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Wellcome Trust - Wikipedia

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Wellcome Trust



Founded	1936; 84 years ago
Founder	Sir Henry Wellcome
Registration no.	210183
Focus	Biomedical Research
Headquarters	London, NW1 United Kingdom
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Euston Road, London, NW1

Coordinates	51°31′32.55″N 0°8′6.07″W﻿ / ﻿51.5257083°N 0.1350194°W﻿ / 51.5257083; -0.1350194
Area served	United Kingdom and overseas
Key people	Baroness Eliza Manningham-Buller ^[1] (Chair) Dr Jeremy Farrar ^[2] (Director)
Disbursements	£ 11 billion (1936-2015) ^[3]
Endowment	£ 25.9 billion ^[4]
Employees	2,057 ^[5]
Website	www.wellcome.ac.uk

The **Wellcome Trust** is a research charity based in London, United Kingdom. It was established in 1936 with legacies from the pharmaceutical magnate Sir [Henry Wellcome](#) to fund research to improve human and animal health. The aim of the Trust is to "achieve extraordinary improvements in health by supporting the brightest minds", and in addition to funding biomedical research it supports the public understanding of science. It had a [financial endowment](#) of £25.9 billion in 2018,^[4] making it the fourth [wealthiest charitable foundation](#) in the world, after the American [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), the Danish [Novo Nordisk Foundation](#) and the Dutch [INGKA Foundation](#) (related to the [IKEA](#) company).

The Trust has been described by the [Financial Times](#) as the United Kingdom's largest provider of non-governmental funding for scientific research, and one of the largest providers in the world.^[6]

History[[edit](#)]

The Trust was established to administer the fortune of the American-born pharmaceutical magnate Sir [Henry Wellcome](#).^[7] Its income was derived from what was originally called [Burroughs Wellcome](#), later renamed in the UK as the Wellcome Foundation Ltd.^[8] In 1986, the trust sold 25% of Wellcome plc stock to the public. Overseen by incoming Director of Finance [Ian Macgregor](#), this marked the beginning of a period of financial growth that saw the Trust's value increase by almost £14bn in 14 years, as their interests moved beyond the bounds of the pharmaceutical industry.^[9]

In 1995, the trust divested itself of any interest in pharmaceuticals by selling all remaining stock to [Glaxo plc](#), the company's historic British rival, creating GlaxoWellcome plc. In 2000, the Wellcome name disappeared from the drug business altogether when GlaxoWellcome merged with SmithKline Beecham, to form [GlaxoSmithKline](#) plc.^[10]

Activities[[edit](#)]

Biomedical research[[edit](#)]

Major investments[[edit](#)]

The Trust funds or co-funds a number of major biomedical research initiatives:^[11]

- [Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children](#) (ALSPAC), a cohort study of children born in England during 1991 and 1992.

- The [Cancer Genome Project](#) at the [Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute](#).
- The [Diamond Light Source](#), the UK's national synchrotron science facility in Oxfordshire.
- Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training and Science Initiative (DELTAS), a collaboration with the [Department for International Development](#) (DFID) to establish cutting-edge research and training programmes across the African continent.
- The [Ebola Emergency Initiative](#), a fast-tracked research programme with the goal of identifying clinical and public health interventions to counter the West African Ebola Epidemic.
- The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation/ Wellcome Trust [Diabetes and Inflammation Laboratory](#) facilitates research into the genetic component of type 1 diabetes and is based in the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research.
- The [Seeding Drug Discovery Initiative](#).
- The [Structural Genomics Consortium](#), an international organisation focussing on three-dimensional structures of proteins of medical relevance with an emphasis on [open data](#).
- The [Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute](#), a [non-profit](#), British [genomics](#) and [genetics](#) research institute.^[12]
- [UK Biobank](#) and the [UK Biobank Ethics and Governance Council](#).

Major Overseas Programmes^[edit]

- [The KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme](#), established in 1989 in partnership with the [Kenya Medical Research Institute](#).^[13]

- [The Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme](#), established in 1995.
- [The Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies](#) in South Africa, established in 1998 in partnership with the [South African Medical Research Council](#).
- [The Wellcome Trust-Mahidol University-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Programme](#) in partnership with the [Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University](#), researching in Thailand and Laos and established in 1979.
- [The Vietnam Research Programme and Oxford University Clinical Research Unit](#) in [Ho Chi Minh City](#) and [Hanoi](#).

