 2011-15 budget on this, and the MRC’s delivery plan for 2011-15 earmarks £133m for it.

“We’re not driven by artificial financial targets now,” Gray says. “About 5 or 6 years ago, it was a slightly bizarre relationship driven by targets.”

Gray says he would like the creative industries, and especially their senior business figures, to get more involved with the TSB. And some people, including David Willetts, minister for universities and science, want the agency to work more closely with the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

The AHRC had a target of spending £3m on working with the TSB in 2008-11. The council’s delivery plan

by Adam Smith

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for 2011-15 has no financial target but does mention a desire for greater engagement with TSB programmes. The TSB’s delivery plan for the financial year 2014-15 is yet to be published.

The TSB is understood to be talking to the AHRC about becoming involved in the next round of the AHRC’s Knowledge Exchange Hubs for the Creative Economy. These hubs, in Bristol, Dundee, Lancaster and London, are funded with £16m from the AHRC until 2015-16. They are seen as an obvious chance for closer collaboration between the council and the TSB.

“The hubs would have had more money and support from businesses had the TSB been involved,” says Frank Boyd, director of the TSB’s Knowledge Transfer Network for creative industries. He is working with the TSB, research councils and the innovation agency Nesta on an innovation roadmap for the creative industries.

The idea of the TSB being involved in the hubs is similar to how the Catapult centres work, a model under review by technology entrepreneur Hermann Hauser. Gray expects Hauser’s review, which is due this autumn, to support the public-private collaboration that underpins the catapults. Hauser is also said to be considering expanding the types of body that work with the catapults to include, for example, research and technology organisations. “That makes a lot of sense,” says David Bembo, who chairs the Association for University Research and Industry Links.

But Bembo suggests there is still work to be done to convince some universities of the value of being involved. “There are some institutions that don’t think they’re in the frame,” he says, adding that the TSB’s programmes are not always easily accessible to academics. “That’s a lesson the TSB could learn from the research councils.”

Caulcott, however, disagrees: “That view treats the TSB as a research council, but it’s not a research council.”

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a **Research** publication

# Staying put

## GO Science is better off outside the Cabinet Office

MPs on the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee have long wanted the Government Office for Science to be transferred out of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and into the Cabinet Office in the heart of the Whitehall machine. The committee's report on its inquiry into government horizon scanning, published earlier this month, gave added urgency to this ambition.

The MPs fear that GO Science has become isolated in its two decades at BIS. Chief scientific adviser Mark Walport and his team do excellent work, they say, but then comes the sting: quoting cabinet secretary Jeremy Heywood, they claim the office's "impeccable" work has "not always translated into actual policy changes".

As Whitehall speak goes, that is some indictment. To paraphrase the fictional Sir Humphrey Appleby: "These science chaps might be top-drawer, but unless we can see them they haven't a hope in hell of being heard."

So, should GO Science move down the road to become more visible?

Certainly, the Cabinet Office is the place for cross-government policy. Its joint heads, Francis Maude and Oliver Letwin, are powerful Conservative modernisers who have the prime minister's ear.

One motivation for moving GO Science to BIS was to keep Whitehall science advice and the running of the research councils under one roof. That carries less weight today, as the network of chief scientists and the research councils' remit have both expanded beyond their 1994 borders. Walport himself has said that science funding is not his business.

But for the marriage to work, the Cabinet Office has to want GO Science too—and there is little sign of mutual attraction (*see Analysis, page 6*).

When Heywood created a cross-government facility for horizon scanning last July, he chose the Cabinet Office even though the Foresight office at GO Science is a world leader in analysing the future. Going back further, the Behavioural Insights Team, which pioneered the idea of testing policies before rolling them out, was also created in the Cabinet Office. This is not a party-political issue, as the original nudge unit was the last Labour government's idea.

Clearly, successive governments have opted to run fresh, more innovative policy-making initiatives away from BIS. That might seem like an argument for getting Walport's team out of there, but grafting it onto the Cabinet Office is unlikely to make it more influential. Indeed, geographic location is rarely the main determinant in the pursuit of influence. There are other factors that Whitehall's power brokers believe GO Science lacks.

Jon Day, chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, summed up one such factor in his evidence to the Commons inquiry. Horizon scanning, he said, needed "a senior champion" with cross-departmental influence.

On balance, GO Science is better off where it is. Its users in research, business and elsewhere (including this publication) know its value. We may not always agree with its conclusions, and more openness is always welcome, but we all cherish it as a source of expertise and advice. A move could undermine its existing strengths without guaranteeing any boost in its political clout.

## elsewhere

**"We're quite astonished that *The Times* has taken the decision to put such a non-story on its front page."**

*Nicola Gulley*, editorial director at the Institute of Physics, insists a climate change paper was rejected from the IoP journal *Environmental Research Letters* because it failed to pass peer review, not because of political concerns. *Nature*, 16/5/14.

**"Everything that I believe about democracy tells me that you cannot and should not have an entirely unelected part of a legislative process. On the other hand, it works. And it works extremely well."**

The departing chairman of the Environment Agency, *Chris Smith*, finds himself warning to the House of Lords. *Politics Home*, 15/5/14.

**"There has been a growing sense of frustration and anger among black British academics over how our communities have been treated by the British university system."**

*William Ackah*, a lecturer in community and voluntary-sector studies at Birkbeck, University of London, calls for black studies to be an option in UK higher education. *The Guardian*, 14/5/14.

**"This is going to make an 'us and them' situation: the medical researchers will be laughing and the enabling scientists in maths, chemistry, physics and so forth will be suffering."**

Biologist *Gustav Nossal* thinks the Australian government is dividing science by promising \$20 billion for medical research while cutting funding in other areas. *The Australian*, 15/5/14.

**"We want to avoid a situation where we have two communities that don't speak to each other. We don't want a 'Google bus' type of scenario."**

*Jess Tyrrell*, communications consultant for the Centre for London think tank, explains the idea behind a planned website that will help young people living in the Tech City area to benefit from education and job opportunities. *Wired*, 14/5/14.

## decade

**"It is simply fantasy that UK ministers are going to control appointments to research ethics committees."**

Health minister *Norman Warner* denies that legislation on clinical trials will threaten the independence of decision-making bodies.

*Research Fortnight*, 26 May 2004

## what's going on

### University donations hit all-time high

UK universities received donations of £660 million in 2012-13, a 23 per cent increase on the previous year and the highest figure recorded by the annual Ross-CASE survey. However, the survey of 136 UK universities shows a divide between institutions, with three receiving more than £20m in cash income in 2012-13 and 34 receiving less than £100,000.

### Science is more than a sausage machine, says former BIS insider

The UK may be undervaluing the full range of benefits of funding a strong science base by focusing on the "sausage machine" that produces spinout companies, says a former government official. Speaking at University College London, Graeme Reid, who recently left his post as director of research funding at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, argued that the reasons to do science were much more than this simple metric.

### New life for Millport

Millport Marine Biological Research Station, off the west coast of Scotland, has relaunched with backing from the Scottish government, charities and local councils. The station was threatened with closure in 2012, when the University of London withdrew its funding. With a £4-million investment, the centre will be redeveloped and refurbished over the next 5 years.

### NIHR to reward champions of clinical research

Submissions are open until 20 June for an award scheme to recognise NHS trusts that have helped embed research into clinical practice. The competition, sponsored by the National Institute for Health Research, is being held in collaboration with the *Health Service Journal*. Entries should highlight an impact on clinical research in the past 12 months.

### Public to choose topic for £10m Longitude prize

A public vote will run until 25 June to decide which of six topics should be the focus of the £10-million Longitude prize. Voters can choose between the challenges of restoring movement to those with paralysis; flying without damaging the environment; helping people with dementia live independently for longer; ensuring everyone has nutritious food; preventing the rise of resistance to antibiotics; and ensuring everyone has access to clean water (*see View, page 23*).

### HEFCW plans flat cash for research

Most categories of research income from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales will remain unchanged in 2014-15, the council reported on 22 May. Total QR research income will remain at £71m, as will funding for the *Sêr Cymru*, or Welsh stars, initiative. Overall research funding will fall from £78.8m in 2013-14 to £78.5m in 2014-15, because of cuts to the budget for contributions to research initiatives including the Research Excellence Framework.

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## letters

### On the case of equality

Your editorial *Where is Sally?* [RF 14/5/14, p2] challenged government, parliament and campaign groups on why they have argued against linking research grants to the achievement of Athena SWAN awards.

You suggest that this is probably because those involved think that diver-

sity is being achieved or that sanctions are not the answer.

The reality is more mundane. Athena SWAN awards are for science departments. But research council grants are to individuals and stretch across disciplines, departments and universities.

The Campaign for Science and Engineering and many others are seeking

carrots and sticks that will work to achieve equality, and we have set out the ideas of those in the field in our report *Improving Diversity in STEM*.

**Naomi Weir**  
Assistant director  
Campaign for Science and Engineering

## news

# Royal Institution considers asset sale to stay solvent

The Royal Institution is considering whether to sell some of its assets to reduce its debts and operating deficit, *Research Fortnight* has learned.

The Mayfair-based science communication charity has been struggling with multimillion-pound debts for several years. Late last year, its board of trustees decided to work alone on saving the institution after rejecting a rescue mission from the Royal Society.

Some of the RI's plans for reducing the outstanding debt and operating deficit were released to members at the annual general meeting on 19 May. Ideas include selling assets in order to pay off a loan and moving some admin staff into smaller offices in the Grade I-listed building to free up space for commercial tenants and charitable activities.

The RI said in a statement that it was yet to decide whether an asset sale would go ahead or which assets it would sell. It has ruled out selling its building at 21 Albemarle Street in London. The charity's accounts for the year to September 2013 list heritage assets valued at over £5 million, including scientific apparatus and instruments valued at £1m as well as printed works, archives and images.

Michael Faraday's induction ring, the first-ever electric transformer, is among the items. "Opinions will be sharply divided on what should be sold," says one member who attended the AGM. The RI may also close its

by Adam Smith

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high-end bar and kitchen, where a portion of fish and chips costs £13. The venues were developed in 2008 as part of a major refurbishment that put the institution into financial hardship.

The charity paid off one loan last year thanks to a £4.4m donation from a European foundation, according to its accounts, but a loan of £2m remains and is due for repayment in June 2015. The organisation's deficit stands at £400,000 a year.

In recent months, the RI has been sharpening its online presence in its bid to become an international science communication venue. A spokeswoman said that the RI's membership had risen by 48 per cent in the past 18 months to an all-time high of 4,500, and that "engagement" with its YouTube channel had grown by 500 per cent. The charity is also preparing to announce a five-year deal with a partner that will bring £500,000 into the RI Masterclasses programme, which involves scientists and engineers running interactive educational sessions with schoolchildren.

However, a group of sceptical scientists is planning to demand better and more detailed plans. "There's no substance to the RI's plans," said one scientist who did not want to be named. "They've clearly been written by a well-oiled spin doctor."

## Food security needs diverse approach

Biologists and engineers must work with economists and policy researchers to achieve the agricultural advances needed to tackle threats to food security, the annual conference of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers heard this week.

Karl Ritz, professor of soil biology at Cranfield University, where the conference was held on 21 May, told *Research Fortnight* that more multidisciplinary effort was needed. He also says that the research councils could always do more to fund cross-disciplinary work.

Anne Miller, director of the Knowledge Transfer Network for environmental sustainability, told the meeting that the Technology Strategy Board had six collaborative R&D calls coming up in the area of agricultural technology. "Agriculture is high on the agenda for [the government] and the TSB," she said.

Ritz and the other speakers said radical change was needed in agriculture so that enough food could be produced for the global population while the impact

by Helen Lock

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of food production on the environment was reduced. The UK government's global food security champion Tim Benton said that public policy should "engender a respect for food" to tackle the problem of people in the UK throwing away 20 per cent of their food and overeating by 20 per cent. "Simply growing more food is not always the answer," he said.

Benton also said that engineering technology must be used more effectively to gather data on land and help farmers analyse the best spaces to get high yields. Benton's own research, he said, uses remote sensing to map vegetation in Yorkshire.

In a separate development, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council announced on 23 May that a £10-million joint fund had been set up with the Natural Environment Research Council, intended to help answer big questions in sustainable agriculture.

# UCL policy centre promises practical approach and 'friendly competition'

University College London's science policy department plans to be more applied than some of its competitors and work to understand and improve the practices of policy-making rather than criticise them.

Jason Blackstock, acting head of the science, engineering, technology and public policy department, told *Research Fortnight* that although he wanted to build connections with groups such as the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex, he expected "friendly competition" in some areas.

"We'll focus on policy challenges and problems and experiment with how to bring together scientists, policymakers and practitioners," he says, on the question of how his department will stand out from other science policy centres. "It's a very applied approach—as opposed to studying that interface."

The department, which will receive about £3 million each year from UCL for its first three years, as well as £3.5m from external funders for specific research programmes, will help UCL to challenge the established science policy departments at the Universities of Sussex and Manchester.

Blackstock adds that the department's location in central London will allow it access international

by Rebecca Hill

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researchers and policymakers, with another aim being to work with emerging economies that have an interest in improving their science advisory systems.

The department has been operational for nine months and has more than 30 staff members. Its research agenda includes understanding leadership in cities, carrying out longitudinal studies on energy, comparing the effectiveness of scientific advisory bodies, and science policy issues such as badger culls and renewable energy.

"We're also going to collect perspectives from scientists, scientific advisers and policymakers about where the skills gaps are," Blackstock says. "That will give us a better understanding of where miscommunications are and what training the next generation of scientists, policymakers and knowledge brokers need."

Part of the aim is to find ways for researchers to connect what they do; everyone has allocated time for departmental research. "The idea is not to steer individual projects, but to link them together," says Blackstock.

Meanwhile, the department is also on a recruitment drive as its programme of masters degrees in public administration starts in September.

