

# Innovation Funding

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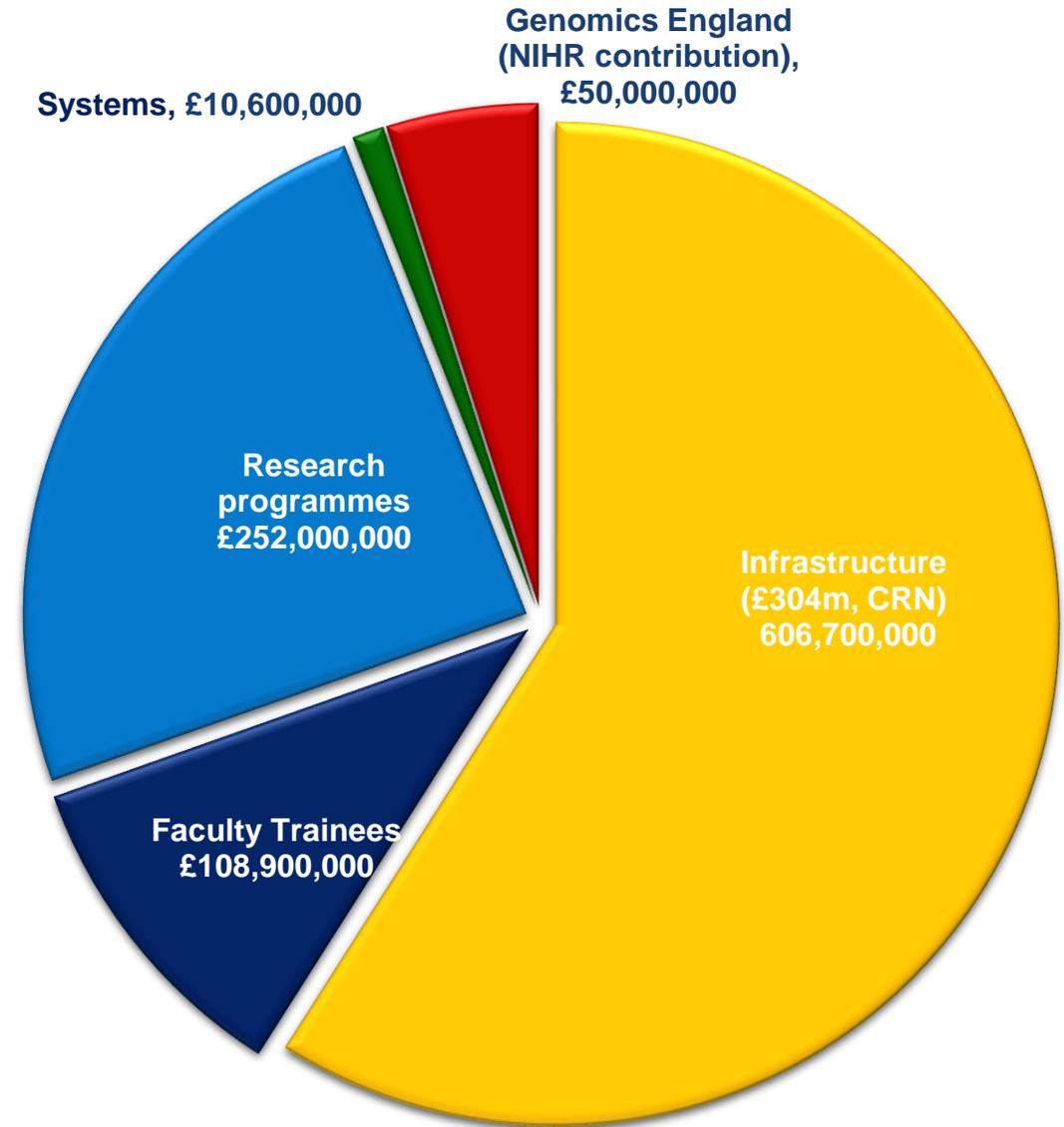
# What is the NIHR?

