

novo nordisk
foundation



Gates Foundation

Innovations for Gram- Negative Antibiotic Discovery Grand Challenges Webinar

February 2025

Webinar Agenda

- 1 Introduction and Grand Challenge Context
- 2 Innovations for Gram-Negative Antibiotic Discovery: Background and Problem Statement
- 3 RFP Details
- 4 Q&A

Introductions: Novo Nordisk Foundation, Wellcome, Gates Foundation



The Novo Nordisk Foundation supports a wide range of projects and initiatives that help to promote human health and the sustainability of society and the planet.



Nadia Boisen
Scientific Manager
Infectious Diseases



Wellcome funds research around the world, across a broad range of fields and disciplines, to understand life, health and wellbeing and to deliver equitable health solutions.



Sumi Robson
Senior Research Manager
Infectious Disease



From poverty to health, to education, the Gates Foundation's areas of focus offer the opportunity to dramatically improve the quality of life for billions of people. We build partnerships that bring together resources, expertise, and vision—working with the best organizations around the globe to identify issues, find answers, and drive change.



Ken Duncan
Deputy Director
Drug Discovery



Jenniffer Maroa
Senior Program Officer
Global Partnerships & Grand Challenges



GRAND CHALLENGES

Going Further, Faster, Together

WHAT IS GRAND CHALLENGES?

Grand Challenges (GC) is a family of initiatives fostering innovation to solve key global health and development problems.



Sourcing innovation

Engage the world's most creative minds from across sectors, organizations and geographies through open requests for proposals



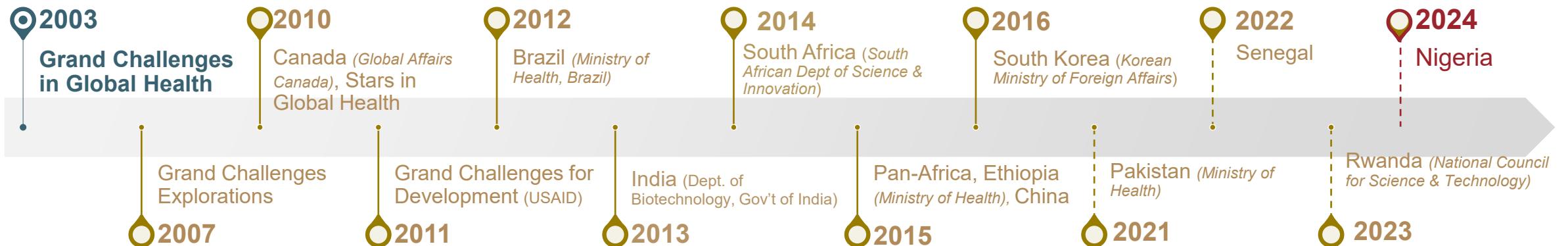
Aligning research & funding partners

Bring innovation to scale for the benefit of the world's poor through partnership to expedite the process

