

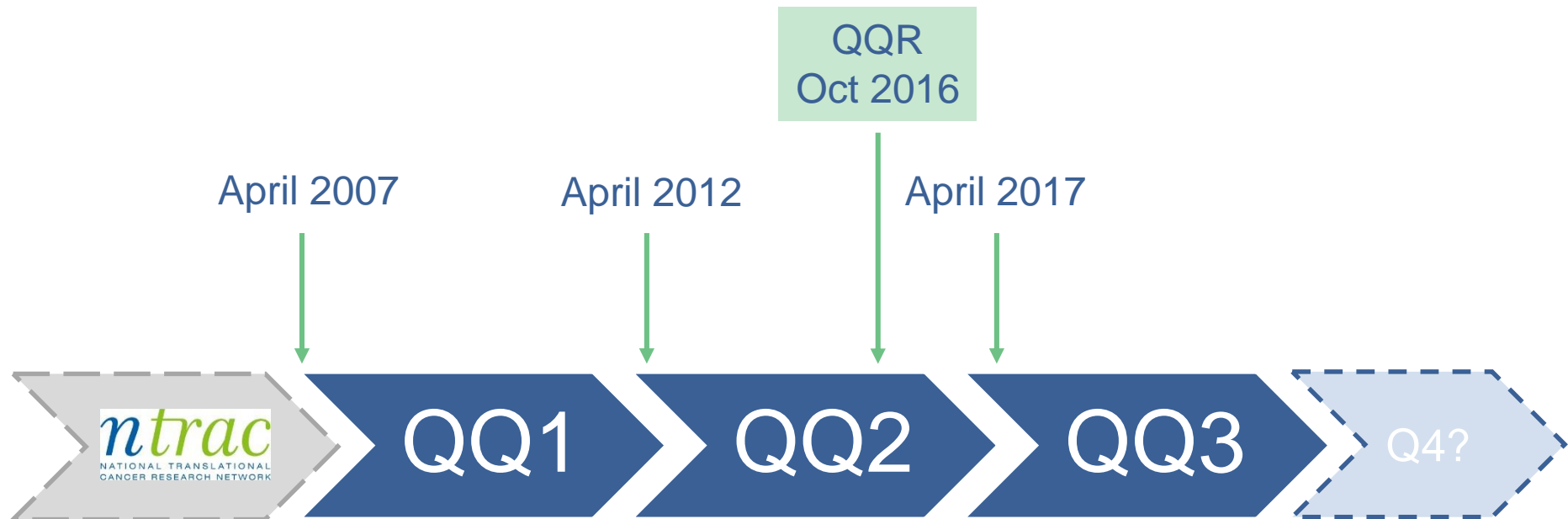


# The ECMC Initiative (2007-2016)

## Adult and Paediatric ECMC Networks

*Bringing faster and better treatments to cancer patients in the UK*

# Ten years of the ECMC initiative



# What I will cover today

- A look back at the changes the last ten years have brought
- Highlight a few of the fantastic things we have delivered as a Network
- Some thoughts about the future challenges for the Network
- Some reflections on how well the Network is positioned to meet these challenges