## Is science advice inherently politicised?

Science and facts cannot be separated from policy-making and researchers' values always affect their work, a conference at the University of Nottingham heard last week.

The Circling the Square conference, organised by the university's Science, Technology and Society Research Priority Group, was held from 20 to 22 May.

Its aim was to question how to align research, politics, media and impact, but recurring themes were the divide between natural and social scientists and differences of opinion about how scientific evidence is interpreted in policy-making.

Speaking on the first day, Sheila Jasanoff, professor of science and technology studies at Harvard University, and Chris Tyler, director of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, argued that scientific advice was an inherently politicised process.

"The idea that you can separate facts and policy is complete nonsense," Tyler said. "Yes, there are some cases where we think it's more X than Y, but the vast majority of science advice is not taking place in black and white."

However some audience members took umbrage at this idea. "My concern is this idea that all data is tainted and you can never disentangle scientific evidence from

by Rebecca Hill at Circling the Square in Nottingham

the values of that person. If so, that's deeply unsettling," said Philip Moriarty, a physicist at Nottingham.

Later, Tim Johnson, who studies the mathematics of finance at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, argued that providing scientific advice was "not about producing facts but about justifying the statements" that would influence policy.

Others argued that the government must ensure science remains independent of political influences. "Not only is the Haldane principle something you stick to, you have to demonstrate you're sticking to it with evidence," said Brian Collins, director of the centre for engineering policy at UCL. He added that he would like the research and higher education funding councils' definitions of impact to be better aligned, saying he was "optimistic" that this could happen as part of the government's longer-term science and innovation strategy.

Meanwhile, Jason Blackstock, acting head of University College London's science policy centre, called for the impact agenda to be redefined ahead of the next Research Excellence Framework, suggesting that it should shift its focus from economic growth to societal good.

## analysis

# What future for Foresight?

It may be respected around the world, but the UK government's Foresight programme lacks policy influence at home. **Rebecca Hill** gathers views on whether a move to the Cabinet Office is what it needs to win friends in high places.

The UK's Foresight programme, run from the Government Office for Science, is, according to Peter Gluckman, chief scientific adviser to New Zealand's prime minister, "one of the best, if not the best, in the world". And yet *Government Horizon Scanning*, a recent report from the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, says Foresight has had relatively little demonstrable or lasting impact on policy in the UK.

The MPs' solution is to move Foresight closer to the establishment by relocating the whole of GO Science from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to the Cabinet Office. But some experts contacted by *Research Fortnight* say they are not entirely convinced.

"My take on it is that it was really important for GO Science to link with the director-general of knowledge and innovation [at BIS]," says John Beddington, who stepped down after 5 years as government chief scientific adviser in April 2013. "That contiguity helped a lot and it outweighed the idea that the government CSA should be in the Cabinet Office."

Robert May, government CSA from 1995 to 2000, says: "The notion that being in the Cabinet Office means being more at the centre of things is a bit of a delusion. The important thing is that the CSA has good staff and is aware of the game-playing in the civil service."

Luke Georghiou, professor of science and technology policy and management at the University of Manchester, says a move in the near future is unlikely. "With the dynamics of the coalition, the structures are frozen at the moment. Post-election, though, who knows? Sometimes decisions are taken to create a bigger job

for a minister, without the consequences being fully thought through." But he says the fact that Foresight survived cuts at BIS "shows it is good and valued".

While those at the sharp end of policy-making praise Foresight for the quality of its work, some academics claim that policy-makers have unrealistic expectations and do not fully grasp the complexity of futures research. Such studies involve gathering statistical data on the trends of

change and horizon scanning for weak signals of change that may be significant in 10 or 20 years.

Chris Hankin, director of the Institute for Security Science and Technology at Imperial College London, led the expert group on Foresight's *Future Identities* report. He says it "takes quite a long time for [such] thinking to feed in, in an identifiable way, to policy". Indeed, GO Science recently decided not to evaluate the impact of his report, which was published in January 2013, for another 1 or 2 years.

"You have to keep observing the weak signals to see if they will emerge into strong trends—it can't be a one-time collection," adds Wendy Schultz, a futures researcher who was involved in the pilot project that became the Foresight programme's horizon-scanning database. "The concerning thing is that the notion that it has to be ongoing didn't really embed itself in Foresight's horizon-scanning centre."

The rapid turnover of civil servants involved in the programmes could also be an issue. "What distresses me is not so much that it's been done badly—some of it has been done brilliantly—but the wasted opportunities," Schultz says. "There isn't a coherent approach, and that's partly because people are learning on the job."

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Office launched its own horizon-scanning programme last year, and although the MPs were critical of its lack of transparency and failure to involve external academics, it is not yet clear what relationship the two programmes will have.

A Cabinet Office spokesman said its horizon-scanning team had been "brought together" with the GO Science team last month to "combine their strengths, expertise and networks". He would not be drawn on whether this amounted to an agreement to hold regular meetings or a potential merger of foresight and horizon-scanning activities.

*Research Fortnight* understands that the government CSA Mark Walport is taking the MPs' report seriously and that there may be plans to mix things up. Asked about Walport's plans, a GO Science spokeswoman says there are "no plans to review or change the role of Foresight". *More to say? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com*

'The wasted opportunities and the lack of a coherent approach are distressing.'

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## focus points

Issue no. 435

### MOD Le TacCis assessment

The Ministry of Defence invites tenders for the provision of systems house support for Le TacCis Morpheus programme assessment phase one. The budget is worth up to £20 million [12].

### TSB chemicals

The Technology Strategy Board invites applications for a call on substitutes and additives to prevent chemicals to cause harm. Projects are worth up to £60,000 [23].

### NERC fellowships 1

The Natural Environmental Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council invite applications for their valuing nature programme discipline-hopping fellowships. The total budget is £900,000 [29].

### EPSRC projects

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council invites proposals for its collaborative computational projects. Up to £2 million is available [35.1].

### BBSRC diet and health

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council invites applications for the DRINC initiative. The budget is worth approximately £3 million [48].

## deadlines

Opportunities from previous issues of *Research Fortnight*, listed by closing date. European Commission and associated funders marked **EU**.

Each entry is followed by a Web id

### June

- 5 Agency for International Development emerging pandemic threats programme 2, PREDICT-2 1179215  
American Heart Association excellence in clinical practice award 1178159  
American Heart Association Katherine A Lembright award 1178200  
American Heart Association scientific sessions awards 1178180  
EPSRC assistive, adaptive and rehabilitative technologies sandpit 1179060  
ESRC centres and large grants 1178954  
**EU** Horizon 2020: Societal Challenges H2020-EE-2014 energy efficiency – market uptake 1176430  
MOD innate response targets for therapy 1178604  
Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study fellowships 1160080  
Water Research Foundation integrating high-efficiency standards, building codes, and technology into demand forecasting 1178815
- 6 British Society for Haematology early-stage investigator start-up fellowship 1158508  
**EU** Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion information and training measures for workers' organisations 1161995  
**EU** Directorate-General for Research and Innovation support services for exploitation of research results 1178938  
Henry Moore Foundation conferences, lectures and publications grants 1157850  
Henry Moore Foundation small research grants 1174482  
Japanese government MEXT post-graduate scholarships 201089  
Novo Nordisk Foundation interdisciplinary synergy programme 1178970  
ScotGov Transport Scotland A90/A96 Haudagain improvement – preliminary ground investigation works 1179461
- 9 British Council researcher links workshops 1178508  
EPSRC/Japan Science and Technology Agency civil nuclear research programme 1179358  
JRF action research on maximising the local impact of anchor institutions in the Leeds city region 1179239  
Royal Historical Society Martin Lynn scholarship 205708
- 10 Agency for International Development emerging pandemic threats programme 2, preparedness 1179315  
Ataxia UK awards 204659  
Novo Nordisk Foundation challenge programme 1178878  
Royal Society/India Department of Science and Technology India-UK scientific seminars 1178553  
Department of Defense peer-reviewed cancer research programme: career development award 1167540  
Department of Defense peer-reviewed cancer research programme: idea award with special focus 1173791
- 11 Agency for International Development EPT-2, One Health Workforce 1179335  
American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists graduate student research award in analysis and pharmaceutical quality 195706  
American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists graduate student research award in drug discovery and development interface 195711  
American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists graduate student research awards in pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, drug metabolism, clinical pharmacology and translation research 195717  
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control guidance, data collection and scientific advice on tick-borne diseases 1179402  
JRF evidence review on locality and community resilience to climate change 1179305  
TSB enhancing the value of interactions with digital content 1179241  
TSB innovation in location-based services 1179178  
TSB/BBSRC/Defra/Scottish Government crop and livestock disease challenges 1179411  
Wellcome seeding drug discovery 253953
- 12 Department of Defense prostate cancer research programme idea development award 181018

US Department of Defense prostate cancer research programme: synergistic idea development award 181840

Wellcome/Department of Biotechnology India Alliance early-career fellowships for researchers in India 1163313

- 13 Aquaexcel transnational access 1172088  
**EU** Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion improving expertise in the field of industrial relations 1178874  
**EU** European Food Safety Authority testing a procedure for the identification of emerging chemical risks in the food chain 1178908  
General Medical Council medical revalidation 1178986  
Mental Health Research UK/Schizophrenia Research Fund PhD scholarship 1162590  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Japan international award for young agricultural researchers 1173245  
Public Health Agency enabling research awards 1176632  
Public Health Agency personal and public involvement 1177877  
Royal College of Radiologists Kodak radiology fund scholarship 211449  
Samsung Advanced Institute of Technology functional materials – novel hard coating materials on optical substrate 1179048  
Samsung Advanced Institute of Technology new display – visible or near infrared active light modulation 1178851  
Samsung Advanced Institute of Technology big data and network – data processing algorithm for large-scale data visualisation 1178965
- 15 Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics Dirac medal 254891  
European Society of Cardiology travel grants for ESC congress 1157973  
FDA data concepts and terminology standards for clinical research and drug development (U24) 1179283  
Muscular Dystrophy Association development grants 211079  
Muscular Dystrophy Association research grants 211078  
Royal Institute of Philosophy bursaries 251919  
Royal Institute of Philosophy Jacobsen studentships 251918  
Society for the History of Technology travel grants 200404  
Tel Aviv University Raymond and Beverly Sackler international prize in biophysics 1166634
- 16 EMBL international PhD programme 257408  
EPSRC conventional power generation 1179313  
**EU** European Oncology Nursing Society clinical travel grants 1157919  
**EU** European Oncology Nursing Society research travel grants 1172256  
European University Institute postgraduate research grants on European public finances 1162258

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## uk highlights

New opportunities from UK-based funders.

### Charitable grants

The Allen Lane Foundation invites applications for its grants. These support general charitable causes across the UK with a focus on asylum seekers and refugees, homosexual and transgender people, migrant workers, offenders and ex-offenders, elderly and people experiencing mental health issues or abuse. Single grants or multiple grants for up to three years will be awarded, worth up to £15,000 each.

**Web id:** 1179474

**Contact:** Gill Aconley

**Email:** info@allenlane.org.uk

**No deadline** [1]

### Biochemistry skills

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine invites applications for the CP Stewart memorial fund. This enables scientists to visit laboratories within the UK or overseas in order to learn specialised techniques, or to gain firsthand knowledge in a field that would assist them in their studies. Award amounts are determined on a case by case basis.

**Web id:** 1179617

**No deadline** [2]

### Travel grants

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine invites applications for its education travel grants. These enable individuals to attend scientific meetings and specialist training courses relevant to their discipline but are not intended to fund basic training. Grants of up to £300 will be awarded.

**Web id:** 1179619

**No deadline** [3]

### Conference scholarship

The Association for German Studies in Great Britain and Ireland invites applications for its postgraduate conference scholarship. This covers conference fees of postgraduate students who are unable to secure funding for attendance from other sources.

**Web id:** 1179347

**Email:** matthew.philpotts@manchester.ac.uk

**No deadline** [4]

### Genetics meetings

The Genetics Society invites applications for its new sectional interest group grants. These support genetics research communities who wish to run regular series of meetings. Grants may support speaker travel, accommodation, publicity or any other direct meetings costs.

**Web id:** 1179467

**Email:** theteam@genetics.org.uk

**No deadline** [5]

### Metallurgy travel grants

The Worshipful Company of Armourers and Brasiers invites applications for its travel grants. These support PhD students attending conferences and industrial placements. Grants vary in amount.

**Web id:** 1179592

**Email:** charities@armourershall.co.uk

**No deadline** [6]

### ScotGov seal investigations

The Scottish Government invites tenders for investigations into the interactions between harbour seals and vessels in the Inner Moray Firth. These aim to provide information on the movement patterns of harbour seals in the Moray Firth region in order to understand how seals respond to vessel activity associated with marine and port developments.

**Web id:** 1179723

**Deadline:** 12 June 2014 [7]

### Education systems

The Department for International Development (DFID) invites tenders for a programme directorate for the effective education systems research programme. The tenderer will manage and deliver a research agenda that aims to understand how to improve learning in developing countries. The research is expected to take place in up to five focus countries over eight years.

**Web id:** 1179727

**Contact:** Fiona Morrison

**Email:** f-morrison@dfid.ov.uk

**Deadline:** 16 June 2014 [8]

### Healthcare improvement

The Health Foundation invites applications for its scaling up improvement programme. This supports projects that address an identified problem or potential problem in health, or in health and social care. Applications from primary, secondary and tertiary care are welcomed, or across boundaries, with the exception of individuals and sole traders. Funding of up to £500,000 is available for seven projects for up to two years.

**Web id:** 1179629

**Email:** scalingup@health.org.uk

**Deadline:** 16 June 2014 [9]

### Defra UK beef industry

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs invites tenders for a project on improving the sustainability and competitive position of the UK beef industry through selective breeding. This aims to promote sustainable intensification, recommend raising yields, increase the efficiency with which inputs are used and reduce the negative environmental effects of food production. The estimated value of the contract is between £1 million and £1.5m for three years.

