



Images at the touch of a button

A state-of-the-art computer-based system is set to revolutionise the way x-rays and scans are stored and viewed at the Royal Marsden.

Once the new system has been installed, clinical teams across the Trust will be able to call up and access scans at the touch of a button in a development which has the potential to transform patient care across the NHS.

The system is set to go live on 31 March across both sites of the Royal Marsden, with a few exceptions where it will be phased in over a period of time.

The Picture Archiving & Communications System, known as PACS, allows doctors and other health professionals

to view and compare images and information on screen.

PACS ends the century-long reliance on film as the medium for capturing and storing scans. Staff will be able to instantaneously send and view images, regardless of location, increasing the speed and efficiency of diagnosis and treatment.

Potential

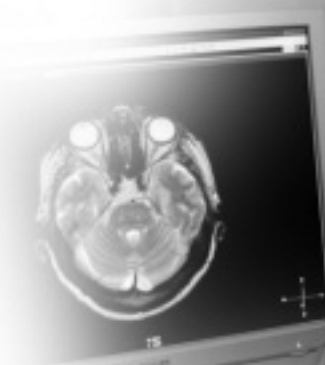
Digital storage will reduce the risk of images being lost or misplaced which, in turn, is expected to cut the number of postponed appointments and re-tests – and has the potential to transform patients' experience of the care they receive across the NHS.

Meanwhile, the sight of patients carrying packets of

film around the hospital during their care will be a thing of the past.

Radiology PACS Manager, Francois Van der Watt said: "PACS will transform the way we work at the Royal Marsden. It will help improve patient

waiting times and assist staff to develop collaboration, as PACS can be viewed from multiple terminals and locations by a range of clinicians at the same time." ■



Francois Van der Watt

New Year's Honour

Cally Palmer's outstanding contribution to the NHS was recognised in the New Year's Honours List.

Cally was delighted to be awarded a CBE and touched that colleagues chose to put her forward for such a special accolade.

Achieved

She said: "Everything I have ever achieved is the result of a great team and some incredibly skilled people, so I am both humbled and pleased to receive this recognition."

Cally joined the Royal Marsden as Chief Executive

in 1998 from The Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust, where she was Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Services for four years.

Welcomed

Chairman of The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, Tessa Green welcomed the news and praised Cally Palmer for her commitment to improving standards for patients throughout her career to date.

She said: "I am delighted that Cally has been recognised in the New Year's Honours for her outstanding contribution to the Royal Marsden and the

NHS through her drive, leadership and absolute determination to make a difference for patients." ■

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Cally Palmer
CBE

Cancer Campaign beats its target

Thanks to extraordinary support the Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign has beaten its £30 million fundraising target!

The amazing efforts of patients, volunteers, staff and Foundation Trust members have helped fund essential equipment to detect cancer earlier and treat it faster.

Angela Roden, Fundraising Director said: "When we launched the Cancer Campaign, £30 million seemed like a distant dream, but thanks to the outstanding efforts of our fundraisers, it's now more than a reality."

A host of celebrities including Gary Lineker and

Joan Collins have backed the campaign which has funded several projects to help the hospital treat more people, more quickly and more effectively.

A pioneering PET/CT scanner gives very detailed scans of tumours, allowing staff to give a more accurate diagnosis and precise treatment planning.

The Oak Foundation Drug Development Centre sees over 20 phase one trials taking place at a time, giving hope to more than 200 patients a year.

A state-of-the-art Critical Care Unit has also opened, the only facility of its kind in the country dedicated exclusively to cancer.

Cally Palmer, Chief Executive of the Royal Marsden said: "I would like to congratulate all patients, staff, volunteers and Foundation Trust members who have worked so hard to raise such vital funds."

"The money raised has enabled us to invest in first-rate facilities and allowed us to make extraordinary things happen at the Royal Marsden."

The appeal will also fund five new operating theatres which will double the hospital's surgical capacity and a diagnostic centre will provide prompt and accurate diagnosis for suspected breast

and prostate cancers.

Cally Palmer added: "This amazing appeal total just shows that extraordinary things happen during an ordinary day at the Royal Marsden." ■

Nurse Consultant Lisa Dougherty unveils Chelsea's glass wall thanking major donors to the Cancer Campaign



New Medical Director at the Royal Marsden



Professor Martin Gore

Professor Martin Gore has been appointed as the Trust's new Medical Director, following the end of Professor Janet Husband's term on February 1, 2006.

Professor Martin Gore said it was "an incredible privilege" to be given the role of Medical Director. He said: "This is a very exciting time for the Trust. I look forward to helping to develop our services further

to deliver seamless cancer care while expanding our research capacity."

Cally Palmer, Chief Executive, warmly welcomed Professor Martin Gore to his new role and praised Janet Husband for her "extensive knowledge, expertise and influence in the national and international field of cancer."

She said: "I would like to thank Janet for the outstanding contribution she has made

as Medical Director which helped to secure our future as an NHS Foundation Trust."