# Some things haven't changed

## Still a funding partnership



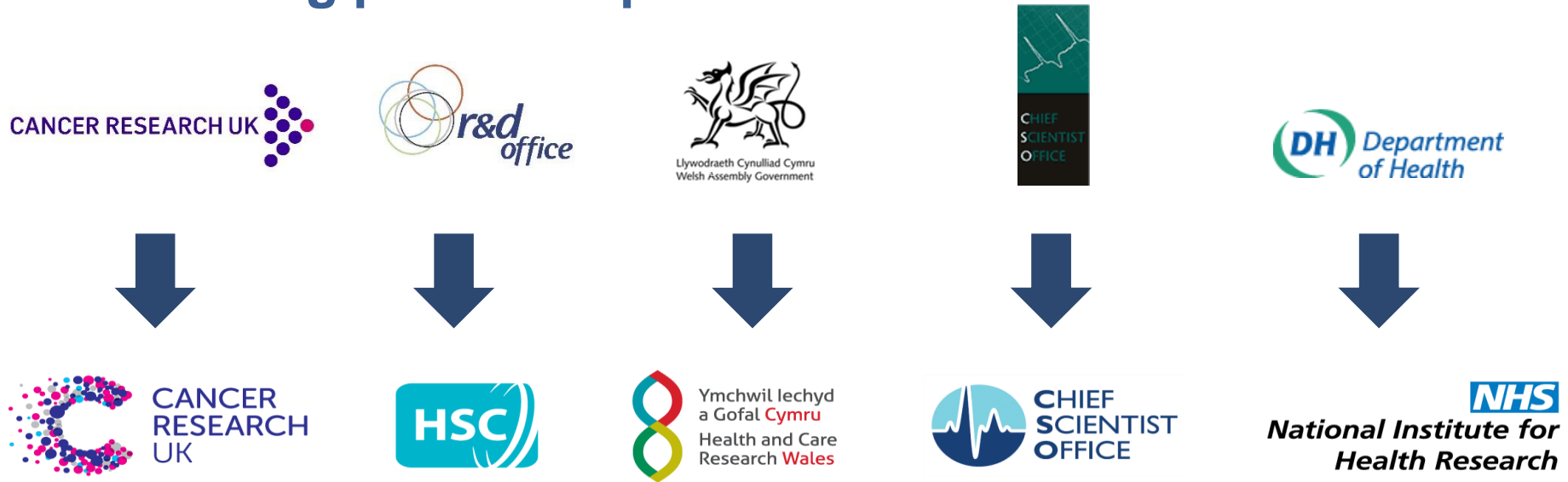
# Some things haven't changed

## Still a funding partnership



# Some things haven't changed

## Still a funding partnership

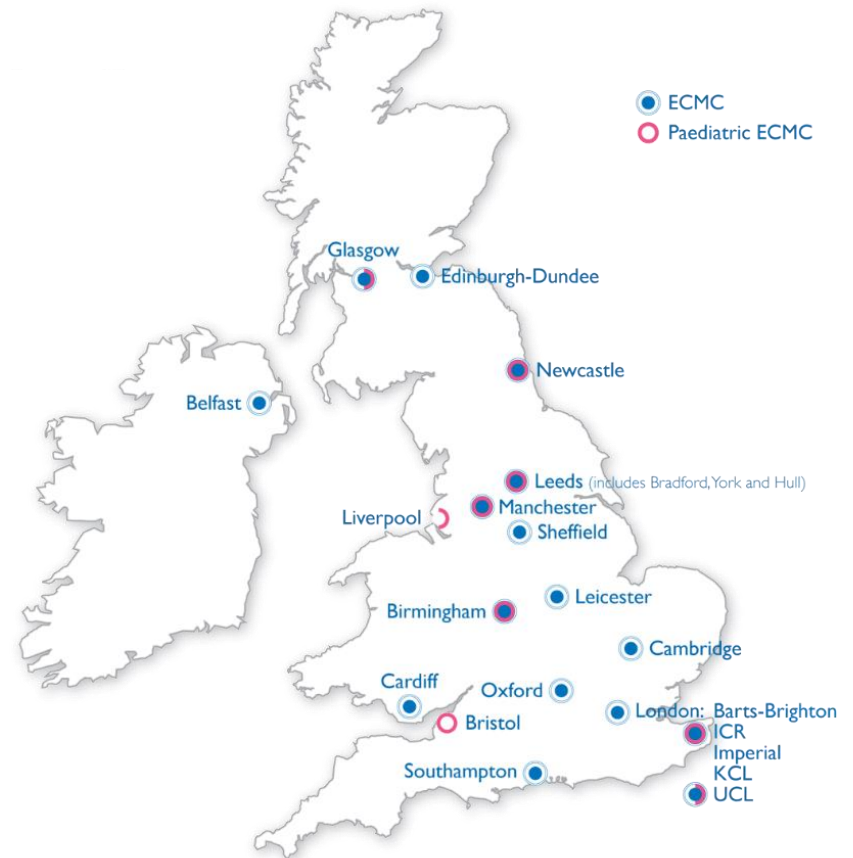


