



Impact Report 2021/22

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 our 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 ground-breaking research, to creating the very best patient environments, we will never stop looking for ways to improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity
For a future beyond cancer.

Front cover: 55 year old Debbie Potts is benefitting from complementary therapies, funded by The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, following treatment for ovarian cancer.

Welcome to our Impact Report

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A letter from our Chairman and Managing Director

As we look back on the past year, we are more grateful than ever to our remarkable supporters for what they have helped us to achieve for people affected by cancer.

There is no doubt that the pandemic continued to pose a great challenge for the charity sector in 2021/22, but thanks to the innovation and dedication of our army of supporters, we are delighted to report that we raised £31.2 million including £29.2 million from donations and gifts in Wills. This enabled us to continue transforming the lives of cancer patients and their families at The Royal Marsden and beyond through investing across our four pillars: research, equipment, patient environments and treatment and care.

We awarded £8.1 million of research funding for the hospital’s world-leading work to discover new and improved ways to diagnose and treat cancer. This included supporting the launch of new research units including: an Early Diagnosis and Detection Centre, a leading research facility dedicated to diagnosing more cancers at an earlier stage; an Artificial Intelligence Hub for imaging which is bringing together academic and clinical teams to transform patient care; a Perioperative and Surgical Research Unit to improve all phases of a patient’s surgical treatment pathway; and a Cancer Biotherapeutics Research Unit which will expand the number of clinical studies in cellular therapies.

The Charity also awarded three equipment grants in 2021/22 totalling £10.3 million, giving patients at The Royal Marsden access to the very latest technological advances. This included £1 million for a new X-ray machine used for interventional

radiology, and £300,000 for a new, technically advanced mammography machine which provides enhanced imaging and improved patient comfort.

We supported the hospital to provide the best treatment and care for patients in many ways, including investing £900,000 to support the health and wellbeing of staff, and £600,000 to focus on initiatives that continue to ensure excellent levels of patient safety and experience across the hospital.

The effects of the pandemic will continue to be felt for years to come. But we know we have the capacity to adapt and evolve, and we are confident that we can continue to do so as we move beyond COVID-19.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our volunteers, donors, staff, and everyone who has supported us over the past year. Your support has made a vital difference to the lives of people with cancer and their loved ones.

Charles Alexander, who was awarded Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2022 New Year Honours List for his commitment to public service, will be stepping down from his role of Chair at The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust and The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity in November, at the end of his six-year term.

Managing Director Antonia Dalmahoy said: “Under Charles’ Chairmanship, the Charity has excelled in its support for the patients and staff of the hospital, including throughout the pandemic, and while developing the wonderful new Oak Cancer Centre in Sutton.”

Charles will be succeeded by Sir Douglas Flint CBE from 1 December 2022, who has been a Trustee of the Charity since 2017. Douglas’ breadth of experience from his executive career at KPMG and HSBC, combined with his passion for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and the hospital, will be of enormous value.



Charles Alexander

Charles Alexander CBE
Chairman
The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity



Antonia Dalmahoy

Antonia Dalmahoy
Managing Director
The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity

