



the **eve**
appeal

the gynaecological cancers charity

north west
cancer research

Putting our region's cancer needs first



Investing in the **Next Generation** of Gynaecological Cancer Researchers

The Eve Appeal and North West Cancer Research
Fellowship Programme 2026

Introduction

The Eve Appeal and North West Cancer Research are pleased to launch the fourth co-funded Fellowship in gynaecological cancer research. This Fellowship reflects a shared commitment to improving outcomes through advances in early detection, prevention, screening, and understanding inherited risk.

Gynaecological cancer research remains under-resourced, with limited funding opportunities and clear challenges for early career researchers seeking to establish independent careers. Without targeted investment, talented researchers risk leaving the field and progress is slowed.

Launched by The Eve Appeal in 2023 and strengthened through partnership with North West Cancer Research, the Fellowship Scheme is designed to support the next generation of research leaders. It provides not only funding, but also access to expertise, professional networks, and career development opportunities. The scheme currently supports three outstanding researchers and builds on The Eve Appeal's strong track record of nurturing early career talent that has gone on to secure major programme funding and deliver impact.



Introducing our Fellows



Dr Kelechi Njoku, Senior Clinical Oncology Specialty Registrar and Academic Clinical Lecturer, University of Manchester

In November 2023, Kelechi became the first recipient of The Eve Appeal / North West Cancer Research Fellowship.

Kelechi and his team are developing a new, gentler test to diagnose womb cancer using proteins found in vaginal fluid. This could replace the uncomfortable and invasive tests currently used for women with abnormal bleeding. Early results show that his new test detects 95% of womb cancers in postmenopausal women.



Dr Neil Ryan, Clinical Lecturer and Subspecialty Trainee in Gynaecological Oncology, University of Edinburgh

Neil is working to develop a blood test to detect ovarian cancer in its earliest stages, when treatment is most effective. At the moment, most ovarian cancers are diagnosed too late. This leads to poorer outcomes for the women diagnosed. Neil's research will focus on identifying proteins in the blood that signal early ovarian cancer.

He is collaborating closely with two patient advisory groups to guide this much-needed research.



Dr Sarah Kitson, Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Consultant Gynae-oncologist

Sarah will investigate how p53-abnormal womb cancer—the most aggressive subtype—develops, who is most at risk, and whether early changes can be targeted to prevent it.

This type of womb cancer is likely to spread and recur, have poorer outcomes than other womb cancers, and is more common in Black women.



Our Fourth Fellowship Call

This call is dedicated to advancing research across the five gynaecological cancers - womb, ovarian, cervical, vulval and vaginal.

Prediction, prevention, better diagnosis and early detection in gynae cancer are underfunded, with the majority of cancer research funding supporting new treatment discovery. Evidence shows that improving diagnosis and prevention will save more lives. For this reason, and in keeping with The Eve Appeal's research strategy, fellowship research projects should be focused on early detection, prevention, screening, and understanding inherited risk in gynae cancer.

The fellowship is open to proposals across the spectrum of discovery, basic science, translational, and clinical research.

We invite applications that explore novel avenues, fields and methodologies to develop early detection methods, innovative prevention strategies, in-depth understanding of inherited risk factors, and advancements in screening technologies for the gynae cancers. We encourage projects that aim to understand and reduce health inequalities in gynaecological cancer outcomes, ensuring that advancements benefit all populations equitably.



What we provide

- Competitive funding to support cutting-edge research
- The opportunity to establish and lead an independent research group
- Mentorship and support from leading experts in the field
- Networking opportunities within a collaborative research community
- Support to build your public profile as a researcher

The proposed financial investment for The Eve Appeal / North West Cancer Research Fellowship would be up to £120,000 per year, divided evenly across three years, to cover salaries and directly incurred costs of research.

