



## Research Advisory Committee - Call for applications

At Cerebra, we believe that every family that includes a child with a brain condition will have the chance to discover a better life together. We listen to families that have children with brain conditions. We use what they tell us to inspire the best research and innovation. Then we help them put the knowledge into practice so they can discover a better life together.

By 'brain condition', we mean any neurodevelopmental disorder (NDD) that affects the developing brain, including those caused by illness, genetics or traumatic injury. Brain conditions include (but are not limited to) autism, ADHD, Down's syndrome, learning disabilities, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and developmental delay.

Our key values are summed up by three key words:

1. **Positive:** our optimism helps families see past every barrier.
2. **Inquisitive:** a spirit of relentless discovery drives everything we do.
3. **Together:** our researchers, practitioners and families go further when they travel together.

Current clinical practice identifies each condition individually with its own set of identifying characteristics, but many neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD's) occur together and/or share similar risk factors, behaviours and challenges. Thinking is changing and 'multi-morbidity' increasingly accepted as the norm. We work across rather than within NDD's, giving us a unique perspective within the charity research sector.

## The Types of Research We Support

Having evaluated our previous research activity, our direct work with families and considered the findings of consultation exercises carried out by researchers in the childhood disability field, we want to focus more explicitly on supporting research to benefit the families of children with multiple and complex needs, rare or poorly understood conditions. We reflect this desire in our priorities for 2019 -2024, which are to support research in the following areas:

1. Outcomes in Pregnancy.
2. Family Research
3. Legal Entitlements
4. Mental Health

5. Sleep
6. Creative Design

We are currently inviting expressions of interest for grant funding that will start in 2020.

Our full Research Strategy, invitation to tender and terms of reference for our Research Advisory Committee can be downloaded from our website. <https://www.cerebra.org.uk/research/our-research-strategy/>

### **Role and Responsibilities**

The role of the committee is ultimately to advise Trustees on the relative merits of particular pieces of research. As such, you will be invited to participate in grant application reviews and provide scientific advice to trustees on grant applications.

This is a voluntary role but out of pocket expenses, including travel and subsistence to attend meetings and site visits, will be paid. Commitment is crucial and time constraints will apply to allow us to complete our work and deliver on our commitments in a timely manner.

### **Are you eligible?**

Applications are invited from individuals with a publication record in research (clinical and applied research in the fields that fall under Cerebra's remit), success in obtaining research grants / awards and a willingness to devote the necessary time.

Posts are formally available from February 2019 and appointments are for a three-year term in the first instance.

Individuals who are interested in applying for one of these posts, or just want more information are encouraged to contact Georgia Mappa at [GeorgiaM@cerebra.org.uk](mailto:GeorgiaM@cerebra.org.uk) with any queries.

### **How to apply**

Applicants should submit a brief CV giving details of previous key posts, current post, roles in relevant committees and six most relevant publications. This should be accompanied by a written statement (maximum 1,000 words) which covers relevant previous experiences and expertise.

Applications should be submitted to Tracy Elliott, Head of Research and Information: [Tracye@cerebra.org.uk](mailto:Tracye@cerebra.org.uk)

Successful applicants will be invited to join a welcome meeting with Cerebra staff.

## How we are funded

Funding for our vital work comes in a variety of ways, with us benefiting from many gifts, some small, some large. Many people give regularly, take part in our lottery or just buy a raffle ticket twice a year. Others, generously, leave a gift in their will. We also enjoy the support of grant giving bodies and businesses who enable us to make a real and lasting difference to the lives of others through grants, donations, sponsorship and gifts in kind.