

Registered charity number: 284582

Report of the trustees
and financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025
**The Skin Cancer Research Fund
(SCaRF)**

The Skin Cancer Research Fund

Trustees report

31 March 2025

Reference and administrative details

Charity name: The Skin Cancer Research Fund (SCaRF)

Charity registration number: 284582

Registered office address:

SCaRF
Office Pines and Steps Building
Southmead Hospital
Bristol
BS10 5NB

Patrons:

The Lord Mayor of Bristol
Mr B E Hockin MBE

Trustees:

Dr H Audrain
Dr K Finucane
Mr D Fuidge
Mrs L Knowles SRN
Mr B McGinn (Chair / Treasurer)
Mr J Pleat
Mr A Wilkinson
Mrs Amanda McAusland

Medical advisors:

Dr Adam Bray Dermatologist
Mr Sankhya Sen Consultant Plastic Surgeon

Scientific Advisors:

Dr Yi Feng, Reader, The Wellcome Trust
Sir Henry Dale Fellow, Centre for Inflammation Research, University of Edinburgh
Dr Charankumal Thandi, Consultant Dermatologist, Southmead Hospital.

Charity contact details:

Administrator: Mr S Hollyman

Tel: 0117 4148755

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Email: scarf@nbt.nhs.uk

Website: skincancerresearch.org

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC, 14/16 Queen Square, Bristol, BS99 7AJ

Objectives and activities

SCaRF aims to promote research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of skin cancer generally, and malignant melanoma, in particular. It aims to publish the results of such research and thus to help significantly cut the number of new cases of skin cancer each year in the UK. As a result, a secondary target is to reduce significantly the number of deaths from the disease. A simultaneous aim is to assist in raising awareness of skin cancer through educational programmes.

Public benefit at the heart of our charity

Skin cancer is a very common form of cancer and worrying for all those affected by it, including their friends and family. For the unfortunate few who have the most serious and life-threatening form of skin cancer, malignant melanoma, the effects can be devastating physically, psychologically, and financially. Since its formation, SCaRF has worked towards the objective of reducing the number of people being diagnosed with skin cancer, especially malignant melanoma, and reducing the number of deaths from the disease. Although we are a long way from finding a cure for all forms of skin cancer, new treatments are now becoming available for some forms of life-threatening malignant melanoma. They are helping people live longer with the disease. SCaRF has materially contributed to the development of new therapeutic approaches by, for example, funding research projects which have established the response of melanoma cells to novel drugs.

The trustees confirm that they have considered the guidance of the Charity Commission and confirm the public benefit of the charity's work. Our work on this front is evidenced by the regular positive feedback we have from patients and their families. Moreover, as a reflection of the importance of the funded project streams, after initial seed funding, many have subsequently achieved recognition in the form of much larger grants administered by national bodies. A 'pump priming' approach to basic research has yielded significant returns in relation to early discoveries about skin cancer. In summary, the trustees believe that the potential humanitarian, public benefit of our research strategy is a testament to our commitment to the underlying precepts of improving the outcome for patients afflicted by skin cancer in all its forms.

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Achievements and performance

Research

The new policy for research grant consideration came into force on the 1st of April 2017 with award of research grants considered twice a year with closing date for receipt of applications being 30th March and 30th September. The funding round in the period attracted three interesting applications which were then sent out to our scientific advisors for blinded review and comment. The trustees are primarily looking at the potential of 'pump-priming' projects so that the applicant can produce provisional, ground-breaking data to support a later, more substantial application to some of the larger medical research charities. It is hoped that SCaRF-funded research can lead to rapid clinical translation to improve the treatment and outcome for melanoma and other forms of skin cancer. The successful applications were:

Dr Antony N Antoniou – Development of personalised peptide based melanoma vaccines; £18,850.

This project, based at The University of Northumbria in Newcastle is being guided by Professor Antony Antoniou, a renowned cell biologist. The work is focusing on the proteins produced by melanoma cell lines. It is using a gene-editing approach to place short fragments of human melanoma proteins (peptides) into a specific cell line. The latter are then mixed with T-cells of the immune system which specifically identify and help to destroy cells which appear abnormal or have not been encountered before. These scenarios may occur as cells become malignant ('mutate'). Over a year, the work aims to provide proof-of-principle that this specific approach to introducing melanoma peptides into the body – in the form of molecules within vaccines - can help to prime the immune system. It may provide a new therapeutic approach to melanoma skin cancer. SCaRF are pump-priming this work which has enormous potential translational benefits to melanoma patients.

