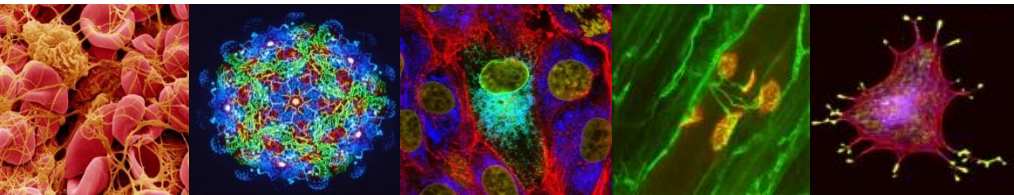


St George's Research Grants Day
1 October 2015

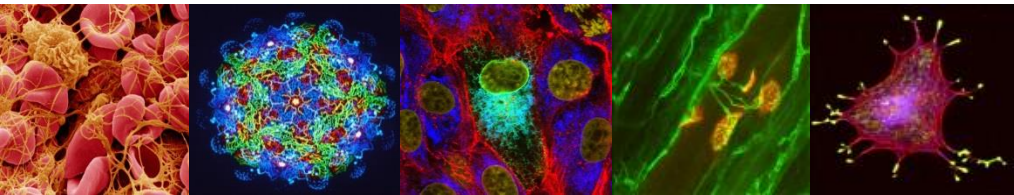
The Wellcome Trust:

Its schemes and advice on grant-writing

James Harden
Clinical Activities Manager
The Wellcome Trust



Introduction



The Wellcome Trust

- We are a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health.
- Our interests range from science, to the history of medicine, to public engagement.
- We are independent of both political and commercial interests.



