

# PETRA

## Prevention of non-communicable diseases using trade agreements

**Prof Paul Kingston, Principal Investigator**

**9 September 2021**

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## WHAT IS PETRA?

- A Network that brings together experts in public health, law, sustainability, economics, and business to look at how trade policy and trade and investment agreements protect and improve the population's health in the UK.
- PETRA is funded for three years by the UKPRP
- Comprises: 1 PI and 1 Co-ordinator,  
11 Co-investigators,  
6 Expert Advisory Group members,  
40 wider members

Launched 18 February 2020 at House of Lords

# P E T R A

Prevention of Disease Using Trade Agreements

LAUNCH OF THE PETRA NETWORK PRESENTATIONS

CHOLMONDELEY ROOM AND TERRACE | HOUSE OF LORDS | PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

UK PREVENTION RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP (PRP) | UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER

# MEET THE TEAM

## **Co-investigators:**

Amandine Garde (Liverpool), David Hunter (Newcastle) Paul Lincoln (Chester), Andi Mabhala (Chester), Paul Manning (Chester), Richard Parish, David Pencheon (Exeter), Franco Sassi, (Imperial) Rich Smith (Exeter), Anne-Marie Thow (Sydney), L. Alan Winters (Sussex)

## **Supported by Expert Advisory Group:**

Nigel Baker (Thomson Foundation) Sue Davies (WHICH), Liz Green (WHIASU), Benn McGrady (WHO), John Middleton (ASPHER), Ted Schrecker (Newcastle)

**Part-time Network Coordinator:** Heather Lodge

# WHAT IS PETRA TRYING TO ADDRESS?

## On one hand:

- Trade provides prosperity, international co-operation and world peace.
- Trade benefits the public's health and is central to growth in income.
- Trade is both necessary and good for the UK and its trading partners.

# WHAT IS PETRA TRYING TO ADDRESS?

## On the other hand:

- Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, obesity, heart disease, and diabetes are the greatest cause of premature death and ill-health in the UK.
- Trade agreements can result in greater availability of products that directly contribute to NCDs.
- Trade practices such as intellectual property protection can deem public health provisions (eg front-of-pack labelling) as barriers to trade.

# CURRENT WORK

## Webinar programme

MEMBERS' AREA [Log in to access resources](#)




[Home](#) / [OUR WORK](#) / [WEBINAR PROGRAMME](#)

PETRA and the UK Public Health Network began a joint programme of webinars in 2020 to raise awareness and increase understanding of trade policy issues and their implications for population health and wellbeing. [Register on the website to watch for free:](#)

30 April 2021: [Brexit governance: the implications of the UK's new governance arrangements for trade and health policies](#) with Michael Dougan of the University of Liverpool, Tamara Hervey of City Law School and Amandine Garde of the University of Liverpool.

19 March 2021: [Learning from trade disputes: the cases of plain packaging and minimum unit pricing](#) with Andrew D. Mitchell of Monash University, Alison Douglas of Alcohol Focus Scotland and Clive Henn of Public Health England.

4 March 2021: [Public health at the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade \(TBT\) Committee: post-Brexit lessons for the Government's Tackling obesity strategy](#) with Pepita Barlow of LSE, Amandine Garde of the University of Liverpool Law School, Gregory Messenger of the University of Liverpool Law School, and Benn McGrady of WHO

15 January 2021: [Introduction to trade and investment laws](#) with Gregory Messenger and Mavluda Sattorova of the University of Liverpool Law School and Gabriel Siles-Brugge of the University of Warwick.

17 June 2020: [Using trade to improve the public's health and wellbeing](#) with Sharon Treat of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and Amandine Garde of the University of Liverpool Law School

## Total attendances Jan-Mar 2021

Sector	Attendance nos
Academic	57
Funders	1
Independent	5
Local government	2
Parliament	3
Policy	41
Third sector	74