Introducing our new Chairman

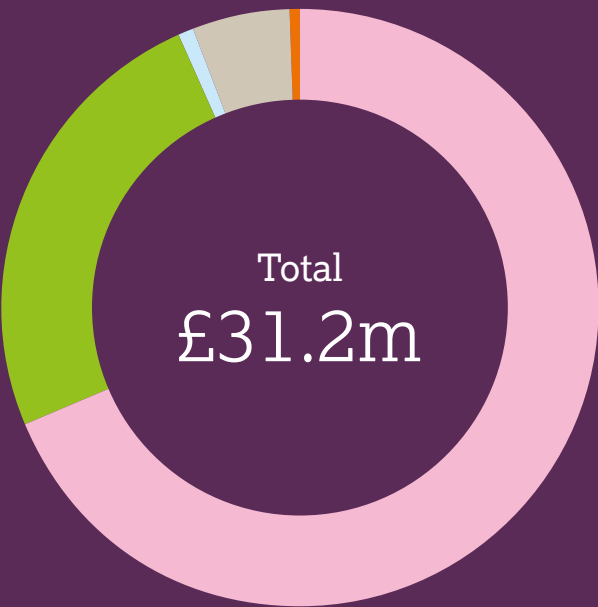


Sir Douglas Flint CBE

Financial highlights

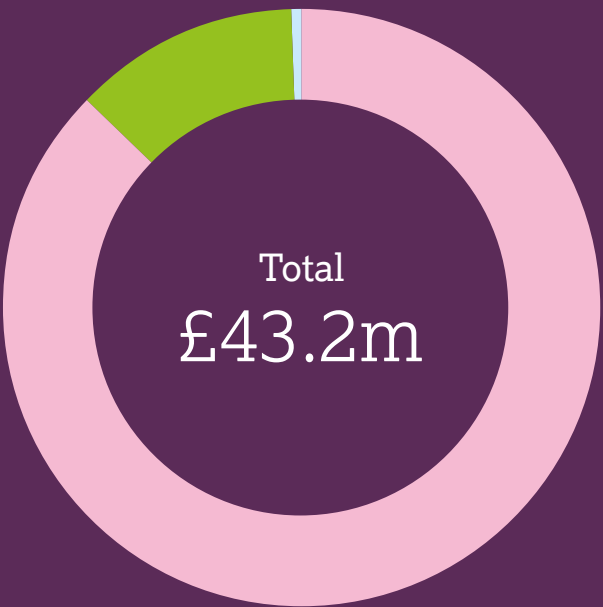
We raised £31.2 million including £29.2 million from donations and gifts in Wills in 2021/22. Thank you to all our inspirational and generous supporters who made this possible and ensured we could continue to support the groundbreaking work of The Royal Marsden for the benefit of patients across the UK and around the world.

What we raised



- **£21.5m** Donations
- **£7.7m** Legacies
- **£0.3m** Grants and gifts in kind
- **£1.6m** Investment and trading income
- **£0.1m** Other

How we spent your money



- **£37.7m** Charitable activities
- **£5.3m** Raising funds
- **£0.2m** Investment and trading costs

Money raised by our supporters means The Royal Marsden can make a vital difference to those affected by cancer. With this support the Charity can fund life-saving research, enable hospital teams to provide world-leading treatment and care, invest in the latest equipment and fund modern patient environments.



Equipment

We continued to invest in state-of-the-art equipment – from new and better ventilator machines to new radiotherapy machines, a mammography machine and an MRI patient monitor – ensuring patients have access to the latest technological advances.



Treatment and care

We helped ensure The Royal Marsden could continue to offer patients world-leading treatment and care – delivering tailored and personalised treatment which cares for the whole person, not just their illness.



Research

Our funding supported life-saving research – including leading on the development of new drugs and funding clinical trials that give patients at the hospital, across the UK and around the world access to the latest breakthroughs.



Patient environments

We continued to fund the construction of the new Oak Cancer Centre and the delivery of arts programmes on the wards so that patients can be cared for in the most welcoming, dignified and peaceful environments.

Our inspirational supporters

Our loyal supporters continued to inspire us with their fundraising and donations in 2021/22, ensuring we could continue transforming the lives of people with cancer.

Over 10,000 supporters took part in an event, or organised their own event, to raise funds. Virtual events on Facebook remained popular, with over 5,000 people taking part in our Walk 60 Miles and Jog 40 Miles Facebook fundraisers, and we were delighted to see the return of in-person events, with supporters coming together again to trek the South Downs, cycle from London to Brighton, run the London Landmarks Half Marathon and much more.

In May 2021, we were thrilled to hold the first ever Banham Marsden March at Home event, offering our supporters the opportunity to walk a five or 15-mile route in their local area. Thousands of supporters took part, sharing their stories and photos on our special Facebook group, building a community of walkers online and raising over £1.5 million.

The late Dame Deborah James supporting Ralph Lauren’s Pink Pony campaign in 2021.

Throughout October 2021, The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity was delighted to be part of Ralph Lauren’s global fundraising and cancer awareness initiative, Pink Pony, which returned for its 21st year. Dame Deborah James, broadcaster, author and patient at The Royal Marsden, was one of the contributors to this global campaign. In honour of Deborah, Ralph Lauren kindly made a

donation to support bowel cancer research at The Royal Marsden to benefit patients here and around the world.

