

# Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy

LEADING THE FIGHT TO END DUCHENNE

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## ROLE OF ADVOCACY IN FACILITATING BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Purpose of Advocacy – Help Solve  
Important Problems



# PPMD's Mission

## END DUCHENNE

Duchenne

1:4600

X-linked, progressive

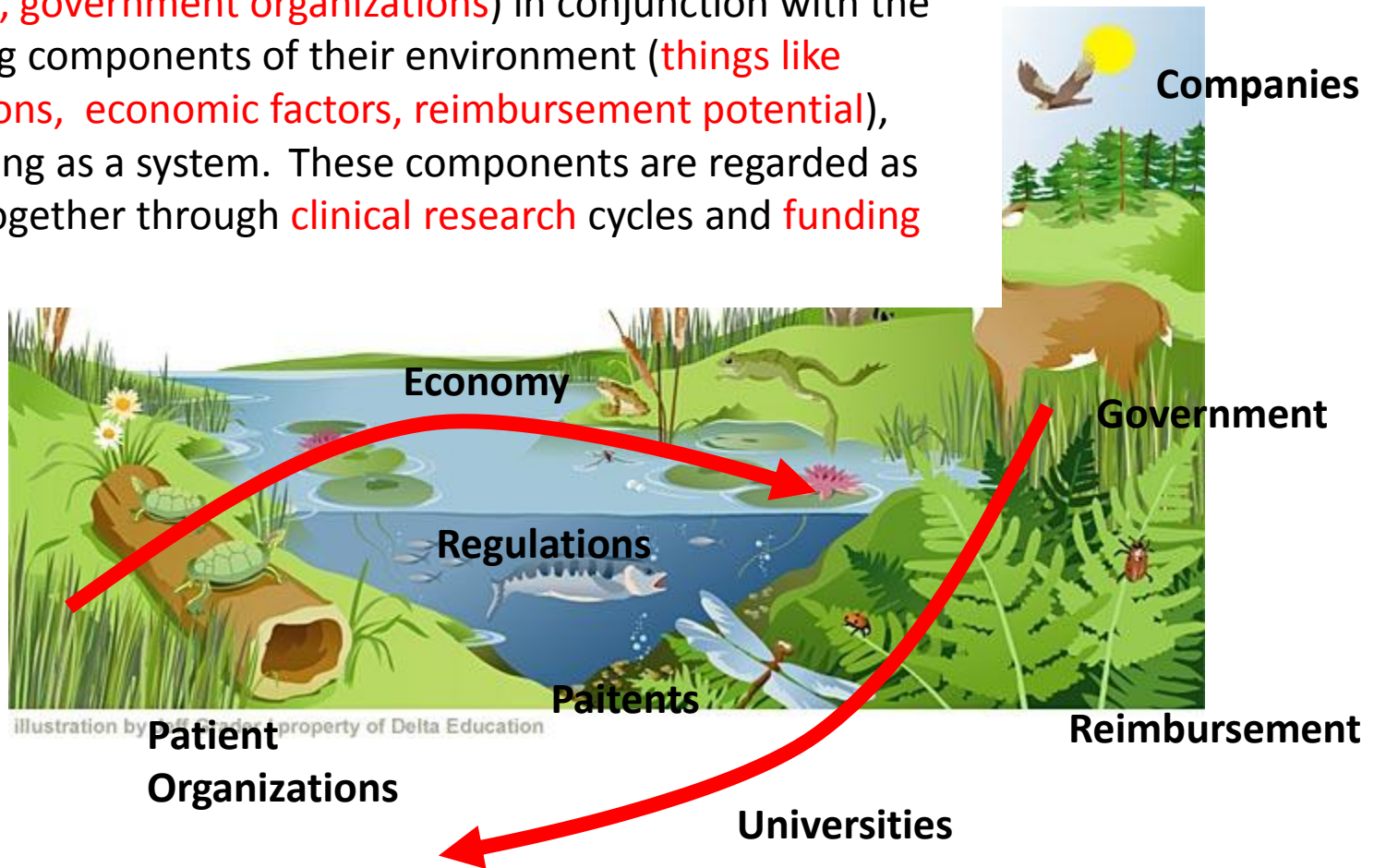
Largest gene in the human genome

40% spontaneous mutation

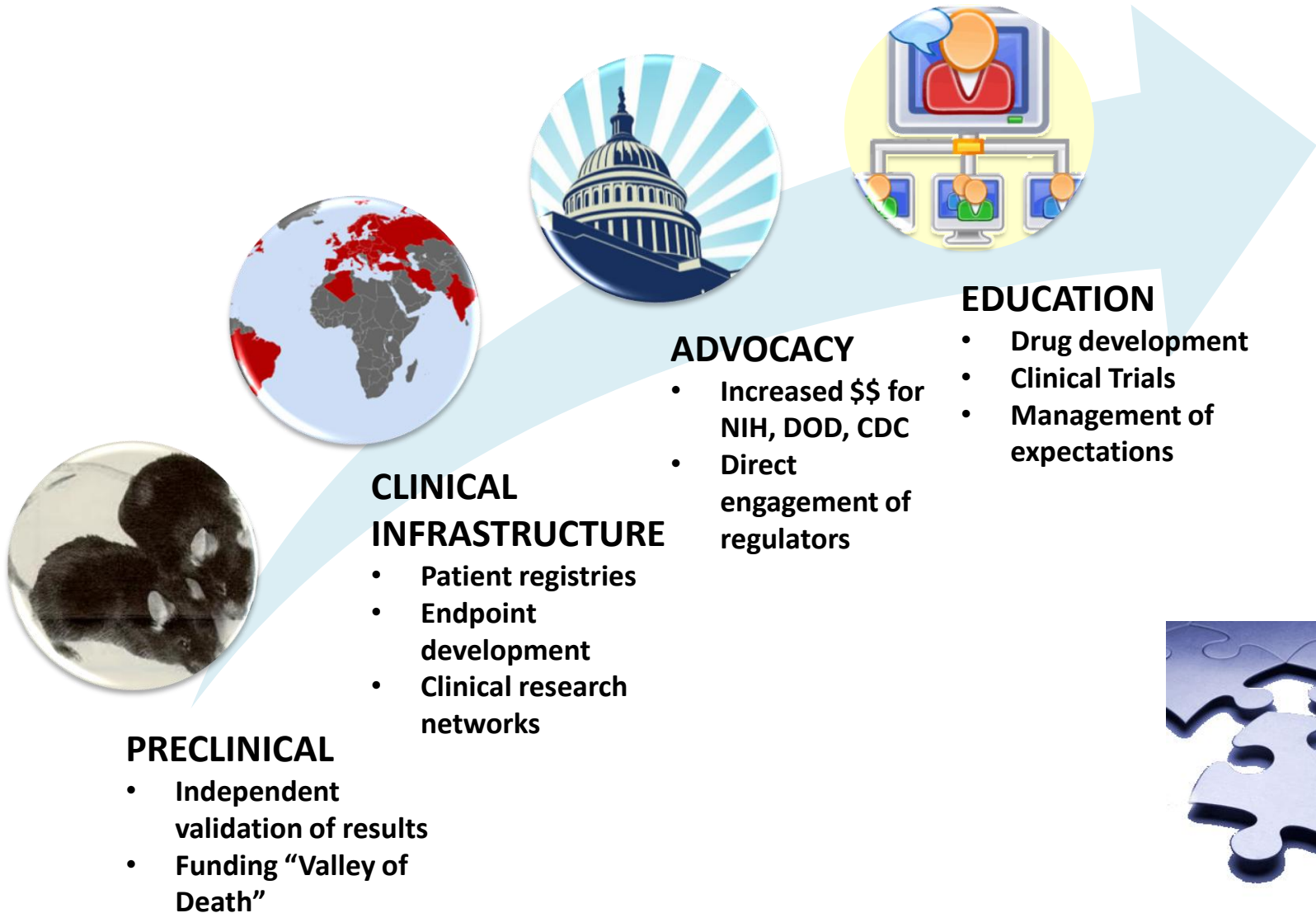
30% have learning/processing issues

# Why are we here?

A **drug development ecosystem** is a community of stakeholders (universities, companies, patient organizations, patients, government organizations) in conjunction with the nonliving components of their environment (things like regulations, economic factors, reimbursement potential), interacting as a system. These components are regarded as linked together through **clinical research** cycles and **funding** flows



# PPMD Role in Drug Development: Filling in the Missing Pieces



# Challenges and Opportunities

SIZE OF GENE, CLINICAL VARIABILITY, VARIABLE CARE

Finances and fragmentation within rare disease

Academic research –overhead, tech transfer and time sharing/collaborating

N=1 experience:

Addressing challenges (harnessing complexity)

PRO – common data elements/curated/searchable

Genome studies – outliers

Task Force – barriers to dx, expand to all pediatric diseases where muscle wasting is primary symptom

