



Igniting our potential

Raising Standards in Policy Evaluation
7th October 2008

Dr Liam O'Toole
UKCRC/OSCHR

A Changing Clinical Research Environment

- ▶ **Health Research in the UK – challenges and drivers for change**
- ▶ **The UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) - October 2004 onwards**
- ▶ **The Office for Strategic Co-ordination of Health Research (OSCHR) – January 2007 onwards**

Key issues that needed addressing

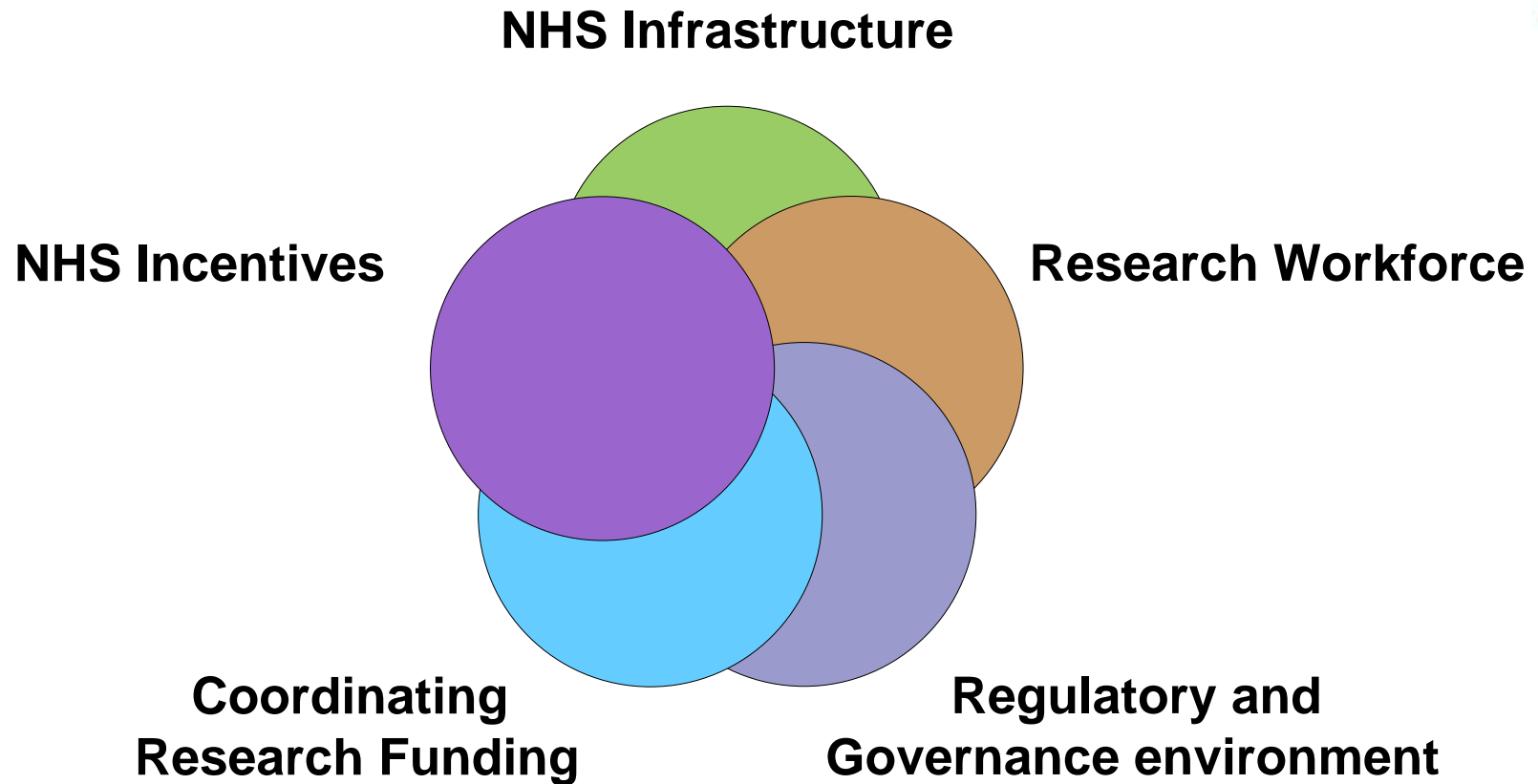
- ▶ Decline in clinical academic community
- ▶ Decline in infrastructure
- ▶ Complex regulatory environment
- ▶ Not meeting industry needs for Research & Development in the UK
- ▶ Not realising the potential of a single National Health Service

