



Our research strategy

Funding high quality research across the UK



About ovarian cancer

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11 women die every day from ovarian cancer. That's 4,100 women every year in the UK.



— Over 7,000 —>



7,400 women are diagnosed each year in the UK.



A woman in the UK has a one in fifty (2 per cent) chance of being diagnosed with ovarian cancer in her lifetime.



When a woman is diagnosed at the earliest stage, her chance of surviving ovarian cancer for five years or more doubles from just 46 per cent to more than 90 per cent.

Research spend on ovarian cancer has dropped by one third in five years. Together we can fund life-saving research to help double survival rates.

Join us to raise awareness, fund research and save lives.

Our research strategy

Target Ovarian Cancer's medical research programme funds ovarian cancer-specific research across the UK. We fund innovative research that will benefit the largest proportion of women with ovarian cancer in the shortest timeframe. Our research strategy sets out our specific priorities for advancing research to benefit women with ovarian cancer.

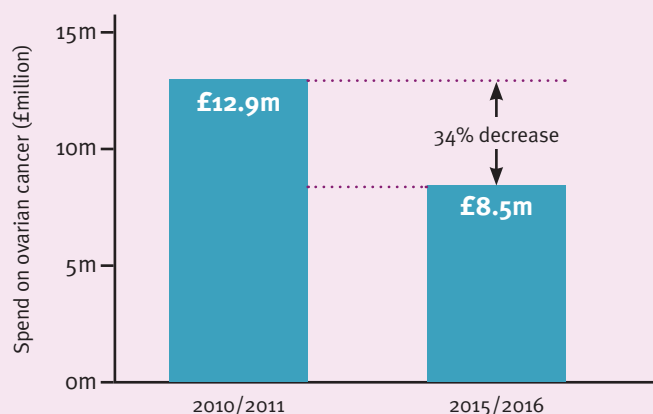
Background

Only 35 per cent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer in the UK survive for ten years or more. Survival from ovarian cancer is much worse than for many other cancers, due to late diagnosis and a lack of effective treatment options.

Research into new treatments lags significantly behind other cancer types. Funding is urgently required to support exciting new ideas, driving these to become the new treatments that are so desperately needed.

In a short period of time, Target Ovarian Cancer has developed a reputation as a funder of high quality research. We have already committed over £1 million to some outstanding projects, selected through open competition.

Funding for ovarian cancer research
In recent years there has been a worrying decline in the UK's spend on ovarian cancer research and this needs to be reversed. Government and charitable spend on ovarian cancer research has decreased by 34 per cent, from £12.9m in 2010/2011 to £8.5m in 2015/2016.¹ Therefore, there is an urgent need for Target Ovarian Cancer to boost substantially the amount it spends on research.



1. Source: NCRI Cancer Research Database (2017); <http://www.ncri.org.uk/ncri-cancer-research-database/spend-by-research-category-and-disease-site>

Our priorities

Our strategy highlights the areas of research that are vital to improving outcomes for patients. In seeking the greatest benefit from the limited resources available to Target Ovarian Cancer, our main priorities will be:

- **Finding new treatments**
Improve survival by developing new targeted treatments and optimising existing treatments
- **Finding new funding**
Reverse the downward trend in funding for ovarian cancer research
- **Better access to clinical trials**
Ensure every woman is able to access a clinical trial, wherever she lives
- **Developing future leaders in ovarian cancer research**

We will work in partnership with other organisations to advance research into prevention, improving early diagnosis and support for women.

New targeted treatments and optimising existing treatments

Target Ovarian Cancer's primary objective is to accelerate research aimed at optimising and developing more effective and less toxic treatments for ovarian cancer, with a special focus on treatments that will improve overall survival. Surgery and chemotherapy are most widely used, however **very few new treatments have been developed in the last 15 years, or are currently in development.**

Many important challenges need to be overcome to improve treatments for patients. Some examples are provided below, however Target Ovarian Cancer will consider support for any research of relevance to optimising or developing new treatments.

- Identify new drug targets within subtypes of ovarian cancer and develop new targeted treatments



- Understand why tumours develop resistance to therapies, developing strategies to prevent and overcome resistance
- Develop new immunologic approaches to treating ovarian cancer
- Understand the effectiveness of existing drugs against different tumour subtypes
- Understand the effectiveness of specific drug combinations in subtypes
- Research to predict which patients will benefit from chemotherapy
- Develop appropriate treatments for older patients
- Identify prognostic markers that indicate response to treatment
- Develop robust surgical trials to validate new technologies and optimise treatments

Our principles

Five principles underpin our research strategy:

- access to funding for all UK researchers with an interest in ovarian cancer through open competition
- the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration between researchers to accelerate progress
- non-duplication of existing efforts
- clear focus on outcomes and impact
- independent peer review to determine and monitor all funding decisions

How we fund research

Translational research lies at the heart of Target Ovarian Cancer’s strategy. This is the approach whereby scientists and clinicians work together closely, sharing insight and ideas on what causes ovarian cancer and how best to treat it.

We will support high quality research and build capacity by supporting innovative projects and the development of early career researchers through Translational Research Fellowships and support innovative ideas and new collaborations through Network/Consortium Development Grants.

Target Ovarian Cancer’s funding schemes embrace multidisciplinary collaboration between researchers, which is vital to tackling the complex challenges behind the disease.

Pioneering research

Target Ovarian Cancer’s distinctive medical research programme regularly funds ovarian cancer-specific research across the whole of the UK. **We fund innovative research that will benefit the largest proportion of women with ovarian cancer in the shortest timeframe.**

Research partnerships
An important aspect of Target Ovarian Cancer’s strategy is the coordination of research support in partnership with other funders.

