1. Update from the Chair

I would like to thank the Board of the UKCRC for ongoing support for the EMFG and to note my enthusiasm for chairing the group for the current two-year cycle. I believe the group can continue to play a valuable role in understanding and shaping the experimental and precision medicine landscape in the UK and having now chaired two meetings I feel we have started to make some good progress towards making this happen.

At the first meeting held in March, there was support from members for the idea that as well as reviewing the experimental and precision medicine landscape, the group could become more proactive in feeding into and shaping emerging initiatives. At the second meeting this September, we started along this path by using the recently published report; *Bridging the pre-clinical / Clinical Boundary* from a meeting co-sponsored by Academy of Medical Sciences and ABPI earlier in the year, as a primary substrate for our forward discussions over the coming year. We invited Libby Dixon from the AMS to introduce the report and stimulate discussion. Several key challenges are set out that resonate with areas of interest of the EMFG and the group agreed that to maintain momentum, smaller working groups could be established to meet between meetings to develop thinking on three thematic areas from the report: *Workforce of the future, Infrastructure and regulation, Science and technology*

To kick this off, the group considered the first of the themes: *The workforce of the future* and we were delighted to welcome Anna Zecharia from BPS who shared their work on the Clinical Pharmacology Skills Alliance action plan to 2025. Anne-Marie Coriat from Wellcome and Jo Robinson from MRC joined the group for a very constructive discussion that followed, and I would like to note that their presence was a hugely positive addition to the meeting.

As part of the EMFG’s interest in testing nascent initiative, Sarah Rudkin from Versus Arthritis and Matt Hallsworth from NOCRI shared work being developed to establish a National Musculoskeletal Translational Research Collaboration between the charity and NIHR. Again, this garnered valuable insight and feedback from the wider members.

On balance, the meeting was very productive and surfaced some valuable thinking and I believe we made good progress in setting a good course for the group up to 2020. The shared management of the meeting – setting agenda, papers and actions between the offices of MRC and the incumbent Chair’s organisation (in this instance Versus Arthritis) is beginning to work well and I would like to thank Sam Rowley and Rebecca Barlow for their support.

Stephen Simpson

2. Annexes

Annex 1 – Membership of group