

MRC Global Mental Health Research

Rachael Panizzo

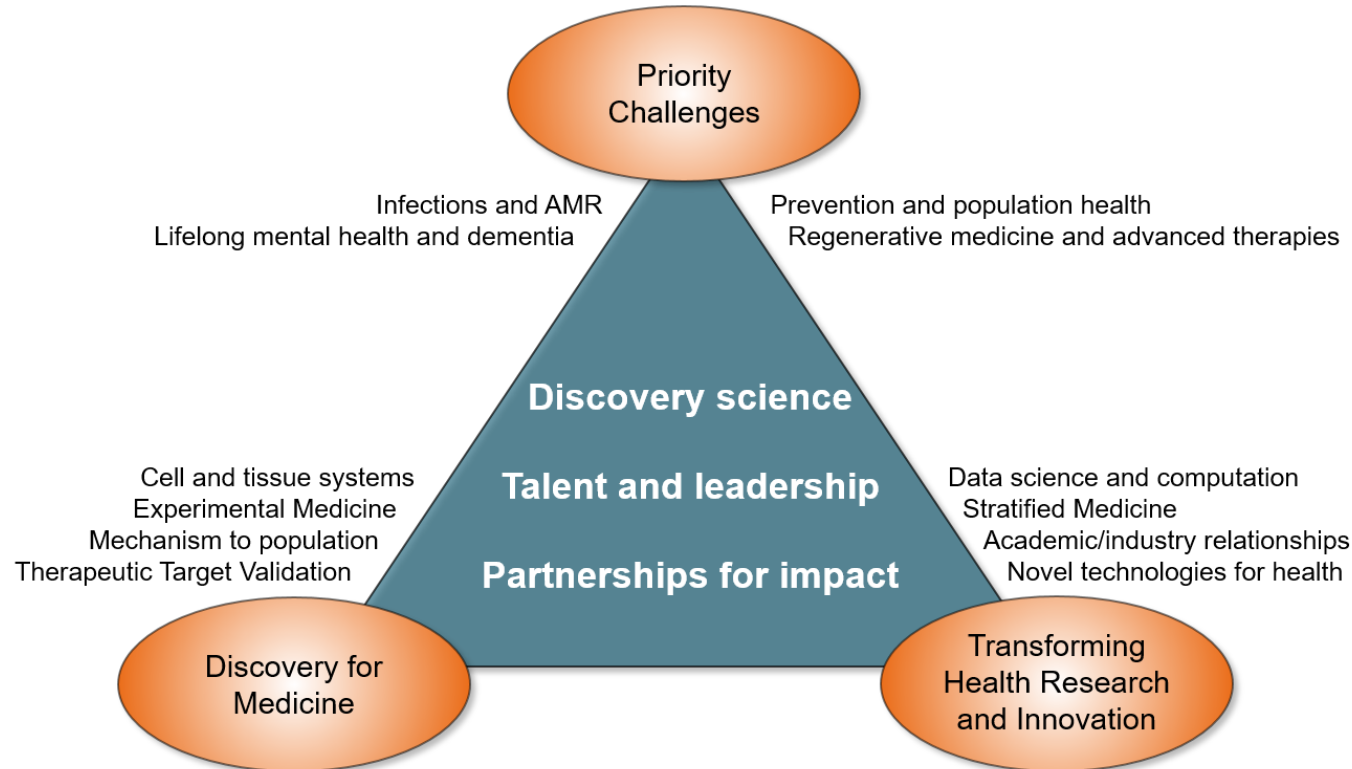
Medical Research Council

October 2017

MRC mission

- Encourage and **support high-quality research** with the aim of improving human health
- Produce **skilled researchers**; advance and disseminate knowledge and technology to improve the quality of life and economic competitiveness in the UK
- Promote **dialogue with the public** about medical research

The MRC's UK and global priorities for a healthier society, increased innovation and productivity