NB – Funders – 4 HDs, MRC & RCs, Charities, Industry

UKCRC Partners



UKCRC Activities



Building up the infrastructure for health Research

▶ **Infrastructure in the NHS**

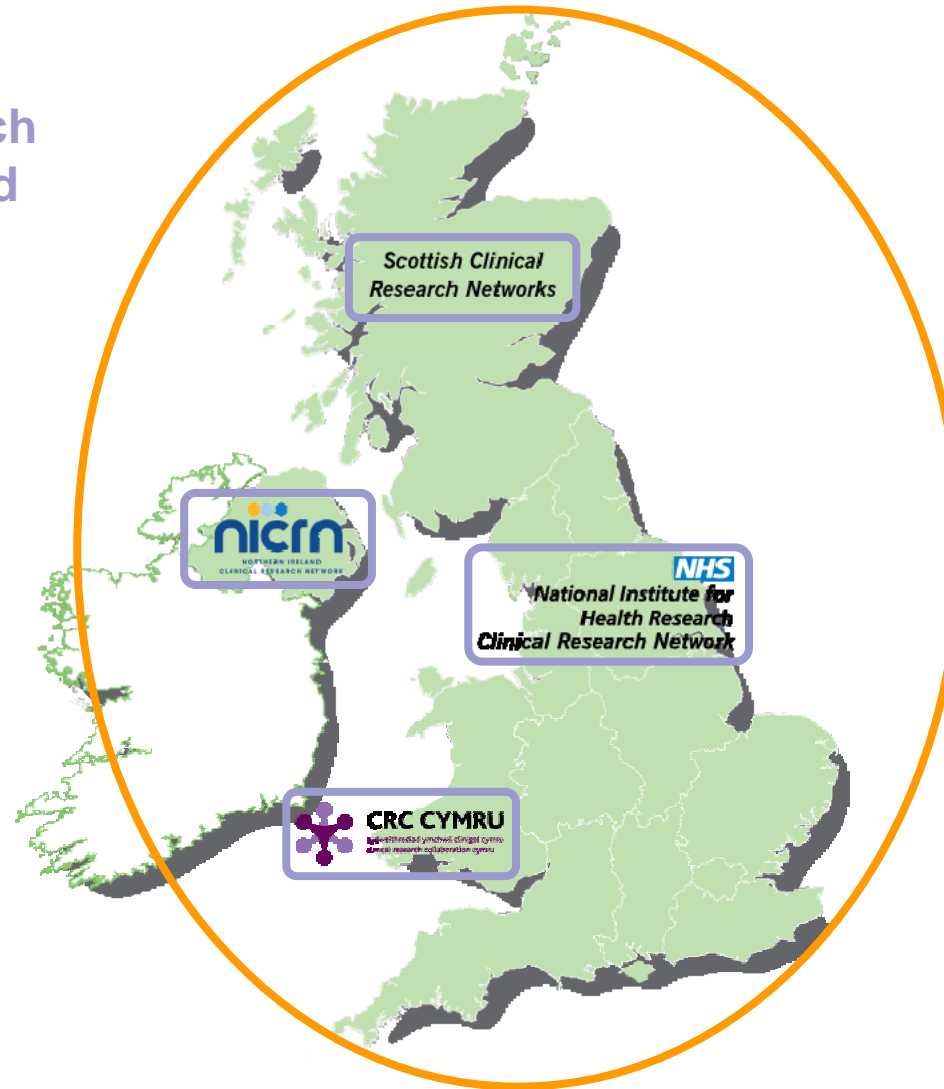
- ▶ A UK Clinical Research Network established to support delivery of high quality clinical research across the UK
- ▶ The UK's capability for early phase experimental medicine research is being strengthened through coordinated investment by a range of funders
- ▶ The potential of NHS IT programmes to facilitate clinical research is being examined

