R&D Investment
Funding Global Health

The global impact of the current coronavirus outbreak, on top of ongoing viruses like the seasonal flu and the very real possibility of an even stronger novel virus arriving in the future, highlights the importance of scientific research in maintaining world health. Here we look at global investment in R&D—our path to staying ahead of the next crisis.

Global R&D spending has reached US$2.2 trillion, with 80% coming from 10 countries.

2017-18 R&D data, shown in purchasing-power parity (PPP) U.S. dollars

There have been three global influenza pandemics since 1918’s Spanish Flu:
- 1918-20: Spanish Flu
  - 500M infected
  - 50M deaths
- 1957: Asian Flu
  - 1M deaths
- 2009: Swine Flu
  - 151-575K deaths

Two recent coronavirus outbreaks had high mortality rates:
- 2002 SARS-CoV: 9.6% death rate
- 2013 MERS-CoV: 37.1% death rate

Future Viruses
Are we prepared?

Seasonal Flu
- Up to 650,000 people die from influenza each year
- 340M-1B infected
- 290-650K deaths each year

2019-20 Covid-19
- ? infected
- ? deaths