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Translating Research innovations into policy & practice

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GCM Wellcome Genome Campus

UKRI UK Research and Innovation

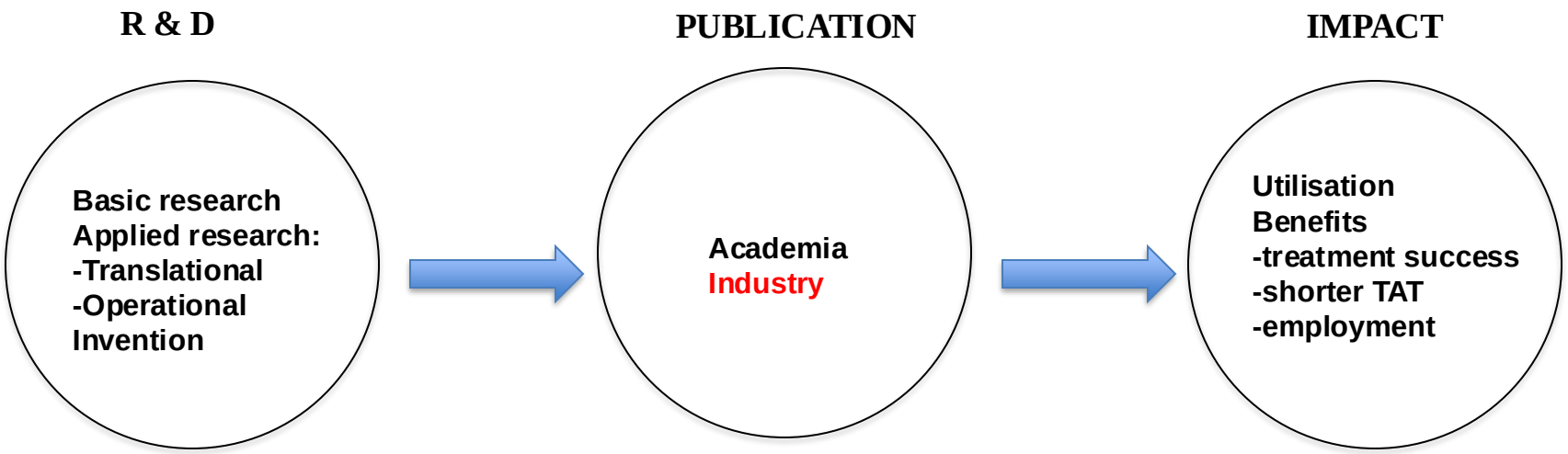
Scottish Funding Council
Promoting further and higher education

