

Clinical Biomarkers Grants

Funding to identify and implement molecular testing for those affected by brain tumours

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 launched *A Cure Can't Wait*: our Research Strategy.

Purpose and scope

As part of our Charity Strategy, *Defeating Brain Tumours*, we are setting up a scheme to ensure each patient benefits from an early and accurate diagnosis.

This funding scheme has been established to provide grants for the discovery of clinical biomarkers which may bring us closer to an earlier and more accurate diagnosis of brain tumours. The scheme also supports the validation of markers and their implementation into routine clinical use in the UK. Studies may make use of the samples and infrastructure brought about by funded clinical trials, to go beyond the primary and secondary endpoints and generate new knowledge around clinical biomarkers.

Funding

Guide costs: up to £100,000 per year for up to five years.

This funding should be primarily allocated to cover direct costs of consumables, and additional FTE costs where appropriate justification is made. 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

There is no deadline for this call and proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Applications must be submitted online through our portal:

<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>. Please take the time to get familiar with the site 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. All applications will be considered by our Biomedical Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Please visit our website to find out more about the members of our SABs:

<http://bit.ly/scientificadvisors>

Eligibility criteria

- All grant applications must address the issue of earlier and accurate diagnosis, as highlighted in our Research Strategy *A Cure Can't Wait* and The Charity Strategy *Defeating Brain Tumours*.
- This award is open to international researchers, but all proposals must demonstrate how they can benefit patients in the UK health system.
- All applications MUST include a clinical AND a scientific lead.
- It will be looked on favourably if this proposal makes use of the infrastructure and/or samples already in use for a funded trial.
- If proposals are submitted in the context of an already funded clinical trial then this funding should be from an agency which uses peer reviewing methods in its grant assessment (e.g. Cancer Research UK).
- Similarly, if proposals are submitted in the context of an already funded clinical trial, the funding obtained from us may not be used for the purposes of achieving the

primary or secondary endpoints of the trial, as this should be covered by the initial funding. Funding is intended to allow the production of new insights (e.g. identification of new biomarkers or further stratification of the trial population), which will lead to early and accurate diagnosis.

- All applications must have input from those affected by brain tumours as early as possible, preferably during scoping of the project.

Assessment criteria

- **Methodology**
Projects must have a sound approach and methodology in order to address the questions raised.
- **Statistical validity**
Projects must be statistically powered so results are significant and meaningful.
- **Expertise of Applicants**
The applicants must be appropriately trained and well suited to carry out the planned studies.
- **Potential for patient benefit**
Projects must articulate a clear pathway leading to patient benefit as well as the anticipated impact and likelihood of achieving an early and accurate diagnosis. Applications with a clear path to clinical or practical application will be strongly favoured. In addition, applications need to demonstrate how their findings will be taken up and funded by the NHS following The Charity's investment.
- **Value for money**
Projects must demonstrate that the funds requested are essential for the work and how these represent value for money.

Key dates

The call will be open for applications throughout the year and decisions will be made at already existing SAB meetings. At the time of proposal, applicants will be told when their SAB assessment will take place.

Further information

- Guidance notes are available on our website.
- All applications shall have input from those affected by brain tumours as early as possible. To facilitate this you may choose to engage The Charity's Research Involvement Network (RIN), a virtual network of people who either have a brain tumour themselves or care for someone who does. Information on contacting the RIN can be found at thebraintumourcharity.org/PPI
- If you have any queries or would like to discuss your application, please do get in touch with us:

E-mail: research@thebraintumourcharity.org

Phone: +44 (0) 1252 418190
