

Our business is **breakthroughs**

Annual review 2025/26

FURTHER FASTER TOGETHER
We are beating cancer

Contents

Introduction	3
Supporting researchers	5
Realising the power of data	8
Stimulating entrepreneurship	12
Fostering start-ups	16
Discovering and developing therapeutics	19
On the horizon	27

Navigating this report

-  Click to jump to the article page
-  Link to website for more information



From discovery to impact: harnessing the power of the ecosystem



Cancer Research Horizons sits at the interface of academia and industry, bringing together the right people, expertise and capital to accelerate the translation of world-class science into life-changing innovations for people with cancer.

Across our ecosystem, we have seen how this approach unlocks progress. Our portfolio company, Trogenix, built on research from Steve Pollard at the University of Edinburgh, is pioneering a first-in-class immunotherapy for glioblastoma. Supported by our largest Seed Fund investment to date, the company is now trialling its technology in patients for the first time. OCCAMS, the vast oesophageal cancer dataset from the University of Cambridge, joined our licensable data portfolio, enabling industry partners to access one of the most comprehensive datasets of its kind safely and securely. This year, we also welcomed new world-class partners, and launched a portfolio of potential first-in-class, targeted therapeutic projects for children with cancer.

What has most stood out to me this year is the growing strength of our network. At its heart is a community of academics leading some of the most exciting science in the world. Around them, we are building a connected ecosystem of mentors, investors, partners and philanthropists, each playing a critical role in helping us move ideas forward.

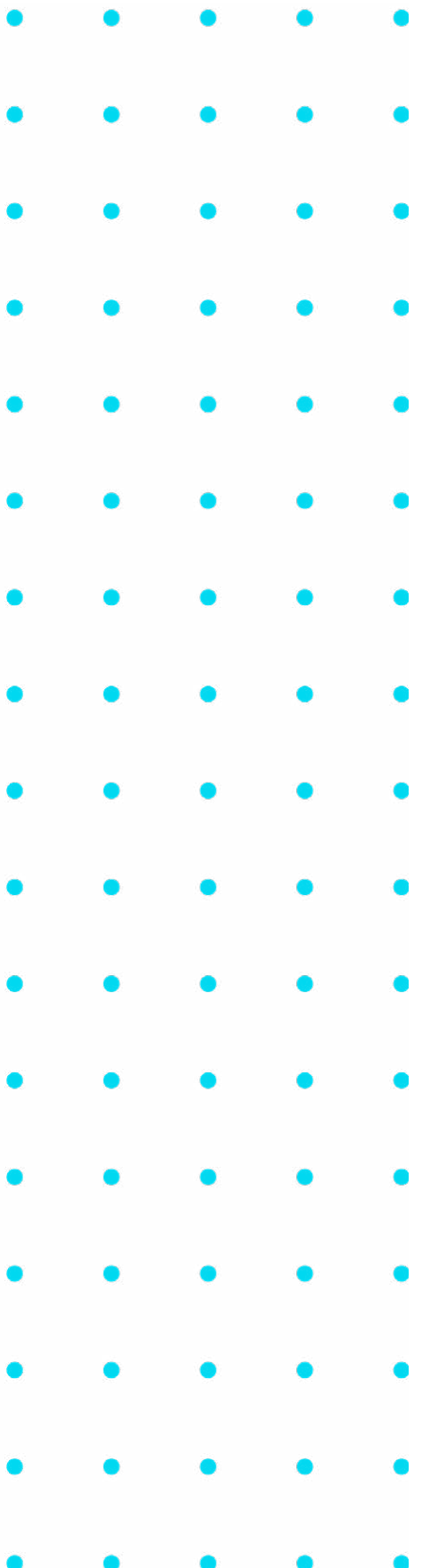
Through initiatives such as our Expert Network, we are providing hands-on guidance to help researchers navigate the transition from discovery to innovation.

At the same time, the support of our Cancer Impact Club has enabled us to reach a significant milestone for our Seed Fund, realising our £30m ambition. This achievement strengthens our ability to ensure that promising early-stage opportunities can access the capital they need to progress and I'm hugely grateful to the incredible philanthropists that have made this possible.

This report is full of stories that celebrate how we're uniting the brightest minds, boldest ideas and best partners to drive progress faster for patients. I hope you share our pride in what has been achieved this year, and our ambition for what comes next.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'IF'.

Iain Foulkes,
Chief Executive Officer,
Cancer Research Horizons



Our year in numbers

Supporting researchers to develop their ideas



560⁺

researchers met



210⁺

invention disclosures



34

priority patents filed

Working with commercial partners



3

trials started



42

licensing deals



9

start-ups added to portfolio

Our funding



£3m[≈]

translational funding
awarded across
all schemes



£4.5m

committed through
our Seed Fund across
9 investments



£1.2m⁺

deployed through
our data awards and
collaborations



£25m

co-investment
secured

Supporting researchers

We support researchers to maximise the impact of their work. We provide funding, training, expertise and networks needed to translate discoveries into tools, tests and treatments for people with cancer.

In 2025/26

560⁺
researchers met

1,200⁺
meetings

leading to:

210⁺
invention disclosures

34
priority patents

£3m[≈]
translational funding
awarded

Our Translation Fund

Through our Translation Fund, including our Early Validation Fund, we support researchers to validate new ideas, answer critical scientific questions and move their promising innovations closer to commercialisation and patient impact.

This year, we approved nearly £3m across 17 Early Validation Fund projects and eight Translation Fund projects. Funded research ranged from validating novel biomarkers and software development to enhancing surgical techniques and building target-focused tissue biobanks.

Bringing an at-home test for people at risk of blood cancer closer to reality



Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) is a precursor to blood cancer multiple myeloma. People with MGUS currently rely on regular hospital-based blood tests to monitor their condition. But this is a slow, costly approach that puts significant burden on both patients and the NHS.

Researchers at the University of Birmingham are developing a new alternative: a finger-prick test that uses a smartphone-based analysis to detect early signs of myeloma.

In March 2026, we supported the team with a Translation Fund award to advance the technology, undertake clinical validation and make sure it meets patient needs.

