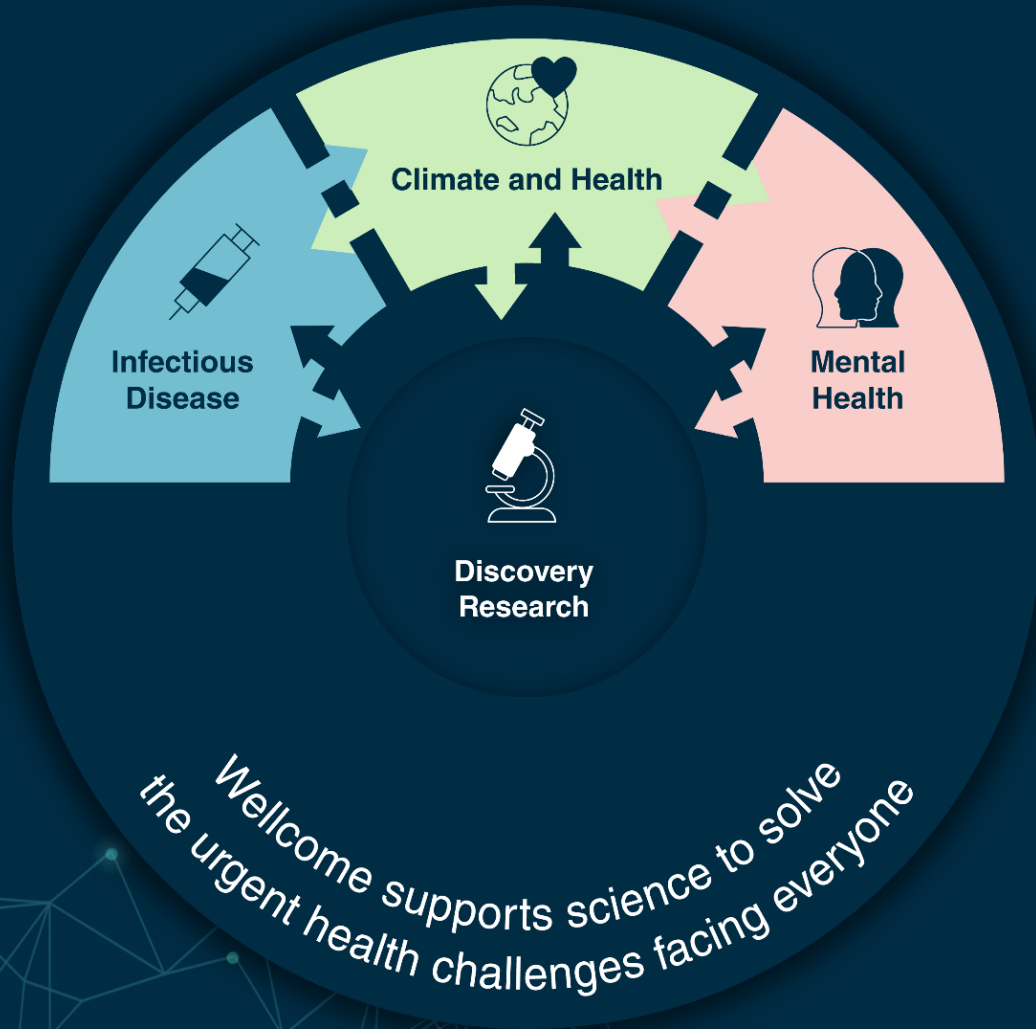


HDRS –from the Wellcome perspective

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Wellcome's strategy



Wellcome funds curiosity-driven research into life, health and wellbeing. We're taking on three urgent and interrelated global health challenges.

Wellcome aims to:

- Reduce the risk and impact of escalating **infectious disease**
- Put health at the heart of **climate change** action
- Drive a step-change in early intervention for **anxiety, depression and psychosis**

Data for Science and Health (DSH) funds trustworthy data science to advance these goals.



The Health Data Research Service

HDRS announced by the Prime Minister in April this year

The objective is to simplify access to **UK health data** for **research purposes across all four nations**

The budget for the initiative is up to £600m over 5 years

Wellcome is partnering with the UK Government and contributing £100m to the cost of HDRS

A new organization will be formed to run HDRS

HDRS Core Capabilities

1. Access to **linked, national-scale primary care, hospital, prescribing and deaths data**
2. Access to linked primary and secondary care **data for consented research participants**, focusing initially on UK's flagship assets
3. Access to **diagnostic images, lab results, digital pathology, genomic and clinical letter data**
4. Acceleration of data-driven **clinical trials** through linking research-ready health data and closer partnership with the clinical research delivery infrastructure
5. A **single-entry point** for NHS data with **standardised commercial agreements**, data access approvals and accredited research environments, including analytical and data wrangling capability and capacity as a service.
6. An intention to eventually **support linkage to data from sectors outside the health and care system**

HDRS activity

- DHSC is constructing a Programme Business Case to release government funding for HDRS
- Work is underway to form the new organisation, including recruiting key roles
- Engagement exercises have been begun by government including the life sciences sector and NHS data providers
- Wellcome has contracted Emrys Health to conduct a landscape exercise
- A HDRS webinar is scheduled for 18th November





Wellcome's HDRS Landscape Report

- Objective is to inform incoming CEO about the data and infrastructure landscape across the UK
- Contract awarded to consortium led by Emrys Health after public tender
- Work has begun and will involve a desk exercise, interviews and workshops
- The report will be published by Wellcome

Contact will@emrys.health to engage with this work

Organisation

- HDRS will be operated by a new organisation, wholly owned by the government (GovCo)
- Chair and CEO recruitment underway
- The new organisation will be located on the Wellcome Genome Campus



HSRS challenges

Some challenges stem from sheer **complexity of the environment**:

- The ability to integrate elements from 4 nations' health systems
- The large number of local data controllers and data systems – eg in primary care
- Lack of common data standards, processes and governance procedures

Plus:

- The ambition to deliver a MVP within 2026
- Anticipating the needs of an as-yet-unformed organisation
- Maintaining a view of international developments (eg European Health Data Space)
- Maintaining public trust and the confidence of healthcare professionals



Conclusion

- Wellcome is hugely supportive of the HDRS and is committed to its success
- A real privilege to help shape a once-in-a-generation projectbut also a daunting challenge
- HDRS has the scope to change the health data landscape enormously
- Work is underway to inform strategy and establish the structures needed for success
- Very conscious that we rely on the trust of the public



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