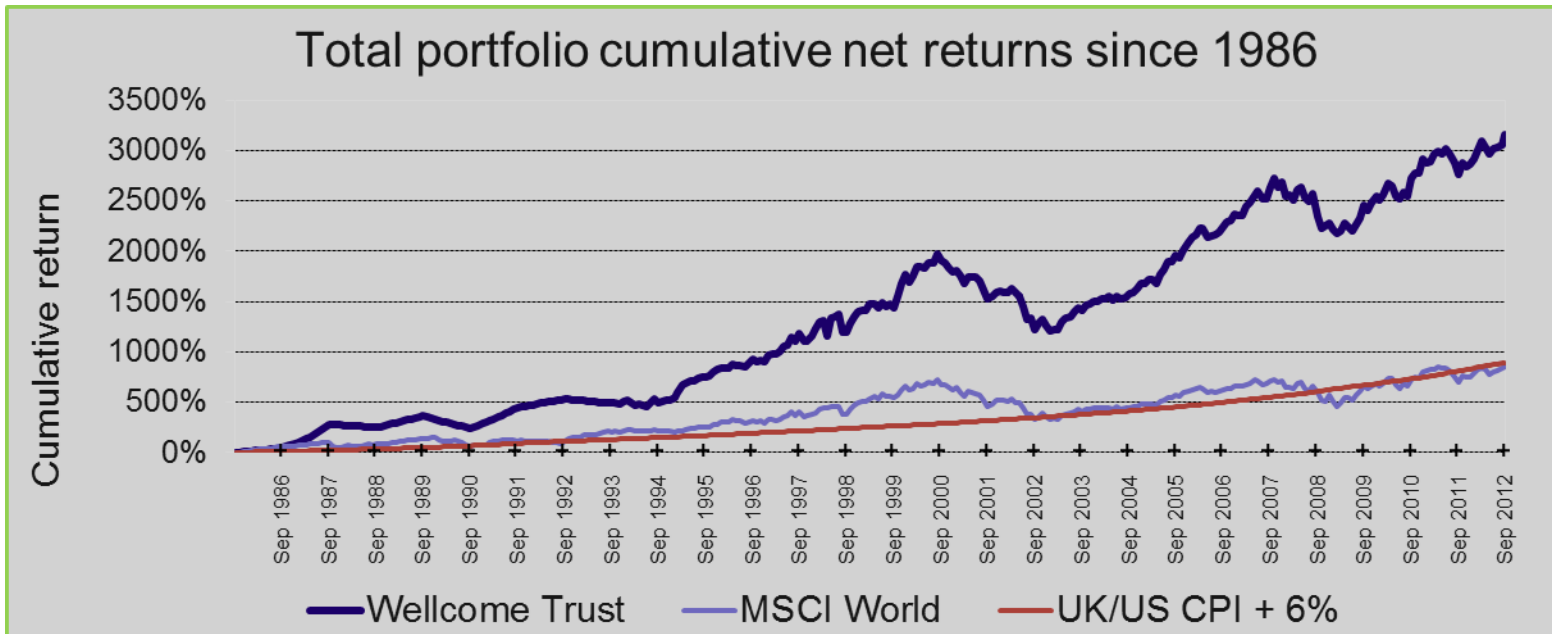
Our History

- The Wellcome Trust was set up in 1936 under the will of Sir Henry Wellcome, vested the entire share of his pharmaceutical company, The Wellcome Foundation, in a charitable trust.
- The income from the Trust must be used to:
 - Advance medical and scientific research to improve mankind's wellbeing
 - Increase the understanding of the history of medicine
- The Trustees began work in 1937 with **£73,048** in their deposit account.



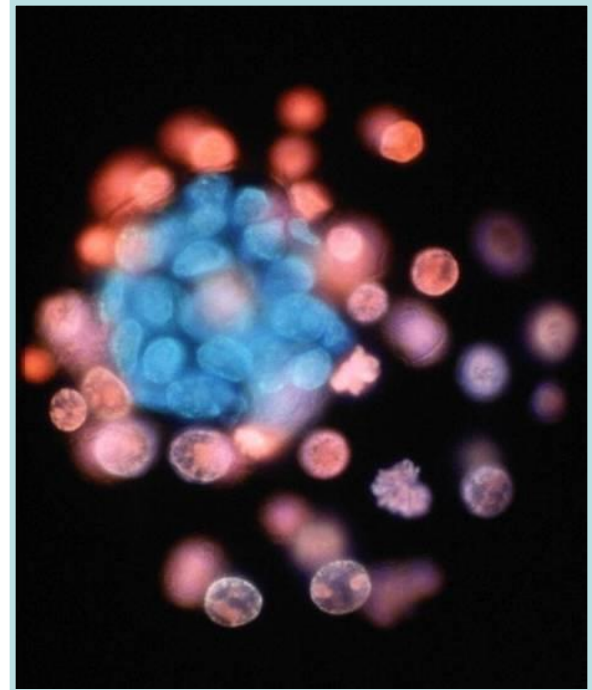
Our Income

- Our Invested Endowment is currently worth around £18bn.
- Investments in property, public and private equities, hedge funds, property and cash.
- We spend over **£700 million** on charitable activities per year.



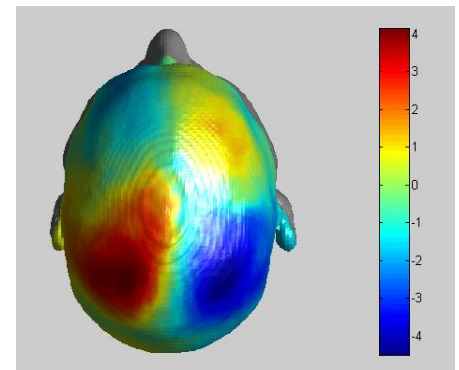
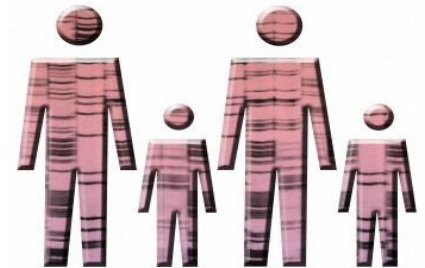
Our vision and mission

- Our **vision** is to achieve extraordinary improvements in human and animal health
- Our **mission** is to support the brightest minds in biomedical research and the medical humanities



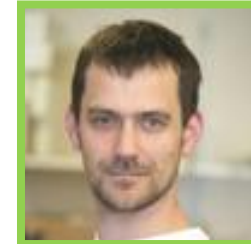
Why should I consider a career as a clinical academic?