Largest funder of health and care research in the UK, supporting the development of therapeutics, medical devices and IVDs

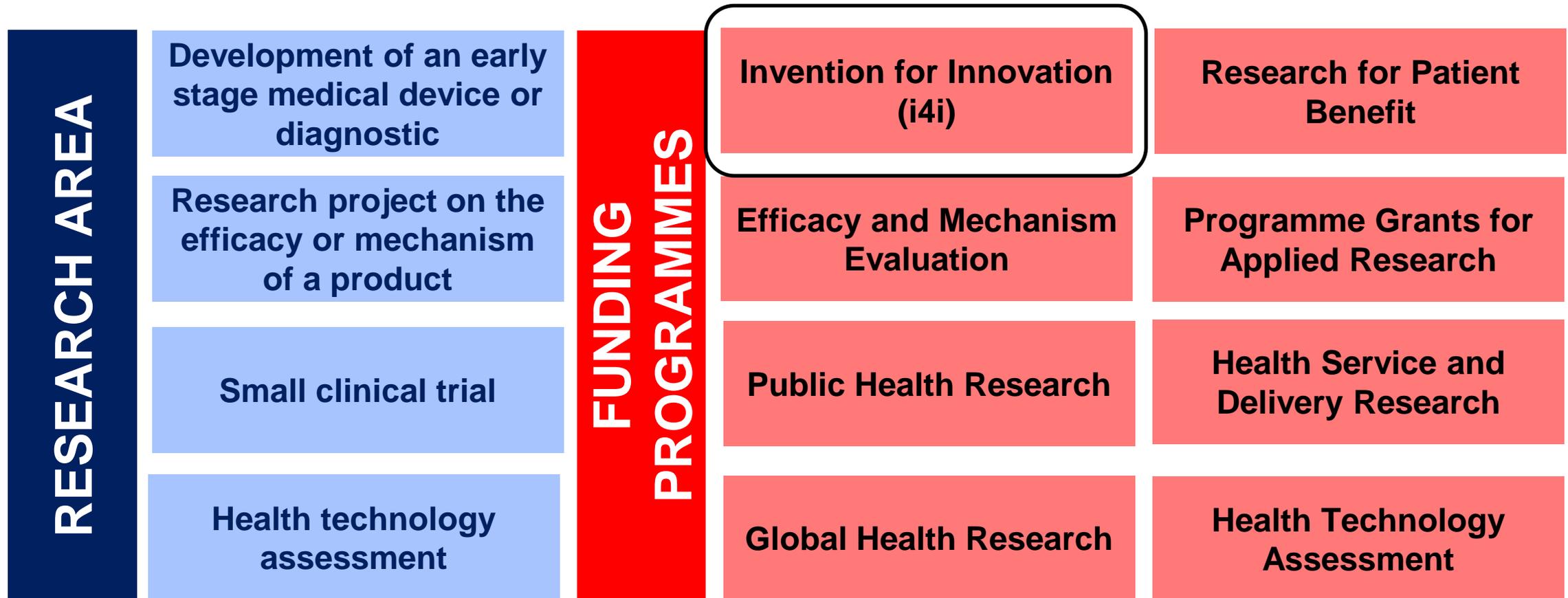
Virtual organisation to support translational research and clinical trial management across the NHS and partner organisations

Supports collaborative projects between industry, charities, academia, other funders and the NHS

