

In 1994-95, the MRC's budget from the federal government was \$248 million. Of this, \$240 million was used to support research and research training, while the remainder (3.1%) supported the MRC's operations. Included in the 1994-95 budget was approximately \$5.3 million for funding five National Networks of Centres of Excellence.

Areas of Medical Research Council Support

- bacteriology
- biochemistry
- blood
- cancer
- cardiovascular
- cell biology
- dental sciences
- drug research
- endocrinology
- gastrointestinal and liver
- genetics
- health services research
- hearing and vision
- imaging and nuclear medicine
- immunology and transplantation
- metabolism, including diabetes
- molecular biology
- musculo-skeletal
- nephrology
- neurosciences
- nursing
- nutrition
- population health
- psycho-social behavior
- reproduction (incl. pregnancy)
- virology

All MRC decisions on grant applications are made after careful assessment by a review panel comprising experts in the applicant's field. This panel is enhanced by experts drawn from the international research community. The process involves 38 different peer review committees composed of over 400 scientists spanning a wide range of specialties. This peer review process is fundamental in ensuring that R&D excellence is encouraged and supported.

Support for research is provided through two fundamental approaches: grants in support of specific research projects, and awards in support of people.

Operating Grants by Area of Research 1993-94

Classification	Number of Grants	Funding \$ millions
Neuroscience	316	25
Cardiovascular	172	17
Biochemistry	131	14
Genetics	98	10
Molecular Biology	130	10
Other Disciplines (21)	1 151	89
TOTAL	1 998	165

Average Grant: \$70 000/year for three years

Source: The Medical Research Council