Dr Sylvain Ladame – pH responsive patches for improving diagnosis of skin cancer lesions in primary care - £20,000

Dr Ladame and Professor Jessica Strid's team at Imperial College London are investigating whether it is possible to speed up the diagnosis of types of skin cancer by analysing the acid/base level (pH) of the fluid that surrounds cells. It is known that the metabolism of skin cancer cells can use up energy and produces acid, particularly when a cancer is dividing rapidly. The pH surrounding the cancer cells can change. This

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group is assessing whether the extent of the pH change and its duration is easy to monitor and significantly different from normal cells for it to be used as a diagnostic marker of pre-cancerous or indeed, cancerous change. In tandem, the group are developing sensitive and reliable means of monitoring pH that can be used at the bedside to assess quickly and reliably whether a new skin lesion is indeed malignant and whether the patient should be referred onwards for the gold standard in diagnosis, a diagnostic biopsy. If the year-long study finds favourable results, this project stream h as the potential to produce a paradigm shift in diagnosis and early treatment for patients with skin cancers such as squamous cell carcinoma (SCC).

Dr Mohammed Ahmed - Characterisation of ELF5 and its Role in the Initiation and Development of Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinomas.” £9,998:16

This project is led by Dr Mohammed Ahmed, Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biosciences at Nottingham Trent University. It is investigating whether two sets of molecules, expressed within the squamous cells in the top layer of the skin, have important roles in determining abnormal differentiation – in essence, normal cells behaving in a pre-malignant and then subsequently onwards to an aggressive and invasive malignant character. The molecules in question are being added to or removed from (‘knock out’) keratinocyte cells and in response, Dr Ahmed’s team are looking for an array of chemical markers which indicate malignant change. If successful, this work with clarify whether the two suspected molecules could be prime targets for future treatments of SCC. The group hope to move on to some pre-clinical studies of effectiveness if their suspicions are probed correct. Again, this work has great translational potential to act against one of the commonest forms of non-pigmented skin cancer which still kills over 1000 people every year within the United Kingdom.

Education and Awareness

The trustees believe that educating young people on the importance of safety in the sun and skin cancer prevention. In recent years, several presentations to local sixth form students have been delivered by trustee clinicians. Unfortunately, during the COVID-19 pandemic, such presentations were not possible to deliver and although restrictions relating to COVID-19 were largely lifted in March 2022, our programme of rolling presentations has yet to recommence. During the coming year the trustees will consider options for restarting these presentations, as they consider them an important element of delivering the objectives of the charity.

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Financial review

Overview for 2024/25

The charity delivered a deficit for the year of £1,907 (2024: a surplus of £24,925) which decreased the accumulated fund to £546,062 (2024: £547,969).

Donations and legacy income for the year was £33,096 (2023: £30,488). Legacies received in the year totalled £2,073 (2024: £5,432) and other fund-raising channels also delivered £2,840 (2024: £7,235). Licence royalties received in the year totalled £nil (2024: £1,846). The trustees have invested time and money in developing alternative fund-raising and awareness channels through social media and traditional web approaches.

Research projects were supported during the year with contributions of £31,549 (2024: £5,000).

Governance and support expenditure for the year was £9,801 (2023: £12,074).

Governance and support expense was 24.8% of total income (2024: 28.7%).

Future developments

Priorities for the year 2025/26

This year we are endeavouring to be more productive in our research and educational activities.

The trustees are committed to raising the profile of the charity with regards to being a national source of funding for cutting-edge skin cancer research. To this end, we have commenced a media drive to advertise the nature of our work to potential collaborators. Currently, this includes the targeting of regional and national multidisciplinary skin cancer teams within an NHS setting to encourage grant applications for projects which fall within our remit. It has been decided that to attract applications from a range of professionals with both clinical and laboratory-based projects, the nature of the grants will be more flexible in nature. For example, this may entail support for a significant, multi-year, lab-based project stream to investigate skin cancer pathology, or, in another form, small, hospital-based projects to identify components of clinical care that may benefit from optimisation. The trustees feel that this flexible and response approach best serves the multi-faceted requests of the applicants who approach us from both laboratory and clinical settings across the UK.

