



Charlie Beardmore, President
Dr Simon Hughes, Trustee
Penguins Against Cancer
C/o Fenwycks
Tekels Avenue
Camberley
Surrey, GU15 2LB

20 December 2021

Dear Mr Beardmore & Dr Hughes,

RE: Fergus Scholefield Cancer Research Grant – progress report

We are enormously grateful for the award of £5,000 from Penguins Against Cancer to support Dr Matthew Clarke's study looking at methylation profiling of diffuse glioma in the teenage and young adult population. A brief update on progress is below.

I am delighted to tell you that the project is progressing very well. Within the first few months, Dr Clarke and the team have gathered a cohort of over 70 tumours from teenagers and young adults (aged 13-30 years) with high grade gliomas thanks to the support of their national and international collaborators. They have been reviewing the microscopic features of these tumours and extracting the DNA from the material provided. This has allowed them to explore their methylation profiles using the Heidelberg brain tumour classifier, helping them to separate them into different subgroups.

The researchers' next steps in the New Year will be to explore the genetic material (both DNA and RNA) in more detail using different forms of genomic sequencing techniques to try and identify any changes which may be driving them to form and grow. Many more samples are also expected in 2022, which will help us to better understand the genomic landscape of the tumours that occur in this age group.

Thank you so much to Penguins Against Cancer for generously supporting this vital work. The grant has paid for half of the methylation arrays that have been done so far. It is thanks to organisations such as you that we are able to study this devastating disease in more detail, in hope of unravelling more of the molecular complexities, and improving treatment and subsequent outcomes for patients.

We look forward to updating you further in 2022.

Wishing everyone at Penguins Against Cancer a happy and healthy festive season.

With very best wishes,

N.Kashyap
Natasha Kashyap

The Institute of
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