This year, the team successfully patented its test called M-Self, and in February began a clinical pilot study. With more than 130 patients already recruited, the study will generate key validation data and assess the test's potential as a more accessible and efficient tool for early detection and referral.

We were delighted to recognise the project leads, Jennifer Heaney and Sian Faustini, with a Translational Project of the Year Recognition Award at the 2025 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Awards.



“By supporting researchers at a pivotal stage, we’re helping transform promising discoveries into investable opportunities that accelerate development and ultimately deliver new innovations for patients.”



Alessia Errico,
Associate Director,
Search and Evaluation,
and Entrepreneurial
Programmes Lead



Kickstart your project or take it to the next stage

From proof-of-concept studies to market research, our flexible Translation Fund can support the research you need to take your innovation to the next stage of development.

 **Discuss your project with us**

Our global research tools platform

CancerTools is our online collaborative platform for academic and industry researchers to contribute and access high-quality research tools and cultivate an open, sustainable ecosystem.

In 2025/26

335 

new tools added to the portfolio, including 205 from Cancer Research UK-funded science

52 

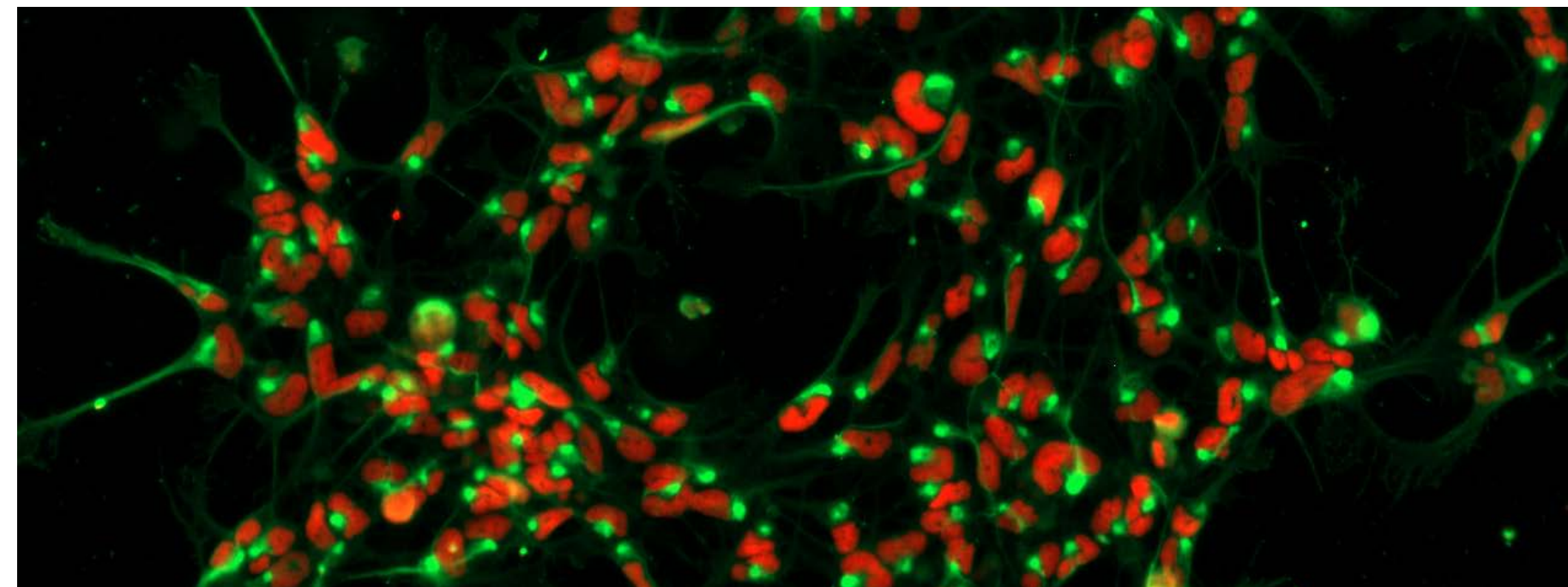
licenses signed with industry

83 

research tools licensed

 **CancerTools.org**
Global Research Tools Collaborative

New additions to CancerTools to support the next wave of cancer research



A powerful stem cell panel to study aggressive brain cancer glioma

Brain tumour research has long been hampered by a lack of clinically relevant models. The glioma stem cell panel from the Glioma Cellular Genetics Resource provides a collection of high-fidelity patient-derived cell lines that capture the cellular and molecular diversity of glioblastoma, enabling better study of tumour progression and treatment resistance.

In 2026, CancerTools became the exclusive global provider of the Glioma Stem Cell panel, making this unique resource accessible to researchers worldwide.

 [Learn more about the glioma stem cell panel](#)

Unique collection of 3D patient-derived xenograft models for lung cancer

Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is an ecosystem of distinct cell populations that evolve in response to treatment, ultimately limiting the success of targeted therapies.

Through Cancer Research UK's flagship TRACERx programme, Robert Hynds and David Pearce developed a unique collection of patient-derived xenograft models to capture the complexity and heterogeneity of NSCLC with exceptional clarity. Now available through CancerTools, these models enable researchers to study tumour evolution *in vivo*, validate targets and reduce risk in early drug development.

 [Read our interview with Robert and David](#)



Robert Hynds and David Pearce, University College London

Find your next research tool at CancerTools

Whether you're sourcing research tools or depositing them, we provide the infrastructure, expertise and global reach to ensure your science moves forward and leaves a lasting legacy.

 [Find out more](#)

Realising the power of data

We unlock the potential of world-leading Cancer Research UK-funded research, transforming it into high-value data resources that enable partners to accelerate the development of new treatments, diagnostics and tools for people affected by cancer.

In 2025/26

£1.2m⁺

deployed through
our data awards and
collaborations

6

new data licensing
partnerships

3

new datasets added
to our portfolio

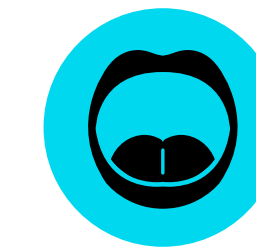
Supporting researchers to unlock the potential of multi-modal datasets

This year, we invested more than £1m to curate, enrich and connect datasets from across our research community. Together, these investments help turn data into structured, reusable assets ready for analysis and reuse.

