



Special Interest Groups (SIGs):

Connecting Minds, Advancing Knowledge

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SIGs Lead

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The Innovation Methodology & Application (IMA) Theme Mission



1. To take a “**team science**” (across different job families/faculties/institutes/ themes) approach to elevate the status and impact of research and research support in the area(s) specific to the IMA.
2. To increase the level of **grant and commercial income** to support these research and research support activities and initiatives.
3. To increase and **improve the quality of research and research-led teaching** by directly contributing time, expertise, content and projects to various formal education programmes at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels.
4. To provide a **nurturing and supportive environment for its membership**. Focusing on **parity of esteem**, regardless of job family and to look at the issues around **career development** and **retention** for technologists and methodologists.



Newcastle
University

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

SIGs provide a synergistic network which harnesses the strengths and expertise of professionals trained in different fields to produce solutions to common problems.



Collaborations

- Academic
- Commercial



Successful Funding Income

- Knowledge exchange
- Research projects
- Training



Research output

- Method development
- Publications
- Conferences
- Teaching

What makes a SIG?

↓ Develop organically

- Bottom-up



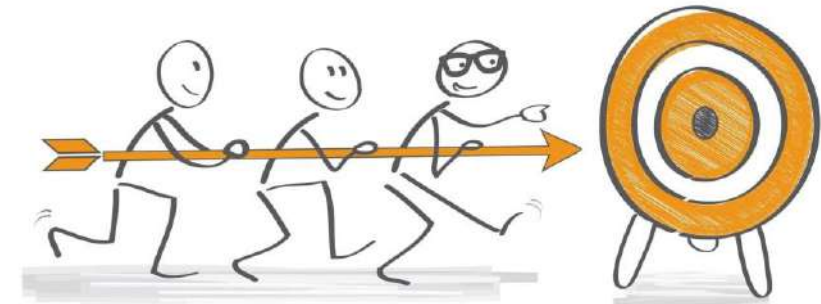
↓ SIG membership – who should join?

- Inclusive – this is not about technician power
- Common interest

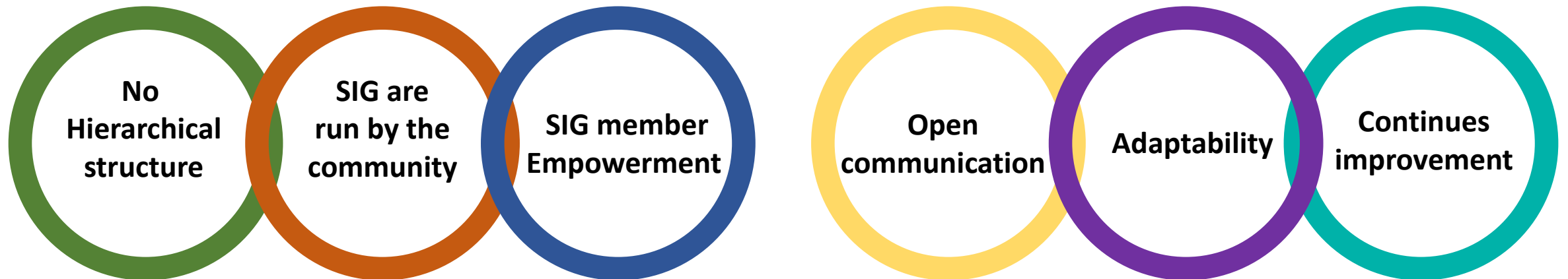


↓ Purpose?

- Why is the SIG needed?
- Primary goal and focus areas
- Mission

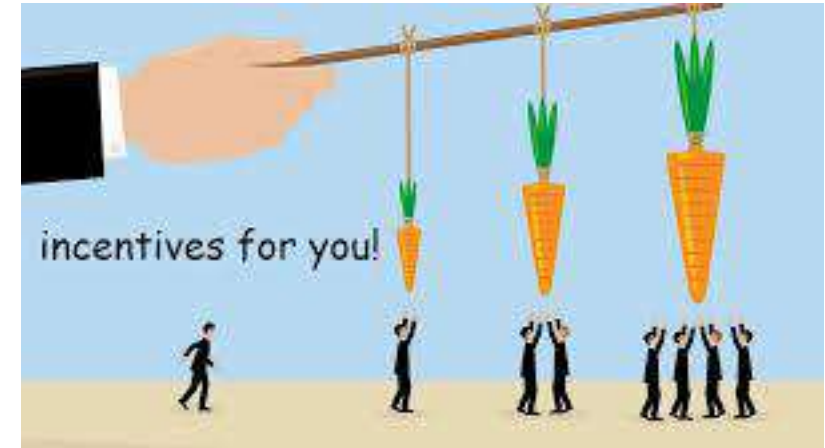


SIG structure values the insights and contributions of all members regardless of management, technical and academic ranking. It fosters a culture of inclusivity where **everyone is encouraged to share ideas, concerns, and feedback freely**. In this approach **innovation and decision-making originate from YOU** – the people closest to the day-to-day operations.

