

Wellcome Trust Career Tracker

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CAREER TRACKER

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Career tracking

What do people we fund go on to do?

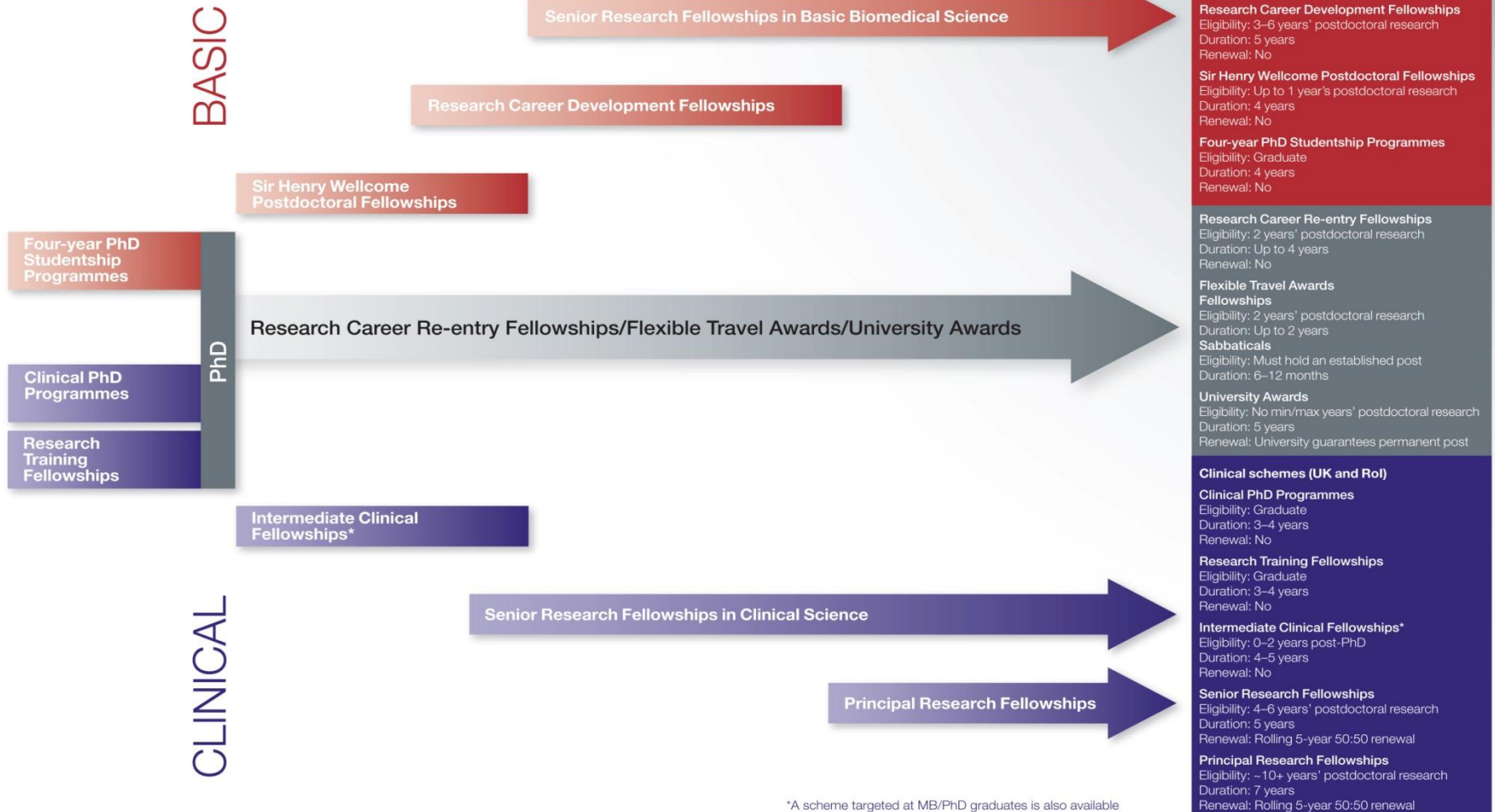
- *What is the longer term impact of our funding?*
- *How successful have our initiatives been?*
- *How can we support/encourage people to stay in academic research?*



Wellcome Trust Careers

RESEARCH CAREER FUNDING

For basic science and clinical researchers based in the UK or the Republic of Ireland



Career tracking

Old approach

- ◆ Tracking by internet searches/talking to supervisors
- ◆ Ad hoc – incomplete

New approach

- ◆ More systematic, prospective approach from start
- ◆ Engage with award holders
- ◆ Understand reasons/choices



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What?

