RCUK GCRF Call for Evidence

For more information visit
http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/gcrf-call-for-evidence/

Question 8

Thinking about the broader development landscape, in which of these high level interdisciplinary challenge areas might GCRF research add most value? Please select one or more:

- Health
- Clean energy
- Sustainable agriculture
- Conflict & humanitarian action
- Foundations of inclusive growth
- Resilient systems
- Mass migration & refugee crises
- None of these

Our response

1. In our view the high level interdisciplinary areas in which GCRF research might add most value are:

    - Health
    - Clean energy
    - Sustainable agriculture

2. We recommend including Water and Resource Efficiency/Circular Economy either as challenge themes or as explicit cross-cutting themes. Evidence is given in Question 11.

3. For each challenge we provide evidence below of:

    - the role of research in delivering solutions to the challenge
    - UK research capability in that challenge area and
    - existing links between UK research and DAC List countries.

We are aware that our evidence is not comprehensive, being limited to the lens of chemistry and the many subjects across science and engineering with which it interfaces. Our intention is that concrete examples and evidence will nevertheless be useful in informing and supporting decisions.

4. In the clarification of the challenges there is an opportunity to highlight the role of underpinning research areas such as materials, physical and analytical sciences, and catalysis in contributing to a range of challenge themes.

5. We understand that delivering solutions to global challenges will require an interdisciplinary effort and we are committed to supporting the chemistry community in contributing to their full potential to this effort. Our own global challenges programme and international activities such as the Pan-African Chemistry Network are designed with this objective in mind.

6. We would welcome the opportunity to support RCUK and the delivery partners as you develop these challenges and the calls that follow from them, sharing our own work on global challenges and international engagement as well as linking with members of the research community. Please contact Dr Deirdre Black, Science Manager.

 Registered charity number 207890

Question 11

Should RCUK consider including any of the UN Global Goals as challenge areas? Please select those that apply:

- Affordable & clean energy
- No poverty
- Clean water & sanitation
- Climate action
- Life below water
- Decent work & economic growth
- Gender equality
- Good health & well-being
- Industry, innovation & infrastructure
- Life on land
- Partnerships for the goals
- Peace, justice & strong institutions
- Quality education
- Reduced inequalities
- Responsible consumption & production
- Sustainable cities & communities
- Zero hunger

Our response

We suggest including the following UN Global Goals as additional GCRF Challenge areas:

- Water, which overlaps with Clean water & sanitation
- Resource efficiency & circular economy, which overlaps with Responsible consumption & production

We note that several of the already proposed challenge areas overlap to some extent with the UN Global Goals, for example:

- Clean energy overlaps with Affordable & clean energy
- Health overlaps with Good health & well-being
- Sustainable agriculture overlaps with Zero hunger
- Resilient systems overlaps with Climate action

Information about interdisciplinary global challenges and Royal Society of Chemistry programmes to support chemists in developing solutions to the following:

- Energy
- Health
- Food
- Climate change
- Water

Evidence for Question 8

Health

Health: Evidence of role of research in delivering solutions to challenge

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Health: Evidence of existing links between UK research and DAC List Countries

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Clean energy

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Clean energy: Evidence of UK research capability

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Clean Energy: Evidence of existing links between UK research and DAC List Countries

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Sustainable agriculture

Sustainable agriculture: Evidence of the role of research in delivering solutions to challenge

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