



the **eve**
appeal

the gynaecological cancers charity

Research Strategy 2026-2032

**Closing the gaps in gynaecological
cancer research**



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Our aim

To prevent all five gynaecological cancers from developing in the first place, but if they do develop, we want to make sure they're detected early so more people survive their diagnosis.

The Eve Appeal is the UK's leading gynaecological cancer charity.

Foreword

“We’re not waiting for change —
we’re driving it. Together,
we will change the future
of gynaecological cancers.”

Research has always been at the heart of The Eve Appeal’s mission. For over two decades, we have funded groundbreaking studies, driven collaboration with experts across different fields, and advanced research that is shaping the future of gynae cancer prevention and early detection.

Today, we are at a pivotal moment. With rapid advances in science and technology, and a growing understanding of equity, diversity, and meaningful lived experience engagement, we have the opportunity to make earlier detection and prevention a reality for all.

Our 2026–2032 Research Strategy sets out how we will consolidate our leadership in early detection research, advocate for equitable investment and innovation across the five gynaecological cancers, and collaborate nationally and internationally to unlock new funding, insights, and partnerships. We will increase our impact by championing translational research that reaches women and their families sooner, and by measuring, learning, and improving every step of the way.

We are deeply grateful to the researchers, clinicians, funders, and supporters who share our vision. Together, we will transform the future of gynaecological cancer — creating a world where these cancers are either prevented or caught at their earliest, most treatable stages.



Tamara Box
Chair of the Board of Trustees



Athena Lamnisis
Chief Executive Officer

A Letter from Professor Ian Jacobs Founder of The Eve Appeal



Forty years ago, when I established what was then the Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund, the vision was simple but ambitious – to prevent gynaecological cancers and save women’s lives through earlier detection and better understanding of risk. That vision has guided The Eve Appeal’s journey since its creation and remains as urgent and relevant today as it was then.

In the decades that have followed, we have seen important scientific and clinical progress. We have also seen other transformative developments: the rise of a powerful, engaged community of researchers, clinicians, and people with lived experience, all united behind one cause.

Now, as The Eve Appeal sets its next research strategy, I am filled with optimism. While there is still so much to do, advances in genomics, proteomics, molecular diagnostics, and AI-driven healthcare give us unprecedented tools to detect cancer earlier or prevent it altogether. Just as importantly, The Eve Appeal’s unwavering commitment to inclusion, collaboration, and advocacy helps ensure that these advances will reach everyone who needs them.

This strategy captures both the heart and the ambition of The Eve Appeal. It builds on a foundation of excellence in research and a belief that knowledge, compassion, and partnership can change the future of gynaecological cancers. As we look to 2032, I have no doubt that the work we do today will bring us closer to a world where lives are saved because gynaecological cancers are prevented or detected earlier.

