

More
Research
Less
Cancer



Translation and innovation

Priority summary
2024

More innovation, more impact

Why we're here

The most crucial connection in cancer research? The one between theory and practice.

Each discovery, each published paper, each laboratory innovation and each new question answered is only as important as the life-saving and life-changing tests and treatments it generates.

But these tests and treatments don't happen on their own. That's why we work across the full spectrum of research – from the earliest stages of discovery to implementing new tests and treatments in the clinic.

And it's working. Our research has played a role in around half of the world's essential cancer drugs. And in England, 3 in 4 people who receive cancer treatment on the NHS receive a drug that we helped develop. That means more people in the UK are surviving their cancer than ever before.

We're an organisation where innovative research matters and translation makes it matter even more.

We champion interventions, such as radiotherapy, which can benefit everyone affected by cancer.

We mobilise the research community around hard-to-reach solutions.

We're rooted in the discovery science that starts it all and dedicated to translating those discoveries into tests and treatments that can save and improve lives.



By fusing our commercial insight with our charitable status, we can look at the market through a different lens. Put plainly, we don't judge a new idea or drug discovery on how much money it will make us, but on how many lives it can benefit.

Because purely commercial incentives don't work for the family whose father has a rare brain tumour. Or the parents whose child has a cancer deemed too niche. On paper, these only affect small numbers of people. But to us, they are no less important. At some point, that could be our father or our child. At some point, nearly 1 in 2 of us will be affected by some form of cancer. We all have skin in this game.

By bringing together organisations, businesses and global experts, we can nurture innovative ideas, overcome barriers to progress and accelerate interventions that benefit patients.

We have ambitions to use our global network and influence to channel more investment into more innovation and translate it into more impact, so we can bring about a world where everybody lives longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer.

But we need your help to make it happen.

And that's where your support will make a lasting impact.



Why now?

The discovery science happening across our institutes and global teams has always set us apart.

Now we have the opportunity to go even further. We've reached the point where world-class talent meets potentially world-changing technology. And we've identified where we can make the biggest difference: plugging gaps in the translation journey and intervening where others can't to make sure that world-leading ideas survive the journey from the lab to the clinic.

We must grasp these huge and often home-grown opportunities and take them forward for the sake of the millions of people worldwide whose lives could be transformed.

There are already huge numbers of treatments for cancers that affect millions of people. But we urgently need new tests and treatments for children and young people with cancer, and other areas where needs aren't being met, such as rare cancers.

We need new tests to better spot cancers that have barely begun. And we need to get all these innovations across the gap to the point where they become commercially viable.

Your support will help build and strengthen the bridge.

What we've already done

Our innovation engine, Cancer Research Horizons, has already accelerated drug discovery, clinical innovation and cutting-edge technologies across a huge range of projects.

We've formed more than 65 start-up companies, brought 11 new cancer drugs to market and steered 170 new drugs into early-phase trials. Our drugs help cancer patients of all ages, and our tests help diagnose cancers earlier and earlier. We've generated spin-outs and start-ups that have attracted £3bn in investment. And our intellectual property has allowed us to reinvest an additional £300m back into our science.

Alongside this, our innovation team has now grown to more than 200 people, who are all focused on identifying and validating new drug targets. That's the equivalent of a medium-sized

biotech start-up. It also makes us the biggest non-commercial drug discovery organisation in the world to focus solely on cancer.

By building links with investors and venture capital, and by de-risking projects for our partners and the pharmaceutical industry, we've built a powerful machine that can do what others can't. And on a scale that few can match.

Alongside this, our collaborative approach is galvanising the global research community to translate innovations to people with cancer faster. For example, our early detection team is encouraging world-leading universities to work as one to accelerate progress in the early detection and diagnosis of cancer. And our national clinical trials network works tirelessly to maximise impact for people with cancer.

What your support will help us do next

With more philanthropic support, we can identify more gaps that are preventing good ideas from benefiting people affected by cancer. Then we can search for the solutions that the commercial sector can't, or won't, pursue.

But transformative ambition requires transformative investment.

Your support will bridge the gap between research and development on one side, and commercialisation on the other. This means that rather than getting stuck in between, more ideas will become more commercially viable and attract the investment they need to become real, tangible products that benefit millions of people daily.

Your support will help make the case for a more entrepreneurial mindset among researchers – because a business-focused mindset creates more commercially viable inventions. That in turn creates a stronger pipeline for ideas to become reality, which helps more of the people who need it most.

Imagine a worldwide consortium of like-minded partners determined to wipe the human papillomavirus – and the cancers it creates – off the planet.

Or a new generation of early detection devices that could place affordable diagnostic care onto kitchen and bedside tables.

Or a step-change in existing technologies such as radiotherapy, which are in use every second of every day, but lacking the investment needed to improve.

Or a system that could take datasets from the NHS, genomic records and GP surgeries and merge them with environmental and social factors to create the world's first data-driven early detection network?

Or a seed fund to get more great ideas and innovation off the shelf, funded and supported.



With your support, every 'or' becomes an 'and'. With more translation and innovation, we can bridge the gap between cancer research and cancer interventions – making every cancer treatable and beatable.