



Forever for Oli

The Oli Hilsdon Foundation funds brain tumour research in loving memory of Oli Hilsdon, who lost his battle with Glioblastoma Multiforme – a malignant Grade IV brain tumour – in January 2019 just 10 days before his 27th birthday.

Diagnosed with a Glioblastoma aged 22, Oli was given 12 months to live. Oli fought with relentless optimism and lived life to the full. He ran the London Marathon in under 4 hours raising £60,000 for brain tumour research, worked full time in a job he loved and travelled the world.

It was typical of Oli's courageous attitude that he never once complained but there was and is no escaping the tragedy of such an immensely popular and adored young man being struck by this catastrophic disease.

Our fight

Brain tumours kill more children and adults under 40 than any other cancer yet receive just 3% of the national spend on cancer research.

- 75% of those diagnosed with a Glioblastoma will not survive one year.
- 95% will not live beyond five years.
- Glioblastoma has a final mortality rate of close to 100%.

At the current rate of funding, it could take 100 years for brain cancer to catch up with developments in other diseases. We cannot wait this long. Each and every diagnosis devastates.

How we will use the funds

The Oli Hilsdon Foundation is funding a 5-year research project at University College London through The Brain Tumour Charity led by Professor Simona Parrinello: Mapping the Spatio-Temporal Heterogeneity of Glioblastoma Invasion. The project commenced in September 2019 and requires £1.5 million.

Fundraising targets: The Oli Hilsdon Foundation has funded Years 1-3 in full and are now raising funds for Year 4. Our Foundation is run on an entirely voluntary basis with minimal overheads. This means that the maximum of funds we receive goes directly to research.

The need: Glioblastomas are difficult to treat because they spread from the original tumour into different, healthy regions of the brain. This means that surgery and radiotherapy – cornerstone treatments for brain tumours – are limited in effectiveness. The tumour cells left behind grow into a new tumour rendering recurrence almost inevitable. At recurrence, prognosis is typically months.

Growing our understanding: Professor Parrinello and her multi-disciplinary research team are investigating the communication between Glioblastomas and the surrounding cells by combining both biological and mathematical principles.

They are using two pioneering new techniques - spatial transcriptomics and intravital photoacoustic imaging - that will allow researchers to map the invasion process and identify key molecules that help the tumour cells spread. This understanding will help researchers develop more effective therapies to block tumour cells from spreading and prevent recurrence.

Our impact: By addressing the current, prohibitive obstacles to extended or long-term survival, this research will fill a significant and critical gap in current understanding of why the Glioblastoma recurs. It could help to identify drug targets to prevent recurrence by blocking the invasion process. This has the potential to benefit every single person who has had treatment for a Glioblastoma and is living with the fear that it will return. It could give those with a Glioblastoma much-needed hope for a future where brain tumours are defeated.

Registered Charity 1183052 & Private Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales 11796126.
www.olihilsdonfoundation.org

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4*	Year 5	Total
Total	£210k	£340k	£358k	£374k	£218k	£1.5 million

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