# SANDPIT / IDEAS LAB ON R&D PRIORITIES

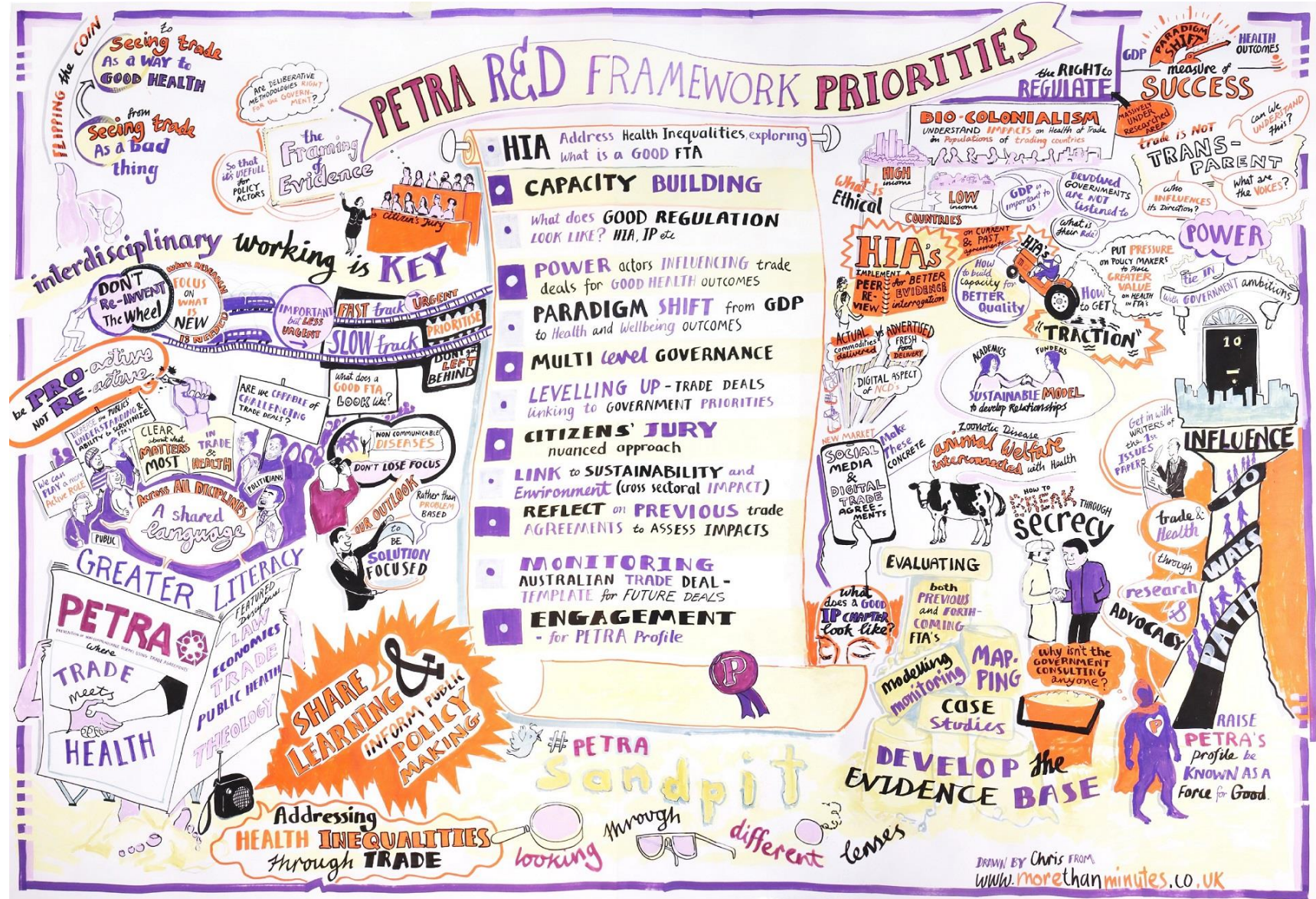
## Participation

### Sector

Policy	12
Third sector	12
Academic	20
Funders	3
Total	47

### Country

Wales	5
Scotland	4
International	8



## Literature review

1. Protecting and promoting regulatory action for non-communicable disease prevention in future Trade and Investment Agreements (Thow AM et al)
2. Re-assessing the health impacts of trade and investment agreements: a systematic review of quantitative studies, 2016-2020 (Barlow P et al)

## Video podcasts

1. [Front of pack labelling schemes and the WTO](#) by Nicole Foster
2. [Tobacco control disputes and trade agreements](#) by Margherita Melillo
3. [COVID-19 and international trade law](#) by Gregory Messenger
4. [Health, trade and investment policy and local government](#) by Gabriel Siles-Brugge
5. [Human rights law in the negotiation of preferential trade agreements](#) by Meaghan Beyer
6. [Counterfeit and falsified medicines in the EU: a legal perspective](#) by Vishv Priya Kohli

## Position papers

1. [Australia's plain packaging disputes and the United Kingdom's trade negotiations](#) by Andrew Mitchell
2. [Can trade agreements really be bad for your health?](#) By L. Alan Winters
3. [Impact of trade, and trade and investment agreements, on air pollution and public health](#) by Sotiris Vardoulakis
4. [Is child health up for negotiation in the UK's new food trade deals?](#) By Orla Delargy and Kath Dalmeny
5. [Investment law and the implications for public health](#) by Mavluda Sattorova
6. [Preferential trade agreements \(PTAs\) and access to medicines](#) by Maria Garcia
7. [The impact of trade and trade & investment agreements on public health from a legal/human rights perspective](#) by Tamara Hervey

