# BEATING CANCER WITH CRUK

Tim Hudson, Research Engagement Manager Friday 2 October, 2019





## WHAT WE'LL COVER

- Introduction to CRUK
- What do we do?
- How do we fund research?
- Our research
- Our strategy
- Our achievements
- Cancer Grand Challenges



# INTRODUCTION TO CANCER RESEARCH UK







Our vision is to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured

























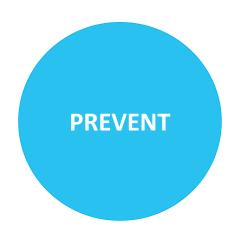
## WHAT DO WE DO?





#### **OUR STRATEGY**

OUR CORE EXPERTISE SPANS

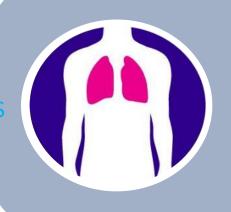








STRATEGIC
PRIORITIES
INCLUDE CANCERS
OF UNMET NEED









LUNG

**OESOPHAGEAL** 

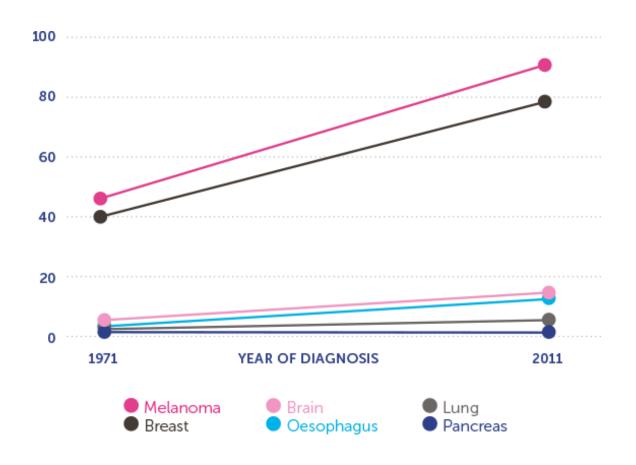
**PANCREATIC** 

**BRAIN** 

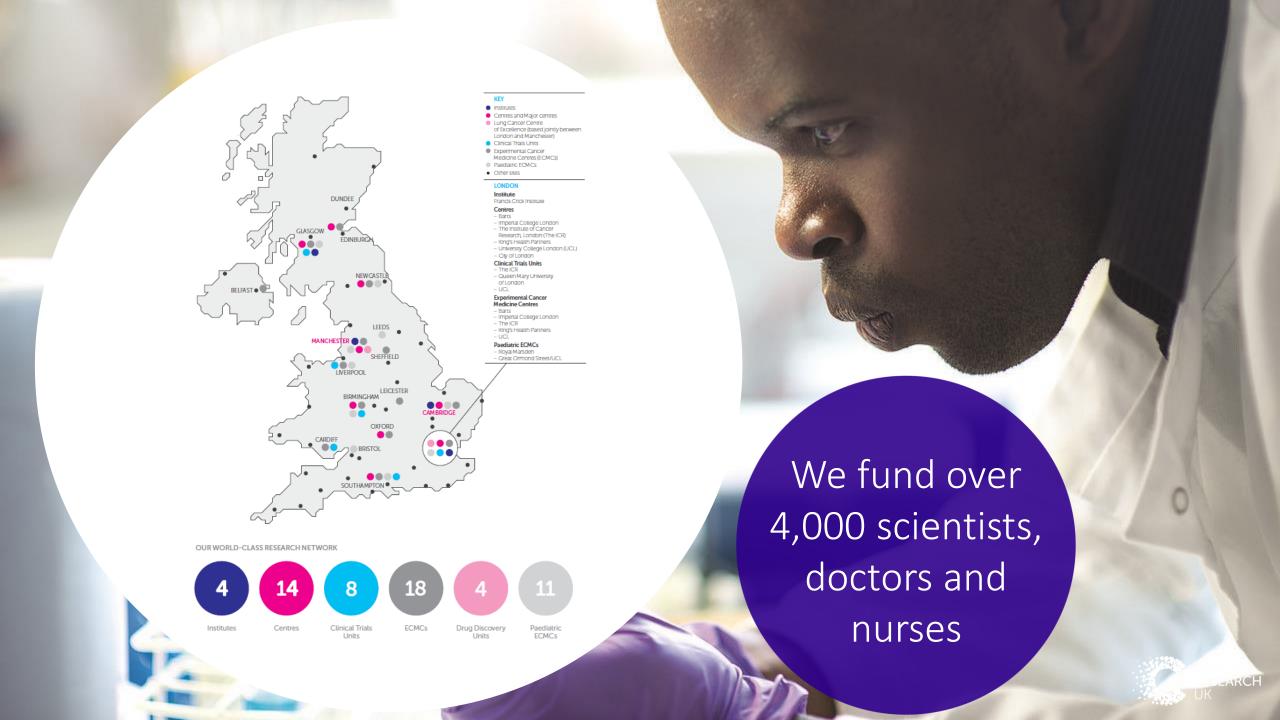
CANCERS OF UNMET NEED



10 YEAR NET INCREASE SURVIVAL (%)

























# HOW DO WE FUND RESEARCH?



How do we decide what research to fund?







2. Researchers apply for funding



3. Expert funding committees decide which projects to fund



# What do our funding committees look for?



Backed up by evidence?



Will it benefit patients?



Is it ethical?



Good research team?



Is it achievable?



Is it new?



