

Impact Report

2017/18



At The Royal Marsden we deal with cancer every day, so we understand how valuable life is. And when people entrust their lives to us, they deserve the very best. That’s why the pursuit of excellence lies at the heart of everything we do and why The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity exists.

Thanks to our supporters, we continue to be there for everyone who needs us, raising money solely to support the hospital. We ensure that the nurses, doctors and research teams can provide the very best care and develop life-saving treatments, which are used across the UK and around the world.

From funding state-of-the-art equipment and groundbreaking research to creating the very best patient environments, we will never stop looking for ways to improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

Cover image
Melanoma patient Mark Wilson in the West Wing Clinical Research Centre, with his partner’s daughter, Isabella Hall

Welcome to our Impact Report

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A message from our Chairman and Managing Director

A year to be proud of

We are pleased to report another outstanding year for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. In 2017/18, the Charity achieved a record income of £25.3 million from donations and legacies, which has enabled us to continue to fund state-of-the-art equipment, world-leading research, treatment and care, and modern patient environments at The Royal Marsden.



Charles Alexander

Charles Alexander
Chairman
The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity



Antonia Dalmahoy

Antonia Dalmahoy
Managing Director
The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity

We would like to thank all of our donors, whether their gift was big or small. Your contributions have helped us to support patients, their families and friends, as well as our staff across almost every area of the hospital.

We would also like to thank our marvellous team of volunteers, whose efforts and commitment make such a difference to our patients. Our thanks also go to the Charity team whose dedication and skill has produced the excellent results set out in this report.

Some of the particular highlights that are covered in more detail in this report are:

- The continuing support of the research teams at The Royal Marsden through a £15-million, five-year grant. The Royal Marsden, alongside its academic partner The Institute of Cancer Research, is ranked in the top three cancer centres in the world for the impact of its research. This grant ensures The Royal Marsden remains at the forefront of translational cancer research and can extend, improve and save more lives – not just at The Royal Marsden, but across the UK and beyond.
- The Robotic Surgery Fellowship which has enabled surgeons to train to operate robotically on tumours across multiple cancer types using our dual-console da Vinci Xi
- The early success of our fundraising appeal to build a fantastic new treatment and research facility at The Royal Marsden in Sutton. Formerly known as the Clinical Care and Research Centre, the building will now be known as the Oak Cancer Centre in recognition of our largest-ever donation of £25 million from Oak Foundation. The response from donors since the start of the appeal also enabled us to increase the research and clinical capacity of the centre by increasing the fundraising target from £50 million to £70 million.

The Royal Marsden was founded more than 165 years ago as the world's first hospital dedicated to the treatment and care of people with cancer and, unusually for its time, to research into the causes of the disease. A charitable donation enabled Dr William Marsden to build the hospital. His mission of care and research continues today.

We would like to thank everyone who makes this a reality. The people who will benefit from your generosity are cancer patients. Not only those who come through the doors of The Royal Marsden, but cancer patients across the UK, and around the world. Thank you.



(1) Dr Naureen Starling, Consultant Medical Oncologist, with a patient in the West Wing Clinical Research Centre **(2)** Surgeons operating using the da Vinci Xi robot **(3)** An artist's impression of the Oak Cancer Centre

Making a difference

All of our donors have different reasons for supporting us – whether it is because they or a family member have been treated at The Royal Marsden, or because they want to help us to continue to fund world-leading research for the benefit of cancer patients everywhere.

In memory of Nicola: a new expert research team

After being diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2013, Nicola Murrells, together with her friends and family, raised an amazing £1.8 million for research into immunotherapy.

Nicola sadly died in September 2017, but fundraising has continued in her memory with her brother Gregg now leading the charge. This continued support will give The Royal Marsden the opportunity to dramatically advance its immunotherapy research, under the leadership of Professor David Cunningham. The 'Nicola Murrells Immunotherapy Research Team' will comprise a new group of experts that will help to ensure that more cancer patients can benefit from this exciting area of research.



Nicola Murrells

Star power

Every December, thousands of Celebrate a Life gold stars are displayed on the Christmas trees outside our hospitals in Chelsea and Sutton, each one with the name of someone special handwritten in the centre.

Supporters gather at our Chelsea and Sutton hospitals for a Christmas service where we turn on the tree lights and sing carols. In 2017, we raised over £90,000, with almost 2,800 stars named in recognition of loved ones.

Michelle Wakelin names two stars for her two daughters, one of whom was born after Michelle completed treatment at The Royal Marsden for lymphoma.

“My younger daughter Gracie was born after I completed treatment. I dedicate my stars to her, and Annabelle, my elder daughter, as a celebration of their lives. I go with the girls every year to Sutton. It's just such an amazing event and has become a tradition for us.”



The Celebrate a Life event
at The Royal Marsden, Chelsea

You make it all possible

It's only because of the generosity, passion and commitment of our supporters that The Royal Marsden can continue to make such a significant difference to the lives of its patients and their loved ones, as well as cancer patients across the world. Over the past year, thousands of you did something truly amazing by supporting The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. Thank you for your incredible contribution.

Marching on together

The Beast from the East was no match for the willpower of more than 5,500 Marsden Marchers, who had spent the first few days of March wishing away the snow and ice. On Sunday 4 March 2018, after five days of extreme weather, the sun finally came out to melt away the slush.

Current and former patients, together with their friends and family and staff members from The Royal Marsden, walked either the 14-mile route between our Chelsea and Sutton hospitals or the family-friendly five-mile route and raised over £1.8 million for the Charity.

The Marsden March, sponsored by Banham, couldn't happen without our inspirational volunteers, 300 of whom donated their time, energy and enthusiasm in 2018.

The Marsden March has now raised nearly £12 million since it started in 2011, providing vital funds that have made a huge difference to the lives of cancer patients. A big thank you to everyone who took part, sponsored a walker, or volunteered – we couldn't do it without you.

734,759,750

Number of **combined steps** taken by our walkers

Walkers at the start of
The Marsden March 2018
get ready for their 14 miles



Putting the 'Super' in 'SuperLewis'

Nine-year-old Lewis Houghton was diagnosed with stage 4 Burkitt's lymphoma in 2015, just two days before his sixth birthday.

Thankfully, he has now been in remission for three years and is living life to the full, having undergone successful treatment at The Royal Marsden.

Having conquered cancer, Lewis felt spurred on to fundraise to help other children being treated at The Royal Marsden. He decided to take on a triathlon and the 14-mile Marsden March, raising more than £3,000 for the Charity through these challenges.

Jenny Houghton, Lewis's mother and supporter of the Charity, says: "I'm so grateful to The Royal Marsden – their level of care, knowledge, empathy and professionalism was so incredible. We will be forever in their debt for the successful treatment he received."

