

# Development of An Institute for Translational Medicine

C Craddock, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham,  
and University of Birmingham

# Introduction

- The DNA revolution has transformed our understanding of the molecular basis of human cancer
- Nowhere has this been more true than in the field of leukaemia which has served in the last decade as a model for targeted therapies
- Now that we know the basis human cancer we have an unprecedented opportunity to develop new and more effective drugs
- A major emerging challenge in translating these scientific advances into clinical benefit is a lack of an early phase drug trial network

# Core requirements for develop an internationally competitive Leukaemia Trials Unit

- High quality clinical team
- Large catchment area
- Strong academic links
- Suitable infrastructure
- Translational infrastructure facilitating trial recruitment

Underpinned a successful £2.2 million bid to AWM

## What has the Centre for Clinical Haematology delivered since its opening in 2006?

- Allowed the establishment of a large internationally significant leukaemia and transplant programme with attendant scientific benefits
- Transformed clinical environment and increased clinical activity by 50%
- Created 150 new jobs
- 5 business assists
- Trialled 25 novel therapies in leukaemia
- Established Birmingham as international centre of excellence in haematological malignancies

## Conclusions (2011):

- Birmingham has unique national and international strategic advantages in translational medicine
- These primarily revolve around patient numbers and clinical and trialling excellence
- The last three years has demonstrated the economic benefits of an investment in translational medicine
- A Birmingham Institute of Translational Medicine has the potential to fully capitalise on Birmingham's remarkable medical research potential

# Strategic Reasons for Development of an Institute of Translational Medicine in Birmingham

- Largest catchment area in Europe
- Internationally recognised clinical teams
- Superb clinical facilities: the new QE Hospital
- Internationally respected clinical units
- World class stratified medicine programmes
- Outstanding informatics
- Road-tested model

# The Genesis of a Birmingham Institute of Translational Medicine

- Prioritisation of Life Sciences by HM Government as an engine for UK growth
- Discussions between UHB and UoB with LEP
- Identification of a suitable clinical environment for translational medicine as the rate limiting factor
- Strong support from SMEs, pharma, biotech, VC
- Inclusion of a £25 million Institute for Translational Medicine in Government City Deal

# What will the Birmingham Institute of Translational Medicine look like?

- Co-location of:
  - Clinical academic groups
  - Integrated translational cancer programme
  - Early phase clinical trials unit
  - Health economics analysis unit
  - Stratified medicine programme
  - Space for pharma and SMEs
  - Educational facility
- A unique global translational facility opening in 2015