



18 December 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00935

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 24 November in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Please may I request all information in regards to funding, and funding agreements between yourself, the British Government and GW Pharmaceuticals.

The timeframe for the information I seek is between 01/01/1998 to the present day (24/11/23)

Our response:

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds some information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

UKRI is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) that brings together the seven disciplinary research councils, Research England and Innovate UK. Further information about UKRI can be found [here](#)¹.

We therefore only hold information of funding agreements issued by UKRI and the corresponding nine councils, and not the wider British Government.

UKRI have provided funding to five research projects where GW Pharmaceuticals were a partner between 1998 and 2023.

Under Section 21 of the FOIA, information already reasonably accessible, details of four of these projects are already available in the public domain via UKRI's Gateway to Research website:

- BB/J016756/1 – "[Diverse serotonin 2C receptor mediated behaviours resulting from snoRNA regulated post-transcriptional modification](#)"²
- MR/L010305/1 – "[MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics](#)"³
- MR/W02036X/1 – "[MICA: The role of excitatory synaptic scaling in epileptogenesis in rodent and human brain networks](#)"⁴
- MR/Y008138/1 – "[ICF: mTOR Pathway Diseases node](#)"⁵

Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/about-uk-research-and-innovation/our-organisation/>

² <https://qtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=BB%2FJ016756%2F1>

³ <https://qtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=MR%2FL010305%2F1>

⁴ <https://qtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=MR%2FW02036X%2F1>

⁵ <https://qtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=MR%2FY008138%2F1>

Data is only published to Gateway to Research from 2006, therefore the fifth project with GW Pharmaceuticals as a partner is not listed, as it predates this. The details of this project are:

Project Reference: *GR/R41088/01*

Project Title: *"Theranostics: Point-of-care Quantitative Drug Metabolite Tests"*

Lead Research Organisation: *University of Bristol*

Funded Value: *£192,105*

Funded Period: *Jul 2001 - Feb 2004*

Funder: *EPSRC*

Principle Investigator: *Dr Beverley Randle*

Co-Investigator: *Professor David Nutt*

Project Abstract:

"Healthcare costs are increasingly being mitigated by using diagnostics to target therapeutic intervention in a cost-effective manner. We propose research for a simple, non-invasive quantitative drug metabolite measurement for use on site in drug dependency clinics and within novel pharmaceutical trials. The objective is rapid unequivocal test results at the point-of-care, a first step to design of specific treatments, customised to individual patient needs. Our consortium brings together skills in clinical medicine, synthetic chemistry, medical physics, biotechnology, pharmaceutical drug discovery and patient management. Our prototype will utilise the recently discovered ability of antibodies to control light emission from dyes. Fluorescent light emission from fluorescein can be completely extinguished, with reactions occurring in solution, providing a single phase report of antibody binding measurable by fluorimetry. We will research incorporation of this generic reporting signal into homogeneous detection systems. Work on fluorimetry will measure and enhance this diagnostic signal as appropriate. Software will create the user-assay interface and we will evaluate the prototype test at the point-of-care, the daily clinic. Our project will be considered successful without reservation on production of clinically-relevant data in a form suitable to aid decision making in patient management."

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact within the next 40 working days:

Head of Information Governance

Email: foi@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: www.ico.org.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


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UK Research and Innovation
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