

# **Cancer research: how do we sustain the momentum?**

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*Breakout session 1*

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# Cancer research: how do we sustain the momentum?

## Outline of presentation

- Strategic overview
  - Where we've come from
  - Where we are now
  - Where we need to get to by 2020
- Cancer Research UK's contribution
- Specific examples of progress through research
- Challenges for the future

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## Strategic overview: where we've come from and where we are now

- 285,000 people diagnosed with cancer each year
- Ageing population means 100,000 more cases of cancer per year predicted by 2025 if current cancer incidence rates remain the same. One in three of us will develop cancer at some point in our lives.

BUT:

- Ten-year survival for all cancers now 46.2% - almost double the survival figure of 30 years ago (23.6%)
- Sharpest rise in survival has been over last 10 years
- Overall five-year survival now 49.6%
- Almost two thirds of all women newly diagnosed with breast cancer now likely to survive for at least 20 years

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## Strategic overview: Ambitious goals to reach by 2020

- **More people will survive cancer** Survival rates for all common cancers will increase, with more than two thirds of newly diagnosed patients living for at least five years
- **Cancer will be diagnosed earlier** Two thirds of all cancer cases will be diagnosed at a stage when the cancer can be successfully treated
- **We will understand how cancer starts and develops** We will have a detailed understanding of the causes of cancer and changes in the body in two thirds of all cases of cancer

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## Cancer Research UK's contribution

- Providing more funding for cancer research than any other independent organisation in Europe
  - Annual research spend has almost doubled to £315 million in the five years since merger
  - Aim to increase it to £400 million by 2010
- Supporting over 4,250 scientists, doctors and nurses
- Our research ranges from basic research on the biology of cancer right through to testing new treatments with patients in clinical trials
- Over 54,000 people took part in cancer clinical trials in the UK in 2006, c. 37,000 of them in trials funded by us

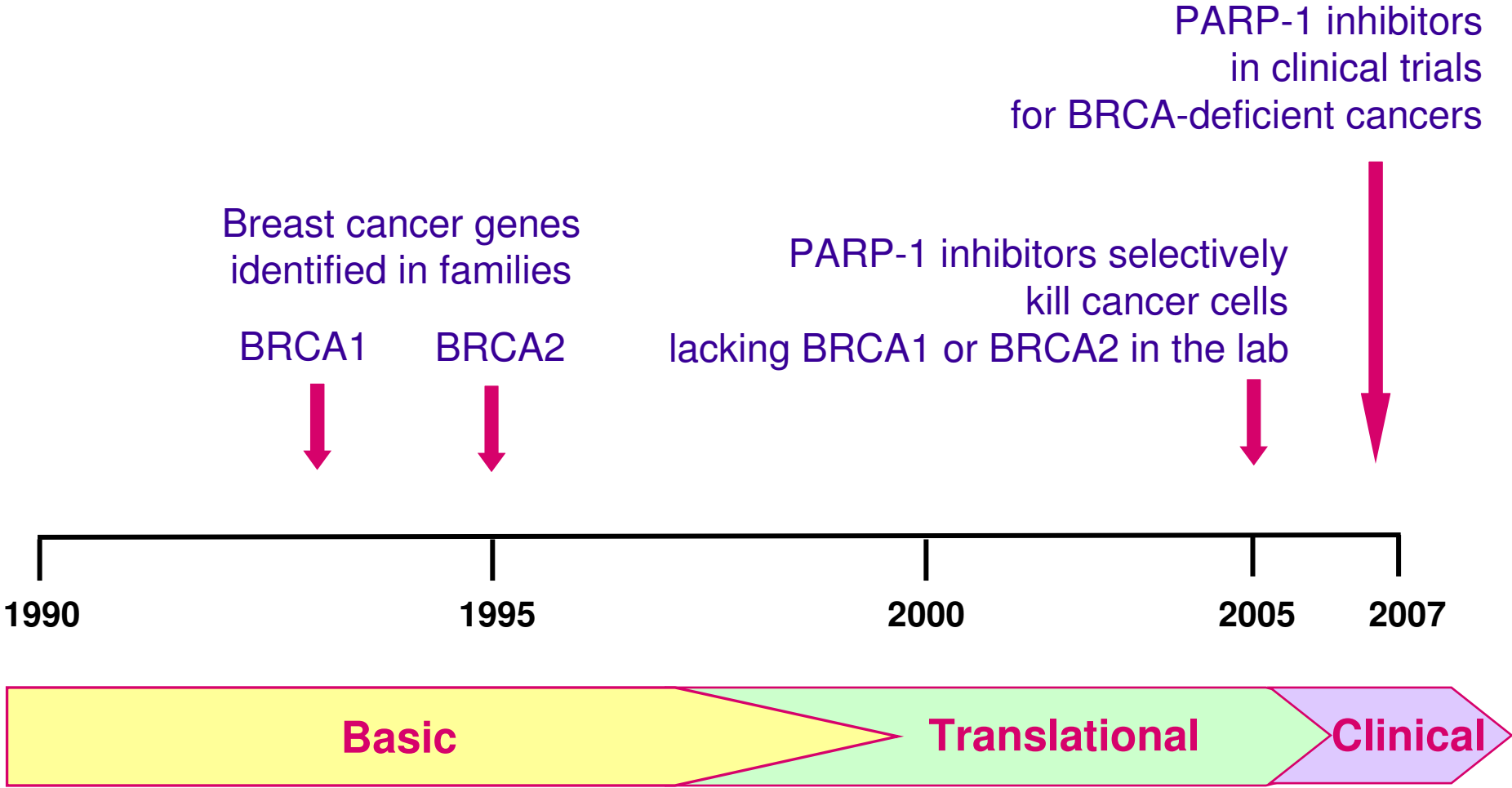
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# Cancer Research UK's contribution: basic research successes