Martin Gore was Divisional Medical Director of Rare Cancers for six years and chaired the committee for Clinical Research at the Trust and The Institute of Cancer Research for ten years. He originally joined the Trust in 1984 as Lecturer in Medicine, becoming a consultant specialising in ovarian cancer, renal cell carcinoma and melanoma. ■

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Chairman reappointed

The Membership Council voted unanimously to reappoint Tessa Green as Chairman for a further three years.

Councillors supported the Nomination Committee's recommendation that Tessa's

contribution to the Trust's excellent track record, support from within the Royal Marsden and ability to provide continuity made her the ideal choice for the position. Tessa said she was delighted to be reappointed for a second term, starting in October 2006.

She said: "I am very committed to the Royal Marsden. I believe there's a real opportunity to develop the Trust's specialist facilities to offer more people access to world class cancer care."

"Thank you very much for all your support." ■



Tessa Green

Election Time

There will be an opportunity to become a

Councillor for The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust in the spring.

Elections will be held to fill vacant patient positions in East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey and South West London. We will also be looking to increase our existing membership in East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey.

We will be writing to our members in the near future to inform you how you can put yourself forward to stand in the elections.

If you would like any information, please call the Foundation Trust Office (contact details are on the back page). ■

HELP US AND WIN A BOTTLE OF BUBBLY



Foundation News is offering one reader the chance to win a bottle of bubbly. All you have to do is fill out the attached questionnaire on the opposite page and post it back to the Foundation Trust Office. Membership Support Manager, Sarah Peters will pick the lucky winner's name out of a hat.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire is designed to help us find out more about you and what you would like to see in your *Foundation News*.

Understand

We understand some of you may have more free time than others and are considering offering members different levels of membership

to accommodate this.

Sarah Peters said: "We would really appreciate people taking the time to fill out the questionnaire as it will give us

a clear idea on how involved members would like to be in future Foundation business." ■



Sarah Peters, Membership Support Manager

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Your Councillors

Patients

Paediatric and Adolescent

James Miller: likoni20@hotmail.com

South West London

Anita Gray, Richard Penn, Donald Watson
Vacancy

East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey

Dr James Laxton: laxtonchemistry@btinternet.com
Vacancy

Greater London

Susan Nyfield, Helen Rowlands

Elsewhere in England

Sally Mason, Sue Robinson

Carers

Balbir Chowdhary: balbirchowdhary@aol.com,
Professor Ton Coolen, Ronald Rustin

Public

Sheila Ann Newsum – *Kensington & Chelsea*
Anthony Hazeldine – *Sutton and Merton*
Robert Shearer – *Elsewhere in England*

Staff

Doctor

Professor Ian Smith: ian.smith@rmh.nhs.uk

Nurse

Shelley Dolan: shelley.dolan@rmh.nhs.uk

Other clinical professional

Richard Keane: richard.keane@rmh.nhs.uk

Non-clinical

Peter Kirkham: peter.kirkham@rmh.nhs.uk

Nominated Councillors

Professor Keith Wilson – Institute of Cancer Research

Charlotte Joll – South West London Cancer Network

Liz Jones – West London Cancer Network

Councillor Iain Hanham – London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Andrew Seddon – Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust

Dominic Conlin – Croydon Primary Care Trust

Andrew Kenworthy – Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust

Alan Kennedy – East Elmbridge and Surrey Primary Care Trust

Angel Galpine – Cancer Research UK

If no contact details are shown or you are not on email then please contact your Councillor through the Foundation Trust Office (details on the back page).

When emailing your Councillor please put 'Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust' in the subject box. ■

Membership Questionnaire

Your Councillor would like to find out more about you, to ensure that your membership reflects your level of interest in our Trust. Please take the time to complete this questionnaire and return it by detaching along the perforation, moisten the glued edges and mail.

■ PART ONE – About you

Name _____

Please tick what type of member you are:

Patient

- Paediatric / adolescent patient
 Adult patient living in SW London
 Adult patient living elsewhere in Greater London
 Adult patient living elsewhere in England
 Adult patient living in East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey

Staff

- Doctor
 Nurse
 Other clinical professional
 Non clinical
 Public
 Carer

Public

- Local resident living in Kensington and Chelsea
 Local resident living in Sutton and Merton
 Living elsewhere in England

■ PART TWO – Communication to suit you

How would you prefer us to communicate with you?

- By post By email

Please confirm your email address

Foundation News is currently distributed four times a year.

Do you feel this is suitable?

- Yes No

If No, how many times a year would you like to receive Foundation News?

- Twice a year More than four times
 Not at all

What do you think of the style of the Newsletter?

- Very Good Good Average
 Poor Very Poor

Comments _____

What do you think of the content of the Newsletter?

- Very Good Good Average
 Poor Very Poor

Comments _____

Please let us know if there is anything else you would like the Newsletter to focus on: _____

We would like to assess our members' requirements to receive information in languages other than English. If you are interested, please let us know below: _____

■ PART THREE – Membership

We realise that different people may want more information and involvement than others. So that we send you the information you want, in the way you want to receive it, and to ensure we are using public money sensibly, we are offering two levels of membership.

LEVEL 1 Low involvement – As a Level 1 member you will receive general information two or three times a year, which will include the Foundation Newsletter. This information will be fairly brief and will be about how the Trust is performing and how services are changing and developing.

