

PRESS RELEASE

British backed trial takes on glioblastoma, the brain cancer that has defied progress for twenty years

Sonodynamic therapy would be investigated in a European trial in the coming months, offering a rare new avenue of research for glioblastoma, a disease where first line treatment has barely changed in twenty years.

LONDON, August 12th 2026 Glioblastoma is one of the most aggressive brain cancers there is, and one of the hardest diagnoses in medicine to deliver. Despite decades of research, the standard of care has barely changed in twenty years. Patients are still offered, in essence, what patients were offered two decades ago, and the families living with the disease know this better than anyone.

For most patients, treatment involves surgery, radiotherapy and a chemotherapy treatment known as temozolomide (TMZ), yet the tumour almost always returns. Survival is still measured in months rather than years.

CureGBM, a British company, is working to change that. It will fund a European trial in the coming months to investigate a new approach called sonodynamic therapy. The therapy does not require surgery and can, in principle, be repeated, which matters for a disease that so often returns. Whether it can help patients is exactly the question the trial is designed to answer, and it is a question that has gone unasked for far too long.

Very little that is genuinely new has reached glioblastoma patients in a generation, and this is a rare example of a different approach being taken seriously enough to be tested properly, driven by a small British company rather than a large pharmaceutical one.

CureGBM was cofounded by sister and brother Jane Oberholzer and Richard Wakefield, who lost their own father to glioblastoma. That experience, of sitting with someone you love through a diagnosis like this and seeing how little there was to offer, is what led them to start the company.

Jane Oberholzer said:

We lost our father to glioblastoma, and that experience is the reason CureGBM exists. In April 2021, we sat beside him during his final weeks, asking the same questions that families still ask today, hoping there might be another treatment, another option, another chance. Instead, we were confronted with a heartbreaking reality: there were very few paths left to explore. Five years later, and despite more than two decades of research, that reality has changed far too little. Through CureGBM, we have met patients and families worldwide who share the same hope we once held: that research keeps moving forward and that new treatments are given a real chance to succeed. We do not yet know the full potential of sonodynamic therapy, but this clinical trial is a vital step forward. Our hope is simple: that future patients and their families will have more options, more time, and more hope than we had.

Simon Baty, living with glioblastoma since November 2024, said:

When I first heard about SDT it sounded almost too good to be true. For someone like me whose disease is stable, I have the threat of recurrence constantly hanging over me. That's when GBM really bites, as the treatment options are so limited. SDT gives me hope, as it is being explored for recurrent GBM. Once you have been diagnosed the clock is ticking and it is close to

midnight. Time is of the essence, and if a new treatment becomes available a few months earlier that could make all the difference.

Skomer Bennett-Clemmow, chief executive and cofounder of Gena, whose mother Jana was diagnosed with glioblastoma in 2019, said:

Having seen first hand the reality of living with glioblastoma when my mum, Jana Bennett, was diagnosed in 2019, I know how urgently patients and families need access to new treatment options. Innovation in brain cancer cannot be something patients and families only read about from a distance. It needs to become available, understandable and accessible to people living with brain cancer in the UK and across Europe, particularly where new approaches may offer a less invasive route alongside existing standards of care. That is why the work CureGBM is doing to advance access to SDT is so vital.

For the families who have watched two decades pass with so little to show for them, the significance is not what this trial might one day deliver, but the simple fact that something genuinely new is finally being tried. Whatever it finds, it asks a question the field has waited far too long to ask.

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About sonodynamic therapy

Sonodynamic therapy is an investigational treatment. It has not been approved, and no claims are made here about its effectiveness. The trial exists precisely to answer that question. This release concerns the unmet need in glioblastoma, the rationale for the research, and the effort to fund it, not clinical outcomes.

About CureGBM

Cure GBM Ltd is a clinical stage British company working to bring a new approach to glioblastoma treatment into properly designed clinical research. It was cofounded by Jane Oberholzer and Richard Wakefield after the loss of their father to glioblastoma, and will fund a European clinical trial in the coming months.

Interviews

Jane Oberholzer, Simon Baty and Skomer Bennett-Clemmow are available for interview on request.

Images

Images can be accessed on the CureGBM website.

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