**Web id:** 1179486

**Email:** caroline.pereira@defra.gsi.gov.uk

**Deadline:** 17 June 2014 [10]

### Pilot training review

The Civil Aviation Authority invites tenders for a pilot training review. The tenderer will initiate a short review of recent training studies, activities and potential improvements in pilot training in order to inform policy on taking the matter forward internationally. The aim is to improve safety for UK pilots and citizens. The review should be completed within nine months of commencement.

**Web id:** 1179688

**Email:** clive.gilbert@caa.co.uk

**Deadline:** 18 June 2014 [11]

### MOD Le TacCis assessment

The Ministry of Defence invites tenders for the provision of systems house support for Le TacCis Morpheus programme assessment phase one. The tenderer will

explore the scope for delivering efficiency and effectiveness benefits through improved programme coherence, systems engineering, exploitation of impending technology shifts and optimisation of the supplier base in order to enable better command and control of Le TacCis. Estimated funding of between £10 million and £20m is available for projects lasting for up to 12 months.

**Web id:** 1179600

**Contact:** Ian Bourne

**Email:** issbatcis-comrcl-morpheus-group@mod.uk

**Deadline:** 23 June 2014 [12]

### Demining research

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, in collaboration with Find A Better Way, invites proposals for funding on novel ways of detection for humanitarian demining. Proposals should focus on developing tools and technologies capable of being deployed in the field to assist humanitarian demining operations. FABW will provide up to £1 million for this call.

**Web id:** 1179605

**Contact:** Jenny Atkinson

**Email:** office@findabetterway.org.uk

**Deadline:** 25 June 2014 [13]

### TSB projects

The Technology Strategy Board invites applications for the following calls:

- R&D project creating UK capability in low-carbon automotive technologies, with total eligible project costs worth up to £40m.

**Web id:** 1179496

- digital health in a connected hospital competition, worth up to £1m per project.

**Web id:** 1179671

**Email:** support@innovateuk.org

**Deadline:** 25 June 2014 [15]

### MoD information processing

The Ministry of Defence's Centre for Defence Enterprise invites proposals for its call on information processing and sensemaking. This seeks solutions to the challenges arising from future intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance environment. The budget is £600,000.

**Web id:** 1179314

**Email:** cde@dstl.gov.uk

**Deadline:** 26 June 2014 [16]

### NERC/TSB awards

The Natural Environment Research Council and Technology Strategy Board invite applications for the algal bioenergy special interest group SPARK awards. These aim to encourage new collaborations between the research community and small to medium-sized enterprises based in the UK. It is expected that six grants of £5,000 plus any applicable VAT will be funded.

**Web id:** 1179608

**Email:** competitions@biosciencektn.com

**Deadline:** 26 June 2014 [17]

### Urology research

The Urology Foundation invites applications for its smaller research projects fund. This seeks to improve services, treatments and communications with patients and carers. Nurse-led or clinician-led patient projects are eligible. The maximum grant is £10,000.

**Web id:** 1179538

**Contact:** Louise de Winter

**Email:** ldewinter@theurologyfoundation.org

**Deadline:** 30 June 2014 [18]

### Thyroid research

The British Thyroid Foundation invites applications for its nurse award. This is intended to improve care for patients with thyroid disorders. Two awards, worth £500 and £1,000, are available.

**Web id:** 1175728

**Email:** nurse-award@btf-thyroid.org

**Deadline:** 1 July 2014 [19]

### Rheumatology

The Royal College of Physicians invites applications for its John Glyn bursaries in rheumatology. These support travel and other costs associated with a visit to another centre in the UK or abroad, for the purpose of learning new clinical or research techniques relevant to rheumatology, and to bring these back to the initial UK centre. Bursaries are worth up to £2,000 for a period of one month.

**Web id:** 1179657

**Email:** trustfunds@rcplondon.ac.uk

**Deadline:** 1 July 2014 [20]

### Nursing history

The Royal College of Nursing invites applications for the Monica Baly bursary. This supports activities related to the history of nursing, including courses, projects, research, and attendance at either nursing history conferences or study days to present a paper. The award is worth between £300 and £1,000.

**Web id:** 1175107

**Deadline:** 2 July 2014 [21]

### ScotGov schools survey

The Scottish Government invites tenders for its Scottish schools adolescent lifestyle and substance use survey 2015. This aims to sample Scottish secondary school pupils and collect data on aspects of health and lifestyle including smoking, drinking and drug use. The estimated value of the contract is between £20,000 and £25,000, and the project is expected to commence on 1 September 2014 and finish by 31 October 2016.

**Web id:** 1179604

**Deadline:** 9 July 2014 [22]

### TSB substitutes and additives

The Technology Strategy Board, in collaboration with the Home Office and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, invites applications for its call on substitutes and additives to prevent chemicals being used in the illicit manufacture of explosives or to cause harm. This aims to identify substitutes or additives to potentially harmful chemicals and make them nonviable for dangerous or illegal purposes without obstructing their legitimate uses. Up to £500,000 will be spent on phase 1 proof-of-concept projects, each with a nominal maximum value of £60,000.

**Web id:** 1179666

**Email:** support@innovateuk.org

**Deadline:** 16 July 2014 [23]

### Postgraduate bursaries

Queen Margaret University invites applications for the Carnegie-Cameron taught postgraduate bursaries. These support students who are planning to commence their PhD degree. Candidates must be

## Research Fortnight

ISSN 1358-1198

Published every two weeks with breaks at Christmas, Easter and in the summer. The next edition will be published on 11 June.

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Scottish by birth or second generation,  
or have been continuously resident in  
Scotland for a period of at least three  
years. Three bursaries, worth £4,000  
each, are available.

**Web id:** 1179685

**Email:** admissions@gmu.ac.uk

**Deadline:** 25 July 2014 [24]

### FSA food research

The Food Standards Agency invites tenders for its call on food and you analysis and reporting. The tenderer will analyse data and report findings from food and you research waves three to five.

**Web id:** 1179573

**Email:** fsa.procurement@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

**Deadline:** 30 July 2014 [25]

### Scientific scholarships

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine invites applications for its scientific scholarships. These provide financial support to young scientists who are new to the profession and who are undertaking research related to clinical biochemistry and laboratory medicine. Scholarships are worth between £2,000 and £5,000.

**Web id:** 1179621

**Deadline:** 1 August 2014 [26]

### NIHR public health

The Department of Health's National Institute for Health Research, under its public health research programme, invites applications for the following calls:

- researcher-led workstream - community pharmacy: harnessing the potential for health and healthcare.

**Web id:** 1179576

- domestic violence and abuse.

**Web id:** 1179684

**Email:** info@phr.ac.uk

**Deadline:** 4 August 2014 [28]

### NERC fellowships 1

The Natural Environmental Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council invite applications for their valuing nature programme discipline-hopping fellowships. These enable early-career environmental researchers to develop social science and economic expertise and early-career social scientists to gain natural science expertise, in relation to the goals of the valuing nature programme. The total budget for this call is £900,000 and fellowships will be funded at 80 per cent of full economic costs for up to 36 months.

**Web id:** 1179341

**Contact:** Sarah Keynes

**Email:** valuingnature@nerc.ac.uk

**Deadline:** 14 August 2014 [29]

### Marine sciences travel

The Challenger Society for Marine Science invites applications for its travel awards. These aim to assist postgraduate students to attend scientific conferences or participate in cruises and field work in UK and overseas. Awards of £200 will be granted for UK travel and awards of £500 for international travel. The total budget is approximately £1,700.

**Web id:** 1179569

**Contact:** Bee Berx

**Email:** b.berx@marlab.ac.uk

**Deadline:** 15 August 2014 [30]

### NIHR health technology

The Department of Health's National Institute for Health Research invites proposals for its health technology assessment programme researcher-led workstream - domestic violence and abuse. This supports research evaluating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of health technologies or interventions within domestic violence and abuse.

**Web id:** 1179686

**Email:** htacet@soton.ac.uk

**Deadline:** 8 September 2014 [31]

### BBSRC/NERC agriculture

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Natural Environment Research Council invite proposals for the research grants from their sustainable agriculture research and innovation club. These support research projects that address the challenge of resilient and robust crop and livestock production systems and fall within the remit of both BBSRC and NERC. The total budget of £3.5 million will fund projects at 80 per cent full economic cost. Work should be completed within a five-year period.

**Web id:** 1179785

**Email:** evangelia.kougioumoutzi@bbsrc.ac.uk

**Deadline:** 11 September 2014 [31.1]

### European studies events

The University Association for Contemporary European Studies invites applications for its small event grants. These enable members of the association to organise conferences or workshops that address contemporary European studies. Grants of up to £1,000 are available.

**Web id:** 1175707

**Deadline:** 12 September 2014 [32]

### Support for expeditions

The Mount Everest Foundation invites applications for its support for expeditions. This encourages expeditions that explore mountain regions with educational and research purposes in mind, and that relate to a wide range of areas including geography, glaciology and the effects of altitude. Proposals must focus on research. The Alison Chadwick memorial grant is also available for an all-female expedition or a female member of an expedition team.

**Web id:** 1179483

**Email:** glynhughes@waitrose.com

**Deadline:** 30 September 2014 [33]

### NERC fellowships 2

The Natural Environment Research Council invites applications for its independent research fellowships in the priority area of bioinformatics to deliver part of the mathematics and informatics for environmental omic data synthesis research programme. These aim to develop scientific leadership among the most promising early-career environmental scientists, by giving them five years' support for developing their research programmes, and to establish international recognition. There are no funding limits, but no equipment costing more than £10,000 including VAT can be requested.

**Web id:** 1179554

**Contact:** Tracey Timms-Wilson

**Email:** tmt@ceh.ac.uk

**Deadline:** 1 October 2014 [34]

### Statistical theory prize

The Royal Statistical Society invites nominations for its research prize. This aims to recognise an outstanding published contribution to statistical theory or application. Candidates must be within eight years of their first degree and be fellows of the society. The prize amount is £500.

**Web id:** 1179595

**Email:** honours@rss.org.uk

**Deadline:** 1 October 2014 [35]

### EPSRC computational projects

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council invites proposals for its collaborative computational projects. Funding enables major UK groups in a field of computational research to tackle large-scale scientific software development projects, maintenance, distribution, training and user support. A total budget of up to £2 million is available for networking, widening participation and core support activities. In addition, 15 FTEs per year of technical computational support are available.

**Web id:** 1179782

**Deadline:** 7 October 2014 [35.1]

### Otology fellowship

The TWJ Foundation invites applications for its fellowship. This enables candidates to achieve otological training in a university overseas. The fellowship is expected to last six months to one year.

**Web id:** 1179597

**Contact:** Lidija Ivnik

**Email:** secretary@twjfoundation.org

**Deadline:** 29 October 2014 [36]

### Latin American essay prize

The Society for Latin American Studies invites applications for the Harold Blakemore prize. This recognises a post-graduate student for an essay in Latin American studies. The prize is worth £600.

**Web id:** 1179718

**Contact:** Sarah Bowskill

**Email:** s.bowskill@qub.ac.uk

**Deadline:** 28 February 2015 [37]

uk  
other

Renewed opportunities from funders based in the UK.

### Catholic history bursaries

The Catholic Record Society invites applications for the Andrew C Duncan Catholic History Trust bursaries. These enable students from outside the UK to come to Britain for a short time to study aspects of the history of the Catholic Church in Great Britain since the Reformation. UK-based students wishing to consult relevant continental European archives are also eligible to apply. Awards are usually in the region of £500.

**Web id:** 1158356

**Contact:** Alexandra Walsham

**Email:** amw23@cam.ac.uk

**No deadline** [38]

### Mathematics grants

The Institute of Mathematics and its Applications invites applications for its small grant scheme. This aims to facilitate research activity in all areas of applicable mathematics. Research grants are worth up to £600. Applicants who wish to

organise a conference with a mathematical theme may apply for grants of up to £1,200. The annual budget is currently £12,000.

**Web id:** 254709  
**Email:** post@ima.org.uk  
**No deadline** [39]

### General practice grant

The Royal College of General Practitioners invites applications for its practitioners allowance grant. This supports projects with direct relevance to the care of patients in the general practice setting. The grant is worth up to £1,000.

**Web id:** 257266  
**Email:** sfb@rcgp.org.uk  
**No deadline** [40]

### BBSRC young entrepreneurs

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, under its Innovation and Skills Group, and the University of Nottingham, under the Haydn Green Institute, invite applications for their biotechnology young entrepreneurs scheme. This supports commercialisation of biotechnology research among postgraduate students and postdoctoral scientists. Teams will develop a business plan for a company based on a hypothetical but plausible idea based on real markets over the course of a three-day workshop. The winning team will receive £2,500 plus a trip to the US and an invite to the UK Bioindustry Association's gala dinner.

**Web id:** 1162612  
**Email:** lynne.guppy@bbsrc.ac.uk  
**Deadline:** 13 June 2014 [41]

### Chest, heart and stroke

Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke invites proposals for its scientific research grants. These support research in the areas of chest, heart and stroke illness. Only direct costs of research will be covered by the grants.

**Web id:** 184400  
**Contact:** Frances Campbell  
**Email:** fcampbell@nichs.org.uk  
**Deadline:** 30 June 2014 [42]

### Regional studies awards

The Regional Studies Association invites nominations for the following awards:

- the Nathaniel Lichfield award, worth up to £700. **Web id:** 251992
- the Routledge RSA award for early-career excellence, worth £500.

**Web id:** 251994  
**Email:** benoit.sauvage@regionalstudies.org  
**Deadline:** 30 June 2014 [44]

### General practice research

The Royal College of General Practitioners invites applications for its scientific foundation board grants. These support research relevant to the care of patients in the general practice setting. Grants are worth up to £20,000 each.

**Web id:** 211485  
**Email:** sfb@rcgp.org.uk  
**Deadline:** 30 June 2014 [45]

### Infection prevention grant

The Infection Prevention Society invites applications for its collaborative small projects grant. This is given to a team of up to five researchers to undertake a piece of research focusing on any aspect of infection prevention and control. The

grant is worth £5,000 for one year.

