



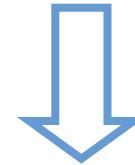
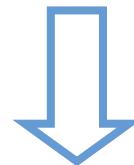
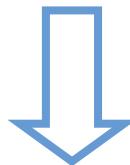
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# Stem cell dialogue: key findings, conclusions and recommendations

Dr Darren Bhattachary, Director BMRB

# Objectives

Engage the public and stakeholders on  
stem cells: policy development



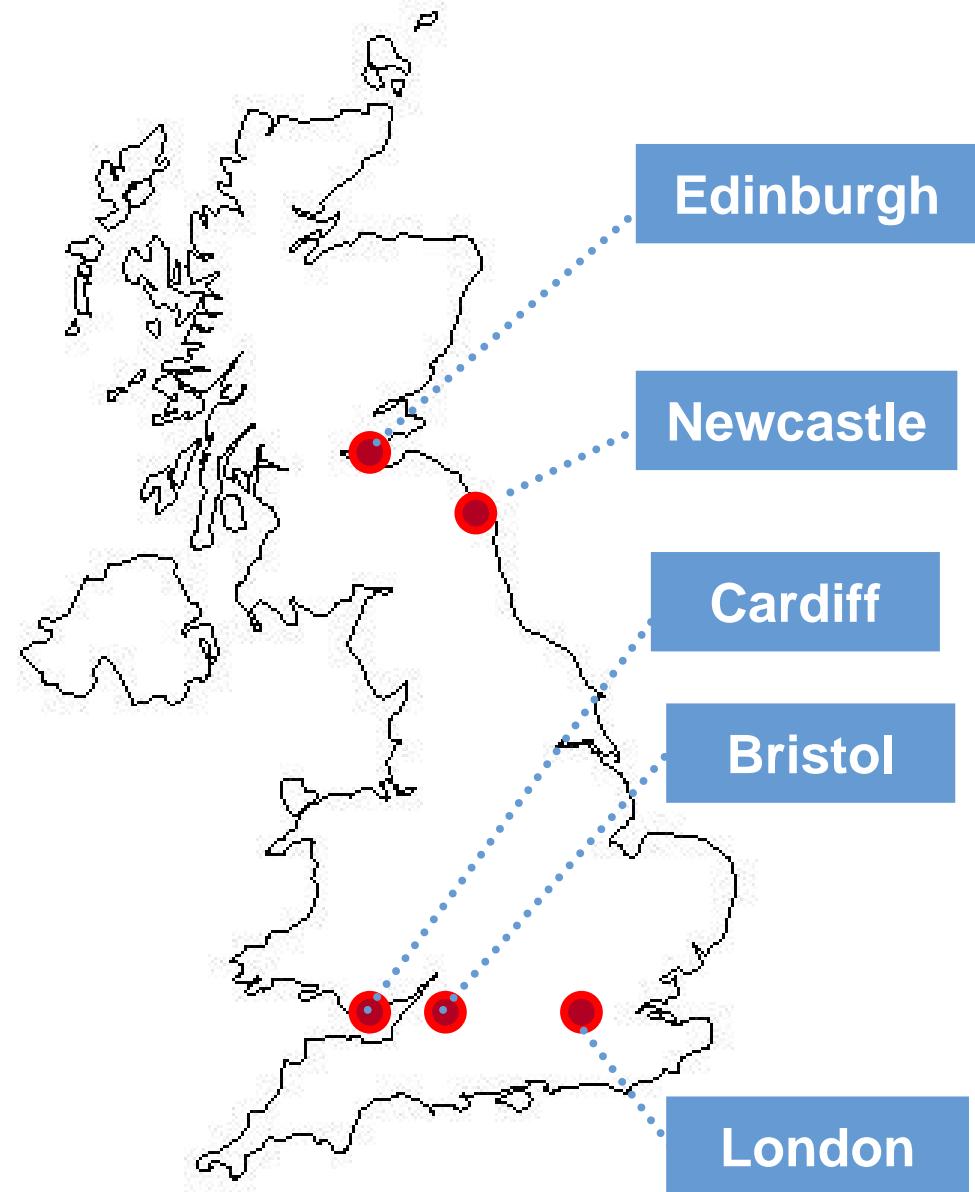
Views and  
concerns

Raise  
awareness

Future  
dialogue

# Approach

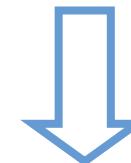
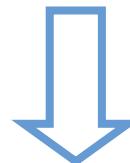
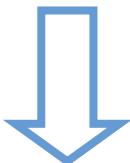
- 200 members of public
- 5 deliberative workshops – reconvened 3 times
- 49 stakeholders
- Depth interviews
- Q methodology
- Framework analysis



