

# NHS Research Scotland Annual Conference

## Parallel Sessions

### Precision Medicine: development, delivery and collaboration



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# NRS Conference 2018

## Parallel Session B: Precision Medicine – development, delivery, collaboration



Chair : Ed Hutchinson – [ed.hutchinson@scotent.co.uk](mailto:ed.hutchinson@scotent.co.uk)

## Parallel Session B: Precision Medicine – development, delivery, collaboration

12:00 – 12:10	<b>Session Welcome (Chair)</b>
12:10 – 12:30	<b>NAFLD - where are we now where do we need to be</b> Professor John Dillon, Professor of Hepatology and Gastroenterology and NRS Clinical Lead – Hepatology, University of Dundee
12:30 – 12:50	<b>Future MS: Developing predictive tools</b> Dr Peter Connick, Senior Clinical Research Fellow in Regenerative Neurology, University of Edinburgh
12:50 – 13:10	<b>Oesophageal cancer</b> Professor Zofia Miedzybrodzka, Professor of Medical Genetics, University of Aberdeen.
13:10 – 13:15	Questions and Discussion

# Precision Medicine: Personalised Treatment



**“Finding new ways to provide the right drug to the right patient at the right time, tailored to their genetic and molecular make up, will create a revolution in healthcare”**

Professor Anna Dominiczak, Vice-Principal and Head of the University of Glasgow’s College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences

Precision medicine is **targeted, individualised care** that is tailored to each patient based on his or her specific genetic profile and medical history.

Precision medicine has been made possible through advances in **next-generation (whole genome) sequencing**, **‘big data’ analysis** and a greater understanding of the molecular pathology of disease.

This allows for the **stratification** of patients e.g. Identifying:

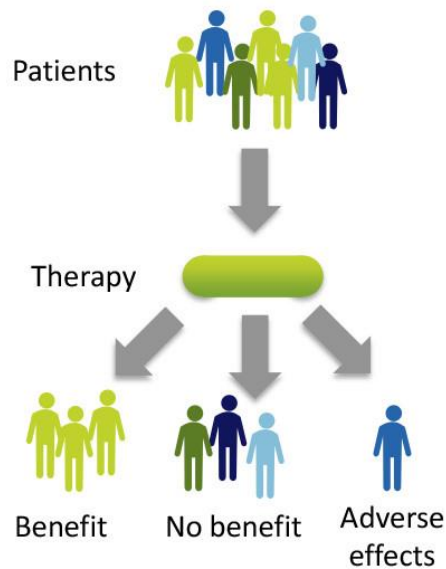
- those that will respond to specific treatments;
- those that will be susceptible to side effects from specific treatments;
- new biomarkers & diagnostics



# Advantages of Precision Medicine Approach

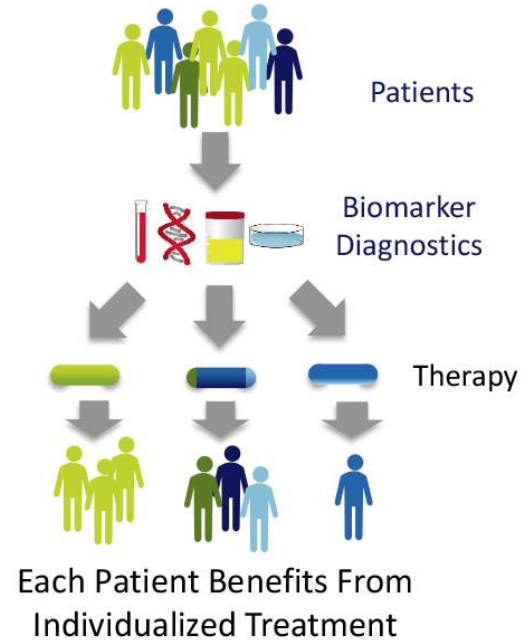
## Without Personalized Medicine:

Some Benefit, Some Do Not



## With Personalized Medicine:

Each Patient Receives the Right Medicine For Them



Slide from Oukas.info

# Scotland's PM Landscape: NHS Scotland at the Core

## Scotland A unique opportunity

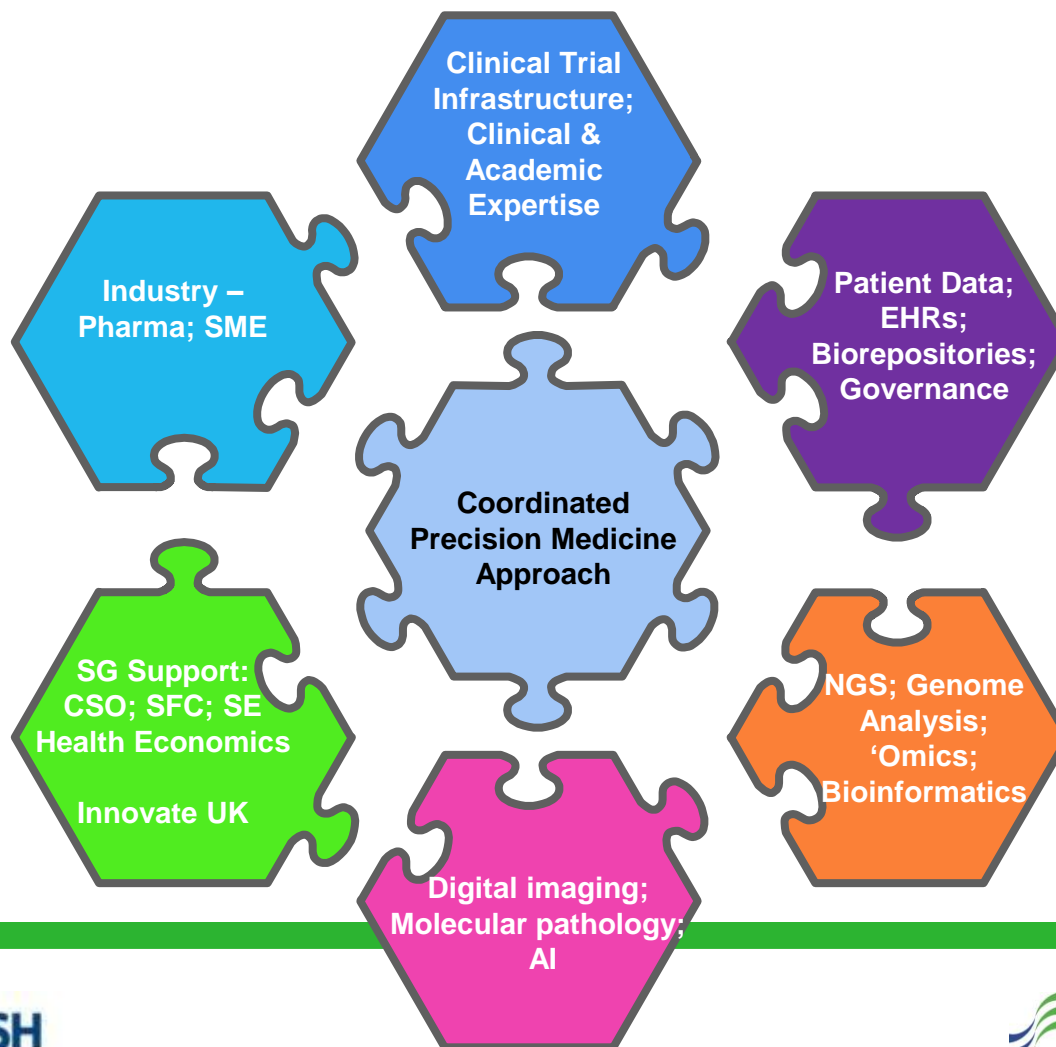
- A single unified health system
- A stable population of c.5million
- A unique patient identifier used in all contacts with the health system
- Some of the best health data in the world
- High incidence of complex disease



