

African-HIV Forum May 7th 2003



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PROGRAMME MANAGER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

**HEALTH SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH
RESEARCH BOARD**

- **Introduction**

- organisation
- grant procedures
- Sexual Health and HIV
Research Strategy Committee
(SHHRSC)



- **MRC Background**

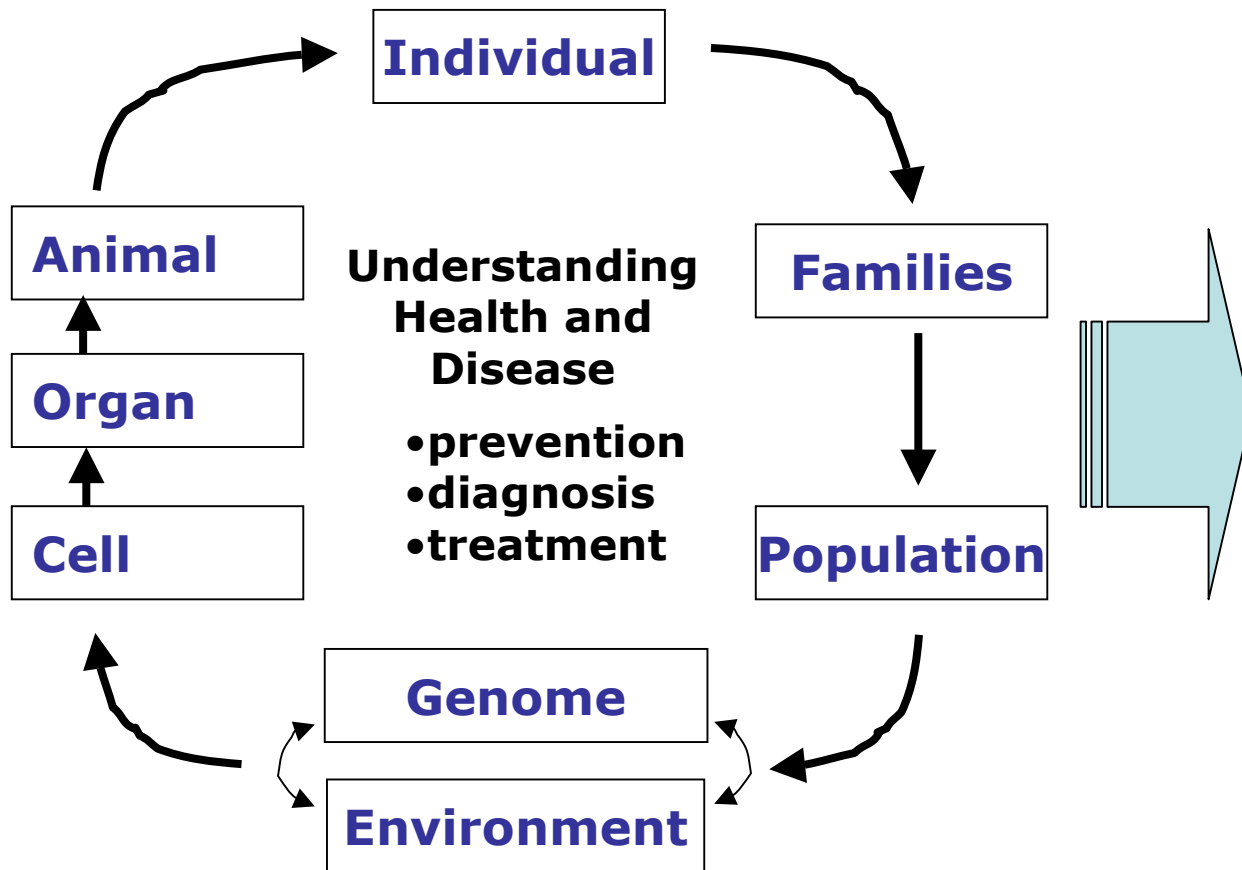
- set up in 1913 in response to TB epidemic
- 1 of 6 Research Councils
- Funded by Government (£400m pa)



- **MRC Mission Statement**

- To encourage and support high-quality research with the aim of maintaining and improving human health.
- To train skilled people, and to advance and disseminate knowledge and technology with the aim of meeting national needs in terms of health, quality of life and economic competitiveness.
- To promote public engagement with medical research.

