

making a difference: approaches to assessment & evaluation

April 2008



wellcometrust

wellcome trust

independent research-funding charity

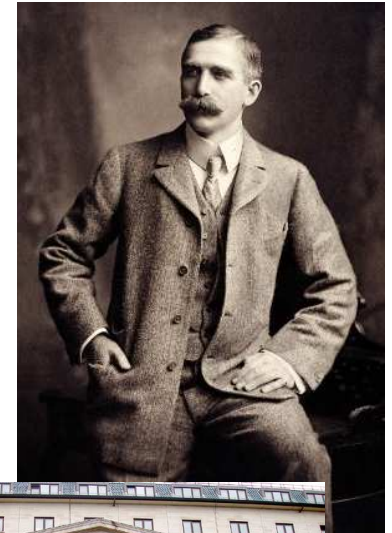
largest charity in UK

established 1936 from private endowment

asset base = £15 billion (11/2007)

interests range from science to history of medicine

spend rising to £650 million pa



assessment & evaluation: rationale

accountability & validation

have we made the right choices?

strategy & planning

what do different areas, mechanisms etc, deliver?

policy & advocacy

do we have the evidence to support our position?

reporting

what story do we tell?

doing evaluation

corporate-level reporting & analysis

evaluation frameworks

funding programme review

individual grant reporting & review

strategic & market research

policy research



evaluation methods & tools

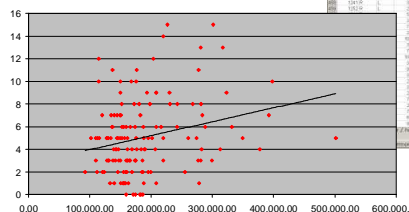
funding analyses

publication & output analyses

surveys, consultations & interviews

peer & expert reviews

narrative approaches



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HIGHLIGHT AWARENESS AND DEBATE 2006/07

DEMOCS: ENABLING DELIBERATION

Background
The Centre for Participation at the New Economics Foundation (NEF) received funding in 2000 from the Wellcome Trust and the Department of Trade and Industry for the development of a discussion game that enables people to formulate and express their views on controversial topics in contemporary science. The game is called Democs - an acronym for 'deliberative meetings of citizens'. The first round of development focused on games for adults; these were then adapted for secondary school children for use in the classroom in collaboration with the Centre for Science Education at Sheffield Hallam University.

Advance
Democs consists of a set of game kits on different issues in science, such as animal experimentation, stem cell research and preimplantation genetic diagnosis. Each kit contains up to 60 cards featuring pieces of information, a challenge, an issue or a personal history; taken together, the cards communicate key facts about the topic and explore the broad range of views and issues arising. The game is played by four to nine players in several rounds. In each round the players look at, choose and discuss one of the types of card, then collate the data and discuss the issue. The game ends with the group formulating a resolution on the issue about which views

Wellcome Trust grant
Society activity: Establishing Democs (Deliberative Meetings of Citizens) - spreading and embedding them: 2003



- Timeline of Dr Helen McShane**
- Salary
 - Research funding
 - Timeline outputs
- 1993 ● 1993 WHO declares TB epidemic a 'global ember'
 - 1997 ● MRC Clinical Training Fellowship
 - 2001 ● Wellcome Trust Clinician Scientist Fellowship
 - 2002 ● MVA85A enters clinical trials in Oxford
 - 2002 ● European Commission
 - 2003 ● Phase I trials start in the Gambia
 - 2004 ● European Commission
 - 2005 ● WHO declares tuberculosis epidemic in Africa to be an emergency
 - 2006 ● Phase II clinical trials in South Africa
 - 2006 ● Wellcome Trust Strategic Translation Award
 - 2007 ● Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Research Fellowship
 - 2007 ● Linacre award, Royal College of Physicians
 - 2007 ● European Commission

Table of achievements

Inputs

- MRC Clinical Training Fellowship (1997)
- Wellcome Trust Clinician Scientist Fellowship (2001)
- European Commission grant (2002)
- European Commission integrated project (2004)
- Wellcome Trust Strategic Translation Award (2006)
- Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Research Fellowship (2007)
- European Commission (2007)

Key activities/outputs

- The T-cell responses induced by MVA85A are the highest ever induced by a vaccine in humans
- The 85A antigen is a secreted protein in common to all species of mycobacterium
- MVA85A taken to phase II clinical trials in Africa
- The MVA system may boost immunity to other chronic infections in humans
- Several collaborations have been set up to progress current research activity

Outcomes

- Developed the first vaccine against tuberculosis to be taken to clinical trial since the BCG in 1921
- Real possibility of a vaccine ready for use by 2014
- Linacre Medal for 2007, Royal College of Physicians

issues & challenges

systematic data gathering & ongoing monitoring

developing appropriate benchmarks & comparators

beyond the life of a grant – how to capture longer-term outputs & outcomes

working with joint/co-funders – agreeing remit & avoiding duplication

options for collaboration

could funders agree some common/core datasets?

information sharing – funding ‘repositories’ ... e.g.
people, projects

sharing of ‘best practice’ on evaluation methods & tools

opportunities for joint evaluations & reviews?

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UK Evaluation Forum report: 2006

build evidence base to demonstrate the impact of medical research

improved methods to demonstrate impact of research

explore methods for conducting economic assessment of impact of medical research

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Publications/Books/Biomedical-science/index.htm>