▶ **Developing an expert Research Workforce**

- ▶ New training and career structures are being developed for clinicians, nurses and allied health professionals who support and deliver clinical research in the NHS

The UK Clinical Research Network

National research networks funded by Health Departments



UKCRC Board provides strategic oversight

Government R&D Strategies



UK Clinical Research Network (UKCRN)

- ▶ A performance-managed network of professional and dedicated research staff working in the NHS
- ▶ Provides infrastructure to deliver high quality clinical trials and other well designed studies funded by public, charity and industry sectors
- ▶ A series of inter-connecting networks across the UK
- ▶ Topic specific, primary care & comprehensive networks
- ▶ Funded by the 4 UK Health Departments (Part of NIHR England, Wales)
- ▶ Coordination provided by UKCRN Coordinating Centre

UK Clinical Research Network

Local Research Networks

- ▶ Embedded into clinical care
- ▶ NHS staff – research nurses, data managers, administrative support
- ▶ Responsible for study set-up, recruitment, follow-up, data collection

Topic-specific & Comprehensive Coordinating Centres

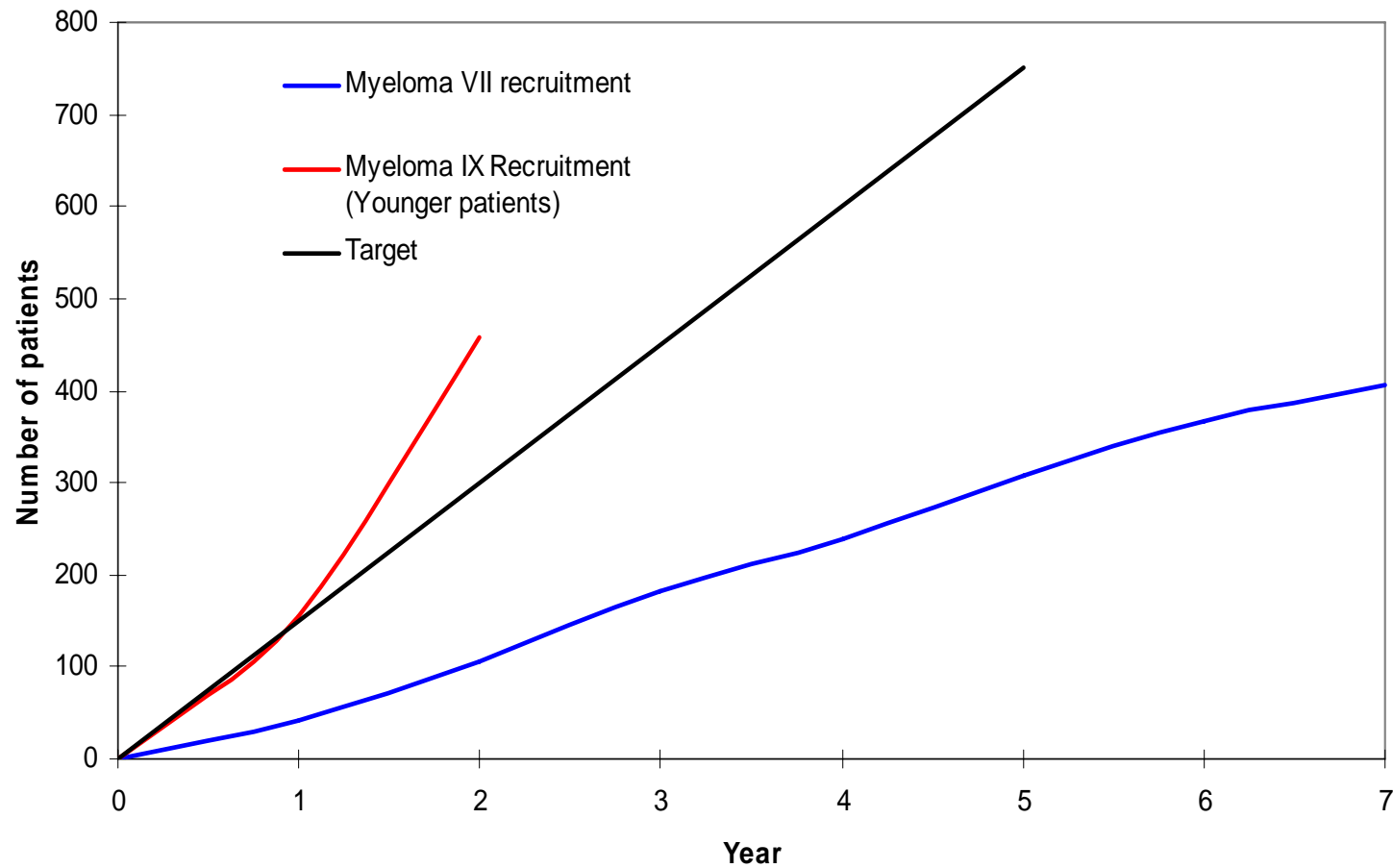
- ▶ Research management
- ▶ Oversight of portfolio development
- ▶ Management of Local Research Networks

