



Jan-Feb
2025

Newsletter

Issue 37



Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025! We hope you had a wonderful time over the festive period. We have been busy at NBCRC since starting back - here are some of our updates.

NBCRC Pilot Grant

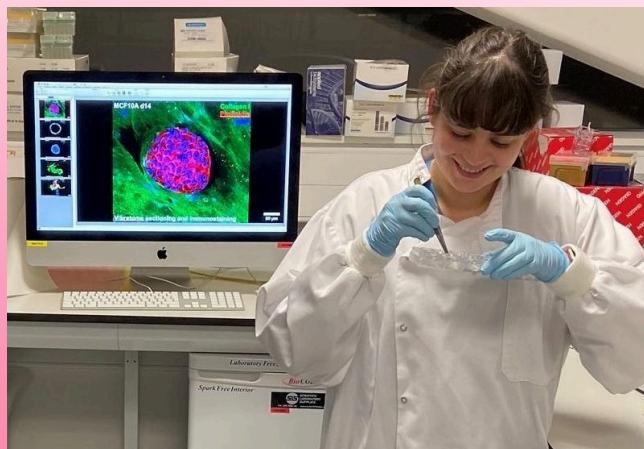
Our Pilot Grant Scheme has this far supported 11 breast cancer research projects since launching in 2019. We fund promising early-stage research to generate preliminary data for publications and larger external funding applications. During the projects researchers provide progress reports every 3-4 months in accessible language, which we share with our supporters and community. We also follow-up following completion of the project to let you know the impact the work has had. The scheme also encourages new research teams to collaborate with NBCRC members, expanding our breast cancer research community.

The deadline for the 2025 round of applications is Monday 24th March 2025, midday.

[You can find out more about the eligibility criteria, application form and process on our website.](#)

[Find out more about our 11 successful research pilot grants to date.](#)

Pilot Grant Spotlight - Dr Jennifer Ashworth



Jennifer received an NBCRC Pilot Grant in 2021 to investigate *"Targeting Invasive Heterogeneity in Breast Cancer Using Methods from Wound Healing."* Her research explored how principles from wound healing could be applied to understanding and treating invasive breast cancer. Through her work, she uncovered new insights into how cancer cells spread, drawing parallels with natural healing processes. Jennifer received an NBCRC Pilot Grant in 2021 to investigate *"Targeting Invasive Heterogeneity in Breast Cancer Using Methods from Wound Healing."*

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Please see our social media posts and webpages <https://bit.ly/pilot-grant-jennifer-ashworth> which explain more about Jennifer's project and her progress since its completion.

Cancer Research Nottingham Symposium



The Cancer Research Nottingham (CRN) Symposium took place on January 24th, bringing together our entire cancer research community with many NBCRC PhD students presenting their work. Well done to all that presented – there is some amazing work going on! One poster presented was by Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) funded student, Sophie Williams, who is working on a family of proteins called calpains, with NBCRC member Stewart Martin and Sarah Storr, characterising novel drugs to stop breast

cancer spread and improve therapy response. As with all our PhD student presenters, the data generated a lot of useful discussions.

NBCRC Members

NBCRC Committee Member Professor Kwok-Leung Cheung, Professor of Breast Surgery and Medical Education, one of our management committee members, has recently been elected as the **President-Elect of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology** (SIOG) for 2024 – 2026 following which he will become the President for 2026 – 2028. **SIOG** is a multidisciplinary membership-based society with members engaged in more than 80 countries around the world. Breast cancer and geriatric oncology are Professor Cheung's clinical and research interests he has a mission to improve the care of older adults with cancer.



New NBCRC members – Welcome!

Dr Lewis O'Shaughnessy – Postdoctoral scientist working with Professor Cameron Alexander on RNA therapeutics targeted at triple negative breast cancer.

Dr Nada Ahmed - Postdoctoral scientist working with Professor Jacqueline Shields on Lymphatic remodelling in early stages of breast cancer.

Fundraising Events & Celebrations!



Boobie Ball Cheque Presentation

Some of our Boobie Ball organisers joined us in January for a special cheque ceremony alongside a tour of the labs, to celebrate their success. This year's Boobie Ball team raised a fantastic £28,578 which will contribute towards the 2025 Pilot Grant Awards. Professor Alan McIntyre and Dr Cinzia Allegrucci, Pilot Grant awardees for 2024, provided an insightful presentation of their research as well as a tour of the labs. An enormous thank you to Boobie Ball organisers Lisa, Alex, Claire, Rachael, Sally and Louise.

Robin Hood Half Marathon 2025: Get involved – have fun AND raise money!

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to take part in Nottingham's annual Robin Hood Half Marathon. Last year's team raised £3,720 – let's see if we can meet, or beat, it!



Sunday 28th
September 2025



9:30am



Nottingham
Wollaton Park



Sign up on the
Robin Hood
Half Marathon
registration
page.

You can then create your own [Just Giving page](#) on the NBCRC website. You will receive a FREE running vest and personalised poster to share with friends and family across social media. Please get in touch with Faylisha by email at nbcrc@nottingham.ac.uk if you are interested in fundraising for the centre or would like any more information.

NBCRC Branded Gifts

We have a number of branded items such as golf umbrellas, tote bags, pens and mugs. If you would like to purchase any please get in touch with us.

NBCRC Tours

If you would like to have a look around our research facilities, meet some of our researchers and hear about the wonderful research that you are helping to make possible please contact us, we would love to show you around!

How to Give

You can help support vital breast cancer research. Making a gift is easy, you can donate once or set up a regular direct debit.

[Donate](#)

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Email: nbcrc@nottingham.ac.uk
Website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/nbcrc

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