# Issues discussed

Interviews

Workshops



**W1**

Visions  
Social and economic  
drivers

**W2**

Sources  
Tissue Specific  
Embryonic

**W3**

SC banks  
Applications  
Clinical trials

# Key findings

# Value of basic and applied research

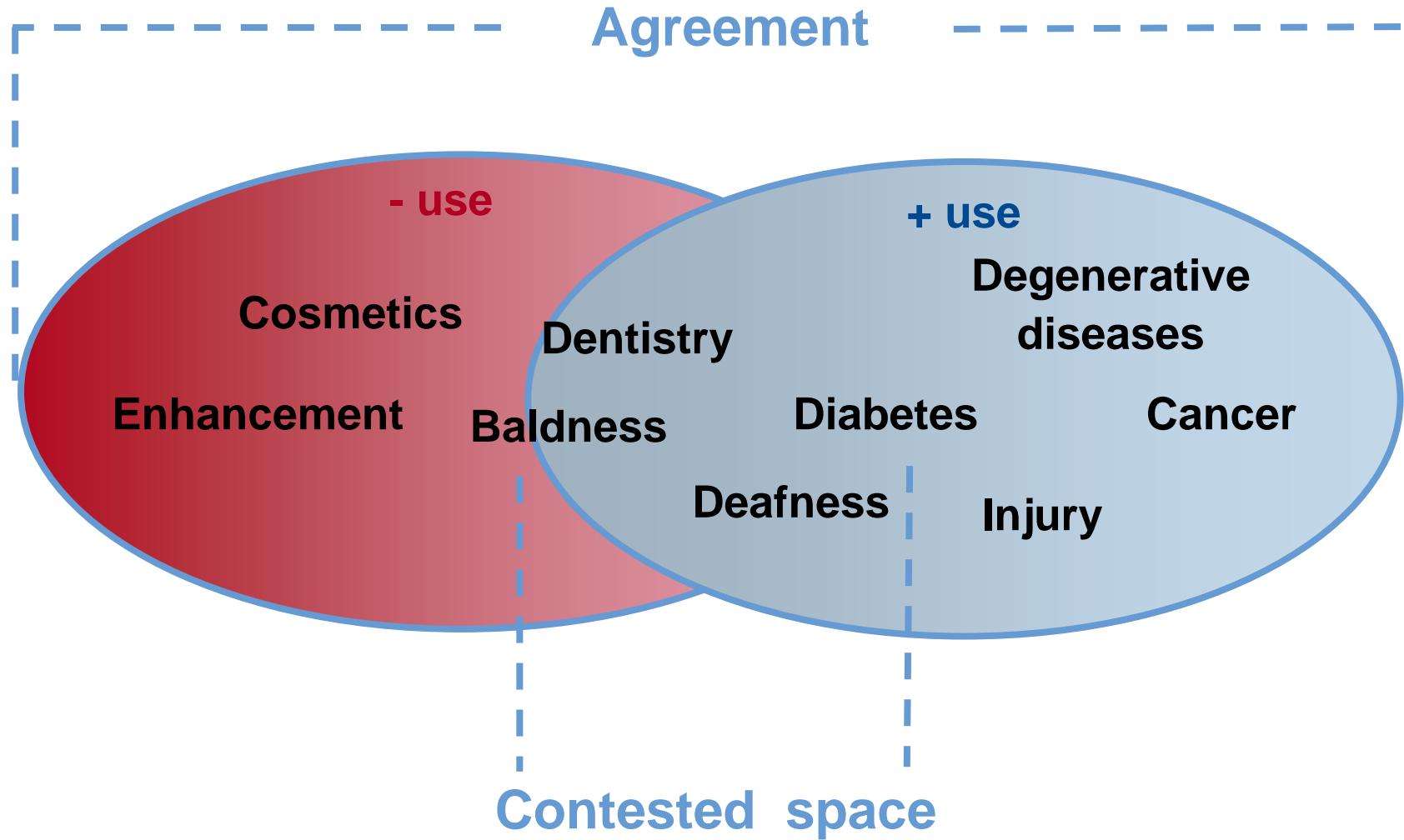
**High levels of support - but conditional**

