



## **Charity pushes for more research into deadly brain tumours**

More children and people under 40 die from a brain tumour than any other cancer. The country's leading brain tumour charity, Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust (SDBTT), is highlighting this startling and tragic statistic to urge for more money to be invested in laboratory-based brain tumour research and clinical trials. This appalling fact is being publicised because SDBTT believes that only research can prevent the needless loss of young life to this dreadful disease.

March is Brain Tumour Awareness Month and the charity is launching a special campaign to raise a further £1 million this year for research into this neglected field. Other types of cancer which have received higher levels of research funding have resulted in an improvement in the number of survivors. SDBTT wishes to emulate this success in brain tumour treatment and is building strategic partnerships with some of the leading research institutions in the UK. It is also working in partnership with government and non-governmental organisations to ensure that this 'forgotten cancer' receives the attention it deserves.

One major new initiative involves awarding Training Fellowships. Currently, too few talented scientists and clinicians are taking up research in this field. SDBTT's new Fellowship Programme will award grants for PhD students, Clinical Researchers, Senior Clinical Researchers as well as provide Career Development Fellowships. Attracting talented academics into this field is an essential element of the charity's strategy as it lays the necessary foundations for future success in research.

Neil and Angela Dickson set up the Charity in memory of their only daughter, Samantha, who died just before her 17th birthday in 1996. Since then over £5 million has been

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raised for research and patient support. This ground-breaking research has already made three major breakthroughs but much more is needed to combat this latest statistic..

*Statistics taken from Cancer Research UK website for 2005 – mortality rates of 20 common cancers including Brain and CNS Cancer.*

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