

Investing in palliative and end of life care research



Care and support
through terminal illness

Elizabeth Culbertson/Marie Curie



Marie Curie is here for people living with any terminal illness and their families. We're the UK's largest charitable funder of palliative and end of life care research.

Why we fund research

Palliative and end of life care research is still significantly underfunded. Of the £2.6 billion spent on health-related research in the UK in 2018, just 0.21% was on palliative and end of life care (HRCS database), with over a third of this being funded by Marie Curie.

From 2002 to 2010, end of life care cancer spend was around 0.1% of the total spent on non-commercial cancer research in the UK.

In 2011 there was an increase in the proportion of funds spent on end of life care cancer research. This was largely due to Marie Curie's shift in

research investment to palliative and end of life care research. In 2017/18, end of life care cancer research still only amounts to 0.2% of non-commercial cancer research funded in the UK with over 60% of this funded by Marie Curie.

How we fund research

Marie Curie funds research covering a range of different themes and areas of need, with the ultimate aim of delivering research that helps influence policy and practice in palliative and end of life care. Our key funding areas are:

- Research in Marie Curie Hospices through our Research Lead and Academic Fellowship Schemes.
- Marie Curie Research Grants Scheme that awards funding to researchers via an open call.



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- Marie Curie funded research centres at University College London and Cardiff University.
- Internal small research grants scheme for Marie Curie staff who have an interest in palliative and end of life care research and addressing Marie Curie evidence needs.

Research in our hospices

Our Research Lead Programme has helped to increase research activity at our hospices and build relationships with academic and health service professionals.

Since 2011, we have appointed Research Leads to develop and facilitate clinically relevant research at Marie Curie Hospices – we currently have Research Leads in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Liverpool.

From 2017, the **Research Lead** programme evolved into **Marie Curie Clinical and Academic**

Research Fellowships to further develop our research capacity and collaborate with local universities and other organisations. These collaborations help us to offer fellowship opportunities for researchers to get involved in palliative and end of life care research within a university, working closely with one of our hospices.

We currently have Research Fellows in our Belfast, Bradford and West Midlands hospices. The academic institutes these Fellowships are based at are Queen's University Belfast, University of Leeds and University of Warwick.

Marie Curie Research Grants

The Marie Curie Research Grants Scheme awards funding to high quality palliative and end of life care research projects. These projects provide evidence which can inform a better quality of life for people with

terminal illnesses, as well as their carers, communities, friends and families. Sign up to our mailing list for information about our research calls by emailing:

research.info@mariecurie.org.uk

Research at our centres

Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department, University College London

Based at University College London, the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department's (MCPCRD) mission is to help people living with a terminal illness, and their families, to make the most of the time they have together. It specialises in research into non-cancer conditions, particularly dementia, as well as exploring hard-to-reach groups such as homeless people, and teenagers and young people. It also focuses on areas such as advanced liver disease and psychological support for patients and their carers.

Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Centre, University of Cardiff

The Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Centre (MCPCRC) at Cardiff University aims to undertake high quality and impactful research of national priority, which is directly relevant to patient and carer needs. This includes a significant amount of patient and public involvement, rehabilitation and issues related to advanced cancer, including cachexia and thrombosis.

Marie Curie Internal Small Research Grants Scheme

As part of Marie Curie's commitment to be the UK's largest charitable funder of palliative and end of life care research we seek to embed a research ethos throughout the charity. In 2018 Marie Curie launched its internal Small Research Grants Scheme, where staff members with an active interest in research can apply for funding up to £15k to carry out research of their own. This funding provides protected time for research involvement.

To date we have awarded six grants to Marie Curie staff across the UK to staff researching a range of areas, including: delirium screening, hydration in advanced cancer, digital health interventions and the role of Men's Sheds in palliative care day services.

Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Conference

The annual Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Conference held jointly with the Palliative Care Section of the Royal Society of Medicine is open to anyone with an interest in palliative and end of life care. For information about previous conferences and to register your interest in future ones please visit: mariecurie: **mariecurie.org.uk/researchconference**

Research Voices Group

The Marie Curie Research Voices Group was set up in 2013 to ensure our research activities meaningfully engage with, and accurately represent people, who have personal experiences of living with terminal illness.

Members of our group have given their support in a wide range of activities, including:

- reviewing proposed funding grant applications
- reviewing grant reports and offering feedback to grant holders
- identifying key questions for palliative and end of life care research
- representing the research team at external events
- being part of our team when planning and facilitating events and workshops
- reviewing posters submitted for the Annual Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Conference

If you are interested in joining our research voices group get in touch with the research team for more information: research.info@mariecurie.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who supports us and makes our work possible. To find out how we can help or to make a donation, visit mariecurie.org.uk

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Get in touch to find out more about the research we fund and to receive future updates from the research team:

Email: research.info@mariecurie.org.uk

Website: mariecurie.org.uk/research

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[@MCPCRD](#) for updates from the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department at University College London

[@MCPCRC](#) for updates from the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Centre at Cardiff University



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