**Web id:** 1169090  
**Contact:** Lynne Duncan  
**Email:** pa@ips.uk.net  
**Deadline:** 4 July 2014 [46]

### RAEng fellowships

The Royal Academy of Engineering invites applications for its distinguished visiting fellowship scheme. This enables an academic engineering department in a UK university to host a distinguished visiting fellow from an overseas academic centre of excellence for up to one month. Funding for each fellow will not exceed £6,000.

**Web id:** 260314  
**Email:** international@raeng.org.uk  
**Deadline:** 7 July 2014 [47]

### BBSRC diet and health

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, together with the Medical Research Council, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council, invites applications for its diet and health research industry club. This supports UK universities and research institutes with innovative basic research that addresses the theme of improving the understanding of the relationship between diet and health. A budget of approximately £3 million will support a portfolio of projects at 80 per cent full economic cost.

**Web id:** 1173506  
**Email:** jennifer.postles@bbsrc.ac.uk  
**Deadline:** 9 July 2014 [48]

### NIHR innovations

The National Institute for Health Research invites applications for the i4i invention for innovation product development awards. These support translational R&D projects aimed at cultivating new techniques or technologies into innovative interventions addressing existing or emerging healthcare needs. Up to 80 per cent of full economic costing will be paid to academic or higher education institutions. Commercial organisations, research and technology organisations, charities and NHS organisations and other providers of NHS services will be paid up to 100 per cent of their project costs.

**Web id:** 1161176  
**Email:** i4i.programme@nihr-ccf.org.uk  
**Deadline:** 9 July 2014 [49]

### Prostate cancer awards

Prostate Cancer UK invites applications for the following awards:

- pilot awards, worth up to £50,000 each over two years. **Web id:** 1160885
- project grants. Applicants requesting more than £400,000 should contact the research team well in advance of the deadline. **Web id:** 257547

**Email:** research@prostatecanceruk.org  
**Deadline:** 9 July 2014 [51]

### British and Irish history

The Marc Fitch Fund invites applications for its grants for individuals and organisations in the UK and Ireland. These provide funding towards the costs of publishing scholarly work in the fields of British and Irish national, regional and local history, archaeology, antiquarian studies, historical geography, the history of art and architecture, heraldry, genealogy and surname studies, archival research, artefact conservation and the broad fields

of the heritage, conservation and the historic environment.

**Web id:** 251045  
**Contact:** Christopher Catling  
**Email:** mail2014@marcfitchfund.org.uk  
**Deadline:** 1 August 2014 [52]

### Agriculture studentships

The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board invites applications for its PhD studentships. These support postgraduate students who are engaged in research projects relevant to the agriculture and horticulture sectors. Awards are worth up to £22,626 per year.

**Web id:** 1174459  
**Email:** studentships@ahdb.org.uk  
**Deadline:** 29 August 2014 [53]

### Spinal cord research

The Wings for Life Spinal Cord Research Foundation invites applications for the following grants:

- individual research grants, covering the applicant's salary. **Web id:** 195013
- project research grants, covering the costs of personnel, equipment and consumables. **Web id:** 257417

**Email:** rosi.lederer@wingsforlife.com  
**Deadline:** 1 September 2014 [55]

### TSB biotechnology

The Technology Strategy Board, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council invite applications for the industrial research awards of their industrial biotechnology catalyst scheme. These support projects that are beyond the proof-of-concept stage, build on recent discoveries to develop new technologies or processes for industrial biotechnology, and that establish that there is a reasonable certainty that the process could be run commercially. Projects may be worth up to £5 million. Up to 50 per cent of costs may be funded for large businesses and up to 60 per cent for SMEs. The eligible costs of research organisations must not exceed 50 per cent of total costs. Projects should last up to three years.

**Web id:** 1177308  
**Email:** competitions@innovateuk.org  
**Deadline:** 3 September 2014 [56]

### Collections research

The Museums Association invites applications to the Esmée Fairbairn collections fund. This supports time-limited collections work that falls outside the scope of an organisation's core resources. Grants are worth between £20,000 and £100,000 for projects lasting up to three years.

**Web id:** 1163760  
**Contact:** Charlotte Holmes  
**Email:** charlotte@museumsassociation.org  
**Deadline:** 12 September 2014 [57]

### Surgery grants

The Royal College of Surgeons of England invites applications for the following awards:

- the Ethicon Foundation Fund short-term clinical visits, worth up to £400. **Web id:** 1166550
- the Ethicon Foundation Fund travel grants, worth up to £1,000.

**Web id:** 254604  
**Email:** lslater@rcseng.ac.uk  
**Deadline:** 15 September 2014 [59]

### Educational research

The Society for Educational Studies invites applications for its small grants. These aim to stimulate research in education, particularly by those who are starting their research careers and are no more than five years postdoctoral. Grants are worth up to £10,000 for one year.

**Web id:** 147085  
**Contact:** Aidan Thompson  
**Email:** a.p.thompson@bham.ac.uk  
**Deadline:** 15 September 2014 [60]

### Churchill fellowships

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust invites applications for its travelling fellowships. These enable British citizens to travel overseas to bring back knowledge and best practice for the benefit of others in their UK professions and communities. Grants usually support a stay of between four and eight weeks and cover travel, daily living costs and insurance.

**Web id:** 203898  
**Email:** office@wcmf.org.uk  
**Deadline:** 23 September 2014 [61]

### NERC fellowships 3

The Natural Environment Research Council invites applications for its independent research fellowships. These develop scientific leadership among early-career environmental scientists by giving them five years' support for developing their research. There are no funding limits, but no equipment costing more than £10,000 including VAT can be requested.

**Web id:** 210628  
**Email:** fellowships@nerc.ac.uk  
**Deadline:** 1 October 2014 [62]

### Hellenic studies

The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies invites applications for its small grants. These assist projects and events in the field of Hellenic studies, with awards typically available for bursary schemes for academic conferences, productions of Greek drama, Hellenic events, the development of school courses in Greek, the purchase of books and other teaching materials, or summer schools. Grants usually range from £100 to £500.

**Web id:** 1170149  
**Email:** office@hellenicsociety.org.uk  
**Deadline:** 1 October 2014 [63]

### Blindness prevention

The British Council for Prevention of Blindness invites applications for the following awards:

- fellowships, worth up to £63,333 per year for up to three years.

**Web id:** 1164815  
• research grants, worth up to £60,000 each. **Web id:** 1164797  
**Email:** info@bcpb.org  
**Deadline:** 10 October 2014 [65]

### Architecture grants

The Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain invites applications for the following grants:

- publication grants, worth up to £500, or in exceptional circumstances worth up to £1,000. **Web id:** 252609
- research grants, worth up to £500, or in exceptional circumstances worth up to £1,000. **Web id:** 1179479

**Contact:** Jonathan Kewley  
**Email:** honsecretary@sahgb.org.uk  
**Deadline:** 15 October 2014 [67]

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Project Manager**  
**£36,000-£40,000**  
**plus bonus and benefits**  
 Imperial College London  
 Consultants  
 Closing date: 11:59pm,  
 05/06/2014  
 Details: We are looking to recruit a Project Manager to join our expanding Project management team to assist the Director of Business Operations and the Head of Project Management to undertake project management activities both within the College and externally, and also to identify opportunities and secure business for consultancy and testing services for the College and its external collaborators.  
 Contact: Angela Fanning  
 Email: a.fanning@imperial.ac.uk

**Head of External Relations**  
**£46,400-£58,320**  
 University of Southampton  
 Closing date: 07/06/2014  
 Details: Research and Innovation Services has recently realigned its core activities creating this new and exciting position of Head of External Relations. You will lead a team of very dynamic and innovative individuals focused on building and maintaining relationships between the University's research and enterprise activities and stakeholders.  
 Contact: Don Spalinger, for an informal discussion  
 Email: d.spalinger@soton.ac.uk  
 Tel: 023 8059 2392

**Head of Research**  
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**£33,000 pro rata**  
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 Closing date: 5pm, 18/06/2014  
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 Contact: Please visit [www.sarcoma.org.uk/WorkForUs](http://www.sarcoma.org.uk/WorkForUs)

## Physicists trapped at top and bottom of university system

**Physicists who start their careers in low-ranked research institutions rarely make it to the top, research suggests.**

A study of the authors of more than 400,000 papers published in 11 physics journals has found that movement between two distinct groups of physicists—those in the world's elite universities and those in lower-ranked institutions—is rare.

"There is a clear distinction between these two kinds of university that means it's very difficult to move from one to the other," says **Pierre Deville**, one of the authors of *Career on the Move: Geography, stratification, and scientific impact*, published in *Scientific Reports* in April. "If you are between the two, you have about the same chance of going into the top or the bottom group."

Deville is a PhD candidate at Belgium's Catholic University of Louvain and a research scholar at Northeastern University in the United States. The work was conducted under the supervision of Albert-László Barabási, director of the centre.

The paper makes novel observations about the perceived quality of the research produced by physicists in the two groups. Deville and colleagues discovered that citation numbers decrease for physicists who move from the elite group to the bottom group. One reason could be that such academics lose the visibility provided by a high-profile university, says Deville. In contrast, physicists who move from the bottom to the top group experience no significant gain in citations.

by Adam Smith [asnews@ResearchResearch.com](mailto:asnews@ResearchResearch.com)

The findings are based on a total of 425,369 papers by 237,038 physicists and from 4,052 institutions. The data were channelled through software that disambiguated author and institution names. Authors with multiple affiliations were counted as working at the institution listed first on the paper.

Deville says the work could inspire at least one policy recommendation: to encourage more exchange programmes between institutions. Deville himself benefited from such an arrangement after transferring from Louvain to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the final year of his masters degree. "It was a huge change for me," he says. "I met a lot of people and this is when I made the connection with this lab. Were it not for this kind of exchange, I wouldn't be here."

Deville says that although there have been some papers on the mobility of scientists between countries, these are often based on small data sets and not linked to the issue of success.

The group is looking at success in different areas, including sports and film. For science, says Deville, the team is working on a data set of 50 million papers across many disciplines including computer science, medicine and biology. A paper by the group about where the success of particular scientists comes from in relation to mobility is under review.

## Future departments should work on diversity from day one

**Ensuring gender balance in a university department can be easy if you are starting from scratch, says Michael Luck, head of the school of natural and mathematical sciences at King's College London.**

Luck is overseeing the creation of a chemistry department in his school. He says that a blank slate makes it possible to avoid the cultural and structural barriers to building a diverse workforce.

"In many cases, the actions people take on diversity are to address existing problems and to change things, and the most difficult aspect is changing a culture that has become embedded," he says. "We have an opportunity with the chemistry department because it's new. We're making sure that the way we go about building this department is one in which we're not changing practices but doing things right from the start."

The previous chemistry department at King's, in the school of biomedical sciences, closed in 2003 because of declining student numbers and reduced funding at a time when several other chemistry departments around the country were also closing. Construction of the new department began in

by Adam Smith [asnews@ResearchResearch.com](mailto:asnews@ResearchResearch.com)

2012 and seven of its 12 researchers and teaching fellows are women. Paula Booth, a professor of physical biochemistry at the University of Bristol, will arrive in September as head of department.

Mechanisms that help to promote equality at the department include: ensuring meetings are held during core hours, good practice around maternity and paternity leave, targeting women in recruitment and not using language that defaults to using masculine terms.

Luck says many staff are junior enough to not have witnessed potentially discriminatory institutional practices yet. "They're able to develop the right culture and environment themselves," he says.

Staff on interview panels will be trained on unconscious bias. Luck admits that the Harvard Implicit Association Test, part of that training, showed that he had a small gender bias. "It was interesting," he says, "because I am now conscious of that issue. This training can tell you something about everyone, including yourself."

## EARMA Conference 2014: Widening Participation: excellence, impact and professionalism



The 20th Annual Conference of the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA) will take place from 30th June until 2nd July 2014 in Tallinn University, Estonia. The EARMA conference marks the start of Horizon2020 and will focus on the new challenges ahead in the context of a new approach, new compliance issues, international collaborations and the need for research and innovation management to foster professional development for all stakeholders.

EARMA 2014 is being hosted by Tallinn University in their new, purpose built conference venue at the heart of their city centre campus. Tallinn itself is an intriguing city with a very long and interesting history. Making its appearance in 1013 Tallinn is a Hanseatic City, built on the Gulf of Finland, with the crisp and noble atmosphere of a Nordic capital. We cordially invite you and all delegates to this outstanding event and we look forward to meeting you in Tallinn.

Early Bird registration is open now until **April 30th, 2014** at: <http://earma-tallinn-2014.com/registration/>

EARMA is twenty years old this year and to celebrate we are making a number of special travel bursaries available to EARMA members who want to participate in Tallinn. For full details please see the 'Grants and Funding' Page on the EARMA website. Specifically, there is an anniversary scheme which is a celebration of our 20 years but there is also the Widening Participation Travel Bursary to encourage people from just about everywhere to come to Tallinn.

<http://www.earma.org/GrantsFunding>

# Excellence in Practice

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**CONTACT** Mrs Gaby Erkens - E-G-G administration, c/o Grünenthal GmbH,  
e-mail: [admin@e-g-g.info](mailto:admin@e-g-g.info), phone: +49 241 569-1304



**Meningitis Now  
(formerly Meningitis Trust  
and Meningitis UK):  
Research Grant Awards 2014**

Applications are invited for grant aid from established research groups in the UK. The purpose of these awards is to support studies with the ultimate aim of **preventing all forms of meningitis and associated disease in the UK** (including meningococcal, pneumococcal and group B streptococcal infections).

