



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours

Minutes of the virtual meeting held at 09:00 on 18th May 2021 via Zoom link

PRESENT

- **Parliamentarians** – Derek Thomas MP, Hillary Benn MP, Holly Mumby-Croft MP, Alistair Carmichael MP, Lee Rowley MP, Baroness Masham, Greg Smith MP, Elliot Colburn MP, Stephen Timms MP, Lord O'Shaughnessy, Bob Blackman MP, Philp Hollobone MP, Jane Hunt MP, Siobhan Baillie MP, Kate Osborne MP,
- **Secretariat** – Sue Farrington-Smith (Brain Tumour Research), Hugh Adams (Brain Tumour Research)
- **Support** – Ben Rowden (HCC), Peter Hand (HCC)

APOLOGIES

- Thangham Debboinaire MP, Lord Carlile, Helen Hayes MP, Jim Shannon MP, John McDonnell MP, Seema Malhotra MP, Dean Russell MP

PROCEEDINGS

1. WELCOME

Derek Thomas MP welcomed parliamentary colleagues and guests to the virtual 2021 AGM of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Derek Thomas MP was elected as Chair of the APPG.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following parliamentarians were elected as officers of the group:

- Lord Carlile
- Helen Hayes MP
- Dean Russell MP
- Holly Mumby-Croft MP
- Alistair Carmichael MP
- Lee Rowley MP
- Baroness Masham
- Greg Smith MP
- Elliot Colburn MP

4. CONFIRMATION OF NAME, PURPOSE AND STATEMENT OF GROUP

The following purpose statement was approved by the group:

To raise awareness of the issues facing the brain tumour community in order to improve research, diagnosis, information, support, treatment and care outcomes

5 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Update from the secretariat – not presented at the virtual meeting. Chair has subsequently signed and forwarded to the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards



6. UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat provided an update on the previous year's achievements:

- Hosting of 3 virtual meetings, including one meeting for the Jessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission to announce their Centres of Excellence.
- The APPG has heard from several academics covering issues such as the DVLA, NIHR funding and DIPG.
- Meeting with the MRC, pharmaceutical companies, clinicians
- Chair represented the APPG at Westminster Hall debate on childhood cancers

6. PRESENTATION FROM PROF. SILVIA MARINO, QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, ON THE TRANSLATIONAL PIPELINE

Prof. Marina outlined the challenges and opportunities of the translational pipeline. She spoke to how the pipeline works, from basic research through to clinical validation.

She outlined key challenges such as complex interactions between stakeholders, funding gaps and knowledge gaps. She explained that brain tumour research suffers further due to being a rare cancer. She proposed that these challenges can be addressed by fostering interdisciplinary research, reducing non-essential regulatory obstacles and ensuring the UK is seen as an attractive place for research.

7. PRESENTATION FROM SUSAN CASTLE SMITH, ON THE BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH PETITION AND REPORT

The history of the petition was outlined, including it receiving 112,260 signatures. The APPG is awaiting the Prime Minister to receive the report.

8. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Dr Kurian outlined the need to continue to push the NIHR on £40 million spending pledge.

Hilary Benn MP asked for examples of regulatory barriers within the translational pipeline. Prof. Marina explained that COVID-19 vaccine trials provide an example of how the system can be streamlined.

The group discussed the need for a holistic approach between the NIHR and MRC on addressing the issues around research into brain tumour research.

Officers agreed on plans to host an inquiry into the challenges scientists are facing on research and within the pipeline.

9. CLOSE OF MEETING, APPG ACTIONS AND AOB

Derek Thomas MP formally closed the meeting and thanked all supporters of the APPG.

The APPG agreed to host a meeting in July 2021.

The Secretariat will draft parliamentary questions relating to the latest round of NIHR funding and the composition of the panels.