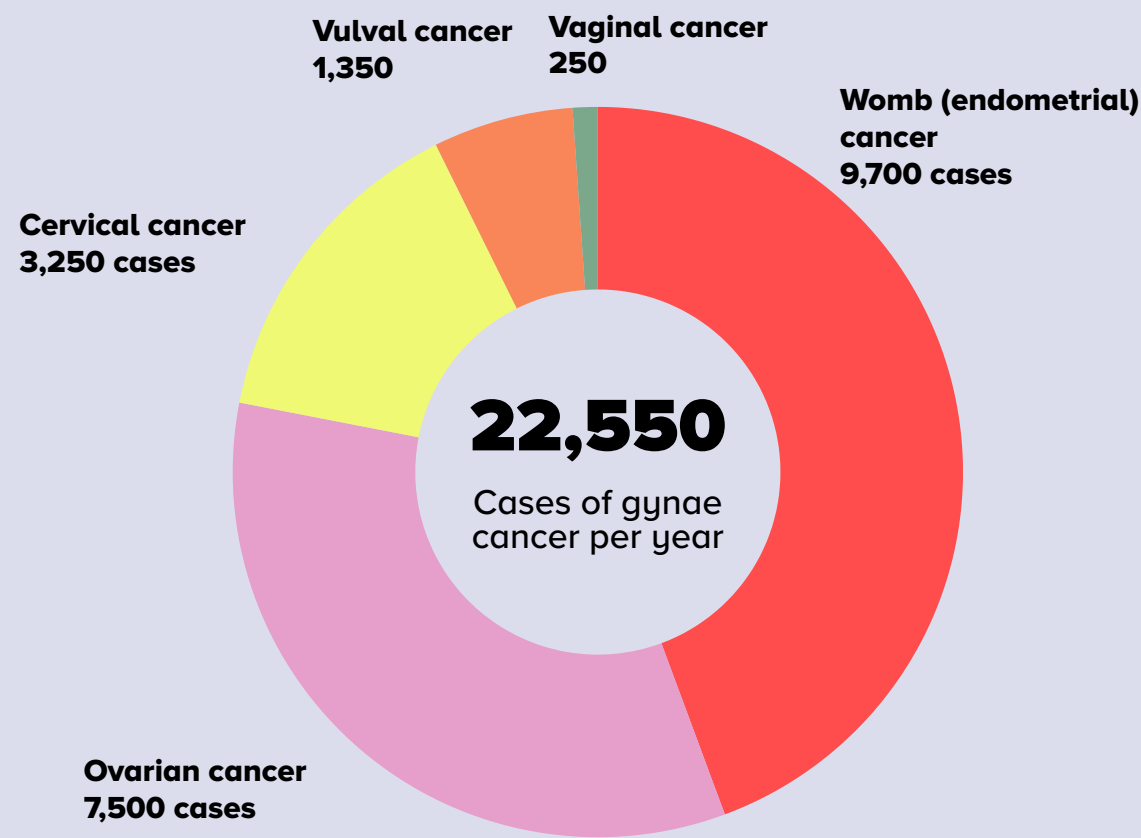
With my deepest thanks to all who make this possible – our researchers, supporters, clinicians, and community – I am proud to see The Eve Appeal leading the way.

Professor Ian Jacobs
Founder, The Eve Appeal

The importance of research

Today, 60 women and people with gynae organs in the UK will hear the devastating news they have a gynaecological cancer. 21 will die because of the gynae cancer they were diagnosed with.

Gynae cancer annual statistics



Each year, that's thousands of lives lost to cancers that most people don't know enough about, are rarely discussed, and receive nowhere near enough research funding.

At The Eve Appeal, we're determined to change this unacceptable situation.

Over the last two decades, we've invested over £12 million into research focused on gynae cancer screening, early diagnosis, prevention and predicting people's risk of developing a gynae cancer.

Investment that's already transformed our understanding of gynae cancers and improved the lives of thousands of people. But we know we need to invest far more over the coming years to ensure all gynae cancers are prevented or detected at an early stage.

MEET CLAIRE

Research is incredibly important because it drives medical advances that give women like me, real choices. Thanks to a pioneering life-giving and life-saving surgery supported by research from The Eve Appeal, I was able to have my baby while also eliminating my risk of ovarian cancer. This meant I didn't have to face another hospital stay or undergo more surgery later.

Instead, I could enjoy the precious moments with my newborn baby while also having a sense of relief that I no longer needed to worry about getting ovarian cancer.

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Claire, BRCA-2 gene alteration advocate

Our vision

A world where all gynaecological cancers are prevented or detected at an early stage.

Our research impact

The Eve Appeal is at the forefront of pioneering research into the prevention and early detection of gynaecological cancers. Founded on a vision to save women's lives through science and innovation, our research has changed how gynaecological cancers are understood, diagnosed, and prevented — and continues to shape global best practice.

Driving Early Detection and Prevention

The Eve Appeal's research has led to landmark progress in our understanding of gynaecological cancers. Our support for the UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening (UKCTOCS) — one of the largest clinical trials ever run — transformed the global understanding of this area and paves the way for new early detection approaches.

