

MRC Centre for Obesity and Related Metabolic Diseases

Professor Steve O'Rahilly, University of Cambridge

Obesity is one of the greatest health problems facing the UK in the 21st century. Its impact on the nation's health has been compared to that of smoking.

One of the clearest links between obesity and ill health is its impact on insulin resistance and diabetes. The MRC Centre for Obesity and Related Metabolic Diseases aims to increase our understanding of the fundamental causes of obesity and how it is related to insulin resistance, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. It will complement other MRC research into obesity, helping to speed the translation of findings into better treatment and prevention of these diseases.

The centre will exploit existing links between clinical and basic research at the University of Cambridge, relevant MRC units within the Cambridge area, the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and Oxford University. It will be located alongside the MRC Epidemiology Unit in the new Institute of Metabolic Science in Cambridge.

“We want this centre to become a world leader for translational research into obesity, improving our understanding of its causes and consequences. The scientists we are bringing together here come from a variety of areas within biomedical research.”



MRI reveals brain regions discriminating between different foods



“We also have strong links with the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and food industries. This centre will enhance these interactions to ensure that any breakthroughs in our understanding of the disease are rapidly translated into improvements in human health,” says Professor O'Rahilly.