

**Mission statement**

NMHB supports research that will transform our understanding of the physiology and behaviour of the human nervous system throughout the life course in health and in illness, as well as how to treat and prevent disorders of the brain. The research we support includes the interactions between the nervous system and other parts of the body and encompasses the continuum from basic to translational and includes multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary studies. This science is underpinned by research that uses human, animal and cell models, clinical and population studies, interventions as well as tool and technique development.

**Award rate by Research Board**

(by number and % across a 3yr average)

Grant type	IIB	MCMB	NMHB	PSMB
Research	28/158 18%	34/184 18%	32/215 15%	22/177 13%
NIRGs	7/22 31%	4/23 19%	5/32 16%	6/22 29%
Programme	5/9 52%	6/20 28%	5/14 37%	6/12 49%
Partnership	0/3 0%	4/9 44%	4/12 33%	4/14 29%
Overall Award Rate	21%	22%	17%	17%

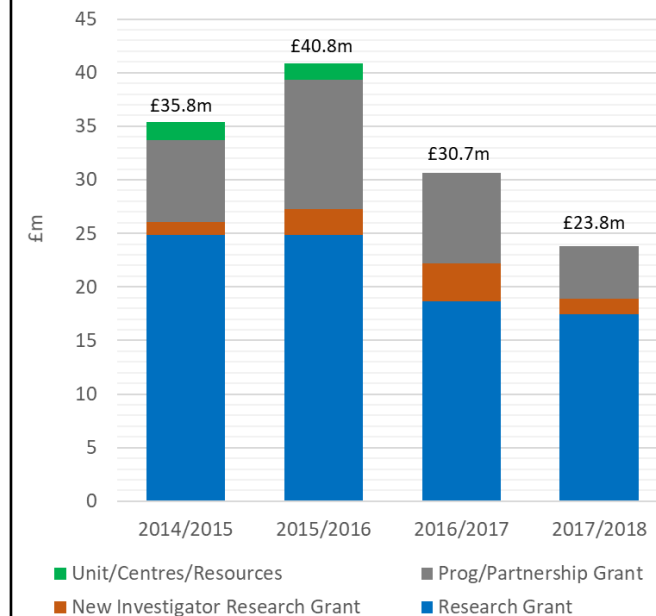
**Partnership funding:**

- **Dementias Platform UK** – investment of £12m in a consortium of 8 universities and 6 companies, providing an additional £4m in a public/private partnership
- **Joint Programming in Neurodegenerative Diseases (JPND)** – MRC provided £3m for Pathways to Analysis of Disease Call for 2-year high-risk, high-payoff Pathfinder proposals
- **Centres of Excellence in Neurodegeneration (CoEN)** – MRC contributed £1.3m to the last call

**NMHB Opportunities:**

- Mental health
- Neurodegeneration
- Insight into the human brain

**Annual spend across categories**



**Major strategic initiatives in FY2017/18:**

- **UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI)** joint MRC / Alzheimer’s Society / Alzheimer’s Research UK investment of £290m to create a national institute to bring together world-leading expertise in biomedical, care, public health and translational dementia research. **Momentum Awards**, set up to boost the UK dementias research base, in readiness for the UK DRI, entered their second year. These awards, totalling £.3.9m, were made across five universities.
- **Data Pathfinder Awards:** £10m awarded in 2018 for 2-year pump priming awards in mental health research.
- **GCRF Confidence in Global Mental Health Research:** £2m awarded in 2017 for pump-priming awards
- **Units/centres** – no requests in this financial year

**Key investment areas / messages:**

- **Mental Health:** taking a lifelong perspective to mental health with a focus on children and young people and working to strengthen mental health research both in the UK and globally through targeted calls and partnership working, including the UKRI Mental Health Network call and working with the Medical Research Foundation in the area of self-harm and eating disorders.
- **Neurodegeneration:** continued implementation of the neurodegeneration strategy through regular response-mode mechanisms to complement the work of Dementias Platform UK, UK DRI and international initiatives in JPND and CoEN.
- NMHB supports the **MRC Brain Banks** as part of the wider **UK Brain Banks Network**, a resource for sharing post-mortem brain tissue.