# OUR RESEARCH STRATEGY



#### OUR RESEARCH STRATEGY

#### Prevent

Find out what causes cancer and ways to prevent it

#### Diagnose

Develop ways to detect cancer at an early stage

#### Treat

Design and test new cancer treatments

#### Optimise

Improve existing cancer treatments



## PREVENT



Together we will beat cancer



Having no children

**Facebook** 

**Biscuits** 

Soup

Candle-lit dinn

Broken heart

**Bottling up** 

emotions

#### 4 IN 10 CANCERS CAN BE PREVENTED

**Left-Handedness** 

**Gardens** 

**Internet** 

**Chocolate** 

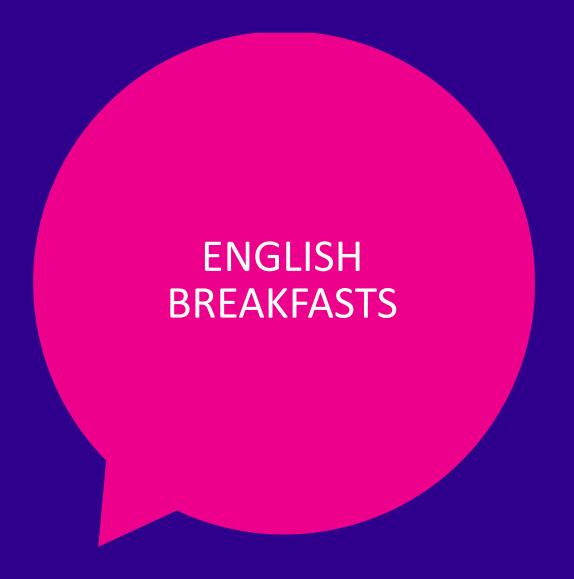
**Large Heads** 

**Long Fingers** 

Broccoli

















#### Prevent

Finding out what causes cancer and developing ways to prevent it



Around
4 in 10
cases of cancer
in the UK could
be prevented



15%

of all cancer cases.







# Prevent

Reducing people's risk of developing cancer

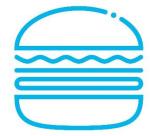
Personalised approaches to prevention and screening

Prevention research

Health awareness campaigns









# PREVENT

Reducing people's risk of developing cancer

Cervical cancer interventions



Dr Jo Waller University College London



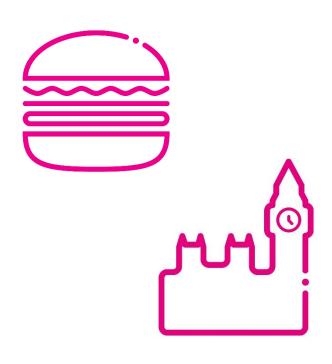
Dr Jo Waller is investigating why some people don't participate in cervical cancer interventions (such as HPV vaccination); and how to encourage participation in these initiatives.

# Prevent

Reducing people's risk of developing cancer

Watershed for junk food ads

We're calling for a ban on TV and online adverts for food high in fat, sugar and salt before 9pm will help protect children from exposure to marketing for junk food.



Obesity is the second biggest cause of cancer in the UK.

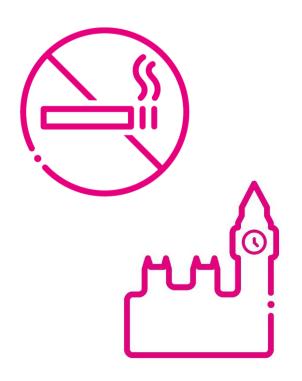


# Prevent

Reducing people's risk of developing cancer

# Smokefree by 2030

Cuts to public health budgets mean vital stop smoking services are under threat.



We're calling on the UK Government to provide increased and sustainable public health funding.

We're calling for the English and Welsh Governments to adopt a smokefree by 2030 target.



#### WHAT IS A TOBACCO LEVY?



CANCER

RESEARCH

LET'S BEAT CANCER SOONER

Take action right now at cruk.org/big-tobacco-cough-up

# DIAGNOSE



Together we will beat cancer



# Diagnose

Developing ways to detect cancer earlier, when it's more likely to be treated successfully



When diagnosed at the earliest stage (stage 1), more than

# 9 in 10

people with bowel cancer will survive their disease for five years or more







# Diagnose

Developing ways to detect cancer earlier, when it's more likely to be treated successfully

Campaign to fill vacant NHS diagnostic posts

Help to diagnose more people at an earlier stage Develop more effective screening tests









# Diagnose

Developing ways to detect cancer earlier, when treatment is more likely to be successful

### Thinking outside the box to detect bowel cancer earlier

Combined new approaches with existing screening tests to identify people at risk of bowel cancer



Professor Chris
Probert is looking for
clues in the gases
released from stool
samples to develop a
simple, non-invasive
bowel cancer test



Professor Chris Probert University of Liverpool



## **DIAGNOSIS**

# DIAGNOSING CANCERS AT AN EARLIER STAGE

NATIONAL
CANCER
SCREENING
PROGRAMMES



THE UK HAS
3 SCREENING PROGRAMMES



1

It's estimated that Breast Screening reduces the number of deaths from breast cancer by about 1,300 a year in the UK

2

Cervical Screening is one of the most effective cancer prevention measures ever implemented, and cervical cancer death rates have decreased by 72% in the UK since the late 1970s.

3

Bowel Screening saves lives. It aims to prevent and detect cancer at an early stage when treatment is more likely to work.



