

Prostate Cancer Research Foundation

Research Funding Strategy October 2005

History

The Prostate Cancer Research Foundation was founded in 1991 by Sir Clive Bourne, himself a prostate cancer sufferer. He realised at the time, that there was virtually no organised research on either a national or international level into this disease, and to remedy this he formed the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation. The aim of the Foundation is to promote research into the causes of prostate cancer, particularly by linking together scientists and clinicians in all relevant fields throughout the world at biennial forums.

The Foundation has a volunteer scientific and clinical advisory committee with the two-fold purpose of supervising the existing research projects, and evaluating new, worthwhile projects for support. The process of awarding funding is stringent and involves independent peer review of grant applications.

Working in conjunction with other cancer charities, the Foundation was among the first funders of investigations, led by The Institute of Cancer Research, which in 2003 resulted in the isolation of the first high-risk prostate cancer gene.

Our aims

- To fund research that helps to find the cure or cures
- To fund research that finds that contributes towards finding the cause or causes
- To fund the best quality research
- To fund research that offers better outcomes to men that are diagnosed with prostate cancer
- To enable prostate cancer specialists to share information on a regular basis

Funding

The Foundation funds research into prostate cancer, either in basic science or translational research areas, and will consider applications for up to £100,000*, per year, and will consider applications over a maximum of three years. *(Applications over this amount may be considered, and funds sought from other sources to fully fund such projects, although work on the project could not start until funds were secured).

The Foundation will consider funding applications from any researcher or individual with an interest in prostate cancer worldwide, located within either a University, Hospital or Medical School.

To apply for a grant, research proposals must demonstrate:

- Excellence – Usually Alpha rated by peer review process
- Sustainability – Conducted in a University, Medical School or hospital
- Relevance – Clear pathway from hypothesis to potential alleviation/treatment of prostate cancer
- Originality and a clear case of fully justified financial need

All PCRF grants are sent out to external review and are rigorously assessed both prior to award and subsequent to completion. Scientific advisory board members who are associated with an application being considered at the advisory board meeting are not included in the review process.