IMPACT

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Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust

The supporter magazine for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust Autumn 2024



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Hello

Welcome to the latest issue of your supporter magazine.

You'll find this edition brimming with uplifting news and stories about how your generous donations have touched every part of our hospital, from making MRI scans less stressful to supporting world-leading research.

We also explore different parts of the hospital involved in delivering Addenbrooke's world class cancer care – including behind-the-scenes areas like testing laboratories hidden from daily view. Innovative equipment you have helped fund saves and changes the lives of cancer patients every single day, and you can read more about what that means.

We couldn't be prouder of the heroes working throughout Addenbrooke's. We're excited to be working with them on plans for ground-breaking new hospitals, world-class research, and everyday changes that transform the hospital for patients and staff alike.

We also learned of the sad passing of transplant pioneer Professor Sir Roy Calne early this year. You may remember we were honoured to work with him on our liver perfusion machine appeal, your support for this has enabled over 230 transplants so far and will continue saving lives for years to come. Sir Roy was a great friend and colleague of ACT, and he will be sorely missed.

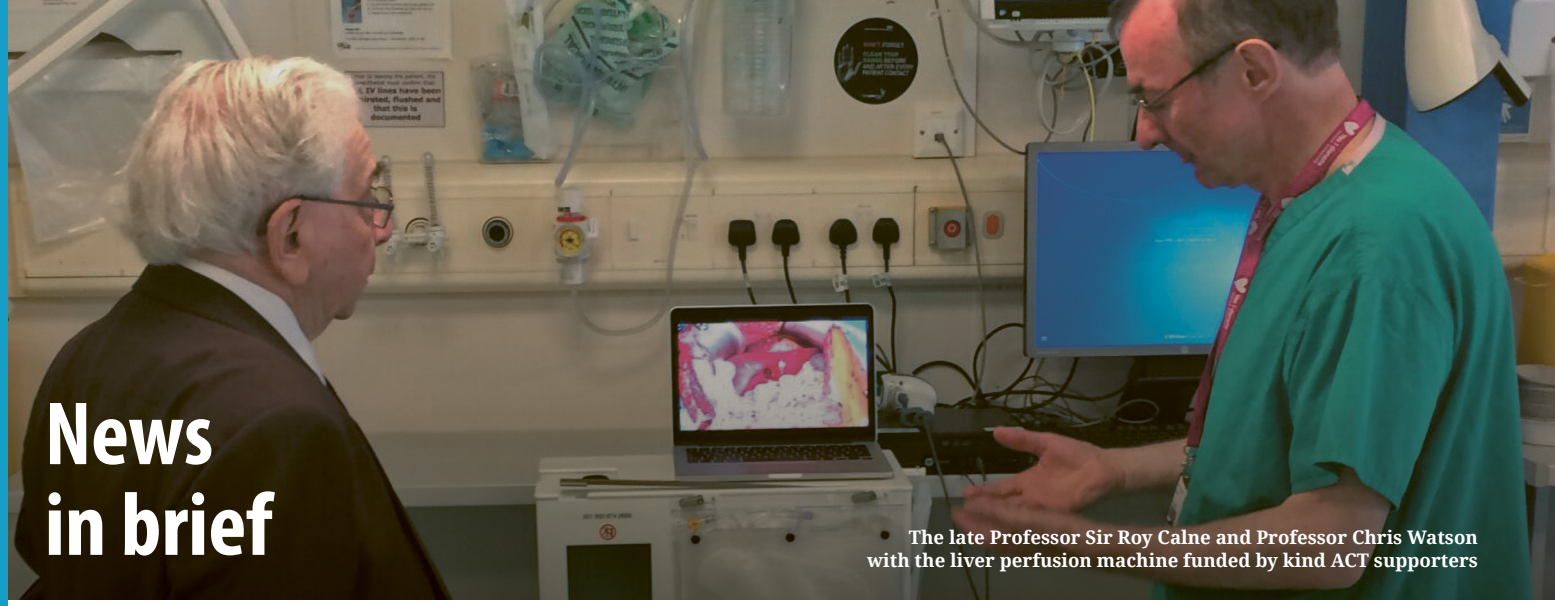
Finally, thank you for your loyal and generous support, I hope you enjoy reading about just some of the life-changing equipment, innovation and research you have made possible.

Best wishes,

Shelly Thake.

Shelly Thake, CEO
Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust





News in brief

The late Professor Sir Roy Calne and Professor Chris Watson with the liver perfusion machine funded by kind ACT supporters

Proud of our Pride of Britain Award nominees!