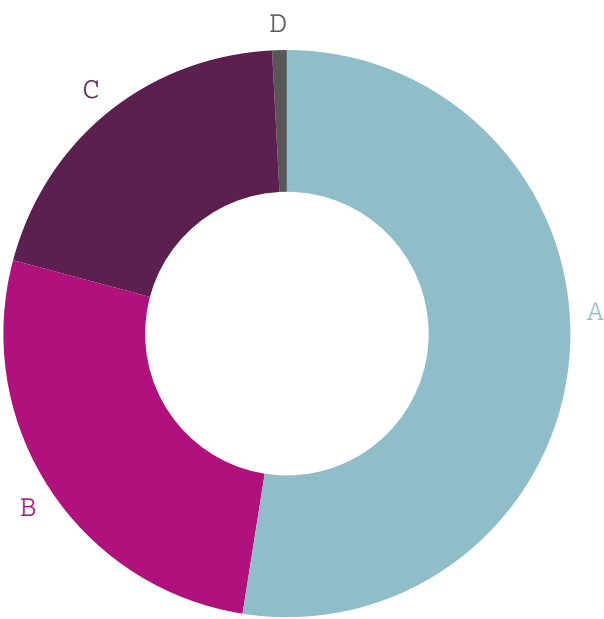


Lewis Houghton gets ready for his triathlon to raise money for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity

Financial highlights

Together, we achieved an income from donations and legacies of £25.3 million in 2017/18. Thank you to all our inspirational and generous supporters who made this possible and ensured we could continue to support the groundbreaking work of The Royal Marsden for the benefit of patients across the UK and around the world.

What we raised together

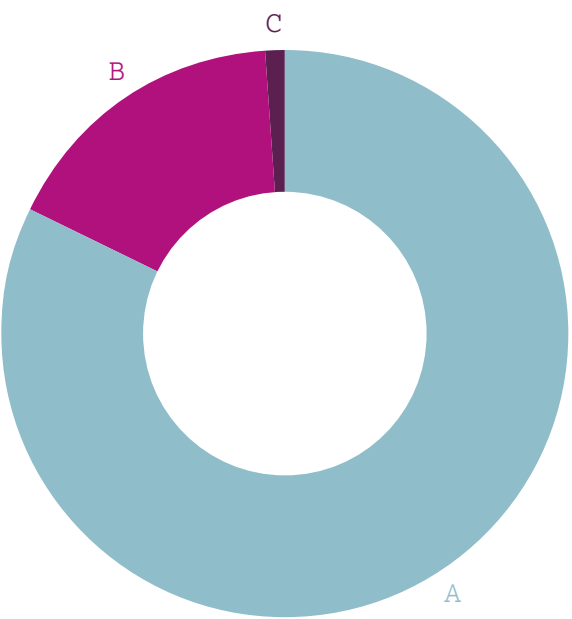


- A. Individuals and trusts **£13.4m**
- B. Legacies **£6.8m**
- C. Community and corporate **£5.1m**
- D. Trading **£0.2m**

Total income

Voluntary income **£25.5m**
Investment income **£1.1m**
Other **£0.2m**
Total £26.8m





How we spent your money



Total expenditure

- A. Charitable support of the hospital **£18.7m**
- B. Raising funds **£3.8m**
- C. Investment and property management **£0.2m**
- Total £22.7m**

Money raised by our supporters means The Royal Marsden can make a vital difference to the lives of cancer patients. Here's where we spent that money in 2017/18:

-  Research **£2.7m**
-  Equipment **£14.3m**
-  Treatment and care **£1.4m**
-  Patient environments **£0.3m**

HRH The Duke of Cambridge laughs with six-year-old Daisy Wood in the Oak Centre for Children and Young People



Pioneering excellence to help more cancer patients



(1) A patient in the spacious and bright Diane McCarthy Medical Day Unit. This unit was funded by our supporters, including a generous donation from the late philanthropist Don McCarthy CBE (2) Researchers at work in the Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research (3) Supporters of the Charity-funded CyberKnife radiotherapy machine, the latest in radiotherapy technology (4) Play specialist Kate Hodgkiss with a young patient in the Charity-funded Oak Centre for Children and Young People (5) A young patient doing arts and crafts in the playroom of the Charity-funded Oak Centre for Children and Young People

We understand the huge impact that cancer has on patients and their families. From the time of diagnosis, throughout treatment and beyond, cancer can dominate all aspects of their lives. That’s why we support The Royal Marsden in the four vital areas of research, equipment, treatment and care, and patient environments. This support not only changes the lives of cancer patients at The Royal Marsden, but across the rest of the UK and the world.



Life-saving research

Cancer is a complex disease with hundreds of variations and an ability to adapt and evolve. It’s critical that we fund the development of groundbreaking clinical trials that The Royal Marsden can rapidly translate into improved outcomes, quicker recovery times and a better quality of life for its patients.



State-of-the-art equipment

To offer cancer patients a faster diagnosis, more effective and less invasive treatments, and quicker recovery time, we need to fund the very latest equipment. The Royal Marsden has a responsibility to innovate and pioneer new techniques, which is why we have a long history of funding state-of-the-art equipment to enable its researchers, clinicians and scientists to shape practice for cancer patients everywhere.



World-leading treatment and care

The Royal Marsden cares for the whole person, not just their illness. We support this ethos by funding a wide range of initiatives to ensure that every single patient has the very best treatment and care and the emotional and psychological support they need at every stage of their cancer journey.



Modern patient environments

To enhance the wellbeing and recovery of The Royal Marsden’s patients, it’s vital that they are cared for in welcoming, dignified and peaceful environments. We fund the building of new, world-class facilities and the refurbishment of existing ones to the highest possible standards. We also increase capacity to allow the hospital’s specialist staff to see more patients, and provide even better care.

Research

Pursuing breakthroughs that will change how cancer is treated forever

Pioneering research is absolutely critical to extending, improving and saving the lives of more people diagnosed with cancer. That's why we're dedicated to helping The Royal Marsden run life-saving clinical trials that give patients at The Royal Marsden, across the UK and around the world access to the latest breakthrough drugs.

Through the five-year, £15-million grant to support translational research at The Royal Marsden, we have funded work in the West Wing Clinical Research Centre, where patients on clinical trials are treated in a custom-built setting with dedicated research staff.

We also continued to fund specialist staff working in the Biobank at the National Institute for Health Research Centre for Molecular Pathology, a facility that is invaluable to research and the future of personalised treatment.

We are also funding four research fellows, through the Le Cure fundraising campaign, who are making a real difference to the treatment of breast cancer patients through molecular diagnostics.



Research

Pursuing breakthroughs that will change how cancer is treated forever

Frozen in time

Housed deep within the National Institute for Health Research Centre for Molecular Pathology, The Royal Marsden and The Institute of Cancer Research's joint laboratory in Sutton, is one of the UK's largest biobanks dedicated to cancer.



A scientist stores samples in one of the liquid nitrogen tanks

Currently holding more than 54,000 blood and tissue specimens collected from thousands of Royal Marsden patients, the Biobank is a core resource for samples for use in cancer research. Its freezers and liquid nitrogen units have the capacity to store and preserve up to 900,000 frozen samples well into the future.

As part of a £15-million grant awarded in December 2016 to support The Royal Marsden's most innovative research for the benefit of patients, The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity funded a number of posts in the Biobank throughout 2017/18. These posts include three bio-specimen co-ordinators, who collect a wide variety of samples, from tissue biopsies – which can be either deep-frozen or preserved in paraffin blocks – through to a multitude of blood products.