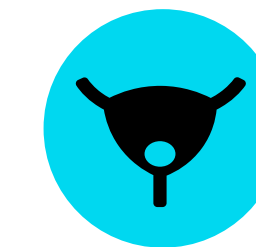


Six new Data Catalyst Awards to take data from raw to ready

Through our Data Catalyst awards, we offer up to £100,000 per project to make high-value Cancer Research UK-funded data accessible and research-ready for industry partners. This year's awarded projects include initiatives to:



Expand, clean and curate a growing collection of digitised salivary gland tumour images associated with five-year clinical outcomes for deeper analysis.



Establish infrastructure to store and share a large prostate cancer dataset, combining imaging and clinical data from more than 1,000 patients, and link it to national registries to integrate long-term outcomes.



Uniting multimodal data to create one of the world's largest datasets for the rare cancer Pseudomyxoma peritonei.

[Find out more about our Data Catalyst](#)

Enhancing the POETIC dataset for breast cancer discovery

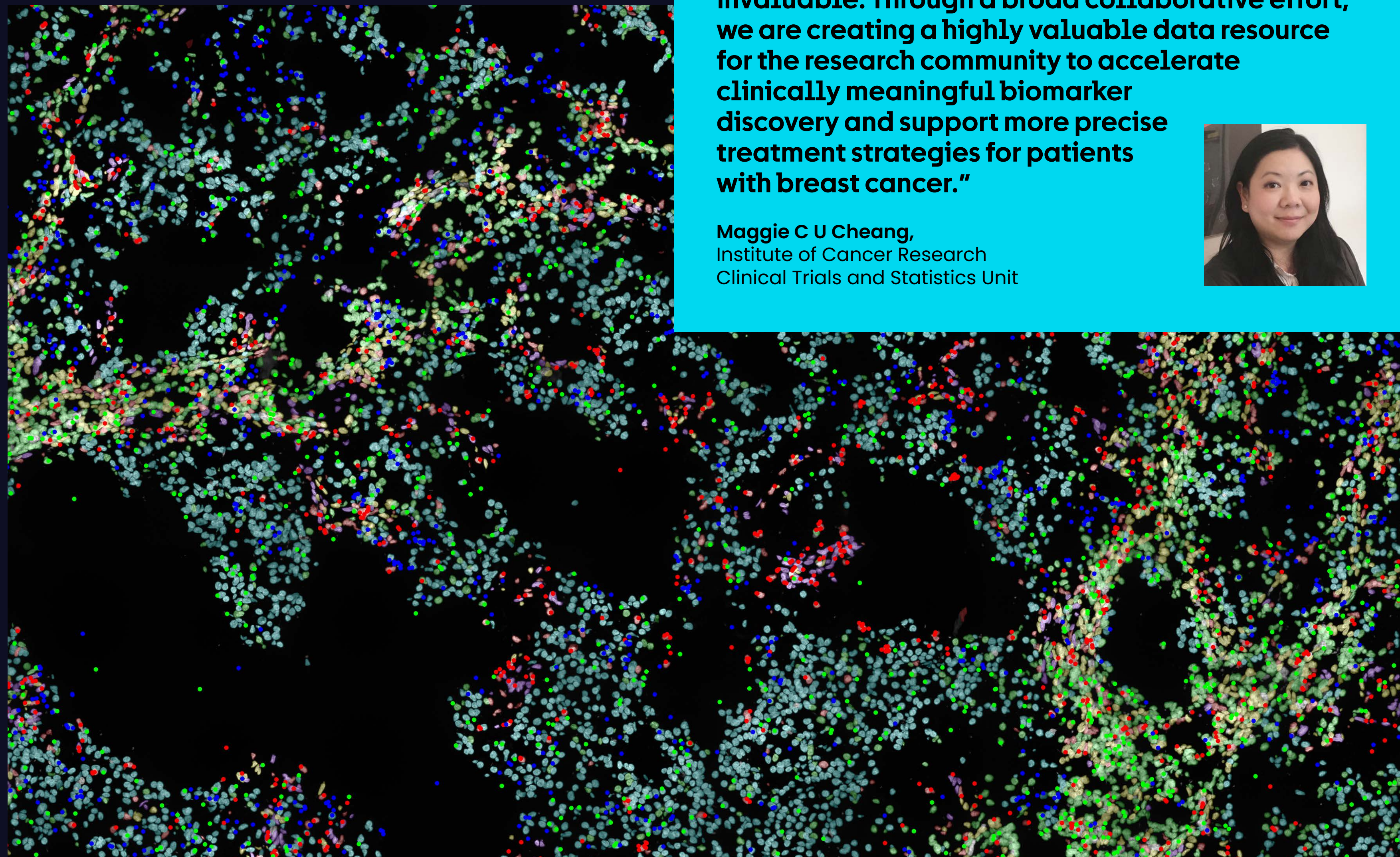
This year, we supported the POETIC clinical trial team to enrich and expand its landmark breast cancer dataset into a high-resolution resource for the wider research community.

POETIC was a landmark Phase 3 breast cancer trial that identified a new way to predict relapse risk, helping to shape clinical practice for early-stage breast cancer. The findings ensure high-risk patients receive additional treatment, while those at lower risk can safely avoid it.

The study involved more than 4,400 patients and generated a database linking 5-year clinical outcomes with matched pathology and blood samples. While the data provides significant insight into relapse and treatment resistance, it lacked the molecular resolution needed to understand the underlying biology.

With our support, the POETIC team will generate spatial transcriptomic data from more than 120 samples, creating detailed maps of gene expression within tumour tissue. By integrating these new data with existing molecular and clinical data, the collaboration will create a harmonised resource to enable biomarker discovery and support the development of new therapeutic strategies for breast cancer.

POETIC is one of two projects we supported this year to unlock additional value from datasets generated through previously funded research.



"Cancer Research Horizons' support has been invaluable. Through a broad collaborative effort, we are creating a highly valuable data resource for the research community to accelerate clinically meaningful biomarker discovery and support more precise treatment strategies for patients with breast cancer."

Maggie C U Cheang,
Institute of Cancer Research
Clinical Trials and Statistics Unit



Licensing powerful datasets to commercial partners to further research

We are rapidly expanding our portfolio of structured datasets available to commercial partners, enabling wider access to the high-quality data collected with Cancer Research UK funding.

