

How should we regulate the first-in-human nanoswarm cancer clinical trial?

University of Bristol

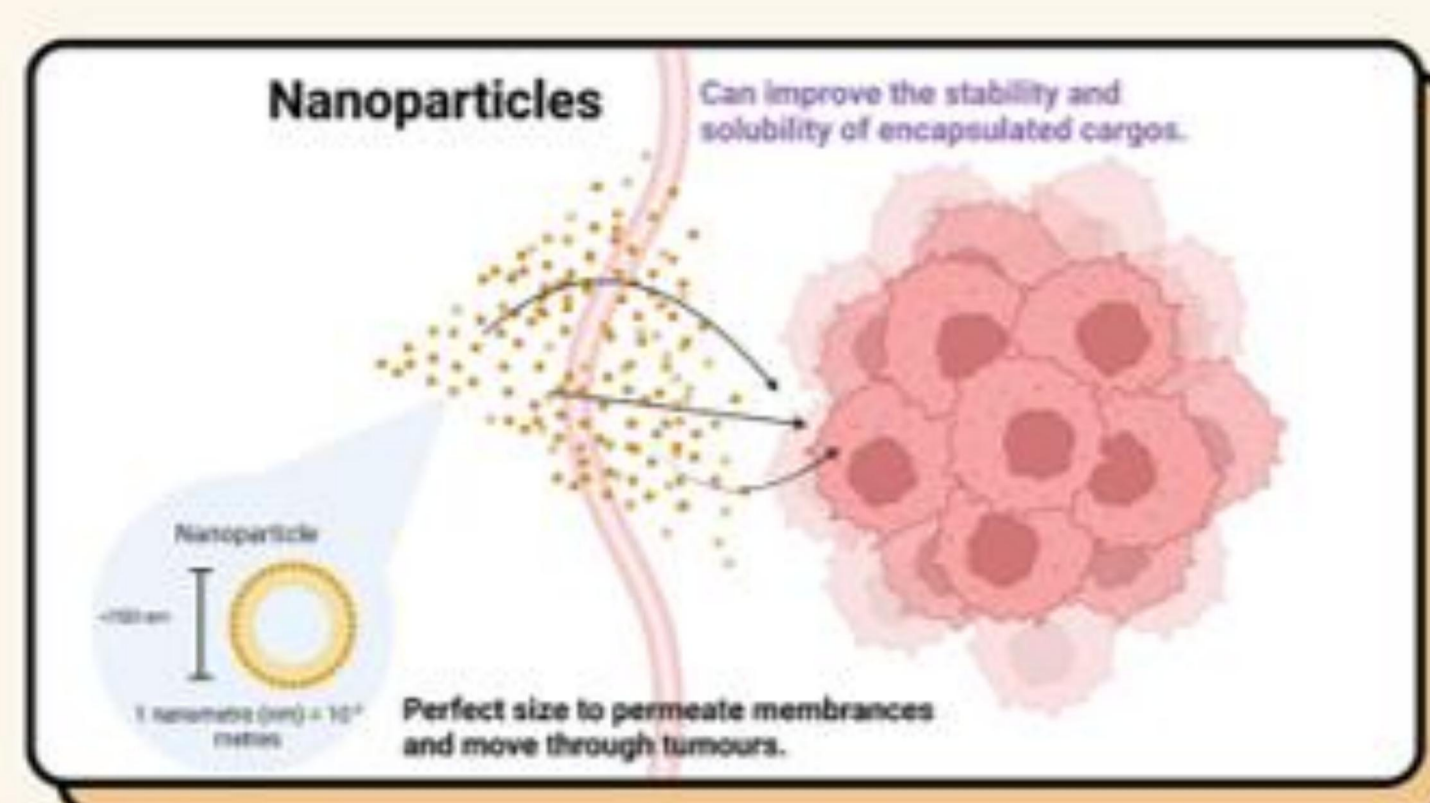
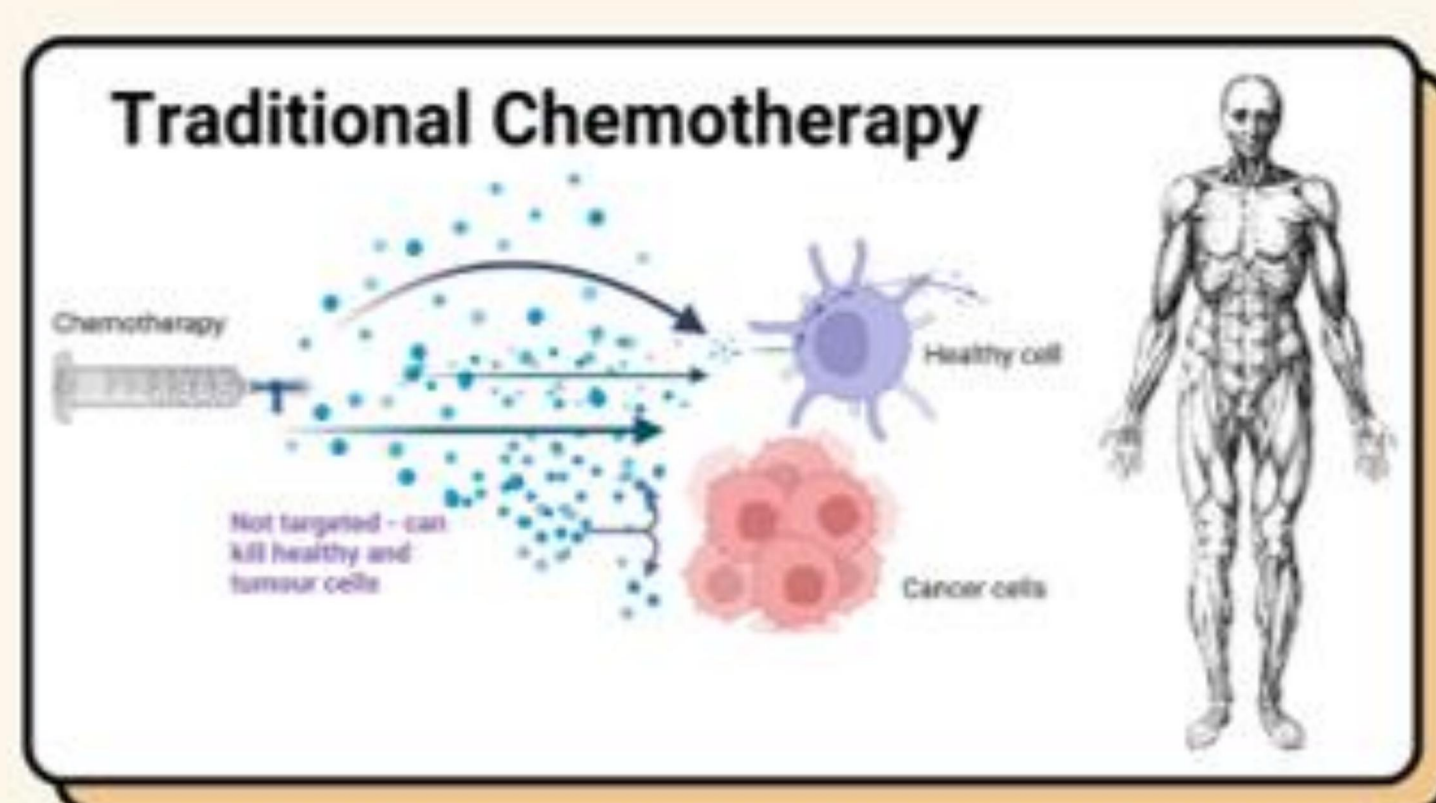
Matimba.Swana@bristol.ac.uk