One of the most exciting current areas of research is into the use of circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) to diagnose a relapse of cancer – also known as 'liquid biopsies'. Some tumours shed DNA into the blood, which can now be detected at extremely low concentrations. This DNA acts as an early-warning signal that the cancer is coming back, so detecting it ensures that patients can receive the most effective treatment possible.

The bio-specimen co-ordinators provide a critical link between the clinical teams and the scientists involved in ctDNA research by ensuring that all samples are collected and processed in a standardised manner to give our experts the best opportunity to carry out their work.

-80°C ❄️

The temperature the **Biobank freezers** are kept at, to keep the samples ready for use for years to come

Le Cure: cycling to cure cancer

After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013, Marianne Butler was referred to The Royal Marsden, where she was given chemotherapy and the drugs trastuzumab (Herceptin) and pertuzumab (Perjeta).

Marianne was the first person at the hospital to receive this combination of drugs – available only as part of a research programme at The Royal Marsden – to treat a first occurrence of breast cancer. Just six months after her diagnosis, she was given the all-clear.

Marianne and her friends then formed Le Cure, a charity cycling event, to raise money for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and help more women like her benefit from this work. Since 2014, around 60 cyclists each year have cycled punishing routes over the French Alps, raising more than £1 million for the Charity. So far, this has funded four 'Le Cure' research fellows at The Royal Marsden, who are making a real difference to the treatment and outcome for breast cancer patients.

One of those research fellows, Claire Swift, is leading the C-TRAK trial, which will assess if a liquid biopsy can detect triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) as soon as it recurs, and investigate a new treatment to successfully treat the disease before it becomes life-threatening. The trial aims to recruit 150 patients with TNBC to test for the particular DNA characteristics that show the disease has returned. These patients will be tested every three months for two years, for recurrence of the disease, and then potentially given further treatment.



Le Cure cyclists climb to the top of one of the peaks in the French Alps

Divya's story Patient

Every year, nearly 10,000 women in the UK will be diagnosed with TNBC. This difficult-to-treat cancer doesn't respond to common therapies and is more likely to return than other types of the disease.

Divya Aggarwal, 34, was diagnosed with TNBC in late 2017 after finding a lump and going to her GP. Tests revealed a grade 2 tumour, so she was referred to The Royal Marsden for treatment and surgery.

"It was a big shock," Divya says. "I hadn't had any symptoms in the lead up to my diagnosis. But I've had excellent care at The Royal Marsden and thankfully have responded well to my treatment."

Now, Divya is taking part in the C-TRAK trial. She says, "When I heard about this trial, I was certain I wanted to take part. Having been diagnosed at the stage I was, I know how important early detection is. The regular blood tests are really reassuring for me, and I know my involvement will be also be benefiting others in the future."



Nurse Charlotte Summers with breast cancer patient Divya Aggarwal in the Diane McCarthy Medical Day Unit

Research

Pursuing breakthroughs that will change how cancer is treated forever

Tomorrow's research, today

£2.6m 

left to the Charity by generous supporters in their Wills to fund the West Wing Clinical Research Centre

At The Royal Marsden research is driven by clinical trials. Without the commitment of the many patients who agree to take part, this work would simply not happen.



The Charity-funded West Wing Clinical Research Centre opened in 2014 and includes a dedicated on-site laboratory

A patient in the West Wing Clinical Research Centre



The West Wing Clinical Research Centre opened in 2014, thanks to the generous supporters who left gifts to the Charity in their Wills. It is a dedicated unit that cares for and treats patients involved in clinical trials, ensuring that they have the best possible experience as they take part in the life-changing research carried out at The Royal Marsden.

The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity has committed to providing ongoing support to the centre, enabling it to provide more than 8,000 hours of care to over 700 patients and run more than 100 trials every year. We have funded a number of posts in the centre throughout 2017/18, including specialist nursing staff.

Bethan Jones, Sister in the West Wing Clinical Research Centre, says: “We deliver new clinical trials to patients across all tumour types. What drives us is the sense of hope the unit brings. Our patients come from across the country to enter clinical trials, and the fact that we can give them that chance is what sets us apart.

“We see some amazing stories where patients have left us with no signs of their disease after being on a clinical trial. If a trial isn’t successful, that doesn’t necessarily mean it’s the end of treatment options, as trials constantly evolve. It’s important that we’re delivering treatment for patients now, and shaping the treatment options of the future.”



Melanoma patient Mark Wilson receives treatment in the West Wing Clinical Research Centre

Mark's story Patient

Mark was diagnosed with melanoma in 2014 aged 34, after he went to the doctors with a mole on his back. He had the mole removed at his local hospital, but later received the news that the cancer had spread to his lymph nodes. Following a further operation, he was referred to The Royal Marsden to be entered onto a clinical trial.

"I'd ignored the mole because, well, that's what men do," he recalls. "I was surprised when I was told I had melanoma because having cancer in your 30s is not something you really think will happen to you."

"I was so grateful to get the opportunity to be on the clinical trial at The Royal Marsden, as nowhere else had any other options for me and I knew this trial was my only chance."

"The Royal Marsden is an amazing place. The staff – especially in the West Wing Clinical Research Centre, where I have been receiving my treatment – are very welcoming and friendly."

"The research team always put me at ease and make my visits every three weeks a pleasure. I've had no side effects from the pembrolizumab drug treatment, which is amazing for many reasons."

"As I am a self-employed electrician, having long periods off work would be catastrophic for me financially, so experiencing no side effects is a massive bonus. I'm able to drive myself to my appointments from my home in Sussex and I only need one day off. The team at The Royal Marsden have really made it as easy as possible for me to continue with my normal life."