## Still a partnership between the NHS and academia



# Some things haven't changed

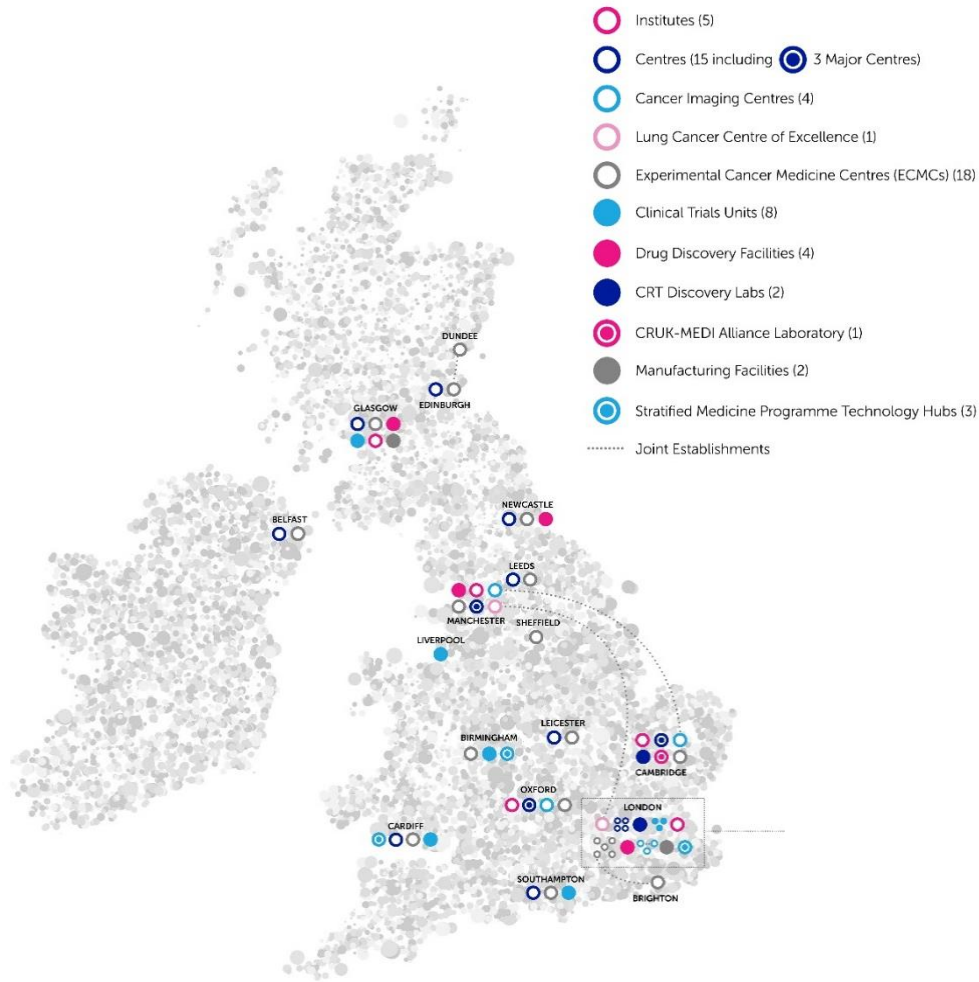
## Still UK Wide



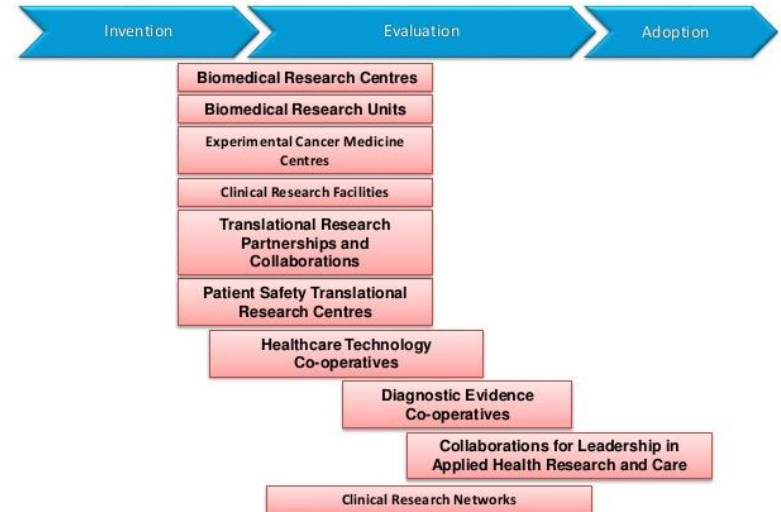


# Some things have changed

## Huge changes in the research landscape



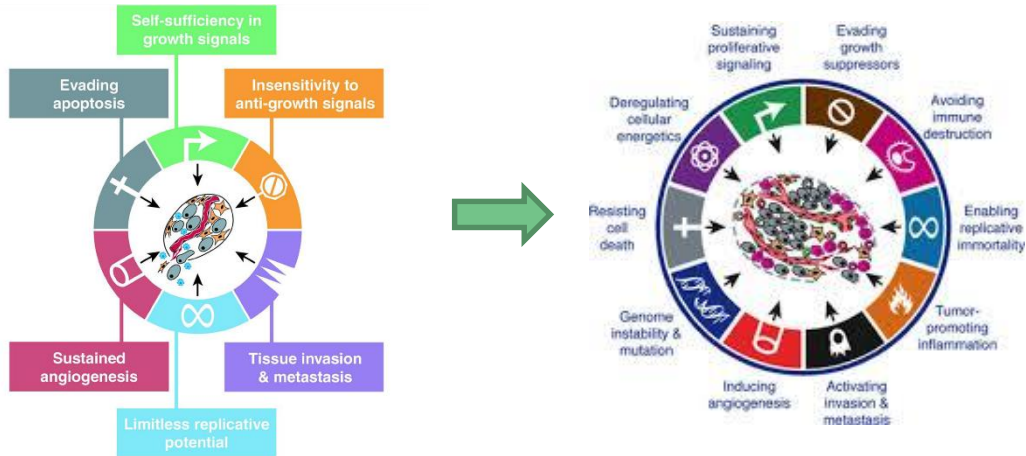
### NIHR Clinical Research Infrastructure