Seeding Drug Discovery Initiative[\[edit\]](#)

Also known as SDDI, this five year initiative started in October 2005 with the remit "to facilitate the development of drug-like small molecules that address unmet medical needs." SDDI was based in London and managed by Richard Davis.^[14] Through early 2010, SDDI had provided more than £80 million across 30 projects split between academic institutions and companies.^[14] To early 2010, all but one of the company recipients were either [start-ups](#) or [spin-outs](#).^[14] In May 2010, an additional £110 million was added to the SDDI fund with the intent to extend the initiative for an additional 5 years.^[15]

Support for Open Access and Open Data[\[edit\]](#)

The Wellcome Trust plays an important role in encouraging publication of research in [open access](#) repositories^[16] such as

[Europe PubMed Central \(EuropePMC\)](#). The Wellcome Trust believes that maximising the distribution of these papers - by providing free, online access - is the most effective way of ensuring that the research can be accessed, read and built upon. In turn, this will foster a richer research culture.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

In 2016, the Wellcome Trust partnered with the [US National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH) and the [Howard Hughes Medical Institute](#) to launch the [Open Science Prize](#)^[17] to "help develop services, tools and platforms that enable open content to be discovered, assessed and re-used in ways that will advance discovery and spark innovation."^[17]

In 2016, Wellcome Trust announced that it would be launching Wellcome Open Research,^[18] an [open access](#) publication system running on the [F1000 Research](#) platform.^[19] [Article Processing Charges](#) will be covered directly by Wellcome Trust. Paper from the system are now indexed in [PubMed Central](#).^[20]

Membership in the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT)^{[[edit](#)]}

In the summer of 2015, the Wellcome Trust joined the Japanese government, 7 Japanese pharmaceutical and diagnostics companies, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the United Nations Development Program as funding partner of the [Global Health Innovative Technology Fund \(GHIT\)](#), which funds scientific research and development for anti-infectives and diagnostics for diseases that primarily affect the developing world.^{[21][22]}

Public engagement and the Wellcome Collection^{[[edit](#)]}

In June 2007, the Wellcome Building reopened after refurbishment as a public venue, housing the [Wellcome Collection](#), the [Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine](#) at [University College London](#) and the [Wellcome Library](#).^[23] The aim of the Wellcome Collection is to enhance public understanding of medical science and history. The building contains gallery spaces, conference facilities, space for debates, drama and workshops, a café and a bookshop. The galleries show a small sample of works from Sir Henry Wellcome's collection, and host a programme of events and exhibitions. The Wellcome Collection and exhibitions are open to the public free of charge six days a week.^[24]

The Wellcome Collection and Wellcome Library are members of [The London Museums of Health & Medicine](#).

Wellcome Book Prize^[edit]

The Wellcome Trust sponsors an annual book prize, the [Wellcome Book Prize](#), which "aims to excite public interest and encourage debate" around medicine and health.^[25]

Wellcome Global Monitor^[edit]

In June 2019, Wellcome released the results of the 2018 global survey on public attitudes toward science and health. Topics include trust of scientists, doctors, and nurses; religion and science, and vaccines, among others.^[26] It was Wellcome's first Global Monitor and was intended to "provide robust evidence on how public attitudes vary across different demographic groups and countries."^[27]

Investments[\[edit\]](#)



This section **needs expansion**. You can help by [adding to it](#).

(March 2016)

Purchase of the Co-operative Farms business[\[edit\]](#)

In August 2014, the Wellcome Trust bought the Co-operative Group's farm business (renamed [Farmcare](#)) for £249 million. This comprised "15,997 hectares (39,533 acres) of freehold and third party owned land, 15 farms, including three pack houses, over 100 residential properties, and 27 commercial properties."^[28]

Headquarters[\[edit\]](#)



The Wellcome Trust's operations are run from two buildings on [Euston Road](#) in [London](#). The Wellcome Building, at 183 Euston Road, built in 1932 in [Portland stone](#) houses the [Wellcome Collection](#) and the adjoining glass and steel building at 215 Euston Road is the Gibbs Building, by [Hopkins Architects](#), which opened in 2004 as the administrative headquarters of the Wellcome Trust. In 2019, the Wellcome Trust also opened an office in Berlin.^[29]

See also[\[edit\]](#)

- [Heads of International Research Organizations](#)
- [List of wealthiest charitable foundations](#)

References[[edit](#)]

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3. [^](#) ["Wellcome Trust aims to increase spend to £5 billion over next 5 years"](#).
4. [^](#) [Jump up to: ^a ^b "Value of Wellcome's investments passes £25 billion"](#). Wellcome Trust. 2018.
5. [^](#) ["Charity Commission factsheet for the Wellcome Trust"](#). Charity Commission for England and Wales. 17 December 2015.
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External links^{[[edit](#)]}

- [Official website](#)
- [Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium \(WTCCC\)](#)
- [Other Wellcome Trust websites](#)
- [Scientific Conferences supported by the Wellcome Trust](#)
- [Ex Memoria - Wellcome Trust Awarded Film](#)
- [Surgery Live](#), a Wellcome Collection collaboration with [Channel 4](#)

- [European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases](#)
- [Federation of European Biochemical Societies](#)
- [European Federation of Pharmaceutical Societies](#)
- [International Society for Infectious Diseases](#)