Matimba Swana, Jonathan Ives & Sabine Hauert

2. Nanoswarms: Targeted Drug Delivery

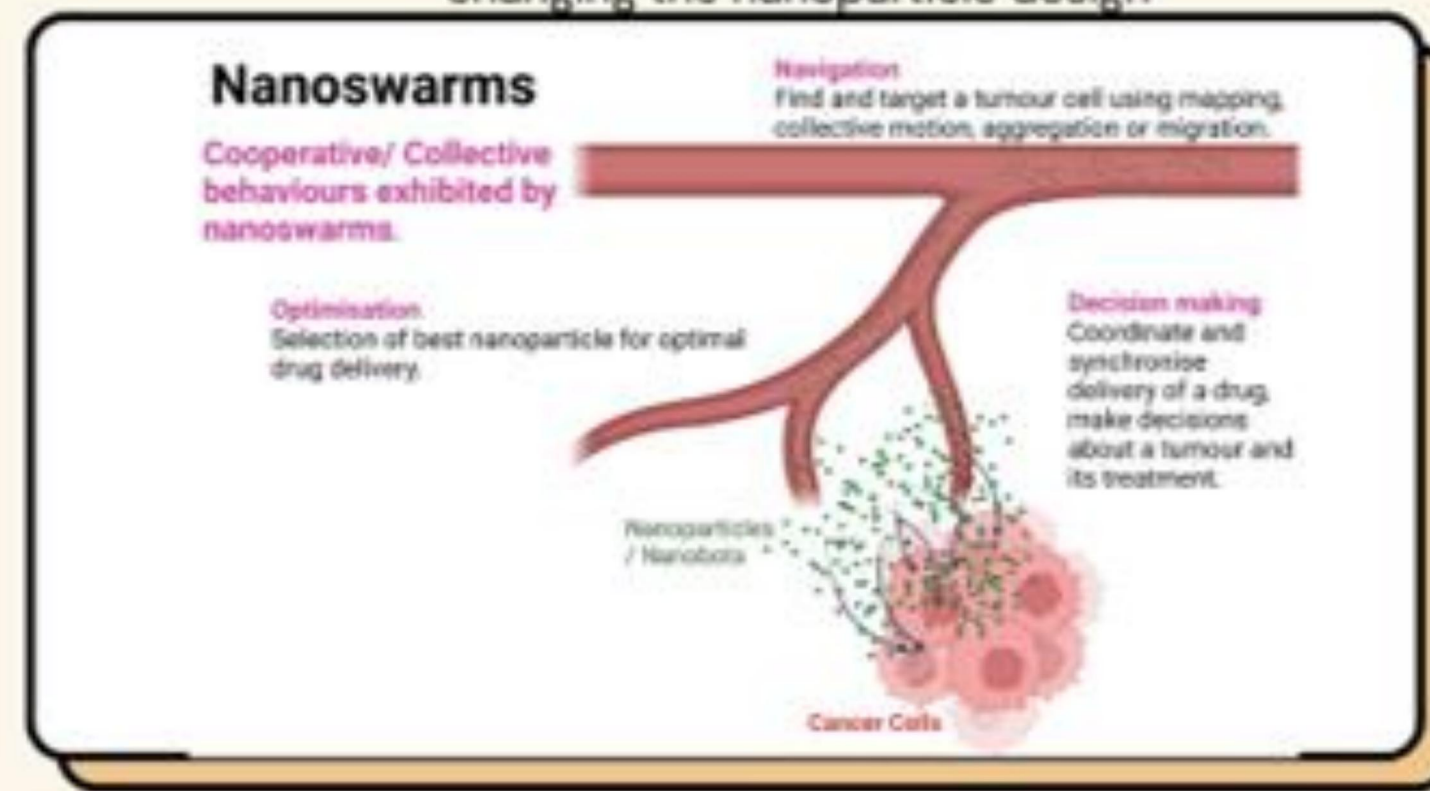
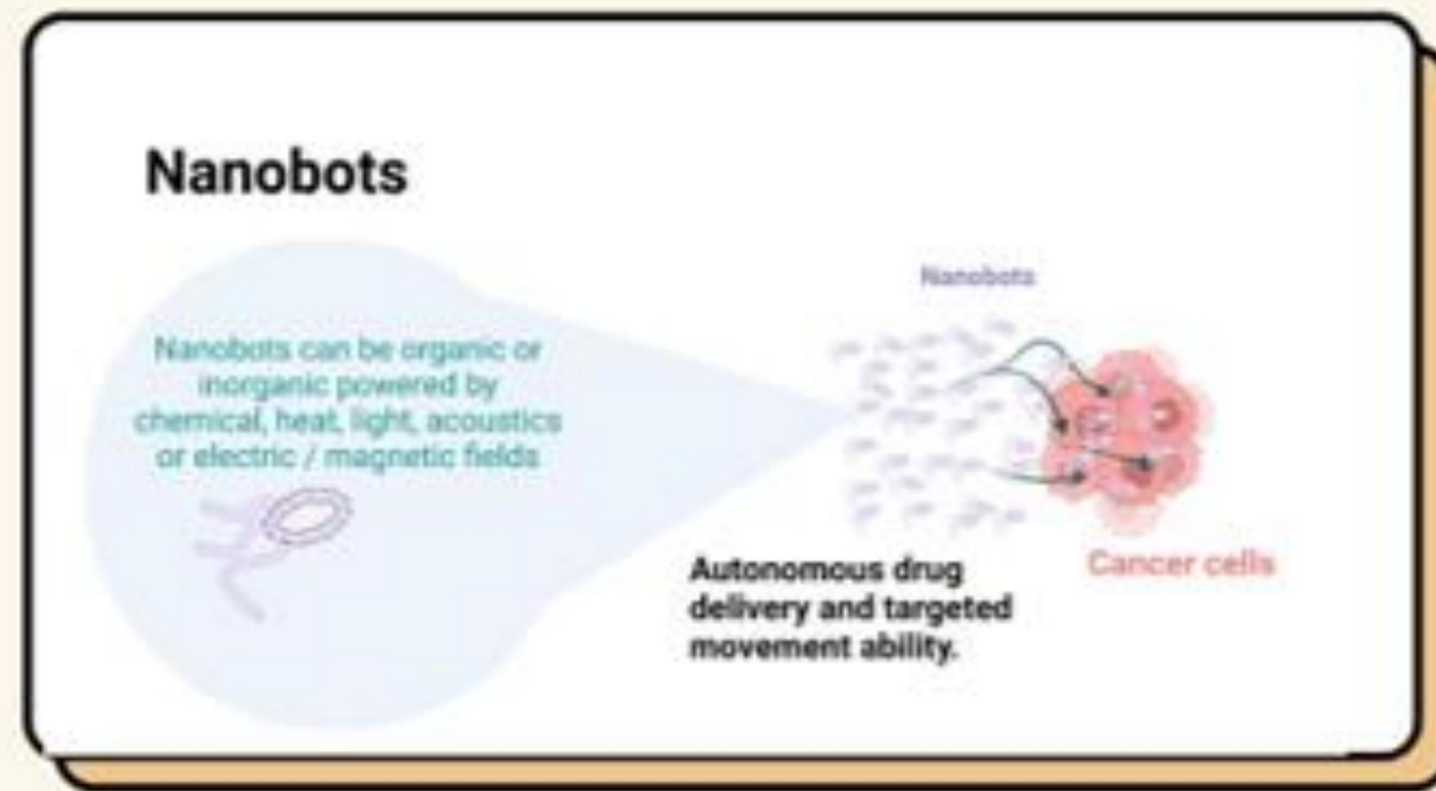
Nanoparticles or Nanobots that work collectively (nanoswarms) to deliver chemotherapy to a tumour, will be powerful against cancer. We reviewed articles, papers, policies and clinical trials with the aim of examining how research is conducted in evolving nanoparticles and to analyze gaps in current policies.