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Challenges Ahead

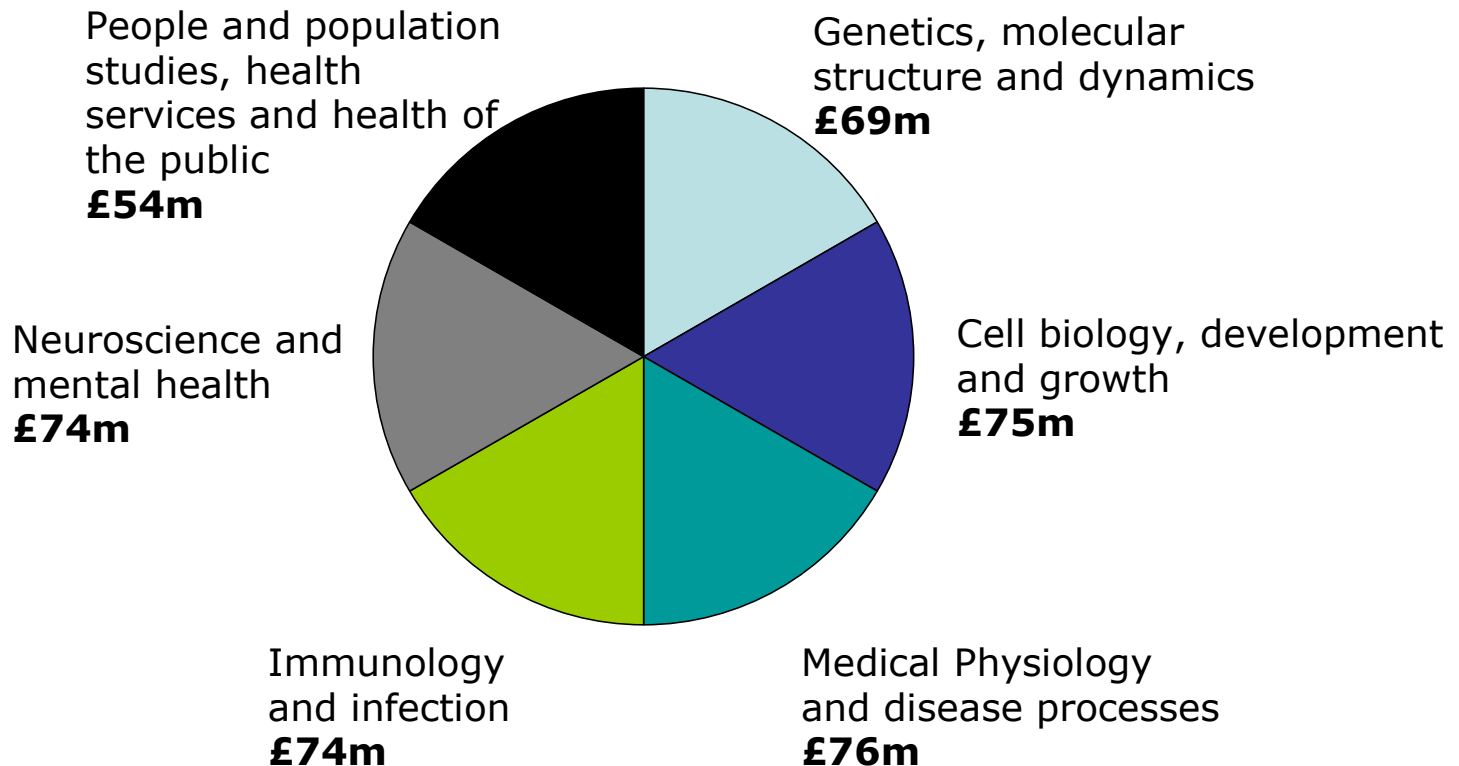
Science & Policy

- Data integration
- New diagnostics
- Translation
- Multidisciplinary working
- Forging partnerships
- Training and retaining researchers
- Engaging the public