UKCRN Coordinating Centre

- ▶ UK-wide, national coordination and management of UKCRN activities
- ▶ Development of generic systems - training and education, research management, collaboration with industry, patient and public Involvement

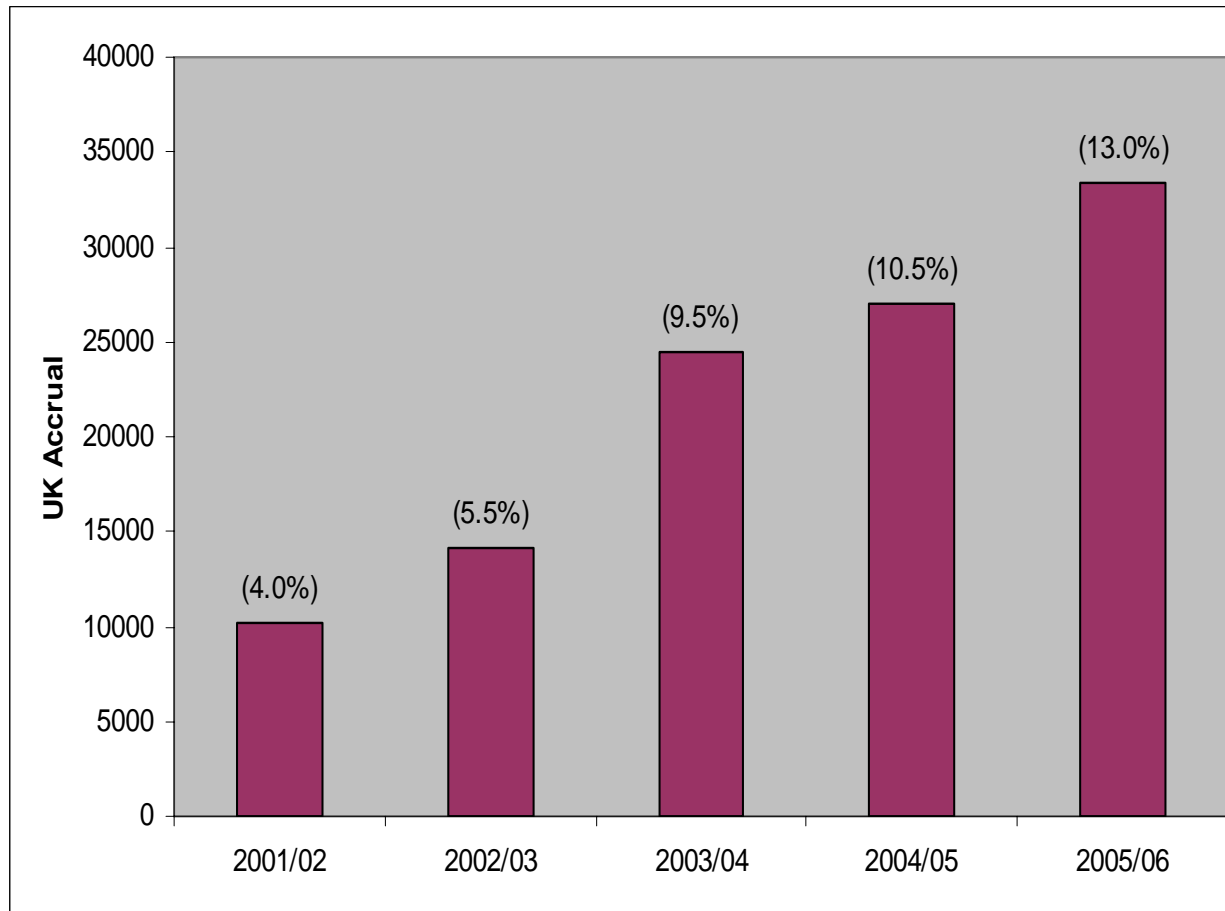
Clinical Research Networks - Metrics

Comparison of recruitment into Myeloma VII (pre-NCRN) and Myeloma IX (post-NCRN) and Myeloma IX (post-NCRN)