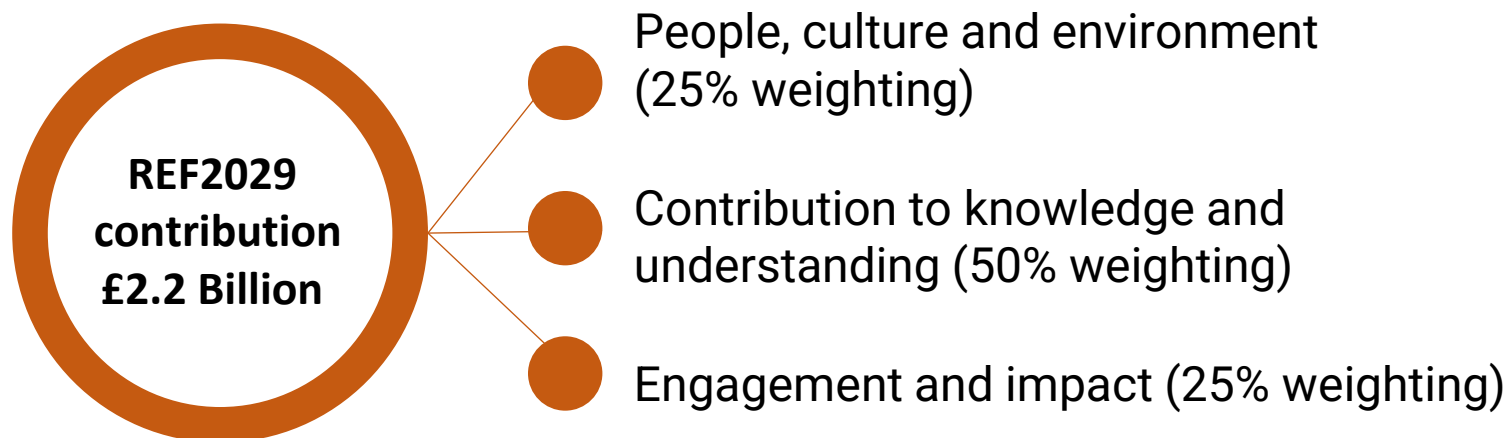


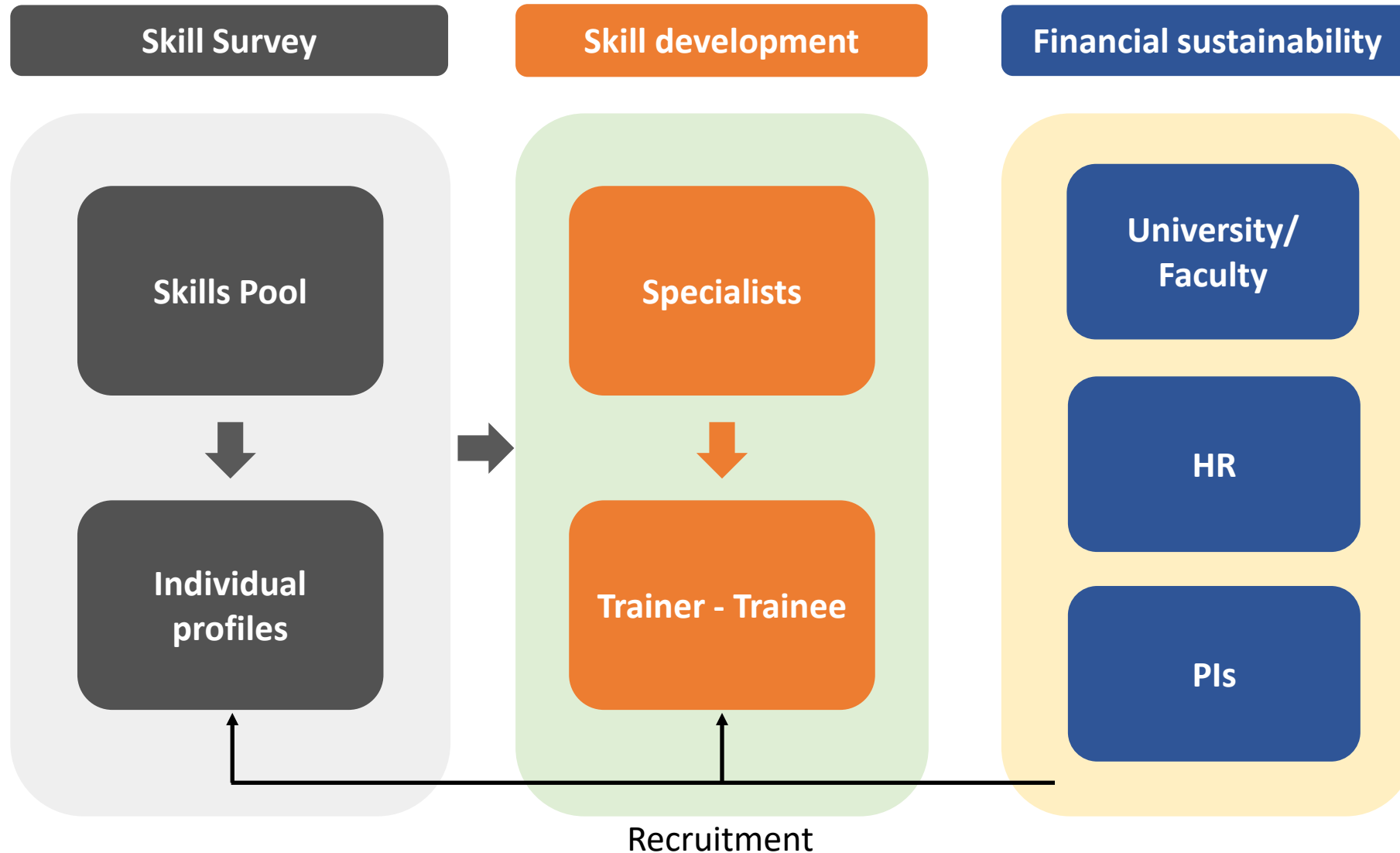
Align SIG mission with local & national strategy

What are the benefits the SIG will bring to the Faculty, University?