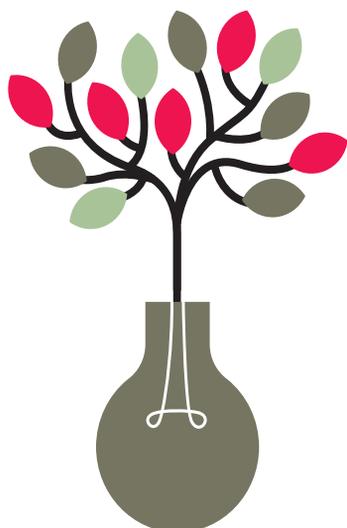
Funding for grants up to a maximum of **£100,000 per year, with the total grant not exceeding £250,000 over three years** will be available for prevention-focused research studies, including vaccine-related research. Applications submitted elsewhere will be considered.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website:

<http://www.meningitisnow.org/how-we-help/research/our-meningitis-research-grants/>

Applications should be submitted by **17 August 2014** to: [janeb@meningitisnow.org](mailto:janeb@meningitisnow.org)

For further information, contact Jane Blewitt, Research, Information and Education Manager on 01453 768000  
or email: [janeb@meningitisnow.org](mailto:janeb@meningitisnow.org)



## COULD YOU BE A LEADER IN IMPROVEMENT SCIENCE?

The Health Foundation's  
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programme is open for application.

**Up to five senior post-doctoral  
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Applicants must demonstrate significant leadership skills and research or improvement in practice experience, with a PhD or MD.

**Deadline for application:**  
12 noon Tuesday 1 July 2014

**For more information visit:**  
[www.health.org.uk/isf](http://www.health.org.uk/isf)

We particularly welcome applications from those in clinical practice who wish to combine part-time clinical work with academic leadership of an original research project in improvement in healthcare.



**Learning from the past; preparing for the future**  
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The ARMA Conference in 2014 reflects on what we have learned from past experiences and how we can apply new knowledge to future practise and processes, the Conference offers:

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## Cultural history

The Warburg Institute at the University of London invites applications for its short-term fellowships. These are tenable for two, three or four months in the academic year 2015-2016, and enable fellows to conduct research into cultural and intellectual history. Fellowships are worth £2,500 for two months, £3,600 for three months and £4,800 for four months. **Web id: 208513**

**Email:** catherine.charlton@sas.ac.uk  
**Deadline: 28 November 2014** [68]

## Toxicology travel

The British Toxicology Society invites applications for the Norman Aldridge travelling fellowship. This enables a UK scientist to advance their research in toxicology by visiting key laboratories within or outside the UK. One award, worth up to £500, is available. **Web id: 205256**

**Email:** secretariat@thebts.org  
**Deadline: 30 November 2014** [69]

## Zoology award

The Zoological Society of London invites nominations for the Thomas Henry Huxley award and Marsh prize. This is awarded for original work in zoology by a UK-based postgraduate research student. The prize is worth £1,000. **Web id: 202537**

**Email:** linda.davolls@zsl.org  
**Deadline: 30 November 2014** [70]

## TSB biotechnology

The Technology Strategy Board, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Councils invite applications for the following industrial biotechnology catalyst projects:

- late-stage experimental development. Projects may range in size up to £10 million. **Web id: 1177322**
- early-stage feasibility studies round two. Projects are expected to range in size up to £10m. **Web id: 1177323**
- early-stage translation studies call. Total project costs should be between £2m and £5m. **Web id: 1177316**
- late-stage pre-experimental feasibility studies call. Projects may range in size up to £1m. **Web id: 1177321**

**Email:** competitions@innovateuk.org  
**Deadline: 3 December 2014** [74]

## UK-Japan medical research

The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation invites applications for the Butterfield awards. These facilitate exploratory exchanges and collaborations between qualified professionals in Japan and the UK, as well as investigation of scientific, clinical, social and economic aspects of medicine in which Japanese and British scientists, practitioners and policy makers may learn from each other. Awards are worth up to £5,000 per year over a maximum period of three years. **Web id: 208775**

**Email:** gbsf@gbsf.org.uk  
**Deadline: 15 December 2014** [75]

## Medical fellowship

The Royal College of Physicians offers its Lewis Thomas Gibbon Jenkins of Briton Ferry fellowship to support medical research within Wales, relating to any

aspect of physical diseases prevalent in Wales. The fellowship covers salary and associated costs for up to two years, together with a contribution, where appropriate, to laboratory expenses. **Web id: 168654**

**Email:** clare.rudall@rcplondon.ac.uk  
**Deadline: 27 February 2015** [76]

## Vernacular architecture

The Vernacular Architecture Group invites applications for its grants. These support the study and presentation of vernacular architecture. Grants will be made in the range of £500 to £2,000. **Web id: 254993**

**Email:** lee.prosser@hrp.org.uk  
**Deadline: 28 February 2015** [77]

## Byzantine studies

The Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies invites applications for its conference travel grants. These enable postgraduate students to attend conferences and exhibitions abroad. Priority will be given to students who have had papers accepted for delivery at the conference. **Web id: 1170863**

**Contact:** Ruth Macrides  
**Email:** r.j.macrides@bham.ac.uk  
**Deadline: 1 March 2015** [78]

## Medical fellowships

The Foulkes Foundation invites applications for its fellowships. These enable postdoctoral scientists to study medicine to become future research leaders. Fellowships cover personal maintenance for up to three years. **Web id: 201993**

**Deadline: 15 March 2015** [79]

## Clinical pharmacology

The British Pharmacological Society invites nominations for the Lilly prize. This is awarded biennially for distinction in clinical pharmacology over many years. The prize includes £2,000. **Web id: 159900**

**Contact:** Paul Tizard  
**Email:** pt@bps.ac.uk  
**Deadline: 1 June 2015** [80]

## europa highlights

New opportunities from European funders, excluding funders based in the UK.

## EU energy policy

The Directorate-General for Energy invites tenders for the smart cities and communities information system. The tenderer will provide the following services: gathering, management and analysis of the data from all demonstration projects managed by DG Energy or the executive agencies; provision of interdisciplinary scientific expertise relating to EU energy and climate change policies; dissemination of results. The contract is worth up to €3.5 million (£2.8m). **Web id: 1179515**

**Contact:** Sven Dammann  
**Email:** ener.scis@ec.europa.eu  
**Deadline: 16 June 2014** [81]

## EU European rail research

The Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport invites tenders for its study on user-friendly access to information about

last-mile infrastructure for rail freight. The tender aims to identify and analyse market needs for information about last-mile infrastructure for rail freight in Europe. The total budget for the contract is €750,000 (£608,300) over 15 months. **Web id: 1179615**

**Contact:** Gerhard Troche  
**Email:** move-b2-secretariat@ec.europa.eu  
**Deadline: 16 June 2014** [82]

## Nursing travel grants

The European Society of Cardiology's Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions invites applications for its travel grants. These enable members of the council to attend the congress in Stavanger, Norway, running from 4 to 5 April 2014. Each award is worth €500 (£400). **Web id: 1175669**

**Deadline: 16 June 2014** [83]

## EU defence data

The European Defence Agency invites tenders for its defence industry data figures project. The tenderer will update defence industry data on the top five companies in each EDA member state and associated country ranked according to defence sales. The tenderer will also update figures on the top 10 companies in each DID taxonomy sector in the same countries and are expected to include total sales, turnover and direct employment in the defence sector. Funding is worth €40,000 (£32,400) over six months. **Web id: 1179526**

**Email:** procurement@eda.europa.eu  
**Deadline: 24 June 2014** [84]

## EU monetary policy

The European Parliament invites tenders for the provision of external expertise in the field of monetary and economic affairs. The tenderer will support the work of the European Parliament's Committee of Economic and Monetary Affairs, mainly in the form of briefings, oral presentations and associated services. A maximum of 10 separate and individual framework service contracts will be issued. Each contract is worth €200,000 (£162,200) for 12 months and may be renewed up to four times to a total of €1 million. **Web id: 1179701**

**Email:** therese.lepoutre-dumoulin@europarl.europa.eu  
**Deadline: 26 June 2014** [85]

## EU listeria assessment

The European Food Safety Authority invites tenders for a risk assessment on listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat foods. The aim of the contract is to provide EFSA with a quantitative risk characterisation of listeria monocytogenes in various ready-to-eat food categories in the EU with focus on the retail stage. The maximum available budget is €85,000 (£68,900) over 18 months. **Web id: 1179520**

**Contact:** Rita De Bon  
**Email:** rasa.procurement@efsa.europa.eu  
**Deadline: 27 June 2014** [86]

## EU nature policy research

The Directorate-General for the Environment invites tenders for its evaluation study to support the fitness check of the birds and habitats directives. The overall aim of the contract is to assist the European Commission in the preparation of

a fitness check of EU nature legislation. The contract is worth up to €600,000 (£486,500) over 15 months. **Web id: 1179693**

**Email:** env-tenders@ec.europa.eu  
**Deadline: 30 June 2014** [87]

## Radiation award

The Multidisciplinary European Low Dose Initiative invites applications for its MELODI award. This recognises young researchers active in the field of low dose ionising radiation. Normally one award of €4,000 (£3,200) is given each year. Part of the award is expected to fund the winner's participation in the annual MELODI workshop. **Web id: 1179628**

**Email:** melodi.secretariat@sckcen.be  
**Deadline: 30 June 2014** [88]

## EU emissions trading system

The Directorate-General for Climate Action invites tenders for an assessment of the first years of the functioning of the new allocation system based on benchmarks. This assessment aims to document the impact of the benchmark-based harmonised allocation system on European industry. The contract is estimated to be worth up to €350,000 (£283,800). **Web id: 1179726**

**Email:** clima-tenders@ec.europa.eu  
**Deadline: 1 July 2014** [89]

## EU invasive alien species

The Directorate-General for the Environment invites tenders for its invasive alien species — prioritising prevention efforts through horizon scanning. This study aims to devise the necessary methodological framework to be able to select potential invasive alien species in order to screen for major future threats to EU and to prioritise future risk assessments on the worst potential invasive alien species. The contract is estimated to be worth up to €100,000 (£81,100) over nine months. **Web id: 1179728**

**Email:** env-tenders@ec.europa.eu  
**Deadline: 1 July 2014** [90]

## EU social policy innovation

The Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion invites proposals for social policy innovations supporting reforms in social services. This project aims to foster innovation and reforms in the social services to tackle challenges and develop innovative responses corresponding to national, regional and local realities and in line with the social investment approach. Grants are worth up to €2 million (£1.6m). Proposals may request up to 80 per cent of eligible costs. **Web id: 1179695**

**Email:** empl-vp-2014-008@ec.europa.eu  
**Deadline: 30 July 2014** [91]

## EU dietary research

The European Food Safety Authority invites tenders for its national dietary surveys. These aim to either adapt or develop the methodology to be used in these surveys according to the EFSA EU menu methodology. Each contract is worth up to €125,000 (£101,200). **Web id: 1179634**

**Contact:** Krisztina Nagy  
**Email:** rasa.procurement@efsa.europa.eu  
**Deadline: 25 August 2014** [92]

## Mathematical physics award

The International Association of Mathematical Physics invites nominations for its early career award. This recognises a single achievement in mathematical physics. The prize is worth €3,000 (£2,400).

**Web id:** 196798

**Contact:** Manfred Salmhofer

**Email:** secretary@iamp.org

**Deadline:** 31 January 2015 [93]

## europa other

Renewed opportunities from European funders, excluding funders based in the UK.

### Research in Germany

The German Research Foundation invites applications for the Heisenberg programme. This provides young researchers who are qualified for a professorship with the opportunity to prepare for a leading position in science and research, and to use the time to work on an advanced research topic. There are both professorships and fellowships available in the programme.

**Web id:** 208228

**Email:** paul.heuermann@dfg.de

**No deadline** [94]

### Cancer fellowship

Institut Curie invites applications for its postdoctoral fellowship for foreign scientists. This is aimed at young foreign postdoctoral researchers who are interested in pursuing their research in one of the research centre laboratories. The grant is determined according to the applicant's age and experience and is available for a period of one year.

**Web id:** 181798

**No deadline** [95]

### Skin research award

Chanel Research and Technology invites applications for the CHANEL-CERIES research award. This honours the accomplishments of a researcher in dermatology and encourages their continued work. The award is worth €40,000 (£32,400).

**Web id:** 212822

**Email:** rt.award@chanel-corp.com

**Deadline:** 16 June 2014 [96]

### Nuclear medicine awards

The European Association of Nuclear Medicine invites applications from junior and ordinary members for the Eckert and Ziegler abstract awards. These encourage young and talented nuclear medicine investigators to present abstracts at the annual EANM congress. Up to five grants, worth €1,000 (£800) each, are awarded every year.

**Web id:** 197325

**Email:** office@eanm.org

**Deadline:** 16 June 2014 [97]

### Molecular biology

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory invites applications for its international PhD programme. This supports thesis supervision, a predoctoral course in molecular biology, or the opportunity to study for the EMBL international PhD. Funding lasts for three and a half to four years. The stipends are competitive by international standards and include broad healthcare benefits and pension.

**Web id:** 257408

**Contact:** Meriam Bezohra

**Email:** predocs@embl.de

**Deadline:** 16 June 2014 [98]

### British-German exchange

The British Chamber of Commerce in Germany Foundation invites applications for its scholarships. These provide supplementary financial support to students undertaking master's courses in the UK or Germany.

**Web id:** 184710

**Email:** foundation@bccg.de

**Deadline:** 30 June 2014 [99]

### Chemoreception grants

The European Chemoreception Research Organisation invites applications for its bilateral AChemS meeting grants. These enable young members of the organisation to attend the AChemS annual meeting. Preference will be given to students presenting abstracts. Two grants, worth €1,000 (£800) each, are available every year.

**Web id:** 259900

**Email:** didier.trotier@inaf.cnrs-gif.fr

**Deadline:** 30 June 2014 [100]

### EU disease analysis

The European Food Safety Authority invites tenders for the implementation and testing of electronic submission in XML formats of zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreak data and updating historical datasets. This tender aims to test and implement electronic submission of zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreak data. The budget for this call is €400,000 (£324,400) over two years.

