Quality of Life project grants

Funding to understand and minimise the impact brain tumours have on those affected

About us

The Brain Tumour Charity is a patient-led organisation based 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

Following on from the launch of our Research Strategy, *'A Cure Can't Wait'*, we have undertaken surveys to identify the key quality of life issues according to people living with a brain tumour. The results from these studies, which are the most comprehensive studies of their kind, are outlined in our reports. The report *'Losing Myself: The Reality of Life with a Brain Tumour'* focuses on adult issues, while the report *'Losing My Place: The Reality of Childhood with a Brain Tumour'* focuses on paediatric and young adult issues.

These reports highlight the issues that have the biggest impact on those affected. These areas include fatigue and/or pain control at home, physical symptoms, emotional wellbeing and social isolation.

This funding scheme has been established to address these issues and improve the quality of life of those diagnosed with a brain tumour. Applications must have a direct and measurable benefit to quality of life and projects must focus on measuring and minimizing the impact that brain tumours have on people's lives.

We are seeking applications that increase our understanding of quality of life issues and could lead to a reduction in the burden of these issues. The project can focus on any part of the patient pathway from diagnosis to remission and survivorship, or end of life care as long as they address at least one of the issues highlighted in the above mentioned reports.

Applications could include but is not limited to:

- Symptom management
- Treatment side effects
- Cognitive impairments
- Emotional and mental health
- Survivorship issues
- Communication and social isolation
- Relationships

Funding

Funding of up to £300,000 per project for up to three years.

This funding should be allocated to cover direct costs for staff (excluding Principal Applicant and PhD students), 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 must be submitted online through our 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 Quality of Life Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

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Eligibility criteria

- All grant applications must focus on the research priorities highlighted in our Research Strategy *'A Cure Can't Wait'*.
- For projects focused on adult brain tumours, the application must address at least one of the areas highlighted in the *'Losing Myself: The Reality of Life with a Brain Tumour'* report.
- For projects focused on paediatric brain tumours, the application must address at least one of the areas highlighted in the *'Losing My Place: The Reality of Childhood with a Brain Tumour'* report.
- The Principal Applicant does not need to be based in the UK but the research has to be relevant to the UK landscape.
- The Principal Applicant must have a contract with the institution covering the duration of the grant.
- All applications shall have input from those affected by brain tumours as early as possible, preferably during scoping of the project.

Assessment Criteria

- **Relevance to funding call**
  Projects must address the patient-prioritised quality of life issues outlined in our reports.
- **Methodology**
  Projects must have a sound approach and methodology in order to address the questions raised.
- **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.
- **Potential for patient benefit**
  Projects must articulate a clear pathway to lead to patient benefit as well as the anticipated impact and likelihood of this. Applications with a clear path to clinical or practical application will be strongly favoured.
- **Value for money**
  Projects must demonstrate that the funds requested are essential for the work and how these represent value for money.

Key dates

5 p.m. on 1 September 2017	Deadline for receipt of full applications
TBC	SAB committee meeting
TBC	Awards announced

Further Information

- Guidance notes will be made available on our website
- All applications shall have input from those affected by brain tumours as early as possible. To facilitate this you should 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:
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  Phone: +44 (0) 1252 418190