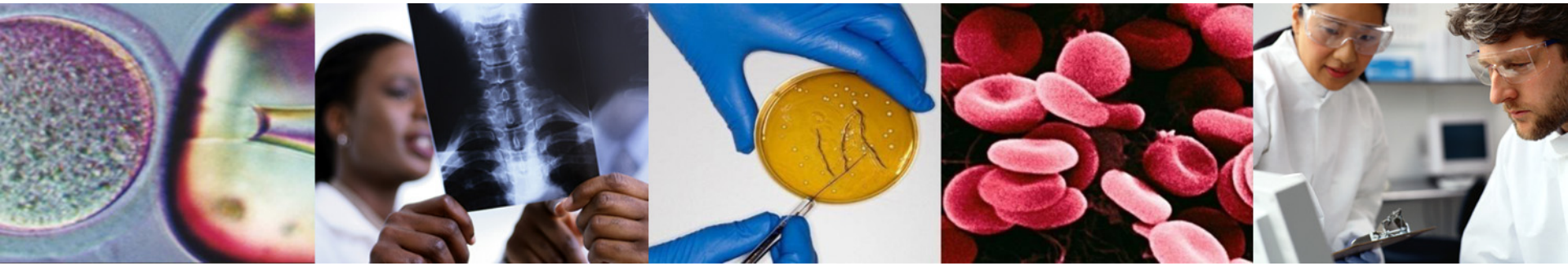


MRC Translational Funding

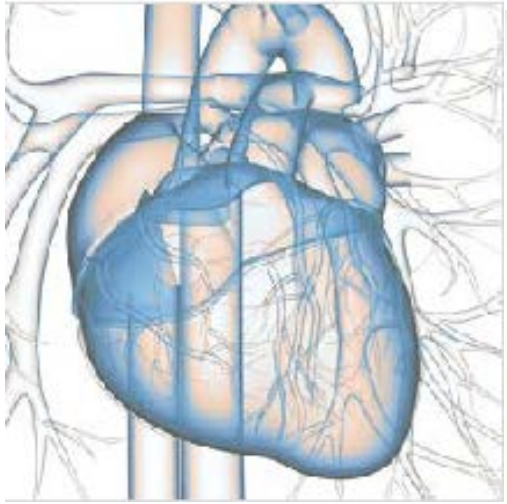
Dr Jo Latimer- 29 February 2016

Medical Research Council

MRC: Leading & Partnering Research

Dedicated to improving human health through the best scientific research.

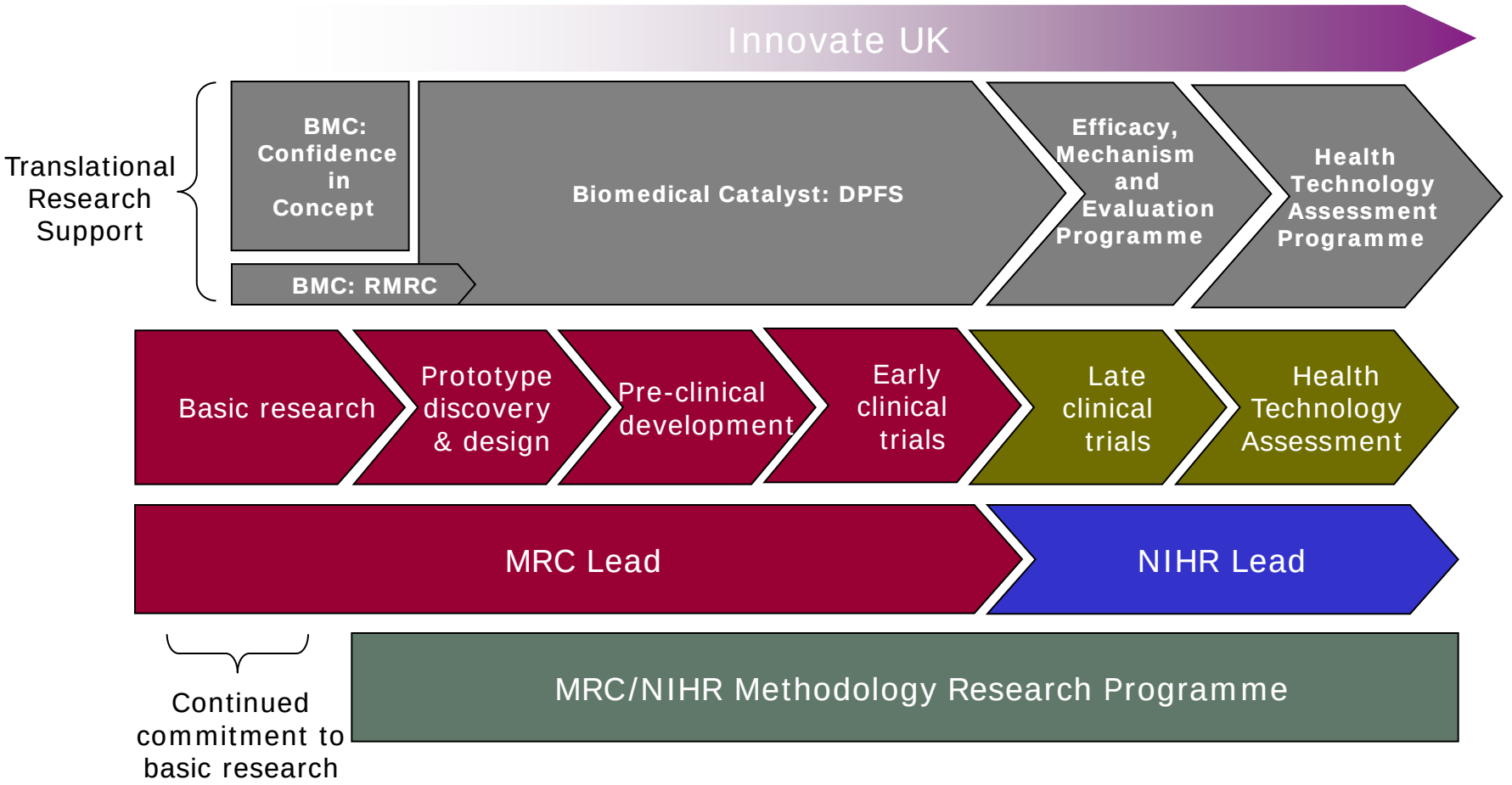
- Established 1913
- Funded by UK taxpayers
- One of seven research councils



