

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones. One hand is holding a small, dark, cylindrical object, possibly a pill or a small container, between its fingers. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the textures of the skin.

**NHS**

*National Institute for  
Health Research*

# **NIHR Medicines for Children Research Network**

**Prof David Edwards  
Associate Director, MCRN  
England**

# Our Vision

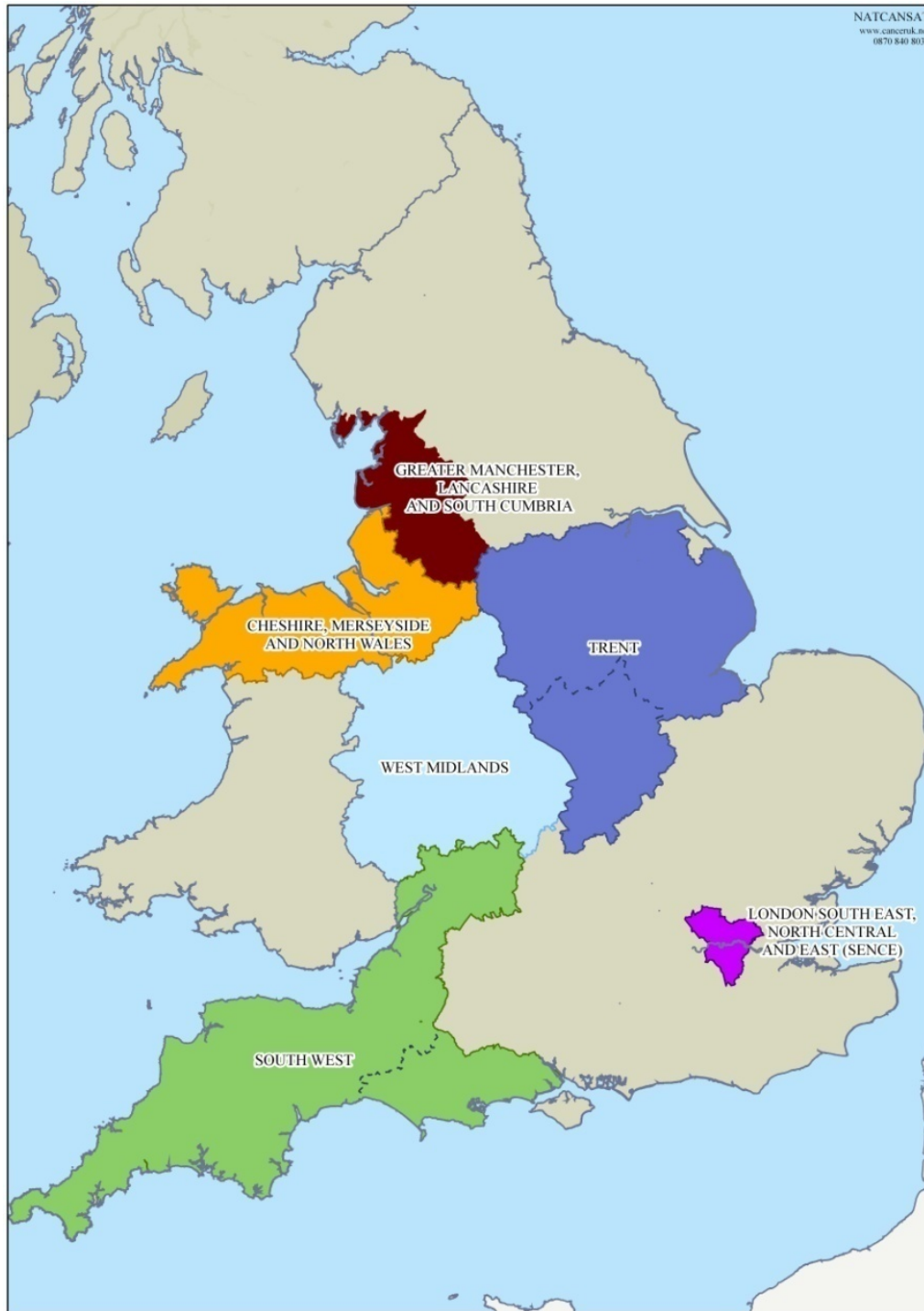
**NHS**

National Institute for  
Health Research

*To improve children's  
health and alleviate suffering  
through the provision of  
better and safer medicines.*

# Our aims are:

- to provide the infrastructure to support studies which address the safety and efficacy of medicines for children;
- to provide an excellent base for clinical research for children which is an attractive resource for the global pharmaceutical industry;
- to ensure that world-leading research addresses the needs of children.