- It represents a chance to think in a different way... Ideal for those with curious minds!
- Research may inform your clinical practice
- A better structured landscape:
 - UK CRC/NIHR
 - Integrated Academic Training Pathway
 - Favourable CSR
- Infrastructure
 - Clinical Research Facilities
 - Biomedical Research Centres
- There is some exciting science to be undertaken
- Flexibility of a career in academic medicine
- [More WT-funding Opportunities from 2016/17!](#)

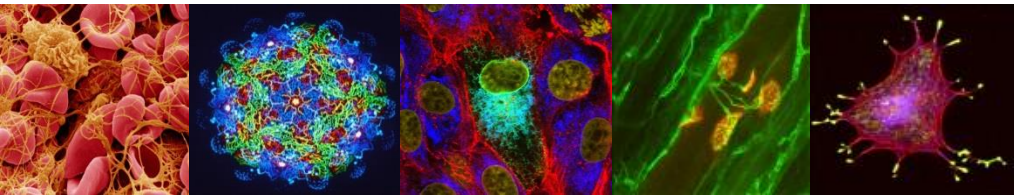


Why apply for a fellowship?

- Fellowships are used to attract, train and retain the best researchers
- Protected research time, prestigious
- Schemes designed for each stage of the research career
- Salary of the fellow provided
- Plus research costs – including the salaries of the fellow's research team where appropriate



Our schemes



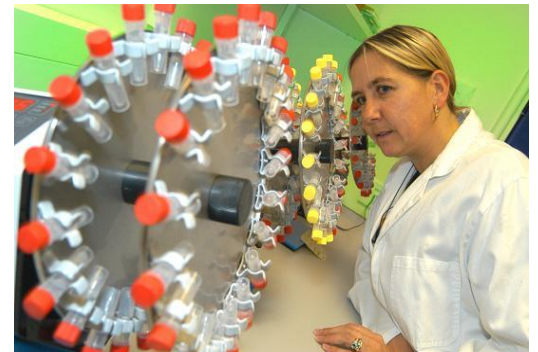
Research Training Fellowships

- For medical, dental, clinical psychology and veterinary graduates with limited research experience, wishing to undertake a PhD.
- Candidates should have MRCP or equivalent and typically be within 10 years of their initial medical qualification
- A high quality, hypothesis-driven project will need to be identified
- Funding for 2-3 years, including provision of a clinical salary and research expenses

Next Deadlines:-

4 December 2015

4 April 2016



PhD Programmes for Clinicians



- Complement Research Training Fellowships
- Tailored to the unique needs of Clinician Scientists
- Programmes provide:
 - Structured, well-mentored training
 - Access to high-quality research environments
- Provision for 200 training slots in six years since inception of scheme...
- There are five Programmes currently recruiting:
 - University College London
 - University of Cambridge
 - University of Edinburgh
 - University of Liverpool
 - University of Oxford



Postdoctoral Research Training Fellowship for Clinicians

- A chance to gain an initial postdoctoral training in the best environments in the UK and overseas. The scheme is aimed at:
 - Individuals within 24 months of having obtained their PhD; **OR**
 - Those who achieved a PhD during or prior to obtaining their medical degree
- Offers an opportunity to:
 - Refine research skills or change direction
 - Explore new research environments
 - Re-engage with a research agenda
- A flexible scheme that allow candidates to combine clinical training with research
- Three decision points *per annum*



Next preliminary application deadline: **30 October 2015**

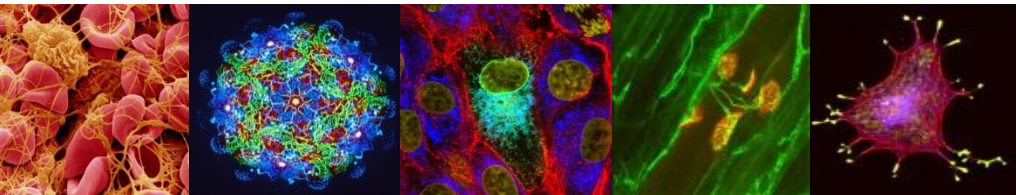
Intermediate Clinical Fellowships

- For outstanding individuals to continue to develop their research career through a period of post doctoral research training
- Will hold a PhD/MD and established an excellent track record
- Four year award (fellowship salary and research expenses) for applicants who have completed, or are about to complete, their clinical training
- 'Clinician Scientist' five year award (fellowship salary and research expenses) allows applicant to complete clinical training
- Considered twice *per annum*



