

54th Annual Review 2021-22



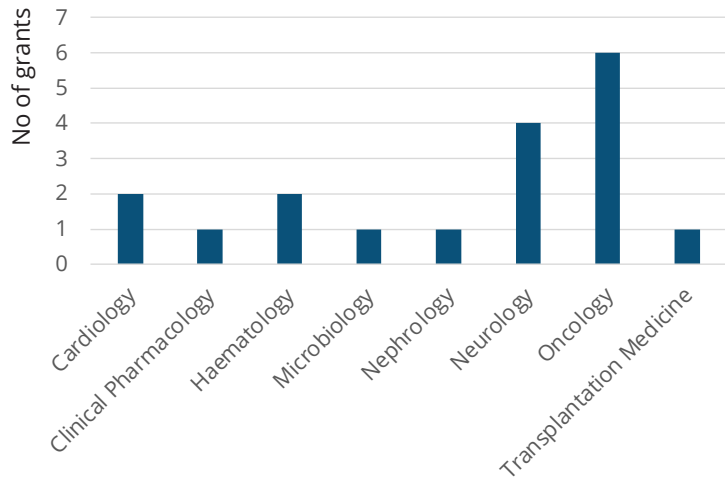
A leading medical research charity providing vital funds for early stage medical research in Scotland

2021-22 At a Glance

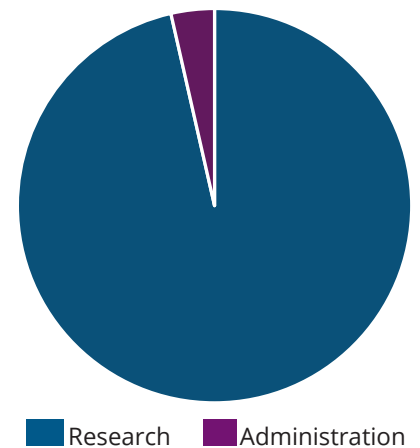
Grants for the year were across the full range of medicine and health care

14
Small
Pilot Grants
£214,658

4
Large
Grants
£194,737



3.7% Administration costs
3.7% of income for the year and
4.2% over the last six years



Chairman's Comments

As life edges cautiously back towards a 'new normal' following a second year of Covid-19 restrictions, it is good to be able to report that Tenovus Scotland has had another successful year despite the prevailing difficulties. Obviously face-to-face meetings were not possible for the National Committee or any of the Regional Committees until just a few weeks ago, but the use of video-conferencing facilities has allowed us to maintain our normal schedule of meetings, meaning that grants were awarded as usual and the governance of the charity was ensured.

It has been a difficult time for many of our researchers, and we have sought to provide what help we could by extending deadlines where required and, in some instances, by providing additional funding. It has been rewarding to see just how well the great majority of researchers have coped and how quickly research activities have returned to almost pre-pandemic levels, testament to the commitment and enthusiasm of our grant recipients.

One of Tenovus Scotland's features is the breadth of research which it supports. Of 217 grants awarded over the last five years, the top three specialties were oncology, neurology and infectious diseases, the last with the majority of grants being awarded pre-Covid. A total of 27 other medical specialties were awarded funding, meaning that the best science is being funded irrespective of the specialty. This is achieved by our Regional Committees seeking applications from as wide a range of specialties and institutions as possible, and then through the rigorous peer-review processes of our Local and National Scientific Advisory Committees. I offer my thanks to these committees.

Fund-raising activities have been impossible given prevailing restrictions, but the Fundraising and Marketing Committee has used the time wisely to develop plans for future activities. Much of our funding comes from legacies and charitable trusts, and it is planned to try to maximise such income given the high quality of the applications for funding which we

receive. More funds will allow us to support even more of these excellent applications.

Tenovus Scotland spends only 3.7% of funds received on administration, maximising funds to support research, but this means that we are indebted to the many committee members across Scotland who give generously of their time and expertise on a voluntary basis. Without their input there would be no Tenovus Scotland, and the research community would be much the poorer for that. Thanks are due to all for their commitment.

Finally, Tenovus Scotland could not do what it does without the help of its supporters, including many reading this *Annual Review*. These are financially difficult times for many people, but if you are able to make any donation you can know that it will be used wisely to support the best new science (and new scientists) in Scotland. Thank you!

Professor Ken Paterson
National Chairman

Today's Research ~ Tomorrow's Health

Grampian, Highlands & Islands

In spite of continued restrictions, Tenovus Scotland Grampian Highlands & Islands (GHI) has enjoyed another productive year supporting early career researchers in the universities of our region. While donations remain limited, the amalgamation of the residue of the Moulton-Barratt monies into our main fund permitted sponsorship of five high quality projects selected from 15 applications, and we hope these will result in valuable future health developments.

Several excellent interim and final reports, associated with useful publications and communications, were submitted, reinforcing the value of Tenovus Scotland awards. However, the ongoing pandemic limitations necessitated extensions being granted to some of our scholars so that work could be completed.

