

Request for Quotation for a landscape review on the value of longitudinal population studies in health research, and their opportunity to support delivery of Wellcome's strategy

1. Background and objectives

Wellcome is a politically and financially independent charitable foundation. We improve health for everyone by funding research, leading policy and advocacy campaigns, and building global partnerships. In 2020, Wellcome announced our new 30-year strategy that focuses on Discovery Research and three of the world's biggest health challenges: Mental Health, Climate & Health and Infectious Diseases. Through Discovery Research we support curiosity-driven research that can achieve significant shifts in understanding around life, health, and wellbeing. Within the three health challenge programmes we focus on removing specific bottlenecks in research and uptake to enable transformative advances in support of human health.

Longitudinal datasets are critical resources within health research and Wellcome has a track record of supporting longitudinal population studies (LPS) in the UK and Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). These studies track the health of large groups of people over time and include cohorts, panel surveys and biobanks. Large-scale, broad LPS provide a wealth of data across multiple domains making them extremely valuable resources for interrogating a range of questions about life, health and wellbeing. The value of LPS comes from their design of repeated measures over time, making these resources a substantial commitment with challenges around sustainability. There are also substantial opportunities for innovation in the LPS field including added value from increased harmonisation and linkage across resources as well as augmentation of datasets with routine data and wearable technology amongst others.

Wellcome want to understand how these critical resources can be best supported to help deliver our new strategy. We want to understand how they act as resources for Discovery Research but also as platforms where specific questions of relevance to Wellcome's Health Challenge Areas could be addressed. We are interested in the key barriers to impactful LPS and the experiences of participants involved in longitudinal data collection. We wish to explore emerging areas of innovation and how advances in data linkage and data analysis could transform the field.

2. RFQ specification

The purpose of this RFQ is to commission a delivery partner to provide critical insights on the following areas:

1. Value of LPS for health research:
 - a. What are the characteristics of the most valuable LPS? How have these resources transformed research fields, added value across domains and built capacity?
 - b. Which research questions are LPS uniquely placed to address and how do these align with Wellcome's strategy (both for Discovery Research and the three Health Challenges)?
 - c. Which LPS characteristics are the most valuable for addressing Wellcome's strategy (both for Discovery Research and the three Health Challenges)?

- d. What are the different models of sustainability for supporting these resources?
2. Gaps and emerging areas of innovation:
 - a. What are the main gaps and barriers that are holding back the LPS field and where are the key areas of innovation including:
 - i. More efficient study designs and advances in data collection methods (wearable technologies etc)
 - ii. Greater linkage to routine/consumer data sources and associated technological advances
 - iii. Mechanisms for harmonisation and linkage between LPS including networks of resources
 - iv. Advances in analytic methods (eg: causal inference) and adapting LPS as trial platforms.
3. Participant experience and involvement:
 - a. What are the experiences and views of participants involved in longitudinal data collection?
 - b. How do participants view linkage to routine data or additional personal data sources and what are the risks in using these data?
 - c. How can co-production be embedded in LPS design?
4. Diversity and inclusion:
 - a. How do LPS align with Wellcome's diversity and inclusion and research culture goals?
 - b. What are the challenges in embedding diversity within the LPS field?

Suppliers are encouraged to identify and address gaps not covered here which would improve the final output.

Scope: For this review we are interested in broad (not disease-specific), large-scale population based longitudinal studies including cohorts, panel surveys and biobanks containing more than 10,000 participants and with repeat data collection rounds.

We are interested in thinking creatively about which types of longitudinal data resources are best placed to help deliver Wellcome's strategy across the breadth of research areas that we support from the humanities and social sciences to population health and epidemiology as well as more fundamental biological sciences. Resources don't have to be relevant to Wellcome's three Health Challenge Areas (Mental Health, Infectious Diseases and Climate and Health) but, where relevant, we would like to understand where there are opportunities to support our work in these areas.

We encourage suppliers to take a global focus and we are particularly interested in emerging areas of innovation and the future direction of the LPS field.

Exclusion criteria: Studies that were initially set up as a clinical trial and studies focusing on animals are out of scope for this review.

Approach: The approach will be finalised after discussion with the suppliers, but we welcome any approach that is most suited to address the objectives as set out in this RfQ. Given the need to probe both depth of understanding and breadth of audience, we anticipate it will be mixed methods including but not limited to literature research, interviews with key leaders in the field and surveys with the wider research community. Wellcome has

undertaken various scoping activities on related topics, and we will share these documents with a successful Supplier so they can build on, rather than duplicate, previous work.

Wellcome will provide a concept note, an initial list of key leaders for wider engagement and a list of potential questions that could help shape the wider engagement phase. We anticipate that the names that we provide will act as a foundation list and that through initial engagement, additional individuals will be identified and engaged with. These individuals will be experts in their respective field (from both academia and industry) comprising a diverse range of seniority and geography. Wellcome is intending for this piece of work to equally cover both the UK/HICs and LMIC landscape, addressing the different needs in both settings. We anticipate that the selected organisation will engage with experts/researchers and have experience in working within and/or with LMIC researchers.

The Supplier/s could be consultancy organisations or research groups, so long as they have the required expertise, partners, and track records to undertake the work outlined above. This project will require close working with Wellcome throughout the life of the project. We will expect regular (at least fortnightly) meetings with the Supplier throughout the project, and for the output to be a report made to Wellcome at the end of the project.