EXAMPLE: Cancer nanomedicine drug delivery



Traditional chemotherapy is a systemic therapy that can cause side-effects as healthy cells are affected alongside cancerous ones.

Nanoparticles can assist the delivery of chemotherapy drugs to a tumour. Changing the design of the nanoparticle (size, material, loading, coating) changes where it goes in the body. Programming nanoparticles is done by changing the nanoparticle design.



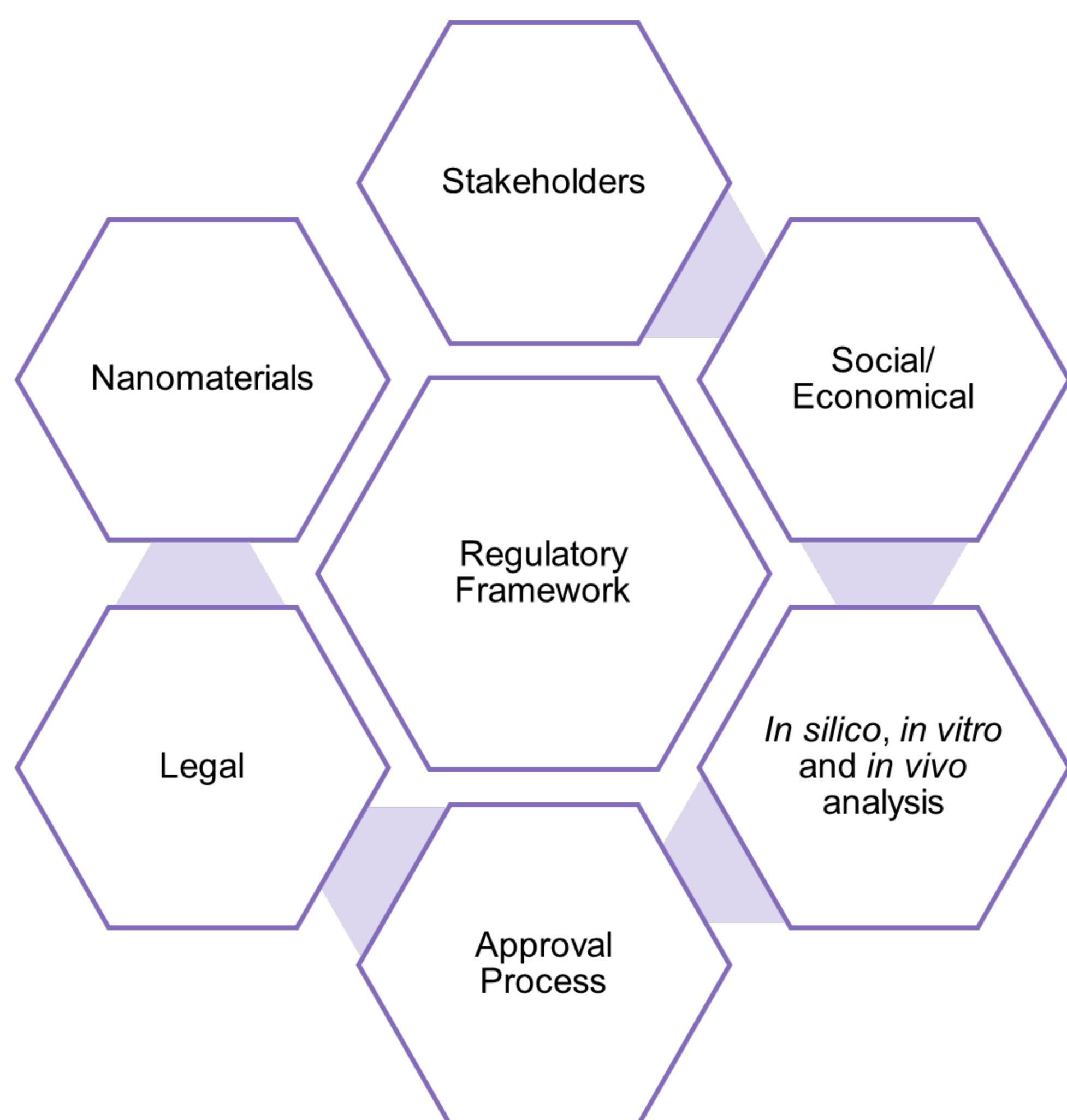
Nanobots are nano-sized entities that can control their motion and interactions with the environments. This allows us to send nanoparticles to the difficult-to-access areas.

Nanoswarms build on large numbers of agents (nanoparticles/nanobots) that interact with each other (e.g. communication) or their environment to achieve a cooperative task (e.g. find and target a tumour, coordinate delivery of a drug, make decisions about a tumour and its treatment, optimise nanoparticle delivery).

SWARM study – Small robots With collective behaviour as AI-driven cancer therapies; building Regulations for future nanoMedicines, <https://tasfunctionality.bristol.ac.uk/swarm-study>

