

**COMING IN 2025**

**Simon Flavell Leukaemia Research Fellowships from  
Leukaemia Busters  
(Registered charity/CIO 1157147)**

**Background**

These fellowships have been created as a memorial to Simon Flavell, a ten-year boy who in 1990 lost his life to T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (T-ALL). Simon's parents, Drs David & Bee Flavell, both scientists who at the time were working on immunologically-based techniques for the diagnosis of leukaemia and lymphoma, set up the charity Leukaemia Busters in 1989 together with two other sets of parents, Rob & Wendy Sutcliffe and Paul & Julie Daws whose young sons had also been diagnosed with T-cell malignancies. The intention was for Leukaemia Busters to raise funds to conduct translational research in the Flavell's laboratory in the School of Medicine at Southampton General Hospital to explore the use of monoclonal antibodies for treating patients with leukaemia and other blood related malignancies.

**Early Career Fellowship Scheme for Translational Research on T-ALL**

Now, thirty five years later, the charity's trustees have elected to set up a fellowship scheme for early career postdoctoral researchers. The fellowship will provide two years stipend and research expenses support up to a maximum value of £150,000 for early career postdoctoral research scientists to conduct preclinical work on novel immunotherapeutic approaches for T-ALL. T-ALL is an aggressive form of acute leukaemia that has shown improved therapy outcomes in recent years but which still has poor survival rates for significant numbers of patients who are refractory to today's upfront conventional treatments or who relapse after initial treatment. New immunotherapeutic approaches will likely help overcome these issues and eventually deliver gentler and yet more effective treatments for the benefit of all T-ALL patients in the future.

**Scope of the Fellowships**

These fellowships are intended for early career postdoctoral scientists with a research record but who have not yet held a full-time permanent academic post. It is expected that the work

they undertake will lead to a significant piece of published work predicated on a defined research project in an appropriate UK-based university, non-profit research institute or NHS hospital department. Proposals are sought from applicants for preclinical research on novel immunotherapeutic approaches for the treatment of adult and/or paediatric T-ALL. However, projects involving other T-cell malignancies will also be considered for fellowship support and will be judged on their scientific merit, relevance and likely translational value. For the sake of clarity novel immunotherapeutic approaches are taken to include studies designed to improve existing immunotherapies and/or the *de novo* development of completely new immunotherapeutic strategies that can include studies on the effects of the microbiome or other factors on the response to immunotherapy.

Applicants will submit a detailed research proposal justifying the need for their proposed research, their research plan, the departmental resources available, expected outcomes and a detailed financial breakdown of costs over the two-year period of the fellowship. It is expected that a substantial part of the research proposal will have been conceived and authored by the fellowship applicant. All applications will be independently peer reviewed by experts in the field and short listed according to their combined scientific and translational merit. Short listed applicants will be invited for interview and decisions on awards made shortly thereafter.

### **Register Your Interest**

These fellowships will not be available until 2025. To register an interest together with a title and brief outline (maximum 500 words) of your research proposal please email us at:

[contact@leukaemiabusters.org.uk](mailto:contact@leukaemiabusters.org.uk)

Include your full name, telephone number, professional postal and email addresses.