Fundraising and opportunities to enhance our profile, including our

popular Lawyers' Evening, continued to be disrupted, but we were pleased that an article in NUSOVUS highlighted GHI scholars' contributions to fundraising and the maintenance of social media accounts. Further, they have completed recording a series of video clips by grant holders, outlining their projects and acknowledging Tenovus Scotland with gratitude; these can be used to populate the website, Twitter and for general publicity.

In view of our relatively restricted funds, it was considered that we would be unable to offer many grants in the coming year. In order not to raise falsely hopes of funding and to diminish unnecessary work, the GHI Committee decided that, in line with some of the large national and international funding agencies, we would trial a system whereby the universities conduct an initial triage of applications from their institution,

Scientific Advisory Committee (NSAC). We look forward to further evaluating this approach.

Sadly, in the last year, two of our committee members have left us. Dr Stuart Duncan has retired after unstinting and sterling service for many years, several as Regional Chair, and was a valued member of the LSAC. In addition, one of our lawyer members, Mr Alastair Marshall, has resigned due to the pressure of business commitments; among his significant contributions was his major part in the administration of the Lawyers' Evening. We offer them our gratitude and wish them well. So far, we have recruited one replacement, Professor Alison Murray, retired Professor of Radiology in Aberdeen and a former recipient of Tenovus Scotland funding. Additionally, Dr Paul Brown, an Aberdeen pathologist, has agreed to reinforce our LSAC.

I wish to record my considerable thanks to the members of the GHI committee for their loyalty, dedication and tireless commitment to Tenovus Scotland and its endeavours.

Professor Jamie Grieve
Chairman



forwarding a maximum of three for consideration by the Local Scientific Advisory Committee (LSAC) and the National

Tayside & North-East Fife

During the course of the year, we had agreement from Tenovus Scotland to recognise our geographic coverage by adopting a formal name change to Tayside & North-East Fife.

Despite the impact of COVID, our regional committee has had a successful year in 2021-22, supporting a number of high quality research studies and PhD scholarships across the Universities of Dundee and St Andrews and their associated Medical Schools.

Income during the period included £132,000 from legacies and £103,000 from donations. As always, we are indebted to supporters for their generosity in providing the financial means that allows us to nurture rising research talent. Legacies remain extremely important to us, and we are keen to ensure that the impact of this source of funding on our ability to support research continues to be widely appreciated in our local community.

During the year, a range of existing and new projects was supported to the value of £508,000 including our critical ongoing support for PhD scholarships. In the course of the year we agreed to support four new major projects with grants to a total value of £195,000.

I must express thanks to our LSAC, chaired by Professor Tim Hales, which carefully considered all of the projects submitted for funding. Professor Chim Lang has taken on the role of Vice-Chair of the committee, providing very

valuable support and advice on our funding priorities. Mr Bryant Paterson has managed our accounts with great efficiency, and Mrs Louisa Cross, our local secretary, has provided invaluable support to the committee. I would also like to acknowledge the very hard work of Miss Yvonne Gormley in co-ordinating the activity of our LSAC and ensuring that our grant award process is managed so effectively.

Professor John Connell
Chairman



Strathclyde

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the last year has been particularly successful. As can be seen from the accounts, we received very generous donations from charitable trusts. During lockdown, the number of grant applications submitted by researchers inevitably declined so we decided to ensure that we remained well known among the academic community. Sue Ogden, our secretary, wrote to administrators in the four regional universities which do medical research, telling them of our work and directing those interested to our website. Members of our LSAC also agreed to spread the word among their contacts.

We consider grant applications twice a year and the results of our efforts speak for themselves. In October 2021, we received seven applications and funded four of them at a total cost of £60,307. By contrast, in March 2022, we received 24 excellent applications and agreed to fund ten of them at a total cost of £188,445. If confirmed by the NSAC, these awards will appear in 2022-23 accounts. I am particularly grateful to medical members of our

committee and the LSAC who rose to the challenge of the increased burden of work involved in assessment.

Local charitable trusts remain the main source of our income. Our treasurer, Iain MacDonald, has researched when they meet to make their decisions and arranges to write to them reminding them of the work of Tenovus Scotland. Alister Aitkenhead gives us legal insights into the work of these trusts and, with the help of Catriona Donald and Susan Tolmie, explores other sources of funding, in conjunction with the National Fundraising and Marketing Committee.

We are particularly grateful for the national surveys produced by Thia Begg. During the period 2012-17, the Strathclyde branch awarded grants totalling £604,000. In the five year follow-up, holders of these grants received a further £7,284,000 for the



same research subjects from other sources - a 12-fold return on our investment. This information has proved invaluable in conversations with charitable trusts in our region.

During the course of the year, we have received nine interim and 13 final reports. Many of these speak of the difficulties experienced during the Covid restrictions - laboratories forced to close, staff absences, limited availability of consumables etc - but the resilience in meeting these challenges has been noted.

Finally, I thank all members of the Strathclyde and National committees for their invaluable support.