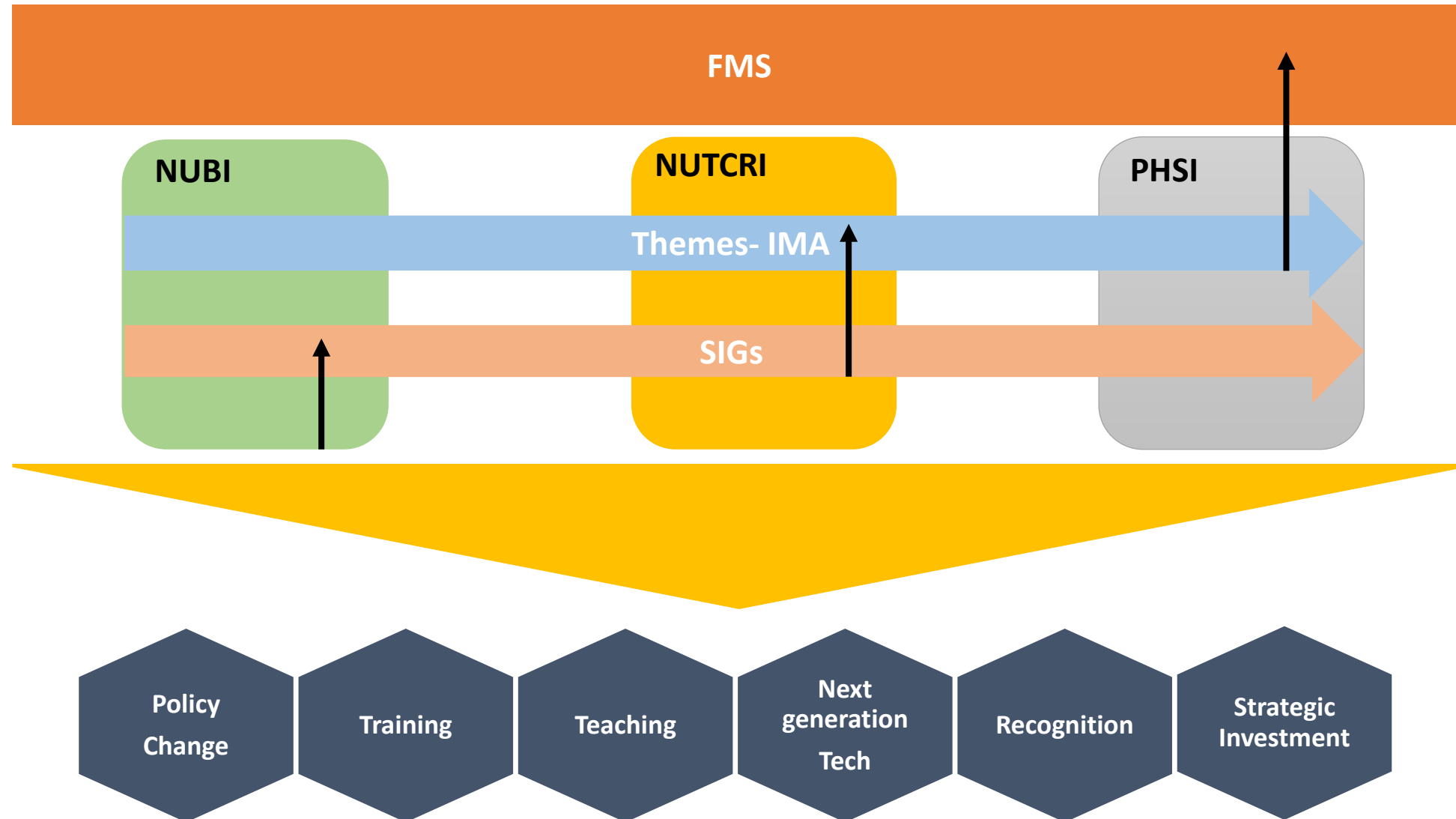


- ↓ Knowledge exchange and skill development
- ↓ Foster interdisciplinary collaborations
- ↓ Income
 - ↓ Grants/ commercial



