

investment

research

access

health

Champion investment in medical research

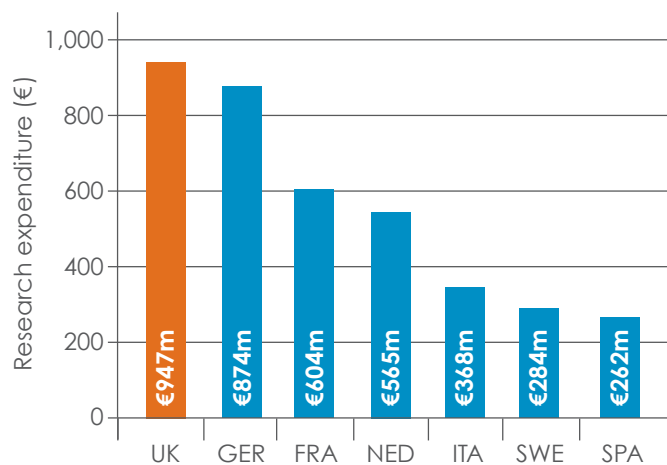


Support the Commission's goal for 3% of EU GDP to be invested in research and development by 2020

Europe must champion investment in medical research that delivers health and wealth benefits. Europe 2020, the EU's strategy for growth and jobs, set a target of bringing combined public and private investment in research and development to 3% of EU GDP by 2020.

The UK receives more EU health research funding than any other member country

The UK is incredibly successful at winning EU research funding. In the health category of Framework Programme 7 (FP7), which funded research and technological development across the EU from 2007-2013, UK researchers were awarded €947 million; more than any other member country.¹



Case study

Horizon 2020: The EU's new funding programme for research

Horizon 2020 is the EU's multi-disciplinary research and innovation funding programme which will run from 2014 to 2020. It will see the EU contribute nearly €80 billion over the seven year period to support the EU's position as a world leader in science, help secure industrial leadership in innovation, and help address major societal challenges. The programme's 'health, demographic change and well-being' theme has an indicative budget of more than €7 billion.

Case study

New treatments bring health and wealth benefits for the UK

A new method for bowel screening developed in the UK could prevent at least 8,000 people from developing later stage bowel cancer each year in the UK. The estimated cost of diagnosis, treatment and palliative care for bowel cancer patients is around £1.1 billion a year assuming that 27,000 patients are diagnosed. This means screening for the disease could save the NHS £325 million.²

Fact... Publicly funded medical research attracts private investment

A £1 increase in government or charity spending on medical research could lead to an increase in private research spending from the pharmaceutical industry of between £2.20 and £5.10.³

Ensure the EU continues to fund promising avenues of research

Europe is united in its desire to develop life-saving treatments for patients. We do not know where the next medical breakthrough will come from – it is crucial that we explore all possible avenues of research.

Case study

MEPs choose to continue funding embryonic stem cell research

While the Horizon 2020 funding proposals were being debated by the European Parliament, the European Parliament's legal committee (JURI) recommended that research involving human embryonic stem cells should not be included. Regenerative medicine based on this research has huge therapeutic potential and George Osborne recently named it as one of eight key areas for UK economic growth. Fortunately, MEPs chose to continue funding this important area of research. This means studies such as Europe's first clinical trial of a treatment for blindness using embryonic stem cells, taking place at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, can continue.⁴

Long-term investment to foster research capacity so that different areas of research can be developed is also crucial.

Case study

Lack of research capacity can drive research overseas

Action on Hearing Loss funds £1.6 million of hearing research each year but a lack of research capacity in the UK means that they are often forced to make investments outside the UK. For the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, 44% of their research budget was spent overseas. Only around 10% of funding proposals submitted to their Translational Research Initiative for Hearing's Funding Scheme were from UK research groups and the first three projects supported by this initiative are being conducted outside the UK.

Fact...

Medical Research: What's it worth?

For every £1 invested by the taxpayer or charity donor into cardiovascular disease and mental health research, a stream of benefits is produced equivalent to earning 39 pence and 37 pence respectively each year in perpetuity.⁵

1. European Commission, reported December 2013

2. Cancer Research UK (2013), *Working Together: The Impact of medical research investment on the health and wealth of the nation*. This research was funded by the Medical Research Council, National Institute of Health Research and Cancer Research UK. https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/sites/default/files/working_together_the_impact_of_medical_research_on_the_health_and_wealth_of_the_nation.pdf

3. Alzheimer's Research Trust (now Alzheimer's Research UK) (2009), *Forward Together: Complementarity of public and charitable research with respect to private research spending*. <http://www.ohe.org/publications/article/forward-together-complementarity-of-public-and-charitable-research-28.cfm>

4. <http://www.theguardian.com/science/2011/sep/22/embryonic-stem-cell-trial-blindness>

5. The Wellcome Trust (2008), *Medical Research: What's it worth? Estimating the economic benefits from medical research in the UK*. <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Publications/Reports/Biomedical-science/WTX052113.htm>