3. First-in-human Nanoswarm clinical trial

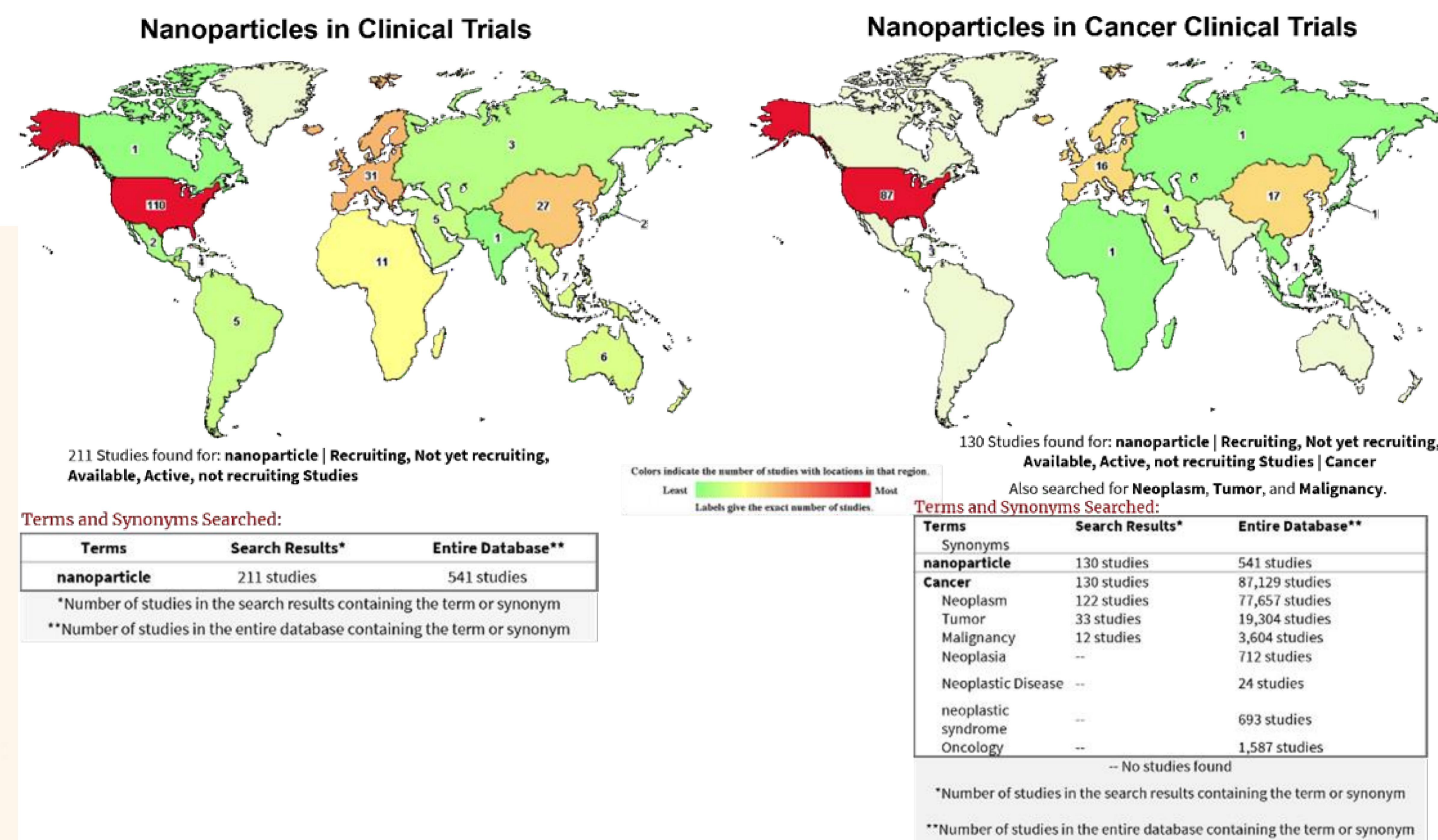
We need to understand what the first-in-human clinical trial of nanoswarms should/will look like, in order to anticipate ethical controversies that may arise, and to mitigate risk. In addition to aid clinical adoption of nanoswarms, a robust, specific and overarching regulatory framework is needed.



Swana, M., Blee, J., Stillman, N., Ives, J., Hauert, S.: Chapter 12. Swarms: The next frontier for cancer nanomedicine. Emergence, Complexity, Computation, Vol. 46, Igor Balaz and Andrew Adamatzky (Eds): CANCER, COMPLEXITY, COMPUTATION (2022). Springer [In press]. 978-3-031-04378-9, 516212_1_En (12)