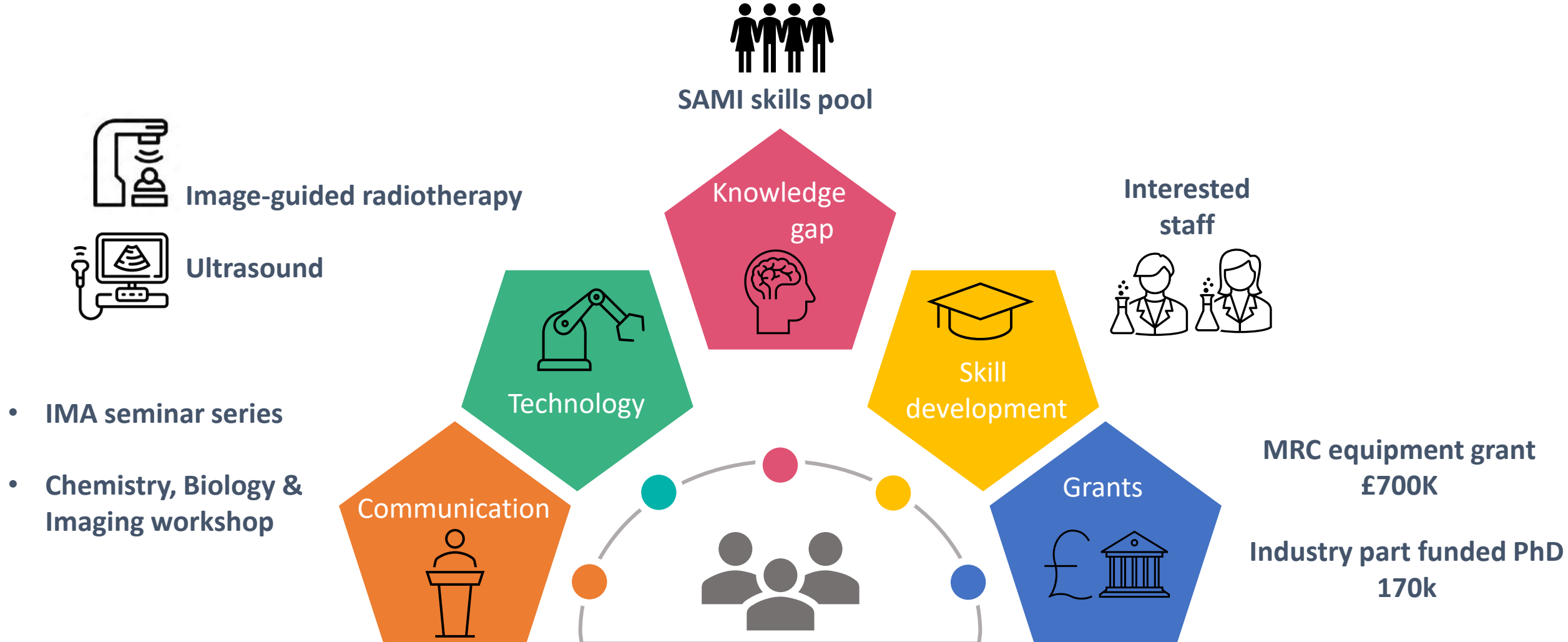


SIGs offer an opportunity for change



An example of SIGs at work: SAMI

Small Animal Models & Imaging (SAMI)



SIGs funding activity and success

Andrew Filby	The Single Cell Technologies and Cytometry SIG	Imaging-capable cell sorter	£ 875,686.79	BBSRC	Funded
Alex Laude	Microscopy Club and Image analysis/ Spatial transcriptomics/ Single Cell Technologies and Cytometry	In situ multiplex imaging system	£474,328.20	MRC	Funded
Saimir Luli	Small Animal Models and Imaging	SARRP small animal targeted irradiation platform	£703,653.00	MRC	Funded
Saimir Luli	Small Animal Models and Imaging (SAMI)	Industry funded PhD studentship	£170,000.00	Industry	Funded
			£2,223,667.99		

Andrew Porter	Proteomics and Mass Spectrometry	Thermo Astral Proteomics platform	£ 800,000.00	MRC	Submitted
Rolando Berlinguer-Palmini	Electrophysiology	Axions Maestro Pro High content multi-well Micro-Electrode-Array (MEA)	£ 397,450.00	MRC	Submitted
Glyn Neslon	Microscopy Club	Lightsheet microscope for large volumetric samples	£ 665,000.00	BBSRC	Not funded
David McDonald	The Single Cell Technologies and Cytometry SIG	Seahorse XF96 pro metabolic flux analyser & Tyto Lux microfluidic cell sorter.	£ 627,649.00	BBSRC	Not funded
Saimir Luli	Small Animal Models and Imaging (SAMI)	Integrated optical-CT	£ 660,000.00	MRC	Submitted
Gavin Richardson	SAMI	Ultrasound	£ 167,000.00	BHF	Submitted
Satomi Miwa	Biology of Ageing/ SAMI/Image Analysis SIG	Cancer/exercise/ imaging	£ 361,066.10	CRUK	Submitted
			£ 3,511,165.1		

Current SIGs

Single cell
technologies
& Cytometry

Small
Animal
Models &
Imaging

Spatial
Transcriptomics

Bioenergetics
&
Metabolomics

Electro-
physiology

Biology of
Ageing

Proteomics
&
Mass Spec

Bioinformatics

Image
Analysis

Microscopy
club

Systematic
Reviews

Single-
molecule

Genomics

Qual-SIG

Histology
&
Pathology

Applied
Large
Language
Model



SCAN ME

Support for setting up an SIG?

What IMA Theme will do for you :

- Provide a voice: to convey membership feedback to higher institute and faculty structures.
- Through a dedicated SIG liaison, provide support in setting up a SIG.
- Provide a dedicated SIG page on the IMA website.
- Provide support with SIG communications and promotional activities.
- Funding for training and development



What can you do for the IMA Theme:

- Set up a SIG
- Feedback and let us know how we can support you
- Highlight SIG research and achievement
- Develop yourself and others