The Eve Appeal and North West Cancer Research are committed to changing the face of research and ensuring that we support teams from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

[**Download The Eve Appeal's research strategy 2026-2032**](#)

[**Download North West Cancer Research's research strategy**](#)

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We look forward to receiving applications from dedicated researchers eager to make a significant impact on gynaecological cancer research in the UK.

- The Eve Appeal CEO, Athena Lamnisis

Eligibility

We invite outstanding postdoctoral clinicians and researchers who can demonstrate an excellent track record and who have shown potential for research leadership to apply for support.

Fellowships will be considered for basic science, clinical and translational research that focuses on risk prediction, early detection, early diagnosis, screening or understanding inherited risk of gynaecological cancer.

The Fellowship is intended to support researchers to gather data and strengthen their bids for longer-term substantive funding and to emerge as independent research leaders.

Criteria to apply:

- The candidate must be hosted in a UK university or established research institute, and the fellowship must be undertaken in the UK. Periods of research experience away from the host institution may be requested but must be justified.
- The fellowship is not intended for established academics. The charity estimates that the appropriate career stage of eligible candidates is up to four years post-PhD full time equivalent. **Eligibility should be reviewed with The Eve Appeal secretariat before applying.**
- Clinically qualified applicants should hold Academic Clinical Lecturer (or equivalent) posts. Non-clinically qualified candidates should be post-doctoral researchers or Research Fellows.
- All candidates must have a PhD. Candidates must have their PhD conferred by the time the fellowship is awarded (November 2026). Newly qualified candidates should note that they may be competing with other candidates who have several years post-PhD research experience.
- For academics in a non-clinical role, we are prepared to pay 100% of salary. For those in a clinical role, a minimum of 50% of time should be allocated to research, and we are prepared to pay pro-rata for research time. If the candidate is conducting clinical work, we would expect this to be paid by the NHS entity with whom they are employed. The fellowship can also be awarded to candidates who have their full salary covered by their institution; the funds may be used to cover the costs of salaries for their research team or the direct costs of doing the research.

Eligibility

- Funding may be used to support a new project or one in progress, provided a substantial element of the project is carried out during the fellowship.
- The candidate must demonstrate the support of the host institution, including NHS institutions for clinically qualified applicants.
- Candidates should not hold another substantial research fellowship concurrently with this award, including NIHR, charity-funded, or comparable schemes.
- Applicants must be transparent about all sources of institutional or external support contributing to their salary or research costs, both current and applied for. The Eve Appeal reserves the right to assess eligibility based on the full funding landscape, and applicants must inform The Eve Appeal in a timely way of awards subsequently received.
- Applicants may apply to the scheme a maximum of two times. Candidates who have made two unsuccessful applications are not eligible to apply.



