

**EPIC GAMES AND WELLCOME LAUNCH**

***DEVELOPING BEYOND***

**A $500,000 GAMES DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE**

***Comedian and Broadcaster Susan Calman to chair judging panel***

**Wednesday January 25th 2017:** Epic Games and Wellcome are inviting games developers based in Europe to participate in a new $500,000 year-long development competition *Developing Beyond*. Developers are challenged to submit compelling, immersive and highly entertaining game ideas based on the theme *Transformations* by 10 February.

A high-profile panel of judges, chaired by Comedian and Broadcaster Susan Calman, will follow the games’ development through the *Developing Beyond* competition which is designed to provide a sustainable platform for studios to create a minimum viable product (MVP) of their title over the course of the year.

On 20 February six semi-finalists will be announced. At that time each will receive $15,000 and work with a scientist to develop their concept further. In July 2017 the progress of the six projects will be judged at Develop:Brighton where three teams will be selected to go through to the final round, each receiving $60,000. The winning team will be awarded $150,000 in January 2018. Second place will be awarded $50,000 and third place will be awarded $30,000.

The *Developing Beyond* competition seeks games ideas inspired by the theme ‘Transformations’. Thesubmissions should draw inspiration from any aspect of this theme exploring the human condition – whether across moments or generations, microscopic or global, historical, geographic or indeed contemporary. Human bodies and populations across the world are constantly changing, and with this comes new opportunities, unforeseen journeys and incredible challenges; from the consequences of a global shift towards urban living, to technological innovations revolutionising lives and even bacteria outwitting the best antibiotics.

Chair of the judging panel, Susan Calman said: “Games have always been a passion of mine. They entertain and consume you like nothing else. Getting to look inside developers’ heads for year is an absolute dream; I can’t wait to get started!”

Iain Dodgeon, who leads the Broadcast, Games and Film work at Wellcome, said: “We’re very excited about *Developing Beyond*, enabling new creative collaborations between the worlds of interactive entertainment and science. With so many ways to draw inspiration from the theme, we’re looking forward to seeing where developers’ imaginations take it.”

Mike Gamble, European Territory Manager at Epic, commented: “This is a significant commitment and a great opportunity for studios. Taking a leap into the unknown on new IP takes courage but can be both creatively and commercially highly rewarding. With *Developing Beyond* we want to share some of that risk, helping participants to create the best possible minimum viable project and giving them a chance to win the competition,”.

The full jury, which includes development legend John Romero, will be revealed on 20 February together with the long list of six projects.

This is the third collaboration between Epic Games and Wellcome having previously undertaken *Make Something Unreal Live* and *The Big Data VR Challenge*.

The deadline for applications is 10 February 2017. For more information on how to apply, visit the *Developing Beyond* website: [www.developingbeyond.com](http://www.developingbeyond.com)

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**About Epic Games**

Founded in 1991, Epic Games is the creator of the Unreal, Gears of War and Infinity Blade series of games. Today Epic is building Paragon, Fortnite, SPYJiNX, and the new Unreal Tournament. Epic's Unreal Engine technology is used by teams of all sizes to ship visually stunning, high-quality games and experiences across PC, console, VR and mobile platforms. Developers also choose Unreal Engine for visualization, design, linear entertainment and simulation. Follow [@UnrealEngine](file:///C:\Users\dana.cowley\Downloads\twitter.com\unrealengine) and download Unreal Engine 4 for free at [unrealengine.com](file:///C:\Users\dana.cowley\Downloads\unrealengine.com).

**About Wellcome:** Wellcome exists to improve health for everyone by helping great ideas to thrive. We’re a global charitable foundation, both politically and financially independent. We support scientists and researchers, take on big problems, fuel imaginations and spark debate.