Congratulations to two ACT fundraisers who featured in a recent TV special as nominees for the prestigious Pride of Britain Awards.

David Bateson and Joyce Cripps have fundraised tirelessly for Addenbrooke's. Both were shortlisted for ITV Anglia's Regional Fundraiser of the Year and although they weren't selected to go through to the final Pride of Britain Awards later this year, we are incredibly proud of them for their hard work and for sharing their personal stories to a wider audience.

Farewell to a life-saving pioneer

It was with great sadness that we said farewell to Sir Roy Calne, who passed away this year. Sir Roy pioneered Europe's first successful liver transplant in 1968 and turned this seemingly impossible surgery into regular practice at Addenbrooke's.

Sir Roy will be missed by staff and also thousands of patients and families across the world who were touched by his caring, innovative approach. Sir Roy never accepted something wasn't possible, and many lives have been saved thanks to his determination.



The late Professor Sir Roy Calne

"He was a very good teacher. He was someone who would challenge you to think."

Chris Watson | Retired Professor of Transplantation who first met Sir Roy as a medical student.

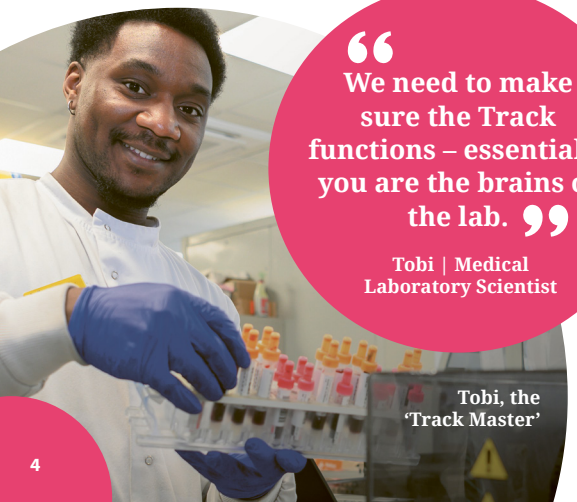
Exploring the remarkable reach of cancer care

The new Cambridge Cancer Research Hospital will become a reality in the next few years. So we went to meet some of the incredible clinicians and scientists helping to diagnose and treat cancer in our current hospital, where a surprising number of areas are involved in cancer care.



Receiving a cancer diagnosis can be a shock, and dedicated Addenbrooke's staff work tirelessly to support patients at this challenging time. Hidden from view, one of the busiest parts of the hospital is Pathology, where blood, tissues and other samples are examined for diagnosis across many laboratories. The work done here 24 hours a day underpins all diagnosis, treatment and care for cancer patients in Addenbrooke's. Test samples for every patient with cancer go through at least four pathology labs during treatment.

We saw the 'Track', a cutting-edge, automated conveyor belt that continually loads and tests patient samples. Up to 12,000 tests are processed daily, year round, and this is where abnormal samples from wards, GPs and other services are identified. This vital service is where many cancer cases are discovered. The Track needs to keep moving and was being overseen by scientist Tobi, acting as "Track Master," who explained, *"You are the first contact to process samples, we need to make sure the Track functions – essentially you are the brains of the lab."*



> **"We need to make sure the Track functions – essentially you are the brains of the lab."**
>
> **Tobi | Medical Laboratory Scientist**

Tobi, the 'Track Master'

Once diagnosed, 50% of cancer patients need radiotherapy treatment using high energy radiation beams to destroy cancer cells. Treatment time is usually 12 minutes to half an hour per visit but can be over an hour if the whole body is being treated.

In the Radiotherapy area and the Cancer Assessment Unit – the "emergency department" for patients with cancer – we saw first-hand how gifts from ACT supporters have made an enormous difference in the shape of new wall art and sky ceiling panels that transform an area that has no natural light. Patients with cancer can spend a lot of time here and the uplifting scenes have made rooms and corridors feel bigger, brighter and calmer.

Jemma (left) from the radiography team with new wall art

In the Oncology Day Unit, staff see up to 70 patients a day to receive chemotherapy that can last for anything between 30 minutes to six or seven hours each week. Again, your support has helped to refurbish the previously drab waiting area, providing a café and cheerful artwork, making patients' experience a little less stressful.

