

Fast Forward Ovarian Cancer Research:

Research Strategy 2024–2029





Target Ovarian Cancer’s medical research programme funds ovarian cancer-specific research across the UK. Our research strategy sets out our priorities for advancing research to benefit women with ovarian cancer.

Target Ovarian Cancer’s vision is to stop ovarian cancer devastating women’s lives. Specifically, we have a bold ambition to double ten-year ovarian cancer survival rates to over 70 per cent by 2050. Research is central to achieving this. Research is urgently needed to understand more about all forms of ovarian cancer, and to develop new prevention, early detection and treatment strategies so that more women survive this disease.

Target Ovarian Cancer has funded life-changing research across the UK for over a decade, bringing together patients, scientists and clinicians to drive progress, with a focus on funding research to develop more effective treatments for ovarian cancer. Together with the research community, we have seen significant progress.

There are now unprecedented opportunities to accelerate progress to achieve our ambition of doubling ten-year survival rates to over 70 per cent by 2050.

Our ambition

In order to take advantage of these opportunities, and drive further life-saving innovation, we need to see a step change in the ovarian cancer research effort. We need to fast forward ovarian cancer research. To radically shift the dial on ovarian cancer we need to harness the power of innovation and optimise existing treatment approaches:

- ▶ A dynamic, well-resourced infrastructure for ovarian cancer research that can unlock significant additional funding and get new treatments into practice as quickly as possible.
- ▶ Effective and funded paths for researchers to build their career in ovarian cancer research, whether in the laboratory or from the clinic.
- ▶ The priorities of those affected by ovarian cancer to be at the heart of decision making.
- ▶ Strong partnerships and collaborations with other medical research funders, including industry, in the UK and internationally in order to scale up and accelerate progress in ovarian cancer research.



Our strategy

We must act now to save lives. Our research strategy has three areas for action that, together with our funders, supporters and partners in the research community, will help fast forward ovarian cancer research.

1

Put lived experience at the heart of research

We will connect those affected by ovarian cancer with the research community through an active network of Research Champions, putting their priorities first and seeking new ways to facilitate involvement and engagement at all stages of the research pipeline. We know that involving patients and carers in setting the research agenda and helping design research projects, as well as being involved in clinical trials, will ensure that research is focused on the most important questions and make the biggest difference for those affected by ovarian cancer.

We will:

- ▶ Work with researchers, clinicians, and women with ovarian cancer to identify research gaps and shape our funding agenda.
- ▶ Embed the patient voice in the planning of research projects.

2**Fund research that advances knowledge and understanding**

We will build on our successful track record as a funder of translational research to establish a flexible and responsive grants programme, based on the needs of the research community, including:

- ▶ Multi-year grant funding focused on finding new treatments for ovarian cancer.
- ▶ Responsive grant programmes to meet specific challenges such as research into rarer forms of ovarian cancer, seed funding to take forward new innovations, and clinical research.

- ▶ Partnership funding through established programmes to support the ovarian cancer researchers of the future.

Across these funding streams we will prioritise projects that have the potential to lead to new innovation in treatments and interventions that will improve ovarian cancer survival in the shortest possible timeframe.

3**Accelerate progress through cross-sector partnership**

We will develop cross-sector partnerships to unlock new funding, facilitate connections and build a new research network to harness innovation and accelerate progress to meet the biggest challenges in ovarian cancer research. We will also campaign with others for increased investment in ovarian cancer research and in the UK research infrastructure.

- ▶ Bring together people affected by ovarian cancer, clinicians, and partners to review priorities for research funding and develop new research networks create shared priorities for the research community and establish our leadership and networks.
- ▶ Work with partners (including researchers, charities, and other funders) to develop research challenges and co-funded research calls.
- ▶ Explore partnership approaches to support early career researchers and clinicians.

Our principles

- ▶ Our research focus will be led by, and responsive to, the needs and priorities of those affected by ovarian cancer, researchers and the clinical community.
- ▶ Our funding will be open and accessible to researchers and clinicians across the UK.
- ▶ We will follow best practice guidance to determine and monitor all funding decisions.
- ▶ We will foster and encourage multidisciplinary collaboration.
- ▶ We will avoid duplicating existing efforts.



Our impact

We will conduct an annual evaluation of the impact of our research programme so that we can ensure that we continue to direct our funding to the areas of highest need and impact.



Our governance

We are a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC). Our research programme follows the AMRC's best practice guidance across all aspects including peer review and open access publishing. All funding decisions are made subject to peer review and with the involvement of those affected by ovarian cancer. Our funding meets the eligibility criteria for the Charity Research Support Fund (CSRF).

Our expert Scientific Advisory Board – a group of UK and international highly experienced scientists, researchers, and clinicians – oversee and advise on our research programme.

Our panel of Research Champions – made up of women and families affected by ovarian cancer – bring their lived experience to our programme and are a vital part of our funding process.

Our research strategy has been informed by a wide range of expert opinions, including many senior scientists, clinicians and people affected by ovarian cancer.

Our research programme is reliant on the generous financial support from our community. We are grateful to the many supporters, funders and partners who make it possible.

About Target Ovarian Cancer

At Target Ovarian Cancer, we target what's important to stop ovarian cancer devastating lives.

We give trusted information, to help people ask questions and make decisions that are right for them. We connect people with shared experiences, and we support families every step of the way.

We stand together as a powerful community for everyone facing ovarian cancer across the UK, sharing stories and raising voices to make sure that ovarian cancer becomes a health priority.

We know that early diagnosis saves lives, so we work closely with GPs who are at the heart of this to help them diagnose ovarian cancer faster and earlier – giving everyone the best chance of living.

And our investment in research to find new, better and more targeted treatments means that everyone can live with hope for their future.

We're fighting for a world where everyone with ovarian cancer lives, and we're targeting what's important – symptoms awareness, early diagnosis, better treatments, and support for all.



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Registered office: 30 Angel Gate, London EC1V 2PT.

Registered charity numbers 1125038 (England and Wales) and SC042920 (Scotland).

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