



A new home for science

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[Image: Wellcome Trust]

The Francis Crick Institute in London, which scientists start to move into this week, is a building that was designed with collaboration in mind.

Once the 1250 scientists are installed in Europe's largest biomedical research space—of more than 120 000 square metres (or 17 football pitches) over eight floors—team work is likely to come naturally. The building's design means that researchers from different disciplines and different organisations will be laboratory neighbours. Open work spaces, breakout areas, and shared core facilities will all help to facilitate a heads-down together approach.

The Crick is a collaboration of six founding partners: the UK Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust, University College London, Imperial College London, and King's College London. It is located behind the British Library and next to the St Pancras international rail station.

While it specialises in the fundamental science of the biological processes underlying human disease, it will also focus on translational research: converting the biological discoveries in the laboratory into treatments for patients.

Paul Nurse, the Crick's director, said, "A remarkable, state of the art new home for the Crick has been completed, and the occupation by scientists has started. But this is only the beginning. As all our research groups move in over the rest of the year, it will be the discoveries we make here that will establish our place at the forefront of science in London, the UK, and worldwide."

BMJ Blogs Frank Dobson, former Labour MP for Holborn and St Pancras and a previous health secretary for England, blogs about the opening of the Francis Crick Institute and the importance of keeping the UK at the forefront of research and innovation at blogs.bmj.com/bmj.

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