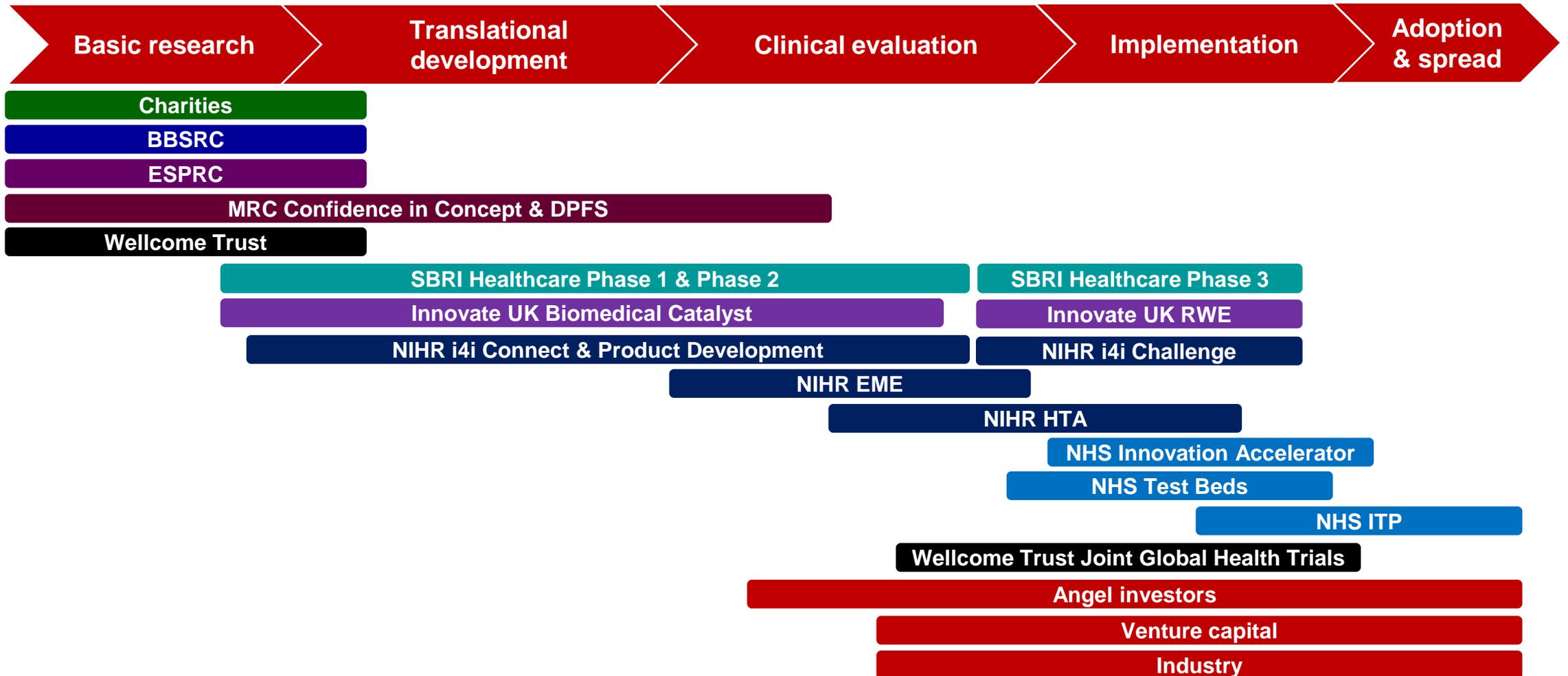
Total budget: £1,062m in 2017/18



# Funding for technology development & clinical research



# Funding landscape



# i4i – Who we are, what we do

## **NIHR translational funding scheme**

Led by Programme Director, Prof Mike Lewis

Supported by a team of Programme Managers



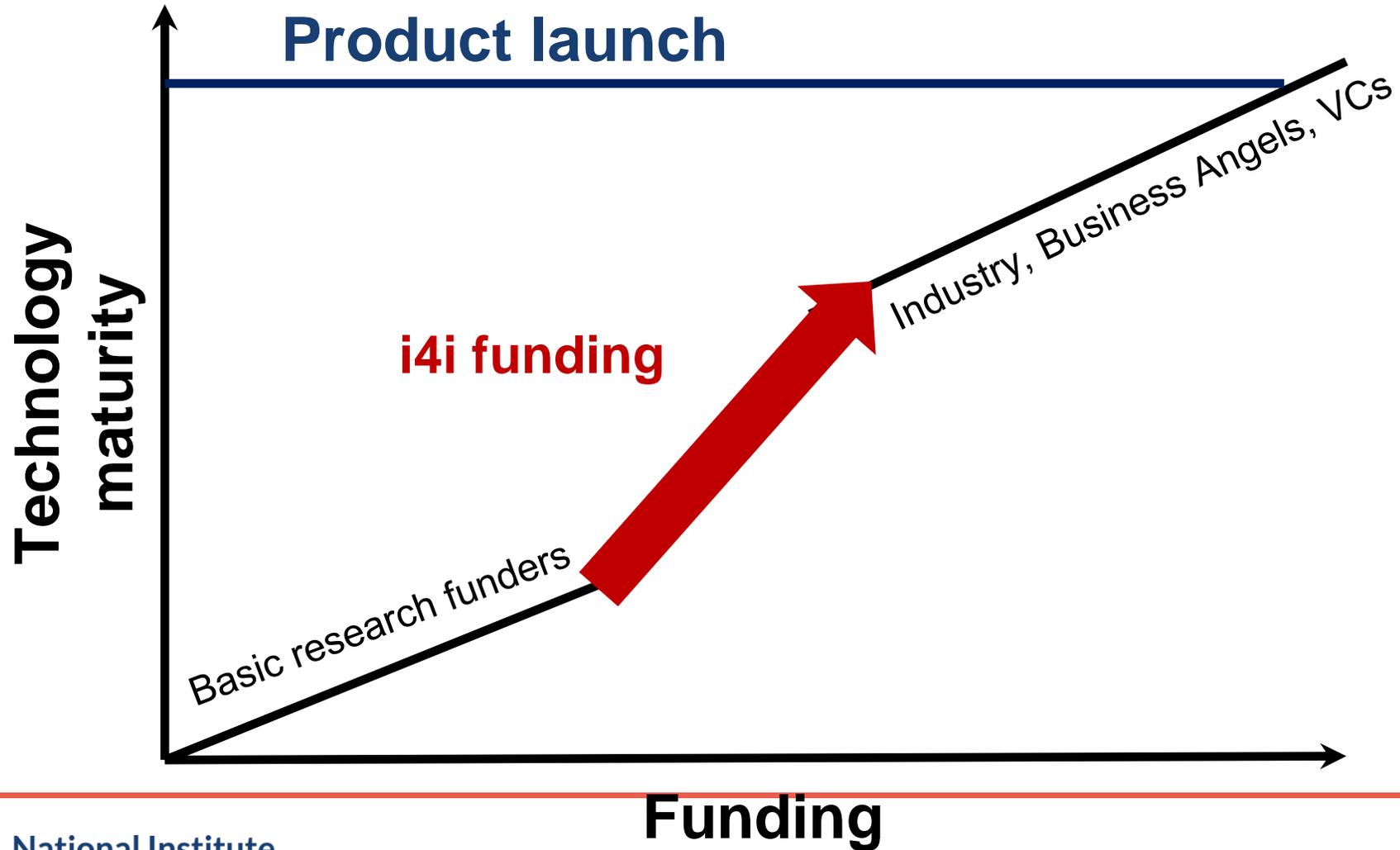
## **We fund breakthrough technologies**

Through collaborative R&D

By de-risking projects for follow-on investment

Focusing on innovative medtech solutions and patient benefit

# i4i bridges the valley of death



# i4i value proposition

**Dedicated medtech funding programme**

**Uncapped awards, 100% funding**

**Academic, clinical or SME lead**

**Assessment by technical, clinical & commercial experts**

**Thorough due diligence throughout assessment process**

**Risk- and impact-focused award monitoring**

**Exposure to early-stage investor community**

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**244**

**Contracts  
awarded**

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**£182m+**

**Total invested**



**61%**

projects gathering  
clinical data evidence



**>22550**

participants in clinical  
evaluations



**100%** projects  
with active involvement  
of patients and the public



**>760**

collaborations



An average of **3.6**  
jobs created per project



**41%** projects  
achieve CE mark



**2 IPOs**

**£190m+** raised



**£481m+**  
funding leveraged



# Applying to i4i



# i4i funding streams

## Connect:

- Funding for SMEs
- £50,000 - £150,000
- 6-12 months

Connect

Proof of concept

TRL  
3-6

PDA

## Product Development Awards:

- Funding for SMEs, HEI, NHS providers
- No upper funding limit
- Up to 36 months
- Collaborative

