Enabling UK companies to do research on UK samples

UK Biobanking presentation on the SME perspective
The Medicines Discovery Catapult
What is a Catapult?

• UK Government through its Innovation agency Innovate UK has established Catapults
  – to promote success of key industries

• Newest is Medicines Discovery

• An opportunity to reinvigorate UK’s drug discovery industry
  – Help drug discovery, and new technology, businesses to grow
  – Join up the sector - to do more, together
  – Expertise, facilities, partnership
How we do it

- Cell Biology
- Biomarker identification
- Diagnostics R&D
- Technologists
- Safety Scientists
- Bioanalytics
- Cheminformatics
- Bioinformatics
- *In silico* Intelligence
- Cloud infrastructures
- Workflow processing
- Software development
- Sample and Data access team
- Virtual R&D experts
UK Diagnostic interviews: results on samples access
More than 80% of companies had an issue accessing samples

- Yes, issues faced
- No, samples procured by partners
- No, academic demand and partners procure

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The difficulty accessing UK samples means most companies buy in samples from abroad

- 31% Companies buying in non-UK samples
- 69% Companies finding other solutions
Procurement was the most common issue faced by respondents dealing with UK sample sources.

% of respondents citing issues

- Procurement: 70%
- Cost of access: 60%
- Speed of access: 50%
- Finding samples: 40%
- Clinical data quality: 30%
- Consent & governance: 20%
- Quality of samples: 10%
- Volume per sample: 0%
Action was called for in access to path samples, tissue registry, and other areas

Recommendations for MDC action

- Routine samples with path results: 6
- Sample registry: 5
- Commercial support to biobanks: 3
- Biobank quality measures: 3
- Brokerage: 2
- Longitudinal samples: 1
Summary of MDC proposed response

• MDC should support companies looking to work with UK biobanks

• Collaboration with CRC TDCC
  – Market TDCC to companies
  – Support biobank sign-up to TDCC, track inclusion & data completion
  – Include commercial activity, user recommendations on registry

• Brokerage work
  – Brokerage work between RTBs and users to support transactions
  – Develop and share guidance & templates for commercial sample transactions
  – Support initiatives allowing real-time sample identification, consent and acquisition