We offer commercial partners safe, secure access to our data portfolio, via flexible, non-exclusive licensing agreements. This year, we added three new datasets to our portfolio and formed six new commercial partnerships, helping to accelerate the development of new diagnostics and treatments for people with cancer.

One of the world's largest oesophageal cancer datasets now available for licensing

OCCAMS comprises clinically linked, multi-omics data from more than 500 people with oesophageal cancer, with follow-up data spanning over a decade. Developed by a team at the University of Cambridge, this unique dataset has the potential to drive new diagnostics and treatments in a cancer with limited options.

[🔗 Learn more](#)

"OCCAMS was created by a dedicated group of clinicians and scientists who understand oesophageal cancer and are passionate about improving outcomes for this deadly disease. We want this data to be used by the academic and commercial community to make a difference."

Rebecca Fitzgerald,
Chief Investigator of OCCAMS



Mammography database licensed to advance AI breast cancer screening

OPTIMAM is our database of more than 10m mammography images and associated data collected, curated and anonymised from the UK national breast screening programme. OPTIMAM is managed by our partners the Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust.

Through our partnership, Health Triage, a deeptech company, is using OPTIMAM to develop BreastNegative, an AI tool designed to identify mammograms with a high likelihood of a negative result. By triaging low-risk cases, it aims to support radiologists, streamline screening workflows and enable greater focus on cases most likely to require intervention.

[🔗 Read more about our partnership](#)



Partner with us

Access our growing portfolio of deep, multi-modal and clinically linked cancer datasets, spanning multi-omics, imaging, pathology and more.

[🔗 Explore our datasets for licensing](#)



Stimulating entrepreneurship

Through our events, training and support programmes, we're empowering a community of entrepreneurially minded researchers to translate their discoveries into patient benefit.

In 2025/26

12

training and accelerator
programmes supported

6

events to build community
and entrepreneurial culture

200⁺

people attended our
annual Innovation Summit

100⁺

nominations for
our Innovation and
Entrepreneurship awards

700⁺

people engaged with
our entrepreneurial
programmes

Our flagship events

Celebrating enterprising minds at our third Innovation and Entrepreneurship Awards

Our Innovation and Entrepreneurship Awards spotlight individuals who are embracing bold, ambitious thinking to translate frontier technologies into real-world patient impact.

We were delighted to receive over 100 nominations for this year's awards and welcomed more than 180 people to the ceremony, held at Merchant Taylors' Hall, London. The event provided a unique opportunity for early-career innovators, established entrepreneurs and industry leaders to network and share ideas, aiming to inspire a new generation of innovators to tackle cancer with entrepreneurial spirit.

[Meet all the winners](#)



Natalie Mount

CEO of
Cytospire
Therapeutics

Woman Entrepreneur of the Year

"Awards like this are so important because they help to address one of the challenges that new female entrepreneurs face, which is a lack of role models."

[Hear more from Natalie in our interview](#)



New Start-up of the Year

Trogenix



Jessica Corry
CEO of Xterna

Early Career Entrepreneur of the Year

"You have to remind yourself that what you're doing is correct, will change the world if true, and that you are the right people to do this. That determination is what investors want to back."

[Read our interview with Jessica](#)



Connecting innovators at our sixth Innovation Summit in London

With interactive panels, guest speakers and networking sessions, our annual Innovation Summit is a great opportunity to learn from researchers who have already launched successful ventures and connect with others across the community.

More than 200 scientists, clinicians, entrepreneurs and investors joined this year's event, held in November at the Royal Institution during London Life Sciences Week.

We opened with two complementary keynotes from Kirk Vallis (Google) and Nitzan Rosenfeld (Barts Cancer Institute), exploring the critical roles of mindset, behaviour and resilience in innovation.

Panel sessions were themed around the journey from discovery to impact. Speakers shared real-world experiences and highlighted how stronger connections across academia, industry and with diverse experts can help overcome barriers.

Attendees also took part in a pitching workshop and benefited from tailored networking and coaching opportunities.

[Read more about the event](#)



**"When you've identified
something that's good, you
need to capitalise on it."**

Dan Lucy,
Co-founder of Siftr Bio
and panel member

[Read our interview with Dan](#)



**Join us at an event and dive into the
world of oncology entrepreneurship**

Whether you are curious about the skills needed to bring your ideas to life or looking to grow your collaborative network, our events will support your entrepreneurial journey.

[Find out more about our calendar of events](#)

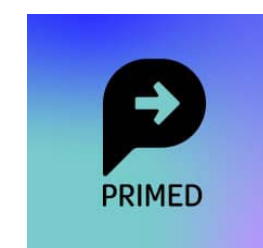
Building the entrepreneurial skills needed to translate research

Translating ideas into real-world impact can feel complex. Our entrepreneurial programmes provide the training, guidance and support needed to guide researchers through each step of the way.

Working with our partners across the UK and internationally, we supported and delivered 12 training, accelerator and mentorship programmes this year. We also played an active role in four courses and events across the innovation network, including delivering lectures for cancer biology master's students at Imperial College London and providing practical advice at training sessions for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Our entrepreneurial programmes:

- BIA Pulse Programme
- Bio-spark
- Broadening Horizons
- Cancer Tech Accelerator
- Eureka Institute
- Eureka Institute Paediatric Course
- Impulse
- KQ Labs
- Panacea
- Primed Programme
- Spin Up Science Real World Research Translation
- Venture Builder Incubator



Learn how to pitch an idea, build a business and attract investment

If you want to turn your innovation into a commercial reality that has real-world impact for cancer patients, join one of our entrepreneurial programmes. We'll guide you to build your network and learn the skills of an entrepreneur.

[Find out more about our entrepreneurial programmes](#)

Fostering start-ups

We've built an incredible production line for start-up companies to translate early-stage technologies into patient benefit, helping them to grow through licensing, investment or both.

In 2025/26

£4.5m
committed through our
Seed Fund

9
investments made

9
new start-ups added to
our portfolio

£25.2m
co-investment secured

Our Seed Fund

Attracting early-stage capital is one of the most challenging stages of start-up creation. We provide early-stage oncology ventures with pre-seed, seed and follow-on investments, bridging the gap between a promising discovery and a start-up becoming ready for scale-up investment.