### **DIAGNOSIS**

# DIAGNOSING CANCERS AT AN EARLIER STAGE

DIAGNOSE BOWEL
CANCER EARLIER
THROUGH SCREENING



BOWEL CANCER PATIENTS WILL SURVIVE
THEIR DISEASE
FOR 5 YEARS OR MORE IF DIAGNOSED AT THE
EARLIEST STAGE,
COMPARED TO

1 IN 10

WHEN DIAGNOSED AT THE LATEST STAGE

BOWEL
SCREENING IS
THE BEST WAY TO
DIAGNOSE
BOWEL CANCER
EARLY





# **DIAGNOSIS**

# DIAGNOSING CANCERS AT AN EARLIER STAGE

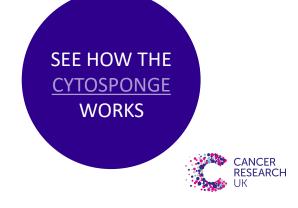
BEST3 TRIAL:
DIAGNOSING BARRETT'S
OESOPHAGUS – A RISK
FACTOR FOR
OESOPHAGEAL CANCER

THE TEAM HAVE DEVELOPED A TEST
CALLED THE 'CYTOSPONGE' – A
NIFTY, SPONGE-ON-A-STRING CELL
COLLECTION DEVICE

BY MAKING
BARRETT'S OESOPHAGUS
EASIER TO DIAGNOSE,
DOCTORS CAN
INTERVENE AT AN EARLY
STAGE, BEFORE IT
DEVELOPS INTO
OESOPHAGEAL CANCER



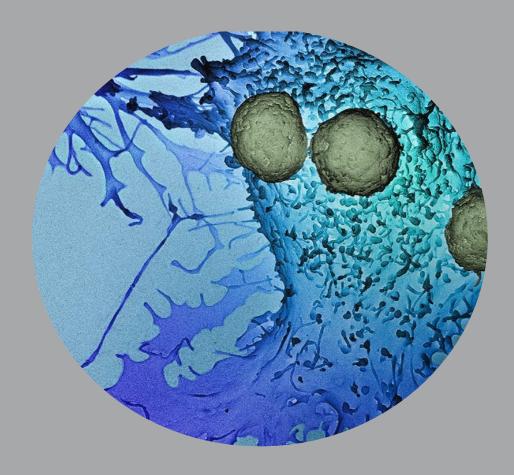
Professor Rebecca Fitzgerald
University of Cambridge







DEVELOPING AND TESTING NEW CANCER TREATMENTS



NEW AVENUES
OF RESEARCH
COULD SAVE
MORE LIVES

DELIVERING
MORE EFFECTIVE NEW
TREATMENTS

WILL REQUIRE NEW
PERSPECTIVES, MECHANISMS &
METHODS





#### **DEVELOPING & TESTING NEW CANCER TREATMENTS**

AND
TESTING NEW
CANCER
TREATMENTS



LEAD
INNOVATION IN
RADIOTHERAPY
AND SURGERY

DISCOVER
AND
DEVELOP
NEW
THERAPEUTICS

FOCUS ON TARGETING COMMONLY MUTATED CANCER GENES









#### **DEVELOPING & TESTING NEW CANCER TREATMENTS**

CURRENT TREATMENTS AVAILABLE





TARGETED THERAPIES home in on specific genetic weaknesses of certain cancer cells



CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIOTHERAPY stop cancer cells from growing and dividing



IMMUNOTHERAPY turns the immune system against cancer



#### **DEVELOPING & TESTING NEW CANCER TREATMENTS**

RADIOTHERAPY & SURGERY



OF ALL CANCER PATIENTS, ALMOST

3 IN 10

WILL HAVE
RADIOTHERAPY
AS A PRIMARY TREATMENT



RECENT ADVANCE: STEREOTACTIC ABLATIVE RADIOTHERAPY OF ALL CANCER PATIENTS, ALMOST

5 IN 10

WILL HAVE
SURGICAL INTERVENTION

AS A PRIMARY TREATMENT

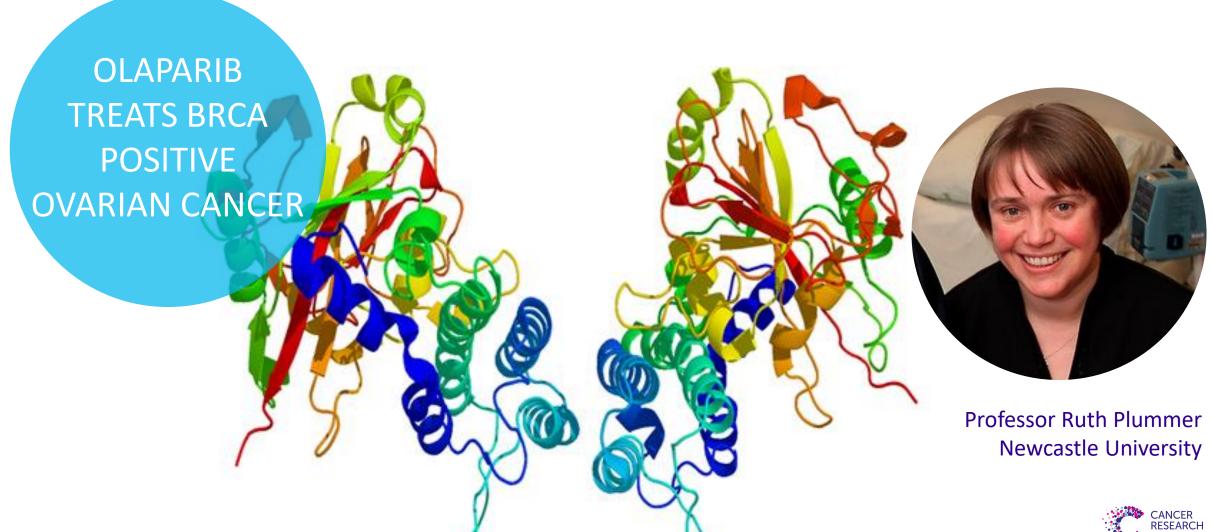


THE FUTURE: LESS INVASIVE APPROACHES AND THE USE OF ADVANCED IMAGING



### **NEW THERAPEUTICS**

"I am optimistic that research will help turn cancer into more of a manageable disease"



#### **DEVELOPING & TESTING NEW CANCER TREATMENTS**

# NATIONAL LUNG MATRIX TRIAL



The world's largest ever clinical trial for non small cell lung cancer is matching treatments to patients based on genetic changes in their cancer

