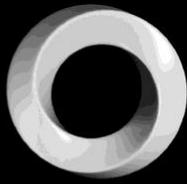


**CANCER
GRAND
CHALLENGES**



Team:
IMAXT

Patient Advocates

**Cancer Grand Challenges IMAXT
Programme**

Role Profile

Funded by



Patient Advocate

IMAXT: Role Profile

What is the Cancer Grand Challenges IMAXT team?

The Cancer Grand Challenges IMAXT team is an ambitious programme funded by Cancer Research UK to take on the 3D Tumour Mapping challenge.

Find out more here - <https://cancergrandchallenges.org/teams/imaxt>

This programme aims to build 3D reconstructions of tumours that can be studied using virtual reality to show every cell in a tumour with a great deal of information. The programme aims to reveal the way tumour cells organise and interact with each other, and with healthy cells in the body. This detailed picture could help scientists and doctors better understand cancer and develop new ways to diagnose and treat the disease, and to stop it from spreading and coming back. We are initially focused on breast cancer but these methods could be applied to other cancers in the future.

Who are we?

The Cancer Grand Challenges IMAXT team is a unique team to be a part of. It is diverse, and includes scientists from a wide range of disciplines, from biologists and chemists, to astronomers and games designers who are responsible for the virtual reality part of the programme.

To find out more about the individual investigators, their role in the programme and academic discipline, find out more here- <https://cancergrandchallenges.org/teams/imaxt>

Could you help us?

We are looking for advocates affected by cancer (either patients or carers) and, although, we are currently working with breast cancer, we welcome applications from advocates affected by cancer regardless of type. In the future, this technology is likely to be applied to other cancer types, therefore we think it is important to gain a wide range of experiences.

While a background knowledge of biology is desirable, a strong interest in learning new ways to diagnose and treat cancer is a must. We want you, as our patient advocates, to become a pivotal player within our team, contributing your ideas, concerns and experiences. We want your help in choosing the questions we should be focusing our efforts on, especially important when these decisions relate to patient samples.

If you already have a strong link to broader patient network and would like to get involved in helping us to reach larger patient audiences with our technology, we would love to hear from you.

The structure of the Cancer Grand Challenges IMAXT team

Professor Greg Hannon is the team lead of the IMAXT team and is the Director of the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute. Greg oversees the project direction, providing scientific expertise and support, in addition to ensuring that the project achieves what is expected. Greg's leadership is supported by 13 co-investigators.