Our largest investment to date drives new immunotherapy for aggressive brain tumours

Our portfolio company Trogenix is developing a potential new treatment for glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer where one-year survival remains around 25%.

Following its £70m Series A financing – to which we contributed our largest Seed Fund investment to date – the company is now advancing a pipeline of potentially curative immunotherapies, including taking its lead asset into Phase 1/2 trials for glioblastoma.

Trogenix's proprietary Synthetic Super-Enhancer technology delivers two payloads that together eliminate the tumour and activate the immune system to prevent future regrowth. The therapy is highly specific, delivered using an innovative Trojan horse vector that slips through the tumour microenvironment, and only activates once within the cancer cells.

In preclinical studies, the therapy achieved complete responses for glioblastoma, with long-lasting protection against recurrence and minimal impact on healthy tissue. The company is also exploring the potential of its technology for other hard-to-treat solid cancers.

Our investment into Trogenix's Series A follows our early support of the company when it spun out of the University of Edinburgh in 2023. It exemplifies the kind of high-potential innovation we back to address areas of significant unmet need.

[📌 Learn more about Trogenix](#)

trogenix



"We are honoured to have the support of investors who share our mission to deliver breakthrough treatments and pursue cures for the thousands of patients and families facing devastating diagnoses each year."

Ken Macnamara,
Chief Executive Officer at Trogenix

Ken (pictured far right) with the Trogenix team

Highlights from a year of impactful investment

Early ventures support is critical to a company's success. We're proud to have committed 43 investments across 33 pioneering companies since the launch of our Seed Fund, including pre-seed, seed and follow-on investments.

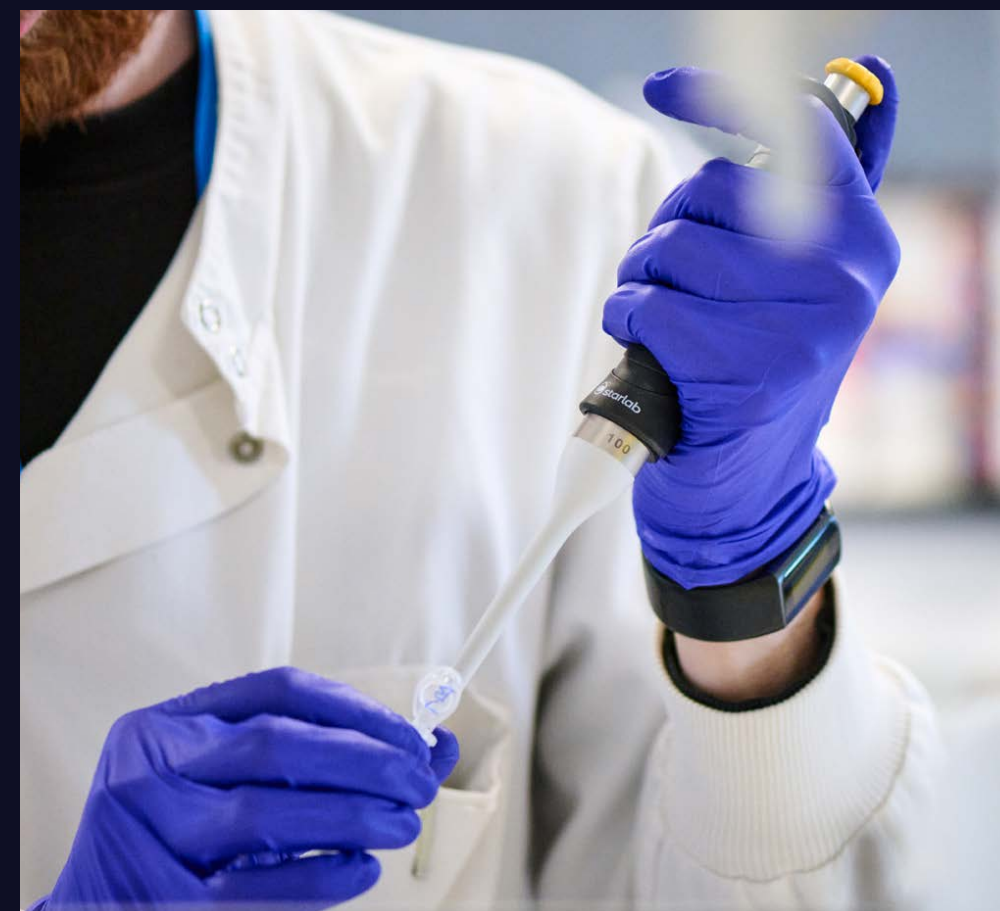
We made nine Seed Fund investments this year, which added eight companies to our portfolio, from transforming neurosurgery with robotics to advancing the frontier of targeted protein degradation. Here is a selection of highlights:



Make an impact through our Seed Fund

If you are looking for capital for your early-stage, high-potential innovation, get in touch. We'll work with you to assess its commercial potential and advise on the best route forward.

[Find out more about our Seed Fund](#)



Laigo Bio's SureTAC™ platform offers a unique opportunity to target membrane proteins, previously considered undruggable, with greater precision and tolerability. We participated in Laigo Bio's €11.5m seed funding, which will take SureTAC™ closer to clinical development.

[Learn more](#)



AiM's neurosurgical platform integrates real-time MRI with robotics to make procedures like brain tumour resection faster, safer and more accurate. The \$8.1m Series A financing, to which we contributed, will accelerate product development and support the company's first-in-human clinical study.

[Read more](#)



Telomere lengthening is a critical survival mechanism in many hard-to-treat cancers, including brain, paediatric, and rare cancers. Spinning out of the Francis Crick Institute, ALTx Therapeutics is pursuing a series of novel targets that exploit this mechanism, with support from our Seed Fund.

[Read more](#)

Discovering and developing therapeutics

We take scientific breakthroughs from the lab bench to the bedside, getting cancer-beating treatments to patients faster.