Building on this foundation, The Eve Appeal supported GCAPSS (Genetic Cancer Prediction through Population Screening) and UKFOCSS (UK Familial Ovarian Cancer Screening Study) programmes, which have been instrumental in shaping clinical practice for women at increased genetic risk of gynaecological cancers.

Through the PROMISE and FORECEE programmes, we have championed research that uses molecular and genetic markers to identify women at risk earlier than ever before. These studies have laid the foundation for risk-based prevention and screening models that are now informing NHS pathways and international research.

Championing Under-researched Areas

We have consistently funded work in areas often overlooked — from rare cancers to the experiences of women with inherited cancer risk. Through our support of early career researchers and small-scale pilot studies, we have created a pipeline of innovation that continues to generate major breakthroughs.

Shaping National and International Change

The Eve Appeal's influence extends beyond research funding. We have driven policy conversations around early detection, genetic testing, and equitable access to care. Our collaborations with the NHS, international research consortia, and industry partners are enabling the translation of science into life-saving practice.

Our Legacy and Our Future

From a single vision over 40 years ago to a movement that spans continents, The Eve Appeal has created a research legacy that continues to save and improve lives. As we look to 2032, our focus remains clear: to accelerate discovery, close the equity gap, and bring earlier detection and prevention to everyone.



Our ambition

To increase the levels of research focused on developing methods of risk prediction, prevention, early detection and better diagnosis of all gynaecological cancers.

What we do

Most cancer research funding goes into treatments. We want to rebalance this, as we know that prevention is better than cure. This has always been our focus, and others now recognise the importance and potential of preventative healthcare.

We fund research in four key areas:



Uncovering the causes of gynae cancers



Predicting a person's risk of developing them



Identifying how people can reduce their risk



Improving detection and diagnosis

We consulted with a wide range of researchers, clinicians, allied organisations and people with lived experience of gynae cancers to guide our research strategy review.



The Eve Appeal is uniquely positioned to shape the national research agenda by fostering strategic collaborations to align funding priorities and ensure prevention-focused research receives the attention it deserves. By championing these overlooked but high-impact areas, The Eve Appeal can continue to lead the way in transforming outcomes for people at highest risk of gynaecological cancer.

A massive thank you to The Eve Appeal for their continued leadership and impact in gynaecological cancer research. The focus on prevention, early detection, and public awareness has filled a critical gap in the research landscape and made a real difference to both patients and researchers. Thank you again for being such a vital force in our field. **Your support has not only accelerated important science but also created space for new voices and ideas to emerge.**

Responses to the research strategy stakeholder survey



Our research priorities and portfolio

Our three research priorities:



1 Seed funding for original ideas

Taking a risk on innovative research

The Eve Appeal is committed to funding innovative, original projects that challenge conventional thinking and have the potential to transform our understanding of gynaecological cancers. We recognise that progress requires bold ideas. We will continue to provide the seed funding needed to test new hypotheses and explore novel solutions that will lead to follow-on or leverage funding from other sources.



2 Supporting the next generation

Fellowships and support systems for early career researchers

We will continue to invest in the next generation of researchers, ensuring that the brightest minds are equipped to tackle the challenges of preventing and detecting gynae cancers. Recognising the importance of cross-disciplinary approaches, we will support researchers from diverse fields, with different methodological approaches, to collaborate and innovate.