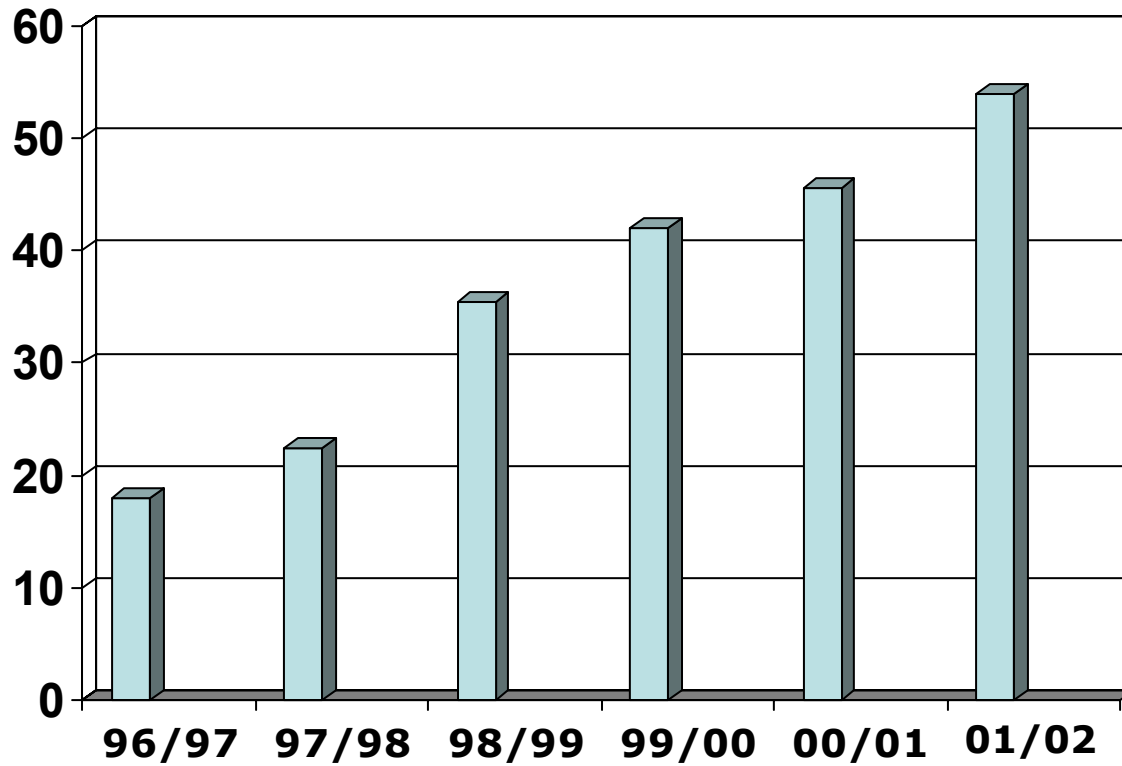
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MRC spend 2001/2002: the six main scientific areas