In 2025/26

£1m

committed across
four **Therapeutic
Catalyst** projects

£500k⁺

deployed across
three **Childhood
Cancer Therapeutic
Catalyst** projects

1

clinical development
partnership signed

3

trial arms opened

170⁺

patients treated

Drug discovery: turning scientific breakthroughs into therapeutic innovations

From discovery to clinic

Academic research generates some of the most exciting biology in the world. Our role is to help turn those discoveries into new treatments by working closely with researchers, clinicians and industry partners. By combining deep scientific expertise, drug discovery capabilities and clinical development infrastructure, we help promising ideas progress more efficiently from discovery towards the clinic to deliver new medicines for people with cancer.

New collaboration with Incyte to discover next-generation antibodies for rare blood cancers

The partnership unites our antibody discovery expertise with biopharmaceutical company Incyte's deep experience in haematology.

[Learn more](#)



FDA Fast Track for first-in-class drug in hard-to-treat breast cancer

People with BRCA-mutated breast cancer often develop treatment resistance, frequently driven by the DNA damage response (DDR) pathways. Biopharmaceutical company Artios Pharma has built a pipeline of drugs to target DDR, offering urgently needed new options. We formed Artios in 2016 and collaborated to develop its DNA polymerase theta inhibitor programme.

In February, Artios received FDA Fast Track designation for ART6043 – its potential first-in-class drug that targets Polθ, a DNA repair enzyme overexpressed in many cancers. Based on promising results from a Phase 1/2a clinical trial, the designation recognises ART6043's potential to address a major unmet clinical need and, if relevant criteria are met, could lead to accelerated approval and access by people with BRCA-mutated breast cancer.

The trial continues to evaluate ART6043 in other hard-to-treat solid cancers, and the drug has entered a dedicated Phase 2 clinical trial following oversubscribed \$115m Series D financing.

[Read more about what this designation could mean for patients](#)



We join £20m Cancer Grand Challenges REWIRE-CAN team to find new, creative ways to cause cancer cells to self-destruct

The team unites experienced co-investigators from the UK, US and the Netherlands. Together, we aim to transform outcomes for people with bowel cancer, which is on the rise in young adults.

[Learn more](#)



Partner with us to develop the next generation of cancer therapeutics

From discovery through to de-risking, we help translate promising science into patient impact.

[Find out more](#)

Building a sustainable pipeline to deliver science at pace

Our core drug discovery portfolio

Our core portfolio is a collection of high-potential drug discovery projects that we own and resource, enabling us to prioritise patient impact and maximise long-term returns for further research.

We reached our goal of five high-quality projects in the portfolio this year. From late 2027, we aim to deliver at least one candidate for regulatory development each year.

We are actively generating new projects for the portfolio through our partnerships, funding awards and collaborations and engaging with the Cancer Research UK network, creating a sustainable, steady-state portfolio with the ultimate aim of bringing transformative treatments to patients, faster.

 [Explore our portfolio](#)

Modality	Primary indication		Lead ID	Lead optimisation	Preclinical candidate
ADC		Acute myeloid leukaemia			2028
Small molecule		Small cell lung cancer			2028
Small molecule		Glioma			2029
Small molecule		Neuroblastoma			2029
Small molecule		Colorectal cancer			>2029

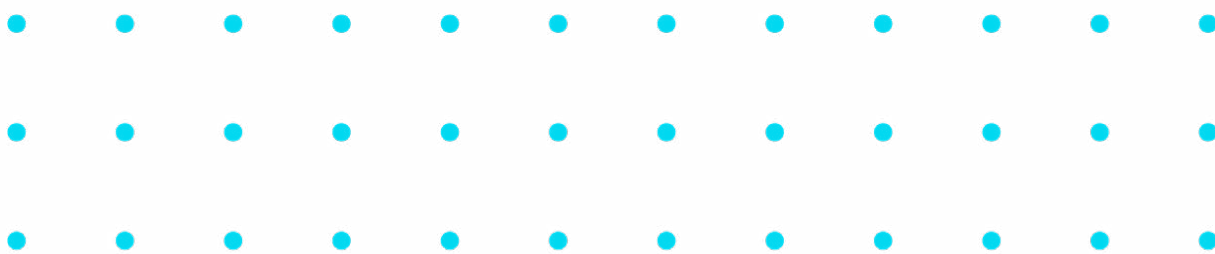
Strengthening how we deliver

Over the past two years, we have refined our operating model to increase flexibility of spend, enabling sharper prioritisation of our pipeline, a stronger focus on high-impact opportunities and faster progression to clinical candidates.

We laid important groundwork this year for a new, dedicated team, who will play a vital role in connecting science with our drug discovery capabilities via tailored de-risking strategies and partnerships. By uniting world-leading scientists with drug hunters versed in state-of-the-art drug discovery, we strongly believe we will identify leading-edge, high-value approaches to treating cancer.

We also took steps to reduce our laboratory footprint and fixed costs, including moving our Cambridge laboratories from Granta Park to the Babraham Research Campus, and regretfully closing our laboratory at the Francis Crick Institute. Moving forward, we will focus our laboratory-based activities across Cambridge, the Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute and our partner site at Newcastle University.

Together, these changes create a more efficient model, able to address bandwidth challenges and technology developments – enabling us to flexibly direct resources to advance our most promising programmes and accelerate their progression towards the clinic.



Advancing new therapies through early clinical development

Cancer Research UK's Centre for Drug Development (CDD), the world's only charity-led drug development organisation, is the partner of choice for early-phase clinical trials up to Phase 2a.

Through this capability, we take promising cancer therapies into early clinical development, generating the evidence needed to move new drugs closer to routine clinical use. We focus on innovative, first-in-class agents with the potential to transform outcomes – particularly in areas of high unmet need, including rare and paediatric cancers.

International collaboration is critical to the success of early clinical trials, particularly for cancers where patient populations are small, and trial recruitment is challenging. This year, we continued to expand our global network of partners, enabling the delivery of early-phase trials and accelerating the progression of new therapies through the clinic.

The Cancer Research UK Centre for Drug Development's international network of partners

- Drug developers (10)
- Labs (4)
- ◆ Clinical sites (5)
- ▲ Service providers (5)
- ◆ Academic and non-profit institutions (3)

Progressing novel therapies in the clinic

The future of biologics is intelligent: first patient dosed with a next-generation immunotherapy in a CDD Phase 1 trial

T-cell engagers harness the immune system to destroy cancer cells, but excessive immune activation often causes serious toxicity and T-cell exhaustion, limiting clinical benefit.