In December 2021, Charlotte Irving, Abby Johnston and Kat Cordiner, who has incurable cervical cancer, became the fastest female trio to row across the Atlantic. Team ExtraOARdinary rowed 3,000 miles from the



Kat Cordiner, Abby Johnston and Charlotte Irving of Team ExtraOARdinary became the fastest female trio to row across the Atlantic.

Canary Islands to Antigua in just 42 days, beating the world record by over seven days to raise funds for three cancer charities including The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

Charlotte said: “We rowed non-stop, two hours on, one hour off, in a 23-foot ocean rowing boat. We were totally unsupported, carrying everything required for the race with us. With careful preparation, plenty of support from

family and friends, and teamwork on the crossing, we made it to Antigua in record time.

“The three of us have all been affected by cancer in some way. Kat was first diagnosed with cancer in 2019 and despite going into remission, a year ago she was told her cancer is incurable. Although the three of us love a challenge, we wanted to ensure what we are doing is meaningful and raising

money for the three top cancer charities seemed fitting.

“My dad has worked for The Royal Marsden for over 30 years. I have grown up listening to him talk about the hospital’s amazing work and I know the money we raise will help a lot of patients. I feel privileged to do something to help.”



Equipment

Transformative technology that drives innovation

This year we continued to fund state-of-the-art equipment to help patients receive faster and more accurate diagnoses, and more effective and less invasive treatments. New equipment throughout the hospital, from ventilators to radiotherapy and mammography machines, has made a vital difference to patient care this year.

Catherine Forsythe, Practice Educator,
in the Critical Care Unit.



HRH The Duke of Cambridge in the Reuben Foundation Imaging Centre with Dr Nicos Fotiadis and team.

In 2021/22 we awarded three equipment grants totalling £10.3 million, funding items such as three new apheresis machines which perform blood stem cell collections for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

These machines will significantly speed up the ability to process bone marrow, facilitate greater accuracy for clinicians and deliver improved safety for patients. The grant also funded haemofiltration machines, an essential piece of critical care equipment that supports patients who develop kidney failure and need dialysis. These new machines mimic the functions of a healthy kidney by removing waste products and excess fluid from the patient's blood and are

gentler to the patient, enhancing their comfort. A new X-ray machine used in interventional radiology was also introduced. HRH The Duke of Cambridge met the team in interventional radiology on his visit to our Chelsea hospital and saw first-hand the advances in patient care that this technique offers. Finally, the grant allowed new and better ventilators for the Critical Care Unit and two new Linear Accelerators (Linacs) in Sutton's radiotherapy department to be purchased.

Saving lives with state-of-the-art technology

The equipment we funded this year ensures patients have access to the very latest cancer technology that delivers targeted treatments.

The introduction of two new Linear Accelerator (Linac) radiotherapy machines, which offer better image quality, allows clinicians to precisely target and kill cancer cells while avoiding the surrounding healthy tissue. These new machines also provide a better patient experience with fewer, higher dose treatments meaning patients can get back to their lives sooner.

A new X-ray machine for the interventional radiology department, within the Charity-funded Reuben Foundation Imaging Centre, has enhanced imaging quality to help interventional radiologists guide probes even more precisely to the tumour site, or its blood supply, to destroy cancer cells. This enables patients to benefit from more targeted treatment whilst also exposing patients and staff to lower doses of radiation.

This year we also provided funding for three new apheresis machines, so that more patients can receive life-saving cellular therapies like stem cell transplants and CAR-T therapy. Apheresis machines collect the patient's own cells which are then modified to target and destroy cancer, offering patients hope for the future. As well as treating patients, the machines are also vital to support clinical trials into cellular therapies, ensuring CAR-T therapy and other exciting new immunotherapies can be made more widely available and save more lives.



Jodie Basso, Superintendent Radiographer for X-Ray and Interventional Radiology.

Exceptional patient care

New point-of-care (POC) ultrasound machines funded this year provide nurses with a much higher quality image when performing guided vascular access procedures, for example inserting a patient's cannular. This ensures a higher success rate on the first attempt, reducing the patient's stress and improving their overall experience.