Parallel protein signature (SomaLogic)

PLoS

Validation lab

RADD

TACT

Networks (Mirror Ped. Oncology and RDRCN) collective IRB and contract negotiation

# IDENTIFYING PRE-COMPETITIVE PROJECTS

**RADD**

**CONSOLIDATE NATURAL HISTORY DATA**

**FACILITATE /IMPROVE REVIEW – TACT**

# PPMD – RADD, TACT, SHIRE

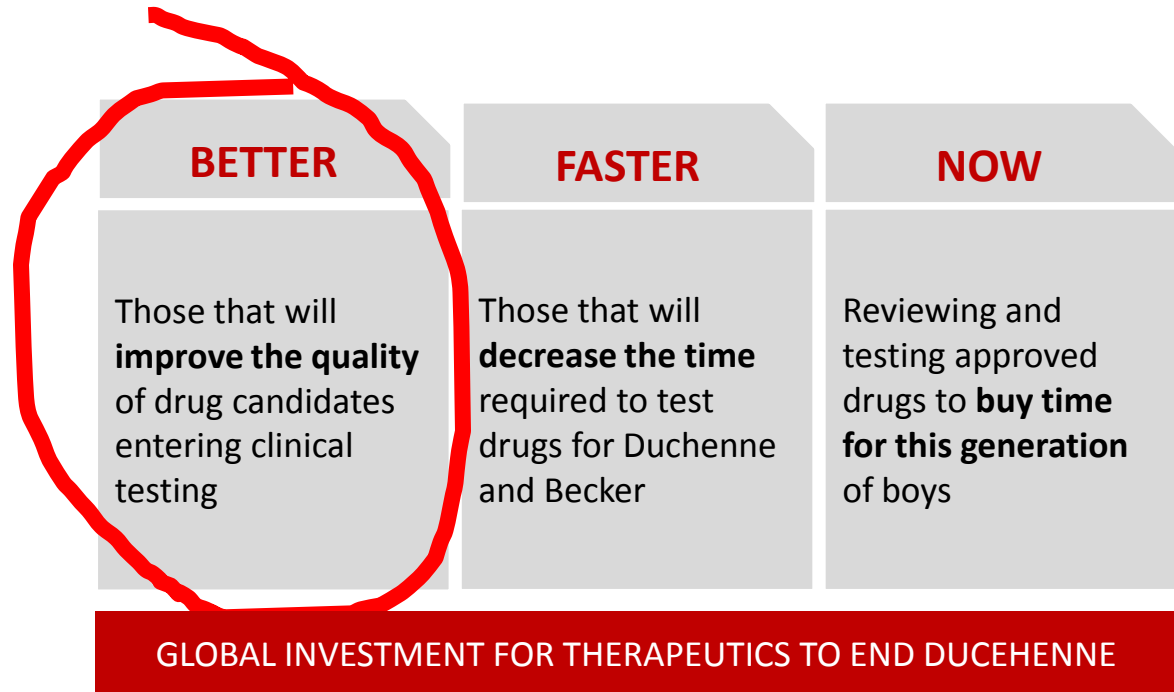
## Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy

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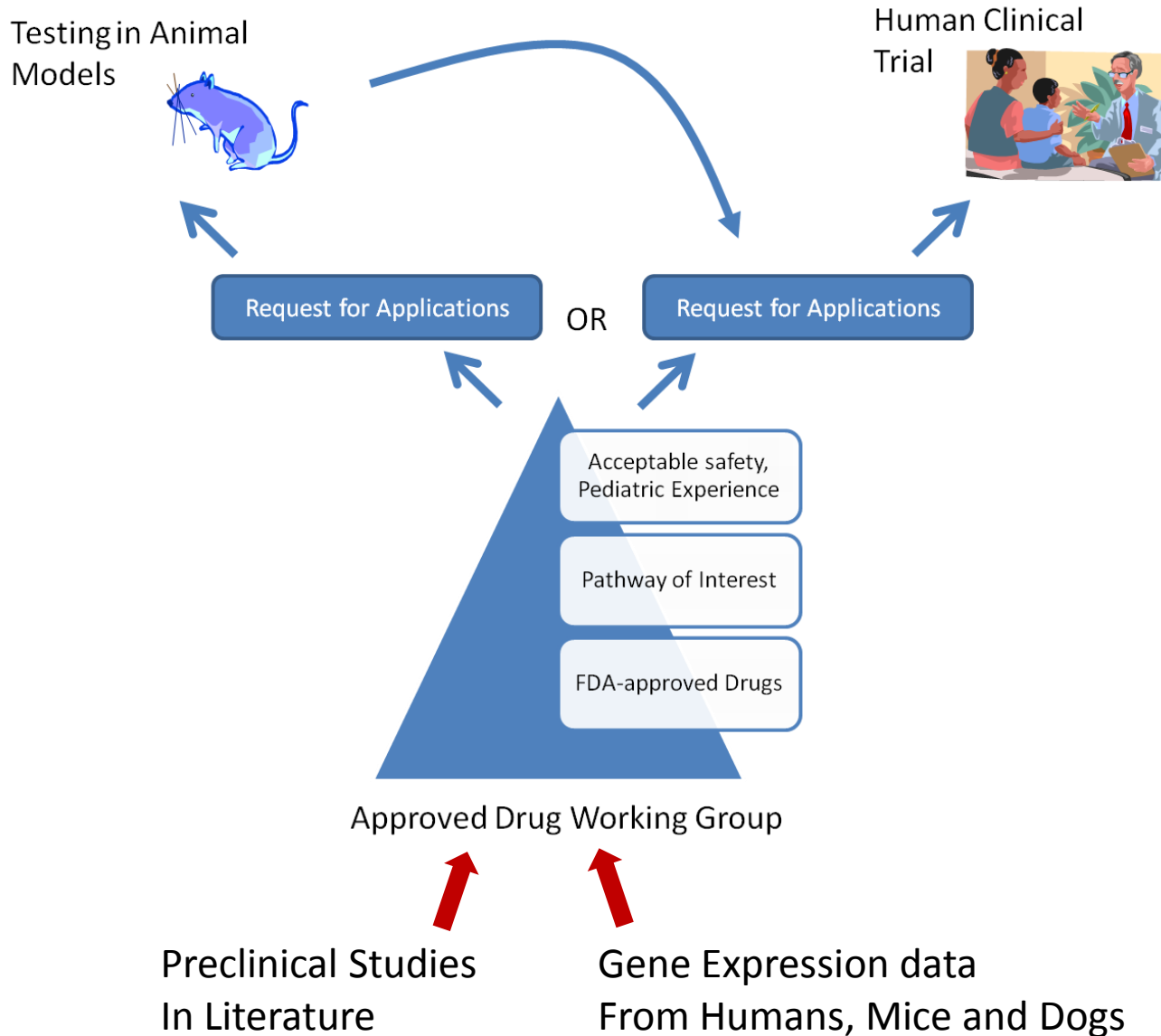
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy is the largest nonprofit organization in the United States focused entirely on Duchenne.



## PPMD's Three – Pronged Strategic Plan for Research



# Now: Review of Approved Drugs for Duchenne (RADD) Working Group



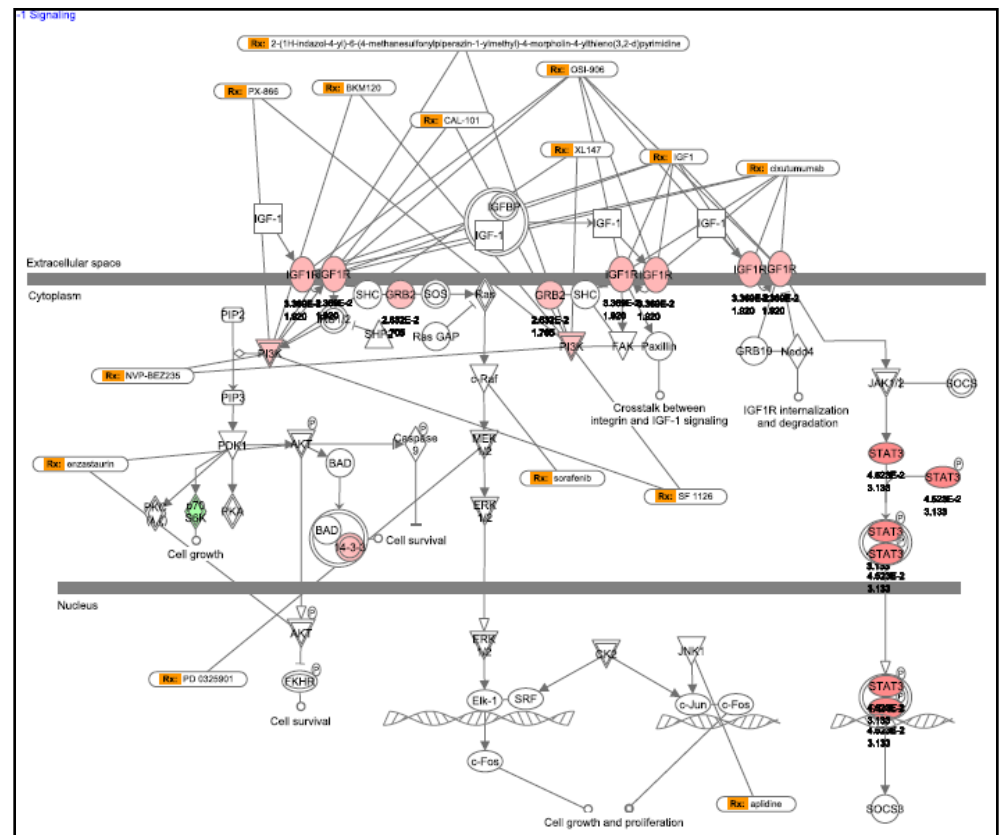
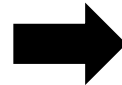
Three-way collaboration between **Nationwide Children's Research Institute**, **Children's National Medical Center** and **TREAT-NMD** designed to prioritize FDA-approved drugs for further testing.