NHS RESEARCH SCOTLAND

Strong infrastructure and world class clinical and academic expertise creates a vibrant research environment in Scotland with clinical research embedded within our NHS

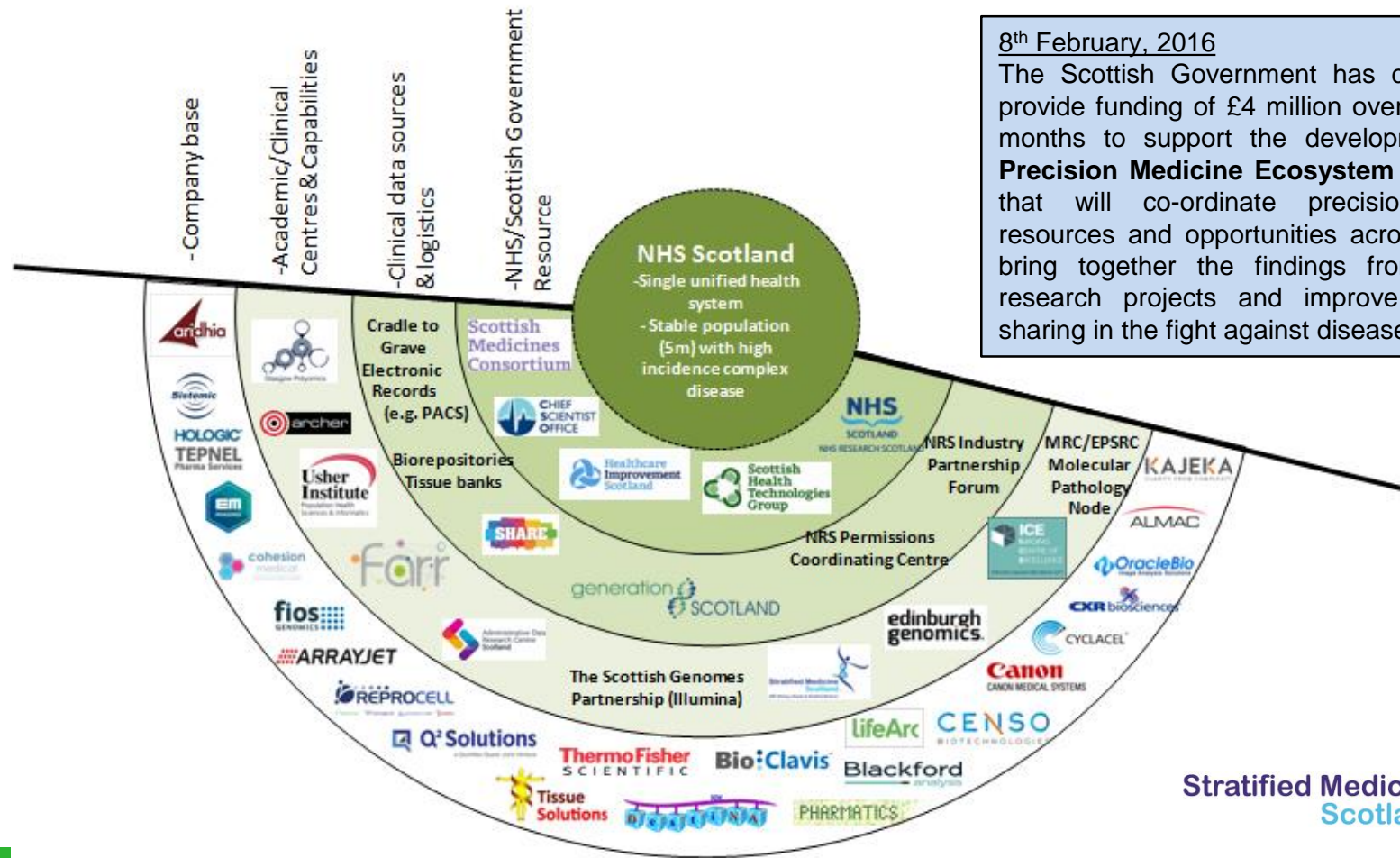
# Scotland's PM Landscape: PM Components



# Scotland's Precision Medicine Landscape

8<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

The Scottish Government has committed to provide funding of £4 million over the next 15 months to support the development of the **Precision Medicine Ecosystem** for Scotland that will co-ordinate precision medicine resources and opportunities across Scotland, bring together the findings from individual research projects and improve information sharing in the fight against diseases.





# Recognition of Ecosystem Model

October 2016



**A new collaboration in genomic medicine sees Scotland join AstraZeneca's Global Genomics Initiative**  
– further demonstrating Scotland's ability to attract major industry projects.

Mene Pangalos, **Executive Vice President, A/Z:**

*"Working together with NHS Scotland, Scottish universities and Stratified Medicine Scotland will be a really important part of our strategy. This collaboration will provide access to consented genomic samples, electronic health records and importantly, the ability to recall patients for deeper clinical investigation to help us better understand the underlying causes of disease"*

October 2017



**US Life Sciences firm BioClavis sets up base in Glasgow**

As part of a £10.5 million investment to life sciences, BioClavis have announced they will be creating a base in the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow.

Harper VanSteenHouse, **BioClavis:**

*"We were very impressed with the connectivity that exists in Scotland: between research clinicians, the biorepository, SMS-IC, University of Glasgow, the wider SME community and the support mechanisms in place via Scottish Enterprise to assist with our growth plans."*

# Precision Medicine in Scotland: Science & Innovation Audit

Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland

*"Whilst the SIA consortium has been led by the University of Glasgow, the process has very much been characterised by a genuine 'Team Scotland' approach, with support, commitment & real insight from industry, academia & the NHS across Scotland. This is another positive example of collaborative working in Scotland which reinforces our commitment to world class research & innovation, supporting advances in healthcare, improved patient outcomes & sustainable economic growth"*

Dr Victor Dzau, President of US National Academy of Medicine

*"This audit outlines the actions and game-changing opportunities which will allow Scotland to realise the full potential of precision medicine.....It promises to deliver both patient and economic benefit for Scotland, and Scotland should now do all it can to realise that promise"*



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

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is embargoed,  
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## **Precision Medicine Innovation in Scotland:** Accelerating Productivity Growth for Scotland and the UK

Science and Innovation Audit Report  
sponsored by the Department for Business,  
Energy and Industrial Strategy

Autumn 2018

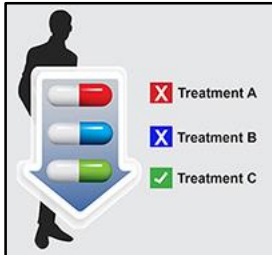


[ed.hutchinson@scotent.co.uk](mailto:ed.hutchinson@scotent.co.uk)

# Scottish PM Landscape: Stratified Medicine Scotland Innovation Centre Exemplar Projects



**SMS-IC** offers a front to back capability to link disease phenotype and genotype data together to better predict patient response to individual therapy, help select clinical trial populations and support more effective management of chronic diseases.