During the pandemic, ventilators on the Critical Care Unit were in constant use providing oxygen therapy for patients experiencing difficulty breathing. New machines funded by the Charity offer sophisticated features such as the enhanced ability to detect changes in required air flow, thereby improving patient comfort, giving the most critically ill patients a better experience and aiding their recovery.

We also funded a new mammography machine with curved lines and rounded compression paddles, designed to aid patient comfort during mammograms while still obtaining high quality images.

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My story

Edward

In October 2021, Edward Bywaters, 70, became the first patient with mantle cell lymphoma – a rare cancer of the lymphatic system – to be treated at The Royal Marsden with CAR-T therapy.

“I was first diagnosed with lymphoma back in 2009 when I was 57 years old. At the time, I never even thought I’d make it to 60, especially when they told me I needed a stem cell transplant and they put me onto the donor list. I had eight years in remission but then relapsed in 2018 and again last year.

I was offered CAR-T therapy – which is where you have T cells from your own immune system modified in a lab and then reinfused. Being hooked up to the apheresis machine was like having dialysis. It took less than five hours to collect my cells and I was comfortable and well looked after throughout.

The cells were then sent away to be modified and were then put back into me – it didn’t take long and wasn’t painful at all, this was all done through a cannula. They still have some of the enhanced cells on ice – in case I need a top up in the future.

I’ve had 16 bone marrow biopsies over the years but every time I’ve relapsed, and the cancer has reared its ugly head, there are always more advanced options for treatment which shows the importance of research. I found it amazing that the cells they removed were sent all the way to the USA to go through the CAR-T process.”

Following the therapy, Edward is feeling much stronger and is doing well.

“The care I received at The Royal Marsden was second to none, I can’t thank them enough. The staff were so reassuring and

explained everything to me so well that it wasn’t a frightening experience at all. I’m feeling a lot stronger now since the CAR-T therapy. My main priority is being able to get up and cuddle my grandchildren!

My granddaughter Lexi will be four this year, seeing them grow definitely keeps you going. We used to play the lottery every week but now we give that money to cancer charities including The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.”

“Because of research, every time I’ve been taken ill again, there are new treatments, more options.”



Edward Bywaters, CAR-T therapy patient.

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Treatment and care

Providing compassionate support

Charity funding helps The Royal Marsden to provide personalised treatment and care for patients before, during and after cancer treatment. From taking a needs-based approach to cancer care to helping improve patients' emotional and physical wellbeing, we enable the hospital to offer holistic care so that patients don't just live longer or survive cancer, but enjoy a good quality of life.



Sarah-Jane Webb, Junior Sister, on the West Wing Clinical Research Centre, with Ruth Parry, myeloma patient at The Royal Marsden.

Our £5.9 million treatment and care grant, which commenced in 2020, funded various services that support the individual needs of cancer patients. Our three-year, £3.6 million grant to support the Oak Centre for Children and Young People (OCCYP) funded the OCCYP’s new Paediatric and Teenage Psychological Support Service to help young people and their families as they process the difficult emotions that accompany a cancer diagnosis. We also invested £600,000 as part of our innovation and education grant to improve patients’ experience.

Personalised care

Through the treatment and care grant we also funded various patient services, including the ‘Triggers’ Early Palliative Care Service. Triggers adopts a personalised, holistic, needs-based approach – not just for patients at end of life, but for those living with and surviving cancer. Through this grant we also funded the prehabilitation service which supports earlier therapy intervention to better prepare patients to live and eat well prior to, and during, treatment.

As part of our innovation and education grant, which supports staff to continually improve patient treatment and care, we have funded Predoctoral Fellowship Schemes. One of these has been undertaken by Lead Gynaecology Nurse, Andreia Fernandes, who has embarked on a fellowship to help the gynaecology team understand the safest and most compassionate way to monitor women after

treatment for gynaecological cancer. This fellowship, funded by the Lady Garden Foundation, is the first of its kind to examine follow-up care for these patients and aims to improve their recovery from treatment.

