Cancer Insights Panel (Research & Strategy)

Role profile and further information for applicants

Together we will beat cancer
Role profile
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Type of opportunity
Panel of people affected by cancer (patients, carers, loved ones)

Time commitment
Day-long meeting in London, Stratford, every 2 months (for a maximum of years) and email consultations

Payment and expenses
Travel expenses covered, accommodation provided if needed, plus £80 per meeting offered

Have you or a loved one been affected by cancer? Are you interested in cancer research and making a difference? As part of Cancer Research UK’s Cancer Insights Panel, you can use your experience to influence our life-saving work and make a difference. From helping us to make our communications clearer, to helping us to identify what our research priorities and strategy should be, you’ll make sure that we’re listening to people affected by cancer as decisions are made. By working closely with you, we can make sure the work we do represents and reflects the needs of all people affected by cancer.

In this role, you will...

• Prepare for and attend a day-long meeting (11am to 4:30pm on a week day) every other month in Stratford, London, (preparation includes reading the documents we send in advance and thinking about answers to some of the questions we’ll be asking). Teams across the charity will come to talk about new projects and will ask for your opinions based on your cancer experience.
• Give us your opinion on projects over email (about 2 hours per month).
• Learn new skills and put existing ones into use and hear different perspectives from other people affected by cancer.

So far, the members of this group have helped us to:

• Understand and prioritise what matters to people affected by cancer (e.g. early diagnosis priorities, organisational strategy, influence our work with the government).
• Improve our communications to the public (e.g. our research or side-effect webpages).
• Identify opportunities for teams and researchers to involve more people affected by cancer in their work (e.g. precision medicine, Centre for Drug Development).

We’re looking for people with...

Necessary:
• Experience of cancer (either personally or through a loved one) and the desire to use your experience to influence our work
• Good communication skills and the ability to give constructive feedback and to respect the opinion of others
• An open-mind to explore new and challenging ideas
• An interest in cancer research and keeping up-to-date with cancer news
• Ability to maintain confidentiality
• Access to a computer/tablet to prepare for meetings and answer email consultations.

Desirable but not necessary:
• Awareness and/or experience of patient and public involvement
• Basic understanding and/or experience of cancer research
• Previous volunteering experience with Cancer Research UK or elsewhere.

If successful after a telephone interview, you will:
• Come along to a two-day introduction and meeting in London on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th July. This will be a chance for you to:
  o Understand more about our charity
  o Understand more about the role that the Cancer Insights Panel, and you, will play
  o Meet the staff here at Cancer Research UK
  o Get to know the other panel members.

We will support you by...
• Giving you a key contact at Cancer Research UK who will give you ongoing support and information to help you in your role. They will be available to answer any questions you have before, during and following meetings.
• Updating you on projects you’ve given feedback on and the impact you’ve had
• Sending you all the information you need 2 weeks before meetings
• Organising travel (from across the UK), food and reasonable hotel expenses for you. We also offer an £80 payment per meeting in recognition of your time.

Equal opportunities:
At Cancer Research UK we involve people from all backgrounds, ethnicities and age groups. In this role you will work with and need to represent the views of a diverse group of people. As Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups are underrepresented in the current panels, we particularly encourage and welcome applications from these backgrounds.

How to apply?
I’d like more information: Please get in touch if you’d like to have a chat or aren’t sure whether to apply. Call the team on 0203 469 6042 or email involvement@cancer.org.uk.

I’m ready to apply: Email involvement@cancer.org.uk and we’ll send you the application pack. Submit your application by midnight on Tuesday 14th April.

What happens next? We’ll look at all the applications we receive to decide who we will invite to interview for the role. Telephone interviews will take place the week commencing 27th April.
Further information

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of our Cancer Insights Panel!

Cancer Research UK

We are the world’s leading cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research. Our vision is to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

Cancer Research UK fund scientists, doctors and nurses to help beat cancer sooner. We receive no Government funding for our research, so our life-saving work is only possible thanks to fundraising and people like you. We also provide cancer information to the public. Our policy development team develops evidence-based policies to inform Government decisions related to cancer and research.

What is the Cancer Insights Panel?

Our Cancer Insights Panel is a group of 15 people who shape and influence our work by giving their opinion on a variety of projects that are in early stage development. Using insights and knowledge from their cancer experience, they make sure that the work we do represents and reflects the needs of people affected by cancer.

Members attend a day-long meeting every other month and also give feedback over email. At the meetings, teams across the charity will come to talk about different projects and get your insights. There will also be time for informal chats and networking with other members of the panel during breaks and lunch – and a chance for you to celebrate your impact throughout your time in role!

What’s it like to be involved?

Hear from some of our panel members to find out what it’s like to be involved.

Arshiya

Following her mother’s fourth cancer diagnosis, Arshiya was motivated to get involved and share her views as a carer to make a difference. Her and her mum are also BRCA1 carriers which increases their risk of developing breast cancer. She says “Being part of the Cancer Insights Panel gives me a chance to contribute to CRUK's work and to support and influence cancer research. In a way, every time I attend a panel meeting or fill out a survey, I feel like I’m carrying on the fight that my mom fought so bravely. […] My mom went through absolute hell while fighting cancer and I would now like to fight on her behalf so that future generations of women, children, and men don’t have to go through what she did.”
Jane

Jane was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer in January 2009. She joined the panel the same year in with the aim of using some of her professional skills and having an influence on research and the charity’s priorities. “I hope that the involvement trend continues towards ‘lay’ people affected by cancer helping to shape research priorities and study design in cancer. I would also like to see more people affected by cancer involved at a more strategic level within CRUK, working in partnership with staff and researchers to influence change.”

Graeme

Seven years ago, Graeme was diagnosed with lung cancer and now receives long-term chemotherapy treatment. He lives just outside of Glasgow with his wife and three children. He says “I joined the Cancer insights panel to learn more about cancer and coping with cancer by engaging with other people that have had a similar experience... I also hoped to build up my own confidence with a view to getting back into work. The best part of the being on the panel is learning from the experiences of others and the motivation that I get from them and the Patient Involvement Team. It all helps me to not dwell on my situation and to contribute something back is really satisfying.”

Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666) and the Isle of Man (1103).
http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/

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