8. [The use of international trade and investment law by health-harming industries](#) by Ben Hawkins and Chris Holden
9. [Trade, alcohol policy and public health](#) by Aveek Bhattacharya
10. [Trade, COVID-19 and health inequalities](#) by Courtney McNamara
11. [Trade and investment agreements and health and wellbeing: a civil society perspective on research and development priorities for the reduction of non-communicable diseases in Caribbean small island developing states](#) by Trevor Hassell
12. [Trade and public health: a lack of coherence and consistency](#) by Deborah Arnott
13. [UK and EU trade policies: potential impacts on population health](#) by Jill Rutter
14. [Sandpit exercise: review of evidence submitted to PETRA 2020-21](#) by Kate Melvin

## External engagement

- **2020 World Congress on Public Health:**
- **Including public health considerations in trade and investment agreements** . Panel discussion with Anne-Marie Thow, Richard Smith, Amandine Garde, Franco Sassi, Andi Mabhala, and Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat
- **Food, Farming and Countryside Commission Trade Unwrapped programme.** [Podcast on trade and health 21 January 2021](#) with Richard Parish, Amandine Garde, David Pencheon and Shirley Cramer
- **Wales Health Impact Assessment Unit Trade and Health Symposium** 7 October 2019. Presentation on PETRA by Andi Mabhala

## External engagement

- Smith R, Hunter DJ, Kingston P, Lodge H. (2020) Between Covid-19, Brexit, and new trade deals, a non-communicable disease storm is brewing [BMJ Opinion](#)
- Lodge H, Hunter DJ, Lincoln P. (2020). Covid-19: the UK's economic recovery plan must driven by health and environmental protection. [BMJ Opinion](#)

## WHERE NEXT?



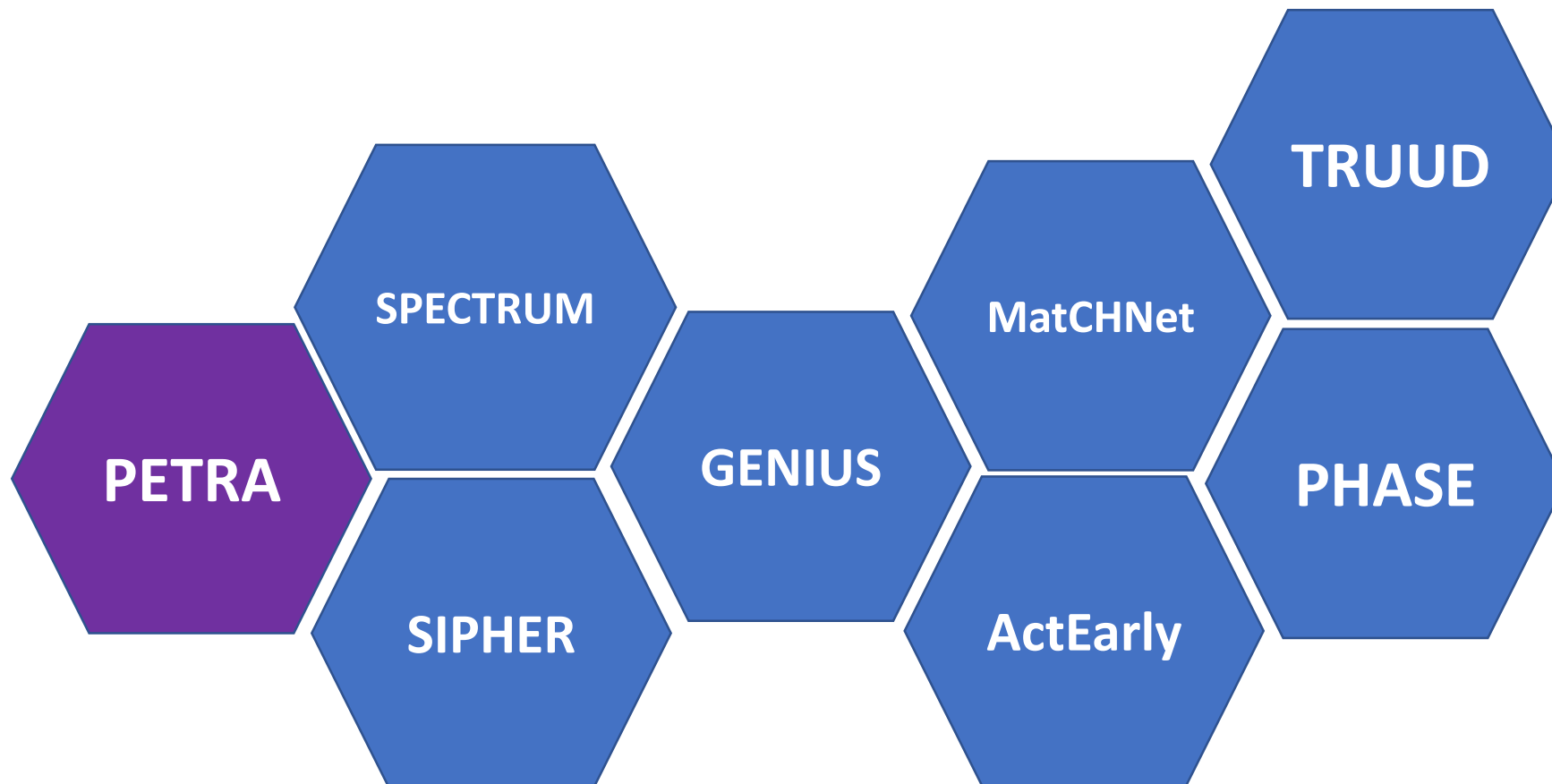
- Apply to NIHR for funding to develop a trade and health checklist – a screening tool to assess trade & investment agreements.
- Further webinar programme looking at some of the tools available to redress issues with trade & investment agreements (eg pricing instruments, impact assessments, rights-based approach)
- Build on collaboration with Trade Justice Movement and ASH to achieve further impact.