GCRF
Global Challenges Research Fund

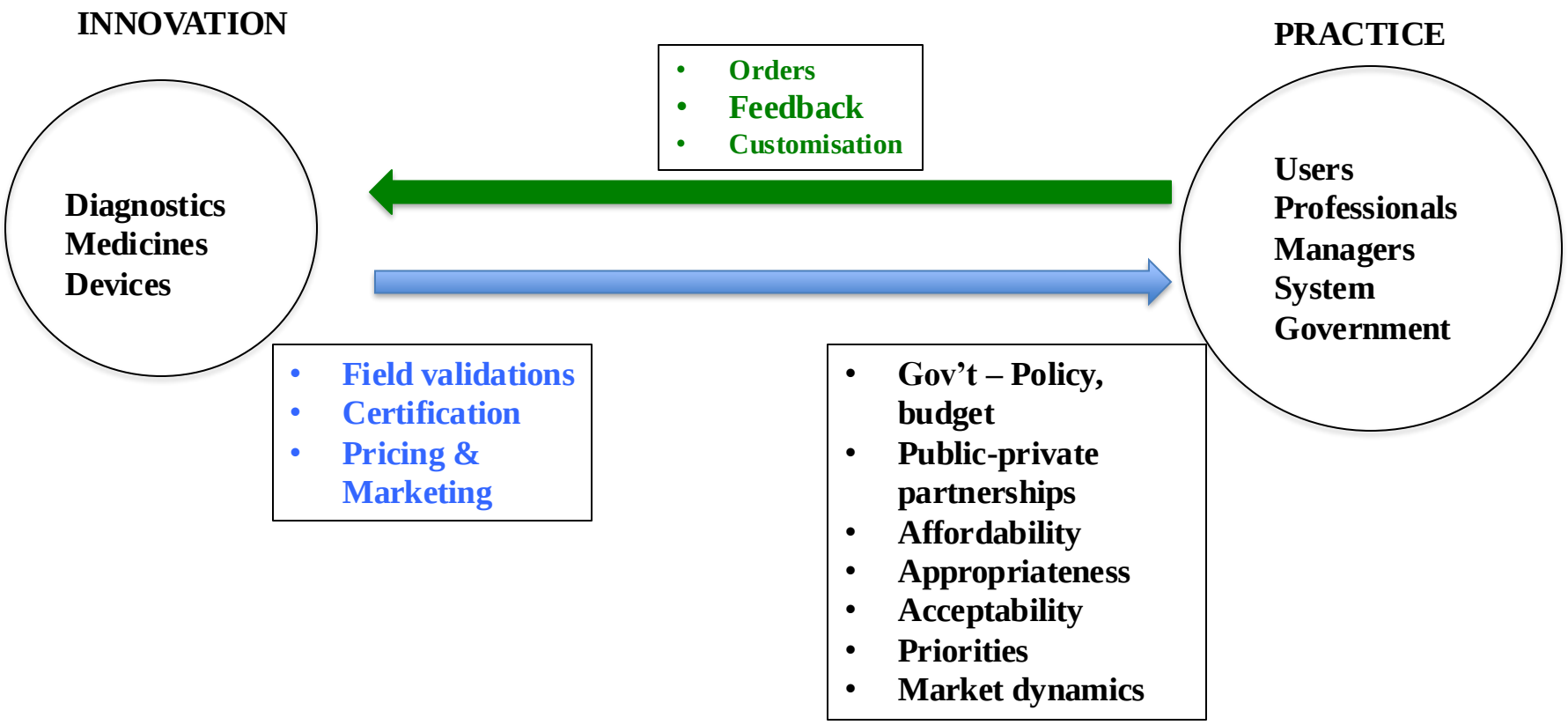
EDCTP

Translating research into policy & practice

What is the aim of R&D?



Thinking beyond invention – two-way process



Seven Critical steps in translating biomedical research innovation into policy & practice

1. Discovery and Proof of Concept

• Conduct rigorous scientific research to establish the safety, efficacy, and feasibility of an innovation.

• Publish findings in peer-reviewed journals to build credibility.

• Obtain regulatory approvals (e.g., FDA, EMA) for clinical application.

2. Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

• Involve policymakers, healthcare professionals, patients, and industry partners early in the process.

• Establish interdisciplinary teams to align scientific discoveries with public health needs.

• Engage in continuous dialogue with regulatory agencies to ensure compliance.

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3. Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and Economic Evaluation

• Assess the cost-effectiveness, scalability, and sustainability of the innovation.

• Conduct comparative effectiveness research to justify policy adoption.

• Address affordability and reimbursement strategies with insurers and government agencies.

4. Evidence Synthesis and Policy Development

• Translate research findings into actionable policy recommendations.

• Develop guidelines and best practices through organizations like WHO, CDC, or NIH.

• Advocate for policy change through white papers, advisory committees, and legislative briefings.

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5. Implementation and Integration into Healthcare Systems

• Develop pilot programs to test real-world applicability.

Engage healthcare managers to ensure their buy in.

• Train healthcare providers and administrators on new protocols.

• Ensure infrastructure and digital health tools support the innovation.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Continuous Improvement

• Track implementation outcomes through surveillance and feedback mechanisms.

• Address barriers to adoption through ongoing research and policy refinement.

• Adjust guidelines based on emerging data and patient outcomes.

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7. Public Awareness and Advocacy

- Communicate benefits and risks to the public to foster acceptance.
- Engage with media and patient advocacy groups to drive awareness.
- Promote equitable access to ensure broad societal impact.

Exercise on Research Translation Dynamics

- Your team wants to establish whole genomic sequencing service at your hospital, what barriers do you envisage and how do you overcome them? – **GROUP 1**

- You are a diagnostic developer or translational researcher developing a novel diagnostic test, what translational challenges do you need to consider and how would you solve them? – **GROUP 2**

- You want to introduce a new diagnostic kit such as TB-MBLA at your hospital, what barriers do you envisage and how do you overcome them? **GROUP 3**

Identify barriers/challenges and solutions and present to the rest of the group

Common barriers to getting innovations into practice

Presence of policy doesn't always mean practice of policy

- Research: generates evidence to inform policy making.
- Policy: framework of rules or guidelines to promote delivery of service
- Practice: Actual Implementation of policy, delivery of services, putting infrastructure in place etc. Depends on:
  - Resources: financial, human, infrastructure etc
  - Governance: political will, rule of law, no corruption, strong institutions, priorities etc
  - Culture: policy appropriateness & acceptability, gender equality etc
  - Management style and traditionalism (unwillingness to adapt to new platforms)