NVG-222, developed by our partner NovalGen, represents a new generation of intelligent, self-regulating T-cell engagers. Built on NovalGen's proprietary AutoRegulation platform, it is designed to sense excessive T-cell activation at the immune synapse and selectively self-limit its activity. This adaptive control mechanism is designed to preserve potent anti-tumour efficacy while improving safety and maintaining T-cell function, supporting more durable responses.

Our CDD Phase 1 trial opened in December 2025, with the first patient dosed in February 2026, marking a significant milestone in advancing intelligent biologics into clinical development.

[Read more about the NVG-222 trial](#)

NOVALGEN



A highly selective immunotherapy enters CDD Phase 2a trial, offering hope for people with advanced solid tumours

Just 20-40% of people with solid tumours respond to current immunotherapies. HTL0039732 is a small molecule drug candidate that takes a fresh approach, tightly controlling signalling in the tumour microenvironment to prevent cancer cells hiding from the immune system.

We partnered with Japan-based Nxera Pharma to bring the drug candidate to people with hard-to-treat solid cancers. The first patient in our Phase 2a trial began treatment in September 2025. This follows promising Phase 1 trial results, including two partial responses in two distinct tumour types.

[Find out more about the trial](#)

NXERA

Partner with us to advance therapeutics with the power to save lives

Our flexible co-development models provide a cost-effective route to develop promising medicines with a streamlined path to patient impact.

[Find out more](#)

Making our science more inclusive and sustainable



Sponsoring the third Empowering Women in Organic Chemistry (EWOC) conference in Basel, Switzerland

EWOC Europe unites women and allies working in organic chemistry across academia and industry, with networking, career advice, poster sessions and workshops. Our support for the not-for-profit helps keep costs low and the event accessible.

Reducing our environmental impact

17.4%

year-on-year reduction in CO₂ emissions
across Cancer Research Horizons

Driven primarily by reductions in emissions from:



Purchased goods and services

-30.9%



Capital goods

-54.4%



Patient integration makes research stronger: joint opinion article with experienced patient advocate Steve Clark

Patient involvement drives higher quality, higher impact science, but more must be done to embed people with lived experience into research as genuine partners.

Steve Clark – stage 4 cancer patient, advocate and founder of StriveForFive.org – champions a shift from patient involvement to patient integration. Integration goes further than involvement, positioning people with lived experience as vital team members to help shape research questions, methods and goals alongside scientific and clinical colleagues.

Together, we published an opinion article in Current Medical Research and Opinion, sharing learnings and presenting ideas and real-world initiatives to encourage greater patient integration in drug development.

[Read the article](#)

C-FURTHER

Our joint childhood cancer initiative builds momentum in its second year

1

new core partner

\$50m

funding to date

2

collaborations

C-Further applies our end-to-end model to childhood cancer – bringing together funding, drug discovery expertise and a highly collaborative model to translate promising science into more effective, targeted therapies for children and young people.

We made significant progress this year, from strengthening our foundations to announcing our first therapeutic programmes.



Unveiling our first therapeutic programmes: CF-012 and CF-033

Co-developed with top academic and industry investigators from across the globe, these projects form the foundation of C-Further's expanding pipeline:

CF-012

targets a vulnerability once considered undruggable on Ewing Sarcoma, a rare and aggressive cancer.

In collaboration with:



CF-033

advances an iNKT cell immunotherapy for the potential treatment of multiple children's cancers, including bone sarcoma, medulloblastoma and acute myeloid leukaemia.

In collaboration with:



[Explore C-Further's pipeline](#)

Formation of inaugural scientific advisory board (SAB)

Chaired by Dark Blue Therapeutics' Alison Maloney, C-Further's SAB brings together world-leading experts in drug discovery and clinical trials, who have contributed to the progression of dozens of cancer drugs and landmark clinical trials that have redefined standards of care for children and young people with cancer.

“Working together with the experts assembled by C-Further, we have the necessary skills to address the systemic barriers and transform the treatment landscape for children and young people with cancer.”

Alison Maloney,
Chair of the C-Further SAB

Meet C-Further's SAB



Building momentum with community: no one can tackle paediatric cancer alone



Our aspiration for the sector is to bring together experts worldwide to think differently and act boldly. In September 2025, we again partnered with AACR to develop a session focused on translational science at their dedicated paediatric cancer conference. The session carried real energy, reflecting growing momentum in the field and the importance of continued collaboration.

We also held C-Further's first in-person patient panel meeting, bringing together advocates with lived experience of childhood cancer. Their perspectives are embedded throughout our strategy and processes, and we consult them regularly to guide priorities, plans and projects.

Discover how we work with patients and their families

GOSH Charity joins C-Further as core funder, bringing total funding to £37m (\$50m)

The UK's largest charitable funder of child health research, GOSH Charity brings leading expertise, influence and deep connections with patient groups, boosting C-Further's ability to address the distinct challenges of childhood cancer drug discovery.

Read more



Get involved with C-Further

We're looking for innovative research, new partners, funders and impact investors to join our mission.

Find out more



On the horizon

We're proud of all we achieved in 2025/26, but we know there is more to do to deliver lasting impact for people with cancer.

"The most exciting opportunities in cancer research are often those that are only just coming into view. By anticipating emerging trends, investing in new capabilities and bringing together the right partners, we can help accelerate the next generation of breakthroughs for people with cancer."



Tony Hickson,
Chief Business Officer,
Cancer Research Horizons

Creating the conditions for future breakthroughs

Forging founders faster

Introducing the Cancer Research Horizons Therapeutic Accelerator



CANCER
RESEARCH
HORIZONS

Therapeutic
Accelerator

Turning a promising discovery into a therapeutic takes more than great science. It requires the right expertise, guidance and network.

To help address this challenge, we've launched the Cancer Research Horizons Therapeutic Accelerator, a four-month, founder-centric translational programme combining the skills, networks and expertise to advance promising oncology therapeutics.