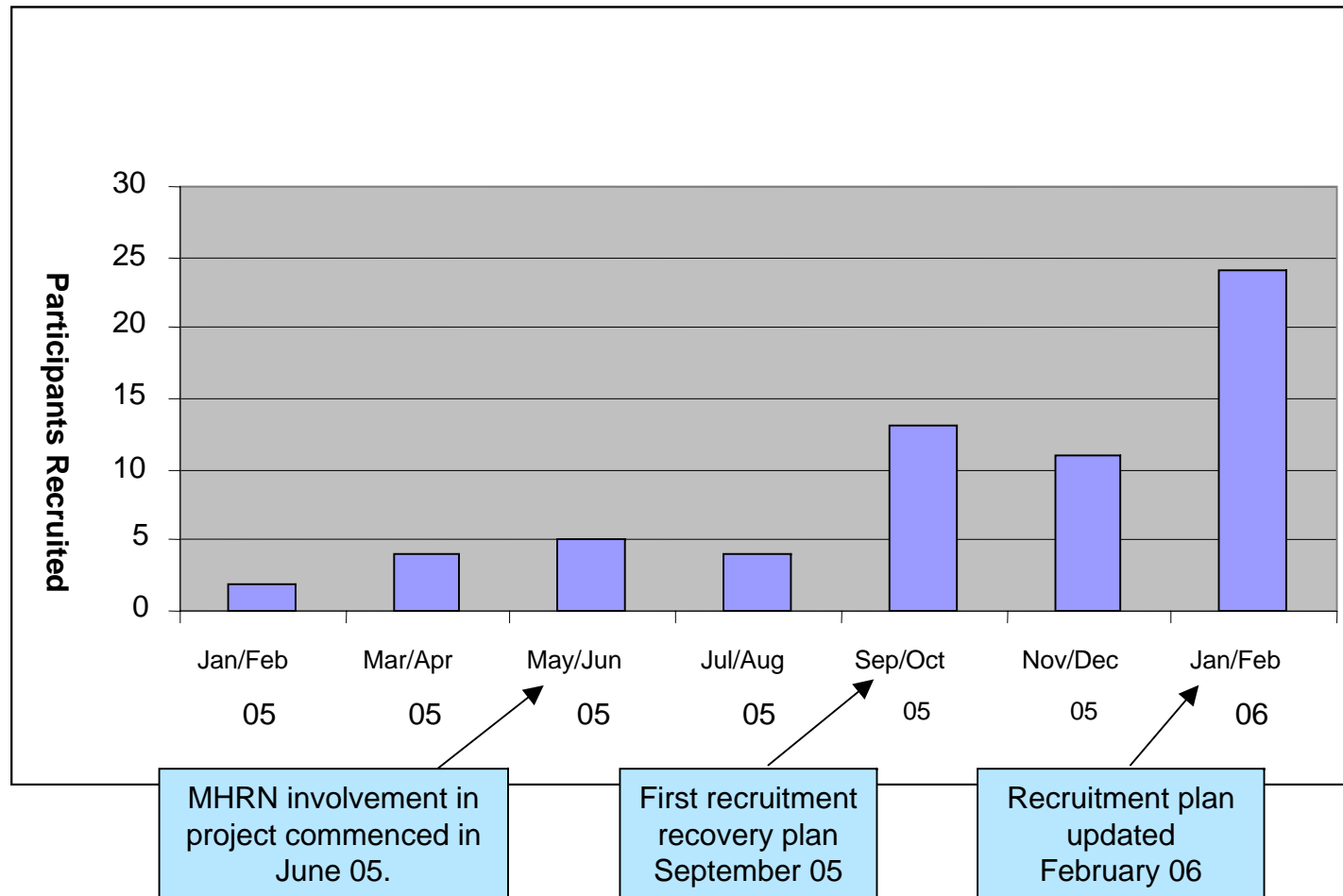
Clinical Research Networks - Metrics

Accrual to National Cancer Research Network Portfolio studies across the UK



Clinical Research Networks - Metrics

Impact of the Mental Health Research Network Involvement on Study Accrual



UKCRN – Industry metrics

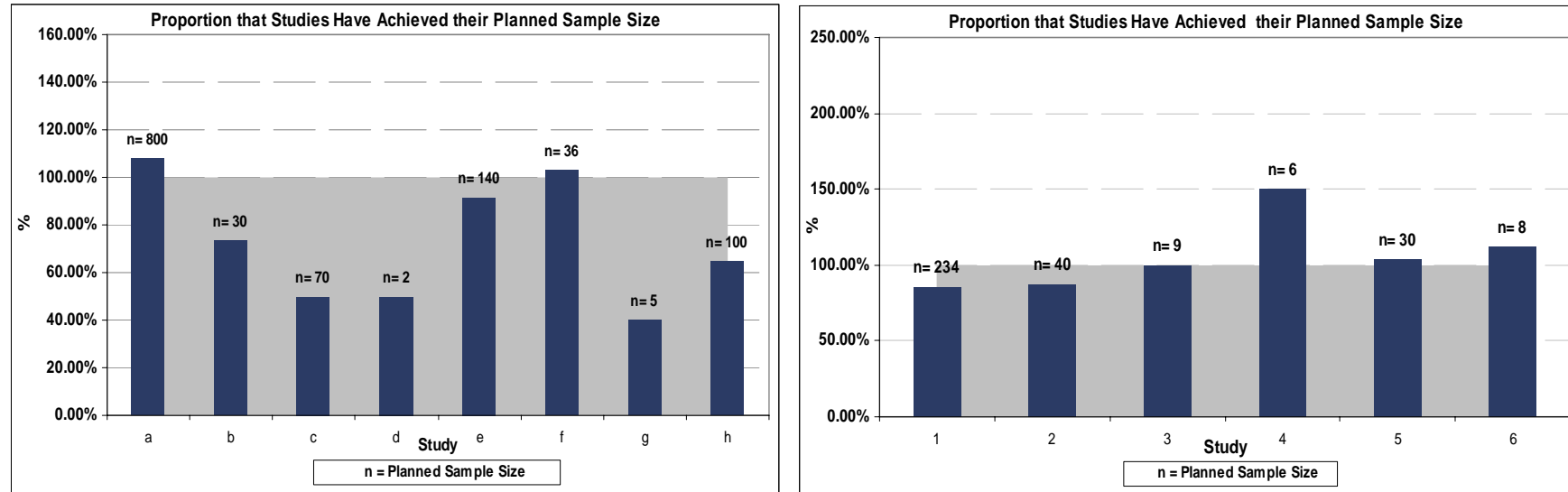


Figure 1 provides a breakdown of the 14 closed studies; these graphs demonstrate the percentage accrual against UK target, split by studies pre-opened at adoption and those in set up (i.e./ not open) at adoption. 100% of studies that opened after adoption achieved greater than 80% of the initial recruitment target, with 67% of studies achieving 100% or greater. Only 38% of studies which were pre-open at adoption achieved 80% of UK target with only 25% achieving 100% or greater.