Grand Challenges has grown into a global network of dedicated partners

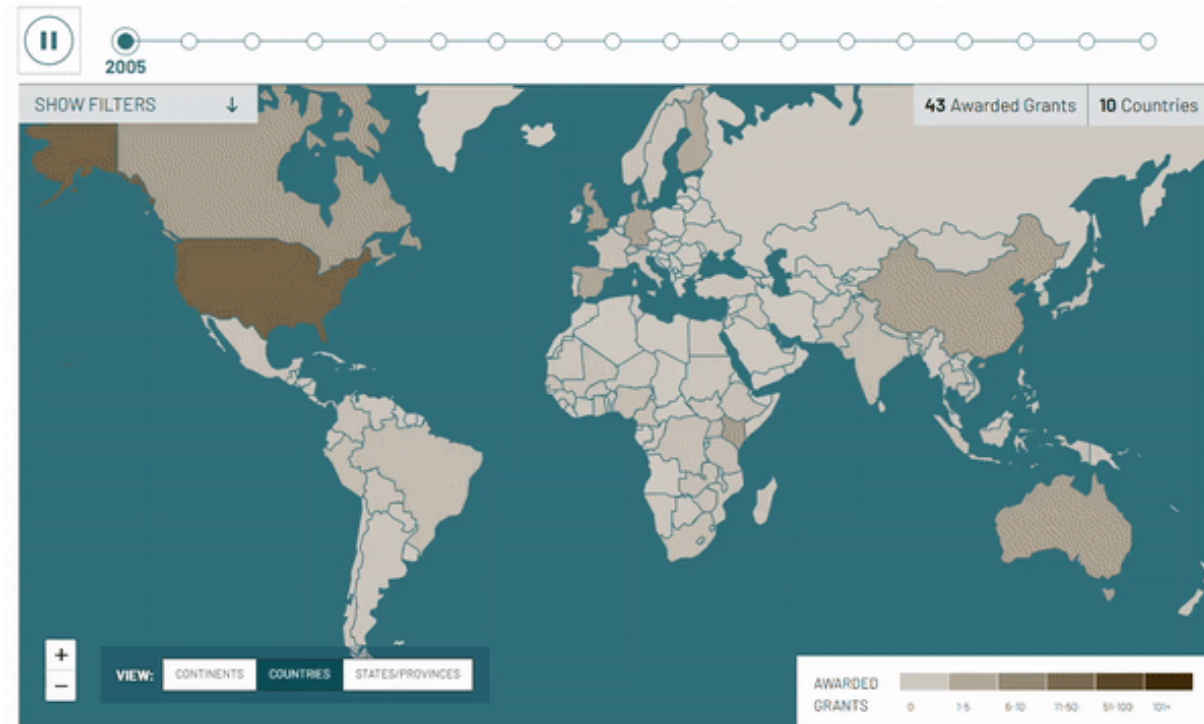
Our GC network and platform has enabled diverse stakeholders – public and private, North and South, funders, policymakers and innovators – to work together on equal footing to identify and solve global challenges.

GC programs are now run in over a dozen countries & regions and these programs are putting systems in place to fund and bolster local scientists and scientific infrastructure.



Grand Challenges Grantees: A Global Impact Network

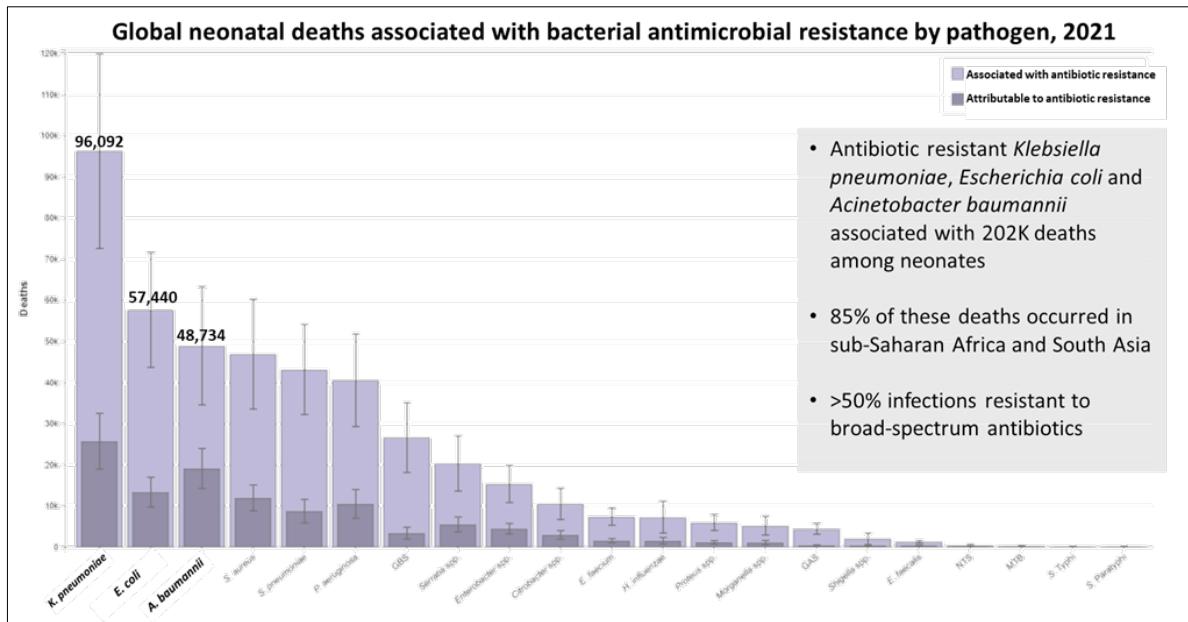
- Over 4000 Grand Challenges grants in 124 countries
- Diverse thematic areas:
 - Data modeling for public health decision making
 - AI for global health
 - Innovations for women's health
- Government partnership and support through the Grand Challenges national partners to speed up adoption and scaling of innovations
- Network collaborations: webinars, convenings, and the Grand Challenges Annual Meeting



<https://www.grandchallenges.org/>

The problem

- Number of deaths associated with Gram-negative infections rising globally
- Few new treatment options



Source: IHME

Discovery of new classes of antibiotics is not keeping pace with the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria



INNOVATION GAP
Every FDA-approved antibiotic in use today for the treatment of Gram-negative bacterial infections is based on a scientific discovery made prior to 1962.

