

Expanding Theories

Funding to build confidence in novel concepts and approaches

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 launched '[A Cure Can't Wait](#)': our Research Strategy.

Purpose and scope

As part of our Research Strategy, **A Cure Can't Wait**, we are establishing the Expanding Theories 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 develop novel concepts that may eventually lead to significant improvements in clinical outcome, including quality of life, for patients with brain tumours.

The Expanding Theories awards are designed to allow exploration of theories with the potential to open new avenues of investigation. Projects funded through this scheme should be pilot awards. It is intended that this scheme will allow the generation of sufficient data to support a future grant application to a funder and build up confidence in the concept developed.

Funding

Funding of up to £120,000 over a 24-month period 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 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. Applications will be awarded through a competitive peer reviewed process (in line with AMRC principles) and then considered by our Scientific Advisory Boards (SABs).

Please visit our website to find out more about the members of our SABs: <http://bit.ly/scientificadvisors>

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.
- The Principal Applicant must have a contract with the institution covering the duration of the grant.
- Proposals must contain scope for future work should the pilot study prove to be successful.

- All applications shall have input from those affected by brain tumours as early as possible, preferably during scoping of the project.
- 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.
- **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 the two year time frame.
- **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

Further information

Round A	
5 p.m. (London time), 1 September 2017	Deadline for receipt of applications
TBC	SAB committee meeting
TBC	Awards announced

- 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