## Irritable Bowel Disease/Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (IBD/COPD)

- Study focused on early identification of patient variability through a pharmacogenomics strategy
- Bioptra had observed that in vitro responses to known drugs, using human tissue samples collected from patients with IBD or COPD, can vary quite significantly between patients
- The objective was to create a preclinical model to understand the genetic basis for variability to known drugs and to relate genomics to the variation in drug efficacy between patients
- Led by **Dr David Bunton at Bioptra/ReproCell Europe**

## Oesophageal Cancer (OC)

- a highly aggressive common form of cancer with a rising incidence worldwide and poor prognosis
- Median survival following surgery/chemotherapy remains only 10 months. In the UK, 1 yr survival is 40%, and only 15% survive 5 yrs
- Study will focus on the utility of an Epidermal growth factor Receptor (EGFR) tyrosine kinase antagonist called Gefitinib in advanced OC
- Aim is to identify a genetic signature for Gefitinib response and if successful, to develop a test to predict if OC patients will respond to the drug
- Led by **Professor Zofia Miedzybrodzka and Dr Russell Petty at Aberdeen University & NHS Grampian**

## Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

- the most common of the chronic inflammatory arthritic conditions - approximately 400,000 new cases in Europe and the US each year
- Within Europe the direct cost in terms of managing RA is ~£11.6Bn pa whilst the indirect costs are an additional £14.1Bn pa
- Current RA drug therapy is dominated by methotrexate (MTX). Of 60% of RA patients on MTX either do not respond or show toxic effects
- Study focuses on identifying a genetic signature in RA patients that can predict those who will respond to MTX treatment
- Led by **Professor Iain McInnes at Glasgow University**

## High Grade Serious

### Ovarian Cancer (HGSOC)

- 5th most common cancer
- Treatment is usually through a combination of resective surgery and platinum based chemotherapy
- Study focuses on understanding if we can extend the use of novel PARP inhibitor drugs into a wider group of HGSOC patients
- Currently these drugs are only prescribed in patients having genetic mutations in their germline DNA (only 15% of all HGSOC patients)
- An additional 35% of patients may harbour these mutations. If successful we will seek to extend the licencing of PARP inhibitors to this wider group of patients
- Led by **Prof. Charlie Gourlay, Univ Edinburgh**

## Scottish PM Landscape: Stratified Medicine Scotland Innovation Centre (2) Exemplar Projects



**Precision-PANC** is a project intended to rapidly characterise an individual patient's pancreatic cancer and introduce each to an appropriate clinical trial designed to treat that specific tumour type. This project coincides with a recent analysis of the blueprint of pancreatic cancer, revealing for the first time that there are four distinct types of mutation. It is led by **Prof. Andrew Biankin, Director of Wolfson Wohl Cancer Research Centre, University of Glasgow**

<http://www.precisionpanc.org/>



**FutureMS** is a Scotland-wide research project for people recently diagnosed with relapsing-onset multiple sclerosis. Led by **Prof. Siddharthan Chandran** at the **University of Edinburgh Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic**, with **Stratified Medicine Scotland**, the project uses clinical examinations, MRI brain imaging and genetics to try to predict disease severity in people with MS.

<http://future-ms.org/>

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[ed.hutchinson@scotent.co.uk](mailto:ed.hutchinson@scotent.co.uk)



A collage of three images: a medical student in a blue coat examining a patient's arm, a medical student in a blue coat holding a stethoscope, and a medical student in a blue coat holding a stethoscope.

## School of Medicine University of Dundee

NAFLD - where are we now where do we  
need to be.



## What am talking about

- The lecture will describe non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and its consequences.
- Outline the challenges of stratifying the disease and its diagnosis and
- The solutions that Scotland is bringing forward.



**“...we have encountered patients who did not drink, who had not been subject to bypass surgery, and who had not taken drugs that may produce steatohepatitis, yet had in their liver biopsy specimens changes that were thought to be characteristic of alcoholic liver disease. In these instances, the biopsy evidence sometimes caused clinicians to persevere unduly in their attempts to wrench from the patient an admission of excessive alcohol or to obtain a confirmation of such habits from relatives of the patients. Thus, the misinterpretation of the biopsy in this poorly understood and hitherto unnamed condition caused embarrassment to the patient and the physician.”**

**— Jurgen Ludwig, MD**

***Mayo Clin Proc 1980;55:434-438.***



## Alcohol vs Non-alcohol

- Ludwig et al (1980) coined the phrase NASH.

Clinicians were known to 'persevere unduly in their attempts to wrench from the patient an admission of excess alcohol intake'

- What is an accepted alcohol intake
- Constantly changing
- Powell et al in 1990 excluded patients who consumed more than 40g ethanol per week
- Bugianesi et al (2002) excluded patients who consumed more than 140g per week

## What is NAFLD?

Common

Potential to progress (S)

Associated with the met

Pathogenesis is unknow

Treatment options are li

Only going to get worse

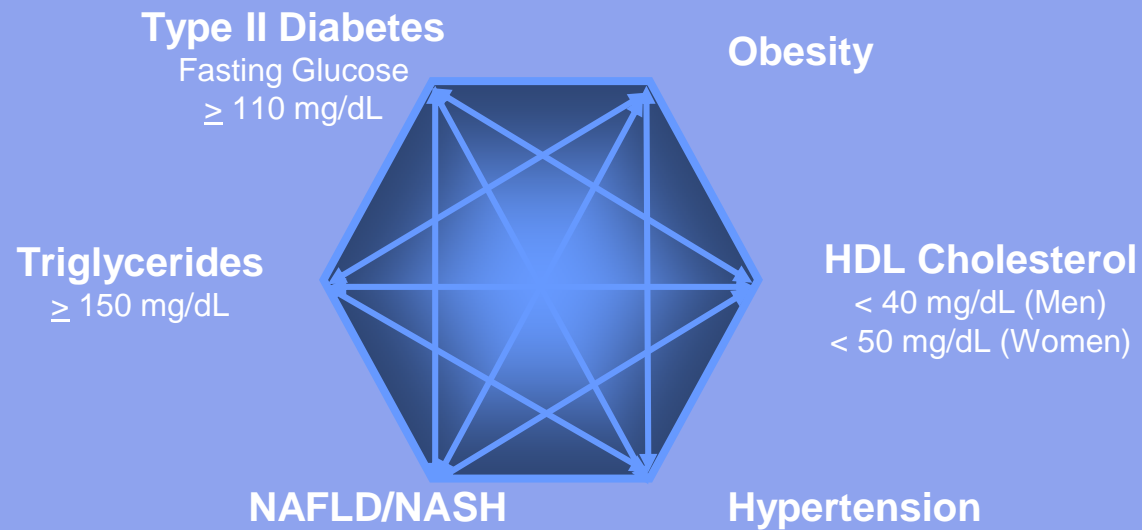
10-20% general population have fatty liver

within 20 years





# Metabolic syndrome: Multiple, Interrelated Factors



Adapted from Marchesini G et al. Hepatology 2003;37:917-923.