# RADD: Target Identification and Validation

## Review of Approved Drugs for Duchenne (RADD) Pathway Mapping Project

1. Published literature on preclinical models is annotated and entered into searchable database (180+ papers so far)
2. Gene Expression data from different models and stages is compiled



# Partnering to Enable Drug Development for Orphan Disease

**TACT**

Treat NMD Advisory Committee for Therapeutics

# Partners: Who we are

- TREAT-NMD: global network of excellence- EU-funded roots
  - Advancing diagnosis, care and treatment for neuromuscular disease (NMD)
  - Advisory committee for Therapeutics (TACT) established to evaluate potential therapies in an objective, comprehensive manner
- PPMD (Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy): US largest non profit organization focused on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)

# Initiative

- TACT established in 2009 comprising volunteer experts from academia, industry, non-profit, patient advocacy to provide development advice to academia and industry
- Multidisciplinary, comprehensive input
- Addresses translational gap in NMD
- Independent of funding stream
- PPMD partnered with TACT and integrated TACT reviews in its diligence for funding

# What TACT is addressing

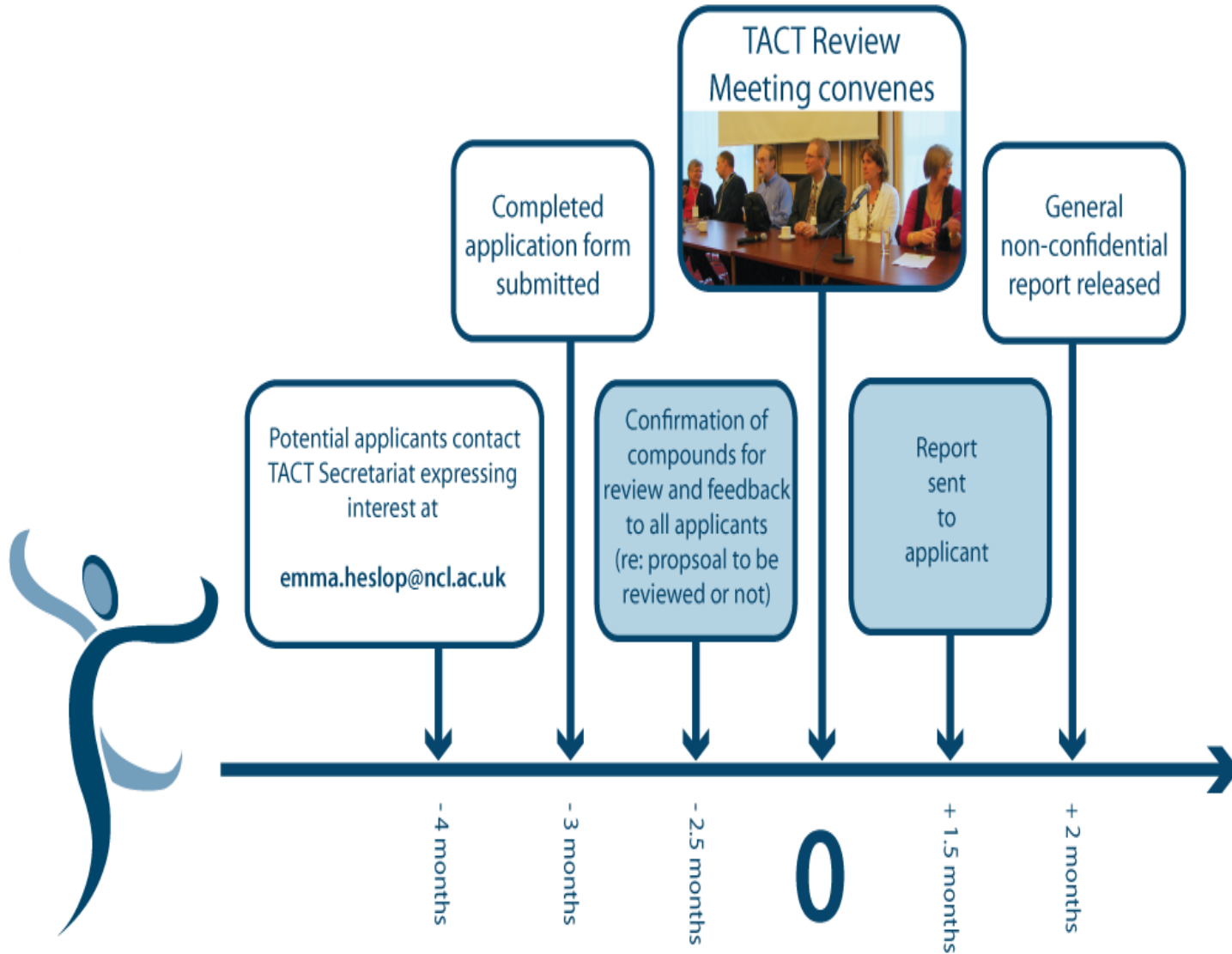
- Fragmented and subjective approach to funding translation in NMD
- Lack of comprehensive review of both science and development potential of compounds
- Rigor of assessments variable across funders and researchers
- Compounds moving to clinic despite non compelling preclinical data leading to (predictable) failure in the clinic
- Often lacking realistic development perspective- limited industry participation
- Multiple compounds to go into clinic- limited number of patients