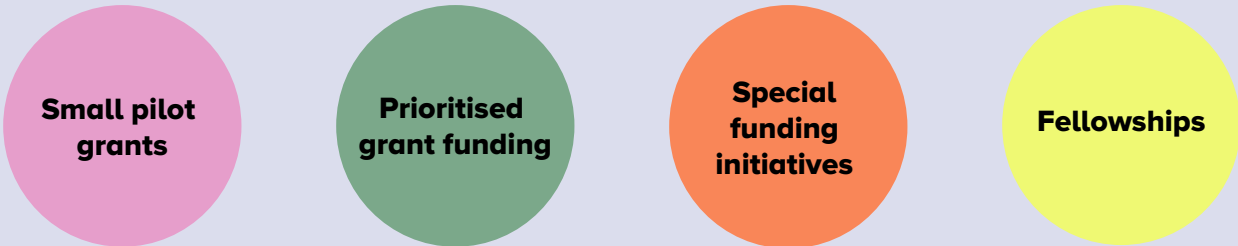
3 Increasing scale through collaboration

Advocacy and partnerships

The Eve Appeal has long advocated for increased investment in research and innovation for the five gynaecological cancers. We believe that collaboration is the key to progress. We will continue to collaborate with allied charities like North West Cancer Research, government bodies, research institutions, and global health organisations to amplify our impact. By fostering partnerships and building strong advocacy networks, we aim to scale up our efforts and create lasting change.

Our research portfolio is designed to drive innovation, foster collaboration, and address critical gaps in gynaecological cancer prevention and early detection. Some of the key components of our funding portfolio are:

Funding portfolio



Fellowships

The Eve Appeal supports early-career researchers through dedicated fellowships, nurturing the next generation of scientific leaders in gynaecological cancer research. These fellowships provide substantial funding and mentorship, ensuring talented researchers can focus on advancing cutting-edge science that aligns with our mission.

Prioritised Grant Funding

We issue targeted calls for research in high-priority areas to address pressing challenges and underfunded gaps. Our committed donors have helped to drive these targeted grants:

- **Rare Gynaecological Cancers Research Call:** Supporting innovative studies into rare cancers such as vulval cancer and uterine sarcomas, where research is critically lacking.
- **BRCA Research:** Funding projects to try and prevent or detect gynae cancers in people at a higher risk because they have a BRCA1/BRCA2 alteration.

Small Grants

Recognising the importance of early-stage research, we offer small grants to fund pilot studies and novel ideas that have the potential to grow into transformative projects. These grants enable researchers to test hypotheses and generate the preliminary data needed to secure larger funding.

Special Funding Initiatives

We collaborate with partners to co-fund initiatives that address specific research needs:

- **Endometrial Cancer Audit Pilot:** Co-funded with the British Gynaecological Cancer Society and Peaches Womb Cancer Trust, this project aims to develop a nationwide audit framework for womb (endometrial) cancer. This audit will gather and analyse robust data which will be used to improve patient care and outcomes.
- **Support of the Small Cell Carcinoma of the Ovary, Hypercalcemic Type registry:** With support from The Eve Appeal and a community of dedicated supporters with experience of this rare tumour, this registry and biobank is bringing the international community together to increase our understanding of small cell ovarian cancer.

Our Funding Calls

The Eve Appeal hosts annual research funding calls, with the scope and scale of each call varying from year to year. The focus of each call will be guided by our strategic research priorities and the funds raised by our dedicated supporters. This flexible approach allows us to respond to emerging scientific opportunities, address unmet needs in gynaecological cancer prevention and early detection, and maximise the impact of every pound we invest.

Our approach

Our approach is grounded in evidence, shaped by our community, and focused on creating meaningful, lasting impact.



Professor Emma Crosbie,
Chair of the Research
Advisory Committee

Monitoring and impact

We want every pound donated and spent on research to have the maximum impact. Our research efforts are aspirational and ambitious, and we cannot achieve our goals on our own. We are a part of the research ecosystem, and our impact is a contribution towards the international achievements of the research community. We carefully monitor the outputs and outcomes of the research we fund with regular, direct monitoring and engagement with our research community. We also gather information and track the longer-term outcomes of previously funded research.



Athena Lamnisis, CEO
of The Eve Appeal with
Dr Jo LeNoury

Engaging people lived experience of gynaecological cancers

We believe that patients and their lived experiences should be at the heart of research. We will ensure that our community of people with lived experience of gynaecological cancers is represented when we choose research projects to fund. By engaging directly with the community, we can ensure that research considers the needs of those directly affected.



