

The Wolfson* Foundation

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.00 MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

The Wolfson Foundation launches £10 million mental health initiative

The Wolfson Foundation today announced a £10 million funding competition to support outstanding research to advance the understanding and treatment of mental health conditions. UK universities and research organisations are eligible to apply (individually or collaboratively) and it is likely that a single award will be made.

While most evidence suggests that the rate of mental illness is on the rise, the research charity, MQ, reports that research in this area only receives 5.8% of the UK health research budget¹.

Wolfson, a charity awarding grants to support and promote excellence across a wide range of fields including health, education and science, is convening a panel of leading international experts in mental health from outside of the UK to review proposals.

Applications can request funding for:

- Endowment of chairs or posts, and programme costs for up to 5 years
- Attracting key talent in the field to work in the UK
- Training early career clinical researchers
- New research facilities or equipment

Research should focus broadly on anxiety and depression, and particular interest will be shown in proposals relating to adolescent mental health as well as those drawing on insights from other areas of medicine.

Paul Ramsbottom, Chief Executive of the Wolfson Foundation said, "The distress caused by mental ill health is hard to overstate – for both individuals and their families, with a wider detrimental impact on the economy and society at large. We are excited to be able to make this call for applications in a field of research which has historically been underfunded. There is currently an unparalleled national discussion about the causes and impact of mental ill health. We have been keen to define the Initiative broadly to allow research institutions to set out their own visions of how they would spend £10 million to greatest effect."

Institutions wishing to apply to the Wolfson Foundation's new mental health initiative should email an outline description of the proposal to the Wolfson Foundation office by **Friday 11 January 2019**.

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Notes to Eds

About the Wolfson Foundation

The Wolfson Foundation (www.wolfson.org.uk) is an independent charity that supports and promotes excellence in the fields of science, health, education and the arts and humanities.

Since it was established in 1955, over £900 million (£1.9 billion in real terms) has been awarded to more than 11,000 projects throughout the UK, all on the basis of expert review.

In 2011, following a similar Initiative, Wolfson awarded University College London (UCL) £20m to set up the Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neuroscience to research early intervention in neurodegeneration. A recent trial undertaken in this Centre showed ground-breaking results for Huntington's disease patients and families.

www.wolfson.org.uk

@wolfsonfdn

For further information (including a copy of the Stage 1 method of application) and to interview Paul Ramsbottom, Chief Executive, please contact the Wolfson Foundation Communications and Events Manager on Amanda.Thomson@wolfson.org.uk or 0207 323 5730 Ext 214

Reference

¹MQ Policy Report. (2018). Young People's Mental Health: Towards a Brighter Future (p4)

<https://s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/www.joinmq.org/Young+people's+mental+health+research+-+towards+and+brighter+future.pdf>