THE STUDY IS
PAVING THE WAY
FOR MORE
EFFICIENT AND
EFFECTIVE CLINICAL
TRIALS



# OPTIMISE





# OPTIMISE TREATMENTS

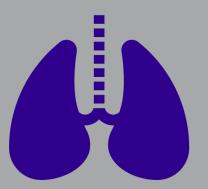
IMPROVING EXISTING CANCER TREATMENTS



WE NEED TO **MAKE EXISTING CANCER TREATMENTS MORE EFFECTIVE** 

WE NEED TO HARNESS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW EVERY PATIENT AND THEIR CANCER IS DIFFERENT TO IDENTIFY THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BENEFIT FROM TREATMENTS









# OPTIMISE TREATMENTS

IMPROVING EXISTING CANCER TREATMENTS



IMPROVING
EXISTING
CANCER
TREATMENTS

TAILOR
TREATMENTS TO
THE INDIVIDUAL

ADVANCE
OUR
UNDERSTANDING OF
TUMOUR
EVOLUTION

DEVELOP
NEW
COMBINATION
TREATMENTS









#### PERSONALISED MEDICINE

TAILORING TREATMENTS TO THE INDIVIDUAL



CANCER VARIES BETWEEN
DIFFERENT PEOPLE. AND
EVEN IN AN INDIVIDUAL
PATIENT, THE CANCER CAN
CHANGE OVER TIME.

JUST AS EACH
FINGERPRINTS IS
DIFFERENT – SO IS EACH
PERSON'S CANCER

"PERSONALISED
MEDICINE IS THE MOST EXCITING
CHANGE IN CANCER TREATMENT
SINCE THE INVENTION OF
CHEMOTHERAPY"

PROFESSOR PETER JOHNSON, CHIEF CLINICIAN, CANCER RESEARCH UK PERSONLISED MEDICINE

MATCHES PATIENTS TO

TREATMENTS BASED ON

THE BIOLOGY OF THEIR

CANCER





### PRECISION -Panc

### PERSONALISED MEDICINE

TAILORING TREATMENTS TO THE INDIVIDUAL

It is predicted that 5 in every 100 people with pancreatic cancer can expect to survive their disease for more than 10 years in England and Wales