Source: CARB-X

Key Information



Scope

Antibiotic
discovery for
Gram-
negative
bacteria



Team

Worldwide,
any sector



Funding

Up to
US\$ 5 Million
for up to 3
years

Scope



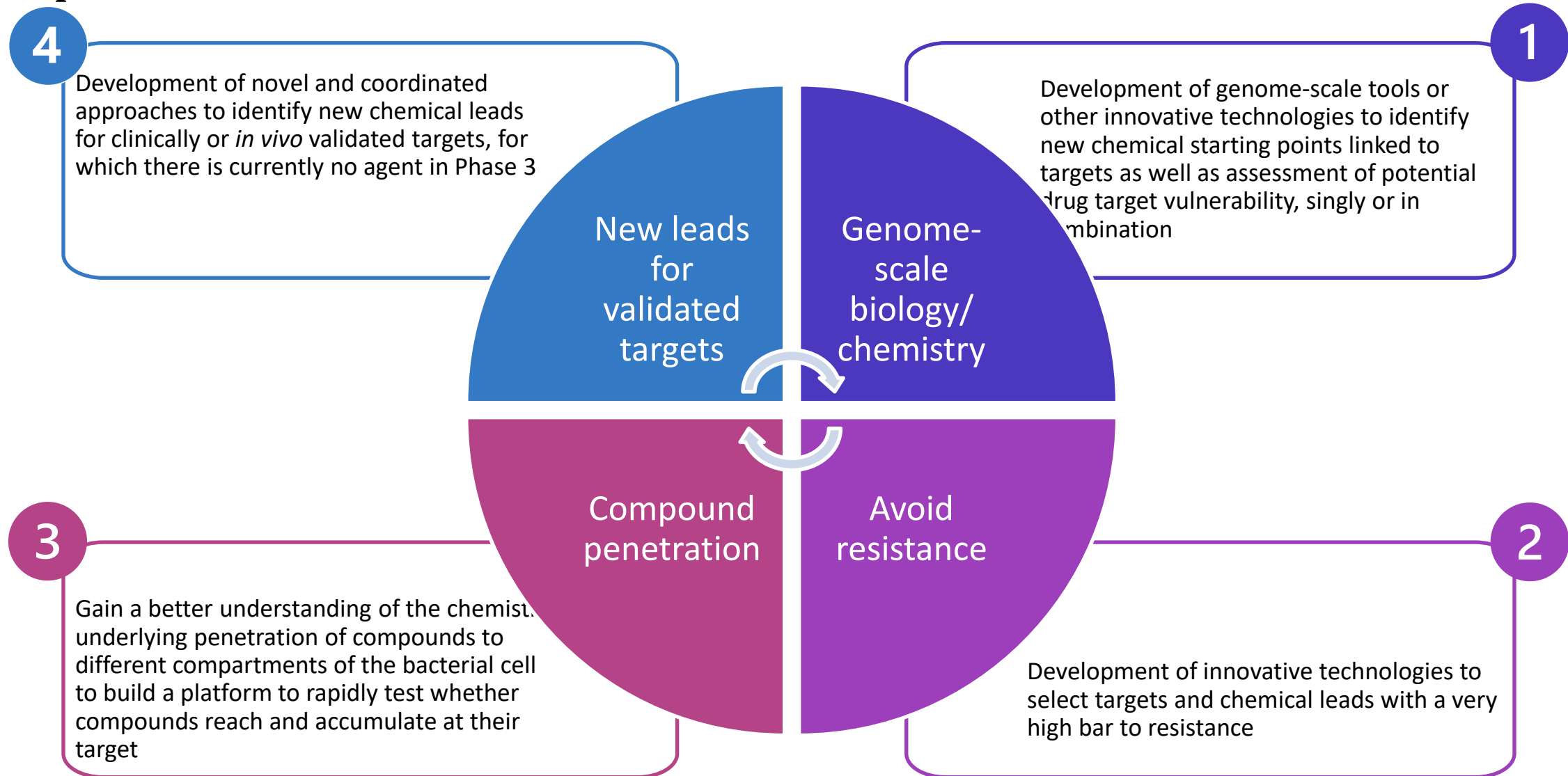
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