In June 2021, the Charity awarded £120,000 to continue the work of the Innovation Den, a forum in which staff could put forward their ideas to enhance patients’ experience and safety, with the winners receiving a Charity grant of between £5,000 and £60,000 to realise their ideas. One project that commenced this year was to create videos and learning materials to arm patients and staff with the tools they need to identify and manage cognitive impairment, or ‘chemo brain’, while another has designed ‘softies’ – prosthetic breasts or nipples offered after a mastectomy in partnership with Nubian Skin – available in a selection of skin tones. This is the first time these have been made available in the UK.



Natalie Johnson, a Breast and Oncoplastic Surgeon at The Royal Marsden, and Sarah Adomah, Lead Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist, with the range of ‘softies’.

Psychological support

The Charity has continued to fund counselling and psychological support this year to help adult patients as well as children and their families cope with the symptoms and side effects of cancer before, during and after treatment.

In April 2020, we committed a three-year, £3.6 million grant to support the Oak Centre for Children and Young People (OCCYP). As part of this award,

in 2021/22 we funded the OCCYP's new Paediatric and Teenage Psychological Support Service (PTPSS), which provides crucial support for young people and their families who are processing the difficult thoughts and feelings that accompany a cancer diagnosis.

A cancer diagnosis and treatment is a difficult and life-changing experience for anyone, but for children and young people it can have a long-lasting impact on their mental health and disrupt key moments in their development. ThePTPSS offers offer psychological therapy, support

and advice to any member of the family throughout the treatment journey, from the time of diagnosis, throughout treatment and after treatment has ended. The service is tailored to the individual needs of each child, young person or family. The service also offers advice and liaison about problems in school, with memory, concentration and attentional issues, and about the need for psychometric or neuropsychological assessments and statementing, or Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) for special educational needs.



My story

Natalie Hall, BRCA2 breast cancer patient and Royal Marsden Cancer Charity supporter.

Natalie

Dance teacher Natalie Hall, 46, underwent chemotherapy and a double mastectomy at The Royal Marsden.

Following treatment, she began to experience cognitive impairment or ‘chemo brain’ and was enrolled on a specialist course at the hospital to help her deal with her condition. She was relieved to learn that her cognitive impairment was a side effect of cancer treatment, and says the course helped instil a belief in herself and her capabilities. “It has been amazing,” she says. “The tools and techniques I’ve learned are brilliant – they’ll stay with me forever. I still keep in touch with my group. It was reassuring to know other people were going through the same thing.”

My story



Ryan Whittall with mum Paula.

Ryan

Ryan Whittall was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s Burkitt lymphoma when he was 14. His treatment, which included several rounds of painful chemotherapy, left Ryan feeling overwhelmed and highly anxious, and he was referred to the hospital’s Paediatric and Teenage Psychological Support Service to help him cope with his feelings.

Ryan said: “No one talks about the mental health side of cancer. What the diagnosis can do to your head is devastating. In the space of a few minutes, I was told I had cancer, needed chemotherapy and steroids, and had to stay in hospital for a few months. I remember thinking I was going to die.

Going through chemotherapy was brutal, and steroids affected my emotions. I was referred to the paediatric psychological support team and met clinical psychologist Dr Laurie Josephs. She taught me how to manage panic attacks and gave me coping mechanisms when everything felt overwhelming.

I didn’t have much hair because of the chemotherapy and I was able to talk through my feelings with Laurie and come to the decision not to wear a hat. The breathing exercises and coping strategies she taught me I still use today. I wouldn’t be where I am without her. The doctors and nurses saved my life, Laurie saved my mind. Having a safe space to speak with someone professional who can offer guidance and support makes such a difference.”

My story

Debbie

Increasingly, giving the best possible care means adopting a holistic approach to patients’ health, offering a range of options to help them better manage their symptoms, cope with treatment side effects and improve their general wellbeing. Funding from The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity means that patients can benefit from a wide range of therapies, activities and classes.

Last year, Debbie Potts, 55, was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer and was referred to The Royal Marsden. Following chemotherapy and major surgery, she experienced feelings of numbness and weakness in her feet and had difficulty sleeping. Thanks to funding from the Charity, Debbie is being helped by the complementary therapies team, who offer massage, aromatherapy and reflexology services to patients. Therapists can also create personalised essential-oil blends to aid relaxation and help patients manage symptoms such as nausea, anxiety and insomnia.

