Anti-TNF
History of discovering anti-TNF drugs.

Key research projects funded in the 1980s by Versus Arthritis lead to a new class of drugs for inflammatory arthritis, known as biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs), biological therapies, or biologics, specifically anti-TNF drugs.

1980s Discovery
Professors Feldmann, Maini, and Brennan identify protein Tumor Necrosis Factor Alpha (TNF-α) plays a key role in joint inflammation.

1992 Research
Research study shows blocking TNF-α with an antibody (anti-TNF) reduces joint inflammation in mice.

1999 First anti-TNF therapy
The first anti-TNF, infliximab, is approved for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in the UK.

1993 First clinical trial
First clinical trial of anti-TNF therapy in people with rheumatoid arthritis successful.

2000-2010 More anti-TNF therapies
• Four more anti-TNF therapies approved.
• Anti-TNF approved for treatment of several inflammatory conditions including psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

2015-2020 Biosimilars
Biosimilars of several standard anti-TNF therapies come onto the market driving down treatment costs and increasing access.

For more information visit versusarthritis.org