Back in another specialist laboratory, we met Principle Biomedical Scientist and Operational Lead David. He explained that his team helps direct a patient's therapy long term. Every day around one hundred samples of tissue like blood and bone marrow are analysed in depth by expert scientists – samples for each patient will be run several times to check how treatment is progressing. **Continued...**

> **"It was so white and clinical; the art just breaks up that clinical look...the patients do notice and appreciate it."**
>
> **Jemma | Head of Radiotherapy**



Senior Scientist Fiona commented, *"We get to know a patient through their disease... we're invested and have a little cry or cheer even though we never meet our patients face to face."*

The newest area of Pathology is the Genomics lab, where DNA testing ensures treatment can be personalised for each patient. Genomic testing has doubled in the past three years, and ever-improving equipment has also dramatically reduced test turnaround times meaning precise, personalised, life-saving treatment can begin sooner. ACT supporters funded the hugely successful personalised breast cancer programme which looks at the DNA profile of the patient and their cancer – to develop truly personalised care. This is the inspiring future for cancer diagnosis, testing and care that the amazing new cancer research hospital will support.

"We get to know a patient through their disease... we're invested and have a little cry or cheer even though we never meet our patients face to face."

Fiona | Senior Scientist

David's cancer journey

David received life-saving treatment at Addenbrooke's and has now raised an incredible £50,000 for the hospital



David was diagnosed with melanoma in 2019, which unfortunately spread to his liver, lungs and spine. A course of immunotherapy at Addenbrooke's has had astonishing results and David received the all-clear earlier this year. Over the course of his cancer diagnosis and treatment, David was treated by an array of hospital teams; including radiotherapy, CT scans, MRI scans, operating theatres, wards, immunotherapy and pathology labs.

"Finding out I had stage four cancer at age 44 was just devastating, the survival rate was less than 5% and I had to somehow come to terms with the fact that I wouldn't see my kids grow up.

"I had scans every three months over the last four years, this treatment was keeping me alive but the cancer was going nowhere, until my last scan when I was told there was no trace of cancer in my body – I can't quite believe it! I'm told that my chances are good, and it'll stay away. And that's all down to the development of new treatments to fight cancer. I'm only here because someone raised money ten years ago for research into new immunotherapy drugs and I now get to benefit."

Ultra-sensory ultrasound

With your help, ACT has funded a wonderful sensory unit for the Paediatric Ultrasound and Radiology team. This new unit, with its multi-sensory bubbles, lights and projectors is in use all day, distracting and calming young oncology patients.

"We have noticed such a difference since the sensory unit arrived. Any apprehensive children now immediately want to come into the ultrasound room and look at the pictures projected on the ceiling and touch the bubble cylinder. This acts as an immediate distraction and a topic of discussion to take any tension out of the situation. The bright coloured bubbles distract the babies and create a lovely calming atmosphere in the room. Even the staff come in for relaxation! Thank you, ACT, this piece of equipment has been game-changing for the children."

Rebecca Hawkes,
Paediatric Sonographer





Small book, big impact

Thanks to ACT supporters, we often fund small items that have a relatively big impact, like a brilliant little book for children with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) called *Looking after my mind* by Jen Rose. It's a colouring journal that helps children manage what can be a confusing and challenging lifelong condition.

It's all thanks to you!

90%
of patients reported being able to listen to music and watch videos helped them to complete their scan.



The state-of-the-art scanner has cutting-edge AI technology, supporting the department's world-leading research and improving diagnostic accuracy for conditions like cancer and musculoskeletal disorders

Without your generous support, we could not achieve any of the wonderful things we do for our hospitals, patients, and staff. Here are just some projects you have made possible that changed lives and helped make our hospital even better.

It's a wrap! First vinyl wrap of an MRI scanner in the UK

The new MRI scanner at Addenbrooke's has been wrapped with vinyl using a nature-based forest design, encouraging anxious patients to go ahead with their scan – saving patients' lives and costs for the hospital.

The waiting area and changing rooms have also been transformed with stunning nature scenes.

> **"It has made a massive difference not just for the staff but for the patients too. It's different, it's beautiful and it's friendly. It just fills my soul."**
>
> **Bruno | MRI Service Manager**

Your support also funded two £30,000 audio visual systems for the department's scanners, meaning stressed patients can listen to music and watch videos whilst completing scans.

Since the scanner went live at the end of July, no patients were unable to go through with their scan – helping save patients' lives with earlier diagnoses.

