

# Biostatistics at the MRC

- Biostatistics career development fellowships
  - 4 awarded in 2008, from 12 applications and 6 shortlisted
  - usually within 5 yrs of PhD
  - up to 4 yrs support, can include some time abroad
  - can be moving into biostats
  - expected to continue, applications close in October

# Methodology Research Programme

- Funds research on methods development to underpin the biomedical sciences, experimental medicine, clinical trials, population health sciences, health services research and health policy, including ..
  - Methods for the design and analysis of primary descriptive and evaluative studies.
  - ... reviews and evidence synthesis of descriptive and evaluative studies.
  - The design, process and analysis of clinical trials ...
  - ..., biostatistics and quantitative analysis, modelling, decision sciences, epidemiology, ..., qualitative analysis and mixed methods, ...
  - ... assessment and validation of patient-reported measures of health

# New developments at NIHR

- The NIHR is establishing a new network of Research Design Services (RDS) to help researchers develop and design high quality research proposals for submission to national, peer-reviewed funding competitions for applied health or social care research.

# New MRC Board structure

- Health Services and Public Health Research Board will be discontinued.
- Population-based aetiological studies are now embedded across new board remits. Cohort studies addressing multiple conditions/processes is now covered by MCMB; research into specific processes or diseases will be supported by the appropriate boards (IIB, NMHB and PSMB)

# Design of Animal Studies

- From my experience of Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board, the standard of literacy in quantitative experimental design by UK medical researchers is dreadful
- Regulations on use of animals in research (reduction etc) are beginning to have an effect and open the door for experimental design