Elizabeth Blackwell Institute
Building new health research communities

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**Funding:**

- **Fresh funding for Elizabeth Blackwell Institute**

The Elizabeth Blackwell Institute (EBI) has been awarded the [Wellcome Trust's Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF)](https://www.wellcome.ac.uk/), designed to support biomedical research and related activities in the UK over the next five years. The ISSF award of £3.75 million is being matched by the University of Bristol making it £7.5 million in total: it is the third and largest ISSF award for the EBI and recognises the successful work the Institute has delivered during the previous five years. Further information about this award is on our [website](https://www.ebi.ac.uk/).

- **GW4 Clinical Academic Training programme is open**

The Wellcome Trust-funded GW4 Clinical Academic Training programme (GW4-CAT) is a new scheme that brings together the Universities of Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter in developing the next generation of clinical academics. Within the programme, exceptional early career medical, veterinary and dental graduates will have the chance to undertake an interdisciplinary PhD training in one of over 50 world-leading research groups in population health, cardiovascular sciences, neuroscience, mental health, infection, immunity & repair, cancer or molecular cell biology. For further information and to apply visit the [GW4-CAT website](https://www.ebi.ac.uk/). Deadline for applications is 09:00 GMT Friday 25 November 2016.

- **EBI Clinical Primer scheme open for applications**

The EBI's flagship Clinical Primer scheme has just been launched for 2017. For further details and to apply please visit our [Clinical Primer Funding Scheme page](https://www.ebi.ac.uk/). The closing date for applications is 09:00 GMT Thursday 15 December 2016.

**Funded Projects:**

- **Engineering the future of cancer treatment**

Of the many new developments in cancer research, one of the most promising comes from nanoscience. Bioengineers are designing nanoparticles that can deliver treatments and diagnostics directly to tumours, raising the prospect of much more precise and effective interventions. Sabine Hauert (Engineering Mathematics) and her interdisciplinary team of researchers and healthcare practitioners used EBI Catalyst funding to study the dynamics of nanoparticles in tumour-like environments. Read more about this project on the [EBI website](https://www.ebi.ac.uk/).

- **Smart stem cells home to damaged tissue**

Stem cell-based therapy promises cures for a multitude of diseases and disorders including regeneration of heart tissue, but is severely limited by the ability of stem cells to identify the
damaged location and remain there after administration. A new strategy is being developed at the University of Bristol to address this challenge. Adam Perriman (Cellular & Molecular Medicine) used the Catalyst Fund award from the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute to design and construct novel protein-polymer nanohybrids that included introduction of special homing proteins into the cell membranes of adult mesenchymal stem cells, thus offering a significant improvement on other existing cell therapy methods. Read more about this project on the EBI website.

- Soft robotics offers hope for throat surgery patients

Surgical removal of the voice box is a potentially life-saving treatment for laryngeal cancer. It is also a mutilating procedure, which means that patients may no longer be able to speak, swallow or cough. Jonathan Rossiter, Head of Soft Robotics group at Bristol Robotics Laboratory, and Andrew Conn, School of Mechanical Engineering are using new robotics technologies to design devices that could potentially transform post-surgery treatment and recovery of such patients. Read more on the EBI website.

- Slow eating can be good for your health

Eating slowly is thought to reduce how much you consume overall, but how does the speed of eating affect our bodies’ responses to food? A recent research project by Katherine Hawton at the University of Bristol produced some interesting evidence. Read more on the EBI website.

News:

- Wellcome Open Research invites submissions

Wellcome Open Research (WOR) is a new publishing service for Wellcome-funded researchers to enjoy the benefits of wholly open publishing. It represents the first funder publishing platform to follow the F1000Research publishing model. Read more about the service and how to submit your work for publication on the EBI website.

- Elizabeth Blackwell Annual Public Lecture 2016

Dr Fiona Godlee FRCP, Editor-in-Chief of The BMJ, gave the third annual Elizabeth Blackwell Public Lecture on 10 October 2016. She talked to a packed audience on the subject of ‘Too much medicine: why we need to push back the tide of medical excess’. If you were unable to attend, a podcast of the lecture and the presentation slides are available on the EBI website.

- A Picture of Health

This project aims to facilitate communication between researchers in health, foster new collaborations and showcase University of Bristol research to the public. Can you capture your research in one image? A Picture of Health is inviting researchers from across the university to represent their health-related research in a photo. Need inspiration? Come to a free one-hour smartphone photography workshop on Thursday 3 November or Tuesday 8 November 2016. For more details, visit A Picture of Health website.
• HITLAB World Cup 2016: call for breakthrough ideas to improve healthcare

HITLAB, a healthcare innovation and teaching lab based in New York, just launched its 2016 HITLAB World Cup, a worldwide competition to identify original ideas for improving healthcare access, delivery and outcomes. For more details and how to apply visit the EBI website.

• Dunhill Medical Trust Research Training Fellowships

Dunhill Medical Trust (DMT) Research Training Fellowships are open for applications from all clinicians and health or social care professionals (including more senior staff) working in the NHS, social services or higher education institutions in the UK, who would like a career in research aimed at improving care for older people, but lack the necessary training and academic grounding to do so. The closing date for applications is Friday 27 January 2017. More information on the EBI website.

From West of England Academic Health Science Network:

• Funding for innovations to help transform general practice of the future

The Small Business Research Initiative for Healthcare (SBRI Healthcare) is delivered collaboratively by NHS England and the AHSN Network to develop innovative products and services that address unmet health needs. The West of England AHSN is supporting the autumn funding competition: the deadline for applications is 24 November 2016. For further information and to apply visit the WEAHSN website.

Forthcoming Events:

• Feel it Festival, 17 – 20 November 2016, Circomedia, just off Portland Square, Bristol

Seats are filling up fast for EBI’s Feel It Festival so book tickets now for performances, debates, interactive workshops, screenings and talks exploring themes from domestic violence to pain in cycling. And don’t forget to pop in Saturday 19 (10:00-15:00) and Sunday 20 (13:00-14:30) to explore the interactive exhibition and drop-in workshops. For programme, details and booking visit the Feel it Festival website.

• Philosophy of medicine seminar: ‘What makes well-being measurable?’ 28 October 2016, G100, Arts Complex, Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 1TB

Given by Anna Alexandrova (King’s College, Cambridge) from 13:00-14:30. The seminar will address whether well-being is a measurable quantity, in particular its use as indicator in healthcare and policy. All are welcome to attend.
• Biomedical and Health Research Industry Day, 24 November 2016, Wills Memorial Building, Queen's Road, Bristol, BS8 1RJ

The aim of the Health and Biomedical Industry day is to build partnerships between academia and industry that can translate innovative research into health benefits through collaboration. For more information visit the EBI website.

• Aarhus-Bristol workshop on AMR research, 15 December 2016, Aarhus, Denmark

This workshop will explore research networking potential across national borders – between Aarhus and Bristol, and more widely, between Denmark and the UK and beyond. It will contribute to plans for a larger interdisciplinary Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) seminar to take place at University of Bristol in spring 2017 and will begin to map topics and funding opportunities of mutual interest for interdisciplinary AMR research. More information on the EBI website. If you are interested to attend please contact Helen Lambert H.Lambert@bristol.ac.uk by 10 November.

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Supported by

If you have any news or events that you would like us to include in our newsletter, please get in touch at: ebi-health@bristol.ac.uk

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