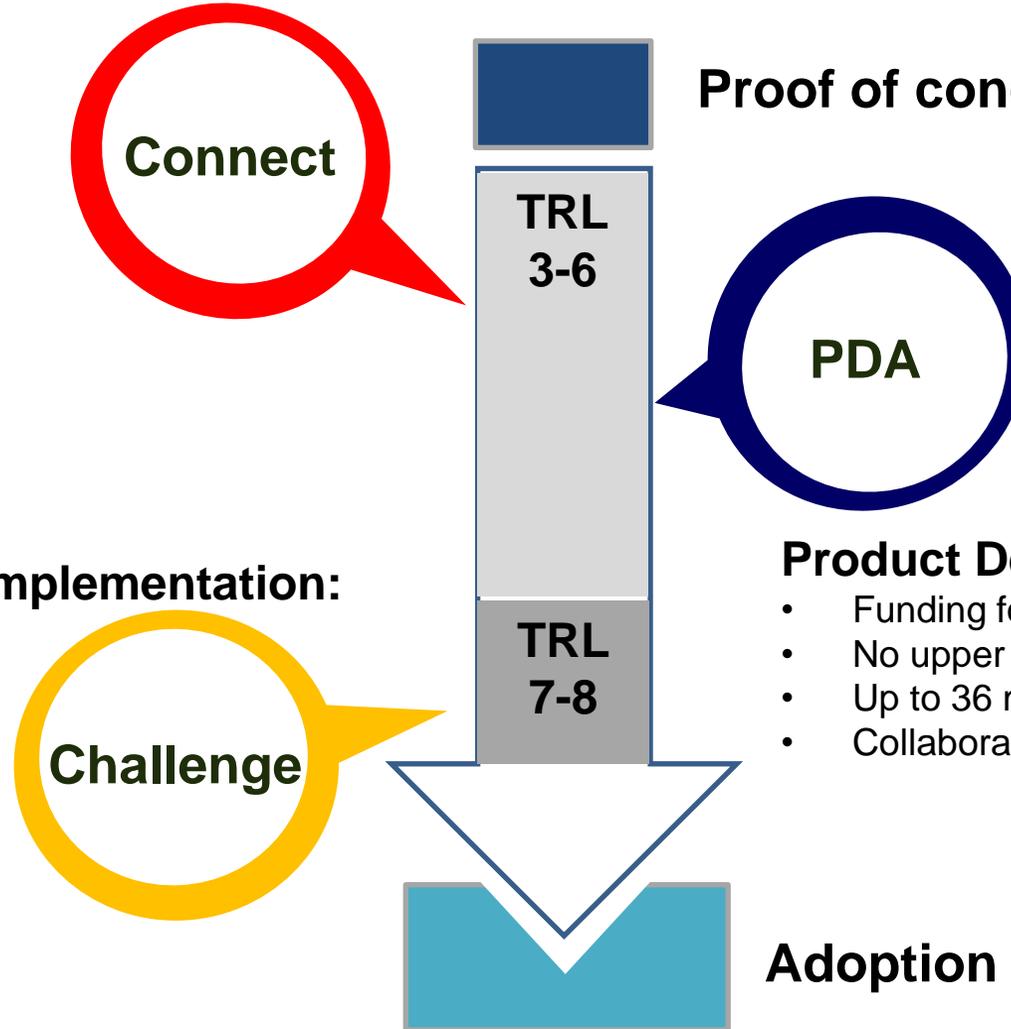
TRL  
7-8

Challenge

Adoption

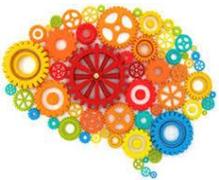
## Challenge Awards – Real world implementation:

- Funding for SMEs, HEI, NHS providers
- Up to 36 months
- No upper funding limit
- Collaborative



# i4i Special Call: Digital approaches for early detection, diagnosis and stratification of Dementia

## Entry Point



**Digital biomarkers with Proof of Concept**

e.g. sleep patterns, cognitive processing, motor function, etc.