- Next iteration of PETRA's R&D framework: assessing trade and health priorities with young people. Aiming for Sciencewise funding to work with the Youth Parliaments in the devolved nations.
- Business case for developing PETRA as an academic centre for trade and health

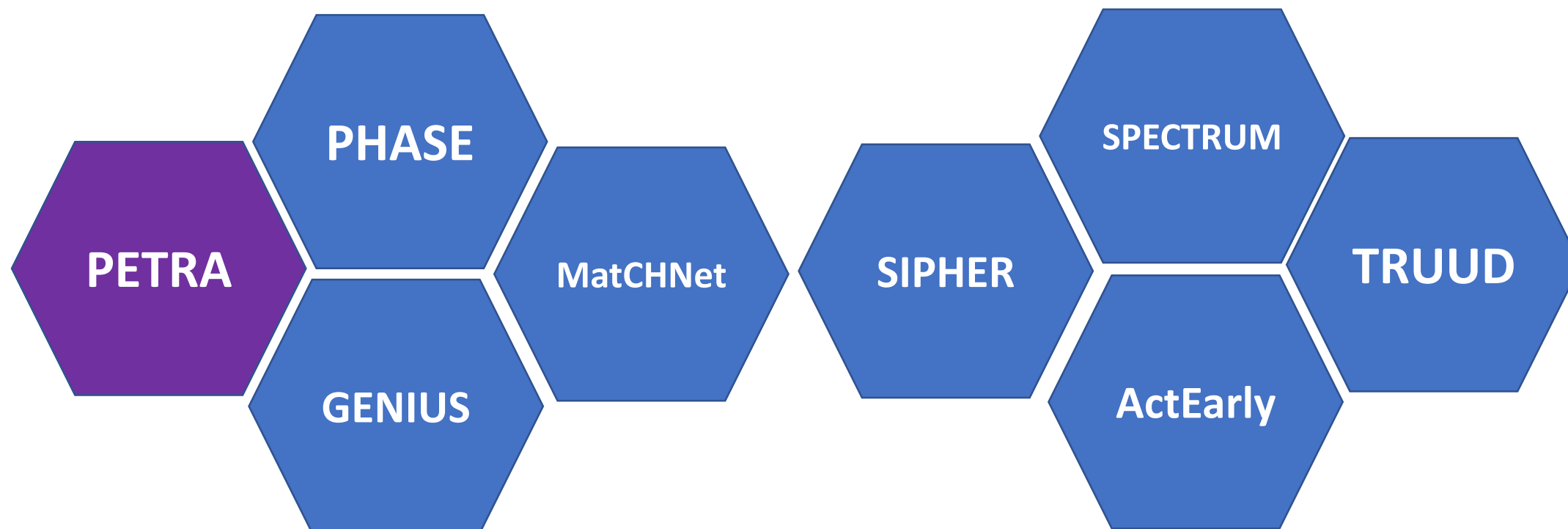
# CHALLENGES

- “You have the wrong department” – neither DIT nor DHSC believe they have a remit to see that trade protects/improves population health
- Journals not set up to publish interdisciplinary research
- COVID - still affecting stakeholder capacity
- System change (Office for Health Improvement & Disparities)
- Funding
- Limited / siloed expertise in the UK

# TOPIC SYNERGIES ACROSS UKPRP



# OPERATIONAL SYNERGIES ACROSS UKPRP



# Join the conversation:

<https://petranetwork.org>

[@petra\\_network](https://twitter.com/petra_network)



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