

# Quest for Cures initiative

Funding for collaborative discovery teams with transformational research ideas

## About us

The Brain Tumour Charity is a patient-led organisation in the UK driven by a vision of a world where brain tumours are defeated. We fund pioneering research to increase survival, raise awareness of the symptoms and effects of brain tumours and provide support for everyone affected to improve quality of life.

We are focused on increasing survival and improving quality of life for everyone affected by a brain tumour. We know that brain tumours have a disproportionately high impact on children and young adults compared with other cancers, resulting in high premature mortality and thus brain tumours are the biggest cancer killer of the under 40s. We are also committed to taking every step necessary to improve the quality of life of everyone affected by brain tumours. We will identify ways of modifying patient management and pathways to optimise quality of life. Our *strategic goals* are designed to make a step change in the overall experience of our community and are necessarily and unashamedly ambitious:

- Double survival within 10 years
- Halve the harm that brain tumours have on quality of life within 5 years

As part of this plan we have recently launched '[A Cure Can't Wait](#)': our Research Strategy.

## Purpose and scope

Following on from the launch of '[A Cure Can't Wait](#)', we are establishing Collaborative Discovery Teams.

This scheme has been established to acknowledge the growing importance of international and interdisciplinary team approaches to accelerate the understanding and translation of discoveries and so bring benefits to patients faster. We are seeking innovative approaches to address the critical questions that could present a paradigm shift for brain tumour research or use unexplored paths to allow for new discoveries to be made.

These awards are designed to foster a collaborative research process, strengthen the ties between basic and clinical research and promote transformational brain tumour research advances with the potential for rapid clinical translation. Multidisciplinary teams working in synergy should be formed from the most talented and promising researchers across international institutions to address the issues and utilise technological advances across fields. Teams should be formed of researchers across at least two/three institutions. A researcher may serve as Principal Investigator on only one proposal in this grant round.

## Funding

Funding of up to £1.5million per programme over five years.

This funding should be allocated to cover direct costs for staff, including salaries, consumables, equipment and publication costs. Requests for capital / infrastructure will not be considered since it is expected that this will be available at the Lead Institution as well as all partner organisations.

Grants will be awarded to the Principal Applicant's institution. Funding can be allocated to co-investigator institutions with agreements put in place between all partner institutions.

## Application process

Applications will open on 31 May 2016 and will undergo a two stage approach:

Letter of Intent will be requested until **5 p.m. (London time) on 29 July 2016**. Successful applicants will then be requested to submit a full proposal until 5 p.m. on 31 October 2016.

Applications must be submitted online through our new portal:

<https://proposalcentral.altum.com/>. Please do take the time to get familiar with the site, set up an account and start filling in your CV. This will now be required to be filled in the online portal and not as an attachment.

The Brain Tumour Charity is a member of the [Association of Medical Research Charities](#) (AMRC) and adheres to its principles of peer review. Applications will be awarded through a competitive peer reviewed process (in line with AMRC principles) and then considered by our [Grant Review and Monitoring \(GRAM\) committee](#).

## Eligibility criteria

- All grant applications must focus on the research priorities highlighted in our Research Strategy '[A Cure Can't Wait](#)'.
- This award is open to international researchers, but applications including a UK collaborator will be looked on favourably.



Thirty-year-old Cariss Evans was diagnosed with a grade three oligoastrocytoma growing behind her eye. In June 2014 she had surgery to remove as much of the tumour as possible, before undergoing intensive rounds of radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

Cariss said: "It was such a gruelling process. In the news, they put it down to bad luck, but there's got to be a reason. That's why research is so vital, so we can find out what causes brain cancer and treat it effectively."

- The Principal Applicant must have a contract with the institution covering the duration of the grant. If the Principal Applicant does not hold an academic or research position, the application must include a co-applicant at the Lead Institution that does.
- The team should be comprised of both established and promising researchers from multidisciplinary backgrounds.
- The collaborative team should have the relevant expertise of laboratory and clinical researchers to demonstrate how discoveries will be translated and taken forward to patient benefit.

## Assessment Criteria

- **Innovative and transformative research**  
We are looking for novel approaches with a strong scientific rationale and the clear capacity to revolutionise treatments and/or clinical decision making. As such, we are seeking applications that are looking to develop new approaches or the translation of technologies for the use in the diagnosis or treatment of brain tumours. We encourage applications that adopt a high-risk, high reward approach to addressing the key questions preventing progress in brain tumour research.
- **Collaborative and multidisciplinary emphasis**  
The application should show clear benefits in bringing together a collaborative team and demonstrate a synergy that potentiates the achievement of scientific goals that could not be realised by the individual components of the team. New avenues of research which involve experts currently working outside the brain tumour research field are encouraged.
- **Potential for patient benefit**  
A potential pathway for the research programme to lead to patient benefit must be articulated as well as the anticipated impact of this. Applications with a clear path to clinical application will be strongly favoured.
- **Milestone and goal-driven approach**  
The research programme must have detailed milestones which will be used for monitoring its progress and dictate continuation of support by The Charity.
- **Value for money and communication plans**  
Clear plans and mechanisms for sharing resources and information across the team, including existing resources and platforms must also be demonstrated.

## Key dates

### Further information

5 pm on 29 July 2016	Deadline for receipt of Letter of Intent
18 August 2016	Invitation for submission of full applications
5 pm on 31 October 2016	Deadline for receipt of full applications
January 2017	Grant Review And Monitoring (GRAM) committee meeting
February 2017	Awards announced

- Guidance notes will be made available when application forms are published on our new online portal.
- If you have any query, would like to discuss your application or the new online portal, please do get in touch with us:

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## Further information

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