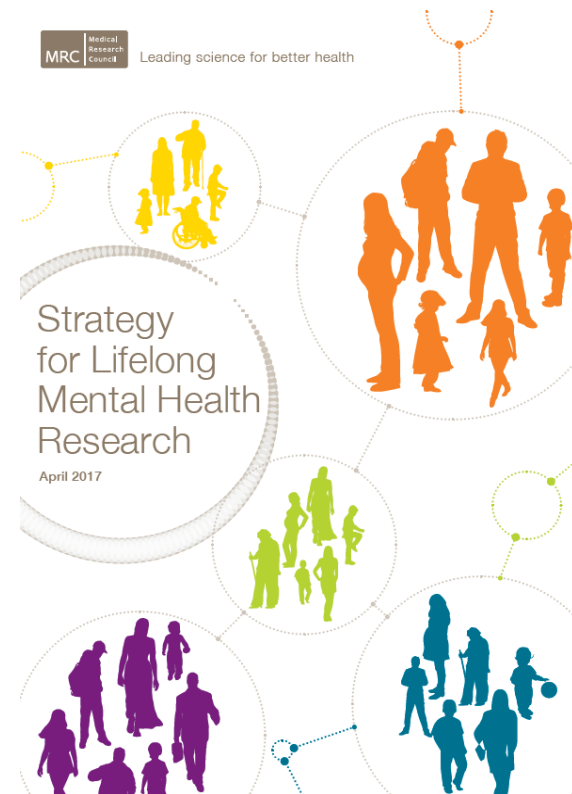
MRC & Mental Health Research

Mental Health Research at MRC

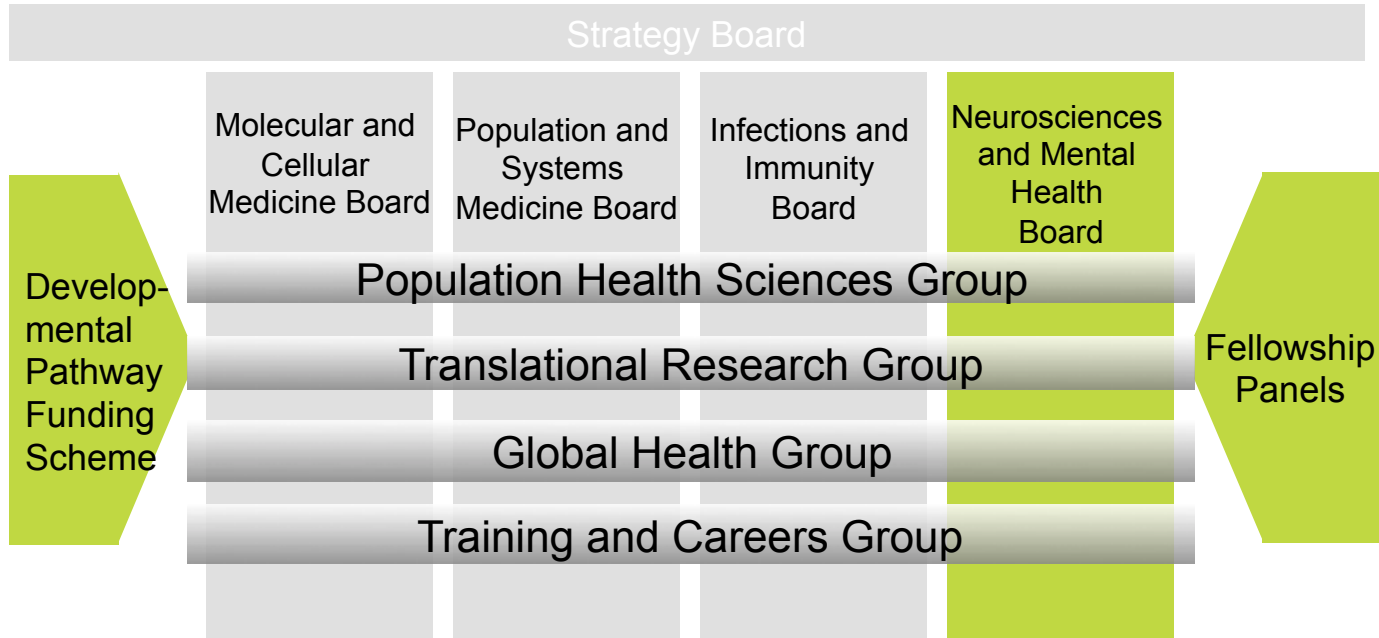
- MRC **Neurosciences and Mental Health Board** remit is to fund excellent, novel research across the spectrum of neurosciences and mental health
- **MRC strategy for lifelong mental health launched April 2017**
- MRC spent **£25.2m on mental health research** in 2015-16
 - with a portfolio of approx. **300 grants and fellowships.**
 - *In addition* to underpinning neuroscience and cognitive research, cohorts (£12.2m annually across 22 cohorts), imaging facilities, brain banks, etc.

MRC Strategy for lifelong mental health

- Take a **lifelong perspective** with a **focus on children and young people**
- **Stratification** for mental health research
- Harness data using **informatics** as a tool
- Developing **new interventions**, target discovery and validation
- Major new investment in **global mental health**
- **Prevention** of mental illness
- **Building capacity** for mental health research