What is covered

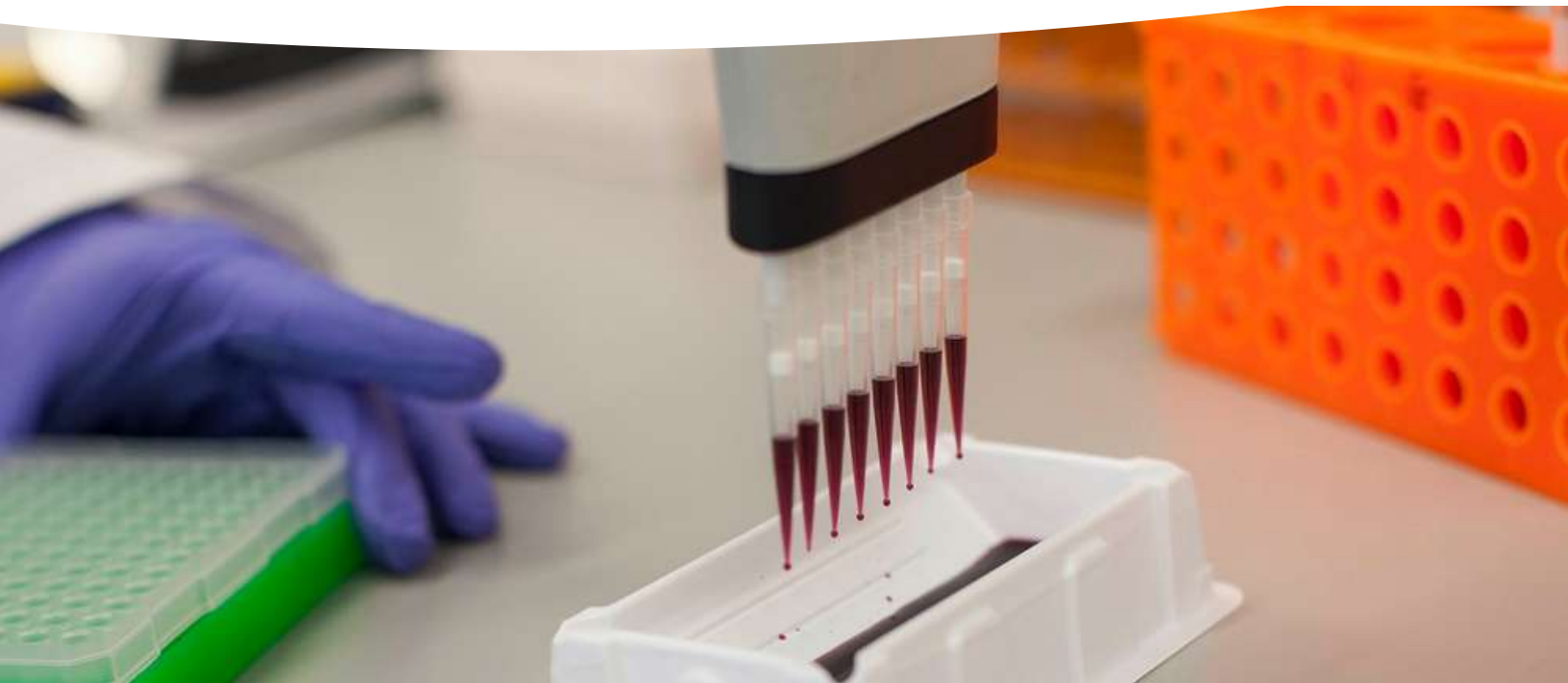
- The cost of salary (see above for detail on clinical and non-clinical salary stipulation)
- Direct research costs (consumables, lab costs, statistical support)
- Travel related to the research project or collaborations
- Publication costs
- Funds to pay for research staff salaries, eg: research assistants, PhD students or postdoctoral staff
- Patient and public involvement
- Dissemination.

The following costs are excluded:

- The NHS component of salary for clinically qualified applicants
- Indirect costs and estates costs.

As The Eve Appeal and North West Cancer Research are AMRC-accredited charities, administrative costs and overheads may be covered by the government Charity Research Support Fund (CRSF) that allows institutions in receipt of charitable funding to recover more of the full economic costs of research.

The Eve Appeal and North West Cancer Research are listed as a National Institute for Health and Care Research Research Delivery Network Non-commercial Partner.



The selection process

The review process has been constructed in line with guidance and governance considerations set out by the Association of Medical Research Charities Principles of Peer Review. More information on our review process can be found on our [website](#).

Eligibility must be confirmed with The Eve Appeal secretariat before applying.

Assessment phases:

Phase 1: Preliminary review

All applications will be reviewed by The Eve Appeal's independent Research Advisory Committee, and up to four external reviewers who are experts in their field. A selection of lived experience/patient reviewers will be engaged to review applications based on the topic.

Any reviewer with a conflict of interest will be excused from the process. Reviewers are asked to provide a written report and provide a score for each application, which will inform shortlisting.

Phase 2: Shortlisting meeting

The phase 1 assessments will be considered by the Fellowship Advisory Group. The Fellowship Advisory Group consists of The Eve Appeal Research Advisory Committee and a representative from North West Cancer Research.