Debbie said: “The aftercare at The Royal Marsden is just incredible, and the therapies team are simply amazing. Caroline the reflexologist is patiently working with me to help stimulate the nerve endings in my feet, after treatment left me with peripheral neuropathy, which means I’ve been struggling with loss of feeling and muscle weakness. She has magic hands! And the essential-oil inhalers she’s put together for me are making a huge difference to my insomnia. Having access to this service has improved my quality of life and given me the mental strength I needed after treatment, which, for me, is as important as the chemotherapy – they work in parallel.”

“It’s so reassuring to have the support of the wonderful team at The Royal Marsden. I could not be in better hands! I think The Royal Marsden is the most amazing place in the world, I cannot fault anything.”



Debbie Potts with reflexologist Caroline Osland.



Research

Pioneering breakthroughs to change the lives of cancer patients everywhere

The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity supports life-saving research to develop breakthrough drugs, benefiting cancer patients at the hospital, across the UK and around the world.

Researchers David Evans and Anastasia Alataki in the Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research.



Stela Vilhar, Biomedical Scientist, doing manual pipetting in the Integrated Pathology Unit laboratory.

We awarded £8.1 million in 2021/22 to support the hospital’s world-leading research to develop new and improved ways to diagnose and treat cancer. This included supporting the launch of new research units including an Early Diagnosis and Detection Centre, an Artificial Intelligence Hub for imaging, a Perioperative and Surgical Research Unit, and a Cancer Biotherapeutics Research Unit, which will expand the number of clinical studies in cellular therapies.

New and improved diagnosis and treatment

With the support of a £1.2 million grant from the Charity, The Royal Marsden has established an Early Diagnosis and Detection Centre, which aims to speed up diagnosis and improve outcomes for patients. Experts from multiple tumour groups come together to deliver research programmes dedicated to ensuring more cancers are caught early, when treatment is far more likely to be successful.

The Charity has also funded the development of a new Artificial Intelligence Hub for imaging which brings together academic and clinical teams to develop artificial intelligence (AI) tools that can be applied to patient treatment and care in the clinic. Until now, academics have worked in universities designing innovative technologies, but without input from the NHS teams in hospitals who understand the clinical challenges. The hub means academics and NHS staff can work together to understand what technology will benefit patients. The AI-SONAR study led by Dr Hardeep Singh Kalsi, a Clinical Research Fellow funded by the Charity, for example, is

exploring whether we can diagnose both relapsed and new lung cancers earlier by using AI to look at lung nodules on CT scans of patients who have previously been cured of cancer.

The Perioperative and Surgical Research Unit, another ‘hub’ funded by the Charity, began work this year to improve the surgical pathway for patients. The Charity’s grant is funding staff roles and a fellowship programme in order to facilitate research into all aspects of surgery, from better early detection rates to improvements in operative procedures and post-operative survivorship.

The Charity is also supporting the expansion of the team at the Cancer Biotherapeutics Research Unit. This will enable the development of more clinical studies and increase the number of trials using cellular therapies, immunotherapies and virotherapies available to patients in clinic. A Phase 2 trial, C-144-01, for example, led by Dr Andrew Furness who is funded by the Charity, studied the use of tumour-infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapy to treat patients with advanced skin cancer. More than

a third of the patients on the trial responded well to this innovative type of cellular immunotherapy, which uses the patient’s own T cells to fight cancer.

Through two grants, the Charity invested just under £3 million on the establishment of an Integrated Pathology Unit (IPU) and histopathological services. Through digitisation, researchers at the unit will be able to drive forward new computational image-analysis tools, making use of AI to support pathologists in making key decisions about a cancer’s diagnosis.

At the height of the pandemic, funding from our emergency appeal enabled the hospital to launch a number of studies investigating the impact of COVID-19 on cancer patients. The CAPTURE study led by Dr Samra Turajlic, for example, was the largest study of its kind to evaluate how cancer patients respond to COVID-19 vaccines. The results of the study supported the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation’s decision to offer immunosuppressed people, particularly those with blood cancers, a fourth ‘booster’ dose of vaccine.

My story



John Sutton in the West Wing Clinical Research Centre.

John

In 2015, John Sutton, 72, was diagnosed with prostate cancer after taking part in research at The Royal Marsden.