**Web id:** 1172435

**Contact:** Krisztina Nagy

**Email:** rasa.procurement@efsa.europa.eu

**Deadline:** 30 June 2014 [101]

### Biotech SME award

The European Association for Bioindustries invites applications for its most innovative biotech SME award. This recognises European biotech SMEs that have developed novel ways of meeting our societal, technical and environmental problems through the application of biotechnology. All candidates will receive two year's free membership of EuropaBio and the overall winner will receive a prize of €10,000 (£8,100).

**Web id:** 1162702

**Contact:** Rosalind Travers

**Email:** r.travers@europabio.org

**Deadline:** 1 July 2014 [102]

### Social sciences fellowships

The Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften invites applications for its research fellowships. These support postdoctoral scholars early in their careers, wishing to carry out projects that combine empirical investigation with thoughtful theoretical work. Research fellowships will be granted for one academic semester and consist of a monthly allowance of up to €2,325 (£1,900), a workspace with electronic facilities at the IFK, as well as a return ticket to and from Vienna and free accommodation in a studio apartment.

**Web id:** 173462

**Email:** ifk@ifk.ac.at

**Deadline:** 1 July 2014 [103]

### EU industrial safety

ERA-Net SAFERA invites proposals for its joint call. This supports projects on innovating in safety and safe innovations in order to promote transnational research in this field and to develop solutions for sustainable growth and enhanced competitiveness of European industry. The total budget is approximately €2 million (£1.6m). The expected funding per project is typically in a range between €20,000 and €150,000 for a period between 12 and 36 months.

**Web id:** 1175826

**Email:** secretariat@safera.eu

**Deadline:** 10 July 2014 [104]

### Cardiovascular exchanges

The European Society of Cardiology invites applications for its first contact initiative grants. These facilitate exchanges between young scientists currently working or studying in European institutions and hosting laboratories in foreign countries within or outside Europe. Grants are worth up to €2,500 (£2,000).

**Web id:** 1161384

**Email:** councils@escardio.org

**Deadline:** 15 July 2014 [105]

### Migration fellowship

The Institute of Migration invites applications for its migration fellow programme. This aims to foster research and to promote professional development in the field of migration research, to advance international research connections and mobility among researchers, and to promote internationalisation of science. Funding covers travel and accommodation costs for short stays at the institute in Turku, Finland.

**Web id:** 1177868

**Email:** elli.heikkila@utu.fi

**Deadline:** 31 August 2014 [107]

### Curie fellowships

Institut Curie invites applications for its sabbatical fellowships. These enable senior researchers to spend time working at the Paris or Orsay laboratory of the institute. Fellows receive a monthly salary depending on their experience and return economy air travel.

**Web id:** 189235

**Deadline:** 1 September 2014 [108]

### Brain prize

The Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research Foundation invites nominations for its brain prize. This recognises one or more scientists who have made an outstanding contribution to European neuroscience. The research must have been conducted in Europe or in collaboration with European researchers. The prize is worth €1 million (£810,800).

**Web id:** 1159273

**Email:** info@thebrainprize.org

**Deadline:** 2 September 2014 [109]

### Research exchange

The Canon Foundation in Europe invites applications for its research fellowships. These enable highly qualified European researchers to pursue a period of research in Japan. Fellowships are worth up to €27,500 (£22,300) per year or pro rata over a period of three months to one year.

**Web id:** 206648

**Email:** foundation@canon-europe.com

**Deadline:** 15 September 2014 [110]

### EU clean energy technology

EUREKA's cluster Eurogia2020 invites applications for its funding call. This aims to foster multidisciplinary, innovative, R&D programmes to build and develop the future energy mix. Project participants can apply for funding in their respective countries after obtaining the EUREKA label.

**Web id:** 1161448

**Email:** contact@eurogia.com

**Deadline:** 19 September 2014 [111]

### Research in Turkey

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey invites applications for its brain circulation scheme, co-funded by Marie Curie actions. This aims to enhance career perspectives of experienced researchers and assist them in obtaining an independent research position. Awards include a living allowance, travel and mobility allowance and a research cost contribution.

**Web id:** 1173905

**Email:** bideb2236@tubitak.gov.tr

**Deadline:** 19 September 2014 [112]

### EU working conditions

The Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport invites tenders for a study on the implementation of labour supplying responsibilities pursuant to the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 within and outside the EU. This aims to provide an assessment on how the main labour EU and non-EU seafarers' supplying countries are complying with the requirements laid down in the Maritime Labour Convention 2006. The estimated total budget is €350,000 (£283,800) over 10 months.

**Web id:** 1173875

**Contact:** Giancarlo Crivellaro

**Email:** move-maritime-transport-and-safety@ec.europa.eu

**Deadline:** 25 September 2014 [113]

### Water resources prize

Stockholm International Water Institute invites nominations for the Stockholm water prize. This honours individuals, institutions or organisations whose work contributes broadly to the conservation and protection of water resources and to the improved health of the planet's inhabitants and ecosystems. The prize includes US\$150,000 (£88,900).

**Web id:** 203789

**Email:** jens.berggren@siwi.org

**Deadline:** 25 September 2014 [114]

### Informatics and mathematics

The European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics invites applications for the Alain Bensoussan fellowship programme. This enables young scientists to work on challenging problems at leading European centres outside their own country in the areas of computer systems and software, data management, information technology and mathematics. Each fellow will receive a monthly allowance of up to €3,550 (£2,900) and will be reimbursed for travel expenses.

**Web id:** 254572

**Email:** fp-info@ercim.eu

**Deadline:** 30 September 2014 [115]

### Animal welfare award

Ludwig-Maximilians University invites nominations for the Felix Wankel animal welfare research award. This recognises

scientific papers aimed at, or resulting in, the replacement or reduction of animal testing, fostering the idea of animal protection, ensuring the health and the appropriate housing of laboratory animals, pets and livestock, or supporting core research for the purpose of enhancing animal protection. The award is worth a maximum of €30,000 (£24,300) which may be divided among several prize winners.

**Web id:** 254682

**Email:** felix.wankel@tierhyg.uni-muenchen.de

**Deadline:** 30 September 2014 [116]

### Inflammatory bowel disease

The European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation invites applications for the following awards:

- research grants, worth €20,000 (£16,200) each. **Web id:** 192551

- inflammatory bowel diseases fellowship, worth €40,000 over one year. **Web id:** 194827

- the N-ECCO travel awards, worth €1,500 each. **Web id:** 1167906

- travel grants, worth €1,500 each.

**Web id:** 202384

**Contact:** Edouard Louis

**Email:** ecco@ecco-ibd.eu

**Deadline:** 1 October 2014 [120]

### Women in science award

The Federation of European Biochemical Societies, in collaboration with the European Molecular Biology Organization, invites nominations for the women in science award. This recognises a major contribution made by a female scientist to life sciences research in the last five years. The prize is worth €10,000 (£8,000).

**Web id:** 258283

**Email:** women@embo.org

**Deadline:** 15 October 2014 [121]

### Radiation oncology

The European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology invites applications for its mobility grants. These enable clinicians and scientists working in the field of radiation oncology to visit another institute to learn about or gain experience with different techniques and equipment. A maximum of €700 (£600) will be reimbursed for travel, accommodation and per diem costs. The annual budget is €50,000.

**Web id:** 1176823

**Email:** viviane.vanegten@estro.org

**Deadline:** 30 October 2014 [122]

### CERN doctoral programme

The European Organization for Nuclear Research invites applications for its doctoral student programme. This enables students preparing a doctoral thesis in applied physics, engineering or computing to spend up to 36 months at CERN. The programme provides a monthly living allowance, insurance and a lump sum.

**Web id:** 259952

**Deadline:** 31 October 2014 [123]

### Spinal cord injury

The International Institute for Research in Paraplegia invites applications for its research grants. These promote basic and clinical research related to spinal cord injury. Grants are worth up to CHF150,000 (£122,700) over a maximum of two years.

**Web id:** 194723

**Email:** research@irp.ch

**Deadline:** 31 October 2014 [124]

### Hepatology fellowships

The European Association for the Study of the Liver invites applications for the following awards:

- entry-level research fellowships, worth €30,000 (£24,300) each.

**Web id:** 196096

- the Dame Sheila Sherlock EASL fellowship programme, with grants worth €40,000 each. **Web id:** 196095

**Email:** fellowships@easloffice.eu

**Deadline:** 30 November 2014 [126]

### Biochemistry grants

The Federation of European Biochemical Societies invites applications for the following grants:

- advanced lecture courses grants, worth up to €25,000 (£20,300) each.

**Web id:** 1179476

- combined practical and lecture courses grants, worth up to €15,000 each.

**Web id:** 212970

- special meetings grants, worth up to €40,000 each. **Web id:** 259690

- workshop grants, worth up to €20,000 each. **Web id:** 212967

**Contact:** Kinga Nyíri

**Email:** knyiri@enzim.hu

**Deadline:** 1 March 2015 [130]

## rest of world

Opportunities from funders outside of the UK, Europe and the US.

### Research visits

The University of Sydney invites applications for its international research collaboration award. This enables researchers at any stage of their career to share and disseminate new and original ideas and techniques, initiate and undertake collaborative research, and facilitate interaction and training of staff and students at the University of Sydney. The award is worth up to AU\$15,500 (£8,500).

**Web id:** 1173677

**Email:** william.channing@sydney.edu.au

**Deadline:** 20 June 2014 [131]

### Australian fellowships

The Australian Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education invites applications for its Endeavour research fellowships. These support postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows wishing to undertake short-term research towards a non-Australian master's, PhD or postdoctoral research in any field of study in Australia. Awards are worth up to AU\$24,500 (£13,400) for up to six months.

**Web id:** 201459

**Email:** endeavour@education.gov.au

**Deadline:** 30 June 2014 [131.1]

### Canada fellowships

The Government of Canada invites applications for the Banting postdoctoral fellowships. These support postdoctoral applicants who will contribute to Canada's economic, social and research-based growth. Canadians may hold the awards in Canada or abroad; non-Canadian applicants must hold them at Canadian universities, affiliated research hospitals, colleges or non-profit organisations. Fellowships are worth CA\$70,000 (£38,000) per year for two years.

**Web id:** 1160792

**Email:** banting@researchnet-recherche.ca

**Deadline:** 24 September 2014 [132]

### Israel fellowships

The Lady Davis Fellowship Trust invites applications for its postdoctoral fellowships. These enable postdoctoral researchers to undertake research at the Technion Institute in Israel. Study areas include engineering, architecture and town planning, science and medicine. The monthly stipend is US\$1,250 (£700) with a housing allowance of US\$100 and a return airline ticket. The fellowship period is one year.

**Web id:** 192789

**Email:** kayellet@tx.technion.ac.il

**Deadline:** 30 November 2014 [132.1]

### Respiratory medicine

The Japanese Respiratory Society invites applications for the Harasawa fellowship. This aims to foster young researchers and specialised respiratory clinicians from countries other than Japan who wish to train in respiratory medicine in Japan. The maximum amount of funding is ¥1 million (£5,900), which consists of a stipend of ¥150,000 per month, plus ¥250,000.

**Web id:** 1166413

**Email:** info@jrs.or.jp

**Deadline:** 31 December 2014 [133]

### Chinese studies fellowships

The Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange invites applications for its dissertation and postdoctoral fellowships. The following fellowships are available: PhD dissertation fellowships, worth up to €12,000 (£9,700) for one year, support doctoral candidates; postdoctoral fellowships, worth up to €18,000 per year for up to two years, support junior scholars in Chinese studies.

**Web id:** 1164811

**Email:** cckf@ms1.hinet.net

**Deadline:** 15 January 2015 [134]

### Inflammatory bowel disease 2

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada invites applications for its innovations in inflammatory bowel disease research funding. This supports innovative projects that refine hypotheses or produce preliminary data that will help seed larger projects and have the potential to improve diagnosis, therapy and prevention of inflammatory bowel disease. Grants are worth up to CA\$50,000 (£27,200) for up to one year.

**Web id:** 1176131

**Email:** researchassistant@ccfc.ca

**Deadline:** 20 January 2015 [135]

### Marine ecology

The Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences invites applications for its grants-in-aid. These aim to help defray the costs of BIOS in-house charges. Grants are intended as starter funds to help with costs, such as laboratory fees, boat rental or similar, on projects that will lead to continued research at BIOS. Applicants should provide part of their funding from other sources. Grants are worth up to US\$3,000 (£1,800) each.

**Web id:** 186355

**Email:** gillian.hollis@bios.edu

**Deadline:** 15 February 2015 [136]

usa  
nih

Opportunities from the National Institutes of Health. Recurring NIH calls include the next closing date only.