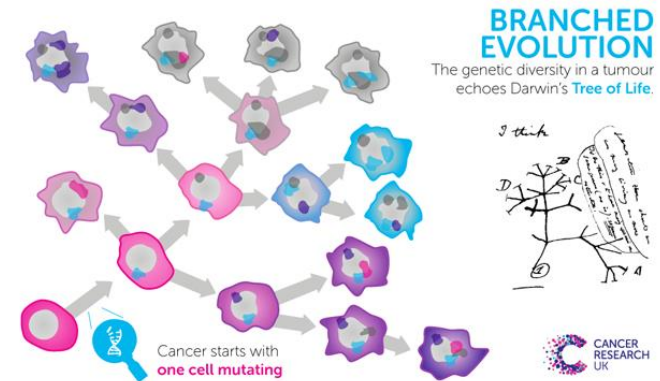


# Our understanding of cancer has also changed

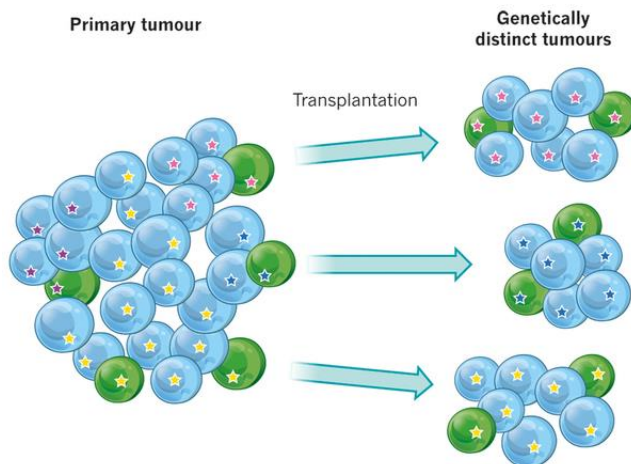
## Cancer now has 10 hallmarks



## Cancer evolves



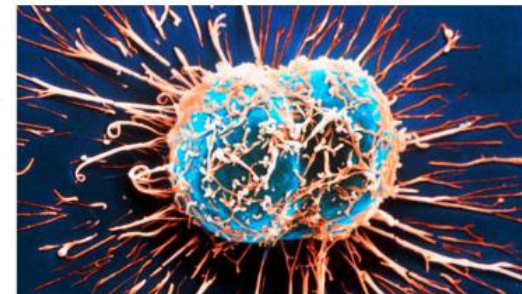
## Tumours are heterogenous



 **the ONION<sup>®</sup>**

## Latest Study Finds Cancer Cells Now Cruelly Mocking Researchers

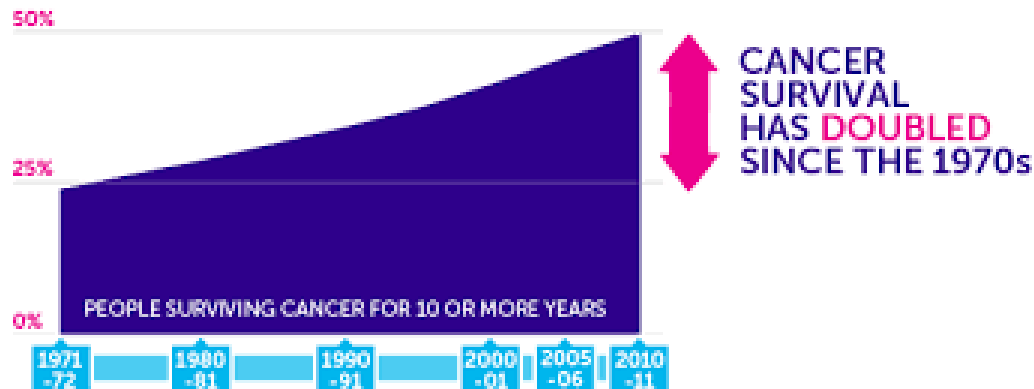
NEWS  
October 23, 2012  
VOL 48 ISSUE 43  
Science & Technology



Scientists say cancer cells like this are just laughing in their goddamned faces.



# We are making a difference



AT LEAST 15,000  
MORE CHILDREN  
SURVIVED CANCER

AS CHILDREN'S CANCER  
SURVIVAL MORE THAN  
DOUBLED SINCE THE 1970s

■ = 500 children surviving cancer  
■ = 500 more children surviving cancer thanks to research and improved treatments since 1971



Based on children aged 14 or under surviving cancer for 10 years or more.



## Unique Kinetics of Response in Patients Treated With Ipilimumab



Images courtesy of Jedd D. Wolchik, MD.

# Funding partners perspective

**“The ECMC Network has been hugely successful. It will continue to play a key role in delivery against the strategic objectives of all the funders, including