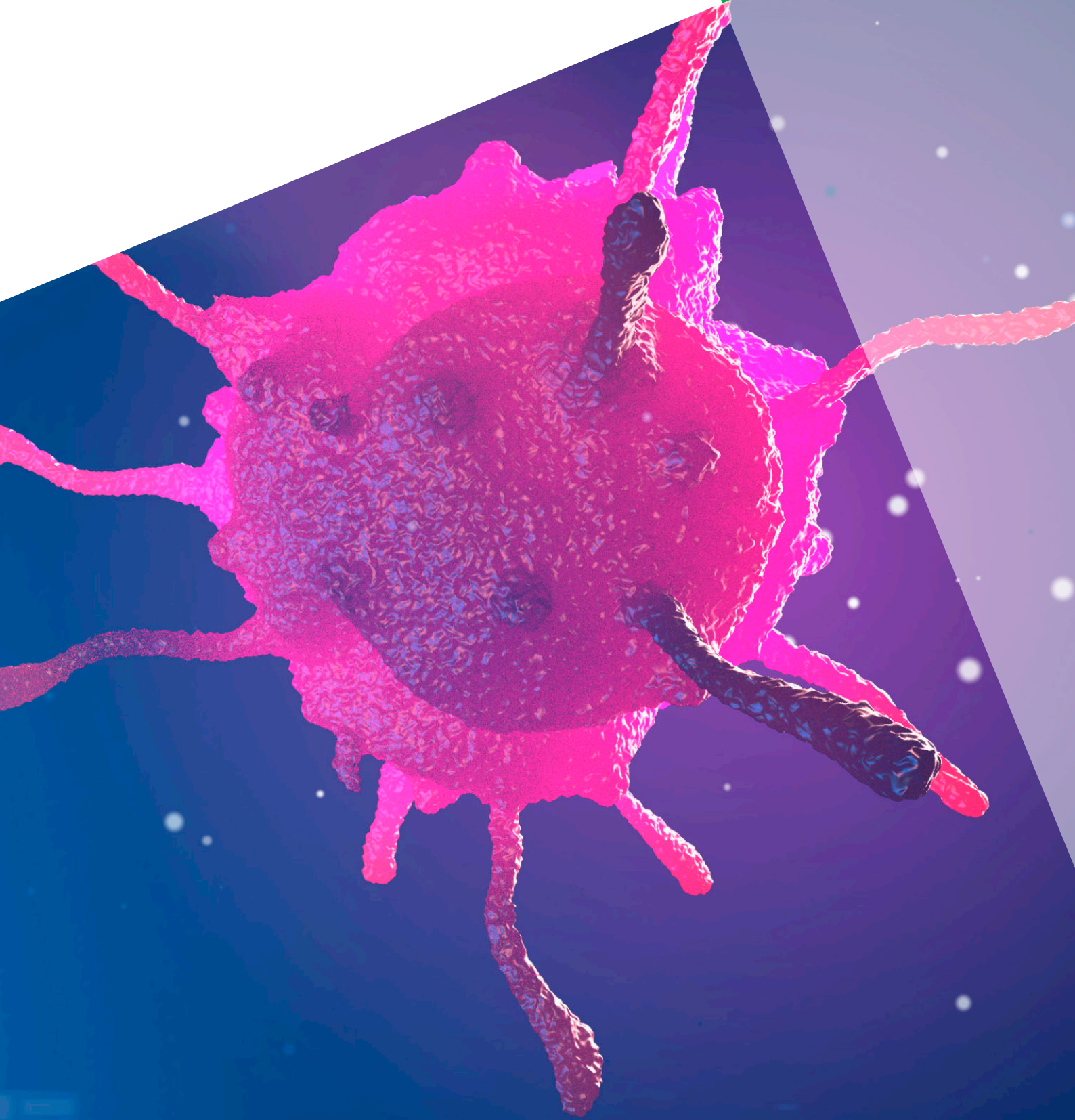




VIRTUS

Data Centres

The Francis Crick Institute



THE FRANCIS CRICK INSTITUTE

The Crick is a landmark partnership between three of the UK's largest funders of biomedical research: the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK and the Wellcome Trust, and three of its leading universities: UCL, Imperial College London and King's College London. This represents an unprecedented joining of forces to tackle major scientific problems and generate solutions to the emerging health challenges of the 21st century.

Business Challenge:

The Crick is being built in central London, where space is at a premium. It was decided, early in the planning process, that most of the Crick's data would need to be stored off-site. However, the institute realised there were major benefits to sharing resources with other institutions, particularly in terms of scientific analysis. As the Crick's plans developed, a number of institutions – both within the original partners and more broadly – had similar requirements and identified the same potential for collaboration in having a colocated shared data centre.

"The Crick has been proud to take a leading role in support of Janet. The Crick helped create the framework for the data centre by bringing together the initial consortium of research-intensive institutes and universities. We worked with Janet and the other consortium members to guide the process to fruition".

"The shared nature and scale of the data centre makes it a unique research capability. It will allow researchers to share large data sets in an unprecedented manner and to address fundamental questions by searching across collections of data that are currently split across distributed locations".

"It represents a new level of collaboration between different research institutes."

David Fergusson,

Head of Scientific Computing at the Francis Crick Institute

The VIRTUS Solution:

Collaboration is at the heart of the Crick's vision. Its work will help to understand why disease develops and to find new ways to diagnose, prevent and treat a range of illnesses – such as cancer, heart disease and stroke, infections and neurodegenerative diseases. The Crick will bring together outstanding scientists from all disciplines, carrying out research that will help improve the health and quality of people's lives, and keeping the UK at the forefront of medical innovation.