# Dr Sarah Kingdon awarded inaugural Tessa Jowell Fellowship to advance brain tumour treatments



A clinician at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust has been awarded a prestigious fellowship aimed at advancing treatments for brain tumours, marking a significant development in neuro-oncology research. Dr Sarah Kingdon, who recently completed her clinical oncology training, is the inaugural recipient of the Tessa Jowell Fellowship, a joint initiative by the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission and the Chief Scientist Office of Scotland. This fellowship not only signifies individual achievement but also represents a collaborative effort to improve patient care for brain tumour sufferers.

Dr Kingdon's fellowship is co-funded by both the Beatson Cancer Charity and NHS Lothian Charity, reflecting a commitment to enhancing brain cancer treatment and research in Scotland. Her work will take place between the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre and the Edinburgh Cancer Centre. Currently based in Plymouth, Dr Kingdon began her journey at the NHS Trust in 2017 and has progressively moved through various roles before specialising in clinical oncology. Her enthusiasm for the fellowship was evident when she reflected on the opportunity, stating, “I was really excited at the opportunity when they offered it to me.”

With over 12,000 people diagnosed with primary brain tumours annually in the UK—approximately half of which are cancerous—the urgency for advanced treatment methods cannot be underestimated. Current statistics indicate that the five-year survival rate for these tumours remains relatively low, highlighting a critical need for innovative therapies. The year-long fellowship is designed to deepen Dr Kingdon's understanding of brain tumour management and enhance her research capabilities through involvement in neuro-oncology clinical trials. These trials are anticipated to pave new avenues for patient treatment and improve overall outcomes.

As part of her fellowship, Dr Kingdon will benefit from guidance and support from a multitude of renowned consultants across her new locations in Scotland. She noted that this exposure would allow her to observe varied clinical practices that could ultimately influence her approach upon returning to UHP as a consultant in 2026. “This will enable us to signpost our patients in the southwest to national clinical trials and treatments," she expressed, indicating a vision for broader collaboration across regions. Dr Kingdon’s experiences will also contribute to building a professional network, enabling future partnerships that could enhance service delivery for patients in the southwest.

Moreover, the Tessa Jowell Fellowships Programme marks a transformative chapter not only for Dr Kingdon but for the entire field of neuro-oncology in Scotland. The partnership that funds these fellowships aims to bolster the infrastructure supporting brain tumour research and therapeutic innovation, making a concerted effort to address the needs of a patient demographic affected across all age groups. As brain tumours can be diagnosed in children and are notably prevalent among older adults, the initiative reflects a holistic approach toward treatment and research.

