



CHARITY STATEMENT – CHANGES TO OUR RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME

The Bone Cancer Research Trust is currently monitoring developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its' impact on UK clinical and academic research. This situation is rapidly changing, and we will endeavour to keep information on our website as up-to-date as possible.

Recent developments have made it increasingly difficult for both clinical and academic research to take place. Our priority remains to ensure the safety of the primary bone cancer community during this period.

This pandemic has and will continue to have a major financial impact on the Bone Cancer Research Trust, and, as a smaller charity, we must act sensibly to ensure the financial security of the charity. We will offer flexibility to all grant-holders and are committed to working with individual PIs throughout this period of uncertainty. Therefore, we have made the following decisions:

Open or recently closed funding calls

All applications submitted to the current or recently closed funding calls will be considered as agreed, with the hope of these being discussed in July and awarded by the end of the year. This is a rapidly changing situation and, while we will endeavour to award grants according to this timeline, this may change as the situation develops.

Our Research Team will contact all applicants to advise on timelines.

Ongoing Bone Cancer Research Trust funded projects

At this moment, both clinical and academic research is slowing down or has stopped across UK universities and hospitals.

If your project can no longer proceed due to the closure of a university or clinical laboratory, we will look to minimise the impact wherever possible. We will offer increased flexibility across our grants to enable you to manage your award.

For grants awarded recently and that have not commenced, grant-holders are asked to delay the start date by up to 6 months, which may be extended should the situation have a prolonged impact.

Our Research Team will contact all grant-holders to discuss the most practical way forwards with your project. As a standard, the following support will be offered:

- A no-cost extension will be awarded for the duration of the disruption. To request a no-cost extension, please contact our Research Team at research@bcr.org.uk
- For grants that include the salary of a post-doctoral researcher or technician we would ask that:
 - The institution covers the salary of the research staff
 - If the member of staff is seconded to the NHS to support the response to COVID-19, we would expect the salary to be paid by the NHS

Bone Cancer Research Trust sample collection / Infrastructure Grants

Our Research Team will contact individual grant holders and institutions to seek the optimal way to proceed. The Bone Cancer Research Trust supports the secondment of clinically trained staff within the NHS. In circumstances where these staff are needed to respond to COVID-19, the Bone Cancer Research Trust would expect the NHS to pay the salaries for those required during this period.

Bone Cancer Research Trust