MRC Mission

- Encourage and support high-quality research with the aim of improving human health.
- Produce skilled researchers
- Advance and disseminate knowledge and technology to improve the quality of life and economic competitiveness in the UK and worldwide.
- Promote dialogue with the public about medical research.

MRC's Translational Research Funding



Confidence in Concept and Proximity to Discovery

- **Confidence in Concept**

  The aim is to accelerate the transition from discovery science to translational research i.e. to get projects to the point where they are well placed to seek funding for development (e.g. through BMC: DPFS)

  - Institutional awards of up to £1.2m over 24 months
  - Awards are intended to support multiple projects covering preliminary work or feasibility studies; projects decided by university
  - Projects should be tightly defined, typically £50-100k in cost and lasting 6-12months.

- **Proximity to Discovery**

  - Institutional awards of up to £250k
  - Promotion of academic-industry interactions
  - Supports 'people exchange' partnerships between academia and industry, to enhance skills, knowledge and understanding.

BMC:DPFS/RMRC

- Rolling deadline every four months
- Projects must be goal oriented and milestone-based
- Projects are not considered as isolated entities – they must sit on a translational pathway.

In remit:

- Development and pre-clinical testing of novel therapeutic entities, devices and diagnostics through to early-phase clinical studies (P1 to P2a).

Out of remit:

- Discovery science including mechanistic studies and biomarker identification (MRC research boards)
- Technology development where not aligned to a medical/clinical developmental plan (likely BBSRC or EPSRC remit)
- Phase 2b and 3 clinical trials & trials of non-novel agent-disease combinations (NIHR).

Assessment Criteria

- **Need:** What is the need the proposal aims to help address?
- **Rationale:** What is the rationale for the proposed solution?
- **Deliverability:** Is the proposed development plan realistic? Does it offer good value-for-money? Does the team have access to the necessary assets to deliver the plan?
- **Intellectual Property:** Is there an appropriate intellectual property strategy in place to optimise the chances of downstream funding/partnering and ultimate exploitation?
- **Common mistake:** Describe any potential limitations or risks to exploitation of your work. The Panel will be reluctant to support projects where the translational pathway is not clear.

