

Tenovus Cancer Care Research Impact Guidance

Introduction

Here at Tenovus Cancer Care, it is vital that the research we fund has the maximum potential to make a real and tangible impact. In order to achieve this, it is important that a clear, well thought out plan is devised and implemented to run alongside the lifespan of the grant and beyond. By doing this, we can be confident that the research is in the best possible place to make a difference for those affected by cancer whilst also improving the quality of the research.

The following is a guide to help understand what is expected of researchers when applying for research funding from us as well as requirements during the carrying out of the project:

What is impact?

To be clear, essentially by impact we mean 'making a difference' to a situation.

More specifically for the purpose of a Tenovus Cancer Care Research Grant, it is making a positive difference to those affected by cancer that would benefit through activity directly or indirectly associated with the research outcomes.

Things to consider:

Whilst it is obviously important that research achieves its aims and objectives in order to progress knowledge, understanding and innovation, it is also equally vital that any impact identified is disseminated. As a charity and funder of research, it is imperative we publicise to our supporters, donors and the wider public that impact is achieved in order to show how money spent has maximised progress and change for those affected by cancer. This offers hope and encouragement and, potentially, motivates more funding for future research.

There are different ways we can consider impact; all make an important contribution:

Direct outcomes where impact is a direct result of the research i.e. the project had set out to test a change in a set of circumstances and has results for this. For example, a piece of research might lead to an improvement in treatment options for a patient.

Indirect outcomes where impact is derived from activity that was necessary for the completion of the research but was not necessarily the sole objective of the research. For example, during the research, patients who took part in a project had the opportunity to influence research design and, in doing so, had a greater awareness of the research process. Their contribution led to more defined, relevant research being conducted whilst giving the patients a sense of satisfaction and worth through participation. Another example

might be that a piece of technology was developed for use in the lab but was found to be useful elsewhere.

'During' Outcomes is where impact has taken place during the lifespan of the research. For example these could be opportunities to disseminate the ongoing work to increase awareness and knowledge of the subject through public presentation and article submissions.

Final/ Future outcomes where the impact is realised towards the end of the research. This may be either direct or indirect. Future outcomes could be impactful which is due to come about as a result of the research findings. For example this might include research which contributes to future policy change or, through greater awareness of preventative measures, a potential decrease in cancer incidence rates.

What is expected of the potential grant holder?

In order to maximise the potential for research impact to be realised and successful, the following is required:

- There is a clear idea from the start as to what type of impact is being aimed for
- A plan for potential mechanisms/activities for how to achieve impact
- Indicators to recognise if impact has been realised

In order to accomplish this, the potential grant holder/researcher should expect the following:

When applying

When applying for a grant from Tenovus Cancer Care, you will be required to identify where you anticipate your research will have impact. Potential examples include:

- Improvement of Treatment
- Improvement of Care
- Prevention
- Knowledge acquisition for people affected by Cancer
- Knowledge acquisition for researcher/professionals working in the field
- Improvement in quality of life
- Better co-ordination of treatment and care
- Increased patient/public involvement (PPI)
- Increased awareness of symptom recognition
- Influencing policy/practice
- Promotion of Tenovus Cancer Care

This is by no means an exhaustive list. You will also be asked to identify potential mechanisms/activities to allow the suggested impact to take place. These could include:

- Public engagement events
- Talks at events organised by yourself, Tenovus Cancer Care or a relevant 3rd party.
- Social Media engagement
- Contribution to government policy consultations
- Training given to clinicians as a result of the findings
- Development of a campaign/intervention to promote activity to change risk taking behaviour
- PPI training/ development / increased opportunities
- Publication of journal articles in peer reviewed high impact journals
- Presentations in key areas to disseminate the research to increase knowledge in the field
- Collaboration with industrial partners to explore opportunities for marketable results

During the Research Project

If you have successfully obtained a grant from Tenovus Cancer Care, one of the conditions of this will be to submit an annual progress report for each year of the grant duration. As part of this report you will be asked to comment on activity and success to in the past 12 months regarding impact, specifically indicating opportunities taken such as those described above.

Final Reporting

When the research is complete, you will also be required to submit a final report. In this report you will be asked to reflect on the duration of the research project, commenting on all the mechanisms used and opportunities taken to ensure the project has impact.

You will also be asked at this stage to show plans as to how you anticipate the grant to have future impact and what activities are planned to achieve this. Examples of future impact include:

- Policy Change
- Influencing delivery of treatment or care
- Influencing change in cancer risk behaviour
- Improved knowledge of people affected by cancer
- Defined improvement in quality of life as a result of the research
- Increased patient public involvement as a result of the research
- Increased knowledge within the specified field amongst other researchers as a result of the research

The Role of Tenovus Cancer Care

The good news is you are not alone! Tenovus Cancer Care has a team dedicated to supporting you throughout the entirety of this process. This includes our Research Grants

Officer, on hand to provide guidance and support with all things application and reporting and our Research Engagement Manager who will be able to provide advice and support with engaging with fellow researchers and the public in disseminating findings and maximising impact.

In addition to this, one of the strengths of Tenovus Cancer Care is that, in addition to the research we carry out, we also provide services for those affected by cancer. In many instances, this means we are in a great position to look to implement the findings of the research we fund. We also have a policy arm where the impact of research can play a vital role in influencing government policy. Our Research team would be on hand to facilitate discussion in these areas also.

Please take the opportunity to contact us on research@tenovuscancercare.org.uk if you require any further advice and guidance.