# Histologic Features of NASH

## **Spectrum**

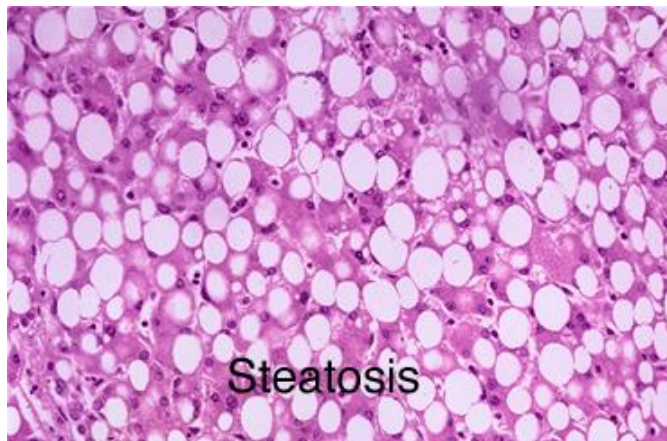
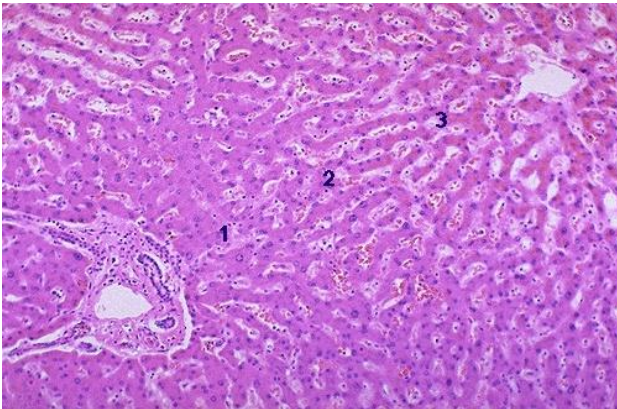
- Steatosis→ steatohepatitis→ steatohepatitis with fibrosis→ cirrhosis

## **Steatohepatitis**

- Inflammation: usually mild, lobular, and mixed mononuclear and neutrophilic
- Hepatocyte degeneration: ballooning and Mallory bodies
- Fibrosis: initially pericellular; later bridging

## **Cirrhosis**

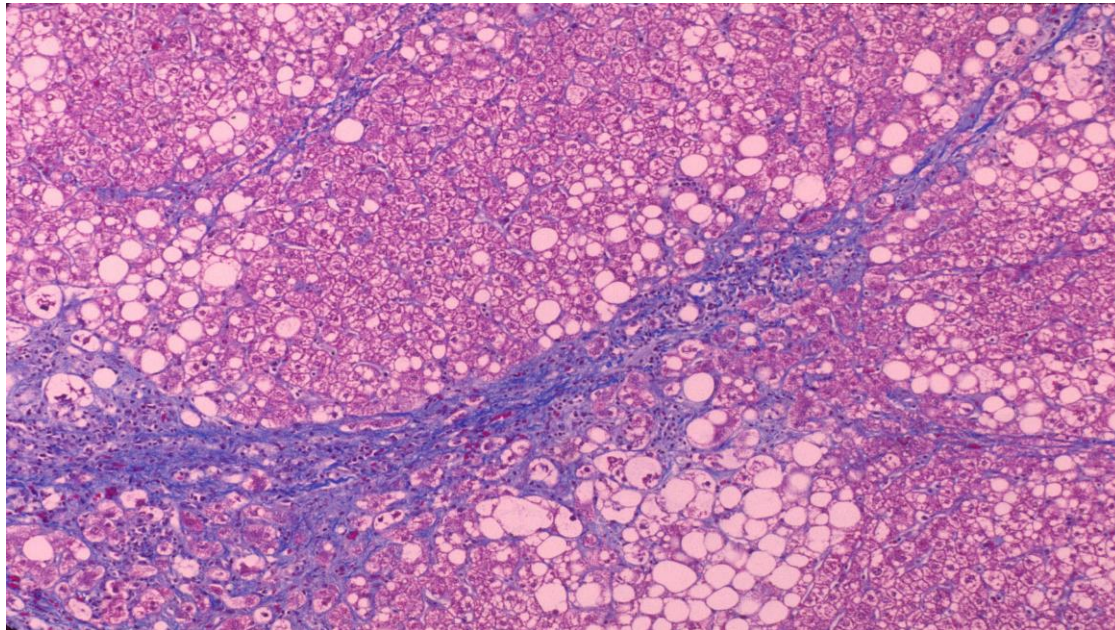
- Occurs in up to 20% over 10 years



## Hepatic steatosis



# NASH





Healthy Liver

Cirrhosis







# NAFLD disease spectrum

## A disease progression?

### **Simple Steatosis**

Steatosis

No excess liver mortality

→ Increased Cardiovascular mortality

Adaptation

### **Non-alcoholic Steato-hepatitis**

Hepatic inflammation and fibrosis

Excess liver mortality

Insulin resistance

Oxidative stress

Failed adaptation



# NAFLD Diagnosis steatosis or NASH The Challenge

## Fibrosis or no fibrosis

30% of the population

→ ½ have normal LFTs

→ All should have fat in the liver

→ Abdominal Ultra sound

→ Standardisation?

→ MRI

→ Standardisation?

→ Coils

→ Liver biopsy

## Liver Biopsy

“The Gold Standard”