***Sophisticated diligence process beyond the abilities of typical academic advisory committee resulting in greatly increased credibility with non profit, industry and VC funders***

# Strategy

- Multidisciplinary, informed, objective
- Reviews and reports are confidential
- Credible with industry and funders
- Eliminate historical barriers between academia, industry, patient organizations
- Included NIH and FDA committee members
- No reinventing the wheel
- No duplication of already existing efforts
- TACT is directly addressing the IRDiRC principles and goals

# TACT Review Process



# Opportunities

## **Researchers**

- A unique, multidisciplinary, review by disease and development experts
- A more informed and credible program
- More likely to get funded
- Enables cross talk with industry
- Training of young investigators
- Highly educational to academic researchers on realities of drug development

## **Patient organizations**

- Comprehensive objective assessment- raise the bar
- Increase odds of clinical success



## **How We Work with TACT**

- We use the same application forms
- We require grantees to undergo TACT review as a condition of funding; We fund and attend review meetings
- We may modify our grant requirements as a result of the TACT review

## **Benefits of Working With TACT**

- More extensive access to experts than we could develop on our own
- Reduces burden on reviewers and applicants because centralized process can be shared among multiple groups

# Accomplishments and Future

## Accomplishments

- In less than 3 years, the “go to” committee for both industry and academia engaged in NMD translation- sponsor feedback
- 15 programs reviewed
  - 5 from academia
  - 10 from industry
  - Diseases: DMD, SMA, BMD, CMD
- Young investigator program established

## Moving forward

- Continued funding critical
- Engage additional patient groups
- Willingness to export model to other rare diseases

# Key points

- Successful integration of academia, industry and funder must have for ability to translate in rare diseases
- Facilitated development timelines and progress to IND
- Shifts urgency from first to clinic to most informed to clinic
- Model can be exported to other rare diseases
- Minimizes duplication of effort and funding
- Future funding critical

## Consolidating Natural HX Data

1. IRB approval for retrospective data analysis (
2. Ages of those in databases
3. Consistent steroid regimens
4. What endpoints used (10 m or 9 m walk time. As long as the time and distance walked is recorded, these can be normalized to a velocity), rise to stand and 4 stair climb are pretty standard minority. Height, and weight will also be useful to potentially adjust for growth
5. What is needed to collaborate and combine data as far as privacy?
6. Validate and combine data in HIPAA compliant format I would focus on de-identified data, which by definition is already HIPAA compliant.
7. Need to talk about credit for study information