He underwent robotic surgery and, after getting the all-clear, decided to leave a gift in his Will to support future research. He says: “I am unbelievably fortunate to have taken part in the research study that led to my diagnosis. I really have received the best possible care and treatment at this wonderful hospital, and my experience has underlined the importance of early

diagnosis. It not only saved my life, but is saving many more, too. I wanted to leave a gift in my Will as I will be forever grateful to the hospital for the way they cared for me with professionalism and understanding. This is my way of saying thank you and giving something back. I also want to help ensure that research continues to be carried out in the future, and at a faster pace. Early diagnosis is so important. If my cancer had been detected a lot later, then my outcome would have been completely different.”

“Just 15 months after the operation, I completed a 140-mile trek in the Himalayas, which proved to me that I had fully recovered.”

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My story

Transforming recurrent head and neck cancer care

Thanks to a lead pledge of £5 million from Charles Wilson and Dr Rowena Olegario, we were able to extend the vision of the International Centre for Recurrent Head and Neck Cancer (IReC). The centre had been established thanks to their support and the generosity of Keith and Isabelle McDermott, and this exceptional pledge will enable the centre to do more to set international standards in the curative treatment, palliation and supportive care of patients with recurrent head and neck cancers.

Professor Vinidh Paleri, Director of IReC and Consultant Head and Neck Surgeon at The Royal Marsden, said: “I’m incredibly grateful for the generous donations that have made IReC a reality. Our ambitious objectives, from creating a national patient registry and tissue bank, to conducting research into novel treatments and training future specialists, have the potential to utterly transform the treatment and care of patients with recurrent head and neck cancer.”



Mark Fuller, recurrent throat cancer patient.

Mark

Mark Fuller, 60, was diagnosed with recurrent throat cancer in 2019 and treated with robotic surgery at The Royal Marsden. Now Mark is cancer-free.

He said: “I was initially diagnosed with throat cancer in 2016 and was treated at the hospital with chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Unfortunately, three years on I noticed an orange lump at the back of my tongue after having a sore throat. My GP referred me back to the hospital where it was confirmed I had stage 4 cancer, with my medical team initially thinking palliative care was the only option.

“However, Professor Paleri decided that the cancer was potentially operable, and my surgery was scheduled for 2 June 2019.

“After the operation, I was in hospital for 11 days and within three weeks I played my first round of golf. As my tongue is now

smaller – a chunk of my leg was used to rebuild it – my speech and swallowing was affected. I’ve gradually improved, though ‘k’ and ‘e’ sounds are difficult so I struggle to say words like ‘keys’ and ‘cleaning’ – which is challenging as I work in property management!

“I owe my life to Professor Paleri and his exceptional team at The Royal Marsden, and I hope IReC will ensure many more people with recurrent head and neck cancer will benefit from innovative research and treatment.”

“I owe my life to Professor Paleri and his exceptional team at The Royal Marsden.”



Patient environments

Creating comfortable and reassuring surroundings for wellbeing and recovery

Our funding means patients are treated in buildings designed to best promote their physical and emotional health. From supporting art and music programmes on the wards to raising the final millions needed to build the Oak Cancer Centre, we help ensure patients are cared for in the most welcoming, dignified and peaceful environments.

Artist's impression of the Oak Cancer Centre.



Our state-of-the-art, new Oak Cancer Centre is nearing completion in Sutton. Thanks to its modern design, patients will be able to benefit from light-filled, spacious treatment bays, reducing their anxiety and promoting good health.

The Oak Cancer Centre takes shape

Thanks to supporters of our £70 million appeal, the new Oak Cancer Centre is due to open in 2023 at The Royal Marsden, Sutton.

The state-of-the-art building has been designed with the needs of patients at its heart, and 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. The Olayan Day Care Unit on the second floor will offer patients a quiet space while receiving chemotherapy in spacious, modern surroundings full of natural light. If patients become unwell during treatment they will be assessed and treated at the state-of-the art Goldman Sachs Centre for Urgent Care without needing to be sent to a local A&E department, ensuring they can be seen quickly by experts who have a detailed knowledge of their disease and treatment.