Strengthening Experimental Medicine in the UK

- ▶ UK research funders committed >£200m investment in new infrastructure, technologies, training and research
- ▶ Clinical Research Infrastructure Initiative led by WT
- ▶ CRUK/NIHR Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres
- ▶ NIHR Biomedical Research Centres and Biomedical Research Units
- ▶ MRC Translational Medicine Centres



UKCRC Experimental Medicine Resources



Home **Resource Finder** Regulation News & Events About Us Contact Us

[Home](#) > Resource Finder

In This Section

- [East Midlands](#)
- [East of England](#)
- [London](#)
- [North East](#)
- [North West](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [South Central](#)
- [South East Coast](#)
- [South West](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [West Midlands](#)
- [Yorkshire & The Humber](#)

Resource Finder

How can I search for experimental medicine facilities?

Click on a region in the map to reveal experimental medicine resources and clinical research networks in that local area. You can also browse the names of all facilities and select them directly from the alphabetical list.

Click on the Resource Finder Search button below to access the advanced search. This will allow you to identify:

- Specific experimental medicine resources
- Experimental medicine resources conducting studies in a particular area of health or disease (e.g. infection)
- Experimental medicine resources with a particular piece of equipment (e.g. in patient beds or MRI) or skill (e.g. phlebotomy)

All information in the Resource Finder has been provided by individual centres. All efforts will be made to ensure that this information is kept up to date however please contact the [UKCRN Experimental Medicine team](#) if you become aware of any discrepancies.



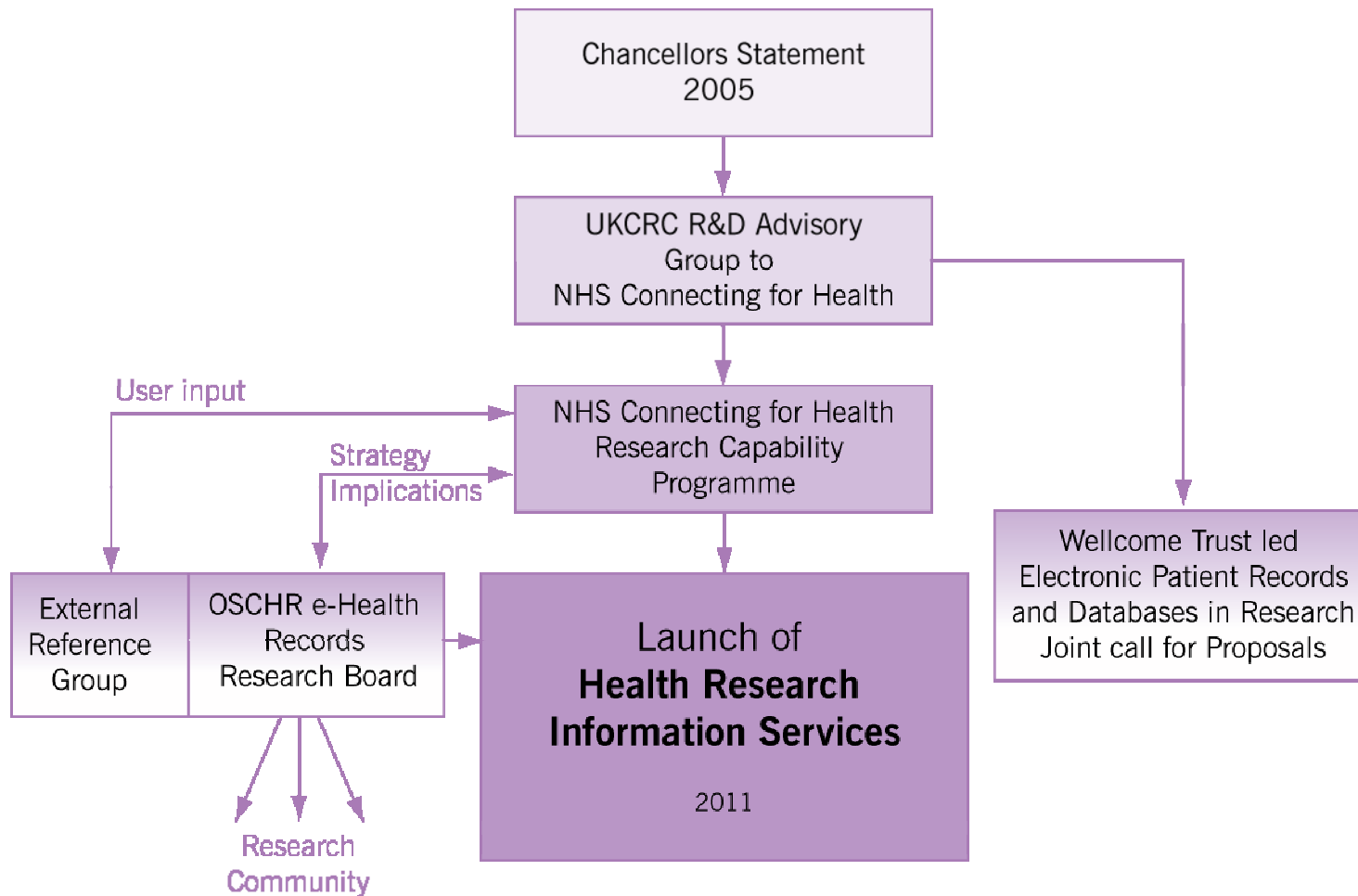
All - B - C - E - G - H - I - K - L - M - N - O - P - S - U