- **The cell cycle**
  - Nobel Prize 2001 for groundbreaking work on regulators of the cell cycle, the mechanism that controls cell growth in living things
- **The P53 gene**
  - Co-discovered by Prof Sir David Lane in 1979
  - Damaged or inactive in the vast majority of cancers
  - Now looking at how to repair or reactivate the faulty copy of the P53 gene in the tumours of patients

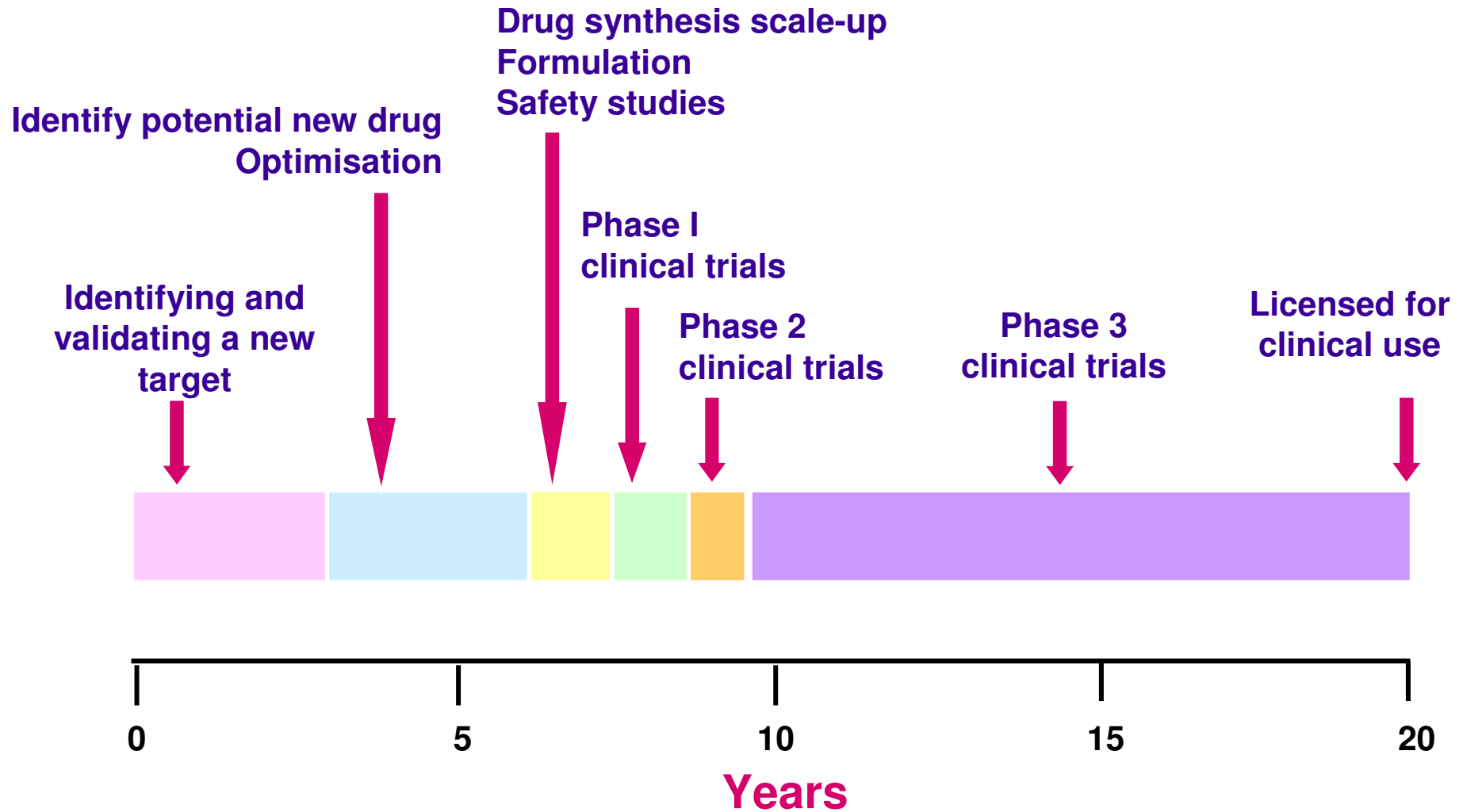
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# Basic research is fundamental to cancer research