NIH StrokeNet clinical trials and biomarker studies for stroke treatment, recovery and prevention (U01)

**NIH ref:** PAR-14-220

**Web id:** 1179611

**Deadline:** 15 July 2014 [137]

Confirmatory efficacy clinical trials of non-pharmacological interventions for mental disorders (R01)

**NIH ref:** RFA-MH-15-340

**Web id:** 1179609

**Deadline:** 30 July 2014 [138]

Exploratory studies of smoking cessation interventions for people with schizophrenia (R21/R33)

**NIH ref:** PAR-14-230

**Web id:** 1179704

**Deadline:** 15 August 2014 [139]

Exploratory studies of smoking cessation interventions for people with schizophrenia (R33)

**NIH ref:** PAR-14-231

**Web id:** 1179709

**Deadline:** 15 August 2014 [140]

B cell help immunology programme for Aids vaccine strategies (R01)

**NIH ref:** PA-14-216

**Web id:** 1179552

**Deadline:** 7 September 2014 [141]

Fc receptor and antibody effector function in HIV vaccine discovery (R01)

**NIH ref:** PA-14-218

**Web id:** 1179557

**Deadline:** 7 September 2014 [142]

HIV vaccine vector-host interactions: understanding the biology and immunology (R01)

**NIH ref:** PA-14-215

**Web id:** 1179581

**Deadline:** 7 September 2014 [143]

HIV vaccine vector-host interactions: understanding the biology and immunology (R21)

**NIH ref:** PA-14-214

**Web id:** 1179575

**Deadline:** 7 September 2014 [144]

Natural Killer cells to induce immunological memory to prevent HIV infection (R01)

**NIH ref:** PA-14-217

**Web id:** 1179555

**Deadline:** 7 September 2014 [145]

Clinical evaluation of adjuncts to opioid therapies for the treatment of chronic pain (R01) Aids-related

**NIH ref:** PAR-14-225

**Web id:** 1179642

**Deadline:** 7 September 2014 [146]

Sustained release for antiretroviral treatment or prevention of HIV infection (UM1)

**NIH ref:** RFA-AI-14-008

**Web id:** 1179606

**Deadline:** 18 November 2014 [148]

Diabetes impact award - closed loop technologies: clinical, physiological and behavioural approaches to improve type 1 diabetes outcomes (DP3)

**NIH ref:** RFA-DK-14-014

**Web id:** 1171114

**Deadline:** 24 November 2014 [149]

usa  
other

US funding opportunities available to UK researchers.

Zonta International Foundation Jane M Klausman women in business scholarship  
**Web id: 1179284**  
**No deadline** [153]

Department of Defense prostate cancer research programme idea development award  
**Web id: 181018**  
**Deadline: 12 June 2014** [154]

Department of Defense prostate cancer research programme: synergistic idea development award  
**Web id: 181840**  
**Deadline: 12 June 2014** [155]

Department of Defense prostate cancer research programme biomarker development award  
**Web id: 1166951**  
**Deadline: 18 June 2014** [156]

Department of Defense peer-reviewed medical research programme investigator-initiated research award  
**Web id: 1158210**  
**Deadline: 20 June 2014** [159]

Department of Defense peer-reviewed medical research programme clinical trial award  
**Web id: 1158211**  
**Deadline: 25 June 2014** [160]

Department of Defense peer-reviewed medical research programme: focused programme award  
**Web id: 1179482**  
**Deadline: 25 June 2014** [161]

Department of Defense peer-reviewed medical research programme technology and therapeutic development award  
**Web id: 1158212**  
**Deadline: 25 June 2014** [162]

Department of Defense peer-reviewed orthopaedic research programme clinical trial award  
**Web id: 255620**  
**Deadline: 27 June 2014** [163]

Department of Defense peer-reviewed orthopaedic research programme clinical trial development award  
**Web id: 1172262**  
**Deadline: 27 June 2014** [164]

Department of Defense peer-reviewed orthopaedic research programme idea development award  
**Web id: 255637**  
**Deadline: 27 June 2014** [165]

Department of Defense peer-reviewed orthopaedic research programme outcomes research award  
**Web id: 1179502**  
**Deadline: 27 June 2014** [166]

Department of Defense peer-reviewed orthopaedic research programme translational research award  
**Web id: 1172261**  
**Deadline: 27 June 2014** [167]

Association for Library and Information Science Education/Eugene Garfield doctoral dissertation competition  
**Web id: 213465**  
**Deadline: 30 June 2014** [168]

Food and Drug Administration development of an integrated mathematical model for comparative characterisation of complex molecules (U01)  
**Web id: 1179696**  
**Deadline: 30 June 2014** [169]

## policy diary

## June

3 AMRC APPG on Medical Research Summer Reception, London.  
<http://rsrch.co/1ftT3zK>

4 Free Workshop for SMEs on Government Support for R&D&I, Havant. <http://rsrch.co/RnTx1s>

- Future of UK and Scotland Debate, London.  
<http://rsrch.co/1o7LMsn>

- Surveys for Enhancement Conference, Birmingham.  
<http://rsrch.co/1nZnVxt>

9 AMRA Conference. Learning from the Past; Preparing for the Future, Blackpool. To 11.  
<http://rsrch.co/1k6nv4d>

- Researcher Futures. Establishing Yourself: Productivity and People, Chichester.  
<http://rsrch.co/1jZJFqr>

10 Driving Economic Growth through Innovation, Research and Development, London.  
<http://rsrch.co/1gf40Yi>

12 Gender and STEM: Where Next for Universities? London.  
<http://rsrch.co/1myjLs1>

- PraxisUnico Conference: Excellence in Practice, Cardiff. To 13.  
<http://rsrch.co/UMq8Z3>

- Missenden Centre: Special Workshop for Research Support Staff, Great Missenden. To 13.  
<http://rsrch.co/RmDsSn>

16 APPG on Medical Research's Summer Reception, London.  
<http://rsrch.co/1ftT3zK>

17 Royal Society Diversity Day, London.  
<http://rsrch.co/1j38FgS>

19 Royal Academy of Engineering Summer Soiree and Exhibition, Coventry.  
<http://rsrch.co/hFt04L>

20 Inaugural CPD Forum Conference - Professional Best Practice: Past, Present and Future, London.  
<http://rsrch.co/1ggJAOR>

- Science and Innovation Strategy Event, London.  
<http://rsrch.co/RPGaHD>

23 National Astronomy Meeting, Portsmouth. To 26.  
<http://rsrch.co/1k6m8lY>

24 Society of Biology Parliamentary Links Day, London.  
<http://rsrch.co/1hAKofC>

- Global Universities of the 21st Century, Liverpool To 26.  
<http://rsrch.co/1rm2vYe>

25 Developing Technology for Safe and Responsible Exploitation of Shale Gas. TSB Brokering Event, Manchester.  
<http://rsrch.co/1mOu2lV>

26 Masterclass for Women in Science with Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Glasgow.  
<http://rsrch.co/1nZrj0>

## Focus group wants more GM research on BBSRC menu

A focus group set up by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council to look at nutrition and health has called for more studies on GM food and the role of food in mental health. The 19-member panel agreed with the BBSRC's research priorities but identified these as areas that needed more attention, as well as the side effects of additives in food.

**First humanities festival awards project grants**

Researchers at 36 universities have won £3,000 to develop projects for the UK's first national humanities research festival. The festival, to be held from 15 to 24 November, aims to engage the public with humanities research, while highlighting its role in cultural, intellectual, political and social life. It will be led by the University of London's School of Advanced Study.

**Charity backs collaboration in asthma research**

Asthma UK has launched a research centre focused on translating research to help improve quality of life for people with asthma. The Asthma UK Centre for Applied Research, launched on 13 May, is a collaborative project between 13 academic and NHS institutions led by the University of Edinburgh and Queen Mary, University of London.

**AstraZeneca and MRC to fund preclinical research**

The pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca will contribute up to £6 million to preclinical research projects in a joint fund with the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology. The MRC laboratory, based at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus that AstraZeneca plans to move to, will contribute up to £3m to the fund.

**PraxisUnico unveils shortlist for impact awards**

A knowledge-exchange programme between the University of Wolverhampton and partners in Nigeria is among the finalists in the 2014 PraxisUnico Impact Awards. The aim of its scheme is to communicate and celebrate successes in knowledge transfer. The winners will be announced at the PraxisUnico conference on 12 June.

**BBSRC updates funding priorities**

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has revised its research priorities for responsive mode grants and identified four priority areas. These are combatting antimicrobial resistance; food, nutrition and health; reducing waste in the food chain; and sustainably enhancing agricultural production. Revisions have been made to some previously listed priorities, and some have been merged.

**Big data a potential spending priority for NERC**

The Natural Environment Research Council has called on scientists to respond to a government consultation on £1.1 billion of capital spending, indicating that big data, environmental services and innovation centres in water, soil, energy and environmental monitoring are all of particular interest.

# European roadmap for technology facilities needed, says lobby

Dedicated facilities for technology development need the same support as scientific infrastructure if Europe is to combat a decline in industrial R&D, the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations' annual conference was told.

At the event, held in Vienna on 8 and 9 May, participants called for the European Commission to design an equivalent of the Esfri—European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures—roadmap for technology facilities to set out investment priorities. Technology facilities should receive financing from Horizon 2020 and be open to researchers and industries from all member states, they said.

The Commission's failure to fund technology facilities as well as it does basic science infrastructure poses a significant problem, the conference was told. "How the budget is allocated demonstrates our intentions, and there I see a clear misalignment," says Iñaki San Sebastián, deputy managing director of Tecnalia, a technology centre in northern Spain. "The European science and technology system is not ready to reindustrialise Europe—we have to change a lot of things."

Industrial competitiveness is declining in many member states, the meeting heard. And because most R&D is supported by industry, Europe is at risk of losing its research base if industrial output declines. "Many peo-

by Laura Greenhalgh

lgnews@ResearchResearch.com

ple believe that we can survive from services and from R&D. But there won't be R&D if we don't have industry," says Axel Greiner, president of the Federation of Upper Austrian Industry.

In 2012, the Commission set out a strategy to bolster industry by focusing on five Key Enabling Technologies: photonics, nanotechnology, micro and nanoelectronics, advanced materials and biotechnology. These will receive €500 million (£405m) in the first two years of Horizon 2020, and the Commission will also fund proof-of-concept and demonstration projects.

But this may not be enough, participants said. The budget for Horizon 2020 is focused mostly on the European Research Council rather than industrial research, and technology platforms—which provide facilities for companies to conduct laboratory testing, prototyping and demonstrations—are struggling.

"Science organisations have an Esfri list because they're excellent lobbyists," says Gabriel Crean, vice-president for technology at CEA Tech in Grenoble, France. "Now we need the same for technology platforms." The list would identify the best facilities in Europe, which could then be funded by Horizon 2020, companies, national authorities and European Union structural funds.

## europe in brief

### Joined-up EU research information system proposed

The European Union should implement a Pan-European research information infrastructure to improve the development of policy in Europe, according to a study by the Technopolis consultancy. The study found that research information systems were being used more frequently, particularly at public institutions, and enabled more efficient management, monitoring and benchmarking of research-related activities and outputs.

### Commission issues state aid rules

The European Commission has adopted revised state aid rules to update its stance on the role of public research spending in distorting fair competition. To encourage spending on basic research, the threshold for aid awarded to R&D projects without Commission scrutiny has been doubled, from €20 million (£16m) to €40m. The threshold for industrial R&D has also been doubled, to €20m.

### Leru pleads for Swiss inclusion

The League of European Research Universities has urged negotiators to resume discussions on Switzerland's

association with Horizon 2020 as soon as possible. Leru said it regretted that the country had not yet become a full associate member of the programme because of disagreements over immigration issues. This will also have negative effects for researchers and students in European Union member states, Leru said.

### Universities propose ERA focus areas

The next European Commission and Parliament should focus on six priorities to help create the European Research Area, says a League of European Research Universities briefing paper. The topics are: anchoring the ERA in a strong international strategy; linking education, research and innovation; including the humanities and social sciences; understanding Science 2.0; promoting the enhancement of research integrity; and fostering effective science and society interactions.

### Embargo periods should go, say libraries

A group of six organisations headed by the Association of European Research Libraries has called on research funders to eliminate the use of embargo periods in open-access publishing. Embargo periods dilute the benefits of open-access policies, the group said.

# Obfuscation by collaboration

In the past 40 years, several trends in laboratory science have made the career experience of today's academic scientists very different from that of their predecessors. Laboratories have grown larger. Graduating PhD students have become less likely to move directly into a junior faculty position; instead, it is increasingly common to hold a succession of postdoctoral fellowships before securing a more stable position.

Many academic scientists exit to alternative careers without ever attaining a tenured faculty position. And recipients of large grants are getting older: the average age of grant recipients from the National Institutes of Health in the United States, for example, has increased by more than 10 years since 1980.

It is difficult to untangle the chain of causality in these trends—what is a cause and what is an effect?

In fact, all these changes may have been caused by the increasingly collaborative nature of science. The lone inventor is a thing of the past and team production has become the norm; one consequence has been that it is harder for young scientists to prove their worth.

Benjamin Jones, who studies management at Northwestern University in the US, argues that team production is a result of the cumulateness of science: to reach the knowledge frontier, you must now specialise in a narrow field and collaborate with other specialists. The growing number of names on papers in every field, including the social sciences and non-laboratory sciences, supports this idea.

Team production presents universities and funding agencies with a challenge. It may be possible to investigate how much time different authors have devoted to a paper, but it is nearly impossible to determine who had the different insights.

This means that universities and funding agencies have far less information about the true quality of junior scientists than they would if scientists worked more independently. The result of this uncertainty is that fewer junior scientists will be granted tenure-track positions or large grants. Senior scientists, on the other hand—the safe bet—will receive more funding and have larger laboratories as a consequence. Junior scientists will find that their prospects of joining the ranks of successful senior scientists are dim.

And who decides which junior scientists are promoted? Is it universities or is it funding agencies?

In many countries, postdoctoral fellows cannot apply for grants until they have secured a tenure-track position at a univer-

sity; this suggests that universities make the promotion decision. But universities can no longer afford to fund the research programme of an unsuccessful scientist, so they have to assess which scientists are likely to be successful with funding agencies.

Unfortunately, universities bear the risks of these decisions but cannot capitalise on the reward. If a university takes a chance on a young scientist who proves to be a star, the scientist is likely to move to greener pastures or extract their market value in salary and conditions.

Increased uncertainty about the quality of junior scientists may also lead to a reduction in the quality of entrants into science, as the prospects for a successful career become fainter. And it might mean that some young scientists never implement their best ideas as they lack the autonomy to pursue them.

Young scientists trying to generate a clear signal of their quality have an incentive to move from one laboratory to another, to produce quality research with several teams. Moving between laboratories can enhance productivity as young scientists encounter different people, skills and ideas, but it also has the potential to do the opposite: seriously harm productivity. Some of the skills developed in a previous laboratory will not be of use in a new laboratory, and some of the materials the scientist was working with will have to be left behind. There is some wastage of skills and knowledge in the process of moving between laboratories.