Target Ovarian Cancer has partnered with the Medical Research Council to support jointly a Clinical Research Training Fellowship for Dr Elizabeth Moore at the University of Cambridge.

Dr Moore is the first recipient of this highly prestigious award to train the ovarian cancer clinical researchers of the future. The aim of her project is to develop a new and more accurate way of diagnosing ovarian cancer by detecting alterations in DNA in routine blood and cervical smear samples.

Research advocates

Working alongside our expert Scientific Advisory Board, our lay reviewers are instrumental in helping us allocate our medical research grants each year. This level of involvement is virtually unique in cancer research charities, and sets a precedent for the wider ovarian cancer research sector - not just Target Ovarian Cancer’s work.

Research governance

Support for research of the highest quality is ensured through our Scientific Advisory Board,

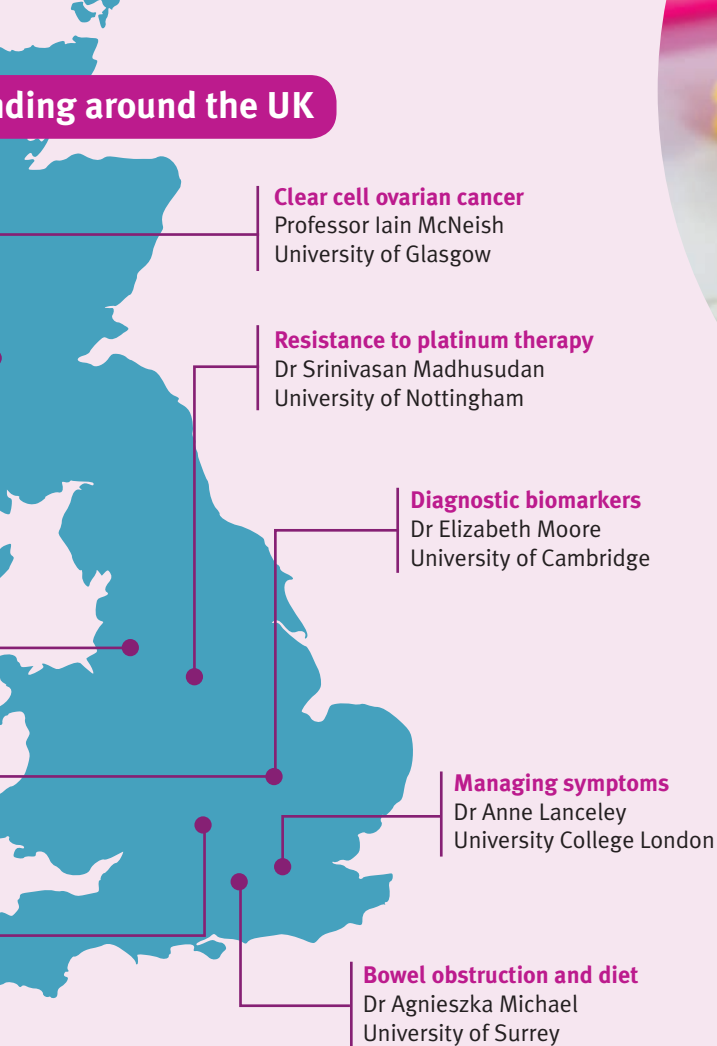


DNA damage and repair
Professor Richard Edmondson
University of Manchester

Genetic testing
Dr Marc Tischkowitz
University of Cambridge

Resistance to taxane therapy
Professor Ahmed Ahmed
University of Oxford

Funding around the UK



“There is an urgent need to develop new and more effective treatments for women with ovarian cancer. Target Ovarian Cancer’s goals are to support the scientific and clinical community to conduct innovative research projects that provide long term benefits for patients.”

Professor Ruth Plummer, Chair of Target Ovarian Cancer’s Scientific Advisory Board and Professor of Experimental Cancer Medicine at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research, Newcastle University.

Our research strategy has been developed following a comprehensive review of the major challenges that need to be overcome to improve outcomes for patients. The review was informed by a wide range of expert opinions, including many senior scientists, clinicians and people affected by ovarian cancer.

which includes leading UK and international ovarian cancer specialists.

Target Ovarian Cancer is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC). Our peer review process follows best practice guidance as set out by the AMRC and our funding meets the regulations of the Charity Research Support Fund.

Participation in clinical trials

Alongside supporting research that we hope will lead to new clinical trials, we also support women to participate in these important studies. We are working with the National Institute for Health Research and National Cancer Research Institute to improve the opportunities for women to take part in clinical trials. We have also established the award winning, interactive Target Ovarian Cancer Clinical Trials Information Centre to provide regional information about clinical trials that are open in the UK:

targetovariancancer.org.uk/clinicaltrialsinfo

“Being a research advocate gives me a sense of purpose: I can use my experience in a positive way. Reading research applications opens my eyes to the impact of medical research — it benefits not just me, but every woman diagnosed with ovarian cancer.”

Alicia Lirola, research advocate

11 women die every day from ovarian cancer.

It's time to

TAKE OVAR

Together we can make sure women have the best chances of survival.



Donate today to fund life-saving research.

targetovariancancer.org.uk/donate



Ovarian cancer can be devastating. It kills 11 women every single day and survival rates in the UK are among the worst in Europe. But there is hope – Target Ovarian Cancer.

We are the authority on ovarian cancer. We work with women, family members and health professionals to ensure we target the areas that matter most for those living and working with ovarian cancer.

As the UK's leading ovarian cancer charity we work to improve early diagnosis, we fund life-saving research and we provide much-needed support to women with ovarian cancer. We're the only charity fighting ovarian cancer on all three of these fronts, across all four nations of the UK.



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