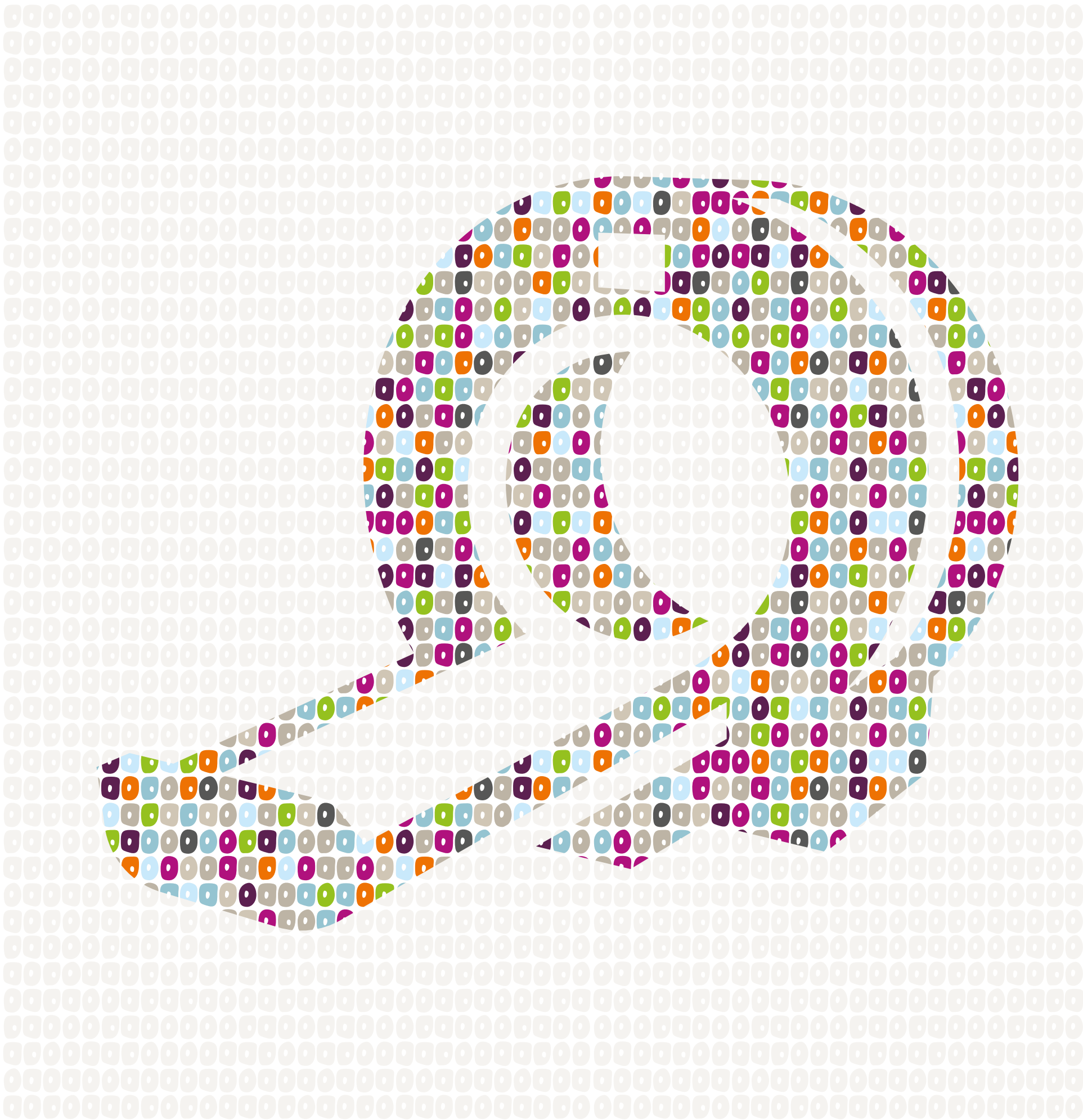
"Although my diagnosis was a huge shock for me and my family, The Royal Marsden has made it something I can live my life with."

Equipment

Investing in state-of-the-art equipment to provide patients with more treatment options

For The Royal Marsden to improve the lives of its patients and their chances of survival, it's essential that its clinicians, scientists and researchers have access to the latest equipment. This is why we fund state-of-the-art equipment that provides faster and more accurate diagnosis and more effective and less invasive treatments, and supports exceptional personalised care. The very best equipment is also key to achieving major breakthroughs in cancer research.

Over the past year, we continued our support of robotics at The Royal Marsden through the funding of the Robotic Surgery Fellowship and a second da Vinci Xi robot. Thanks to our supporters' fantastic efforts, the hospital also installed a new CT scanner that will ensure our doctors have a clearer understanding of their patients' cancers and can provide them with increasingly tailored treatments.



Equipment

Investing in state-of-the-art equipment to provide patients with more treatment options

A clearer picture

Over the past four decades, The Royal Marsden has been at the forefront of radiology and radiotherapy, developing and trialling new methods of cancer imaging to ensure more effective and efficient diagnosis and treatment for patients. With six CT scanners and five MRI scanners across the hospital's Chelsea and Sutton sites, more patients can be scanned more efficiently using state-of-the-art technology.



In 1978, The Royal Marsden was the first hospital to install a full-body CT scanner, thanks to charitable funding

In June 2016, The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity committed to a three-year £3.5-million grant to fund investment into the latest diagnostic equipment. This has included a new radiotherapy pre-treatment CT scanner in Chelsea that offers quicker scanning, so patients spend less time on the machines.

The new scanner also allows clinicians to see their patients' cancers in greater detail than ever before. Clearer images result in improved diagnostic and radiotherapy planning, which allows staff to assess if treatments are working, and ensure patients are receiving the very best treatment and care.

In addition, the scanner supports The Royal Marsden's world-leading radiotherapy research programme, helping us to transform patient treatment more quickly.

Radiographers working with a CT scanner funded by The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity



Specialised devices

Each department at The Royal Marsden uses a variety of equipment to treat and care for patients. It's vital that staff can respond to the changing needs of patients, and funding from the Charity is enabling them to do this by taking advantage of emerging technology.

Over the past year, the Charity has funded specialist applicators that are used for brachytherapy, a type of radiotherapy treatment. The clinician can place the applicator in the patient in the best position, without getting any radiation themselves. The radioactive sources can then be positioned under computer control, within the applicators, to give customised treatment to the tumour.

The Charity has also funded new equipment for the Endoscopy department. Among a number of patient benefits, this equipment allows for the endoscopic removal of abnormal tissue growths known as polyps, eliminating the need for open surgery. This means that patients spend less time in the hospital and recover more quickly.

The Charity's support helps to ensure that clinical teams can adapt their work and test emerging technology in order to improve care and deliver new treatments to patients.



Sister Laurence Padua in the Endoscopy Suite

Equipment

Investing in state-of-the-art equipment to provide patients with more treatment options

The rise of the machines

Thanks to our supporters, The Royal Marsden has become the most comprehensive centre for robotic cancer surgery in the UK, ensuring patients with urological, gynaecological, head and neck, gastrointestinal and colorectal cancers have access to the latest techniques and technology.



World-leading robotic surgeons from The Royal Marsden have performed **nearly 2,500 procedures** in the past decade.

The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity has funded two da Vinci Xi robots, one through a generous gift from the late philanthropist Don McCarthy and his children. These robots enable surgeons to conduct complex operations with greater accuracy.

The da Vinci's robotic arms move independently, enabling surgeons to operate on several different areas of the body at once, which is often needed when dealing with advanced cancers. This reduces the need for further open surgery and for several surgeons to be involved – meaning less complex, more efficient procedures and a speedier recovery for the patient.

These state-of-the-art robots provide a magnified 3D view inside the patient and allow surgeons to make microscopic incisions with greater accuracy and control than ever before.

The accuracy of the robots also means surgeons can also operate on tumours that would have been hard to reach or were previously inoperable.

In addition, the dual consoles of the da Vinci Xi enable The Royal Marsden to run the Robotic Surgery Fellowship (read more on page 30), training the surgeons of the future and changing the way patients around the UK are operated on.



(1) Mr Declan Cahill, Consultant Urological Surgeon, sits at the da Vinci Xi in Theatres at The Royal Marsden (2) Miss Marielle Nobbenhuis, Consultant Gynaecological Oncology Surgeon (3) Positioning the arms of the da Vinci Xi during surgery

Natalie's story

Patient

In June 2015, aged just 32, Natalie Hickton was given the devastating news that she had cervical cancer, after a routine smear test showed abnormal cells.

"Thankfully I was one of the lucky ones; we caught it relatively early," she says. Within a few months, Natalie had undergone two operations to remove the cancerous tissue and some lymph nodes to check for any further spread of the disease.

"Just a few years before my diagnosis, my only option would have been a complete hysterectomy," she says. "But, thanks to the amazing research and technology at The Royal Marsden, I was able to avoid having this procedure. Importantly, for me and my husband, this meant we could still try for children and I am now lucky to have a beautiful two-year-old boy, Oliver."