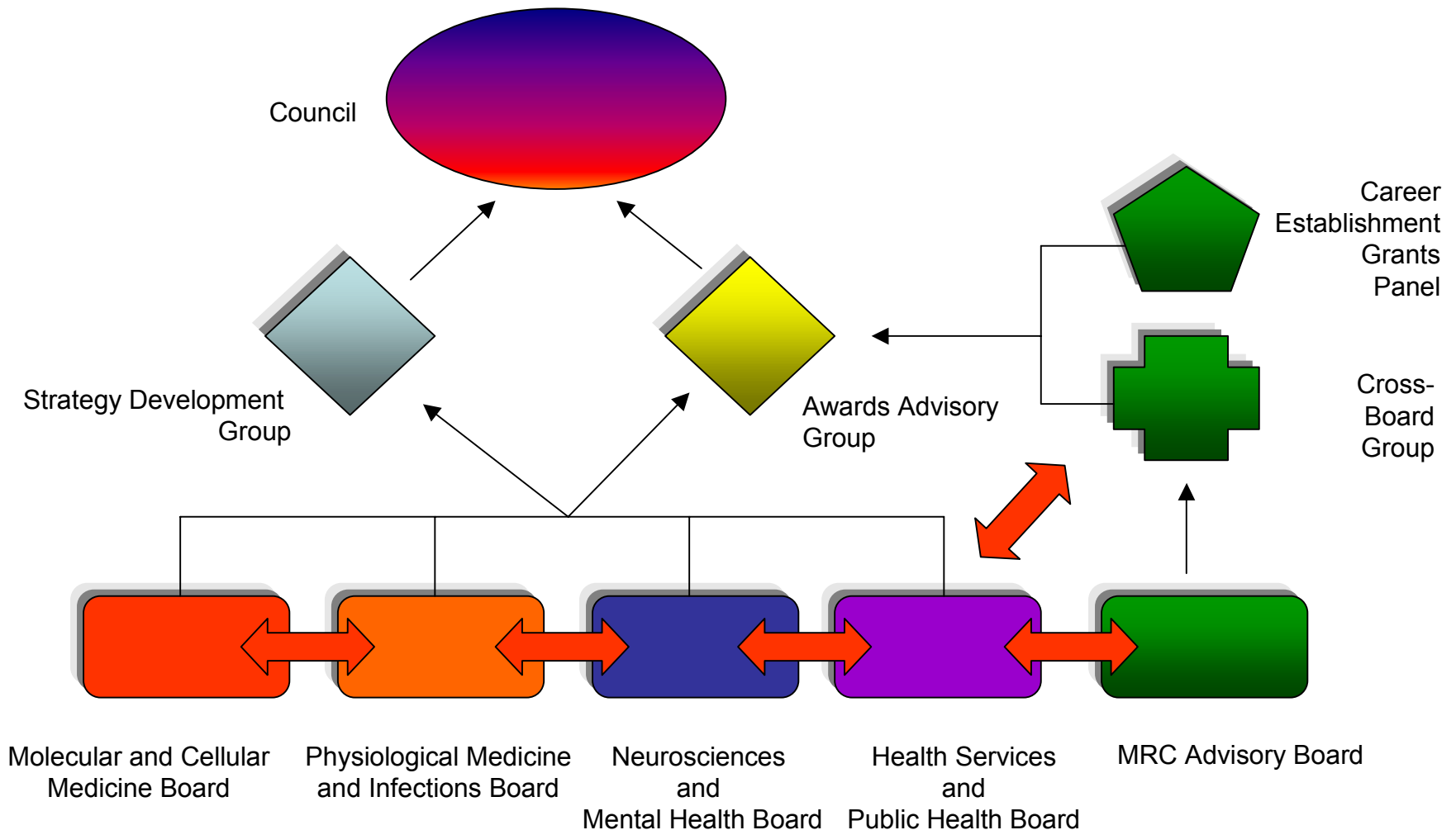
MRC Spend on People and Population Studies



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Council, Board, Panel and Group Structure