- a longitudinal study with the same individuals over time
- tracking the progress in their careers
- understand choices they make

Why?

- achievements and challenges faced by our awardees
- impact of different funding mechanisms on careers
- inform policy, funding and future strategy

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Who?

- basic PhD students, intermediate levels, international senior fellows
- prospective: final year, just finished; Retrospective (5 years back)
- adding new cohorts each year

How?

- recruitment via a short online survey
- those taking part will be surveyed once a year



Exploring the issues

Questions around:

- Career aspirations and progression
- Career choices
- Funding
- Achievements
- Main challenges
- Reasons for leaving biomedical research
- Tailored ad hoc questions

Issues:

- Male and female progression and retention in biomedical research
- Extent of awardees moving abroad – and returning?
- Policy changes and impacts on careers
- Differences in different areas of research



Challenges

- Contact details
- Getting high response at the beginning
- Avoid attrition rates
- Not overburdening researchers
- Engaging with those who leave scientific research
- Resources involved



Engaging with respondents

- Piloted questionnaires
- Raise awareness of the study and the benefits
 - ♦ Webpage on Wellcome site
 - ♦ Talks at meetings
- Stress the benefits and importance of the study
- Sharing the reported findings
- Catch-up emails
- Build links with our researchers



Research profiles

History

longer overview of research process & path of a particular activity, career history, piece of research or breakthrough

Shah Ebrahim: The epidemiology of chronic disease in Britain and India

SUMMARY

Non-communicable diseases such as mental illness, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases are the major health burden across the world today, and they are on the rise. Leading epidemiologist Shah Ebrahim, Professor of Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has recently received a Wellcome Trust Strategic Award to apply his expertise in chronic diseases to capacity building for the management of these diseases in India.



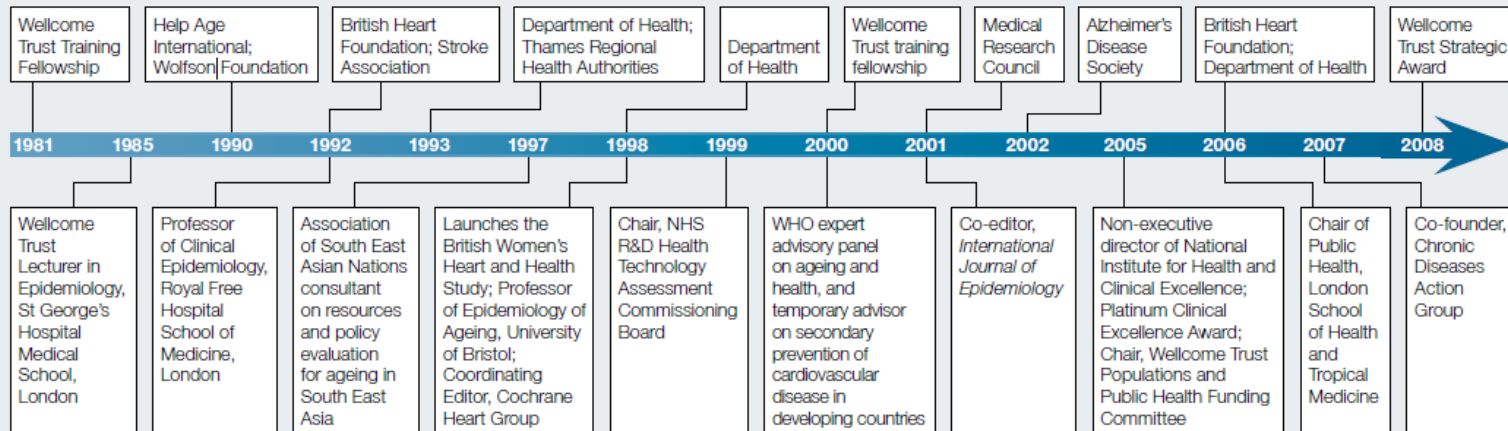
Background

The world's poorest people have the highest rates of both infectious and non-communicable diseases, but traditionally the profound economic impact of non-communicable diseases has been underestimated in developing nations.

Advance

In 1998, Professor Ebrahim established the British Women's Heart and Health Study, which collected data on 4000 women and has continued to monitor the cohort ever since. The research is directly modelled on the British Regional

Timeline of Shah Ebrahim



CAREER

Next Steps

- Tracking the whole cohort
- Exploring feasibility of prospective publication tracking
- Working with other UK charities