



# Connecting science, health and society

Highlights of the Wellcome Trust's work in 2012, a year in which we helped to bring together researchers, teams and centres to better tackle the complex challenges of health research.



We help to connect science, health and society so that the fruits of research are accessible and available to contribute to better health for everyone.”



This year, the Wellcome Trust has created more opportunities for researchers to build connections with each other and across all parts of society – vital for improving health in the future.

Researchers do not work in isolation: productive collaborations, strong leadership and a supportive infrastructure are vital to any researcher’s success. Similarly, science does not operate in a vacuum. The Trust works across many sectors to connect science, health and society.

This *Summary Annual Review* contains highlights of our activities during 2011/12 and the achievements of the people we fund. Our full *Annual Review* (see below for details) presents a more thorough selection of stories of discoveries, inventions and public engagement projects that we have funded recently, as well as new initiatives to support individual researchers and the scientific community as a whole.

Sir Mark Walport  
Director of the Wellcome Trust



For full details of our finances and investments, see our *Annual Report and Financial Statements 2012*, available at [www.wellcome.ac.uk/annualreport](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/annualreport).



For a more in-depth look at the year, see our full *Annual Review 2012* – available, with links to related content, at [www.wellcome.ac.uk/annualreview](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/annualreview).



An overview of some of our activities in 2011/12, from research successes and public engagement campaigns to the grants we have awarded and the performance of our investments.



**Urbanisation and health**

An Indian study is revealing the full implications for health when people migrate to cities.



**Research leaders of the future**

The first ten Sir Henry Dale Fellows – early-career researchers with the potential to become world leaders – have been named.

**In the Zone**

Inspired by the London 2012 Games, the Wellcome Trust combined sport and physiology in a touring exhibition and experiment kits for schools.



**Gene therapy successes**

Research teams have made striking progress in developing gene therapies – including, for the first time ever, treating a genetic eye disease.



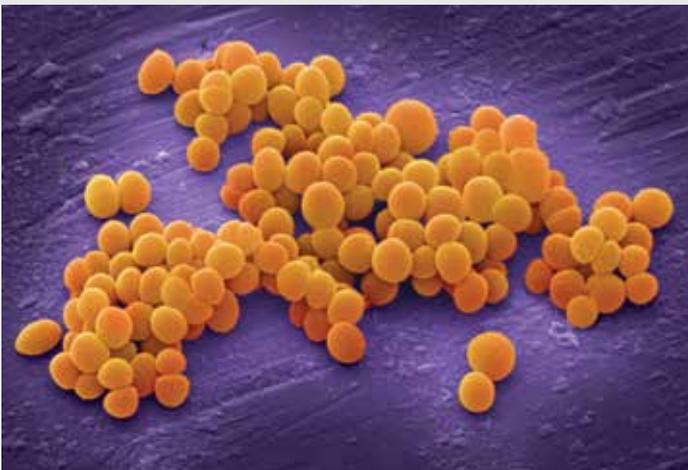
### UK Biobank opens

Researchers can now apply to use the UK Biobank database, with health information and samples from 500 000 volunteers.



### Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst

The UK's first open innovation bioscience campus has received its first tenants from industry and academia.



### Tracking MRSA

Rapid whole-genome sequencing shows success in identifying, tracking and stopping hospital outbreaks of MRSA.

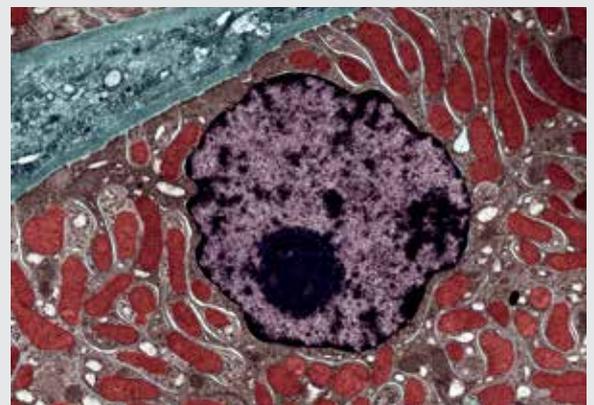
### Brains exhibition

Wellcome Collection's most popular exhibition to date explored the history of human efforts to understand the brain's mysteries.



### Stem Cell Institute

As pioneering stem cell research wins a Nobel Prize, a new institute is launched to advance our understanding of stem cells and their potential use in medicine.



### Mitochondrial research

A new centre at Newcastle is developing ways to stop children inheriting mitochondrial diseases.

## Funding and achievements

# 970

Total grants awarded

# 28

Countries receiving funding

# 492 053

Wellcome Collection visits

# 12 600

Items of media coverage relating to the Wellcome Trust

# £185m

Venture capital finance secured by grantees for commercialisation of R&D

# 4433

Scientific research papers associated with the Wellcome Trust

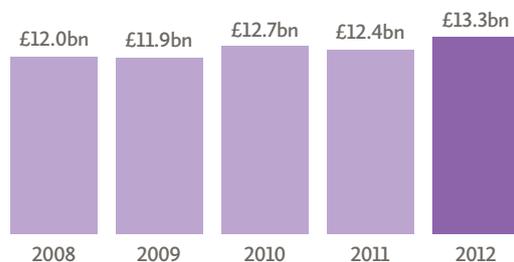
(Published in calendar year 2011, indexed on PubMed and in Thomson Reuters databases)

## Key financials at a glance

### Net asset value

# £13.3bn

As at 30 September.



### Financial summary

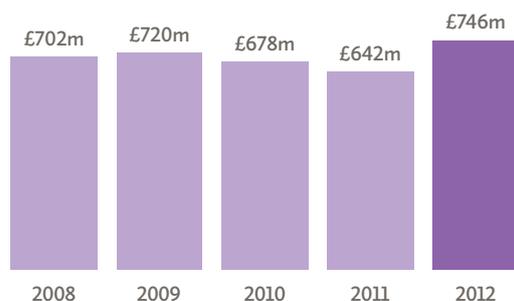
Our ability to support research and other charitable activities depends on the success of our investment portfolio. We invest globally across a very broad range of assets and strategies. In 2011/12, we were pleased that our investment portfolio recorded a total return of 12%.

We have returned a total of 27% (annualised 8%) over three years and 145% (annualised 9%) over ten years to September 2012. Since the inception of our investment portfolio in 1985, it has provided a total return averaging almost 14% a year.

### Charitable funding committed in year

# £746m

For the year ended 30 September.



Our annual grant-making budget is set by reference to a three-year weighted average of our portfolio's value in order to smooth the effects of short-term volatility. Over the next five years we aim to commit in excess of £3 billion for charitable activities, but this will depend on our investment performance.

For more details, see our *Annual Report and Financial Statements* at [www.wellcome.ac.uk/annualreport](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/annualreport).



All images are from Wellcome Images ([images.wellcome.ac.uk](http://images.wellcome.ac.uk)), except: cover, urbanisation and Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst (*Bret Syfert*), gene therapy (*Alloy Photography/Veer*), UK Biobank (*Ocean Photography/Veer*), Brains exhibition (*Martha Henson*).



## Wellcome Trust

We are a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health. We support the brightest minds in biomedical research and the medical humanities. Our breadth of support includes public engagement, education and the application of research to improve health.

We are independent of both political and commercial interests.

[www.wellcome.ac.uk](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk)

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The Wellcome Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales, no. 210183. Its sole trustee is The Wellcome Trust Limited, a company registered in England and Wales, no. 2711000 (whose registered office is at 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, UK). PU-5548.4/11K/01-2013/MC