- Barts and The London Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre
- Birmingham Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility
- Brighton NIHR Clinical Research Facility
- Bristol MRC Centre for Causal Analyses in Translational Epidemiology
- Cambridge Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre
- Cambridge MRC Centre for Obesity and Related Metabolic Disease
- Cambridge NIHR Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre
- Cambridge Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility
- Edinburgh Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre
- Edinburgh Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility
- Glasgow Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre
- Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and Kings College London NIHR Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre
- Hammersmith and St. Mary's Hospital and Imperial College London Comprehensive NIHR Biomedical Research Centre
- Hammersmith Clinical Research Facility (Sir John McMichael Centre)
- Imperial College London Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre
- Imperial College London MRC Centre for Outbreak Analysis and Modelling
- Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Marsden NIHR Biomedical Research

Clinical Academic Careers

- ▶ Implementation of recommendations from Academic Careers Subcommittee of Modernising Medical Careers and the UKCRC
- ▶ New integrated and flexible career pathway – allows doctors and dentists to combine research with clinical practice
- ▶ New training schemes launched for:
 - ▶ Academic Clinical Fellowships
 - ▶ Clinical Lectureships
 - ▶ Clinical Senior Lectureships

Source: UK Clinical Research Collaboration



Opportunities and Challenges

- ▶ Exciting time for health research
- ▶ Increasing importance of translational, clinical and public health research
- ▶ Currently strong Government support but we need to keep demonstrating success and cultural change
- ▶ Unprecedented involvement of all sectors – public, charity and industry helping to shape the new environment
- ▶ Increasing emphasis on coherent national approaches and on partnership

Lesson 1 - Why have these partnerships been successful?

- ▶ Joint ownership of major issues
- ▶ A neutral forum
- ▶ A shared interest in big issues
- ▶ Enabling leadership
- ▶ Communication is key
- ▶ Partnership is not resource neutral
- ▶ Well-resourced, independent secretariat
- ▶ “Guiding principles” have been important

Lesson 2 – Strategy development and implementation

- ▶ Recognise that a funding “strategy” is threatening
- ▶ Need shared ownership between funders and academic community
- ▶ Communication is key
- ▶ Evidence base important
- ▶ Separate advice from action

Lesson 3 – local networking and collaboration

- ▶ Need to empower leadership locally and regionally
- ▶ Be clear about what a network is
- ▶ Financial incentives help
- ▶ Need to allow local flexibility – one size does not fit all
- ▶ Careful choice of leaders