By consolidating the Outpatients Department on a single level, patients will be able to undergo blood tests, see their consultant and collect a prescription without having to visit different floors. For patients who are elderly, frail or feeling unwell, this will make their visit easier and shorter, and the design allows for

spacious waiting areas where families can sit together.

The Charles Wolfson Rapid Diagnostic Centre will utilise the latest technology, ensuring more cancers can be diagnosed at an earlier stage, when treatment is more likely to be successful, while a brand-new endoscopy suite will also help to improve early diagnosis and save more lives.

The Kuok Research Centre will bring together 400 researchers, currently dispersed across the Sutton site, in spaces designed to encourage communication across different tumour specialties. This will enable them to share their latest findings and innovations with other research colleagues, and help accelerate the development of new treatments – for the benefit of patients not just at The Royal Marsden but across the UK and around the world.



Karl Munslow Ong, Chief Operating Officer, 'topping out' the Oak Cancer Centre in September 2021.

The art of wellbeing

A programme led by Charity-funded Arts Officer, Ben Hartley, has given patients and their carers the opportunity to take up art and music therapy.

Projects have included the Vocal Beats programme, which offered participatory music-making to paediatric patients in the Oak Centre for Children and Young People, and the ‘Sing with Us’ choir, which gave patients and carers the chance to sing together

and feel better. The latter was developed in response to a study at The Royal Marsden which revealed that singing for just one hour reduced stress and increased immune proteins in people affected by cancer, while singing in the choir was also shown to decrease anxiety and improve the wellbeing and self-esteem of carers and those who had been bereaved.

All the projects, some of which were recently featured in an international evidence review of arts in health by the World Health Organization, have proved enormously beneficial to patients and their carers. An evaluation of one project, for example, where professional artists and musicians offered music- and art-making sessions at patients’ bedsides, revealed a nearly 70 per cent increase in wellbeing among those who took part.

Paediatric patient Joshua Barrier with Vocal Beats musician Stac Dowdeswell.



My story



Patient Catherine Sharkey and Andrea Orpin-Bain, sister on the West Wing Clinical Research Centre.

Catherine

Catherine Sharkey works for The Royal Marsden. In September 2019, she also became a patient, and her experience led her to become a staff ambassador for the Oak Cancer Centre appeal.

“I was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer called HER2. I was given the option of where I could receive treatment and, of course, I chose The Royal Marsden. I was booked in for a mastectomy

and a reconstruction, which I had in November 2020. I began chemotherapy in the Medical Day Unit on Christmas Eve and radiotherapy in April 2021.

When I found out about plans for the Oak Cancer Centre (OCC), I knew I wanted to be involved in fundraising for the building. One of the many exciting things it will deliver is the new Olayan Day Care Unit. In the current unit, all you see are people’s feet passing the

window or if you are at the other end of the room, you don’t have a view of anything. When the OCC is built there will be glass and trees – the design will make such a huge difference for patients. It won’t feel as clinical, and it will be a nicer place to be seen.

Today I am doing well and feeling good and that is all thanks to the treatment and care I have received at this wonderful hospital.”



Equipment



Treatment and care



Research



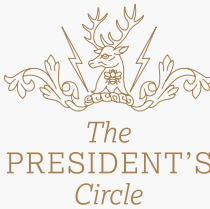
Patient environments

Thank you

All of us at The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last year.

Your unbelievable dedication and generosity enables us to support so many people with cancer so they can receive the very best care, benefit from the latest research and have treatment using the most advanced equipment.

We would especially like to thank the following supporters, as well as those who have chosen to remain anonymous.



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and Jane Kimaru, Senior Staff Nurse



Supporters taking part in The Banham Marsden March at Home.

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Without the generosity and passion of our dedicated supporters, The Royal Marsden would simply not be able to help so many cancer patients and their loved ones. But we cannot stand still. More and more people are diagnosed with cancer every year, and we must ensure that cancer patients everywhere can receive the latest treatment.

There are so many ways you can help us continue to make a difference to the lives of those affected by cancer. Whether you choose to take part in an event, fundraise for us, make a donation, or leave a gift in your Will – your support, however big or small, has the potential to save lives.

Find out more

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020 7808 2233

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Supporter Rosie taking part in the London Marathon for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

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