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- We will continue to disseminate the findings of the research we support on social media channels including Facebook (Skin Cancer Research Fund - SCARF | Bristol | Facebook) and X.
- We will deliver an excellent service to our research grant applicants including a thorough and independent assessment of their project from our scientific advisory committee and even for unsuccessful proposals, constructive feedback about developing their ideas. Once a grant has been awarded, we work with our partner to ensure seamless distribution of funds and where appropriate, giving a visible platform for exciting, early discoveries.
- We will maintain the new website so that it remains dynamic, engaging. To this end we are looking to create a series of short videos to answer a diverse range of frequently asked questions in the spheres of skin cancer prevention, detection and treatment.

Structure, governance and management

Governance and Management

The Charity is regulated by Trust Deed dated 16 February 1982 as varied by schemes of the Charity Commission of 13 May 1987, 8 January 1991, and 25 May 1995.

Meetings of the full Board of trustees were held periodically throughout the year.

The day-to-day business of the charity is carried out by the SCaRF Administrator in accordance with Policy of the Charity Commission and Guidelines agreed by the trustees. These guidelines are constantly under review to reflect external changes, including banking requirements and Charity Commissioners updates.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected for three years in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Guidelines agreed by trustees. The Hon Treasurer is appointed by the trustees for a period of three years. The current Chairman was appointed during 2025. The Hon. Treasurer post is appointed by the trustees, for a maximum period of 3 years. We are actively seeking a new appointment to this position, and the Chairman is covering the post pro tem.

Recruitment, appointment and induction of new trustees

Selection and appointment of trustees is by invitation of the existing trustees to individuals known to have an interest in and or technical knowledge appropriate to satisfying the aims and objectives of the Charity and for whom they may have talents and areas of expertise under-represented amongst the other trustees. If the invited candidate is willing to become a trustee, their appointment is then ratified at the next

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regular trustees' meeting. On appointment, new trustees are given background information and a history of the Charity Commission publications about the responsibilities of trustees and background to topics currently under consideration. Whilst no formal training exists, on the job involvement in the day-to-day affairs of SCaRF ensure that new trustees are quickly assimilated into the work of the charity. The appointment and induction of new trustees has occurred infrequently because we have been lucky enough to retain our trustees for long periods and in the past, it has been a rather informal process.

The following changes to trustees occurred during the period since the publication of the last Trustee report:

Name	Date of appointment/retirement
Mrs A McAusland	Appointed on 25 th February 2025

Currently there are seven trustees appointed, and the Constitution of the Trust requires there to be a maximum of eleven and a minimum of five trustees in post.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees adopted a Policy of Risk Management in January 2007 which is reviewed annually. The last time this was carried out was in March 2022. Responsibility for the management of risk falls to the trustees collectively. Historically the trustees, understanding that all risks cannot be mitigated, have operated in such a way as to expose the charity to a negligible financial risk while balancing a reasonable return on investment and retaining financial flexibility. This facilitates a reasonable reserve of funding for projects at times of demand. The policy adopted by the trustees continues with this philosophy. The policy was reviewed and confirmed in March 2016 with minor updating.

Risk assessment of the SCaRF office working environment continues to be undertaken by North Bristol NHS Trust and is reviewed periodically. Any remedial actions required are undertaken. The SCaRF Secretary attends Mandatory Training sessions as required by North Bristol NHS Trust on subjects such as Health and Safety, Fire Safety, Waste Management, etc.

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Organisers of SCaRF events are responsible for conducting a risk assessment for individual events in accordance with the requirements of the charity's insurance company. SCaRF supporters participating in sponsored events organised by third parties are responsible for making sure that they and the organisers of the event have appropriate indemnity. All SCaRF documentation and web information is regularly reviewed to assure that it is contemporaneous, factually correct and complies with the precepts of the Information Commissioners.

Reserves policy

The nature of skin cancer research is inherently long-term and unpredictable in its outcomes. It requires financial support that can accommodate successive stages of a project stream without imposing challenges on available capital. Flexibility is essential on the part of the grant-giving body to ensure researchers receive the full support needed to reach satisfactory conclusions. Given this, it is challenging to define financial reserves with absolute certainty.

To address these complexities, SCaRF has committed to reassessing its reserves policy annually. This reassessment will ensure that the policy reflects the most recent experience in terms of income levels and the demand for investment in research. For the purposes of this policy, “reserves” are defined as all funds committed to ongoing projects or administrative overheads.