Using the da Vinci surgical robot's 3D magnification, the surgeons were able to see Natalie's cancer in much closer detail. This is particularly important for early cervical cancer patients, as it's easier for surgeons to save as much healthy tissue as possible, as well as to avoid damaging any nerves in the pelvis, which could have a detrimental impact on a patient's quality of life.

Surgeons in Natalie's case were also able to use the da Vinci's Firefly technology. This involved injecting a fluorescent green dye that 'lights up' the lymph glands nearest to the cervix – which could be at risk of metastasis – on the da Vinci's monitor.

Natalie was discharged one night after her operation and given the all-clear just four months after her diagnosis. "I cannot thank the team at The Royal Marsden enough," she says. "The treatment I received – using the da Vinci surgical robot – was tailored to my individual needs."

Three years on, Natalie completed the Blenheim Palace Triathlon, raising money for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. She said: "After three years of very little exercise, completing the Blenheim Triathlon was a challenge but I was determined to do it to give something back.

"I will be forever grateful."

Natalie Hickton, cervical cancer patient, with her two-year-old son, Oliver



Treatment and care

Caring for the whole person,
not just their illness

Physically and emotionally, cancer affects everyone differently. That’s why we do our utmost to fund first-class patient environments, state-of-the-art equipment and world-leading professionals – all of which enable The Royal Marsden to provide personalised treatment and care that meets the specific needs of every individual patient who walks through the hospital’s doors.

Last year, our supporters’ tremendous efforts helped to fund several initiatives in this area. These include two Robotic Surgery Fellowships, two Darzi Fellows and the Gastro Intestinal and Nutrition Team (GIaNT), all of which will lead to better treatment and care and an improved quality of life for cancer patients.



Treatment and care
Caring for the whole person,
not just their illness

Training the next generation of surgeons

14 

robotic surgeons work
at The Royal Marsden

Thanks to supporters
of The Royal Marsden
Cancer Charity, The
Royal Marsden has been
pioneering robotic surgery
using da Vinci robots
since 2007.



Mr Marc Bullock, Robotic Surgical Fellow, sits at
the console of the da Vinci Xi

Mr Ibnauf Suliman, Robotic Surgical Fellow,
in Theatres with the da Vinci Xi robot



The da Vinci Xi's dual console
enabled The Royal Marsden to set up
the Charity-funded Robotic Surgery
Fellowship programme – the first of
its kind in the country – which will
train 10 new surgeons to operate
robotically on tumours anywhere in
the pelvic region.

During the 12-month programme,
surgeons undergo simulation
training, attend courses, assist
in the operating theatre and use
the da Vinci Xi. Unlike in other
fellowships, surgeons are trained
in three specialities – urological,
gynaecological and colorectal cancers
– rather than just one.

Traditionally, surgeons develop
one area of expertise – either a single
organ or a small group of organs.
However, cancer is not restricted by
such boundaries, often spreading
from its original site to nearby organs.
Gaining an in-depth knowledge across
multiple cancer types that affect the
pelvic area gives the surgeon an
appreciation of the different surgical
techniques required to tackle them.

Mr Ibnauf Suliman, one of the
first surgeons to undertake the
fellowship, completed his course in
spring 2018. He has since taken up
a consultant post at the Royal Free
Hospital, meaning that more patients
can now undergo the very latest in
cancer surgery. The next two fellows,
Mr Marc Bullock and Ms Danielle
Collins, started in April 2018 and
August 2018 respectively.

Treatment and care

Caring for the whole person,
not just their illness

Taking a holistic approach

The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity is helping to fund two Darzi fellows, senior clinical leaders who focus on the holistic approach to cancer treatment, ensuring they look after the whole person, not just their disease.

Natalie Harris, Darzi Fellow and Senior Specialist Dietitian, is running a prehabilitation programme to prepare gastrointestinal cancer patients for the physical and emotional rigours of chemotherapy.

Chemotherapy is the gold standard treatment for patients with these cancers. But many people struggle to cope with it or its side effects, leading to dose reductions, hospital admissions and breaks from treatment.

The programme combines exercise, nutritional and psychological strategies so patients are as healthy as possible ahead of their treatment and more likely to tolerate it and the side effects. This will lead to better outcomes for patients and an improved quality of life.

The second Darzi fellow is Jenni MacDonald, a tissue viability nurse, who is focused on the sometimes life-threatening problem of pressure ulcers (bed sores).

The effects of cancer treatment can often mean that patients spend long periods in bed, which puts them at risk of pressure ulcers. Even with the best possible medical care, complications can arise from this, leading to infections and long hospital stays.

Jenni is carrying out research into preventing skin injuries and reducing harm from pressure ulcers. She works with the tissue viability team, clinical staff, patients and carers to prevent pressure ulcers, and the new programme is building a better understanding about the specific factors that put patients at risk of developing them.

Jenni MacDonald, Darzi Fellow and
tissue viability nurse



Easing side effects

The Royal Marsden recognises how side effects of cancer treatment can affect patients. As treatment has become more sophisticated, cancer patients are living longer with and after cancer, so they also need a good quality of life. This means that dealing with the side effects is hugely important.

A variety of teams in the hospital try to address the needs of patients during and after treatment in a holistic way. One example is the Gastro Intestinal and Nutrition Team (GIaNT), which is funded by supporters of the Charity.

Over the past year, three consultant gastroenterologists have been appointed to ensure that the hospital can offer access to the GIaNT service for as many patients as possible.

The team is also carrying out research – such as the FOCCUS trial, which looks at the causes of bowel problems in patients receiving chemotherapy – and exploring options to minimise other side effects, providing cancer patients with a better quality of life during what can be difficult treatment.



Dr Darina Kohoutova from the GIaNT team
discusses treatment with a patient



Peter's story

Patient

Peter Henwood experienced severe bowel problems following 37 consecutive days of radiotherapy for prostate cancer at The Royal Marsden. These challenging symptoms are often caused by the impairment of neighbouring tissues – including the rectum – in response to radiotherapy, for which there is no proven treatment.

Following radiotherapy, Peter was referred to The Royal Marsden's Gastro Intestinal and Nutrition Team (GIaNT).

The team entered Peter onto the PPALM clinical trial, being run at The Royal Marsden, which looks at whether two drugs could help patients with fibrosis involving the rectum caused by radiotherapy.

Peter says: "If this study is successful, treatments like these could dramatically improve the quality of life for patients like me."

"The treatments I've received through the GIaNT service, especially the PPALM trial, have undoubtedly improved my quality of life, meaning I can go about everyday things with much more freedom than before. I'm also sleeping better and getting up less frequently in the night to go to the bathroom.

"The team at The Royal Marsden have been absolutely wonderful. They've approached my care in a rounded way, looking after me as a whole person, rather than just treating my disease or a list of symptoms."