LEVEL 2 High involvement – This is a more involved membership where Level 2 members will receive regular information including the Foundation Newsletter, plus invitations to attend events, seminars and open days.

Please tick whether you want to opt for Level 1 or Level 2:

- Level 1 Level 2

- All members are eligible to vote, so both Level 1 and Level 2 membership will receive information about elections, of which you will be notified.
- You can change your membership level at any time by calling the Foundation Trust office freephone 0800 587 7673.
- From time to time, we may also ask members to take part in surveys or market research on behalf of the Trust. We will use this to help us understand how we can improve our services and facilities.

Membership Questionnaire

Please note: There is no charge for membership. Members do not receive preferential NHS treatment. You can be a member of more than one Trust.

■ PART FOUR – Open Days

If you have opted for Level 2 membership, which of the two sites would be most convenient for you to attend an Open Day:

Chelsea Sutton

When would you prefer them to be held?

Morning Afternoon Evening

■ PART FIVE – The Membership Council

What do you understand about the Membership Council?

Are you interested in meeting your elected Councillor(s)?

Yes No

If yes, how often would you like to meet your elected Councillor(s)?

Once a year More than once a year

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.

The Royal Marsden 
NHS Foundation Trust

Foundation Trust Office
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
Fulham Road
London
SW3 6YT

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Better Healthcare Closer to Home

The Secretary of State for Health has overruled a proposal for a new critical care hospital to go on the site of the current Sutton Hospital, adjoining the Royal Marsden and The Institute of Cancer Research.

Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt announced in December that the new hospital should be built on the St Helier Hospital site following an appeal from the London Borough of Merton.

Opportunity

Cally Palmer, Chief Executive, said: "We are extremely disappointed that the opportunity for a world class resource for treatment and education, drawing together two Trusts and two academic institutions, is now unlikely. We will however be reviewing plans for Sutton to ensure our infrastruc-

ture is fit for 21st century medicine and science."

The Sutton Hospital site was originally earmarked as the proposed location for the critical care hospital following a public consultation in 2004.

Ms Hewitt said in this particular situation, where other criteria do not point overwhelmingly to one site or the other, she believed that it was right, in view of the Department of Health's commitment to reduce health inequalities, to give priority to the needs of those communities that suffer the worst social and economic disadvantage.

The Better Healthcare Closer to

Home (BHCH) project team was due to meet this month to seek clarification on the evidence as to how the siting of the critical care hospital at the St Helier site will best address the health inequalities needs of all residents in the geographical areas relevant to the BHCH programme, which includes large parts of Surrey as far as Dorking. ■



Reducing waiting times

The Trust is working hard to achieve the new national cancer waiting targets.

Chief Executive Cally Palmer explained to the Membership Council that although the Trust is still achieving higher compliance than the majority of Cancer Centres in the country, it is still slightly below the national target, 95 per cent by December.

She said: "At the moment the Royal Marsden's figure is 88.6 per cent in meeting the 62-days wait."

The 62-day target, which forms part of the NHS Cancer Plan, was set to ensure urgent cases are seen as quickly as possible, less time is spent waiting for test results and that treatment starts as soon as it can.

The targets mean patients should receive their first treatment for all cancers within 62-days of an urgent GP referral.

While the Trust consistently meets the 31-day target, the 62-day target is more challenging; as it involves working with other hospitals to ensure patients urgently referred by their GP are fast-tracked through their diagnostic tests in other hospitals.

Monitoring

Cally Palmer said: "The Trust is introducing patient navigators who will ensure patients receive a faster referral to the Royal Marsden by tracking and monitoring patients on the 62-day pathway and chasing all clinical information such as CT scans from other Trusts." ■

Making the Royal Marsden smoke-free

We are currently a smoke-free hospital and from November 2006 this policy will be extended to our grounds. This means that smoking will not be allowed on our

premises, vehicles and at entrances. The only exception will be for authorised inpatients receiving palliative care who will be permitted to smoke in designated areas.

Our buildings have been

smoke-free for some time; this final drive in our policy has been introduced to reflect the guidance set out in the national and regional NHS policy to create a smoke-free NHS. ■



Dates for your diary

Membership Council Meeting

The Membership Council is due to meet on Wednesday 22 February in the Cripps Lecture Theatre in Sutton.

Spring Meeting

Wednesday 10 May, in the Refectory, Education and Conference Centre, at the Chelsea site.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 13 September in Sutton.

Final 2006 Meeting

The final Membership Council for 2006 is due to take place on 22 November, in the Refectory, Education and Conference Centre, at the Chelsea site. ■

Keep in touch

FOUNDATION TRUST OFFICE

The Royal Marsden
NHS Foundation Trust,
Fulham Road,
London SW3 6JJ
Tel: 020 7808 2446/2844
Freephone: 0800 587 7673
e-mail: sarah.peters@rmh.nhs.uk

HOSPITAL ADDRESSES

The Royal Marsden
Hospital, Fulham Road
London SW3 6JJ
Tel: 020 7352 8171

The Royal Marsden
Hospital, Downs Road,
Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PT
Tel: 020 8642 6011

www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk