

## Ideas for Research Funding and Careers

The continuing performance of the health and medical research sector will require identifying additional and alternative sources of funding. A recent monthly Twitter chat #onsci drew together fifty scientists, researchers and science communicators to think about research funding and careers.

This group suggested ideas for diversifying research funding including crowd-sourcing, investment by superannuation funds and broad industry engagement. In each of these cases the need to demonstrate the value of the research is critical, as are ways to ensure access scalability and repeatability. Collecting diverse funds may place commercial and time pressures on scientists, perhaps better managed by an agency that identifies and allocates this range of sources.

In finding alternative sources of funding, it is important to consider how decisions on the type of research conducted are made. Industry funding may be tied to specific requirements, and crowd-sourced funding is by its nature allocated on where the public sees a need for research. How to balance these needs with curiosity-driven or fundamental research is important. Decisions as to what research is funded must take place within a global context and with consideration of health trends, major challenges for Australia and input from the research community.

Finally, it was acknowledged that optimising the outcomes of research should draw on multiple stakeholders. Translation ecosystems that include research institutions, industry and end-users are likely to be more successful. Collaboration, commercialisation and areas for industry-research crossover are required to make this work.

Central to our submission is an edited collation of the relevant tweets from this #onsci Twitter chat which has been included as an attachment. More information on this chat can be found at <http://bridge8.wordpress.com/2012/03/14/onsci-15th-march-alternative-solutions-for-research-funding-careers>.

*[Secretariat note: the attachment has not been made public because of the large number of personal details contained within it.]*