**Early diagnostic/prognostic models**

e.g. statistical/AI/ML/DL to predict the onset of dementia and/or classify dementia type and progression

- SMEs
- Healthcare service providers
- Higher Education Institutions
- Charities and other not-for-profit



## What we'll fund

- Large scale validations of digital biomarkers for dementia in the real world
- Product development of diagnostic or prognostic technologies
- Clinical studies to test efficacy



Stage 1 launch:  
**10 November 2021**  
Stage 1 close:  
**26 January 2022**

Funding Committee meeting:  
**Mid July 2022**

Project start:  
**From October 2022**

# Application process



## Application process

### Connect

- Stage 1 EoI
- Stage 2 business plan & video pitch

### PDA & Challenge

- Stage 1 outline
- Stage 2 full, peer review, rebuttal & presentation



## Timelines

### Connect

- 4 months from outline to project start

### PDA & Challenge

- 2 months from outline to shortlist
- 7 months from outline to decision



## What we fund

### Connect & PDA

- R&D
- Health economics
- Regulatory
- IP & Commercial

### Challenge

- Evaluations in healthcare
- Implementation strategy
- Health economics
- IP & Commercial

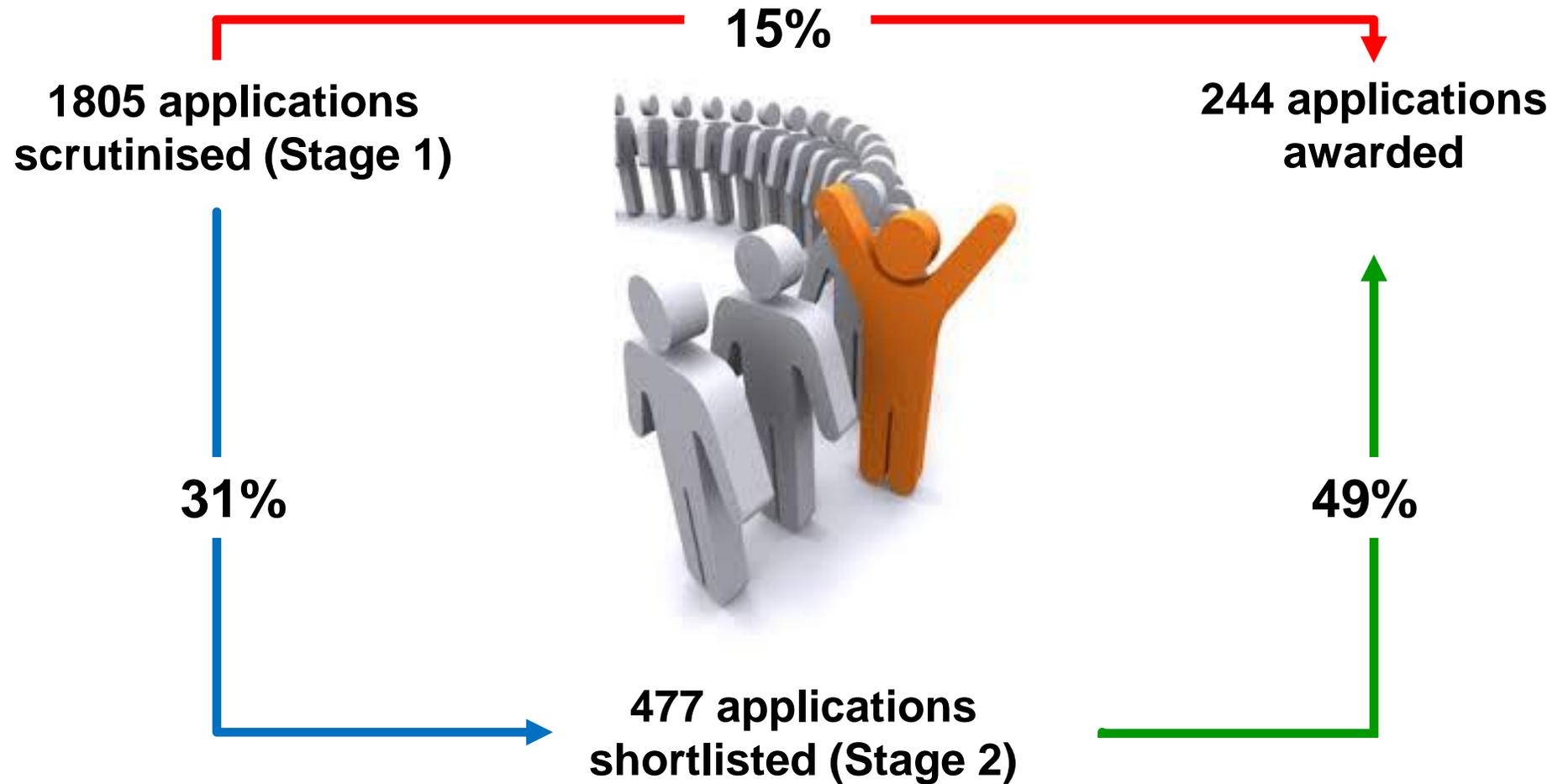


## What we do not fund

### Connect, PDA & Challenge

- Basic research
- Studies in animals/animal tissues
- Small molecule R&D
- Systems for hospital administration

# i4i success rates



Figures based on data from Connect 1-4, PDA Calls 1-21 and Challenge Awards Calls 1-11

