

MOVEMBER'S RESEARCH FUNDS IN ACTION: YORK

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.

NEW THERAPIES TO TARGET TUMOUR-INDUCING CELLS

Movember funded researchers at the Yorkshire Cancer Research Unit at the University of York are testing drugs against proteins necessary for prostate cancer cell survival in cells from men with prostate cancer, rather than in cells made in the laboratory.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

The purpose of this proposal is to target the cells that cause prostate cancer and that are resistant to standard therapies.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

For more than six decades therapies that block androgen (growth hormone) activity have been used to manage prostate cancer. Unfortunately, this treatment is not a cure and most patients relapse within 18 months. The nature of this resistance to this, and other therapies, is the focus of this project.

Most drugs tested in prostate cancer clinical trials were selected on the basis of how well they worked in cells that had been grown and regrown for decades, and no longer looked or behaved much like the original tumour cells they came from. Because this research uses cells that have come straight from prostate cancer patients, and so are much closer to 'real-life' conditions, this project should not only help increase the success rate of clinical trials for prostate cancer, but also provide information about cells that are resistant to hormone therapy and how best to target them.

WHO'S LEADING THE TEAM?

The project will be led by Dr Anne Collins, Senior Research Associate at the Yorkshire Cancer Research Unit, University of York. The expected time period of this study is 3 years.

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