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SHIRE**

# Better: Increasing the Quality of Drug Candidates



- Identifying and directly supporting drug candidates with the greatest likelihood of success



- Partnering with TREAT-NMD's TACT program to provide deep and expert diligence



- Independently validating preclinical animal data through the testing core at U Penn



- Continuing to provide access to expert advice throughout the lifetime of a project

# Faster: Decreasing the time required to get a drug approved



- Recruiting for trials more quickly by funding Duchenne Connect to identify participants and then supporting their travel



- Improving measurements of success in clinical trials by developing biomarkers and validating new functional endpoints (ex. Non-ambulatory endpoints)



- Encouraging the use of centralized IRBs and supporting university contracting offices (Partnership planned with NeuroNEXT)



- Continuing efforts to identify boys with DMD at younger ages and in economically challenged areas

# Now: Prioritizing FDA approved drugs to test in DMD Now



- Reviewing and evaluating all published studies that suggest that a given biochemical pathway is relevant



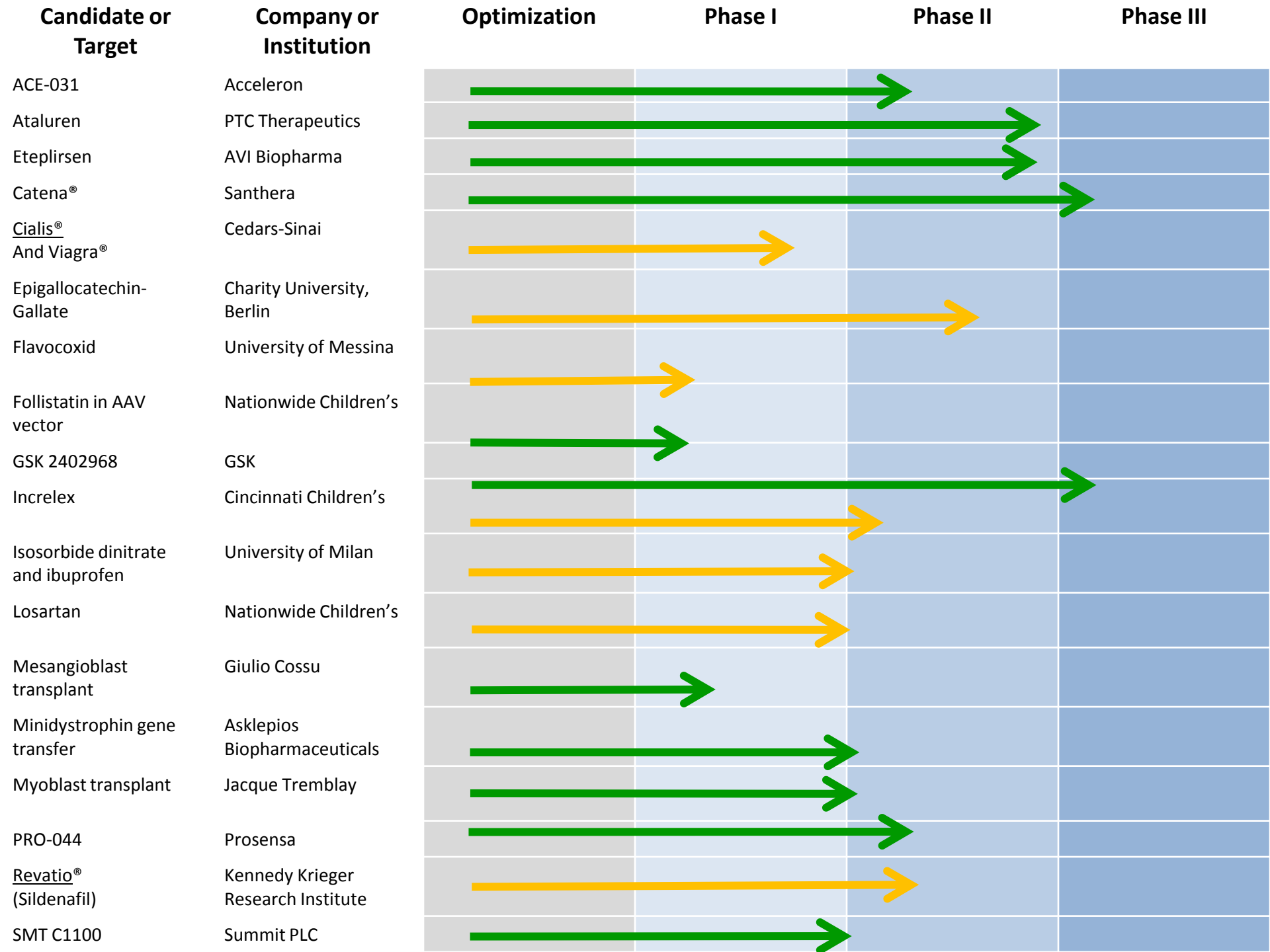
- Using software to create a weighted map of the pathways that are most likely to impact the disease and cross-referencing these with FDA approved drugs



