

An update on the 2013 funding round

Many of you will have applied to our new funding round for 2013. Yorkshire Cancer Research received 106 applications at the April 15th 2013 deadline and outcomes will be emailed to applicants by the end of June 2013. Successful applicants from this preliminary phase will be invited to make a full application. The deadline for full applications is likely to be six weeks from notification of the outcome. Correspondence will be by email so please check your inbox regularly. Updates are posted on our website on the [Apply for an Award](#) page.

Feedback on applications

Applications to the new funding round are now undergoing the strategic fit test which assesses applications against the charity's research strategy. The strategic fit test is performed by members of the stakeholder cohort of our Research Advisory Panel. We already have some feedback on the lay abstracts and patient benefit statements contained within the many preliminary applications that we received which we would like to share with applicants. The Preliminary Application form states, in connection with the lay abstract:

Abstract in language understandable by the general public. It is vitally important to describe the work you plan to do in clear language which our stakeholders will find informative.

The lay members come from many and varied backgrounds. All have a strong cancer connection, and are highly motivated to help us with this part of the process, but they are not scientists or researchers. They are members of the general public. It is important that the people who give their time freely to perform this part of the process are helped to understand the actual or potential benefits of the work proposed in preliminary applications. The language used in these parts of the preliminary application could be **vital** to its chance of passing the strategic fit test and moving to the full application phase. These summaries should be written at the level of a science feature in a broadsheet newspaper. Minimal use of jargon, technical terms and acronyms is important; where this is unavoidable, please provide explanations. Please help us to help the people who give their time freely to review your applications.

Disclosure process

First, a big thank you to everyone who submitted data to the dedicated review email address of disclosure@ycr.org.uk in the run up to our Annual Scientific Meeting. This year we reviewed over 80 draft abstracts, posters and talks in a short space of time and many of you heard back from us in a matter of hours, rather than days. There is an important balancing act between bringing data into the public domain and the potential need to protect some data from premature disclosure in order to deliver patient benefit.

By law, the charity has public benefit obligations and, as our research strategy makes clear, we have a mandate to support research work which (amongst other things):

- **saves lives or improves the quality of life through earlier diagnosis, prevention or better treatment of cancer;**
- **offers a clear and demonstrable path to positive clinical outcomes;**
- **is beneficial to the people of Yorkshire in particular.**

Taken together, those aspects of our research strategy make it essential that we understand the potential benefit to cancer patients in everything we fund, and Yorkshire cancer patients in particular. We regard that as a key obligation to our donors. Our donors understand the inherent value in progressing research work and publishing their findings, but they are giving their money to this charity to seek earlier diagnosis, prevention or better treatments for cancer.

In order to further streamline the process, we will be asking you for additional help when you email us with data or other material that you propose to disclose. This will include:

- 1. The YCR Award number/reference to which the data relates. A number of you are already doing this unprompted. Thank you.**
- 2. Where the data you are submitting is similar or related to an earlier disclosure you have made, please supply the earlier disclosure reference (OXXXD) and also indicate how the new disclosure differs from the previous disclosure.**
- 3. If data has been previously disclosed, whether by formal publication (abstract, poster, talk or article) or more informal method (lab talk, internal seminar), please let us know that when you send the disclosure to us. And if the disclosure was, for instance, at a previous YCR ASM, please supply the earlier YCR disclosure reference.**

Thanks again for working with the charity on the disclosure process. As a result of our first full year of operation, several patents have already been filed, protecting these discoveries and allowing researchers and clinicians to develop further the therapies and diagnostic tests of the future.

To all Leeds-based YCR-funded researchers

Following discussions between Yorkshire Cancer Research and the University of Leeds, and with immediate effect, please will all Leeds-based Yorkshire Cancer Research-funded researchers copy any data that they submit to disclosure@ycr.org.uk under condition 6.1 of the charity's Conditions of Award to the Stratified Medicines Hub at innovationstratmed@leeds.ac.uk.

Annual Scientific Meeting

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Yorkshire Cancer Research Annual Scientific meeting on 26th June in Harrogate. The agenda and the programme will be live on our [website](#) in the next few days.

Clangers

If you have been selling Yorkshire Cancer Research Clangers please let us know how you are getting on. Please contact Rachel by emailing rachel@ycr.org.uk to arrange collection of the donations or to request more. If you have boxes with unsold Clangers to return, please bring them along to the Annual Scientific Meeting in Harrogate on 26th June or contact Rachel to arrange collection. We hope to collect all donations and unsold Clangers by the end of June.



Micro-array offer to UK Scientists

The Association of Medical Research Charities has been approached by a company that provides a technology that couples the discovery of candidate biomarkers to the identification of probes that can be used in validation. Avacta Life Sciences has developed a new discovery platform based on microarrays, that pinpoint differential expression between patient and control samples. In this way, they can assay arrays of tens of thousands of 'affimers' (novel, non-antibody protein recognition elements) on a single microscope slide. Avacta are looking to work with research groups who, in applying these new discovery microarrays to their own projects, will accelerate the validation of this new platform. Avacta will support a limited number of projects by providing microarrays free of charge in return for the ability to use the data produced to further develop the platform and make it available to all. They would like to explore working with one or more medical research charities, who would provide grants to cover the costs of arrays and other lab consumables, using their usual peer-reviewed competitions. They estimate that each group will need £50,000 in funding from a charity to support 6 months' work, and will be providing in-kind support at the same level.

For further information, please contact Paul Ko Ferrigno, Head, Discovery Technology, Avacta Life Sciences by emailing paul.koferrigno@avacta.com or call 07810 545588.

Do you need breast cancer tissue for your research?

The Breast Cancer Campaign Tissue Bank (BCCTB) can probably help.

The BCCTB is a collaboration between Breast Cancer Campaign, a leading breast cancer charity, and five leading UK centres (Barts Cancer Institute, the Universities of Dundee, Leeds, Nottingham and Sheffield). BCCTB is a unique resource of biological materials and supportive clinical data, efficiently and ethically collected from patients with breast cancer, to provide researchers with high quality, relevant materials.

A wide range of biological materials are banked, including fresh frozen tumour and surround material, isolated purified cell populations which can be provided for culture or DNA/RNA/protein extraction, whole blood and serum samples, as well as formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded material and tissue microarrays. Researchers using the tissue do not need separate ethics approval, as the BCCTB has been approved by the NRES as a research tissue bank which ethically collects and shares the samples it holds.

BCCTB has a centralised IT system allowing efficient tracking of samples and recording of raw data from studies, and providing a user-friendly web-based search portal to view and request material available. In addition, a purpose-built bioinformatics platform allows mining of breast cancer literature data from multiple sources and integrating different types of -omics and clinical data alongside publically relevant annotations from a growing number of biological resources. Together this allows highly efficient and co-ordinated use of samples, reducing duplication of effort and facilitating data mining and analysis.

The BCCTB provides advice and support from both clinical and non-clinical researchers and pathologists to work out the most appropriate tissue for your research.

We accept applications from researchers based in the UK and Ireland. To find out more please see the [BCCTB website](#) or contact Dr Kay Julier at Breast Cancer Campaign by emailing kjulier@breastcancercampaign.org or calling 0207 749 0878.

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