Next preliminary application deadline: **30 October 2015**

The 'refreshed' clinical pathway



New Clinical Pathway – Key Changes

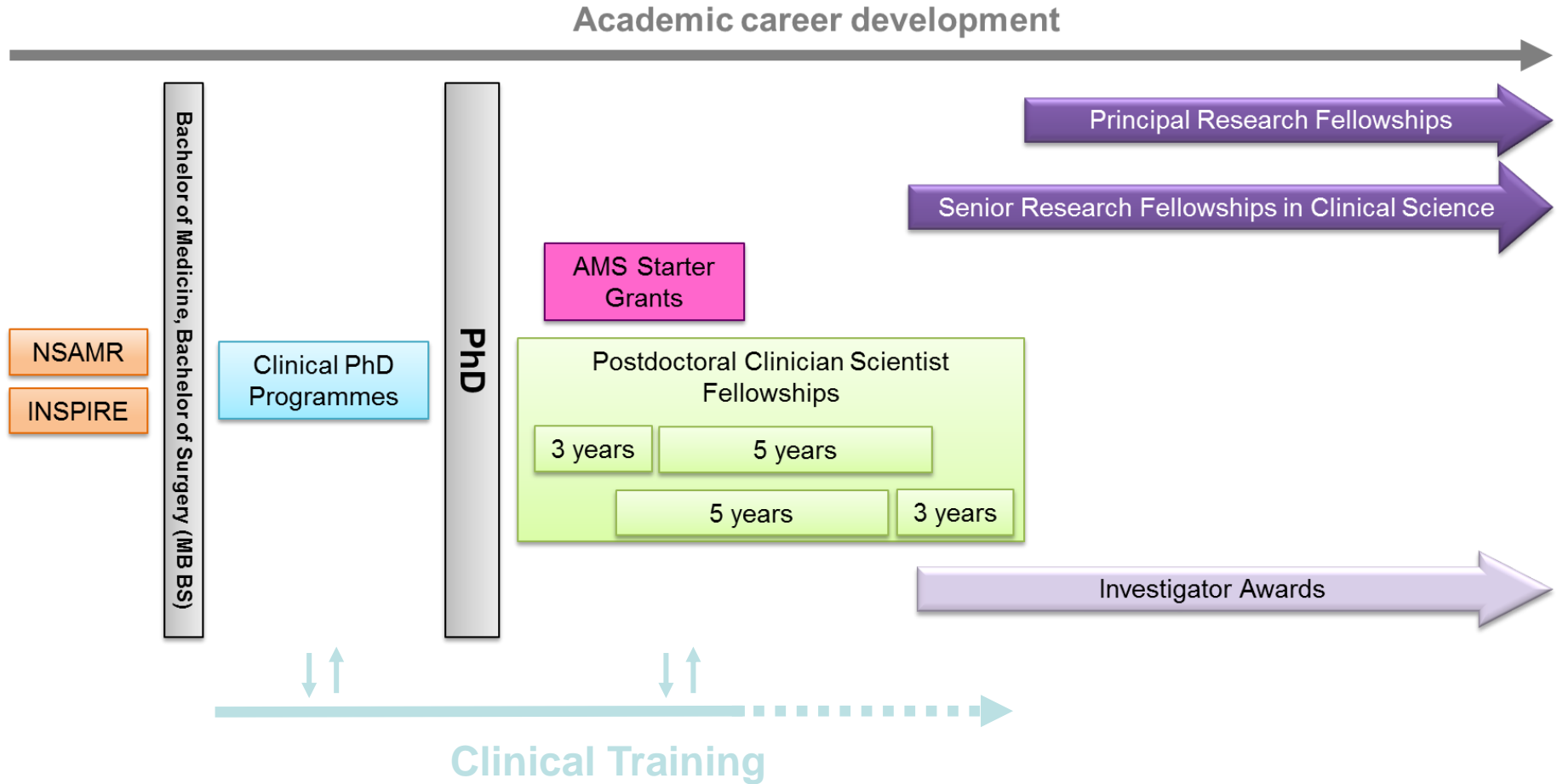
1. The Trust delivers its support for the PhD training for clinicians exclusively through programmes.