Dr Esther Moss' team at
the University of Leicester

Addressing inequality in prevention and early detection

We know that inequalities exist in access to prevention, early detection, and screening for gynaecological cancers. The Eve Appeal will close these gaps by supporting research that identifies and addresses barriers to equitable care. We will actively encourage and expect the researchers we fund to consider how their work can contribute to reducing health inequalities—ensuring that the benefits of their research reach all communities, especially those who are underserved.

Excellence in governance

To attract, select and fund high-quality research, we run competitive open calls, reviewed by scientific experts who use a rigorous process to recommend the best projects to fund.

Our lived experience community are an integral part of this review process.

Projects are selected, monitored and evaluated by our independent Research Advisory Committee, made up of world-leading experts and people with lived experience of gynae cancers. They play a critical role in helping to evaluate applications, ensuring we fund the best research that fits most closely with our mission.

You can find out more about the current membership of the Research Advisory Committee, the member Code of Conduct (which outlines how the charity manages conflicts of interest) and other research policies on our [website](#).

The Research Committee, a sub-committee of our Board of Trustees, plays a key role in ensuring the success and integrity of our research. The committee is responsible for guiding research strategy and planning. It reviews opportunities for strategic partnerships and collaborations, oversees resource allocation for research, and ensures the effective translation of the impact of Eve-funded research.

We are members of the Association of Medical Research Charities, the national membership organisation of leading medical and health research charities. The Eve Appeal meets and exceeds best-practice guidance on expert review, to ensure that the research we fund meets the highest possible standards of quality, accountability, transparency and openness.

We also endorse their position statements on the use of animals in research and the importance of public involvement in medical research.

Expert review process



The Eve Appeal is a NIHR RDN non-commercial partner. This means the studies that we fund may be eligible to access the NIHR Study Support Service which is provided by the NIHR Clinical Research Network. Read the full policy: [Eligibility Criteria for NIHR Clinical Research Network Support](#)

MEET RHEA

Bringing lived experience to research decisions

The lived experience voice is vital in shaping research that truly meets people's needs — grounding scientific ambition in real-world impact. Rhea Crighton, a Lead Gynae-Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, embodies this principle through her role as a long-standing lived experience representative on The Eve Appeal's Research Advisory Committee.



Rhea's dual perspective — as both a healthcare professional supporting women through diagnosis and treatment, and as someone who has personally experienced cervical cancer — brings empathy and patient relevance into every funding discussion. She helps ensure that research proposals aren't only scientifically rigorous but also relevant to the real impact on women's lives: how tests are experienced, how information is communicated, and how innovation can genuinely improve early detection, prevention and outcomes. Her contribution has been vital in strengthening The Eve Appeal's funding decisions. By asking the right questions — Will this research make a difference for patients? Will it reach those who most need it? Does it reflect what matters most to women? Is it accessible and relevant? — Rhea ensures that our research projects align with our mission to save lives through the prevention and early detection of gynae cancers.

It is great to have an opportunity to work with The Eve Appeal, a charity I feel so passionate about. I have an understanding of both sides — as a patient and as a healthcare professional. Having a say in what research gets funded means I can help ensure that the patient voice is at the heart of research decision-making, shaping research that truly reflects the experiences and priorities of those it aims to help.

Rhea Crighton, Lead Gynae-Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, North Devon District Hospital

Funding

Who We Fund

The Eve Appeal funds research led by recognised and established institutions with a proven track record of excellence in gynaecological cancer research and innovation.

We primarily support projects based within UK higher education institutions and accredited research organisations. We may, depending on the funding call, extend eligibility to international academic or research partners where collaboration adds unique value.

Our funding is not available to private organisations or early-stage start-ups without a demonstrable record of academic research delivery. This ensures that all our research meet the highest standards of scientific rigour, ethical governance, and sustainability, and that our investment directly advances meaningful progress.