# Assessment Criteria

**Proof-of-  
concept**

**Project plan**

**Clinical need**

**Patient benefit**

**Team**

**IP & commercial  
strategy**

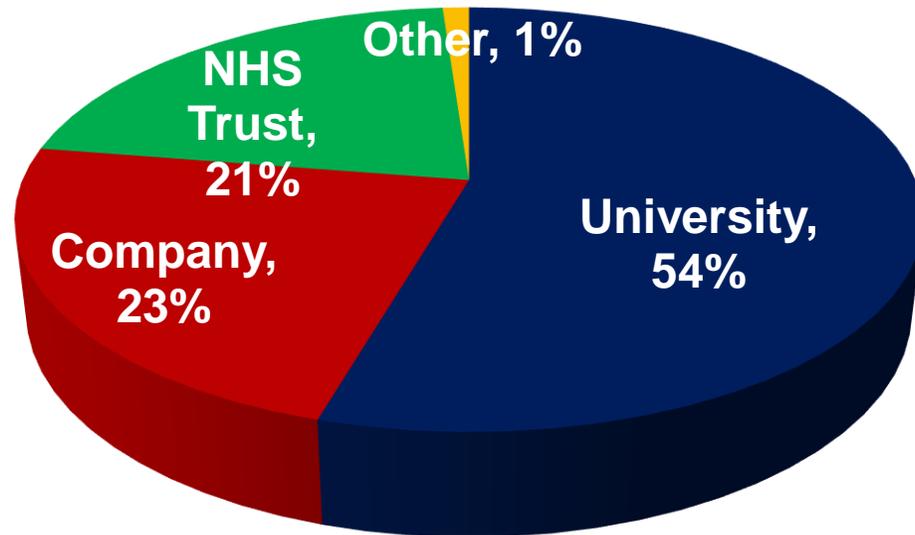
**Patient and  
public  
involvement**

**NHS adoption  
strategy**

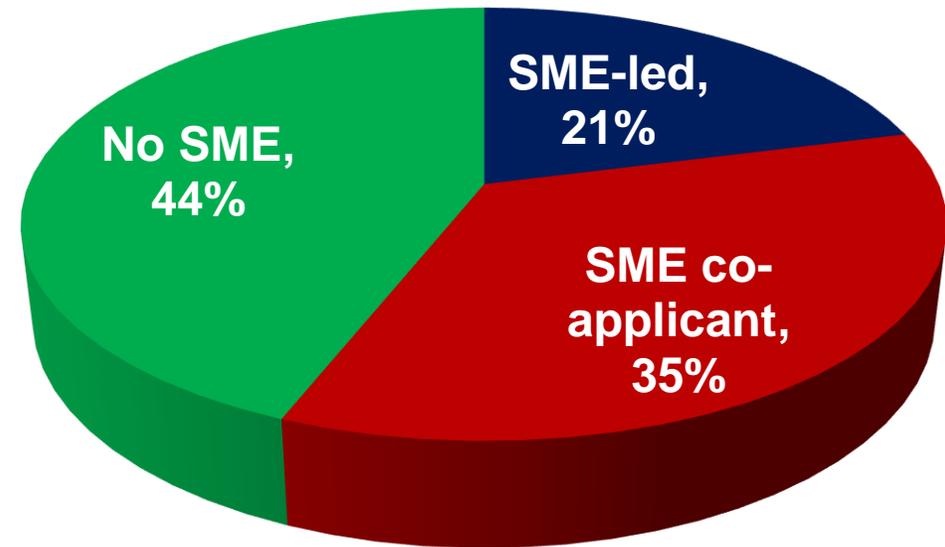
**Value for  
money**

# i4i support for different organisations

## Type of funded organisations



## SME representation in the portfolio



# Upcoming/Current calls for i4i funding

Product Development Awards, Call 23		Special Call (Dementia)	
Stage 1 opens	20 October 2021	Stage 1 opens	<b>10 November 2021</b>
Stage 1 deadline	<b>8 December 2021</b>	Stage 1 deadline	<b>26 January 2022</b>
Shortlisting outcome	February 2022	Shortlisting outcome	March 2022
Stage 2 deadline	April 2022	Stage 2 deadline	May 2022
Committee decision	June 2022	Committee decision	July 2022
Challenge Awards on Real World Implementation, Call 13		Connect Call 6 (for SMEs only)	
Stage 1 opens	<b>4 November 2021</b>	Stage 1 opens	<b>August 2022</b>
Stage 1 deadline	<b>12 January 2022</b>	Stage 1 deadline	September 2022
Shortlisting outcome	March 2022	Shortlisting outcome	September 2022
Stage 2 deadline	May 2022	Stage 2 deadline	TBC
Committee decision	July 2022	Committee decision	November 2022



# Tips



# Finding partners

- Look for organisations who have worked with academia/trusts/SMEs in the past
- Look for complementary skills/focus rather than competitors
- Go & visit them
- Take enough time to build relationship
- Engagement with partners - speak to several and develop the relationship; partners need to 'click'; takes time to achieve this. Ideally work on a preliminary project(s) to build the relationship