Research Training Fellowship is discontinued

2. The Trust consolidates its current postdoctoral schemes to build a run through Postdoctoral Clinician Scientist Fellowship. And provision agreed for a 50% uplift in the number of awardees.

Postdoc Training Fellowship and Intermediate Clinical Fellowship schemes are effectively ‘merged’.

New Clinical Pathway

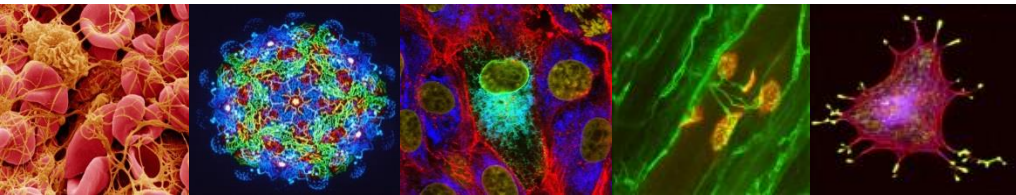


The Rationale

- To ensure our offer remains contemporary, and reflects the modern challenges faced by this community.
- To foster the next generation of clinical academic researcher and leader, and manage transitions along this pathway.
- To encourage diversity in the broadest sense amongst our trainees
- Improved mentorship and support for clinicians undertaking PhD and postdoctoral training funded by the Trust

Tips on writing a good application – the concept of grantsmanship

“Good writing will not save bad ideas, but bad writing can kill good ones.” (Kraicer)



Assessment criteria



Person

- The candidate's track record
- The candidate's vision of how the funding will contribute to their career development
- The candidate's long-term aspirations

Project

- The quality and importance of the research question
- The feasibility of the approach
- The appropriateness of the resources

Place

- The candidate's choice of research sponsors
- The quality and suitability of the research environment

Before starting your application....



- Read the application form and guidance notes **carefully**
- Think about the questions to address and who you may need to contact before you can answer some of them
- Identify colleagues who have previously been successful in obtaining grant support:
 - Study their proposals, and use them as models
 - Discuss ideas with colleagues in the relevant fields
- Check deadlines to avoid rushed applications & allow time for the application to be processed by the admin office
- Queries? Concerns? Contact the funder for advice

A 'Good' Application

- A strong and original central hypothesis
- Evident knowledge of the area
 - Consider what's already known, address conflicting opinions, use appropriate citations and references.
- Clear research plan
 - Is the technical approach feasible? Is the timescale realistic? What are the potential pitfalls and your fall-back plans? Are the requested resources appropriate?
 - For clinical research think about using the NIHR's Research Design Service (RDS)
- Convincing preliminary data
- Not over- or under- ambitious



A 'Good' Application

- Easy to understand and read
 - Consider all readers: avoid jargon and abbreviations
 - Check grammar and spelling
- Appropriate expertise
 - Choose your sponsor and supervisor wisely
 - Appropriate collaborators enlisted
- Resources appropriate: all staff, equipment and research expenses should be scientifically justified
- Animal use should be carefully justified and power calculations provided, where appropriate



Should offer the very best value for money

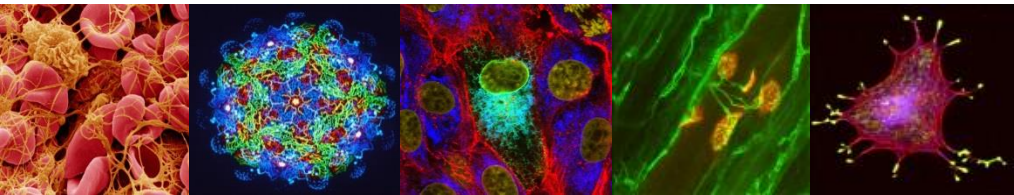
Avoid common mistakes

Have you considered the following?