driving faster translation of scientific discoveries into tangible benefits for patients, increasing the attractiveness of the UK to industry, making precision cancer medicine a reality, and providing patients access to clinical studies”**



The Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre Initiative is jointly funded by Cancer Research UK, the National Institute for Health Research in England and the Health Departments for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

# Delivering against objectives

## Objective 1

Innovative treatments  
for cancer patients

## Objective 2

Make the UK a  
competitive place to  
perform experimental  
cancer medicine

## Objective 3

Build the UK's capacity  
(staff & infrastructure) in  
experimental cancer  
medicine

# Objective 1: Innovative treatments



Over **1,500** new  
early phase clinical  
trials

Over **18,000**  
patients recruited

**35** cancer types

Over **£155m**  
leveraged from  
industry

# Paediatric Network Successes

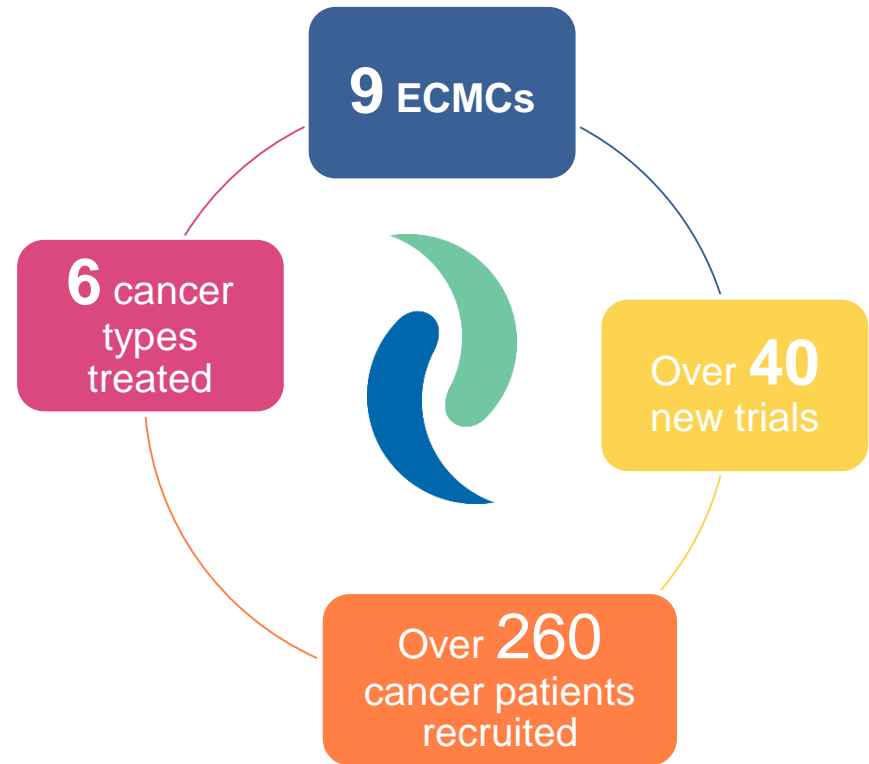
With 9 sites in England and Scotland, the Paediatric ECMC Network has successfully managed a wide portfolio of early phase academic and commercial studies.

## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION:

- 5 ECMCs have accreditation from the Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer (ITCC)
- Open door to commercial EU trials such as E-SMART (ITCC initiative) - Ph I/II basket study matching small molecules to genomic profile that involves several pharma companies.

## COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL INITIATIVES:

- The **national functional imaging network** for childhood cancer has recruited >1000 pt across 10 centres (inc. 6 ECMCs).
- Before the ECMC Network 60 patients/year – after **100 patients/year**.
- The ECMC Network has helped incorporating these studies into clinical practice, particularly for **brain tumours**.



# ECMC Combinations Alliance



- 9 new commercial partners
- 180+ expressions of interest
- 1 or more proposed from each ECMC
- 21 trials with 381 patients treated
- 2 cross-company studies with 5 radiotherapy combinations
- 1<sup>st</sup> paediatric trial with adults in parallel





# Precision Medicine across the ECMC Network

## CRUK's Stratified Medicine Programme 2

- Recruiting at **16/18** ECMCs
- Network spans more than **40** NHS trusts
- Over **1000** patients have had their sample tested by NGS at 1 of 3 Technology Hubs
- Of these, more than **400** samples are molecularly eligible for MATRIX
- A **3.7%** conversion rate to MATRIX

## Birmingham CRCTU's National Lung Matrix Trial

- Trial opened in March 2015
- Open at **11** ECMCs
- There are **54** patients receiving targeted therapy
- The **50<sup>th</sup>** patient recruited on 1 year anniversary of trial opening
- Amendment review to include 2 new arms and extend 1 cohort



# Delivering against objectives

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# Objective 2: Improving competitiveness

- Influencing regulation at a national level to benefit the Network
  - HRA Approval
  - Single Technical Pharmacy review
  - Medical exposure review
  - Devolved nations co-ordination
- Developing agreements to facilitate working with the Network
  - Joint NDA, MTA, Collaboration Agreement, Operational Guidelines
- Facilitating industry access to the Network
  - Coordinated Network-wide Expression of Interest (Eoi) process
  - Facilitation of feasibility/site selection processes with commercial sponsors
- In this quinquennium 63% of new studies reported are commercial trials

# The Network leading the way

- The ECMC Network has led the way in several important areas
  - Networking: the Network is the oldest in Europe
  - Trial Harmonisation: processes developed in the Network now being implemented for all studies using HRA approval
  - Stratified medicine: the Network is delivering challenging studies nation wide, and other indications are learning from us how to do this

# Delivery against objectives

## Objective 1

Innovative treatments  
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## Objective 2

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# Objective 3: Building Capacity (Network Groups)

- Cellular and Molecular Pathology (**CMP**) Network Group
- CRUK, ECMC and UK Radiopharmacy Group Taskforce (**CERT**)
- Junior Investigators Network Group (**JING**)
- Patient and Public Involvement Group (**PPI**)
- Quality Assurance and Translational Science (**QATS**) Network Group
- Research **Nurses** Network Group
- UK Therapeutic Cancer Prevention Network Group (**UKTCPN**)

## Annual events

# JING –Training the Next Generation Newcastle 2016



## What were the most valuable elements Of the residential?



## How would you describe JING TNG?

# Research Nurses – An introduction to early phase cancer trials training day

For research nurses working in early phase cancer research for 3-12 months.