Expected deliverables:

We expect that there will be fortnightly check points with Wellcome staff over the duration of the project and a final report with slide decks outlining the findings which include:

- Landscape report based on literature research and interviews/surveys. The report will cover the sections and questions outlined in this RfQ including how LPS could be best supported to deliver Wellcome's strategy. The report will also cover the current state of play within the field, barriers to further progress and novel avenues that are potential next big hits for the LPS field. Both in the UK and in LMIC settings.
- Comprehensive synthesis report of the findings from interviews which tap into building an understanding of the research field landscape including the views of study participants.
- Any data (quantitative and qualitative) on any outcomes from surveys that might have been used as part of the engagement.
- Summary reports of everyone that was engaged as part of the work.
- Integrated set of specific recommendations to Wellcome that are informed by the above points.

Timetable for the work:

We anticipate that the programme of work will be delivered between the months of January and end of March 2023, however, there is an essence of flexibility which can be refined during the inception meeting. We hope to have this work start at the end of Jan 2022

3. Response Format

RfQ Proposal

Suppliers are required to submit proposals (not longer than 15-20 pages) which respond to the following sections.

The proposal should demonstrate a clear understanding of the RFQ objectives and the intended outcome and how the proposed approach will deliver these.

#	Question	Max words
1	Outline why you are best placed to deliver the work laid out in the RfQ, which may include networks, previous relevant experience, experience of embedded or contracted experts etc (names of experts you will be working with can be provided as an annex).	250
2	Provide a short proposal outlining your methodology and how you will approach answering the brief and the RfQ questions. This should include the approach you will take to recruitment of relevant experts and identifying key resources. If planning to conduct surveys or interviews, please include a description of your analysis methods and how you will approach data protection when handling any data you collect.	1500
3	Outline who you will work with to deliver this work, with a brief justification for each stakeholder group. Outline how you will ensure a global focus to the data collected	500
4	Deliverables – outline the anticipated deliverables, including interim deliverables and the format that these will be presented in	250
5	Cost breakdown provide a clear costs proposal which details and justifies the proposed costs to meet all the requirements and the requested currency of payment.	250
6	Risk management – highlight any risks you foresee with meeting the requirements of the RfQ and explain your approach to risk management	250
7	Timetable – please outline the proposed timeline for this work including key milestones and deliverables. A final timeline will be agreed prior to finalising the contract	250
8	Working with Wellcome – please detail how you will work with Wellcome closely throughout the project	250

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

Approach and methodology (50%)	<p>Coverage: Will the chosen methodology provide robust evidence to address the fundamental questions outlined in the Specification section?</p> <p>Quality: Is the proposed methodology rigorous and aligned with our objectives?</p> <p>Delivering outcomes: Will the proposed methodology deliver the desired results?</p> <p>Diversity and Inclusion: Are there any diversity, equity and inclusion risks identified in the applicant's work?</p>
Team and experience (20%)	<p>Skills and Experience: Does the applicant/s have the relevant skills, experience, and contextual understanding to deliver this work?</p> <p>HIC and LMIC perspective: Have the applicant/s provided a credible plan to</p>

	engage with the research communities from both HIC and LMIC settings?
Delivery and outputs (20%)	<p>Communication: Is there an effective engagement and communication plan with Wellcome project team?</p> <p>Delivery plan: Is the proposed delivery plan appropriate and achievable?</p> <p>Feasibility: How feasible is the delivery plan? Are there significant risks associated with the proposed timelines, and how well are they mitigated?</p> <p>Sustainability: Is the approach to delivery viable and sustainable, appropriate and achievable?</p>
Budget (10%)	Value for Money: Is the proposed work within budget and good value for money

Suppliers submitting proposals as a registered company should review Wellcome's [terms and conditions](#).

Individuals submitting proposals as a sole trader (not registered) should review this [document](#).

Individuals submitting proposals through their own personal services company please highlight this to the Wellcome contact immediately

Costs Incurred by Prospective Suppliers

It should be noted that this document relates to a Request for Quotes only and not a firm commitment from Wellcome to enter into a contractual agreement. In addition, Wellcome will not be held responsible for any costs associated with the production of a response to this Request for Quote.

Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and Inclusion - Embracing [diversity and inclusion](#) is fundamental to delivering our mission to improve health, and we are committed to cultivating a fair and healthy environment for the people who work here and those we work with. As we learn more about barriers that disadvantage certain groups from progressing in our workplace, we will remove them.

Wellcome takes diversity and inclusion seriously, and we want to partner with suppliers who share our commitment. We may ask you questions related to D&I as part of our procurement processes.

Disability Confident

The Wellcome Trust is proud to be a Disability Confident Employer (DC Level 2) and we encourage all our partners and suppliers to do the same. More information about this can be found on the government website [Disability Confident employer scheme and guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/disability-confident-employer-scheme). Disability Confident is creating a movement of change, encouraging employers to think differently about disability and take action to improve how they recruit, retain and develop disabled people.

We would be grateful for your response to this enquiry by **9th December 2022**. Please send your proposal and any questions to **Lindsey Atkins-Tamblin at RFP@Wellcome.org**