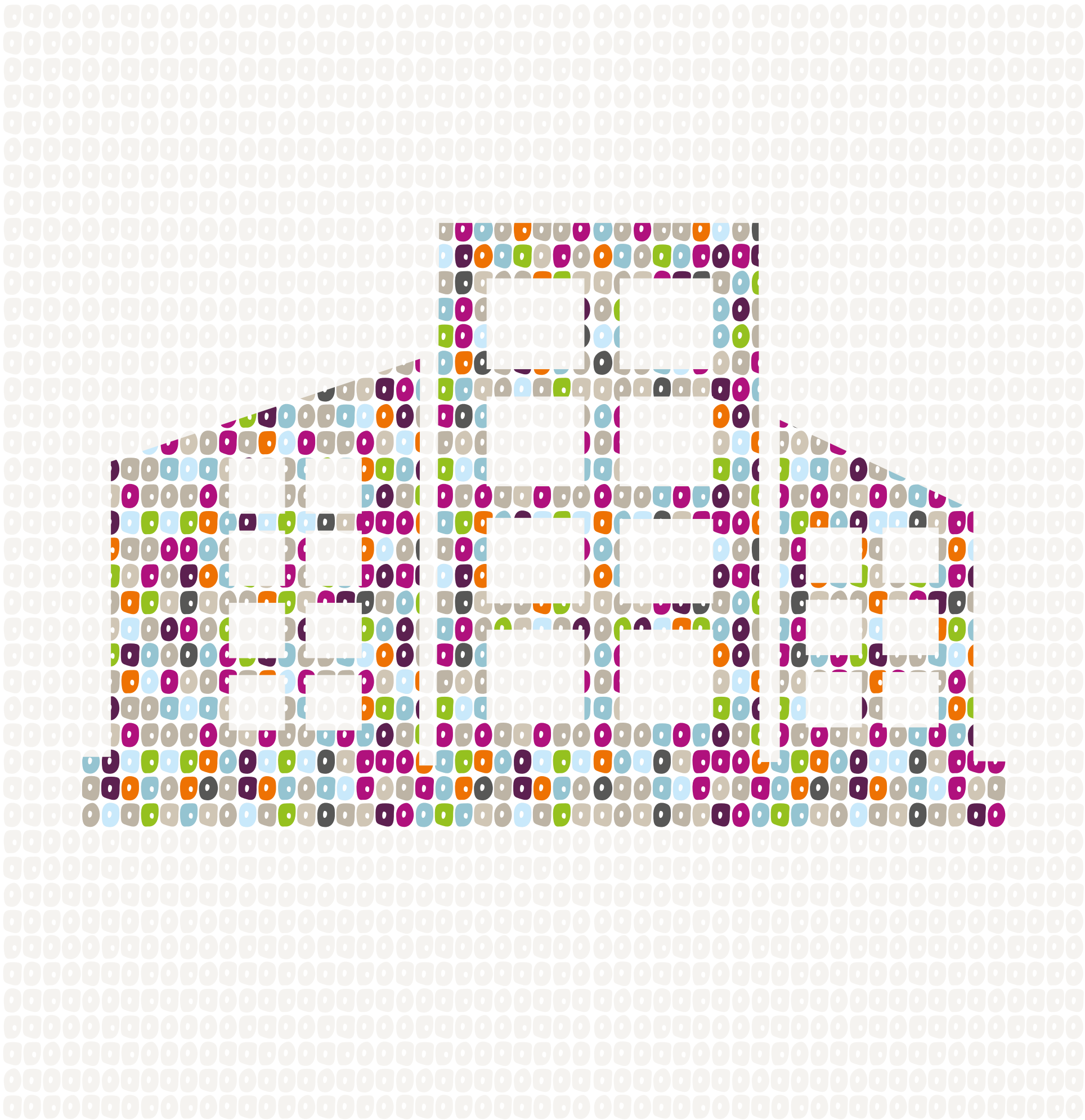
Prostate cancer patient Peter Henwood discusses his treatment with a member of the radiotherapy team

Patient environments

Enhancing the wellbeing and recovery of patients with the very best environments

We know that welcoming, dignified and peaceful patient environments can significantly enhance the physical health and emotional wellbeing of The Royal Marsden’s patients and their families. That’s why The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity continues to fund the creation of new, high-quality environments and the refurbishment of existing spaces so they meet the very best standards.

During the past year, we welcomed HRH The Duke of Cambridge to the Oak Centre for Children and Young People – which was funded by generous supporters of the Charity – as he celebrated his 10th anniversary as President of The Royal Marsden. We also funded the refurbishment of the Bud Flanagan wards, ensuring the facilities are as modern and comfortable as possible for patients with blood cancers, their families, and our staff working on the unit.



Patient environments

Enhancing the wellbeing and recovery of patients with the very best environments

All in a day's work

HRH The Duke of Cambridge visited The Royal Marsden in Sutton in May 2017 to mark 10 years in his role as President, giving him the opportunity to support staff as they treated and cared for cancer patients.



HRH The Duke of Cambridge helps to prep patient Simon White for radiotherapy



The Oak Centre for Children and Young People was officially opened in 2011 by TRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

The Duke met staff and patients in the world-leading Radiotherapy Department and the Oak Centre for Children and Young People, and visited the UK's first MR Linac, a state-of-the-art radiotherapy machine that is set to make treatment more effective and reduce side effects for patients.

In radiotherapy, The Duke experienced what it is like to work with patients and helped to prepare 44-year-old patient Simon White for his treatment.

"Having The Duke call me in for treatment and then hearing his voice from the control room while I was lying on the treatment bed was definitely different to an average radiotherapy session, that's for sure," Simon says.

In the Oak Centre for Children and Young People, The Duke called young patients in for treatment in the Day Care Unit and helped to check their blood pressure. He then joined play specialists, young patients and their parents for a special arts and crafts session.

Alistair Wood, whose six-year-old daughter Daisy met The Duke, says: "It shows he's interested in The Royal Marsden and the patients – it gives a boost to everyone."

"We were delighted to welcome our President back to the hospital in Sutton," says Cally Palmer, Chief Executive of The Royal Marsden.

"We are very grateful for his continued support for our patients and for the work we do at The Royal Marsden. By giving him the opportunity to be hands-on, this particular visit was uplifting, inspiring and fun for both patients and staff."

Former patient Alice Marples in the Oak Centre for Children and Young People



Alice's story Patient

Alice Marples, 19, was first treated at The Royal Marsden in 2003 after being diagnosed with a brain tumour. Following treatment in the Oak Centre for Children and Young People, as well as proton therapy in the USA, she has been in remission for almost seven years.

Alice was a guest of honour at the visit to celebrate HRH The Duke of Cambridge's 10th anniversary as President of The Royal Marsden, continuing a relationship that had spanned almost all that decade.

"I first met The Duke in March 2009, when I was given the opportunity to act as an ambassador for The Royal Marsden and interview him at Clarence House for CBBC's Newsround," she says. "I had the freedom to ask any questions I wanted to during the interview, and he put me at ease immediately – even when I accidentally called him Prince Harry!"

"Through The Royal Marsden, I have had the honour of meeting The Duke on several occasions. During the visit in May, I had the privilege of attending the presentation of a commemorative book of messages and memories from patients and staff, to celebrate his decade as President of The Royal Marsden.

"On the day, The Duke spent lots of time chatting with patients and wanted to hear our experiences of cancer and the hospital. It was great to catch up with him again, and share the news with him that I had just reached my sixth year of stable scan results.