Translational Initiatives

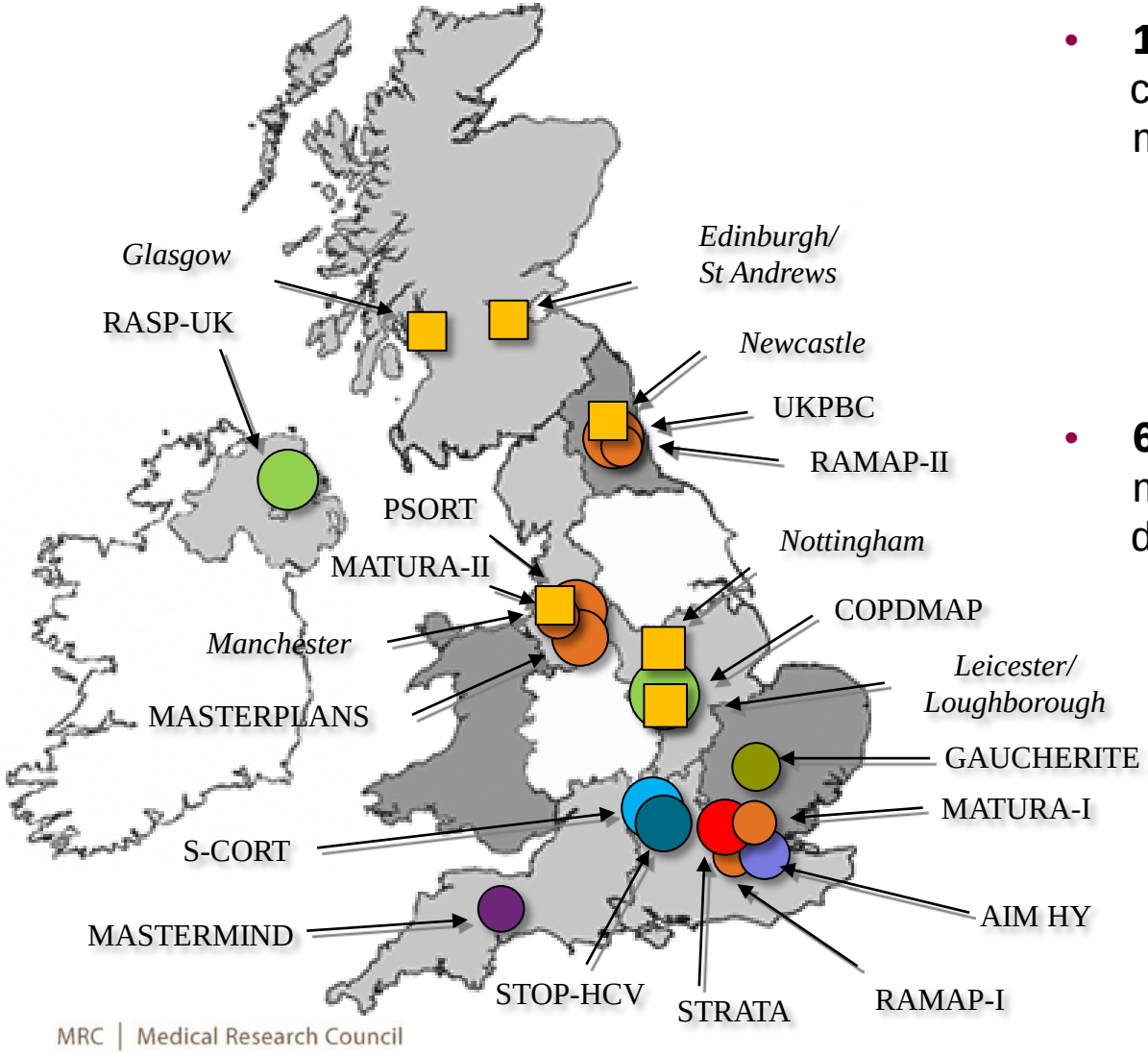
- **Stratified Medicine**
  £60m over 4 years - funding for structured academic-industry disease consortia

- **Experimental Medicine Challenge Grants**
  Significant investment since 2012/13 to support ambitious, challenge-led studies of disease mechanisms in humans.

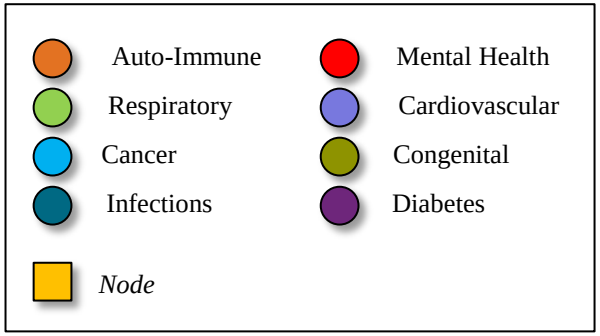
- **MRC-Industry Asset Sharing Initiative**
  MRC is working with 7 industry partners (AstraZeneca, GSK, J&J, Lilly, Pfizer, Takeda and UCB) to provide researchers access to deprioritised compounds.

- **AstraZeneca/MRC UK Centre for Lead Discovery**
  Starting in 2015/16, UK academics will have access to AstraZeneca's screening library and high throughput robotics to screen compounds against novel targets at AstraZeneca's new R&D centre in Cambridge.

MRC Stratified Medicine Consortia and MRC/EPSRC Molecular Pathology Nodes



- **13** internationally competitive stratified medicine discovery engines
  - Total c.£60m
  - 3 charity co-funders (CRUK, ARUK, BHF)
  - 32 academic and 51 commercial partners
- **6** centres of innovative molecular diagnostic test development
  - Total c.£16m
  - 8 academic and 21 commercial partners



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