In this paper we present a new tool, Dimensions for Funders, that facilitates the real time display of the research investments based on roughly $1 trillion of research grants from hundreds of funding bodies globally.

Dimensions for Funders facilitates analysis by existing categorization schemes such as the National Institutes of Health Research Condition, and Disease Categorization (RCDC) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Fields of Research (FOR), as well as the creation and sharing of custom categorization schemes to allow for greater transparency and reproducibility of results in reporting the level of research investments in a given area.

An important dimension of evaluating many research programs is judging whether the program is fulfilling a need that is unmet by other funding efforts. Many programs specifically aim to address understudied areas of science. However, objectively assessing the volume of research activity in a given area remains a persistent challenge for research administrators. The establishment of databases such as Federal Reporter and those created by the International Cancer Research Partnership (ICRP) and Health Research Alliance (HRA) aid some organizations in collecting data on grants funded by a subset of research funders. To date, however, there have been few options to gather this data quickly and in a manner that provides a more comprehensive view of of the research investment. As a result, research administrators may rely on bespoke, laborious, and potentially irreproducible assessments based on custom keyword searches of publications to complement a gut feeling or informal surveys of a sample of researchers. This session discusses new efforts and tools that provide uniform data on global research funding to facilitate evaluation of funding initiatives with greater context surrounding the current landscape of research investments.

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