"I think it is lovely that The Duke supports The Royal Marsden with regular visits. It is an amazing hospital and holds an incredibly special place in my heart."

Patient environments

Enhancing the wellbeing and recovery of patients with the very best environments

Leading care in the very best environments

The Royal Marsden's Haemato-oncology Unit is one of the largest in Europe, diagnosing, treating and researching blood cancers in adults and children.



There are **more than 70 types of blood cancer** – including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma

The hospital has one of the largest blood cancer research portfolios in the country, with up to 50 clinical trials running at one time for patients with multiple myeloma, leukaemia and lymphoma. It performs more stem cell transplants than any other centre in the UK. In the past five years, the way patients are treated has been transformed by advanced diagnosis, innovative scanning techniques and groundbreaking drug treatments.

Much of this work is carried out on the Bud Flanagan Unit at The Royal Marsden in Sutton, the dedicated unit for patients with myeloma, leukaemia or lymphoma.

The unit was originally built in the early 1970s thanks to charitable donations. This year, through the generosity of our supporters, we were able to refurbish the facilities for patients, their families, and staff working on the unit.

Each of the 18 patient rooms were painted and artwork was chosen for the walls to brighten the environment and lift patients' spirits during the often long amounts of time they stay here for as inpatients.

Two rooms were refurbished to create private spaces for clinical teams to talk to patients and their relatives, increasing privacy and patient comfort. Previously, these conversations had taken place by other patients or in waiting areas.

Sam Wigfall, Matron on the Bud Flanagan Unit, says "The refurbishment work has made a huge difference to both patients and staff. Patients have mentioned how much brighter the wards are now and what a change this makes to their stay with us. The staff also feel like they have much more suitable areas to talk to not only patients, but also their colleagues. This all contributes to providing the treatment and care that patients need."

Joanna Jones, leukaemia patient, receives treatment in the Bud Flanagan Unit



Joanna's story Patient

Joanna Jones was diagnosed with leukaemia in November 2016 and admitted to The Royal Marsden on the same day. She was an inpatient on the Bud Flanagan wards and the unit quickly became a home from home for her.

"The diagnosis was a huge shock for me, my husband, our two daughters, and all our family and friends," Joanna recalls. "I was just a regular 46-year-old mum of two thinking about Christmas and nativity costumes, and I never dreamt for a moment that I was about to have my world turned upside down by cancer."

"The intensive treatment regime lasted 12 months, and I spent about a third of the year as an inpatient on the Bud Flanagan wards either receiving chemotherapy or being treated for various infections as my immune system was so low. During the rest of the year, I was visiting outpatients at least weekly."

"That year was incredibly tough, physically and mentally, but the amazing staff and facilities helped keep me going for the long periods I was away from my family. The staff got me through some terrifying and unpleasant times with their endless encouragement and phenomenal care. It was hard to be apart from my family and friends, often for weeks at a time, but having a nice, bright and comfortable room to recuperate in made it more bearable. I think on one occasion I even sat in bed singing!"

"I am so grateful to The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity for the support they provide to the hospital. The Royal Marsden provides an environment that you won't find in any other NHS hospital. It's full of love, compassion and hope – it really is a magical place."

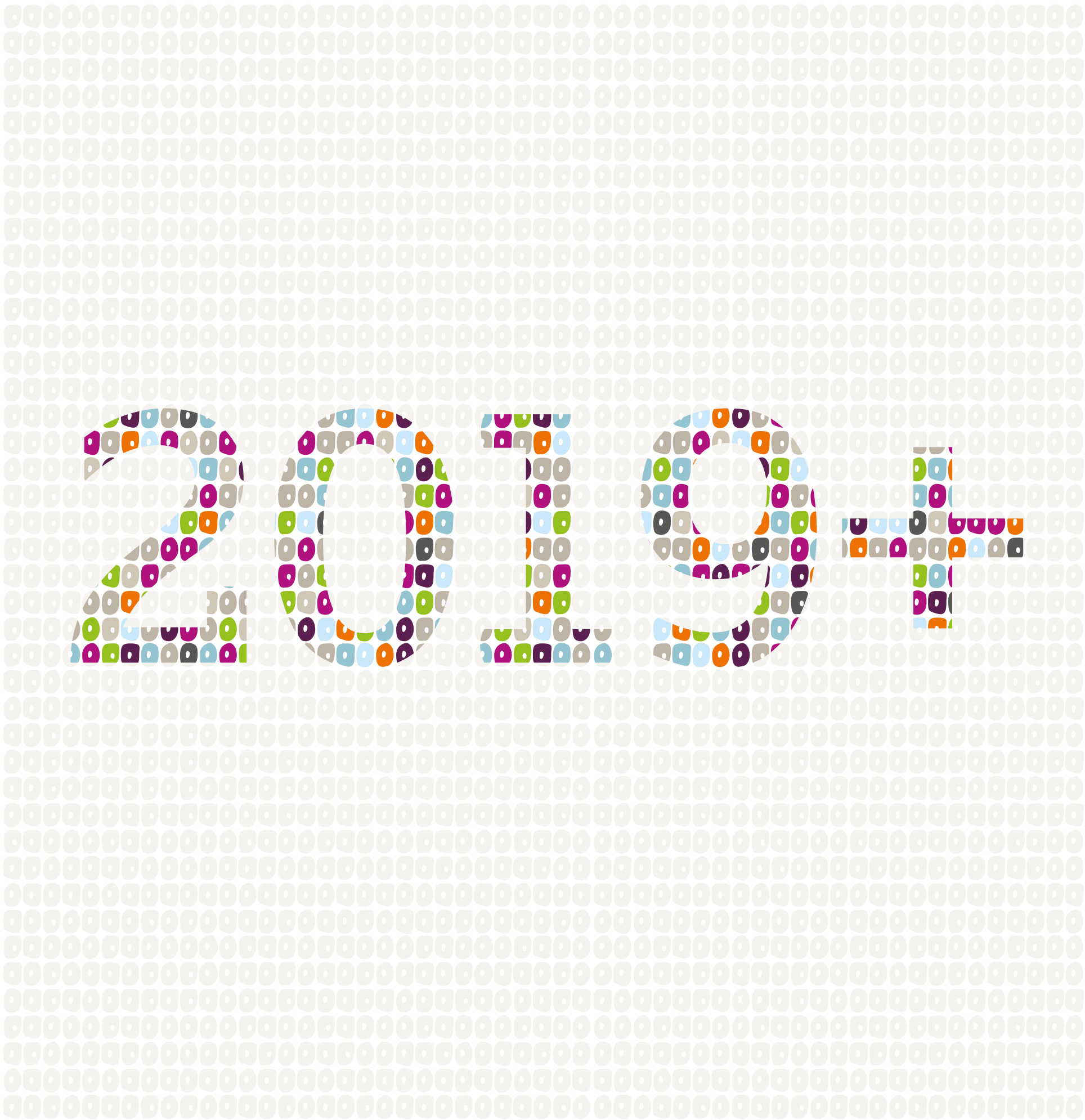
Looking ahead

Our plans to create a better future

In 1851, Dr William Marsden founded The Royal Marsden with a vision to create a pioneering cancer hospital, dedicated not only to the treatment and care of people with cancer, but also research into the underlying causes of the disease.

