

New Ideas Awards

Funding for novel concepts and approaches

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 our Research Strategy, '*A Cure Can't Wait*', we are establishing the New Ideas Awards.

This scheme is designed to promote innovative approaches that could fundamentally change our understanding, diagnosis and/or management of brain tumours. The goal of this award is to explore novel concepts that may eventually lead to significant improvements in clinical outcome, including quality of life, for patients with brain tumours.

The New Ideas awards are designed to allow initial exploration of new ideas with the potential to open truly new avenues of investigation. These awards are NOT intended to support the logical progression of already established research programmes. Proposals that are an obvious extension of established research programmes will be administratively triaged. As such, it is unlikely that a significant amount of preliminary data will exist to support the proposal; however, preliminary data can be included to support the scientific rationale. This is particularly true if the preliminary data shows an unexpected result which then forms the basis of the proposal.

Funding

Funding of £100,000 for 12 months can be requested per project. The expectation is that this funding will lead to and support applications for larger scale projects to other national/ international funding organisations.

This funding should be allocated to cover direct costs for staff, including salaries, consumables 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 with a deadline of **5 p.m. (London time), 16 August 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 Profile.

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*'.



Eleven-year-old Silas Pullen died in December 2013 at his family home in Kent, 17 months after he was diagnosed with a high-grade glioma.

Silas's mum, Sarah, said: *"We don't want other parents to hear the same words as we did when Silas was first diagnosed: 'There is nothing we can do - your son will die in 12-18 months.' We want them to be given some hope however small."*

- In order to receive such an award, applicants must succinctly describe the innovative idea/approach and a method for testing it within the one year grant period.
- This award is open to international researchers, but applications including a UK collaborator will be looked on favourably.
- 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.
- Proposals must contain scope for future work should the pilot study prove to be successful.
- Clear explanation of how this could lead to benefits to those affected by brain tumours.

Assessment criteria

- **Relevance to brain tumours**
The Charity is looking for a study that addresses a key, unsolved area in brain tumour research and leads to a shift in the concepts or methods that drive the field.
- **Novelty of approach**
The project must employ novel concepts, approaches or methods with original and innovative aims. The project must have an exploratory nature that gives scope for the use of bold or innovative methodologies. It can have a broad range of possible activities; from pilot and scoping studies, to preliminary data gathering and proof-of-principle studies.
- **Expertise of applicants**
The applicants must be appropriately trained and well suited to carry out the planned studies. It is not essential for the principal investigator to have experience in brain tumour research; however there must be suitable collaborative arrangements with experts in this area.
- **Feasibility of project**
The scientific rationale must logically support the proposed study. The proposal must also expect meaningful results to support or reject the original hypothesis within a one year time frame. The applicant must acknowledge potential problems and consider alternative tactics.
- **Potential impact on the field**
The project must challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies and have the potential for further investigation.

Key dates

5 pm (London time), 16 August 2016	Deadline for receipt of full applications
November 2016	Grant Review And Monitoring (GRAM) committee meeting
December 2016	Awards announced

Further information

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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