- 6 Local Research Networks;
- Each led by a Director and Manager;
- LRN staff; Research Nurses, Pharmacists, Data Managers, Formulations Scientists;
- Priority topic in the wider UK Clinical Research Network
- Close links with networks in Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland

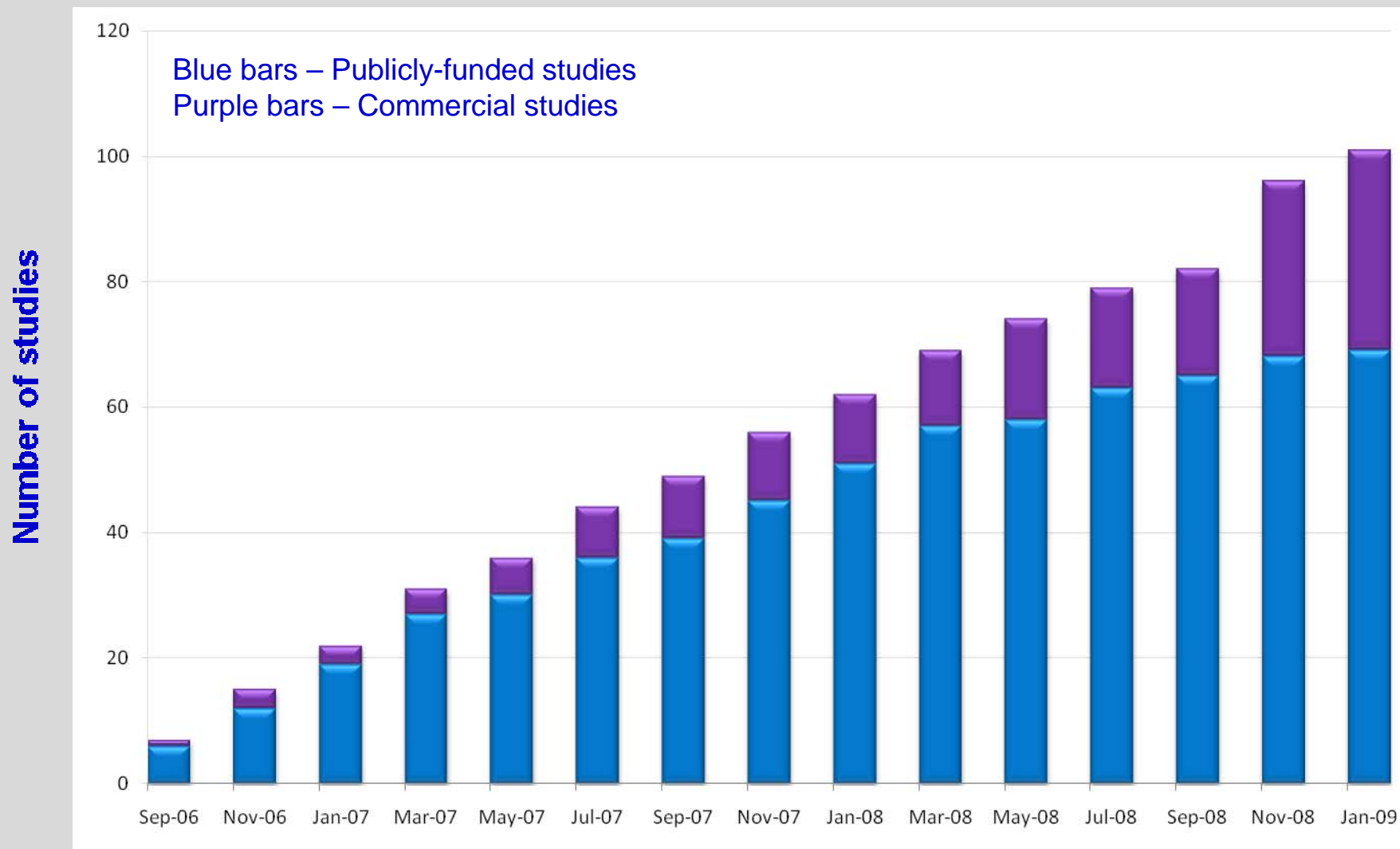
# Selection of studies to support

- Open, transparent process – key criteria
- Study Adoption Committee meets fortnightly to consider which studies can be supported by the MCRN
- Publicly-funded studies of medicines for children must be funded following open competition with peer review
- Commercial studies must be high quality and designed to address an unmet therapeutic need in the treatment of children

# Adopted Studies

- 106 studies adopted into Network
- 71 Publically-funded
- 35 Commercial
- Studies at different stages of development
- Many different therapeutic areas
- NIHR Portfolio Database [www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk)
- More studies in pipeline

# Growth of the MCRN Portfolio



# What the MCRN & its LRNs can offer Industry?

## ***One-stop-shop***

- Access to key opinion leaders in paediatric medicine
- Standing confidentiality agreements in place
- Swift assessment of site feasibility
- Consistent approach to costing studies across the network & arranging contracts with Trusts
- Central sign off for R&D approval at national level via NIHR CSP

***Swift adoption process for consideration of industry studies***



# Standards for networks

- Adequate infrastructure – staff/facilities
- Clear process for determining which studies to support
- Efficient/accurate assessment of site feasibility
- Transparent costing template for industry studies
- Effective communication systems
- Access to key opinion leaders
- Robust performance monitoring systems
- Inclusive – engagement of all key stakeholders
- Meaningful involvement of consumers
- Access to training – GCP
- Close collaboration with pharmaceutical industry

# Points for consideration

- Collaboration not competition
- Consistent approach
- Sharing of experiences/processes
- Effective communication
- Recognise and optimise individual strengths *eg. MCRN has well developed consumer and formulations work-streams*