- Be realistic
 - Submit relevant evidence
 - Be analytical and critical
 - Do not depend on your track record alone
 - Dedicate sufficient time to the project
 - Don't assume reviewers will know what you've done – even those in your field
 - Justify your budget
- **Proof read the application and ask others to read it critically before submission – you will need to give them plenty of time to do this well!**

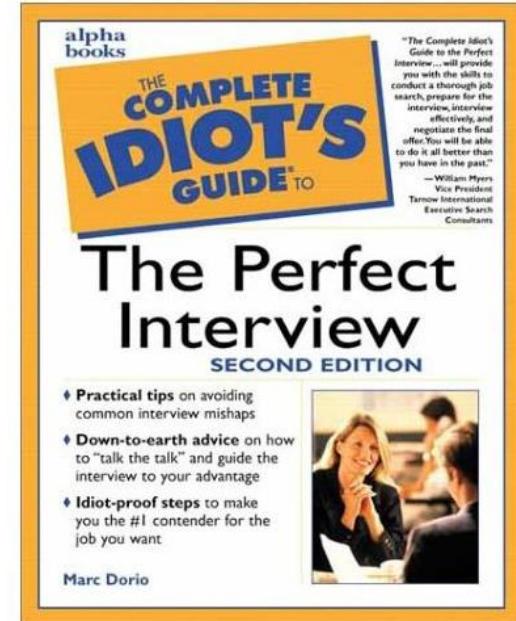


The Interview



Before the interview

- Practice, practice, practice! No substitute for mock interviews
- Know your application backwards
 - own the project!
- Know recent data in the field
- Be prepared to give a concise summary of your proposed project and your research career to date



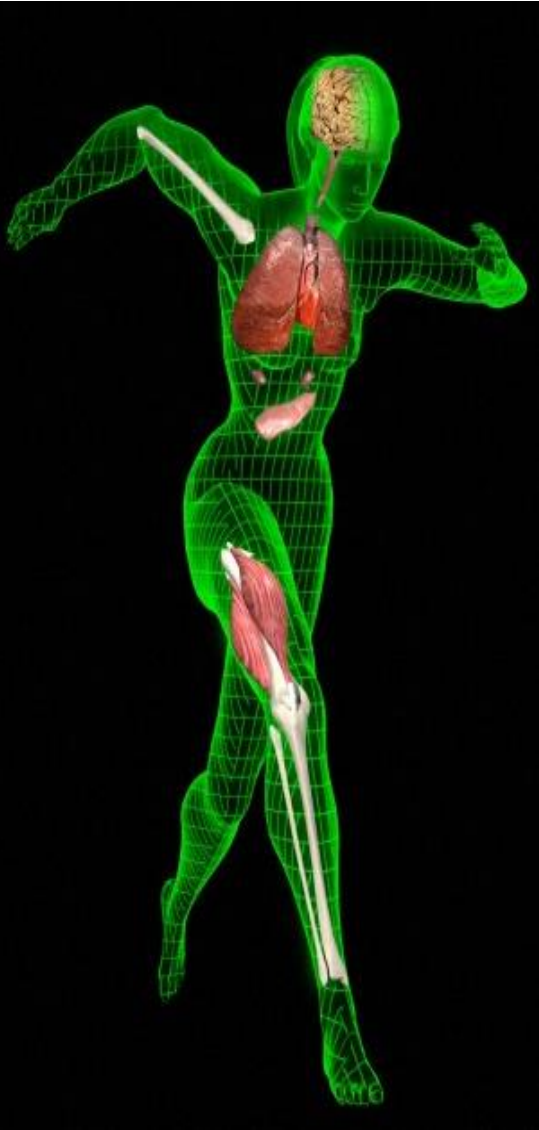
The interview itself

- **Practice, practice, practice!**
- Own the project. How does the project fit with wider landscape?
- Smile, make eye contact, remember to breath!
- Prepare a concise summary of your research and career to date
- No trick questions
- Listen carefully, and ensure you concisely answer the question posed
- Be prepared to defend, know when to concede



It was a mistake for Eric to wear a t-shirt to his job interview, and it was a bigger mistake to wear that particular t-shirt.

Final issues to consider



- Have I built a competitive CV?
- Do I have the right sponsor, supervisor and mentor?
- Is this the 'right' project for me?
- When is the best time in my career to do research?
- Am I being realistic?
- Will I enjoy it?

The last word

Check scheme details and deadlines well in advance.

Our website is a comprehensive source of information, but don't hesitate to contact the Trust Staff if you need advice.

www.wellcome.ac.uk

j.harden@wellcome.ac.uk

Good Luck!