Invasive

Costly

Observer variability

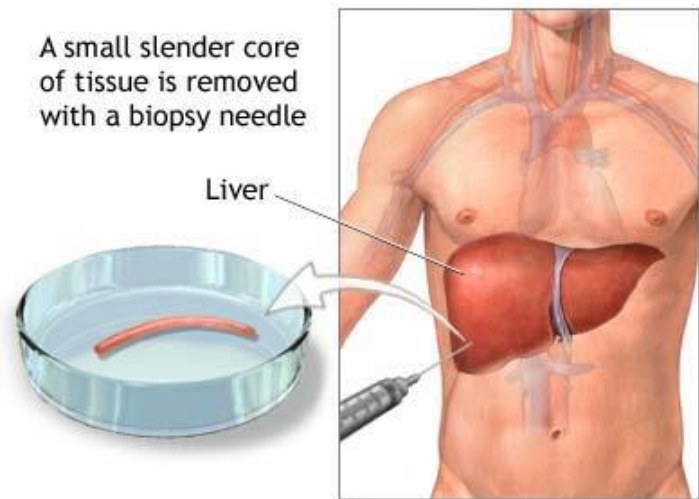
Sampling error

Morbidity and mortality



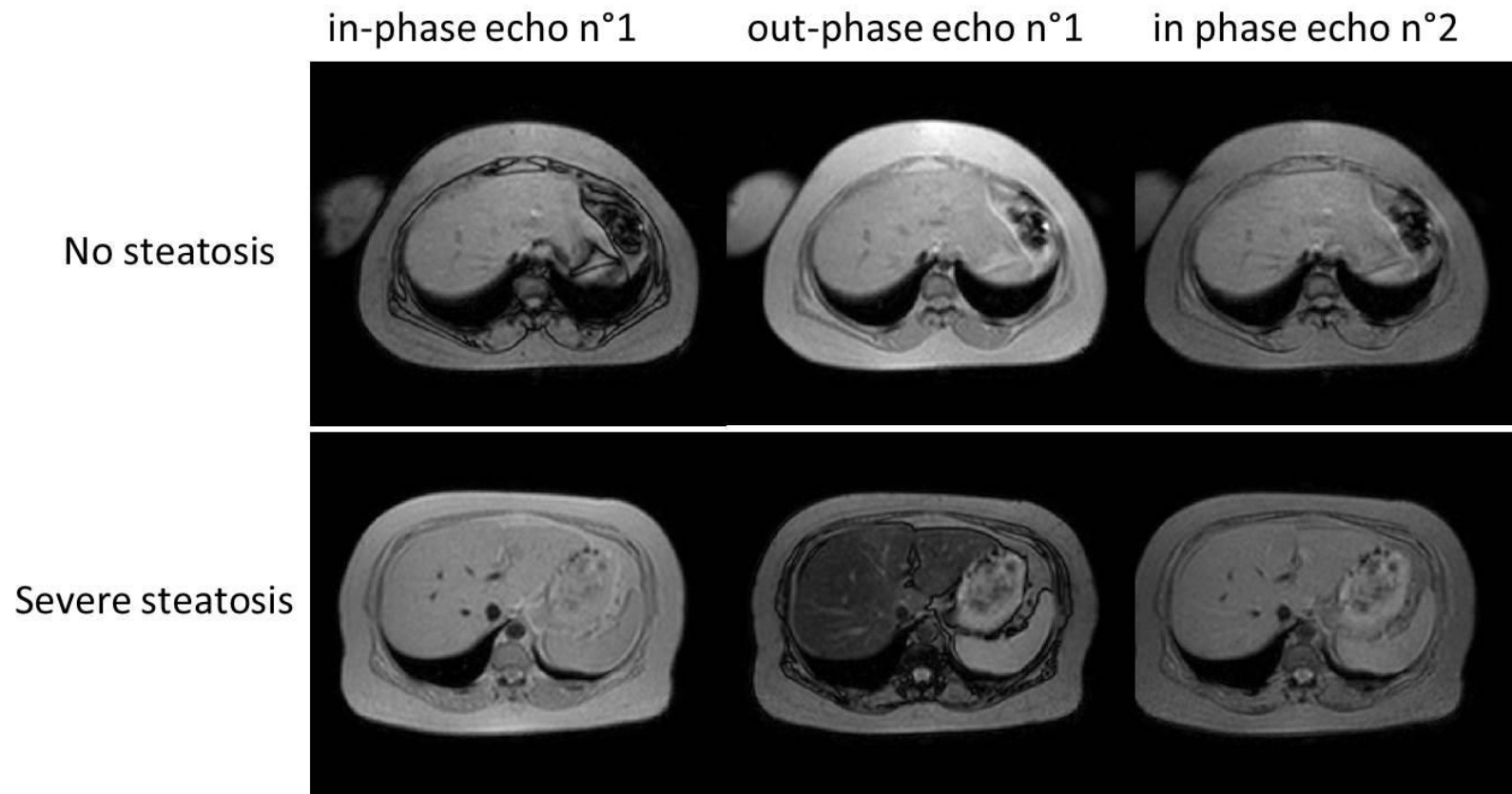
Diagnosis by histology  
1% major complication  
0.1-0.01% mortality

A small slender core of tissue is removed with a biopsy needle

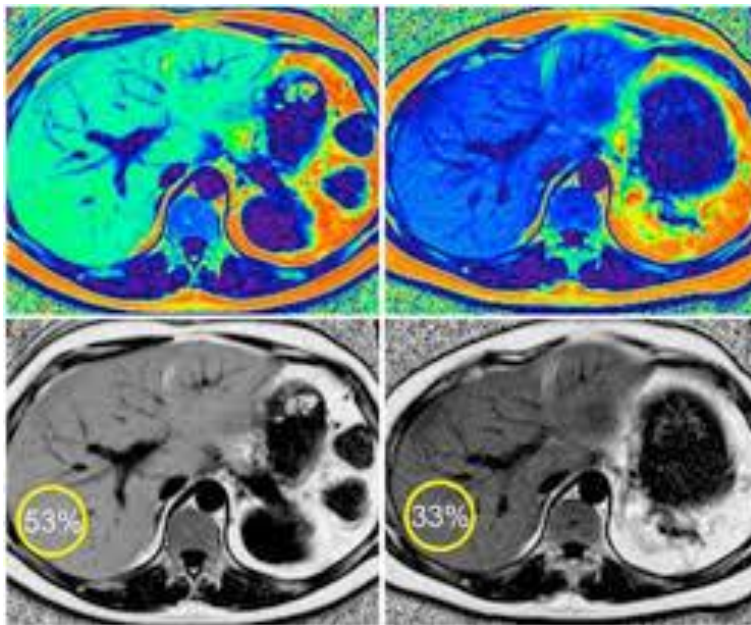


ADAM.