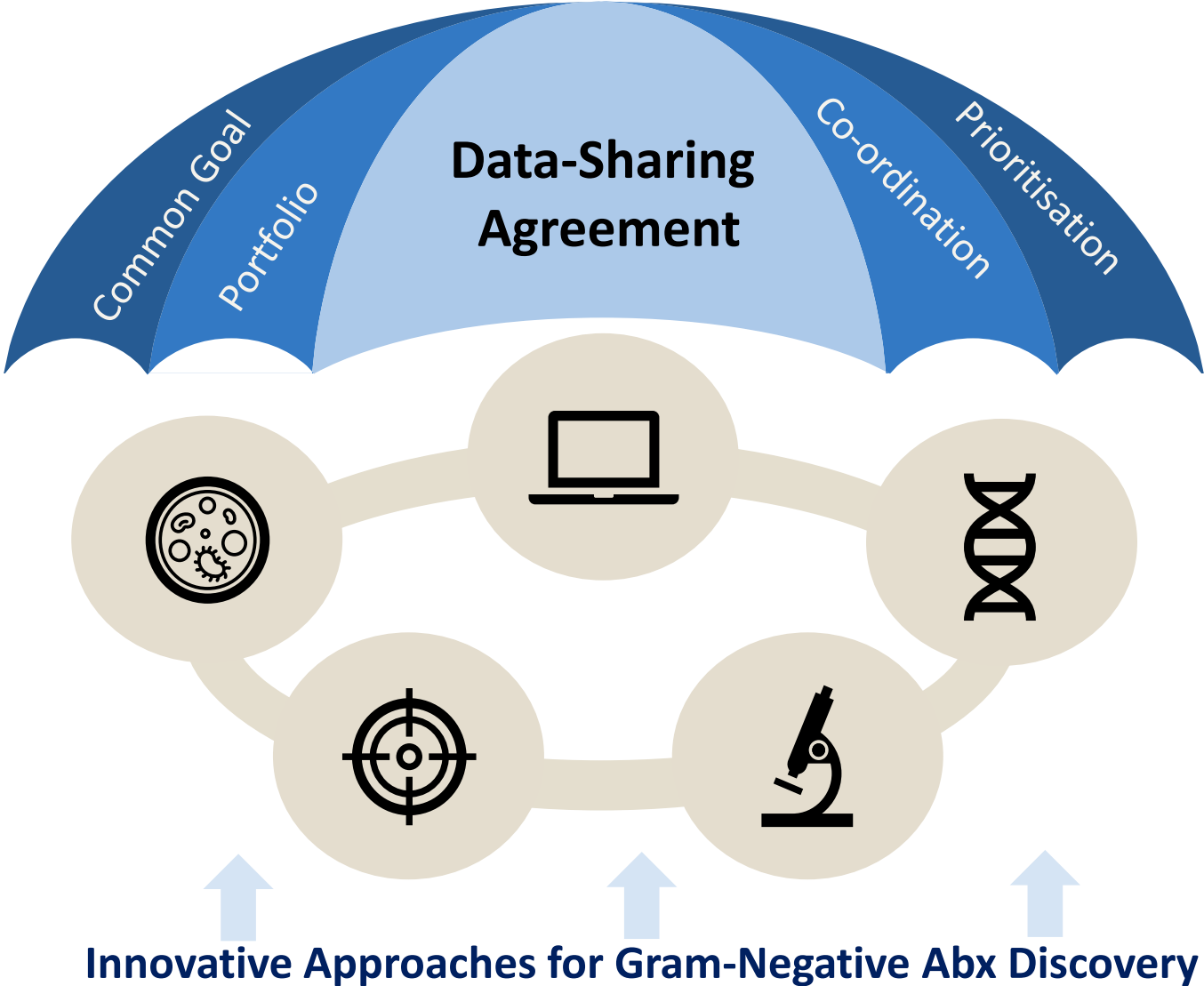
Proposal must focus on the discovery of direct-acting small molecule antibiotics with broad-spectrum activity against *Enterobacteriaceae*, using *Klebsiella* spp. as the pathogen to initiate a discovery program