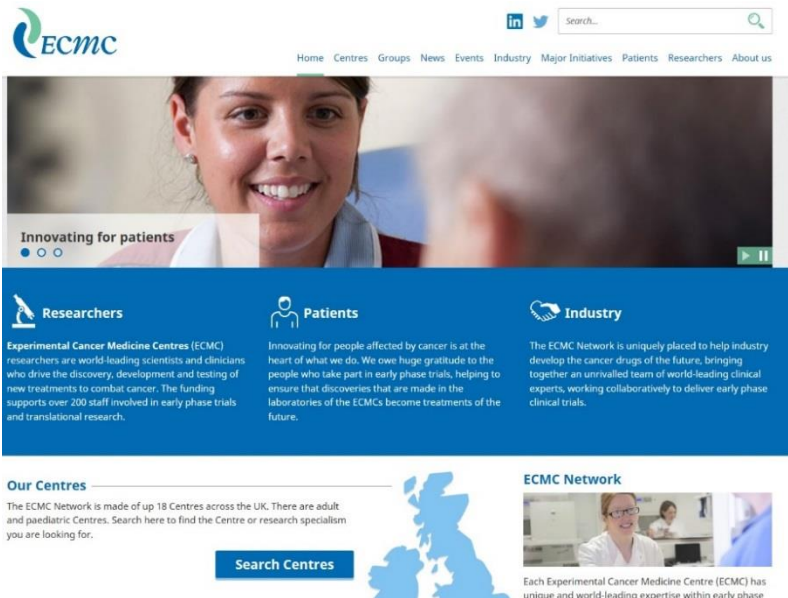
This training day is  
due to be run  
again in  
September 2017



**“[It was] good to share problems and experiences and to discuss difficulties experienced by staff involved in Phase I trials”**



# Raising the profile of the Network



## Website

External portal to the Networks with 10,000 page views a month

## Twitter

@ECMC\_UK  
>1,100 followers



Newsletter 14   
April 2016



### In this issue:

 Lorraine Turner wins Oncology Nurse of the Year [\[more\]](#)

"Patients are the true pioneers of cancer medicine"  
- Dr Uddai Banerji, ICR

### Science News

- New VAPER trial to test cancer-killing vaccine  
King's study administers vaccine in first patient [\[more\]](#)
- Drug could help immune system fight cancer  
Southampton running AMG319 phase-II trial [\[more\]](#)
- microRNA-224 colorectal cancer study  
miRNA224 associated with cancer progression and response to treatment [\[more\]](#)
- Neonates study collaboration between ECMC Networks  
Collaboration leads to possible gold standard treatment for neonates with retinoblastoma [\[more\]](#)

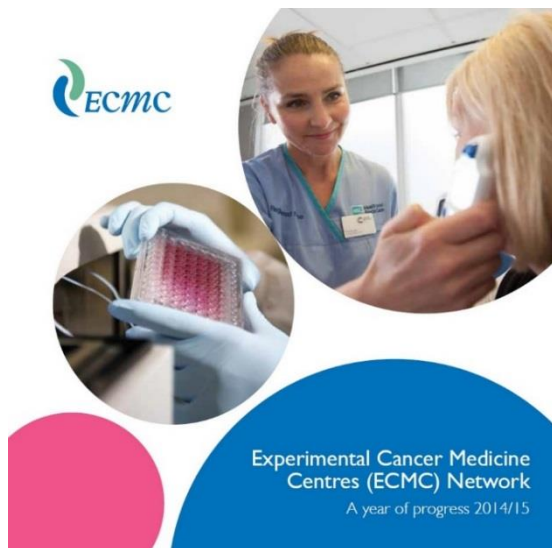
### Interview: Dr Karin Oien



Dr Karin Oien of our Cellular Molecular Pathology (CMP) Network Group, has been appointed the Chair of CM-Path. [\[more\]](#)

## Published material

### Highlights Booklet 2014/15



#MultiMarvin

### Centre for Drug Development

CDD are to host anti-metastatic workshop at ECMC's Annual Network Meeting, with Prof Jeff Evans [\[more\]](#)

### Combinations Alliance

CTRad and Combinations Alliance organised a Radiotherapy-Immunotherapy workshop, led by Dr Adams and Prof Illidge [\[more\]](#)

### Stratified Medicine Programme

Update on the National Lung Matrix Trial, a flagship precision medicine trial, supported by SMP-Phase 2 screening platform [\[more\]](#)



### Training Courses & Schemes

May 11: Informed consent [\[more\]](#)  
May 19: Patient involvement in research Twitter chat [\[more\]](#)  
May 25: Applying for ethical opinion in the NHS [\[more\]](#)  
May 31: Deadline for JING Bursary to attend CSGs Trainee Scheme [\[more\]](#)  
June 1: NRS introduction to good clinical practice - Glasgow [\[more\]](#)