# MRI imaging Proton derived Fat Fraction (PDFF) the gold standard for steatosis



# corrected T1 MRI imaging FDA approved surrogate for inflammation biomarker of NASH THE SOLUTION TO DIAGNOSIS PROBLEM



## Statistics Summary

Fat: 17.4 %

Iron: 1.7 mg/g dry weight liver

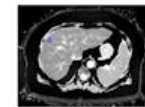
cT1: 1062.8 ms

Normal range: <5.6%<sup>1</sup>

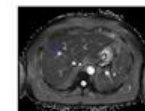
Normal range: <1.8mg/g<sup>2</sup>

Normal range: 645ms - 822ms<sup>3</sup>

LIF 3.3



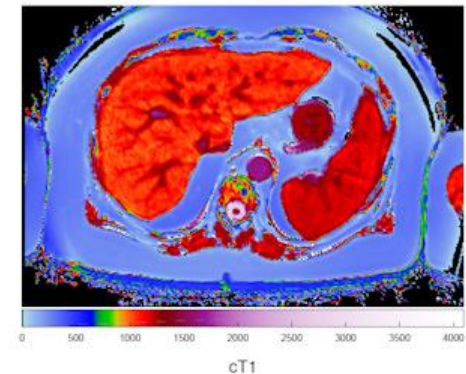
T1



T2\*



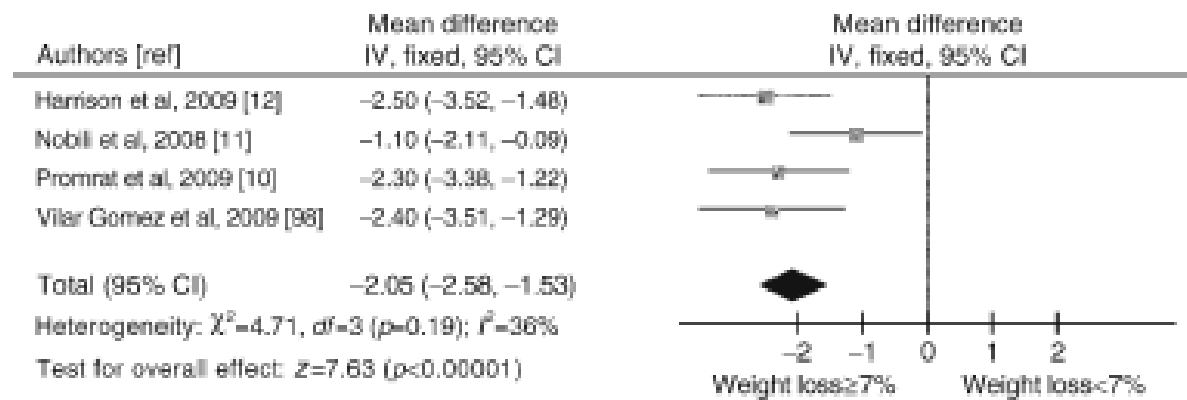
Fat





# The Treatment for NASH

## The dilemma “THE DIABETES PARDIGM”



**Fig. 1** Forest plot of RCTs comparing the effect of different degrees of weight loss (%) on histological NAS. Outcome: mean differences in NAS following weight loss  $\geq 7\%$  vs weight loss  $< 7\%$ . IV, inverse variance

Diabetologia (2012) 55:885–904



## To solve the NASH problem What do we need

Well phenotyped patients

Disease registry, National Biobank and data base

→ long term follow-up

→ Who will progress

→ To what complications

→ Baseline biological samples

→ To validate biomarkers

→ Clinical endpoints

## How do we get it

Funded by a coalition of Pharma, CROs and CSO??



University  
of Dundee

[dundee.ac.uk](http://dundee.ac.uk)



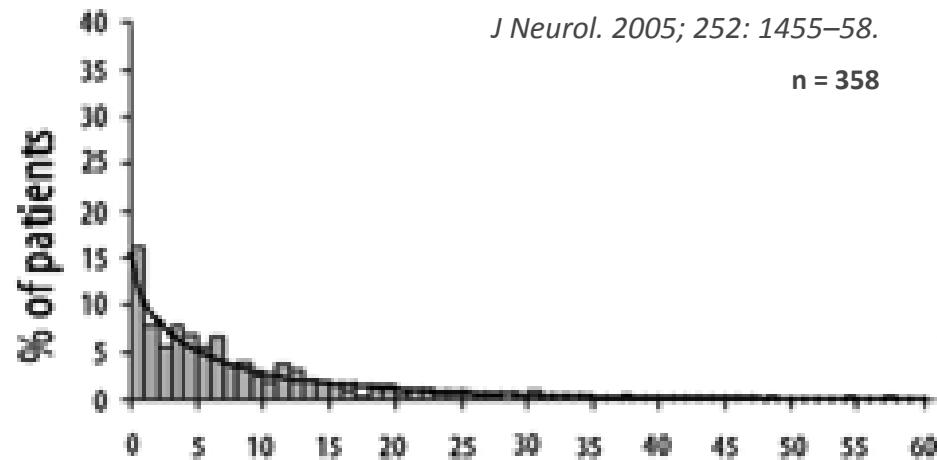
Clinical, laboratory and genomic predictors of disease activity in people recently diagnosed with relapsing-onset multiple sclerosis

***Peter Connick***

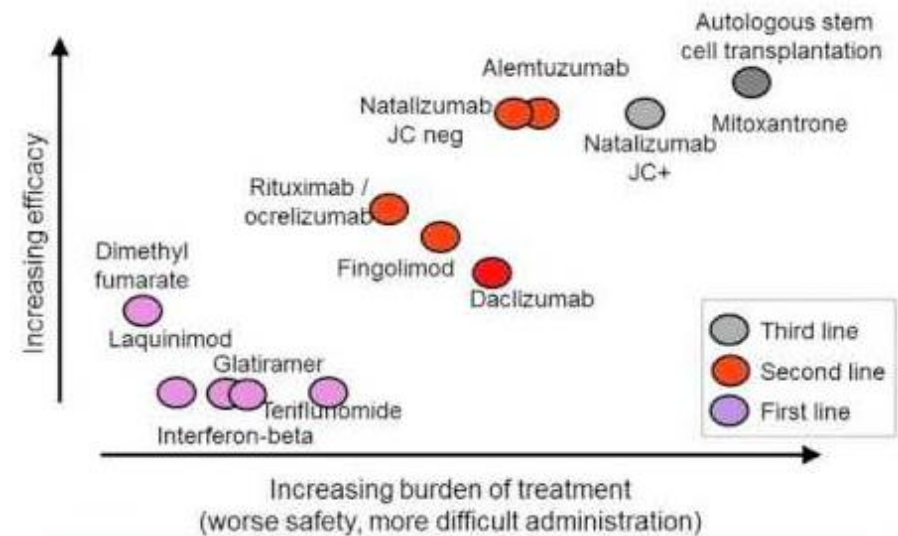
Senior Clinical Research Fellow

The University of Edinburgh



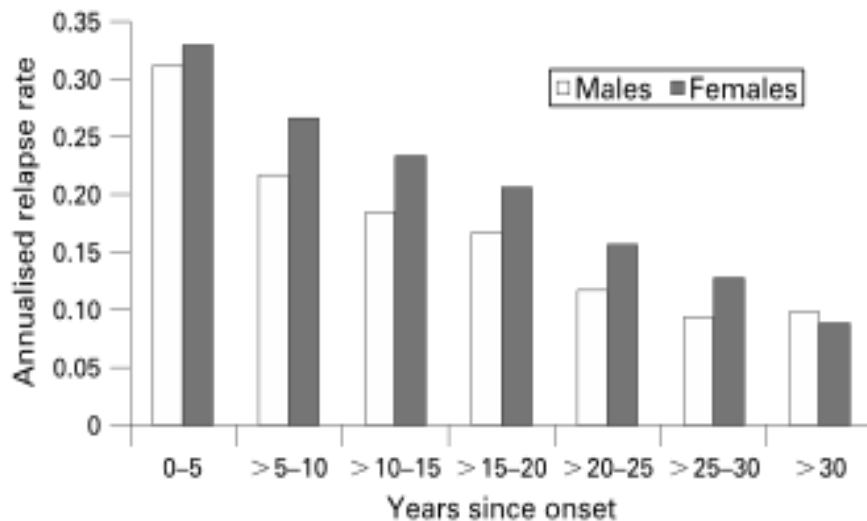


Highly variable disease severity



A 'suite' of treatment options





- Female sex (higher ARR)
- Time since onset (17% decrease every 5-years)

