



Meningioma UK

Harpal Kumar MA, MEng, MBA
Chief Executive, Cancer Research UK
P.O. Box 123
Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PX

18 March 2009

Dear Mr Kumar,

Re: research funding for brain tumours

We are a consortium of brain tumour patient support, awareness/fund raising and advocacy groups.

We note from recent articles in the pharmaceutical trade press that sales of temozolomide have now reached US \$1 billion. We appreciate that Schering-Plough markets the therapy under license from Cancer Research UK but understand that CRUK receives a percentage royalty from the very substantial worldwide sales of temozolomide.

As we are all aware, brain tumours are a devastating disease, accounting for one of the highest PYLL (Person Years of Life Lost) of all cancers. Over 200,000 people worldwide develop a primary, malignant brain tumour each year. Others are affected by so-called benign brain tumours and metastatic brain tumours. There is a desperate need for more research into the causes of and treatments for brain tumours which strike people of all ages, from tiny babies to the elderly. There is a lack of awareness of the disability associated with the challenges of brain tumours in both children and adults.

Of course, the advent of temozolomide was the biggest breakthrough in the treatment of primary, malignant brain tumours in over three decades and we are very grateful for the role that Cancer Research UK played in its development.

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But so much more needs to be done to discover additional, effective drugs for this disease. Even with temozolomide, those who are diagnosed with a brain tumour have extremely limited treatment options and currently no hope of a cure.

We understand that brain tumour research in the UK currently attracts approximately 1.7% of NCRI funding.

As Cancer Research UK is presumably benefitting substantially from the temozolomide royalties, based on sales now totalling US \$1 billion, we wonder what percentage of those royalties are put back by CRUK into brain tumour research?

Yours sincerely,

Helen Bulbeck , Director
Brainstrust

Wendy Fulcher, Campaign Group Chairman and Sue Farrington Smith, Director
Brain Tumour Research

Kathy Oliver, Co-Director
International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA)

Ella Pybus, Founder/Coordinator
Meningioma UK

Brainstrust, 4 Yvery Court, Castle Road, Cowes, PO31 7QG, web: www.brainstrust.org.uk email: hq@brainstrust.org.uk tel: 01983 292405. Registered charity number 1114634

Brain Tumour Research, The Business Centre, Padbury Hill Farm, Padbury, Buckingham, Bucks MK18 2BN, web: www.braintumourresearch.org email: sue@braintumourresearch.org, tel: 01296 733011, Registered charity number 1093411

The International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA), PO Box 244, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5SX, web: www.theibta.org, email: kathy@theibta.org, tel: 01737 813872, Not-for-profit, limited liability company number 6031485

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