The Fellowship Advisory Group will meet to consider the applications and will rank candidates according to the following criteria:

1. The person:

- Track record of the candidate - does the applicant have appropriate gynae cancer research experience and disciplinary expertise?
- Future potential of the candidate
- Qualifications of the candidate
- Suitability of the applicant for the fellowship – will the applicant meaningfully engage with The Eve Appeal, North West Cancer Research and relevant stakeholders?
- Support of the host institution - will the facilities, resources, availability of mentors and ethos of the host institution support the candidate to thrive with the project and succeed in the longer term?

2. The project:

- Relevance to The Eve Appeal research strategy - is the researcher and the proposed project focused on early detection, screening, prevention and/or understanding inherited risk for gynaecological cancer?
- Importance and originality of the hypothesis - how innovative and thorough is the approach?
- Scientific merit of the proposal
- Feasibility of the approach - is the project realistic, given the time constraints and budget, and are the funds requested essential and justified by the size, scale and likely outcomes of the research?
- Engagement - How strong are the plans for engagement, PPI, dissemination, partnership and collaboration throughout the lifespan of the project?
- Potential impact – does the project have the potential to produce outputs that are relevant beyond a single project or an immediate context?

Phase 3: Interviews

- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview with the Fellowship Awarding Panel. Membership of this panel will include members of the Fellowship Advisory Group, along with selected Board and staff members from The Eve Appeal and North West Cancer Research.
- Interviews will last for one hour. Candidates are required to give a presentation of no longer than 15 minutes at the beginning of their interview, which should cover the scientific background, hypothesis, aims and overall experimental approach to the proposal. The panel will then question the candidate focusing on project, as well as on key aspects for the fellowship outlined above.
- The highest scoring candidate will be recommended to the Boards of both charities for final decision.



Benefits and expectations

We want to support our talented fellows to become **research leaders**. We will provide them with the skills they need to achieve this.

We will support our fellows through a range of opportunities, including access to a network of established researchers for support and guidance. We will establish a meaningful partnership, with opportunities for personal and scientific development. Our communications team will help with the dissemination of a fellow's work to the broader scientific and public audience. We will provide guidance for researchers transitioning to leading their own groups. This support should assist in applying for the next level awards and grants to continue their career.

Successful applicants will be embarking on a long-term relationship with The Eve Appeal and North West Cancer Research. In return for this support, we will want to ensure that our fellows contribute to both charities and their aims.

We will expect our fellows to reasonably aid The Eve Appeal and North West Cancer Research with their charitable objectives. This may involve engaging across a range of activity, including connecting with press and publicity, participation in fundraising events, providing quotes and articles for blogs and charity websites, speaking at events or meeting donors.

We would ensure that any requests were not excessive or disruptive, recognising the workload of a researcher, and hope that this activity would benefit both the charity and the researcher, in helping to build their profile.

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The Eve Appeal Fellowship has given me an incredible platform to advance my academic career in cancer diagnostics.

This prestigious fellowship has not only provided essential funding for my research but also raised my professional profile, giving me valuable visibility within the scientific community. It has enabled me to network and collaborate with other leading scientists in the field, opening doors to new ideas, shared expertise, and potential future partnerships.

I am deeply grateful to The Eve Appeal, North West Cancer Research, and everyone who has contributed to making this fellowship possible. This opportunity has truly changed the trajectory of my career for the better and has given me the tools and support to make a meaningful impact in women's health.

-Dr Kelechi Njoku



How to apply

Please apply using the application form on The Eve Appeal website. The completed application form, with CV, publications list and the required letters of reference should be provided by the deadline.

Applications should be received by **Wednesday 13 May 2026** at 5pm.

Applications must be submitted electronically by email in one PDF document. Applications that are not submitted as a single PDF document will be returned to the investigator for modification and will not be included in the round if this falls outside of the call closure.

Non-shortlisted candidates will be informed by early July, and interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held on Friday 10 July in London. A final decision on the successful candidate will be shared in November 2025, following Board meetings for both charities.