- Focus on the earliest phases of drug discovery up to lead optimization
- Focus on at least one of the themes outlined

Proposal themes



Consortium and Data Sharing



Team



Team

Worldwide,
any sector

Open to non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, international organizations, government agencies, and academic institutions

- Lead applicants must be able to demonstrate the experience needed to drive and lead a project and to deliver on the objectives
- Researchers may participate as co-applicants/collaborators on multiple proposals but may submit only one application as a lead applicant
- We encourage lead applicants to put together diverse teams, promoting a diverse, inclusive, and supportive research environment

Funding and Duration



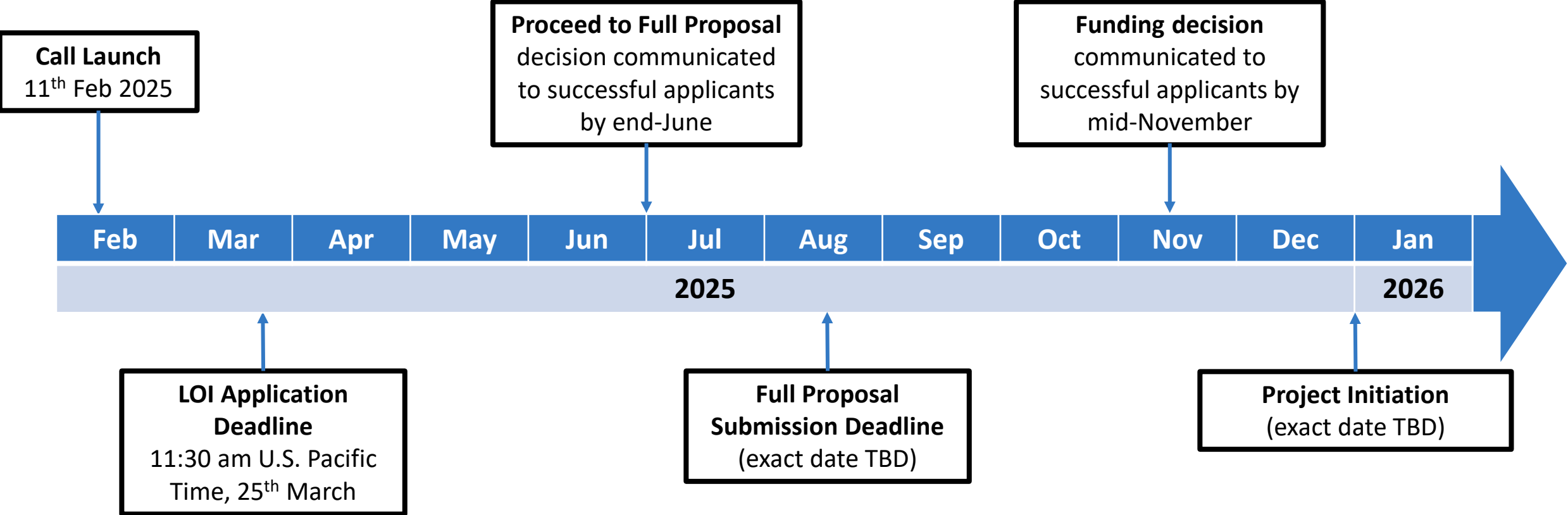
Funding

Up to
US\$ 5 Million
for up to 3
years

Up to \$5,000,000 per project with a grant term of up to 3 years

- Request the appropriate funds and time to achieve the objectives of the proposed work
- Exploratory projects with shorter durations or lower budgets focused on high-risk, innovative areas encouraged
- Successful projects will receive awards either through Wellcome, NNF, or GF and will be bound by the specific terms and conditions of the individual funder

Timeline



We will not consider funding proposals that:

Do not include the **core objectives** or include **Klebsiella spp.**

Focus on development of technologies that do not have a direct link to development of **small molecules**

Use surrogate organisms to develop tools or identify leads that will then need to be validated in pathogens of interest.

Describe a distributed, broad approach to fixing the portfolio and/or pipeline

Aim to conduct **clinical trials**

Focus solely on **basic exploratory scientific research** without a direct connection to or impact on advancing antibiotic discovery

Are not committed to collaborating with other projects and/or sign up to the data-sharing agreement

To apply to the RFP

Before applying, applicants should familiarize themselves with the supporting documents for this Grand Challenge, including:

- [Rules and Guidelines](#)
- [Application Instructions](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