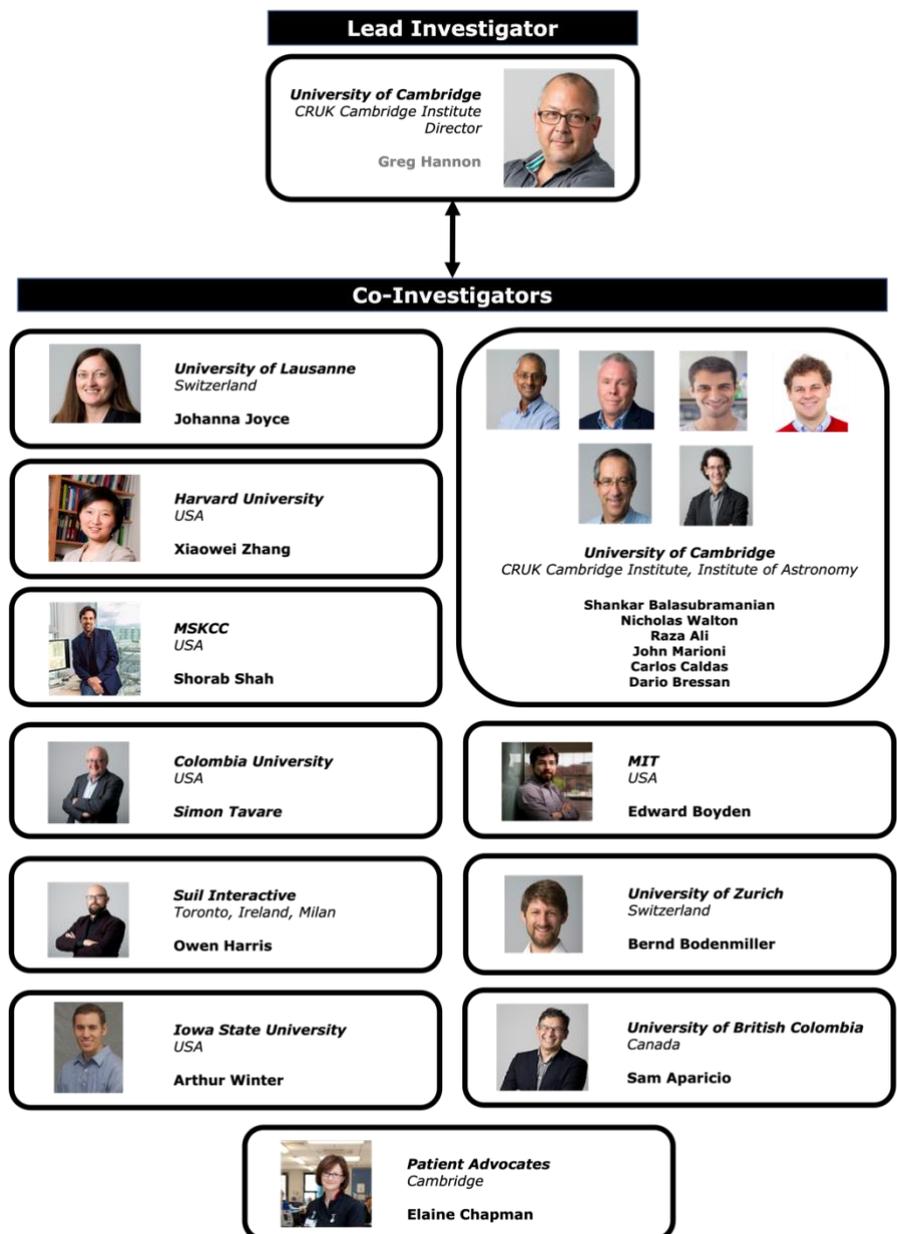
The IMAXT team is highly collaborative and involves more than 80 researchers from across the globe. This also includes patient advocates, who form a critical role within the IMAXT.

Co-investigators (including team lead Greg Hannon) have their own laboratories. On the ground research (i.e. experiments, data analysis, sample handling etc) is performed by a number of individuals spanning from research associates who hold a PhD, research assistants, technicians and students.

One co-investigator, video game designer Owen Harris, is the owner of the company Suil Interactive. Owen and his sub-team are working on the virtual reality side of the project.

To help with the sharing of information across all of these groups, we set up small **Tiger Teams**. These teams are made of multiple individuals (from any co-investigators lab/group) who are interested in the same topic. For example there are teams based around virtual reality and metastases.

As patient advocate, you will interact with each of these individuals. You will also work closely with our Programme Manager, Heather Ashmore and Head of the IMAXT team, Dario



Bressan, both based at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute.

How the Cancer Grand Challenges IMAXT team works

As the IMAXT team is a large programme with multiple aims, the themes are broken down into smaller, more manageable teams known as Tiger Teams. These Tiger Teams meet for approximately 1 hour per month to discuss their progress, troubleshoot and brainstorm ideas. These teams are made up of the individuals responsible for running experiments and exploring the results they find.

Every other month, there is a co-investigator meeting where the programme progress is discussed at a higher-level (includes the lead investigator, co-investigators, patient advocates and the programme manager). At these meetings, ideas for the whole programme are discussed and ideas from the individual Tiger Teams are brought together.

Further to these regular meetings, there are also steering meetings that happen twice a year, where all IMAXT co-investigators come together to discuss the direction of the programme (includes the lead investigator, co-investigators, patient advocates and the programme manager).

The Cancer Grand Challenges Summit is held once a year. This is similar to a scientific conference and brings together all Cancer Grand Challenges teams (<https://cancergrandchallenges.org>), including their patient advocates. It is during this conference that each team is assessed by Cancer Grand Challenges for their progress in relation to the milestones that were agreed on at the beginning of the programme.

How will you be involved in the team?

Due to the nature of the programme, there are several different opportunities available depending on both your experience and/or interest. We are happy to discuss bridging these different role options.