- Creating a prioritized list of approved drugs that may either go directly into human testing or into additional animal testing



- Expanding the search to drugs that failed in clinical testing for other indications through partnerships with companies





# The Next Generation

Drug	Activity	Who
<b>Biglycan</b>	Utrophin-dependent mechanism	Tivorsan
<b>Exon-skipping: exons 45, 53, 52, 55</b>	Restores dystrophin reading frame	Prosensa
<b>Exon-skipping: exon 50</b>	Restores dystrophin reading frame	AVI Biopharma
<b>Halofuginone</b>	Blocks fibrosis	Halo Therapeutics
<b>Laminin 111</b>	Stabilizes cell membrane	Prothelia
<b>L-arginine with HDAC inhibitors</b>	Restores membrane signaling and gene expression	Sabine de la Porte
<b>New stop-codon readthrough drugs</b>	Read through point mutations in dystrophin gene	various
<b>Muscle-building drugs</b>	Block pathways that normally slow muscle growth	various
<b>VBP15</b>	Possible steroid replacement	Reveragen
<b>Tamoxifen</b>	Under investigation	Urs Ruegg
<b>Utrophin upregulator</b>	Experimental compound	PTC Therapeutics

# Projects Funded or Committed in 2012

<b>Clinically Meaningful Outcomes for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Therapeutic Trials</b> ●	Dr. Erik Henricson, University of California, Davis	Supplement Grant	\$175,000
<b>Early treatment with Aldosterone antagonism attenuates cardiomyopathy in Duchenne MD (Epleronone Trial)</b>	Dr. Kan Hor, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	Investigator Grant	\$84,092.45
<b>Preclinical investigation of tamoxifen in mdx mice prerequisite for a clinical trial in DMD patients</b>	Dr. Urs Ruegg, University of Geneva	Investigator Grant	\$164,100
<b>TREAT-NMD Advisory Committee for Therapeutics (TACT). 5th Meeting, Arlington VA, USA. 28-29 April 2012</b>	Dr. Volker Straub, University of Newcastle upon Tyne	Meeting Grant	\$24,355
<b>A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Multiple-dose, Dose-escalation Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetic, and Pharmacodynamic Effects of HT-100 in Patients with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy</b>	Marc Blaustein, Halo Therapeutics, LLC	NEXT Grant	\$100,000
<b>Analysis of protein interactions mediated by micro-dystrophin in the mdx heart</b>	Dr. Federica Montanaro, Ohio State University	Research Grant	\$52,500
<b>Recombinant Biglycan for Treatment of Duchenne and Becker Muscular Dystrophy</b>	Joel Braunstein, Tivorsan Pharmaceuticals	Research Grant	\$500,000

# Projects Funded or Committed in 2012

## Cont.

Project	PI	Amount	Type
<b>Long-term efficacy and side effect profile of compound A, a selective glucocorticoid receptor modulator in mdx mice</b>	Kanneboyina Nagaraju	\$50,000	Exploratory Award
<b>Development of MEMRI as an outcome measure for pre-clinical studies in the mdx mouse</b>	Volker Straub	\$49,000	Exploratory Award
<b>SERCA2a gene therapy for Duchenne cardiomyopathy</b>	Dongsheng Duan	\$280,424	PPMD Investigator Award
<b>Magnetic Resonance Imaging as a Biomarker in Muscular Dystrophy - Supplement</b>	Krista Vadenbourne	\$59,598	Supplement
<b>Exons 45-55 skipping with a cocktail antisense oligo</b>	Toshifumi Yakota	\$50,000	Exploratory Award
<b>Genetic modifiers of DMD using exome sequencing</b>	Stan Nelson	\$100,000	Supplement
<b>Predicting the benefit vs the side effects of corticosteroids in Duchenne muscular dystrophy -- Supplement</b>	Berch Griggs	\$50,000	Supplement

# Life Cycle of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

## With what we know now....