Professor Andrew Biankin University of Glasgow, Beatson Institute



#### Tracking Cancer Evolution through Therapy

### **TUMOUR EVOLUTION: TRACER**x

**ANALYSING HOW LUNG CANCER CHANGES OVER** TIME



**CRUK'S SINGLE INVESTMENT IN** 



**Professor Charles Swanton** Francis Crick Institute

**ADDING TO OUR** UNDERSTANDING OF WHY PEOPLE RESPOND **DIFFERENTLY TO TREATMENTS** 



# STAMPEDE: testing new combination treatments



Finding the right treatment combination for men with prostate cancer



Professor Nick James
Institute of Cancer Research, London

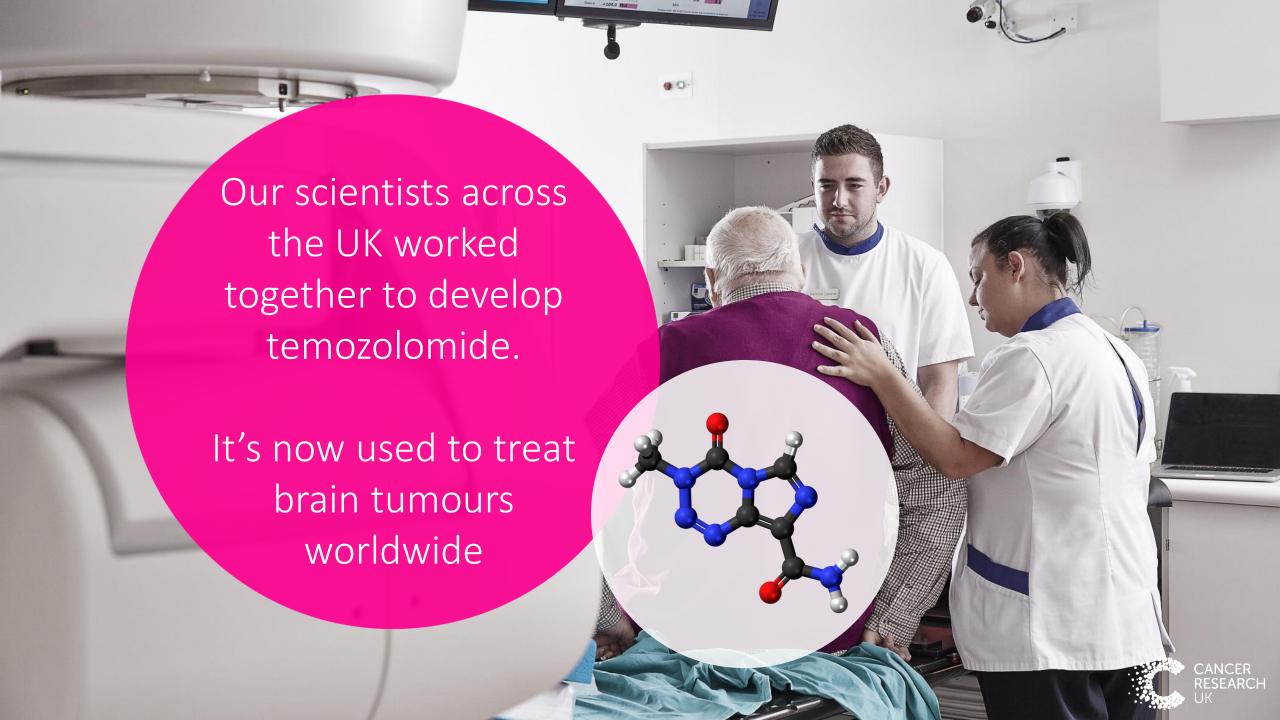




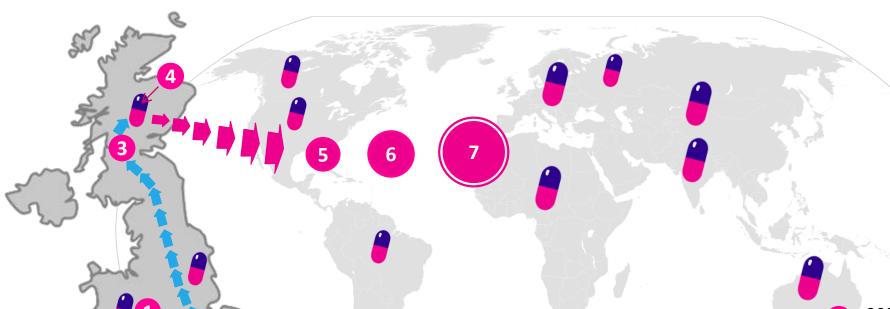


# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS





### Temozolomide: a global success story



Our scientists continue to investigate new ways to use temozolomide to treat other types of cancer

- **Birmingham, 1987:** Professor Malcolm Stevens develops temozolomide.
- **London, 1980/90s:** Phase I clinical trials show promising results.

Glasgow, 1990s:

Our scientist develop a method to mass produce the drug in capsule form.

Across UK, 1990s:

Phase II clinical trials test
effectiveness and toxicity of
temozolomide.

UK, Europe, North America, 1990/00s: International Phase II trial

across nine countries.

Europe, Canada, Australia, 2000s: Large Phase III trial involving patients from 15 countries. Confirms benefit of using drug for glioblastoma patients.

2008: Global sales of temozolomide reach \$1
 billion. Cancer Research UK receives a share which is put back into new research to beat cancer.

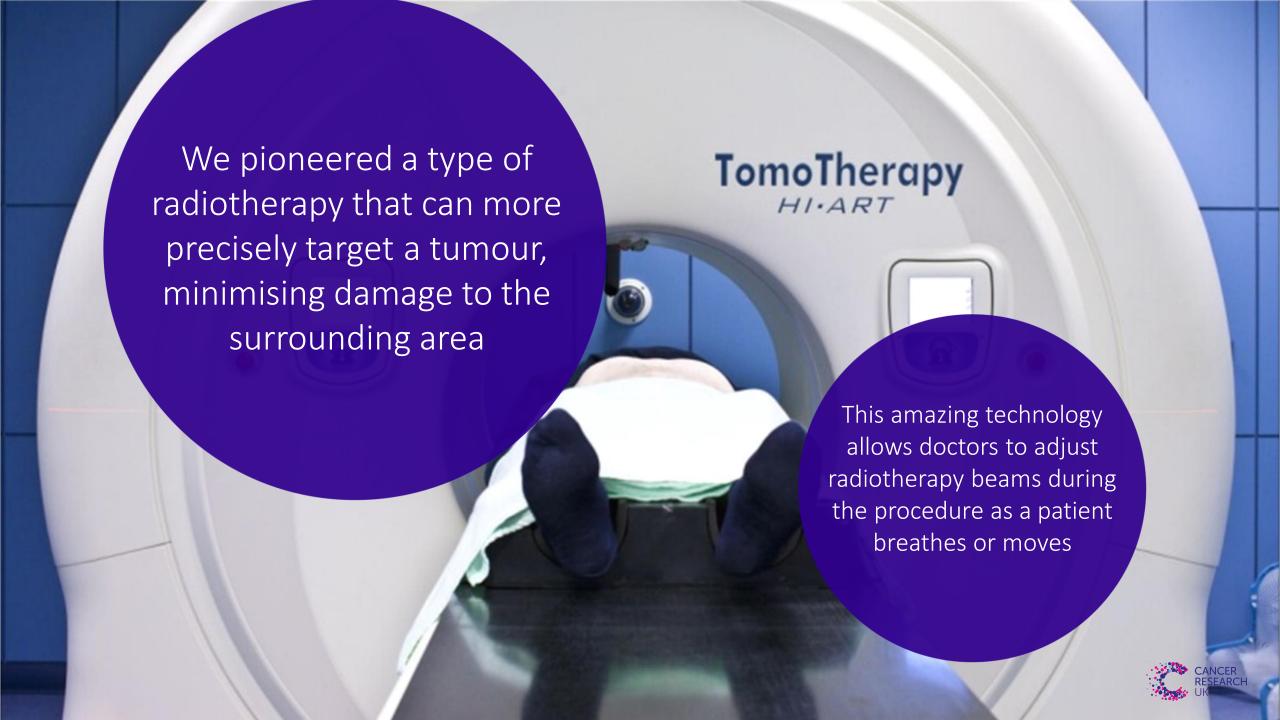
Thousands of people with brain tumours now benefit from temozolomide treatment