Participating teams will receive £40k funding and support to build a bespoke commercialisation roadmap, an active network and the readiness to lead their programme forward. After the Accelerator, teams can showcase their start-up to the oncology innovation community at our demo day, with the chance to secure one of two £250,000 awards.

Our Therapeutic Accelerator reflects our commitment to supporting researchers at the earliest stages of translation and advancing promising oncology therapeutics towards patients. Our first programme begins in early 2027.

[Explore the programme](#)

Building a data ecosystem for AI-enabled discovery to drive better outcomes for patients

This year, we refreshed and implemented our data strategy to embed AI and data-driven approaches and unlock new insights from their use. Patient data supports target identification, hypothesis validation, patient stratification, disease positioning, and biomarker discovery.

We also began developing the infrastructure and partnerships needed to scale data use. This includes plans for a Cancer Research UK Data Hub to make existing datasets easier to find and access, and new approaches that tap into advances in AI to analyse existing data in exciting new ways.

Building on this progress, we will accelerate our efforts over the next two years through major investment in data reuse as part of Cancer Research UK's AI and Data Science Strategy.

[Read more about CRUK's data science community](#)

On the Horizon event series: connecting around the next wave of innovations in cancer research

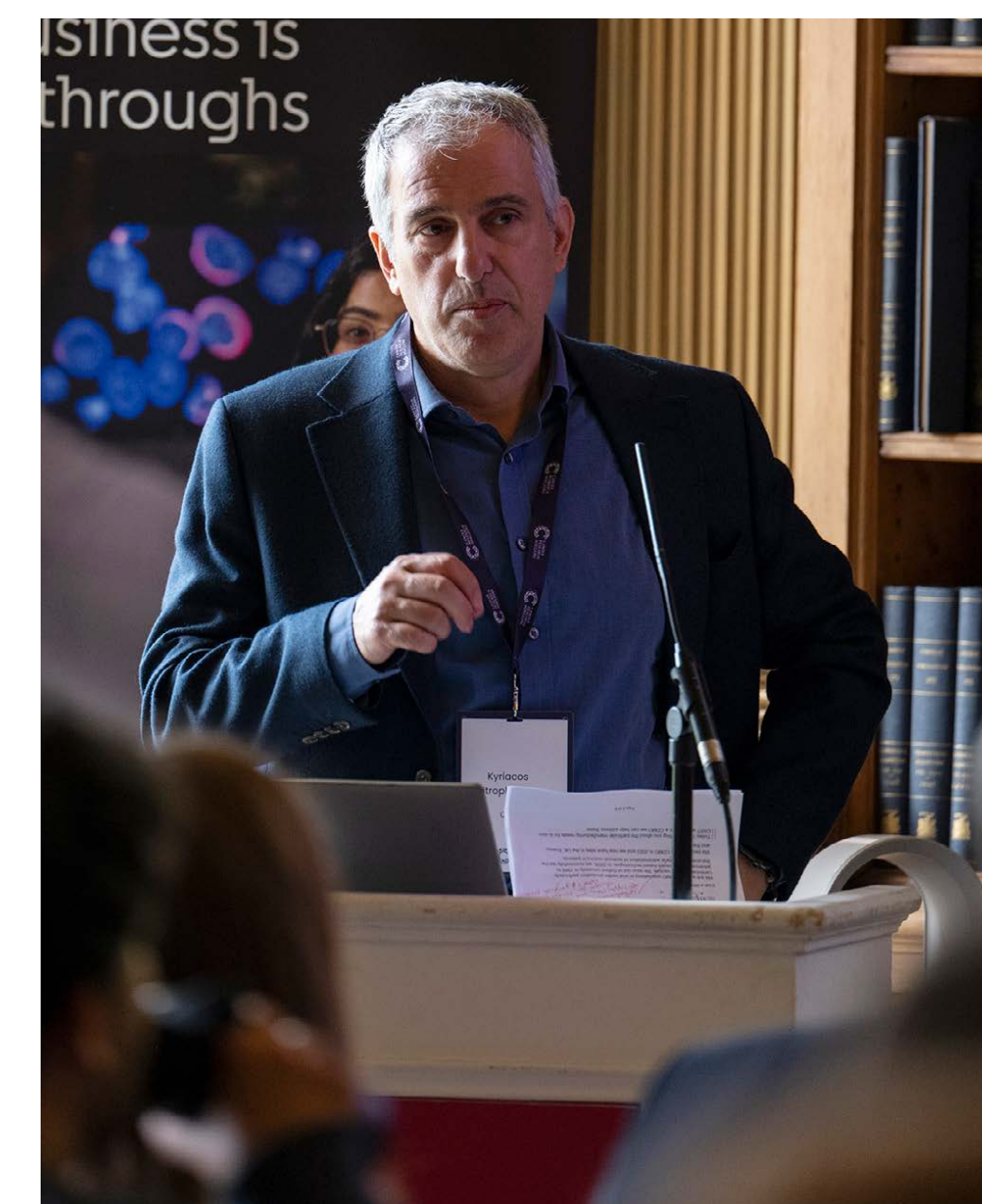
We have access to some of the most innovative science in cancer – but translating it into patient benefit requires collaboration across the whole ecosystem. Our On the Horizon event series brings together researchers, industry and investors to explore what we see as the next major developments in cancer treatment.

In June 2026, we held our second event, shining a light on an area with game-changing potential: *in vivo* CAR T. Seen as a potential paradigm shift in immunotherapy, *in vivo* CAR T eliminates the need for complex *ex vivo* cell manufacturing by delivering genetic material directly into the patient, enabling scalable, off-the-shelf treatments. This approach could drastically reduce the cost and complexity of CAR T to enable faster, scalable immunotherapy.

We see our On the Horizon events evolving into a focal point across the life sciences community – connecting researchers, industry and investors with the latest innovations that have the potential to transform people's lives.

[Read more about the *in vivo* CAR T event](#)

[Be the first to hear about future events in the series](#)





Contact us

Partner with us to take cutting-edge innovations
from the lab bench to the bedside.

cancerresearchhorizons.com

Cancer Research Technology Limited, trading as Cancer Research Horizons, is a company registered in England and Wales (1626049). It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cancer Research UK.

FURTHER FASTER TOGETHER
We are beating cancer