Dr Kingdon’s fellowship is a promising step forward in a field where advancements can lead to significant shifts in patient outcomes, offering hope and a renewed sense of purpose in the ongoing battle against brain tumours.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/plymouth-nhs-trust-clinician-given-10241237), [[2]](https://www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/news/tessa-jowell-brain-cancer-mission-and-chief-scientist-office-announce-partnership-to-fund-new-tessa-jowell-fellowships)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/plymouth-nhs-trust-clinician-given-10241237), [[3]](https://nhslothiancharity.org/2025/03/supporting-new-brain-tumour-research-fellowship/), [[4]](https://www.gla.ac.uk/news/headline_1163189_en.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/plymouth-nhs-trust-clinician-given-10241237), [[5]](https://www.beatsoncancercharity.org/brain-tumour-research/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/plymouth-nhs-trust-clinician-given-10241237), [[6]](https://www.beatsoncancercharity.org/the-latest/2024/july/scottish-brain-tumour-research-centre/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/plymouth-nhs-trust-clinician-given-10241237), [[7]](https://www.thebraintumourcharity.org/brain-tumour-diagnosis-treatment/adult-brain-tumour-research/tessa-jowell-brain-matrix/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/plymouth-nhs-trust-clinician-given-10241237> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/news/tessa-jowell-brain-cancer-mission-and-chief-scientist-office-announce-partnership-to-fund-new-tessa-jowell-fellowships> - The Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission and the Chief Scientist Office have announced a partnership to fund Scotland's first dedicated neuro-oncology Fellowships. This collaboration aims to advance brain tumour treatment and research through the Tessa Jowell Fellowship Programme. The inaugural Scottish Neuro-oncology Fellowship is a joint position based at the Edinburgh Centre for Neuro-oncology and Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre. Dr Sarah Kingdon, a clinical oncology trainee at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust, has been awarded this fellowship. The programme is co-funded by the Beatson Cancer Charity and NHS Lothian Charity, reflecting a significant step forward in advancing neuro-oncology treatment, care, and research opportunities for patients with brain tumours across Scotland.
3. <https://nhslothiancharity.org/2025/03/supporting-new-brain-tumour-research-fellowship/> - NHS Lothian Charity, along with the Beatson Cancer Charity, is co-funding the inaugural Scottish Neuro-oncology Fellowship. This fellowship, part of the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission and the Chief Scientist Office's partnership, aims to advance brain tumour treatment and research in Scotland. Dr Sarah Kingdon, a clinical oncology trainee at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust, has been awarded this fellowship. The programme is designed to provide comprehensive experience in brain tumour management and develop research skills to lead impactful neuro-oncology clinical trials. This initiative reflects a commitment to supporting vital research that will directly benefit patients in Lothian and beyond.
4. <https://www.gla.ac.uk/news/headline_1163189_en.html> - The University of Glasgow, in collaboration with the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission and the Chief Scientist Office, has announced Scotland's first dedicated neuro-oncology Fellowships. The inaugural Scottish Neuro-oncology Fellowship is a joint position based at the Edinburgh Centre for Neuro-oncology and Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre. Dr Sarah Kingdon, a clinical oncology trainee at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust, has been awarded this fellowship. The programme aims to advance brain tumour treatment and research in Scotland, providing comprehensive experience in brain tumour management and developing research skills to lead impactful neuro-oncology clinical trials.
5. <https://www.beatsoncancercharity.org/brain-tumour-research/> - Beatson Cancer Charity is collaborating with Brain Tumour Research to establish Scotland's first Brain Tumour Research Centre of Excellence. This initiative aims to revolutionise the discovery and testing of new treatments for brain tumours. The centre will focus on glioblastoma, a highly aggressive brain tumour, and is co-funded by the Beatson Cancer Charity and Brain Tumour Research. The collaboration seeks to bridge the gap between laboratory discoveries and patient benefit, from laboratory to bedside, by increasing the number of clinical trials for glioblastoma patients in Scotland and improving outcomes.
6. <https://www.beatsoncancercharity.org/the-latest/2024/july/scottish-brain-tumour-research-centre/> - Beatson Cancer Charity and Brain Tumour Research are working together to establish the Scottish Brain Tumour Research Centre of Excellence at laboratories at the University of Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow. This centre aims to find a cure for glioblastoma, a highly aggressive brain tumour. The collaboration seeks to bridge the gap between laboratory discoveries and patient benefit, from laboratory to bedside, by increasing the number of clinical trials for glioblastoma patients in Scotland and improving outcomes. The initiative is co-funded by the Beatson Cancer Charity and Brain Tumour Research.
7. <https://www.thebraintumourcharity.org/brain-tumour-diagnosis-treatment/adult-brain-tumour-research/tessa-jowell-brain-matrix/> - The Tessa Jowell Brain Matrix is a UK-wide study led by Professor Colin Watts, aiming to improve the diagnosis and treatment of gliomas, a type of brain tumour. The study is open to adults newly diagnosed with a grade 2, 3, or 4 glioma who can undergo a surgical procedure, including biopsy. It also includes adults with recurrent tumours if the clinical team can access an appropriate sample of their original tumour. The study is currently open in nine of the ten centres, including Edinburgh, Leeds, King's College London, Cambridge, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, and Oxford. Patients interested in participating should discuss the trial with their consultant.