



New International Vaccine R&D Network – “VALIDATE”

The UK’s Medical Research Council (MRC) has awarded funds to Prof Helen McShane (University of Oxford) and Associate Prof Helen Fletcher (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine) to set up “VALIDATE”, an international network of researchers developing vaccines against globally significant diseases caused by complex intracellular pathogens.

VALIDATE’s initial focus is on tuberculosis (TB), leishmaniasis, melioidosis, and leprosy. Their vision is to accelerate vaccine R&D for these pathogens by creating an engaged and interactive community of researchers who will form new cross-pathogen, cross-continent, cross-species and cross-discipline collaborations, generating new ideas, taking advantage of synergies and quickly disseminating lessons learned across the Network.

They provide pump-priming grants of £20-50k for ground-breaking projects by members, with their first grant call [open now](#).

VALIDATE also aims to facilitate continuing professional development (CPD) and career progression among their members, particularly Early Career and Low and Middle-Income Country (LMIC) Researchers, by providing training grants, workshops, a mentoring scheme and seminars, as well as a central hub website highlighting job and training opportunities worldwide.

Professors McShane and Fletcher would welcome membership applications from any researchers working in this field, including those in allied disciplines such as social science, epidemiology and modelling; VALIDATE is an inclusive Network, and joining is free and simple.

Further details about VALIDATE and how to join the Network can be found at their website: www.validate-network.org. You can also follow their news on Twitter [@NetworkValidate](https://twitter.com/NetworkValidate).