Another worrying possibility is positive feedback—where the larger laboratories necessitated by team production accelerate the use of teams in production. The benefits of division of labour might in themselves necessitate ever-larger teams in the laboratory, comprising ever-more specialised individuals.

Funding agencies, which aim to maximise the total output of science, may be better placed than universities to take risks on young scientists. Thus one policy suggestion could be for funding agencies to provide more early signals to indicate which researchers they find promising.

Team production is a profound structural change in science and its implications are still to be fully understood. Some of the consequences for the careers and achievements of scientists are very serious and may require a careful policy response.

*More to say? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com*

*Catherine de Fontenay is an economist at Melbourne Business School; Kwanghui Lim studies management and innovation at Melbourne Business School and the Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia.*

'Universities and funders have far less information now on the quality of junior scientists.'

# Failure to engage

The research councils work hard to encourage academics to open up to the public. They should practise what they preach, says **Alice Bell**.

On Thursday 6 February, I got a call from Greenpeace to say it had been tipped off that Shell would be signing a memorandum of understanding with the Natural Environment Research Council the next day. Greenpeace felt this warranted public debate and a report on its Energy Desk news site. I agreed, and hoped to write a post for *The Guardian's* science policy blog. First, though, we decided to give NERC time to issue its own statement.

But NERC kept delaying the statement's release. It suggested the news could go out at the weekend, but this wouldn't work for Greenpeace. We hoped to see it on Friday morning, then midday. At about 2pm, NERC offered me an interview with its head of science, Iain Gillespie, but only if I waited until 3.30pm. I wanted to hear his point of view, but this seemed like an effort to consign the story to the Friday evening news graveyard.

NERC issued a statement shortly after 2.30pm, containing very little information. The full memorandum of understanding was released several weeks later. Whether this was due to a freedom of information request is unclear, but it's almost beside the point. If your public engagement strategy induces such requests from Greenpeace, it's already failed.

This is only one example of many where trying to find out what's going on in science policy has proved laborious. This matters. Public engagement with research isn't just about the work researchers do. With more and more research being directed in some way, from doctoral training centres to references to research priorities in agreements such as that between NERC and Shell, it's crucial that the public can see decisions and even be involved in making them.

UK scientists are world leaders at public engagement, thanks in part to the research councils. But the councils are less successful at applying the idea to themselves.

They have taken some action. The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has led public dialogues on topics including bioenergy and synthetic biology, and recently set up a Bioscience for Society Strategy Panel. Research Councils UK has launched an online Gateway to Research to share funding information, and the results of a competition to visualise these data have just been announced. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council has been publishing similar information online for 15 years.

*Alice Bell is an ex-academic and freelance science policy writer and researcher.*

But panels and dialogues make for a small and controlled form of engagement, and using Gateway to Research requires a fair amount of inside knowledge. That the user case study on the site is of a professional employed by BAE Systems to explore collaborative programmes is, I fear, indicative of the audience that RCUK has in mind: limited, specialised and well funded, not society at large.

I believe the engagement and communications staff at the councils are willing and able to do more, if senior management supports them. If you take public engagement seriously, you need to give the staff who can facilitate it the power to stand up to managers who are scientists. Public engagement with science is about more than presenting a good impression; it's about facilitating robust debate.

Bringing transparency to research council decisions is not easy. Aspects of peer review are, by design, kept private and are hard for non-experts to understand. But more could be done to open up what's already accessible, and we could open up more of what's closed. Peer review is only a part of what the research councils do.

Research policy is detailed, complex and often boring. But so are high-energy physics, immunology and the sociology of social class; all of which researchers manage to discuss with the wider world. UK academics can no longer get away with claiming that the public isn't interested. Neither should their administrators.

At the very least, there should have been an embargoed press release about NERC's agreement with Shell early in the week. This would still, though, have been a rather old-school, protectionist model of media relations. A more enlightened approach—which the research councils are meant to be behind—would have been to talk publicly about the memorandum of understanding for months, offering interested parties a chance to comment.

When I spoke to Gillespie, he laughed off my suggestion that NERC should have consulted on the memorandum of understanding before signing it. But the text of the memo includes a line about agreeing to “influence academic behaviour” by articulating Shell's needs. Is that really the sort of deal the councils should be keeping quiet?

*Something to add? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com*

**‘Engagement isn't just about giving a good impression; it's about facilitating robust debate.’**

**view from the top**    marcus gibson

# Small shouldn't mean invisible

Last month, Madeleine Atkins, the chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, told the Association of University Administrators' conference that links between universities and small and medium-sized businesses "could be better".

She can say that again.

My company's Gibson Index database tracks the fortunes of 48,000 high-growth, mostly technology-led, UK small businesses. Some have good links with academic research, but the great majority have never received a call from a university.

Universities are not organised for that purpose, but the disconnect is still hugely disappointing. Pioneers at small businesses look askance at the trophy buildings going up on university campuses; funding for small-business support schemes are miserly by comparison. Universities often claim to be central to their regional economy when in fact an airport, a good road network, a solid further education institution or, in future, a university technical college may be more important.

It's no wonder UK students are avoiding masters courses. Relevance is everything—why not link an MSc course to a technical or commercial problem of a local small business, like an extended version of the Technology Strategy Board's Knowledge Transfer Partnerships?

Another problem is that the results of university research are of no use to most small businesses. The cost of integrating such innovation into the production line is often prohibitive—much to the surprise of the academics involved. About 90 per cent of the economy is low-tech or no tech. The biggest area of UK manufacturing, and the fastest growing, is food and drink.

Worse, the coalition's industrial strategy appears to small businesses to be just a job creation scheme for scientists. None of its efforts are focused on the real money-spinning industries and opportunities of the future. The tens of millions pumped into university research on graphene is highly unlikely to yield any reward to UK business; the Americans are already pushing ahead with stanene, a rival single-layer material.

Rather than focus on tough areas such as manufacturing and engineering, the government places its faith in IT's economic benefits—excessive faith, as the disasters in the NHS have shown. Ministers laud the digital-services industry in places such as east London's Tech City just as the last few manufacturing companies in inner London, such as Goss Electronics and Vitsø, leave the capital.

Meanwhile at St Pancras, the Francis Crick Institute, a new biotech centre, is taking shape at a cost of £500 million. What London doesn't need is yet another bio-centre. In 2003, my company campaigned for a building to be reserved to accommodate up to 1,000 start-ups, which the capital desperately needed. We lost.

Support and expansion of the UK's entrepreneurial base is vital if we are ever to rebalance the economy. The early 1990s was the golden age of the small hi-tech company in Britain. But after 1997, some 95 per cent of the UK's light manufacturing disappeared, blown away by a property boom and a flood of imports from Asia.

France, Italy and Germany did not permit Asian imports to destroy vital areas of manufacture such as consumer electronics, building products and toys—all of which once provided high levels of employment in the UK. In 1995, there were more than 200 agricultural-equipment manufacturers in the UK. Today, there are 15. Go to an industrial estate in the UK today and nearly all the firms you see will be distributors or assemblers.

The good news is that the few small businesses left are world class. I have proudly witnessed standing-room-only presentations by the highly innovative medical-technology company Biocompatibles at the Cleveland Clinic's annual Medical Innovation Summit and by Next Generation Software at the Black Hat computer security event in California.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Department of Trade and Industry's original Smart Award scheme was probably the world's most successful wealth creation programme. Payments of a few tens of thousands of pounds to each firm triggered a wave of innovation around the UK. No other scheme has proved such an effective boost to small businesses. Our database is packed with small businesses whose success was triggered by a Smart Award.

Yet the budget of the successor programme, the Smart Award scheme of the TSB—the board of which comprises mainly academics and former executives at big corporations—has languished at about £20m annually. It should be at least £200m.

Atkins's words are welcome, but she may not realise the scale of the gap. It will take a major restructuring of university activity to meet the needs of small businesses, and HEFCE and the research councils may have to reassess universities so that their links with small businesses are more highly valued and credited. Universities should be celebrating high-value, super-exporting, solid technology companies, not ignoring them.

*More to say? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com*

*Marcus Gibson is the founder of the Gibson Index of UK small businesses: [www.gibson-index.com](http://www.gibson-index.com).*

'Support for the UK's entrepreneurial base is vital if we are ever to rebalance the economy.'

# Prize fight

Even though the rebooted Longitude prize seeks scientific solutions to social problems, it's premature to write it off as a folly, says **Jack Stilgoe**.

The UK government's launch of a Longitude prize, 300 years after the original and this time packaged with a special episode of the BBC's Horizon programme and an X-Factor-style vote, has kicked up a storm of criticism. The prize has been attacked as shamelessly populist. The £10 million up for grabs is seen as either too small to truly make a difference or too big, diverting resources away from more established research funding.

In principle, the public is part of the solution as well. But Horizon tells us that this is a science prize, aiming to solve "the most pressing problem facing science today". A piece by Martin Rees in *Nature* represented it as a search for the "world's biggest science problem".

Looking down the list, the candidate challenges—zero-carbon flight, antibiotic resistance, clean water, food security, paralysis and dementia—all look like social rather than scientific challenges. But the message is clear: solutions will come from scientific rather than social innovation. As science is increasingly institutionalised, professional, collaborative and capital-intensive, can amateurs compete? I think it is fanciful to imagine a solitary Professor Branestawm in a shed, able to change the world through research and invention.

I am more relaxed about the prize. It seems to be an interesting, disruptive addition to the research-funding toolkit, alongside more opaque mechanisms with questionable success rates. As Arie Rip and Stefan Kuhlmann argued recently in *Research Fortnight's* sister publication *Research Europe* [8/5/14, p8], research policy desperately needs transformative change and novel combinations of participants if it is to address grand challenges. Prizes can be part of the system.

I am concerned that the challenges are framed entirely in scientific terms, and that the judging panel is overwhelmingly scientific, but this is perhaps inevitable. Politicians like science: it connects them to an optimistic, if uncertain, future and distracts from more immediate policy concerns. It is more convenient, for example, to see food security in terms of genetically modified crops than in terms of waste or inequality. But politicians must use history to lower their expectations.

The Apollo programme and Manhattan project often provide the model for challenge-based technological success. But, as David Collingridge described in his 1980 book *The Social Control of Technology*, it was obvi-

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ous when these had succeeded. Their goals were clear, and they were achieved at vast expense. The Green Revolution in the mid-20th century was similarly expensive but tied to a pressing social need, and the results of this effort to increase crop yields are still disputed.

The problems facing the planet are 'wicked', not neat and tidy. Nevertheless, the lure of the technological fix remains strong. Some will be good, such as vaccines for smallpox or polio. Some, such as Ronald Reagan's star wars programme, will be plain bad. Most will be ugly, solving some problems and creating others. Dan Sarewitz and Richard Nelson, writing in *Nature* in 2008, asked how we could anticipate their success. They say that we need to ask three questions: Does a proposed fix address the root cause of the problem? Can we tell when it's worked? Is the research and technology there already?

The Longitude prize has been under discussion for a while, including an interesting exercise in public dialogue, only some of which is reflected in the final product. The report of the public dialogue, conducted on behalf of Sciencewise, reveals some interesting concerns.

When asked about the challenges facing society, members of the public mentioned issues that were not obviously scientific, such as rising inequality. When asked specifically about particular challenges and possible technological solutions, people did not want the prize to benefit big companies. They wanted ambitious, radical, public-value research and innovation, which sounds like grand challenge science. The question is whether this prize can deliver it.

Perhaps we should remember the original Longitude prize. Horizon falsely described it as "the most famous science prize in history" overseen by "a committee of scientists". Historian Becky Higgitt points out that the board of Longitude comprised scientists, policymakers and others with an interest in the problem, at a time when science was still mostly amateur and scientists were still natural philosophers.

'Winner' John Harrison approached the problem obliquely, with a beautifully accurate clock. Decades of disagreement followed about whether the problem had been solved, but Harrison did not have to wait for the prize money. The committee had already given him the grants to develop his work. That sounds a bit like a research council, doesn't it?

*Something to add? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com*

'The public wants ambitious, radical, public-value research and innovation.'

## interesting if true

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?** Government influence on research projects may be restricted by the Haldane principle but, according to one Oxford university professor, politicians have form when it comes to the names of research funding bodies. Speaking at last week's Circling the Square conference in Nottingham, Steve Rayner noted that ex-chemist Margaret Thatcher had insisted the word 'Science' be removed from the name of the Social Science Research Council. That's "because whatever it is that those people do, it's certainly not science", the PM apparently said.

**TITLE RACE** Former chief scientific adviser Brian Collins, now an academic, says the trend for constantly changing the names of departments and agencies is "just to make sure no-one actually knows what's going on". That may be true, but we were hoping he might want to rethink the title of his department for science, technology, engineering and public policy at UCL. There's still time to come up with something snappier than "STePP".

**NOT-SO-INDEPENDENT ADVICE** If you were wondering why this week's report on the future of Foresight (*see Analysis, page 6*) lacks on-the-record comment from chief scientific adviser Mark Walport, rest assured that we did our best to ask. Staff at the Department for

Business, Innovation and Skills told us that Walport would not be speaking to the press until the government had issued a formal response to the matter in question. So much for being an "independent" adviser, then.

**FUN IN THE SUN** Last week, Robert West from University College London released a study on how e-cigarettes are 60 per cent more likely to help smokers quit than nicotine patches or gum. *The Sun* published a version of the research that was, shall we say, not completely faithful to the original. It also broke an embargo. We understand the newspaper has since agreed to publish a more complimentary article about West and his forthcoming book, so it seems that the Leveson report into the culture and practices of the press might be having an impact after all.

**MANHUNT** With every university claiming to be committed to equal opportunities, you might be forgiven for asking where all the men who are stopping 80 per cent of women from becoming professors are. On the other end of the phone, it seems. One member of the species recently called the *Research Fortnight* offices complaining that there was too much positive coverage of women and science. It sounded like the dying whimper of male privilege.



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