1. Cancer Nanomedicine

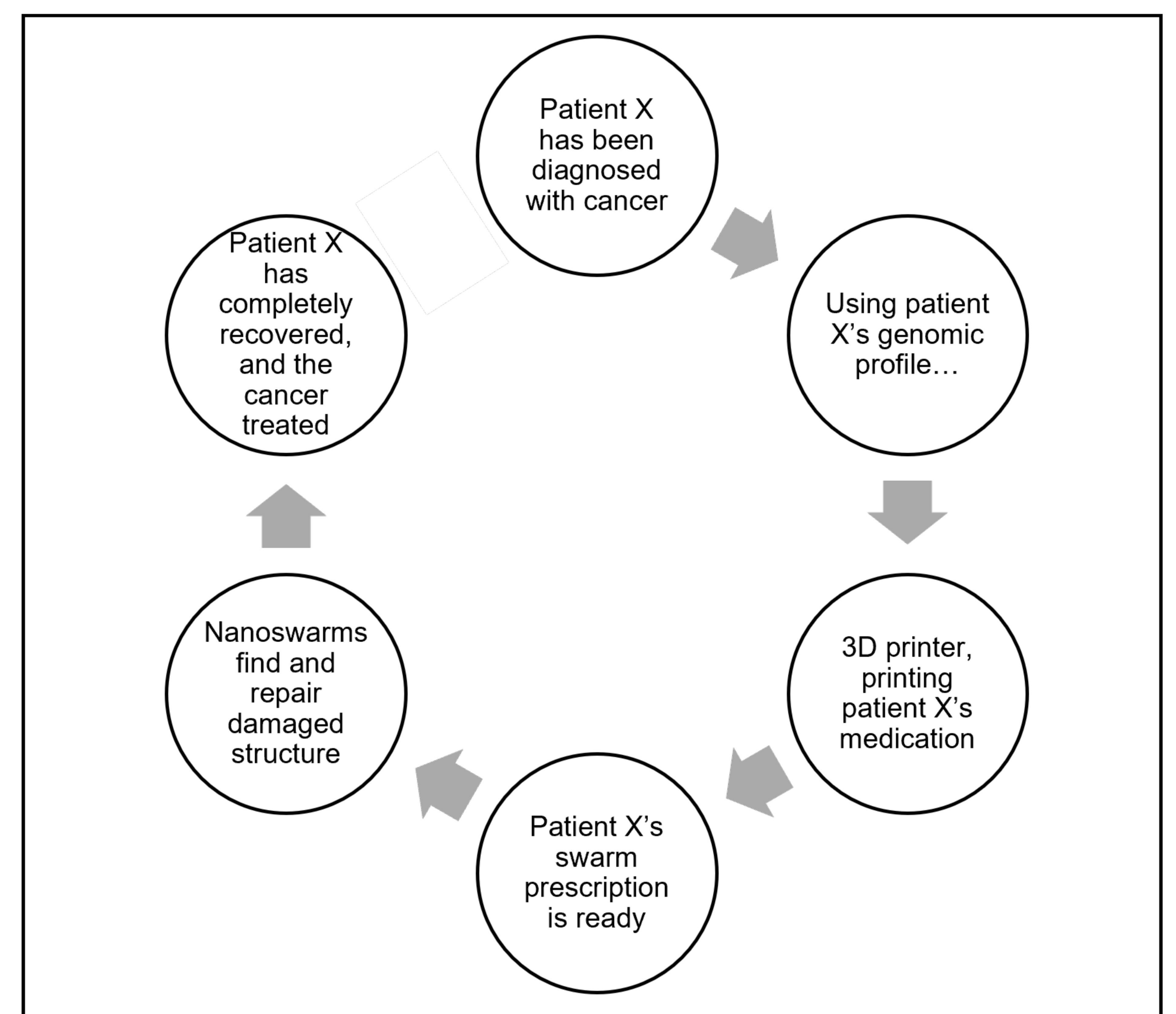
Nanomedicine refers to medical products developed using nanotechnology. Developments in nanomedicine engineering projects that are attempting to target cancer cells without affecting the surrounding tissues are offering promising ways of drug transportation, targeting difficult to reach sites and permeability not offered by traditional drugs such as small molecule. However, the lack of an agreed nanomaterial definition creates issues in generalizability. Even so, there are several nanoparticles approved for clinical use with the majority



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4. Swarm Medicine Prescription

Imagine a world where people no longer die from cancer and, instead, are treated by injecting nanoswarms that have been created using a 3D bioprinter encoded with the person's specific genome. Before this is a reality, we need to embed bioethics in research and policy from the beginning, by developing a framework that does not hinder innovation and ensures the well-being of patients everywhere.



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