And our researchers have contributed to most of the top cancer drugs

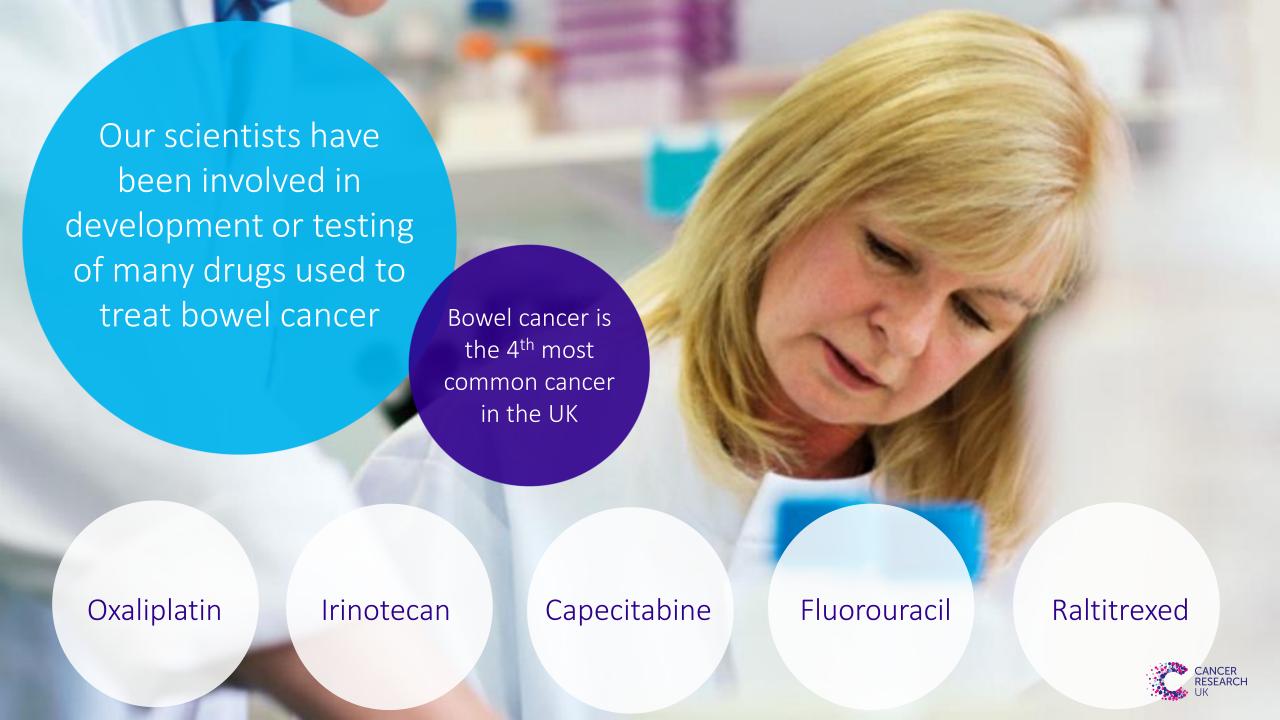
Gemzar **Femara Aromasin Avastin Tamoxifen Erbitux** Cisplatin Carboplatin Herceptin **Olaparib** Oxaliplatin **Tarceva** Gefitinib **Temozolomide** Zoladex Anastrozole **Taxotere** 



