

# Finding a cure for adult brain tumours



## Adult brain tumour research at the University of Nottingham

### Brain tumour research receives less than 3% of all of the UK's cancer research funding

#### Lead researchers:

#### Professor Stuart Smith, Neurosurgeon Dr Ruman Rahman, Associate Professor

Stuart and Ruman lead a multidisciplinary research programme linking laboratorybased science through research, to personalised surgery and medicines. The team has growing expertise in the field of glioblastoma brain tumours.

Our experts are currently addressing research questions connected to neurodevelopment, tumour biology, the application of novel imaging techniques and the optimisation of drug delivery to the central nervous system.

Brain tumours have a complex biology and we need sophisticated tools to tackle these in the delicate brain environment without harming healthy areas.

This is a major challenge for our researchers who work closely with their colleagues in patient-focused clinical roles to provide the best treatments and optimum outcomes for patients. Glioma tumours have limited effective chemotherapy options if they recur, and the chances of survival are poor. With your support we can develop new techniques to improve treatments and increase length and quality of survival.

 Improved treatments for people with brain tumours are desperately needed; Nottingham's research involving leading scientists gives hope for the future.

Professor Stuart Smith, Neurosurgeon

#### Saving lives

For over 20 years, our world-leading researchers and clinicians have been working tirelessly to detect brain tumours early, improve treatments and reduce the harm that they can cause.

Our research focusses on the following major projects:

- Electrical field therapy
- Targeting the cancer's fuel
- Patient-tailored medicine
- Boosting treatment effectiveness

More than 10,000 adults are diagnosed with a brain tumour in the UK every year – that's around 30 every single day. Brain tumours reduce life expectancy by 20 years on average, which is the highest of any cancer.

Yet despite this, of the £500m spent on cancer research in the UK annually, less than 3% is spent on brain tumour research.

With your help our determined researchers can continue their efforts to develop new treatments for adult brain tumours, giving hope to patients both here in the East Midlands and across the world.

#### Sharon's story

"The first thing I did when I was diagnosed was plan my funeral – but I don't plan on it being put into action anytime soon!" Sharon Evans (below, second from right) is instead looking at a more positive outlook thanks to the intervention of Professor Stuart Smith, one of the University of Nottingham's leading neurosurgical specialists.

Initially diagnosed with a severely lifelimiting Grade 4 Glioblastoma tumour, thanks to successful treatment and care from Stuart and other University brain tumour researchers, Sharon is now a passionate advocate of the need to raise both awareness and funding for brain tumour research. "Without Stuart I wouldn't be here. I owe everything to him and the staff at the centre. As you become more informed it makes you want to do as much as you can for people like Stuart and his team. Because research into adult brain tumours is so underfunded researchers have to fight for everything they get."

Sharon is aiming to raise £10,000 for the University's brain tumour research with a 'welly walk' in the Lincolnshire countryside which she calls home. "I have always been a positive person, so if I can help by fundraising – who knows, hopefully there will be a breakthrough in coming years or they'll even find a cure for glioblastoma."



## Yes, I would like to give a gift and help adult brain tumour research

Please return your form to: Campaign and Alumni Relations Office, Ground Floor, Pope Building, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD or fill out online: nott.ac.uk/adultbraintumourresearch

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