Role 1. Focus our research on areas most likely to have an impact on patients and the general public

This role would require you to work closely with our virtual reality team to bring life to the idea of using virtual reality as a tool in the clinic to communicate risk and facilitate doctor / patient relationships. The long term aim of this work is that our virtual reality platform could be used within a hospital for use in supporting patients and/ or their carers.

Further to this, we also feel that such a technology could be used for educational purposes and therefore could be taken out into the community as a way to enhance science communication and teaching, outside of the classroom.



Role 2. Be involved in driving the scientific decisions and bringing the science to patients.

This role would require you to work alongside our researchers who have different focuses. You would attend informal Tiger Team meetings to hear first-hand how the research is progressing and to influence direction based on your experiences and ideas. Further to this, you would be invited to a steering group meeting (every 6 months) that is attended by all co-investigators on the IMAXT where all big decisions around project direction are decided.

Role 3. Get involved in organising events

Organising events for patients, carers and those affected by cancer is a first hand way of forwarding the reach of our work. For example these events may include:

- (a) Arranging for patients, their carers or relatives to visit the Cancer Grand Challenges IMAXT laboratories to meet the scientists and see first hand the impact this research could have on patients living with cancer,
- (b) Organising an annual event for advocates to hear about the work of the Cancer Grand Challenges IMAXT team from the scientists doing the work,
- (c) Helping advocates involved with the VR aspect of the project to bring the VR technology into the clinic.

How much time will you need to give?

Your time is extremely valuable and we are flexible in how you want to be involved. Our only ask is that you are committed and enthusiastic towards the project and its goals upon beginning with us.

You will be supported at all times by the Head of the Cancer Grand Challenges IMAXT laboratory (Dr Dario Bressan) and Programme Manager (Dr Heather Ashmore).

For Role 1

- We would expect that you attend meetings with the Virtual Reality team who are based in Canada. Therefore meetings are likely to be in the later afternoon (i.e. 3pm, 4pm start times) and will be online. This team meets informally once a week and more formally as part of a Tiger Team once a month, for approximately 1 hour at time. Ideally, we would expect you to attend the Tiger Team meeting monthly, with any extra commitments being your decision.
- Bringing the use of a virtual reality platform into a hospital / school setting will require dedication and organisation outside of meetings and is more difficult to put a number of hours to.

For **Role 2**

- There are 6 Tiger Teams who aim to meet once per month. These meetings are typically scheduled online in the afternoon (as the attendees are both national and international) and last for 1 hour. We wouldn't expect you to attend all these meetings. If you are interested in this position, we are happy to speak with you regarding your interests and embed you within a team where you feel that your skills and knowledge would be best suited.
- You will also have the opportunity to attend steering meetings. These meetings take twice a year and may require some preparatory work which typically should take no more than 1 hour.

For **Role 3**

- It is more difficult to put a time expectation on role 3, given that the organisation of different types of events differ dramatically. However, to ensure that events happen and progress is made, you would meet with the Programme Manager once a month for 1 hour.
- You would be expected to work outside of the meeting times in activities that will facilitate the organisation of the event and may also be involved in attending the event itself.

How will we support you?

- Provide you with an introduction to the Cancer Grand Challenges IMAXT programme with plain language talks
- Invite you to be an observer of one of the laboratories that are part of the team
- Provide on-going support from the Programme Manager Heather Ashmore
- Give you all the training and assistance you need to get the most out of this opportunity

Expenses and Honoraria

- Travel expenses associated with the advocacy role will be reimbursed
- We also have the opportunity for you to take an honorarium for your time. Whether or not you take this is completely your choice. The optional rates are detailed below.
 - £80 per day (more than 4 hours contributed)
 - £50 per half day (between 2-4 hours contributed)
 - £30 (20 minutes to 2 hours)
 - £5 for virtual activity (i.e. online meetings)

Further information on expenses and optional honoraria can be provided upon request.



Still want to apply?

Please fill out our short application form to register your interest by following this link <https://forms.gle/QCtP5bbq5XHUNsdP9>

There are no deadlines for this position, we will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis.

What happens next?

Once you have submitted your application form (via the link above), you will receive an email from the IMAXT Programme Manager (Dr Heather Ashmore) to confirm that it has been received.

Following this, Heather will be in-touch again within 5-10 days of your application. You may be invited for a chat about your application, this can be done either in-person or virtually, depending on your availability and/or preference.