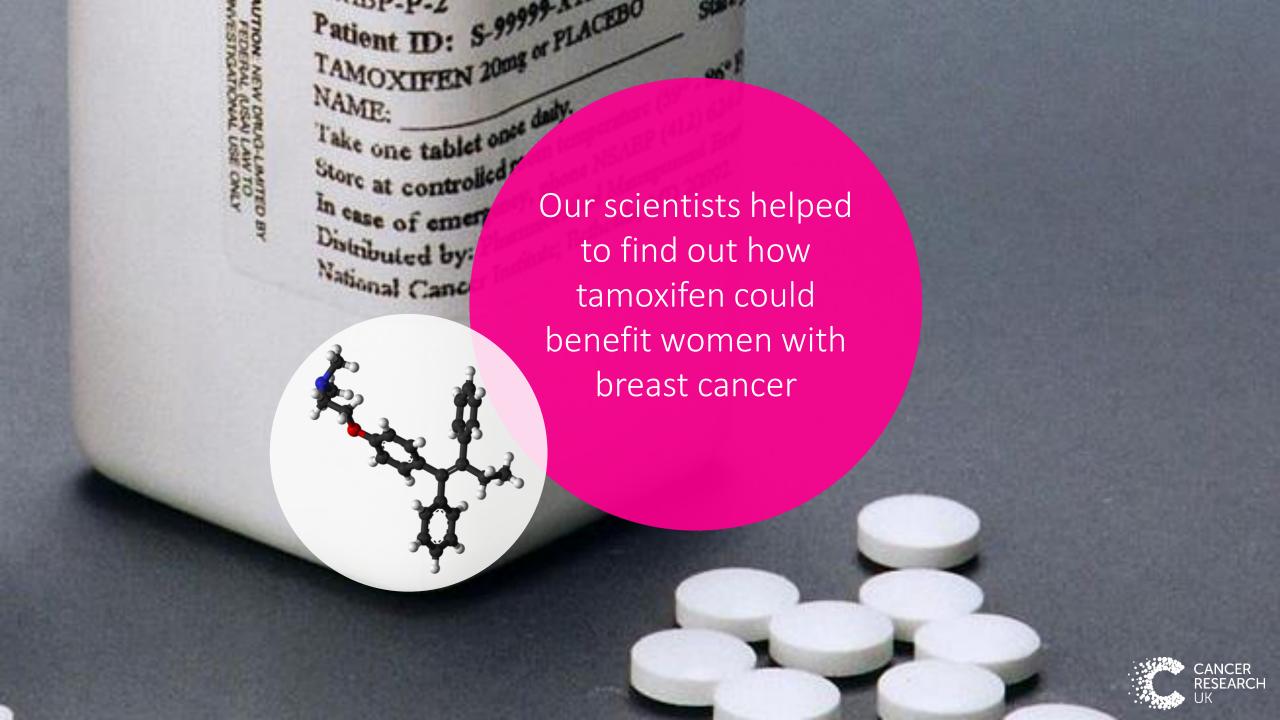




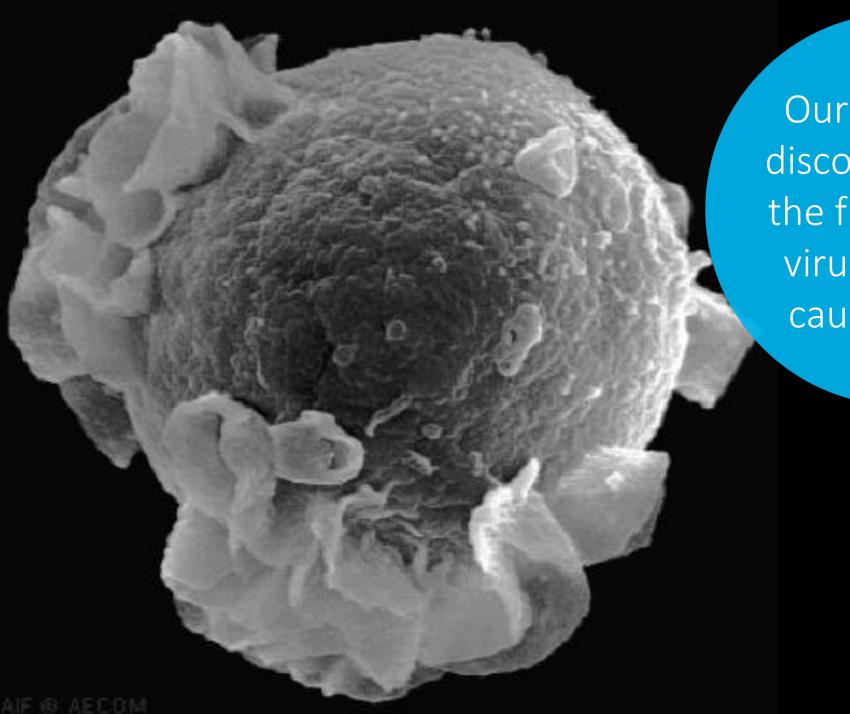












Our scientists discovered EBV, the first human virus that can cause cancer

> paving the way for the development of vaccines against cancer, such as the HPV vaccine for cervical cancer







# Cancer Grand Challenges

Overview

September 2020

CANCER GRAND CHALLENGES





# TRANSFORMING GLOBAL CANCER RESEARCH

- Cancer Grand Challenges (CGC) is a global funding platform created to solve the toughest problems in cancer research. Co-founded through a partnership between Cancer Research UK and the National Cancer Institute that launched in 2020
- CGC is challenge-led problem solving on a scale beyond traditional funding routes challenges are set from the ground-up through consultation with the research and advocacy community
- Whole process overseen by eminent scientific committee with input from our advocacy panel

#### THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:



• £20 (\$25) million awards + £30,000 (\$40,000) seed funding for shortlisted teams to build their proposal



• 2 staged-application process: expression of interested followed by full application for shortlisted teams.



International teams - including collaborators from commercial entities can apply



 Encouraging multidisciplinary approaches - researchers from all disciplines can apply NEW CHALLENGES
REVEALED AND OPENING
FOR EXPRESSIONS OF
INTEREST:
14 October 2020





# PREVIOUS CHALLENGES

#### 7 CHALLENGES SET IN ROUND 1



PREVENTION VACCINES Develop vaccines to prevent non-viral cancers



LETHAL VS NON-LETHAL

Distinguish between lethal cancers which need treating, and non-lethal cancers that don't



**EBV CANCERS** 

Eradicate EBV-induced cancers from the world



TARGETING MYC

Develop innovative approaches to target the cancer supercontroller MYC



3D TUMOUR MAPPING

Map the molecular & cellular tumour microenvironment in order to define new targets for therapy and prognosis



#### **BIOLOGICAL** MARCOMOLECULES

Deliver biologically active macromolecules to any & all cells in the body



#### UNUSUAL PATTERN MUTATIONS

Discover how unusual patterns of mutation are induced by different cancer-causing events



#### 8 CHALLENGES SET IN ROUND 2



#### TREATMENT REGIMENS

Define mechanistic rules for combinatorial treatments to overcome resistance and avoid toxicity



#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Detect cancer earlier by interrogating medical and nonmedical data sets using machine and deep-learning



#### **CANCER CAUSES**

Determine the mechanisms that "cause" cancer without known mutagenesis, such as obesity, in order to devise novel interventions



#### **MICROBIOTA**

Improve treatment responses by manipulating the composition and status of the microbiota



#### LETHAL VS NON-LETHAL

Distinguish between lethal cancers which need treating, and non-lethal cancers that don't



#### **DORMANCY**

Identify and target tumour cells that remain dormant for many years after seemingly effective treatment



#### **TUMOUR VACCINOLOGY**

Create novel tumour vaccinology approaches that establish or enhance successful immune responses beyond what is revealed by current checkpoint therapy



#### TISSUE SPECIFICITY

Devise approaches to prevent or treat cancer based on mechanisms that determine tissue specificity of some cancer genes







### SCIENTIFIC PORTFOLIO



TEAM ROSETTA - £16/5 YR

**GB** 





TEAM SPECIFICANCER - £20/5 YR

**NL GB US** 



- STUDYING TUMOUR METABOLISM FROM EVERY ANGLE
- Led by Josephine BUNCH, 10 investigators & 2 patient advocates

- MAP OF CANCER DRIVERS & THEIR SPECIFICITY TO DIFFERENT TISSUES
- Led by Steve ELLEDGE, 10 investigators & 3 patient advocates





TEAM MUTOGRAPHS - £20/5 YR

**GB US FR** 





TEAM STORMING - £20/5 YR

• Led by Thea Tlsty, 10 investigators & 5 patient advocates

CA GB US



- IDENTIFYING PREVENTABLE CAUSES OF CANCER
- Led by Mike STRATTON, 6 investigators & 2 patient advocates

TEAM IMAXT - £20/6 YR

**GB US CA CH IE** 





OPTIMISTICC - £20/5 YR GB US CA NL ES





- CREATING VIRTUAL REALITY MAPS OF TUMOURS
- Led by Greg HANNON, 14 investigators & 2 patient advocates