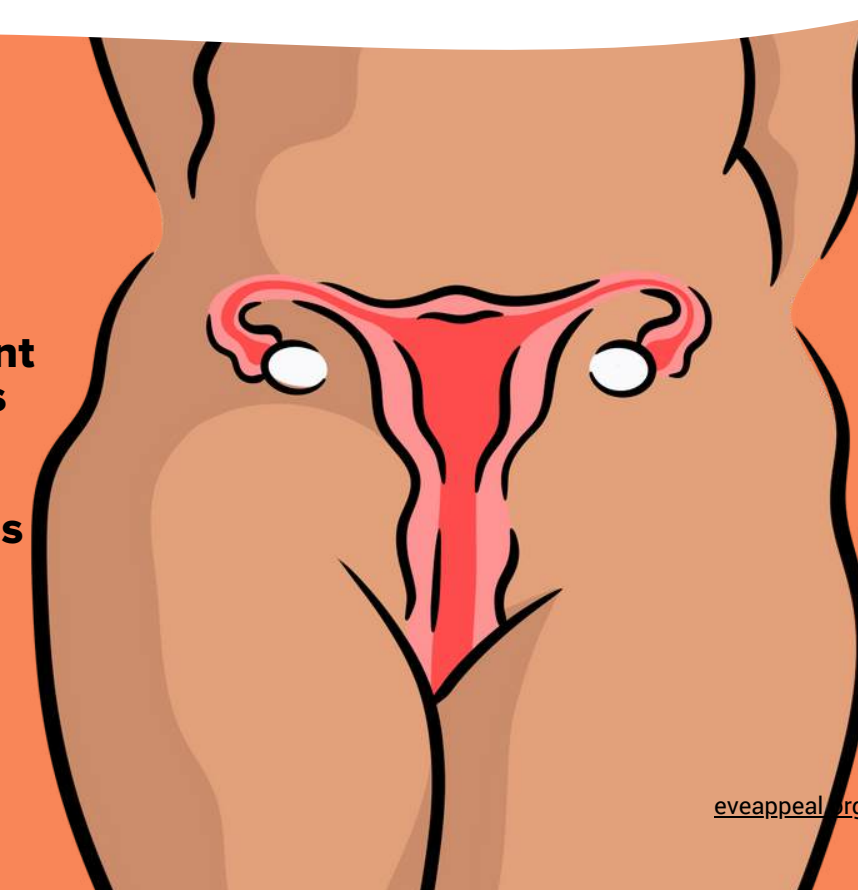
What Makes It Possible

Our research programme is only made possible thanks to the generous support from our community.

If you are interested in funding research, please contact Director of Fundraising, David Lacey: david.lacey@eveappeal.org.uk

If you have any questions about the research strategy or are interested in applying for funding from The Eve Appeal, please look at the opportunities on our [website](https://eveappeal.org.uk) or contact the Head of Programmes, Vas James: vasanthi.james@eveappeal.org.uk

Only 5% of UK cancer research investment is directed towards gynaecological cancers. Research in this area remains significantly underfunded.



MEET PROFESSOR RANJIT

from PhD student to national change-maker

When early career researchers find the right mix of funding, mentorship and a community that believes in their idea, science stops being incremental and starts being transformational. Professor Ranjit Manchanda is one striking example.



Wolfson Institute of Population Health, Queen Mary University of London



Research focus:
Hereditary cancers

A Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist and Professor at the Wolfson Institute of Population Health, Queen Mary University of London, Prof Manchanda combines clinical practice with population-scale prevention research — and The Eve Appeal has been a keen supporter from the start.

Early-stage support: seeding a career

The Eve Appeal's early investment helped to launch the trajectory that turned a promising researcher into a global leader in hereditary cancer prevention. That early-stage backing allowed Prof Manchanda to develop and test novel ideas around population-based approaches to genetic testing and prevention, creating a platform for larger trials and real-world programmes.