MRC strategy and delivery



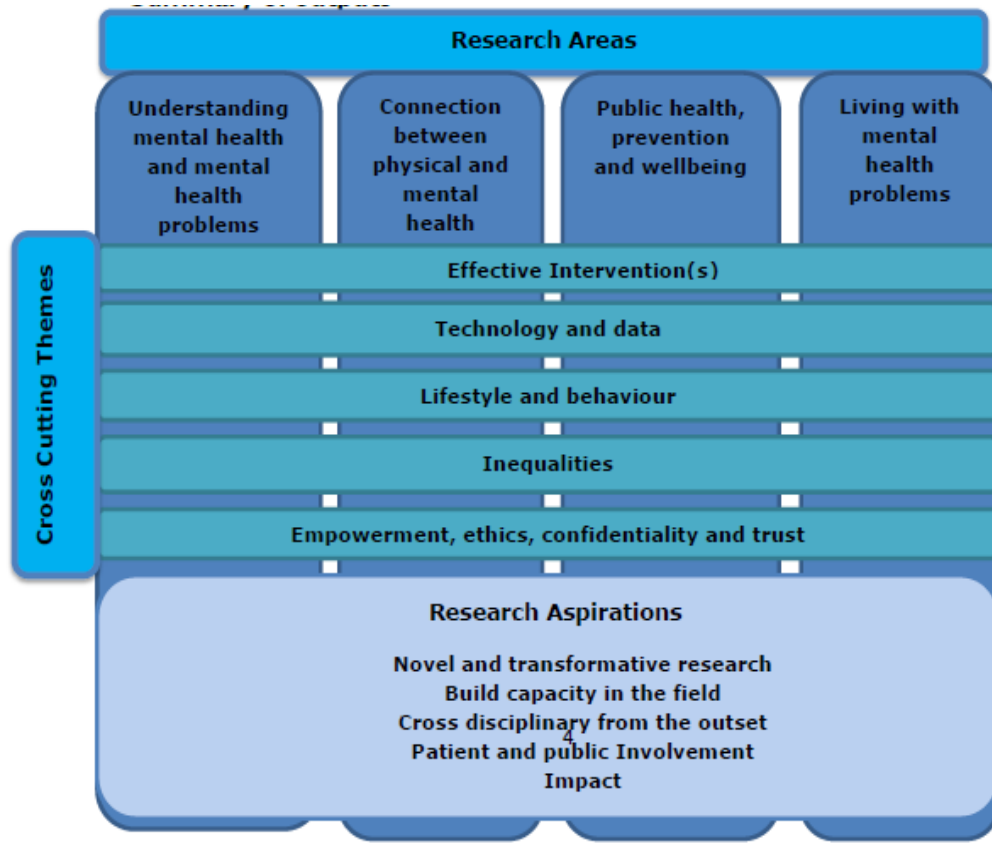
UK Cross-council mental health research agenda

Network Plus call launch

- innovative, cross-disciplinary approach to accelerate progress and build cross-disciplinary research capacity in mental health research
- Up to £1.25m, up to 48 months

UK Research Councils

- Medical Research
- Economic & Social Research
- Engineering & Physical Sciences
- Biotechnology & Biological Sciences
- Arts & Humanities
- Natural environment
- Science & Technology Facilities



MRC & Global Health

Research Changes Lives: Going global

- MRC funds approx. **£80m per year global health research**
 - **basic** and **applied research** in global health, including health systems research and interventions
 - Through Boards, Panels, Units, Centres, GCRF and Newton Fund
- Strategic priorities in global health research:
 - Tackling infectious diseases in resource-poor settings
 - Child, maternal and reproductive health, including nutrition
 - Non-communicable diseases
 - **Mental health research**
 - Pathways to impact, implementation into health systems
 - Improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations
 - Informatics and technology for health



Research
CHANGES Lives
2014–2019



MRC Strategy for lifelong mental health

- **New investment in global mental health (up to £20m)**
 - Directly address and influence the growing global burden of mental illness
 - Build on UK research strengths and LMIC partnerships
 - Deliver fundamental insights into aetiology and epidemiology of mental health in LMICs
 - Inform future interventional approaches



Working in partnership

- **MRC-DFID concordat**
Agreement to support biomedical and public health research to tackle the priority health problems of poor people in developing countries; £90m 2013-2018
- **Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)**
GCRF is a 5-year £1.5 billion funding stream to ensure that UK research plays a key role in addressing global challenges faced by LMICs. The remit of GCRF spans across multiple disciplines including social, biological, the environment and health.
- **MRC/Wellcome/NIHR/DFID Joint Global Health Trials**
Late-stage interventions that address the major causes of mortality or morbidity in LMICs, with potential for future implementation and impact for policy
- **Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD)**
Coordinated funding of joint programmes into lifestyle-related or chronic non-communicable diseases.
- **Newton Fund**



Global Mental Health Research funding opportunities

Opportunities in global mental health

Upcoming opportunities

- Newton Fund MRC/SAMRC global mental health research
- MRC-GCRF global mental health research
- ESRC-GCRF global mental health research
- **Ongoing:** Research Grants to MRC Boards and Panels accept ODA-eligible applications

Previous/recent funding calls

- GACD mental health implementation research
- MRC-GCRF Confidence in global mental health
- MRC-GCRF Foundation awards
- RCUK-GCRF GROW strategic programmes
- Brisith Academy/DFID Early Childhood Development funding call
- NIHR GCRF
- MRC/WT/NIHR/DFID Joint Global Health Trials

Thank you

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<https://www.mrc.ac.uk/funding/science-areas/neurosciences-mental-health/mental-health-research/>