# Value of basic and applied research

**High levels of support - but conditional**

**What is a serious disease**

# What is a serious disease?



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**Uncertainties**

# **Value of basic and applied research**

**High levels of support - but conditional**

**What is a serious disease**

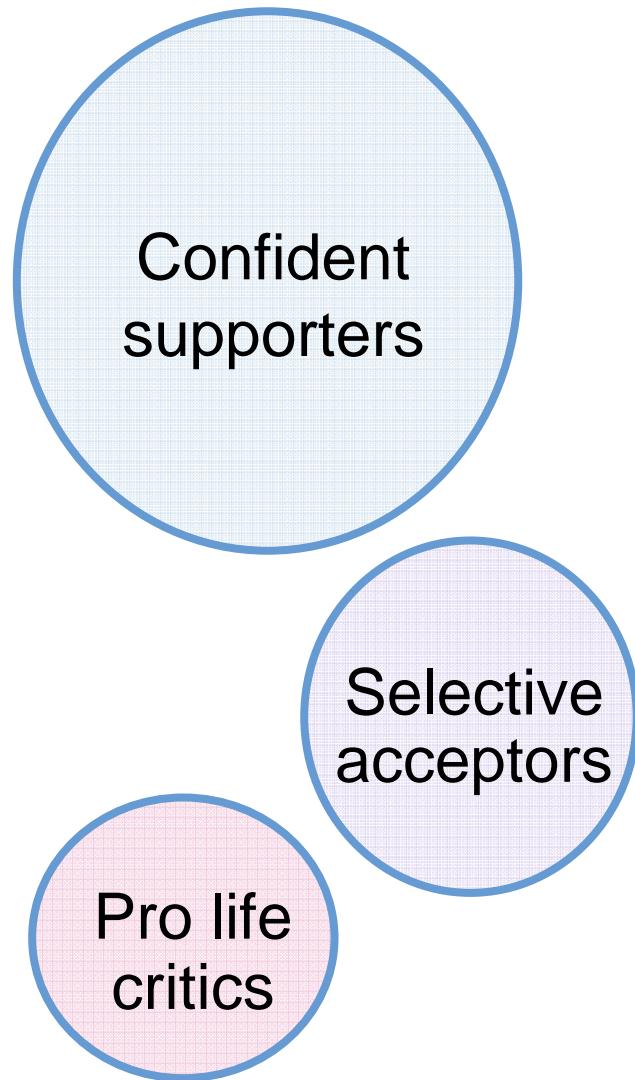
**Plurality of perspectives**

**Adult and embryonic**

**Uncertainties**

**People valued basic research**

# Ethics of stem cell sources



- Ethical concerns across a range of sources
  - Embryos
  - Protection of women
  - Rights of patients
  - Clinical concerns

# Investment: commercialisation and public value

**Investment needed  
for clinical  
applications**

**Gap (and opportunity)  
for funding between  
public, private and  
charitable sector**

**Healthcare pull from  
NHS**

**Rainbow coalition for  
support**

**Trust**

**Public concerns  
around private  
investment**

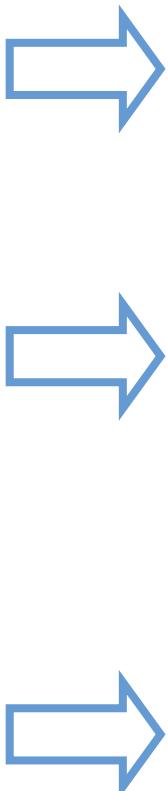
**Ends of technology  
Process: openness,  
transparency,  
disclosure**

**Affordability of  
treatments**

# Governance

## Hard infrastructure

systems and institutions that control of science  
- government and regulators



Tension between permissive legislation and tight regulation

However, important for provenance stem cell lines – ethical and safety

Competent authorities as science develops

Therapeutic or device HTA, MHRA, HFEA, EMEA

Informed consent

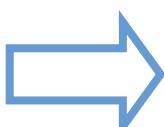
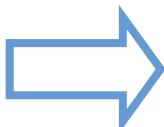
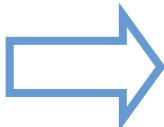
Risk and clinical trials

# Governance

## Soft

## infrastructure

social relations,  
informal networks  
and professional  
cultures that  
shape field



## Future dialogue

More than big events

Cultures and practices

How openly discuss  
uncertainties and public  
value of research

Future role of research  
councils

# Key conclusions and recommendations

## 1. Funding

- Conditional support for all avenues of stem cell research
- Priorities on basic and translational research
- Clinical priority - treatments are limited

## 2. Ethical approval ES cells

- Reflect the views of public and donors
- Necessity and how 'serious' disease is defined
- Difficult to establish firm guidelines on donor consent in future

# Key conclusions and recommendations

## 3. Health and wealth opportunities

- Greater investment and coordination between public and private sectors to achieve this goal
- Charity campaign - raise resources and profile

## 4. Private sector

- Concerns: means and the ends of research
- Use for socially valued purposes
- Need to disclose information in the public interest
- Research councils and universities mindful when commercialising research

# Key conclusions and recommendations

## 5. Governance

- Legislation supported, regulation viewed as cumbersome by certain groups
- Coordination between regulators in move to clinical practice
- Governance clinical trials - experimental therapies with patients

## 6. Future dialogue

- Focus on the cultures and practices of research
- Uncertainties in stem cell science should be communicated
- Key issues to look out for: private banking of cord blood and Induced Pluripotent Cells