Professor Alan Foulis
Chairman

Edinburgh



I am pleased to provide this short report on behalf of the Edinburgh regional committee in what remains another unusual year as COVID continued to limit research activity, delay research output and limit our committee meetings to the virtual world once again. Our thanks go to all the committee members who remain tolerant of this situation and to the research community we serve who continued to bring forward applications despite real challenges. We successfully involved some early years post-doctoral researchers in the assessment of the research applications. Our plan is to continue this process which also provides a learning opportunity for these post-doctoral researchers. We received four comprehensive final reports as

projects approved previously have completed, albeit slightly delayed given the challenges over the last two years.

In the financial year 2021-22, the Edinburgh Committee awarded two research projects to teams at the University of Edinburgh, both of whom have started their work. However, I am also pleased to advise that applications are increasing from the other local universities which we are keen to encourage. To this end, we have expanded the committee to include a senior biomedical research engineer from Heriot Watt and we would be pleased to welcome interest from established research staff at Napier, Queen Margaret and Stirling Universities.

The financial situation is stable but our inability to organise specific fundraising events will again require a cautious approach to awards in 2022. That said, we are confident of running a profile-raising event in the autumn. With this in mind, I would like to record particular thanks to Professor Allan Cumming who, after sterling work updating our contacts lists, has stepped down from the committee. He has left us in a better position to move forward as the world opens up to more normal working.

As always, I am indebted to my colleagues on the committee for giving their time generously to contribute to our work and to scrutinise applications fairly and thoroughly in difficult times. I also recognise the problems facing research groups, with access to laboratories denied and many restricted to working from home for most of last year; I commend all their efforts to continue valuable research collaborations and support younger emerging research teams.

Professor Derek Bell OBE
Chairman

Financial Review

Year two of the Covid 19 Pandemic has been relatively kind to us so far as Income is concerned. Again, no formal fund raising events were possible. Legacies continue to reach us and donations surpassed previous years' levels.

In particular, we benefitted from a substantial gift in memory of Jean and Alfred Gordon, Scottish-born parents of the late Professor Bruce Gordon, a long time supporter of our charity. Professor Gordon was Professor of Finance and Real Estate in the University of North Alabama.

The number of research grants awarded this year is somewhat lower than usual which means there is an unexpected surplus of income over expenditure which will be put to good use next year.

Last year we reported a substantial increase in stockbroker fees. Consequently, following a tender process, we appointed Tilney Investment Management to advise on our portfolio with an immediate saving on fees this year.

Although total administration costs are lower than previous years, we anticipate that the current cost of living crisis will lead to an increase next year.

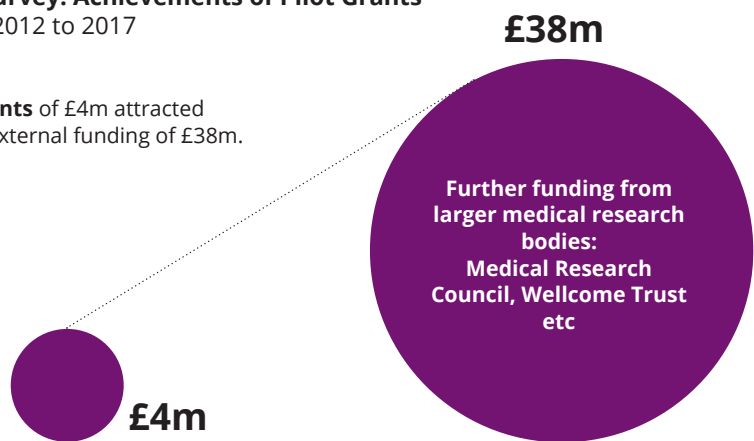
Mr Francis McCrossin
National Treasurer

Income and Expenditure Accounts (£000) for 6 years to 31 March

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Donations	757	411	711	501	238	589
Legacies	132	272	649	66	462	560
Fundraising	-	-	6	10	13	10
Interest & Dividends	87	87	98	93	83	77
Total income	976	770	1,464	670	796	1,236
Research grants	351	893	1,320	734	713	753
Administration	36	41	41	41	45	46
Total expenditure	387	934	1,361	775	758	799
Surplus (Deficit)	589	(164)	103	(105)	38	437
Administration as % of income	3.7%	5.3%	2.8%	6.1%	5.7%	3.7%

Annual Survey: Achievements of Pilot Grants awarded 2012 to 2017

Pilot grants of £4m attracted further external funding of £38m.



773 Medical scientific publications

Nearly **50%** of all pilot grants led to successful further external funding.

Tenovus Scotland Making a Difference

Appreciation from our Researchers

“ Provided seed corn funding for a translational project on cytomegalovirus antivirals that has been a success. ”
Dr Michael Nevels

“ I was able to obtain a key piece of preliminary data which has thus far enabled me to obtain significant funding for my research group. ”
Dr Alison Michie

“ The funding was key to the continuing work of our research group. ”
Dr Isabel Crane

TENOVUS SCOTLAND

Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow
232-242 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5RJ
Tel: 0141 221 6268 Email: general.secy@tenovus-scotland.org.uk

www.tenovus-scotland.org.uk

Scottish Registered Charity No SC009675

Today's Research ~ Tomorrow's Health