*JNNP 2008; 79: 1368–75.*

**No clinically applicable predictive tool currently exists**

# MS DMT - the debate

## ESCALATION strategy

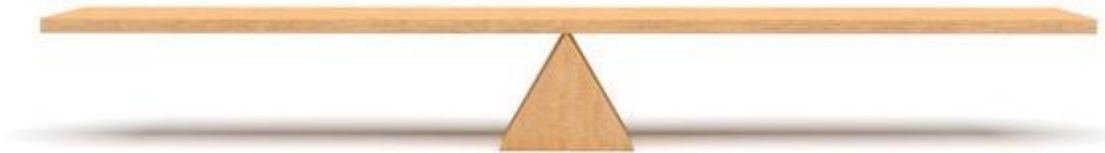


Approved

Minimises treatment associated risks

## INDUCTION strategy

Minimises disease associated risks



### HARMS

- Allow potentially preventable relapses
- Risk missing the narrow “window of therapeutic opportunity” for good disease control to influence long-term outcome
- Wasted drug & increased long-term care costs

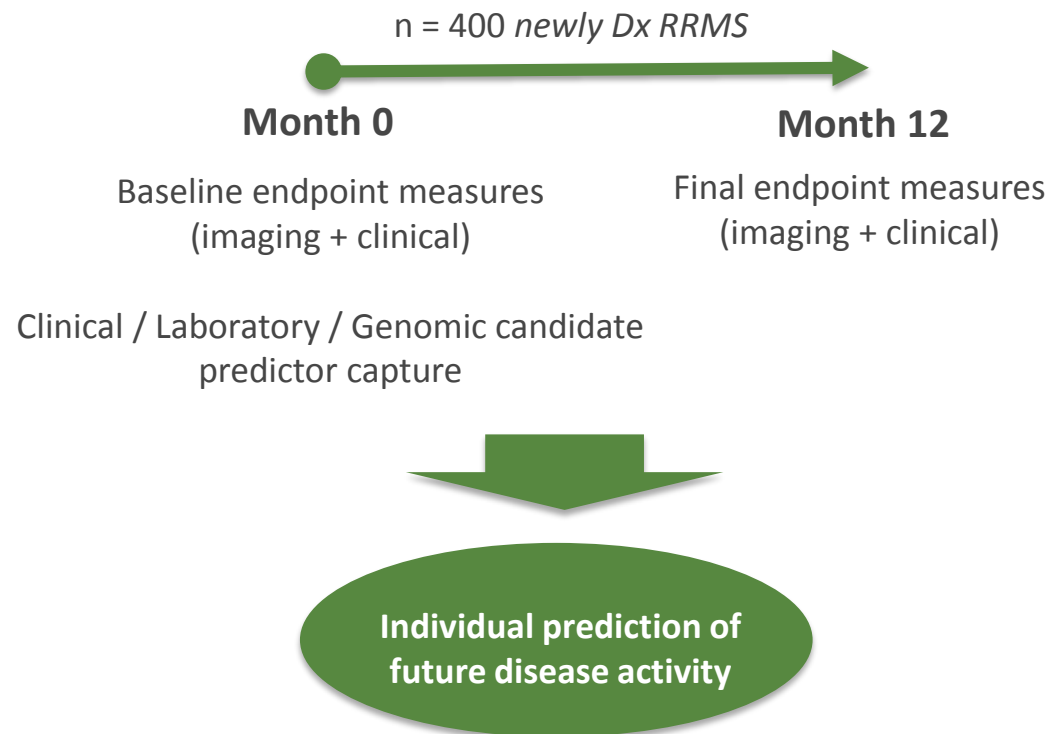
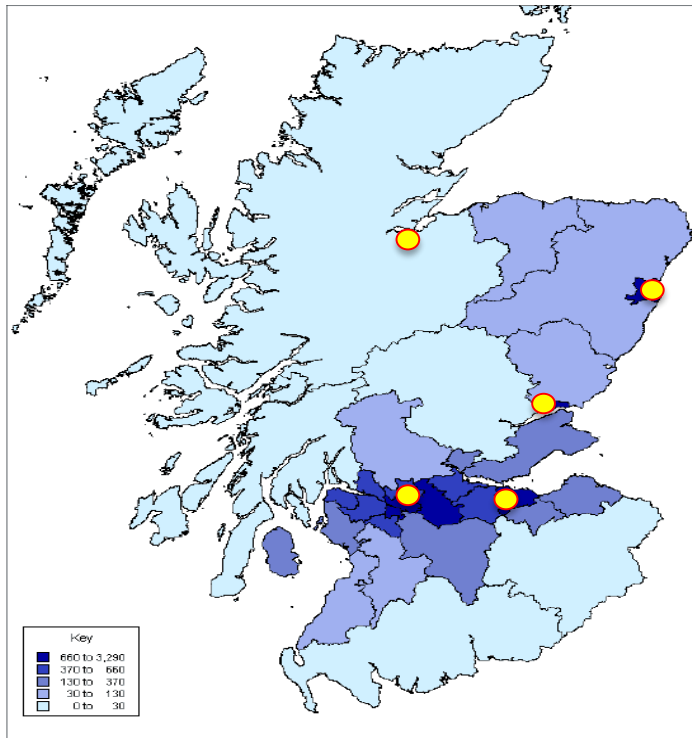
### HARMS

- Excess treatment associated risk
- Wasted drug-costs



- 1) Evaluate the clinical, laboratory, and genomic contribution to disease course**
- 2) Develop tools to support individual-level prognostication at diagnosis**
  - Allow better care planning
  - Allow the possibility of proactive and personalised decision making
- 3) Develop a Scottish MS Clinical Research network that will support high-value research**

## FutureMS design





Clinical, laboratory, and genomic predictors of disease activity in people with newly diagnosed relapsing-onset MS



- Margaret Ann MacLeod

[future-ms.org](https://future-ms.org)



