

Introduction to ARIA

February 2024

Unlocking
scientific and
technological
breakthroughs
which could
benefit
everyone.

- ARIA is an R&D funding agency, built to unlock scientific and technological breakthroughs to benefit everyone.
- Established by the UK Government in January 2023 with high levels of autonomy and flexibility granted via the [ARIA Act](#).
- We fund teams of scientists and engineers to pursue research at the edge of what is technologically or scientifically possible.

Executive Team and Board of Directors



Ilan Gur
CEO



Antonia Jenkinson
CFO/COO



Matt Clifford
Chair

Co-Founder + CEO,
Entrepreneur First



Kate Bingham
Non-Executive Director

Venture Capitalist +
former Chair of the
Vaccines Taskforce



Patrick Vallance
Non-Executive Director

Former Government
Chief Scientific Advisor



Sarah Hunter
Non-Executive Director

Technology and public
policy adviser



Pippy James
Director of Product

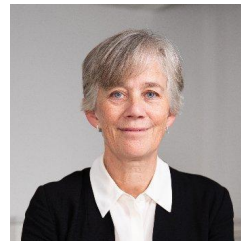


Dan Cole
Chief of Staff



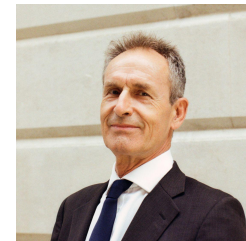
David MacMillan
Non-Executive Director

Nobel laureate +
organic chemist



Angela McLean
Non-Executive Director

Government Chief
Scientific Advisor



Stephen Cohen
Non-Executive Director

UK Civil Service +
Gambling Commission
Commissioner

Our Programme Directors are scientists and engineers with diverse fields of expertise and a range of experience across industry, academia and government.

They're tasked with developing a concrete vision for how technology could enable a better future, and directing funding into research that can make it a reality.



Angie Burnett



**David
'davidad'
Dalrymple**



**Sarah
Bohndiek**



Gemma Bale



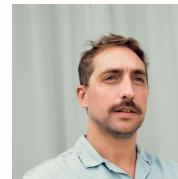
Mark Symes



**Suraj
Brahmavar**



Jenny Read



**Jacques
Carolan**

Three core tenets of a new kind of R&D agency

Bold, long-term

ARIA pursues R&D in under-explored areas that may seem far-fetched, but could unlock world-changing capabilities.

People, then projects

We empower our Programme Directors, and the research teams they support, with the resources and freedom to dream big and experiment.

Multidisciplinary

Programme Directors fund and manage projects across the full spectrum of R&D disciplines, approaches, and institutions to discover new pathways.

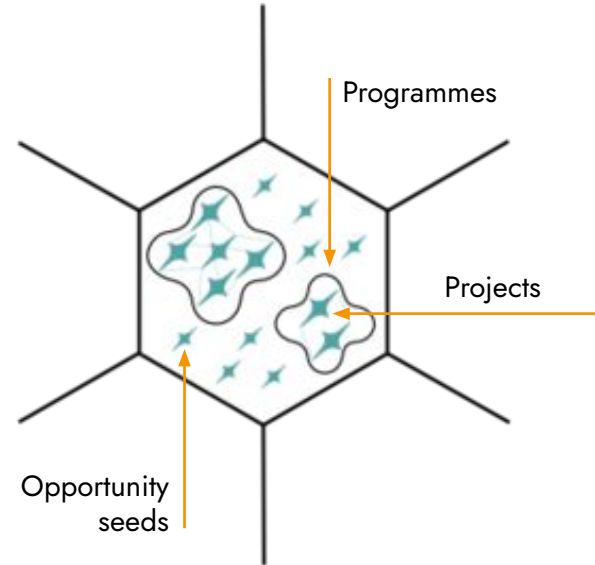
How it works in practice

First, our PDs **define an opportunity space** which is likely to yield breakthroughs.

Then, PDs launch and manage **programmes** that direct funded **projects** across research disciplines/institutions toward a focused objective.

Outside of programmes, PDs also fund **opportunity seeds**. These are lighter touch in budget and management.

The result — technical breakthroughs, new communities of practice, institutional capacity, and capital inflows, all of which are essential for large-scale transformation.