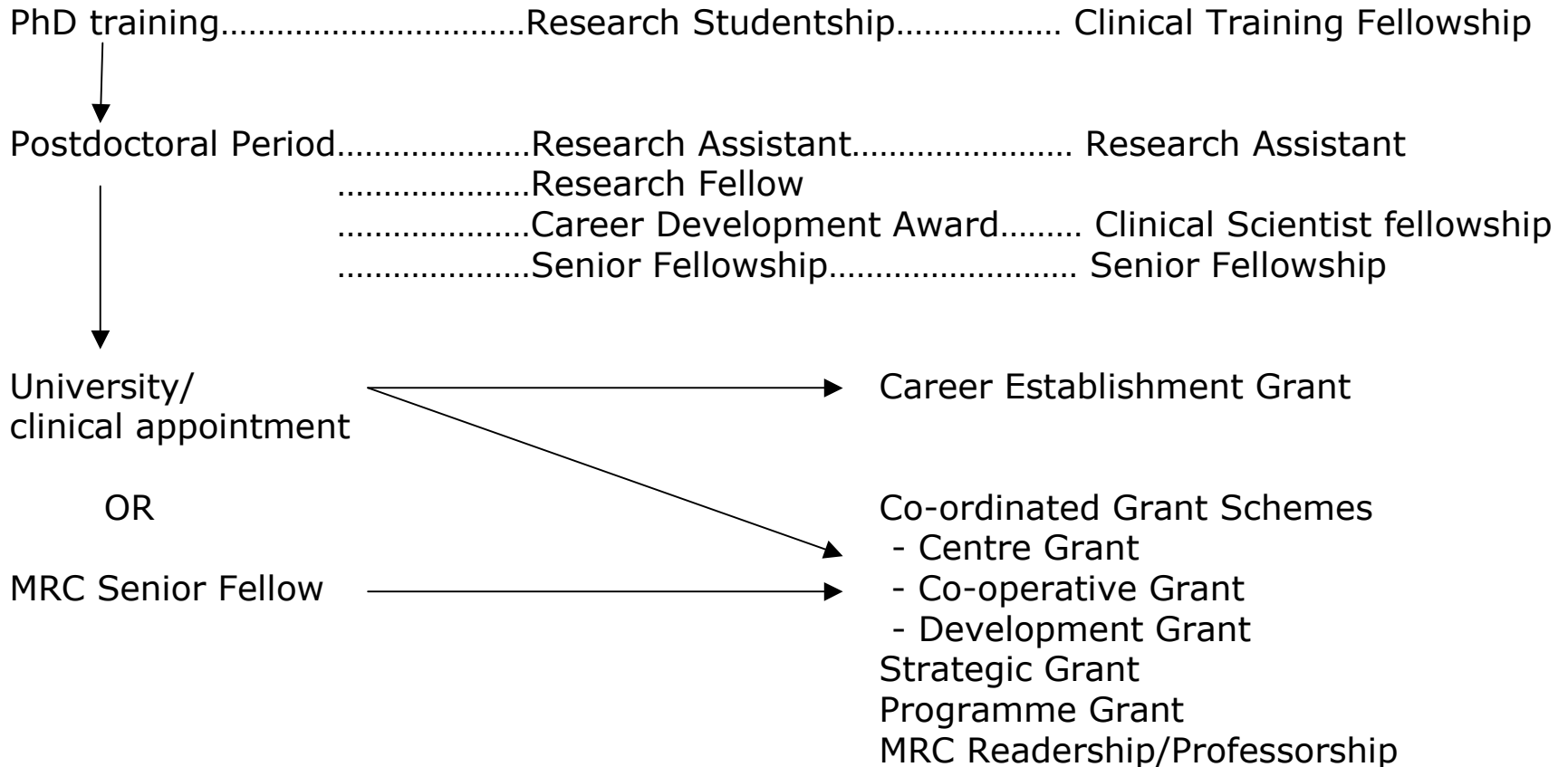


- **Principles of Funding**

- Excellence is key: people and project
- Balanced portfolio: all sectors of medical research
- 'One pot'
- Strategic areas may receive priority