EAM PRECISION - £15/5 YR

**NL GB US** 



- PREVENTING UNNECESSARY BREAST CANCER TREATMENT
- Led by Jelle WESSELING, 13 investigators & 5 patient advocates



INVESTIGATE THE MICROBIOME'S IMPACT ON TREATMENT IN COLORECTAL CANCER

DEVELOP NEW OPTIONS TO TREAT AND PREVENT INFLAMMATION INDUCED CANCER

Led by Matt MEYERSON & Wendy GARRETT, 13 investigators & 8 patient advocate











10 investigators2 patient advocates



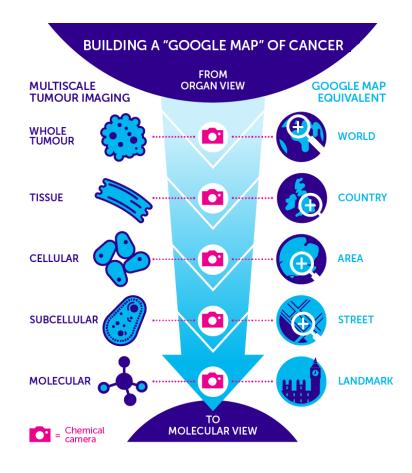
UK



Breast, bowel, pancreatic & brain



£16m



NPL, United Kingdom







# **MUTOGRAPHS TEAM**

#### IDENTIFYING PREVENTABLE CAUSES OF CANCER



PROF. SIR MIKE STRATTON
Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute,
United Kingdom



6 investigators2 patient advocates



France UK USA



Bladder, bowel, kidney, liver, lung, oesophageal & pancreatic



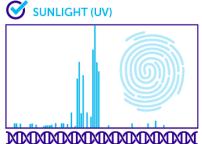
£20m



Cancer causing chemicals leave identifiable scars (like fingerprints) on damaged DNA

#### SOME OF THOSE FINGERPRINTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED





#### BUT OVER 50% OF RECOGNISED FINGERPRINTS ARE UNKNOWN





By studying global variations of different cancers this project will attempt to identify unknown fingerprints and futher understand the mechanism causing cancer













PROF. GREG HANNON
CRUK Cambridge Institute,
United Kingdom



14 investigators2 patient advocates



Canada Republic of Ireland Switzerland UK USA



**Breast** 



£20m

1 A detailed reference picture of a cancer tumour is taken.



Wafer thin slices are cut from the tumour.

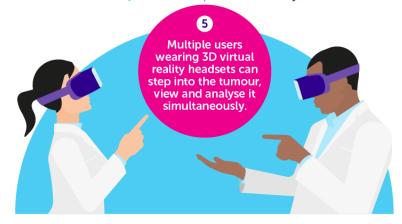


3 The slices are deeply analysed, right down to their genetic information.



4 The gathered information is processed and the tumour is rebuilt in virtual reality.

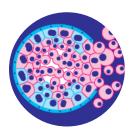












# PRECISION TEAM

#### PREVENTING UNNECESSARY BREAST CANCER TREATMENT







13 investigators5 patient advocates



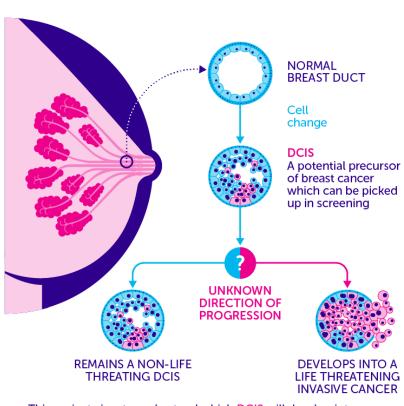
The Netherlands UK USA



**Breast** 



f15m



This project aims to understand which DCIS will develop into life threatening cancer and which will not. This could ultimately save some women from unnecessary cancer treatment.











# SPECIFICANCER TEAM

GENERATE A COMPREHENSIVE MAP OF CANCER DRIVERS AND THEIR SPECIFICITY TO DIFFERENT TISSUES



PROF. STEVE ELLEDGE
Brigham and Women's Hospital,
Harvard Medical School, USA



10 investigators3 patient advocates



The Netherlands UK USA



Bowel, pancreatic, breast, lung, skin, kidney & brain



f19m

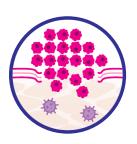












# STORMING CANCER TEAM

DEVELOP NEW OPTIONS TO TREAT AND PREVENT INFLAMMATION INDUCED CANCER IN HIGH-RISK PATIENTS



**PROF. THEA TLSTY** UCSF, USA



10 investigators5 patient advocates



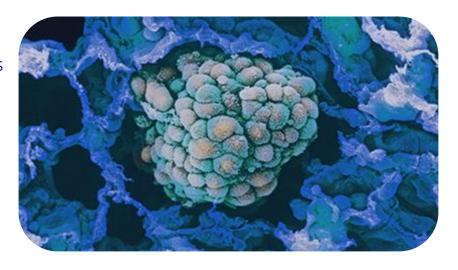
Canada Israel UK USA



Bowel, oesophageal, stomach & lung



£20m







# **OPTIMISTICC TEAM**

OPPORTUNITY TO INVESTIGATE THE MICROBIOME'S IMPACT ON AND TREATMENT OF COLORECTAL CANCER



PROF. WENDY GARRETT
Harvard T.H. Chan School of
Public Health, USA



**PROF. MATTHEW MEYERSON**Dana-Farber Cancer Institute,
USA



13 investigators8 patient advocates



Canada Spain The Netherlands UK USA



Bowel



£20m







# THANK YOU

Tim Hudson,
Research Engagement Manager
tim.hudson@cancer.org.uk
@CRUKresearch