Minimum reserves

The minimum level of reserves will be set at the sum of all grants already promised or committed, plus two years' administrative costs. Based on current figures, this amounts to £53,000. This ensures that the charity can continue its core operations and fulfil its obligations even in the event of unforeseen financial pressures.

The trustees have recognised the importance of aligning the charity's reserves policy with its long-term mission and financial sustainability. A draft reserves policy has been prepared to reflect these priorities, proposing reserves levels that safeguard existing commitments, account for income fluctuations, and support ongoing research programs without financial disruption. The charity remains committed to ensuring financial prudence while optimising the use of funds for SCaRF's mission.

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31 March 2025

Signed on behalf of Trustees:

Chair: Ben McGinn



Date: November 2025

Dep. Chair: Jonathon Pleat

Date: November 2025



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Independent Examiner's Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the above charity ("SCaRF") for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report:

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the Trusts financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2022 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement:

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the financial statements did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the financial statements did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair'. view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed:

A R Dicker

11 May 2026

Anthony Robin Dicker

Date:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:

Chartered Accountant, Fellow member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. (FCA)

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Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
	Notes	£	£	£
Income				
Donations and legacies		33,096	33,096	30,488
Charitable activities		2,840	2,840	9,838
Investments	2	3,508	3,508	1,673
Total income		<u>39,444</u>	<u>39,444</u>	<u>41,999</u>
Expenditure	3			
Charitable activities		(31,549)	(31,549)	(5,000)
Other		(9,801)	(9,801)	(12,074)
Total expenditure		<u>(41,351)</u>	<u>(41,351)</u>	<u>(17,074)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>(1,907)</u>	<u>(1,907)</u>	<u>24,925</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>(1,907)</u>	<u>(1,907)</u>	<u>24,925</u>
Total funds brought forward	6	<u>547,969</u>	<u>547,969</u>	<u>523,044</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>546,062</u>	<u>546,062</u>	<u>547,969</u>

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Balance sheet

31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Bank interest receivable		1,063	-
Cash at bank and in hand		550,171	551,037
Total current assets		551,234	551,037
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Trade Creditors		551,062	(5,172)-
Net current assets/(liabilities)		546,062	547,969
Total assets less current liabilities		546,062	547,969
Total net assets		546,062	547,969
Represented by the funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds	6	546,062	547,969
Total charity funds		546,062	547,969

Signed on behalf of Trustees:

Chair: Ben McGinn



Date: November 2025

Dep. Chair: Jonathon Pleat



Date: November 2025

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

Basis of financial statements

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, including FRS 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to charities in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, as set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) agreed between all United Kingdom Charity Commissions and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting.

The SORP provides that for charities with gross income less than £250,000, financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, and that is the basis on which these financial statements are prepared

The financial statements comply with applicable laws and give a true and fair view.

Recognition of income

Income is recognised when received.

Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

General

Liabilities are recognised where it is probable that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Grants payable

Where a grant is given with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output

Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the charity to avoid the commitment, the funding liability is recognised in full.

Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for, closely defined purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. Investment income

	Year to 31 March 2025 £	Year to 31 March 2024 £
Bank interest received and receivable	3,508	1,673
Total investment income	3,508	1,673

3. Expenditure

	Year to 31 March 2025 £	Year to 31 March 2024 £
Grant funding of research	31,549	5,000
Governance and support costs	8,841	11,114
Independent examiner's fees	960	960
Total expenditure	41,351	17,074

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Year to 31 March 2025 £	Year to 31 March 2024 £
Grant funding of research expenditure by beneficiary		
Hever	31,549	5,000
Ladame	-	-
Hurlstone	-	-
Matin	-	-
Total grant funding of research	<u>31,549</u>	<u>5,000</u>

4. Trustee remuneration and benefits

Trustee remuneration

There were no trustee remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025, nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustee expenses

There were no trustee expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025, nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

5. Staff costs

	Year to 31 March 2025 £	Year to 31 March 2024 £
Wages and salaries	<u>8,424</u>	<u>8,426</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

6. Movement in funds

	1 April 2024 £	Net Movement £	31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	547,969	(1,907)	546,062
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Comparative movement in funds			
	1 April 2023 £	Net Movement £	31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	523,044	24,925	547,969
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



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Document generated Mon, 11th May 2026 10:34:14 BST

Document fingerprint db04f60cca2816d4f2f60d13fd304624

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