

MOVEMBER'S RESEARCH FUNDS IN ACTION: DUNDEE

Working with our men's health partner, Prostate Cancer UK, 17 Project Grants and Pilot Awards have been made possible with Movember funding. Awarded across the UK's leading research institutions, these projects focus on vital prostate cancer research to identify early results.

USING ULTRASOUND IN PROSTATE CANCER TISSUE ANALYSIS

The Oncology department at the University of Dundee, with funding from Movember, will test a new form of ultrasound that measures how 'stiff' prostate tissue is. The researchers will see whether changes in tissue stiffness can accurately locate a tumour within the prostate and even predict how aggressive it is.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

This project will use a new ultrasound technique called shear wave elastography (SWE) to measure the 'stiffness' of suspicious prostate tissues. The scientists hope that this technique will be able to reliably locate prostate tumours and differentiate between cancer types.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

At the moment, it isn't possible to use ultrasound to reliably locate tumours within the prostate, so we have to rely on invasive and uncomfortable biopsies for accurate diagnosis. Other promising diagnostic imaging techniques, like magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), are also not able to differentiate between indolent (essentially harmless) and aggressive prostate cancers. These scientists believe that they using SWE ultrasounds to measure tissue stiffness will help doctors to characterise and manage prostate cancers, without lengthy hospital stays. They believe that this type of ultrasound could be used together with biopsies to make them less invasive and more accurate, as well as helping to define how dangerous the cancer is.

Prostate biopsies, which are currently used to assess location of prostate cancer, could be guided by this type of ultrasound to make the results more accurate and less invasive. This type of imaging could also be used to help define risk.

WHO'S LEADING THE TEAM?

This project will be led by Mr Ghulam Nabi, Senior Clinical Lecturer in surgical uro-oncology at the University of Dundee. The expected time period of this study is 3 years.

OUR VISION: TO CHANGE THE FACE OF MEN'S HEALTH.