- Jonathan O' Riorden



- Siddharthan Chandran
- Peter Connick
- Liz Elliot
- Suzanne Quigley



- James Overell
- Stewart Webb
- Sarah Jane Martin



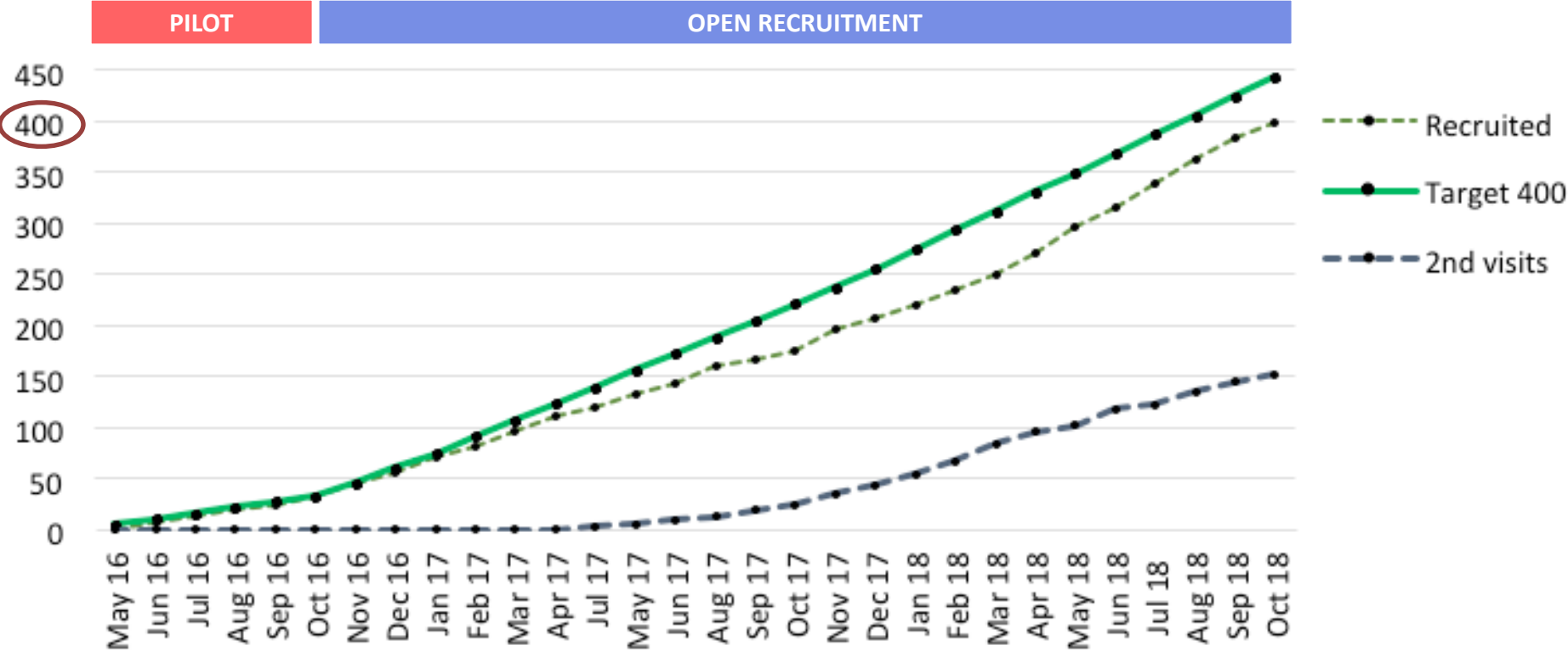
- Francisco Javier Carod Artal







# Recruitment



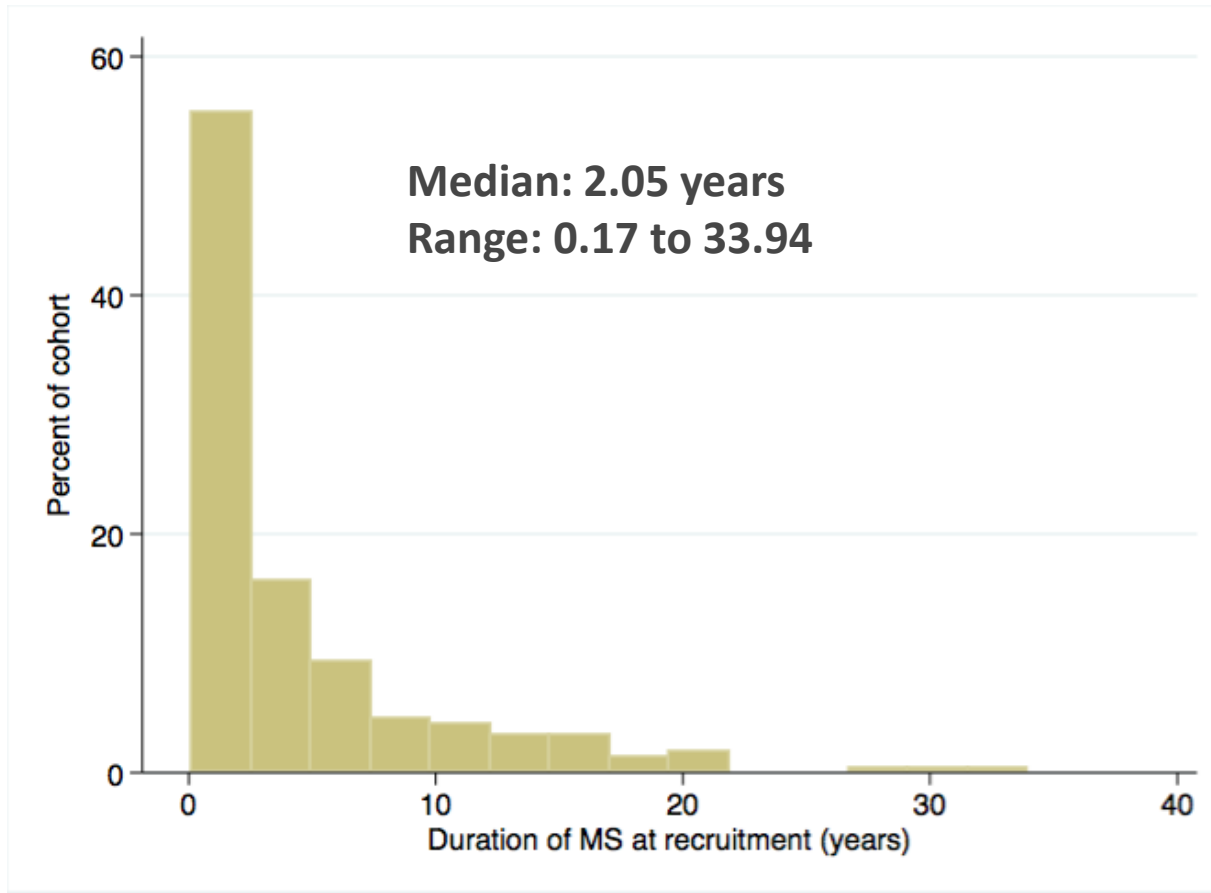


## Cohort characteristics

- Sex ratio: 3:1 (F:M)
- Age: median 38.0 years (IQR 30.1 – 46.1)
- Ethnicity: >99% white Scottish/British
- BMI: median 26.2 (IQR 23-31)
- Smoking status: 48% never, 37% previous, 15% current
- Co-morbidities: median 1 (IQR 0 – 2)
- Employment status: 60.4% FT, 22.6% PT, 17% unemployed



## Cohort characteristics



**Diagnosis to recruitment**  
Median: 62.5 days  
IQR: 36 to 103 days



## Cohort characteristics

- **DMT use (whole cohort): 39.1%**
- **DMT use (completed participants): 51.6%**
- **Median time from recruitment to DMT initiation: 16 days**



## NHS Scotland capability build

Generation of a 'single-hub' clinical network for MS research in Scotland

Generation of a brain image analysis pipeline for MS research in Scotland

NHS Scotland E-Health processes for data flow into research

Demonstration of Scottish capacity to integrate clinical, NHS, and genomic datasets





## Long term opportunities

- Further ‘waves’ of cohort evaluation
- Leveraging for recruitment to existing / planned projects (with extensive prior characterisation)
- Exploitation of ‘banked’ tissue samples
- Real-world medicine test-bed  
(including contrast to other international cohorts where DMT use is the norm)



# NHS Research Scotland Annual Conference

## Parallel Sessions

### Questions



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