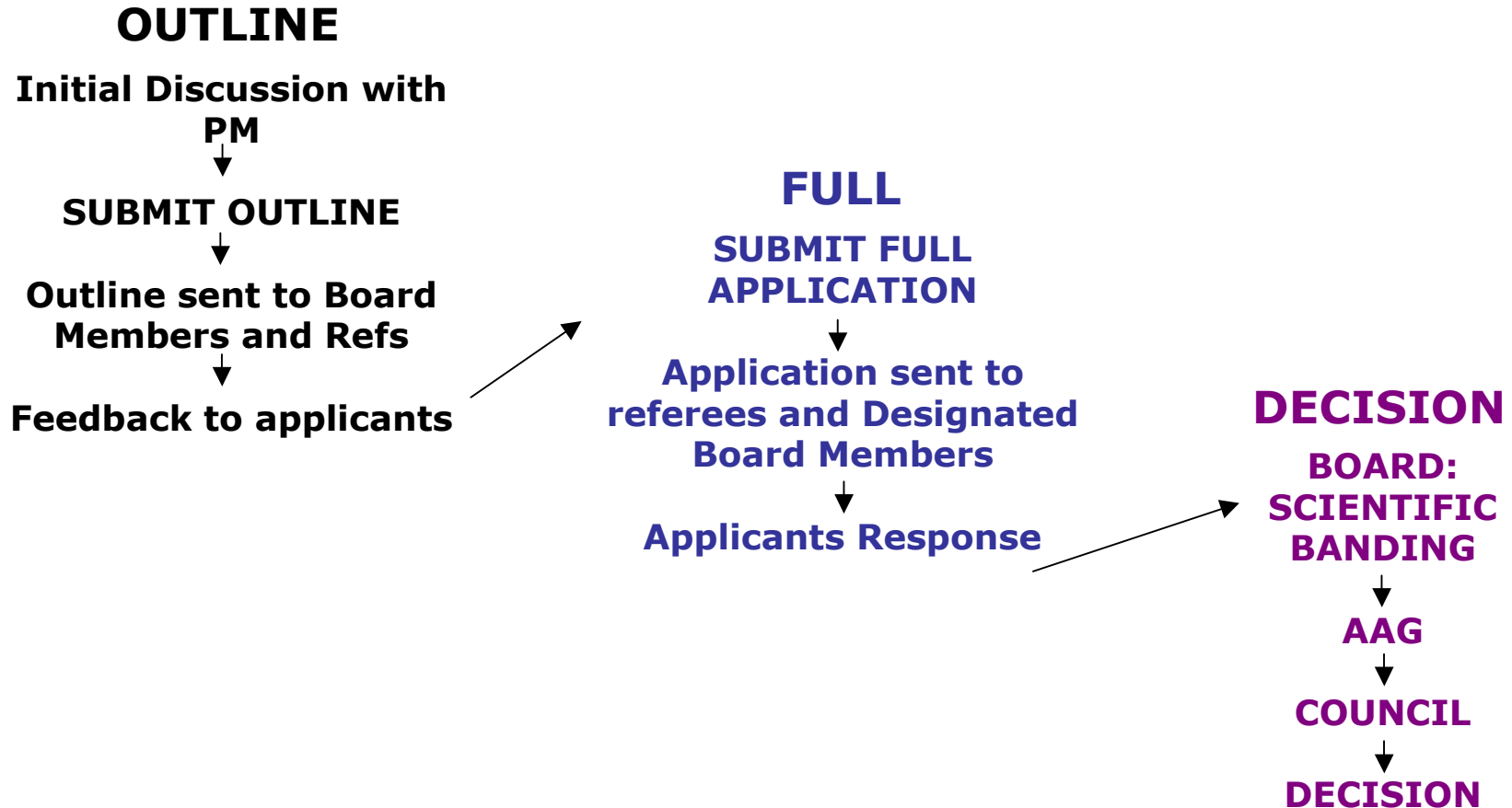
Career Path and Eligibility for Schemes



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Grant Procedure



- **Scientific Banding**

- **Alpha-A: forefront internationally**
- **Alpha-B: forefront nationally**
- **Alpha-C: nationally competitive**
- **Alpha-D: nationally competitive, lower priority**
- Decline
- Defer

- **MRC portfolio in HIV/AIDS: Major investments**
 - since 1987: £13m pa in UK and Africa
 - Programme on AIDS in Uganda
 - MRC laboratories, The Gambia
 - DART: Delivering Anti-Retroviral Therapy, Uganda
MRC: £2.5m, DFID: £2.5m, Rockefeller: £4m
 - Tanzania and Zimbabwe: sexual behaviour and epidemiological studies

- **MRC portfolio in HIV/AIDS: Major investments**

- since 1987: £13m pa in UK and Africa
- Human Immunology Unit, Oxford
 - New HIV vaccine being tested
- MRC Clinical Trials Unit
 - Anti HIV drugs
 - HIV/AIDS treatments
- MRC/DFID: £16m / 5yrs Imperial College
 - Anti-HIV vaginal microbicides – 2 being tested