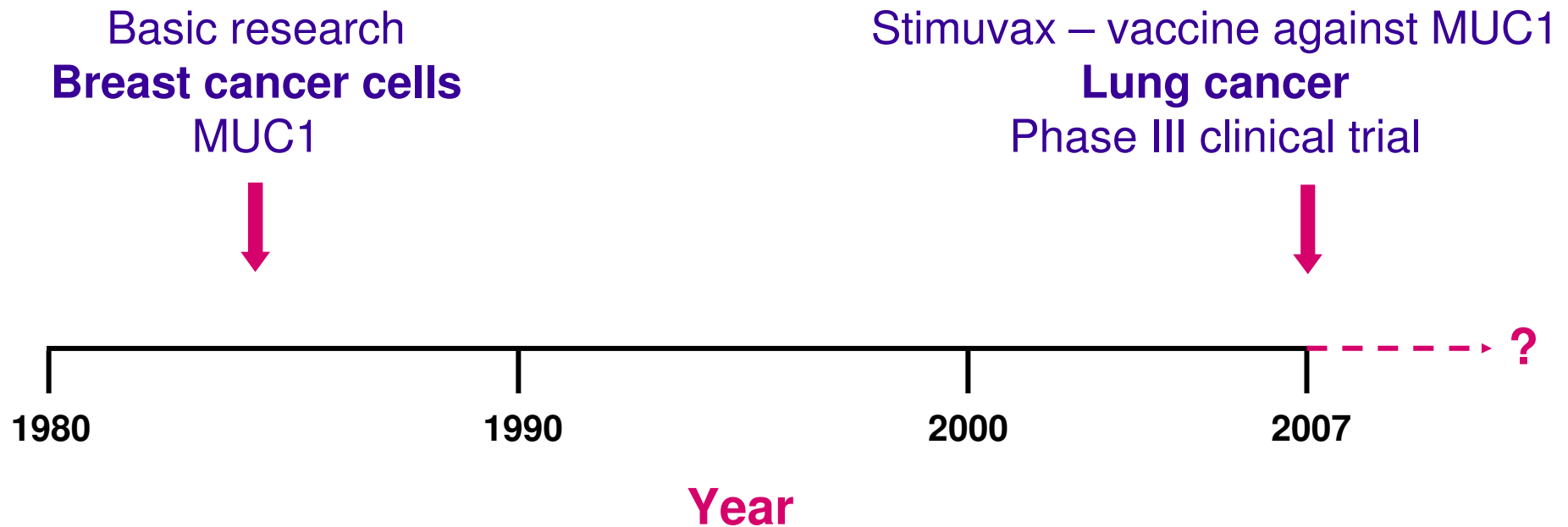
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# From bench to bedside takes time



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# Basic research can lead to unexpected outcomes



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# Challenges and opportunities for the future

- **Politics** - Persuading the politicians to
  - keep cancer high on their agenda
  - support research (e.g. CRSF)
  - restrict unnecessary regulation (e.g. clinical trials; application of human tissue law)
  - improving access to treatments (e.g. PPRS and NICE)
- **Partnership**
  - Research is an integral part of the wider cancer journey
  - We work with more than 25 major health and research organisations, including NCRI
  - Thank you for your input to today's workshop!

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