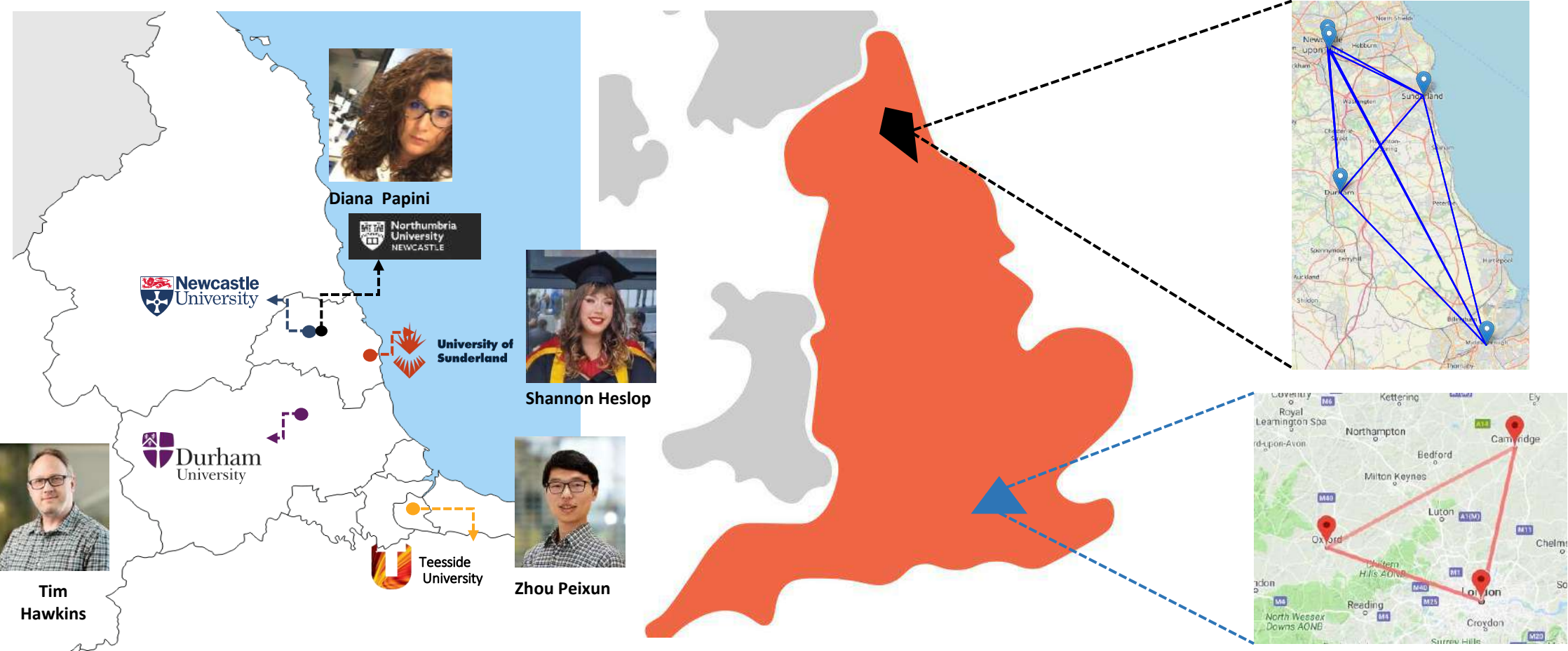
Imaging North East



Vision



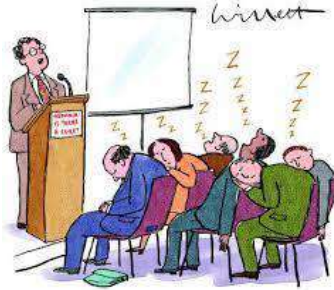
The vision is to create a connected and collaborative community that enhances visibility, coordination, and resource sharing across institutions



Key goals



Showcase research



- Highlight expertise and methodologies across different imaging modalities
 - Meetings
 - Seminars

Supportive environment



- Career development
- Training opportunities
- Job shadowing
- Knowledge exchange

Build collaborations



- Strengthening collaborations
- Pursuing joint funding.
- Method development and standardisation
- Addressing challenges in multimodality imaging

Mapping Resources



- Common equipment and expertise
- Novel technology
- Data storage & analysis
- Unmet needs
- Put in place access agreement

Online visibility



Quick information search/sharing

Better Engagement and Connection

Showcase Expertise and Services

Credibility and Trust



UK Research
and Innovation



<https://imagingnortheast.com/>

Networks align with UKRI strategy



What's Next



Improvement of online visibility and engagement

- Through regular posting
- Website updates and improvements



<https://imagingnortheast.com/>

Imaging Conference

- Plans to run a conference based on the imaging capabilities and research performed in the Northeast using the facilities from each of the 5 universities.
- More information to come

Access agreements

- Still in discussion about how we can improve knowledge about the different facilities within the Northeast, from within.
- Develop agreements for those in the Northeast to access the different specialities on offer.