Turning evidence into programmes

Work led by Prof Manchanda has investigated the feasibility, acceptability, impact and cost-effectiveness of population BRCA testing in Jewish communities (visit [here](#) for more information). These studies showed that community-based pathways for



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The Eve Appeal's support has been pivotal — not just in funding research, but in creating a space where bold, prevention-focused ideas can take root and thrive. Early on, their belief in the potential of population-based approaches gave me the confidence and flexibility to test concepts that traditional funders might have considered too ambitious. Over time, that foundation helped me to secure larger grants from major funders and grow and expand my research programme, but The Eve Appeal has remained a vital partner — supporting public engagement, dissemination and communication to ensure the research reaches people and policy. I've also benefited from the mentorship and guidance of The Eve Appeal Founder, Professor Ian Jacobs, throughout my career.

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BRCA testing are practical, acceptable to people, and can amplify primary prevention by finding people who would otherwise be missed by the current family-history based testing. He showed this approach prevented many more breast and ovarian cancers and was cost-saving for the NHS. Those strands of research contributed to the evidence base that underpins the 2024-25 NHS Jewish BRCA Testing Programme, which was enabled through his work as an NHS Innovation Accelerator fellow.

Mentorship, networks and scale

Beyond funding, The Eve Appeal's contribution is community: mentorship, opportunities to collaborate, and visibility. For an early career researcher, that means access to senior collaborators, clinical populations, pilot funding for novel study designs, and a charity-led platform to build a research profile and translate small trials into policy conversations.

Real impact

The Jewish BRCA programme launched in 2024 and has tested more than 41,500 people. It is a concrete example of research-to-policy in action. It's a practical, patient centred solution that started from small grants and mentorship. It's an illustration of how charity investment can start off research that leads to real change. As the Topic Adviser (Clinical lead) for the new NICE Guidance NG241, Prof Manchanda has led and enabled translation of this and other outcomes from his research projects in ovarian cancer prevention into new policy guidelines.

Why this matters to The Eve Appeal's mission

The pathway from PhD support to national screening programme shows how our strategy has real value: funding early ideas, nurturing people, and staying engaged as projects grow. For researchers, that means risk-tolerant funding and support, and for patients, it means earlier detection, more prevention options and, ultimately, lives saved.

Thank you

We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to the members of our Research Advisory Committee, the board sub-committee on Research, and our Board of Trustees.

Thanks also to the researchers, supporters and members of our lived experience community for their valuable input which has helped to shape this research strategy.

In 2026*:

Research Advisory Committee	Research Committee	Board of Trustees
Professor Emma Crosbie (Chair)	Professor Ian Jacobs (Committee Chair)	Tamara Box (Chair of the Board of Trustees)
Dr Helen Howie	Dr Christine Ekechi	Sally Bailey
Rhea Crighton	Professor Adam Rosenthal	Helen Byrne
Professor Sudha Sundar	Emma Dean	Sarah Clark
Professor Anne Lanceley		Emma Dean
Dr Garth Funston		Dr Christine Ekechi
Professor Raji Ganesan		Professor Ian Jacobs
Professor James Brenton		Sarah Morris
		Marion O'Hara
		Cathy Pittham-Wiley
		Professor Adam Rosenthal

*Please see our website for any membership updates.



Dr Kelechi Njoku, The Eve Appeal, North West Cancer Research Fellow

Thank you to all of our donors who make our research funding possible.



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the gynaecological cancers charity

The Eve Appeal is the leading gynaecological cancer charity. There are five gynae cancers, which are womb, ovarian, cervical, vulval and vaginal cancer. Our aim is to prevent gynae cancers from developing in the first place, but if they do develop, we want to make sure they're detected early so more people survive their diagnosis.

To make our goals a reality, we fund research that aims to identify the causes of gynae cancers, predict and reduce a person's risk of developing them, and improve their detection and diagnosis.

We also educate people about their gynaecological health and anatomy and the signs and symptoms of gynae cancers. And we answer people's questions about their gynae health and gynae cancers through our Ask Eve nurse service.

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