Bruno, the MRI Service Manager explained, *"One of the of the big reasons for patients being unable to complete a scan is claustrophobia and anxiety. If a paediatric patient cannot go ahead, they join a long waiting list to have the scan under general anaesthetic where it can cost thousands, because you need to book the bed space as well as the General Anaesthetic and Theatre teams."*

Home videos for urology patients

With your support, ACT has helped fund information videos for urology cancer patients. They show how to manage a prostate cancer diagnosis and help patients prepare for robotic surgery. Hospital appointments can be overwhelming, so being able to watch these videos at home means patients can more easily absorb this important information. One patient reported,

> **"It is an excellent presentation and much easier to digest at your own pace. Well done!"**



Celebrating our transplant athletes

The World Transplant Games promote the success of transplantation across the world. ACT was delighted to help some members of the Addenbrooke's Team make it to Perth, Australia for the 24th Transplant Games in 2023. Thanks to your support, we financed flights, accommodation, visas and kit.

Our team did us proud, bringing back seven golds, three silvers and a bronze medal. Congratulations for an amazing performance!

Gifts in wills support cancer research

Ground-breaking research at Addenbrooke's has developed a universal cancer test for malignant germ cell tumours. Using biomarkers found in the genetic code of blood and spinal fluid means that cancers can be rapidly detected using PCR machines. Unfortunately, the machine used by the team irretrievably broke down last year, halting research. The kindness of four wonderful ACT supporters who left gifts in their wills meant the team were able to buy two new PCR machines, including a more advanced machine to help keep the team at the international forefront of this work that will benefit patients locally, nationally and worldwide.

Fundraisers in action

Our incredible fundraisers continue to make a difference every day – a very warm thank you to you all from the ACT family!

Taking your Kew

Rebecca Dines and her family were left shocked when her Dad was diagnosed with haemochromatosis and untreatable liver cancer. Now after Rebecca's Dad had a life-saving liver transplant at Addenbrooke's, Rebecca has run the Kew Gardens Half Marathon to raise funds for ACT. Rebecca said, **"I cannot express the gratitude and admiration I have for the surgical team that have ultimately taken the first steps at giving my Dad a second chance of life."**

Rebecca has raised over £2,500, thank you!



Rebecca Dines



Jeannie Ambrose

Cool customer

Jeannie Ambrose is taking cold water dipping to the extreme to raise funds for ACT. As a secondary breast cancer patient receiving treatment at Addenbrooke's Oncology Outreach Service, Jeannie wants to give something back to the community and so is completing as many pool swims and ice baths as she can, and ACT will use the money raised to buy a vein finder. **"This won't be easy for me, I'm definitely a hot house flower! A vein finder is quite an expensive item and not available in Littleport. It will help make treatments so much more comfortable for patients with veins that are damaged or difficult to find."** Jeannie told us.

Addenbrooke's Oncology Outreach Service treats patients in Littleport, Ely and the surrounding villages, so Jeannie's fundraising will benefit many local cancer patients.



Our expert scientists will continue to diagnose and treat cancer, caring for patients every day

Pirate Paul

Following his cancer treatment, Paul had a great fundraising idea, deciding to perform as a pirate on his marooned miniature pirate ship, complete with an ACT collection box and literature! His pirate adventures began at Great Bardfield school and continued at more events through the summer holidays. Thanks so much Paul!



Cambridge Cancer Research Hospital architects image © NBBJ

Onwards and upwards!

As you have seen in the preceding pages, your support has changed lives and made a difference throughout our hospital and beyond. Thank you for helping us achieve so much, we really couldn't have done it without you.

Looking to the year ahead, we have ambitious plans to continue making Addenbrooke's even better for patients, families and staff. We'll be funding ground-breaking research, investing in the latest equipment and pushing the boundaries of innovation to help save and change the lives of patients.

We will also continue to make exciting progress with the planned Cambridge Cancer Research Hospital (CCRH). By working with the hospital, the University of Cambridge, and other campus partners, we aim to build a brand new kind of cancer hospital – an NHS hospital that will bring together clinical expertise, world-class scientists and pioneering research. Together, we will detect cancer earlier, treat it more precisely and ultimately stop cancer from happening at all. Changing the Story of Cancer for good.

Thank you once again for being a part of the Addenbrooke's family, your loyal support really does mean the world to us.

We'd love to meet you

Our charity offices are open every day from Monday to Friday, so please drop in to say hello. You'll find us opposite A&E and we're always happy to see our supporters.

Call us

01223 217 757
(9am-5pm Monday to Friday)

Email us

hello@act4addenbrookes.org.uk

Visit us

www.helpyourhospital.co.uk

Write to us

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Gifts in wills and our free wills service

If you would like to support Addenbrooke's with a gift in your will, or find out about our Free Wills service, please visit **www.helpyourhospital.co.uk/free-wills-service** or call our team on **01223 217 757**



Thank you

For all your support for the incredible scientists and researchers at Addenbrooke's who diagnose and treat cancer

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