

**Cancer Research UK (CR-UK) &
Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust (SDBTT)**

Joint initiative for funding feasibility studies in brain tumours

Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust (SDBTT) and Cancer Research UK (CR-UK) are launching a joint clinical trials initiative for primary and secondary brain tumours, following their previous joint round in 2009. Recognising the further need for research into novel agents and therapies in this area, a call for feasibility study applications has been issued. Funding of up to £80,000 in total is available for a period of up to 48 months.

Applications will be reviewed by CR-UK's Clinical Trials Awards and Advisory Committee (CTAAC) via a one-step application process and are subjected to international, competitive peer review. Any application approved through this route will be eligible for support in the NHS via inclusion on the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) portfolio.

Assessment criteria for applications are as follows:

- Clinical importance of the research question;
- Scientific importance of the research question;
- Adequacy of background and preliminary data;
- Strength of study design, including statistical design;
- Expected interest/appeal to patients and likelihood of adequate accrual;
- Anticipated opening for trial in the relevant portfolio.

The strengths of each application in all of the above areas will be assessed by CTAAC and used to arrive at an overall score. **Only studies scoring above an agreed threshold will be considered for funding by SDBTT and CR-UK.** Studies funded by this initiative will be jointly branded by SDBTT and CR-UK. SDBTT have committed to supporting up to two feasibility study applications in this way. Any additional brain tumour applications scoring above the threshold will be supported by CR-UK, subject to available funding.

It is strongly advised that prospective applicants develop their trial design with an NCRI Accredited or UKCRC Registered Clinical Trials Unit well in advance of the submission deadline. Please see the below websites for more details:

http://ncrndev.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=112&Itemid=275
<http://www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

The deadline for applications is 21st March 2012. Applications will be reviewed at the June 2012 meeting of CTAAC and applicants will be notified of the decision within 2 weeks.

Please contact Rebecca Tringham at rebecca.tringham@cancer.org.uk or by phone on 020 3469 5040 for further details on the application process. We encourage open dialogue during the application process.

Details on feasibility studies and other CR-UK and SDBTT funding streams can be found on the following websites:

Feasibility studies: <http://science.cancerresearchuk.org/gapp/clinicaltrialsfund/fsc/?version=2>;
SDBTT grants and research: www.braintumourtrust.co.uk/research.

For more information on the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust, please contact Julia Trusler (Research Grants, SDBTT) at JTrusler@sdbtt.co.uk.