How we fund

1. Our responsibility starts with the UK taxpayer

We work to ensure that the projects and programmes we fund have the greatest chance of bringing significant public benefit to the UK.

2. We're institution-, background- and location-agnostic

We default to open competitions, and fund the best ideas and people to get the job done whoever and wherever they are.

3. We drive transformational not incremental change

We are actively involved in the direction of funded projects, and have high expectations on speed, adaptability and safety.

4. We're globally minded in our reach and ambition

We fund individuals and organisations in and outside of the UK, if their work can boost the success of an ARIA programme or otherwise benefit the UK.

4. We always seek to catalyse not compete

We do not perform internal research that could be seen as competitive with prospective awardees, retain IP rights to the work we fund or take equity in resulting spin-outs.

Read more in our [funding FAQ](#)

Our opportunity spaces



Programmable Plants: A technology platform for sustainable abundance

The opportunity:

develop new plants to provide all of society with abundant and sustainable resources



Precisely interfacing with the human brain at scale

The opportunity:

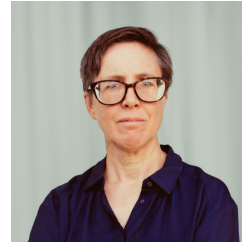
build next-generation minimally-invasive neurotechnologies to understand and repair the brain.



Nature Computes Better – Let's catch up

The opportunity:

build dramatically more efficient computers using principles ubiquitously found in nature.



Smart machines need smarter bodies

The opportunity:

discover advances in robotic hardware that unlock the potential of intelligent machines, leading to a step change in human productivity.

Our opportunity spaces



Math for Safe AI: Mathematics and modelling are the keys we need to safely unlock transformative AI

The opportunity:

uncover technical solutions using mathematics and modelling to create globally transformative AI systems with provable safety.



Scoping Our Climate: A new lens on climate science

The opportunity:

deploy breakthroughs in optics to enable more accurate climate predictions and improve human responses to climate change.






Future-proofing Our Climate: Managing our climate and weather through responsible engineering





The opportunity:

create a scientific framework that allows the UK and the world to responsibly develop, and if appropriate, deploy climate and weather intervention technologies.

Live opportunities and next steps

Programme Director	Opportunity space	Programme thesis	Next steps
 <p data-bbox="426 441 498 470">Suraj</p>	<p data-bbox="645 405 948 470"><u>Nature Computes Better – Let’s catch up</u></p>	<p data-bbox="1008 405 1331 503"><u>Unlocking compute hardware at 1/1000th the cost</u></p>	<p data-bbox="1373 386 1696 452"><u>Opportunity seed funding call live now</u></p> <p data-bbox="1412 456 1657 521">Programme funding coming Feb '23</p>
 <p data-bbox="407 659 517 689">Davidad</p>	<p data-bbox="645 590 935 762"><u>Math for Safe AI: Mathematics and modelling are the keys we need to unlock safe and transformative AI</u></p>	<p data-bbox="1035 623 1302 721"><u>Safeguarded AI: Constructing safety by design</u></p>	<p data-bbox="1425 642 1644 707">Launch a funding opportunity</p>
 <p data-bbox="421 877 504 907">Jenny</p>	<p data-bbox="645 877 915 940"><u>Smart machines need smarter bodies</u></p>	<p data-bbox="1054 877 1282 907">Launching Feb '24</p>	<p data-bbox="1373 877 1696 907">Publish programme thesis</p>

Live opportunities and next steps

Programme Director	Opportunity space	Programme thesis	Next steps
	<p>Mark</p>	<p><u>Future-Proofing Our Climate: Managing our climate and weather through responsible engineering</u></p>	<p><i>Launching in March '24</i> Publish programme thesis</p>
	<p>Jacques</p>	<p><u>Precisely interfacing with the human brain at scale</u></p>	<p><i>Launching March '24</i> Publish programme thesis</p>
	<p>Angie</p>	<p><u>Programmable Plants – A technology platform for sustainable abundance</u></p>	<p><i>Launching March '24</i> Publish programme thesis</p>
	<p>Gemma & Sarah</p>	<p><u>Scoping Our Planet: A new lens on climate science</u></p>	<p><i>Launching April '24</i> Publish programme thesis</p>

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progress and
get in touch



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+ [Substack](#) (QR)

Learn more, sign up for updates and get in
touch on [our website](#).