## Newsletter

Sent to >1,100 Network members

# Future challenges

- Working with industry
  - Need to unequivocally demonstrate UK ability to deliver
- Trial delivery challenges have shifted
  - Set up is now less challenging, dealing with SAEs and SUSARs now a major time drain
- Complex studies need appropriate supporting infrastructure over multiple sites
  - e.g. Pathology, lab services, imaging, informatics, regulatory
- Complex studies are challenging for patients and physicians
  - Multiple / repeat biopsies
  - Possibly multiple trial choices
- The Network needs to adapt and be responsive to changes in the science
  - Changes in regulation are sluggish e.g. consent

# Some changes are in progress



- **Focus on therapies** – early phase interventional trials and associated translational research

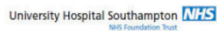
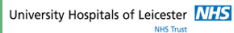
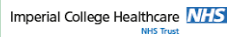


- **Managed Network** – creation of a Central Programme Office and Collaboration Agreement



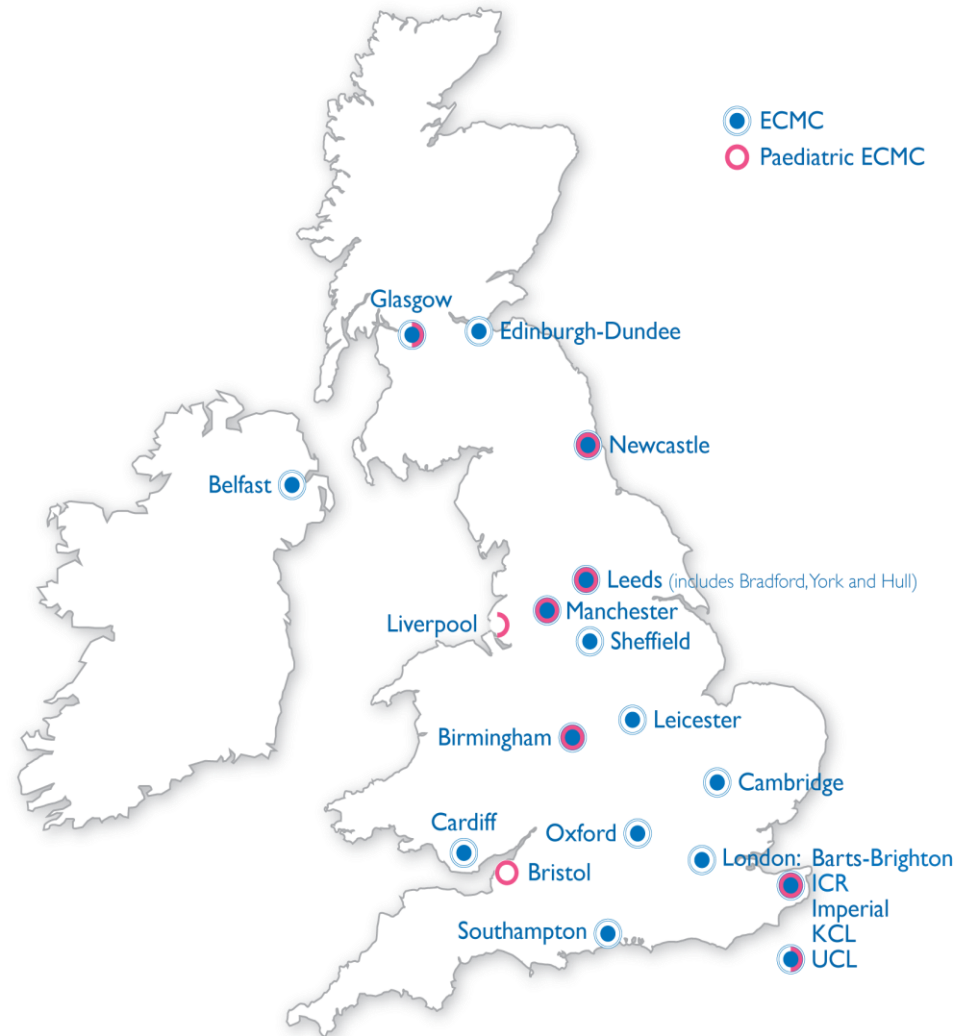
- **New governance** – greater responsibility for the Network in the Network

# Collaboration Agreement



# The ECMC Initiative 2007-2016

- 1 Goal
- 2 Networks
- 5 Funders
- 20 sites
- £70m investment
- 35 cancer types
- >1,500 new early phase trials
- >18,000 patients recruited



*“Approaching 10 years of  ECMC collaboration”*



# Thank you!

Tweet us [@ECMC\\_UK](https://twitter.com/ECMC_UK)

#ANM16 