Unsuccessful candidates will receive feedback.

Contact:

Please contact Ms Vas James, Head of Programmes at The Eve Appeal with questions: vasanthi.james@eveappeal.org.uk

**Call opens on
Thursday 12
February**

**Call closes on
Wednesday 13
May at 5pm**

**Interviews take
place on Friday
10 July in
London**

**Announcement
of the third
fellow:
November 2026**

A legacy of supporting research excellence

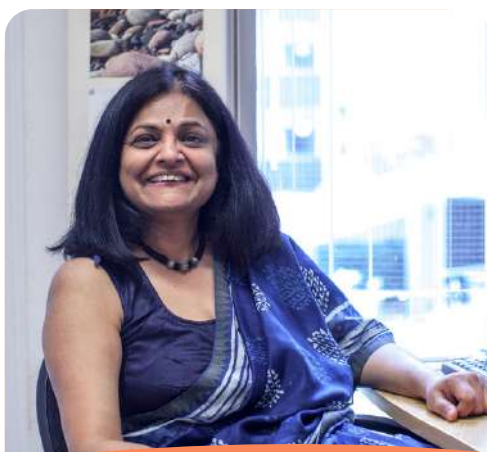
Fostering the next generation

The Eve Appeal has an extensive track record of seed funding gynae cancer research on screening, early detection and risk prediction. The charity has supported and nurtured the careers of a series of outstanding researchers at an early stage of their career. They have all gone on to secure major programme awards, and have had a major impact in gynae cancer research:

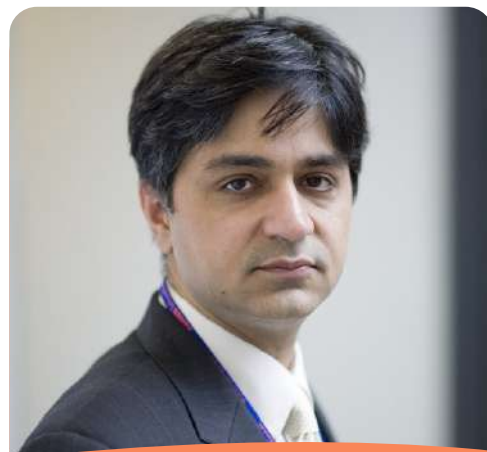
- Ian Jacobs, Honorary Professor, UCL, Emeritus Professor, UNSW Sydney
- Ranjit Manchanda, Professor Gynaecological Oncology and Co-Lead Cancer Prevention, Wolfson Institute at Queen Mary University of London, UK
- Simon Gayther, Professor Cancer Genetics and Director Molecular Epidemiology, Cedars Sinai, Los Angeles, USA
- Susan Ramus, Professor Molecular Oncology, Lead Molecular Oncology, Lowy Cancer Institute, UNSW Sydney, Australia
- Martin Widschwendter, Professor Cancer Prevention & Screening, Leopold-Franzens-University of Innsbruck, Austria
- Anne Lanceley, Professor Women's Cancer Care, EGA Institute for Women's Health, University College London, UK
- John Timms, Professor Cancer Proteomics, EGA Institute for Women's Health, University College London, UK
- Usha Menon, Professor Gynaecological Oncology, Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit, University College London, UK
- Stephen Skates, Professor of Medicine & Biostatistics, Harvard and Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA
- Adam Rosenthal, Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist, Lead Colposcopy and Familial Cancer, University College Hospital, UK.



Susan Rasmus



Usha Menon



**Ranjit
Manchanda**



Stephen Skates



John Timms



Simon Gayther



Anne Lanceley



Ian Jacobs



**Adam
Rosenthal**



**Martin
Widschwendter**



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Putting our region's cancer needs first



**Working towards a world
where all gynaecological
cancers are prevented or
detected at an early stage**

**The Eve Appeal in partnership with
North West Cancer Research
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