- **MRC portfolio in HIV/AIDS**

- **Dr Mark Palmer, PMIB**

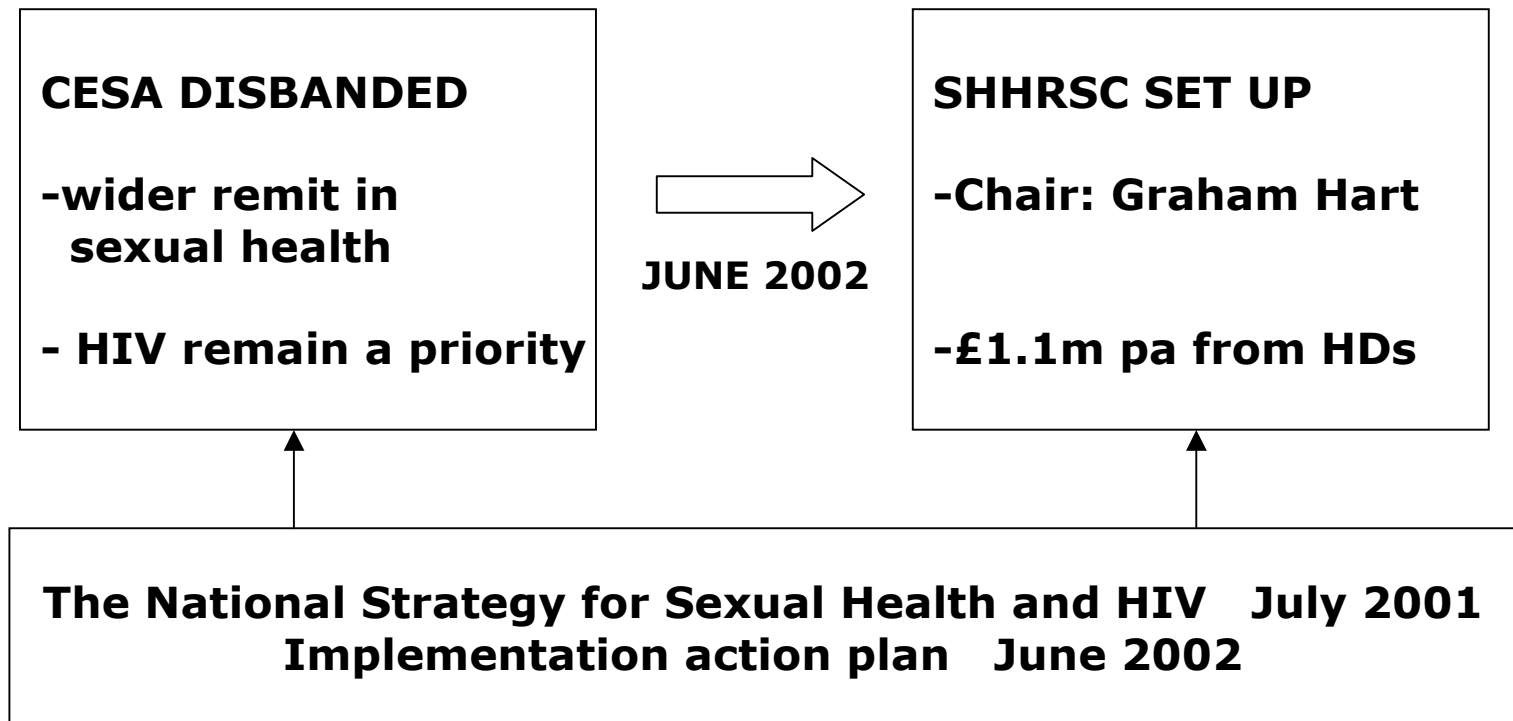
- HIV vaccine development
 - Anti-HIV drug discovery
 - Trials
 - Basic science
 - Pathogenesis
 - Topical virucide development

- **Current Highlight Notice:**

- HIV Vaccine Development

- **Committee for the Epidemiological Studies of AIDS (CESA)**
 - set up in 1986
 - epidemiological, social and behavioural studies
 - ongoing research: 14 grants - £6m

- **Sexual Health and HIV Research Strategy Committee (SHHRSC)**



- **SHHRSC Terms of Reference**

- review current state of knowledge and research
- identify needs and priorities and take a proactive role in stimulating research
- advise MRC's SDG, Council, and UK HDs
- report annually to MRC Boards: HSPHRB and PMIB

- **Call for proposals July 2002**

- burden and determinants of sexual ill-health
- epidemiological and behavioural surveillance information
- sexual health care delivery
- interventions: prevention, management and control
- novel diagnostic techniques, screening and management

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- **Call for proposals July 2002**

- **20 proposals: 5 awarded**
- **Effects of access problems on transmission of STIs in the UK. Dr JA Cassell**
- **Impact of HIV among black Caribbeans in South London. Professor P Easterbrook**
- **Assessing the feasibility and acceptability of community based prevalence surveys of HIV among black Africans in Britain. Dr K Fenton**
- **A study of HSV prevalence and the HSV-HIV interaction in selected UK populations. Dr N Gill**
- **Developing and piloting a sexual health communication tool. Ms K Wellings**

- **Workshop May 19th 2003**
Sexual Health and HIV – developing a research agenda
- Aim: Identify research needs/opportunities with regard to prevention, health service provision/delivery, surveillance, epidemiology, treatment and control
- Invitees: 100-120, voluntary groups, service providers, policy makers and researchers

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- **Future Research**

- SHHRSC proposal: new call July 2003
proposals Oct 2003

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- **MRC Contacts**

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