# Tips for grant development (1 of 2)

- Build up a picture of the cycle of care that is currently in use:
  - Map out from when the patient enters the area of care to when they leave (and beyond), who looks after them, what is done and in what setting?
  - Note the time each of those people spend on the patient, the NHS band (skill level) and any frustrations.
  - Note any waiting list times for patients and how many patients the healthcare professionals can see in a day/week etc.
  - Avoid moving problem to another team or specialty!
- Do PPI together and repeatedly: not expensive in money (But need small prelim grants). It takes time.
- Get the team together early

# Tips for grant development (2 of 2)

- Sense check the concept:
  - Do potential adopters show interest?
  - Would they buy the technology?
  - Will pricing cover development?
  - Project plan with business stakeholders
- Taking time to project plan and map out the overall goal of the application whether this be for the initial application or full-application
- Regulatory requirements

# Tips for submission

- Finalise costings early (not easy)- beware overheads.
  - Liaise with NHS trust accountants early (research costs, support costs, treatment costs)
- Publications
- Evidence of existing successful collaboration
- Paying attention to feed-back from previous applications and current stakeholders
- Specification of the work packages and their objectives to meet the overall application goal
- Identify risks and how they will be mitigated - outline some of the risks you've identified
- Revisit plan as project evolves; it may and will evolve
- Schedule mock interviews/ presentations if these are required