Dr Marsden’s vision lives on today as The Royal Marsden strives to push standards of treatment and care even higher so it can continue to improve the lives of more people affected by cancer.

Over the next 12 months, The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity will continue to support the hospital to develop life-saving research and provide world-leading treatment and care, modern patient environments and state-of-the-art equipment.



State-of-the-art cancer centre to accelerate new treatments

£70m

to be raised by
the Charity to build
the Oak Cancer Centre

In late 2015, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, President of The Royal Marsden, launched our appeal to build a new Clinical Care and Research Centre as part of the redevelopment of the Sutton hospital.

The project is now well under way and, thanks to a transformational pledge of £25 million from Oak Foundation, the building will now be known as the Oak Cancer Centre.

The Charity originally committed to raise £50 million to build the centre and, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are now over halfway to our fundraising target, ahead of schedule. Despite still having a long way to go, this early success has given us the confidence to increase the fundraising appeal total to £70 million and extend the size and scope of the centre so we can achieve even more for patients.

The centre will bring researchers, clinicians and patients together under one roof for the first time.

Artist's impression of the Oak Cancer Centre



The state-of-the-art building will speed up the translation of world-leading research into breakthroughs in treatment and care, transforming the lives of cancer patients at The Royal Marsden and beyond.

This centre will bring together the Outpatient Department, the Medical Day Unit and Haemato-oncology day care, as well as a brand-new Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC). We know that earlier diagnosis leads to a greater chance of patients being cured. The Royal Marsden already runs one of the biggest breast cancer diagnostic centres in the UK, and the RDC will give staff at the hospital the opportunity to bring our expertise to many more cancer types.

The building will also incorporate a research centre, which will have space for more than 330 world-leading clinical researchers. They will work alongside one another in spaces designed to encourage communication across different tumour specialities, speeding up the development of new clinical trials and advances in treatments.

The centre is being designed with and for cancer patients and their families, to provide the best possible environment to ensure their comfort and privacy. When the centre opens, it will increase clinical capacity by at least 40%, and aim to increase the number of patients on clinical trials by 25% within the next 10 years.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported the Oak Cancer Centre appeal to date, and are excited about the difference this centre will make to the lives of cancer patients at The Royal Marsden and beyond.

Bench to bedside

The more we understand how our genes control cancer, the closer we get to better tests and treatments. DNA-sequencing technology is helping us unravel the mystery, and recent advances could revolutionise medicine in the very near future.



A scientist in the National Institute for Health Research Centre for Molecular Pathology with the NovaSeq machine

It is becoming possible to offer personalised cancer treatment for everyone in a way that would have been unimaginable only a few years ago. Genomic medicine has enormous potential to save lives and improve quality of care. If the particular cancer-causing mutations in a patient's DNA are known, it means that treatment can be as precisely targeted as possible, maximising benefit and reducing side effects.

Thanks to a generous donation of £1 million from the Denise Coates Foundation to The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, the Molecular Diagnostics team at The Royal Marsden has recently invested in the latest DNA sequencing machine, the NovaSeq 6000.

The Molecular Diagnostics lab runs more than 11,000 tests every year, but currently these tests only examine a handful of genes at a time. The NovaSeq 6000 is capable of sequencing six trillion bases of DNA in a single run, and can simultaneously search for cancer-causing variants in 200 genes from over 200 patients, all in less than a week.

This huge increase in capacity will transform diagnosis and treatment, both now and in the future. It will provide new ways to diagnose cancer earlier, enable the development of new personalised treatments based on the genetic make-up of an individual patient's cancer, and ensure the whole NHS can move closer towards the era when genetic sequencing will be standard practice for all patients.

Dr Mike Hubank, Joint Head of Clinical Genomics (Research) in the NIHR Centre for Molecular Pathology



Little things making a big difference

We want patients at The Royal Marsden to have as comfortable a stay as possible. With funding from Charity supporters, we can ensure that every inpatient at both Chelsea and Sutton receives a patient welcome pack to improve their experience, comfort and dignity.

The packs include anti-slip socks to help prevent falls, a toothbrush and toothpaste, and ear plugs and an eye mask to help patients have a good night's sleep.

Chief Nurse Eamonn Sullivan says: "We wanted to improve the experience for inpatients by giving them a few items that will make their stay more comfortable, as well as providing them with information about their stay."

Meanwhile, every child under 10 in the Oak Centre for Children and Young People will receive a Royal Marsden Cancer Charity teddy bear when they come in for an inpatient stay. The bears have a special tag for children to name their friend, who can provide comfort and encourage play at a challenging time in their life.

Play Specialist Claire Riddell says: "It is so important that our young patients receive the best treatment and care, and that their psychological needs are met. Play can have such a positive effect on the child and their overall experience, and these bears really help with that."

Eamonn adds: "These little things make a big difference to cancer patients' experience. Thanks to the generous supporters of The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, we can make them happen."

Why your support is so important

Thanks to our supporters' unbelievable generosity, commitment and passion, The Royal Marsden continues to improve the lives of thousands of cancer patients every year. But because more and more people are being diagnosed with cancer, the demand on the hospital's services, and the need for it to achieve more research breakthroughs, is growing all the time. This is why The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity needs your support more than ever.



Please read about all the ways you can support The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity at royalmarsden.org

Patient Elodie Macey in daycare at the Oak Centre for Children and Young People



A huge thank you



A Royal Marsden Cancer Charity team runner taking part in the Royal Parks Half Marathon

All of us at The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and The Royal Marsden are immensely grateful to everyone who has supported us over the past year.

Because of this fantastic support, the staff of The Royal Marsden continued to change the lives of thousands of people with cancer and their loved ones here at The Royal Marsden, across the UK and around the world. We would especially like to thank the following supporters, as well as those who have chosen to remain anonymous.

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- The David Adams Leukaemia Appeal Fund
- John & Catherine Armitage
- Denise Coates Foundation
- The Bud Flanagan Leukaemia Fund
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- The Constance Travis Charitable Trust
- Alasdair Warren
- The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers
- Lisa Wyatt

Get in touch

The work we fund is revolutionising cancer treatment, but we just couldn’t do it without you. Our supporters help us to fund new ways to save or improve the lives of patients with cancer, both here at The Royal Marsden and across the world.

There are lots of ways in which you can work with us to help people with cancer. Take part in an event, sign up to The Banham Marsden March, make a donation, volunteer, leave a gift in your Will or get inspired to do something completely different. Your support means we can continue to be there for everyone who needs us.

Find out more

royalmarsden.org
020 7808 2233

Fundraise

royalmarsden.org/support
020 8770 0279

Volunteer

royalmarsden.org/volunteering
020 8661 3391

Donate

royalmarsden.org/donate
020 7808 2233

Gifts in Wills

royalmarsden.org/giftsinwills
020 7808 2649

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Consultant Medical Oncologist
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
Appointed Trustee

Sir Terry Leahy
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(appointed 9 May 2018)

Richard Oldfield OBE
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Cally Palmer CBE
Chief Executive
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
Ex-officio Trustee

Lady Helen Taylor
Elected Trustee

Richard Turnor
Elected Trustee
(from 1 January 2018; previously Non-Executive Director of The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust and an Appointed Trustee)

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