

IMPACT REPORT

2022/23





Contents

How we are making a difference	4
Research	6
Equipment and infrastructure	7
Patient experience	8
Staff support	13
Innovation	14



How we are making a difference

During 2022/23 the Charity was proud to grant £3,047,023 to improve the lives of people with heart and lung disease.

The projects we fund make vital improvements to care that go far beyond NHS funding. Our work included supporting innovative treatments in the hospitals, funding research, providing equipment, improving patient experience and bringing the healing power of art into the hospitals.

Over the year we have proudly supported projects such as our early careers grants to clinicians to ringfence time for research; funding for a study testing the viability of a new device for diagnosing sleep apnoea in patients with learning disabilities in an unintrusive way;

raising funds for a new sequencer for the hospitals' Genetics and Genomics Lab to expand genetic testing, and providing aids that promote sleep and relaxation for babies and infants in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit.

It is only possible to support these projects thanks to the generosity of donors, such as trusts and foundations, community groups, people who attend events and individuals who donated to the Charity. As a charity we are passionate about making a significant difference to the lives of patients and helping clinicians in the fight against serious heart and lung disease.



Research

£1,639,755

THE AMOUNT WE GRANTED TO RESEARCH

13

NMAHPP FELLOWSHIPS SUPPORTED SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2019, UNLOCKING A FURTHER £1.7MILLION IN ADDITIONAL RESEARCH FUNDING SO FAR

1

CARDIAC CONSULTANT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

2

CLINICAL ACADEMIC PATHWAY PROGRAMME AWARDS

3

NMAHP (NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS) CHARITY FELLOWSHIP

Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals are leading centres for research. It is at these hospitals that the work to create the treatments of tomorrow happens.

We are proud to fund research at the hospitals, including our Early Careers Fund, which allows clinicians who are at the beginning of their careers to ringfence time for research. As part of this initiative, the Charity awarded three NMAHP (Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions) Charity Fellowships and two Clinical Academic Pathway Programme awards.

The awardees are working on a range of research projects, including how dietary intervention could change the outcomes for patients with Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD); looking to formalise normal ranges of specialist airway function tests in ethnic minorities; and developing a research led approach to the management of breathlessness in palliative patients. We are also funding life-saving research projects, such as Sabiha Gati’s vital work on sudden cardiac death in young people.

In November, Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub opened the new Harefield Clinical Research Facility.

Professor Yacoub said:

“The spirit of Harefield is a dedication to patient care, which right from the early days of

the transplant programme, has been linked to research. Research is a spectrum from the bench to the bedside and back again. Importantly you have to have clinical research to bridge the gap between the basic science and developing treatments for patients.”

The Clinical Research Facility provides a dedicated space for research patients at the hospital, many of whom require longer hospital appointments than regular clinical patients. These patients at Harefield Hospital are valuable to researchers because of the complex, and sometimes rare conditions, that they live with.

The Charity also provides funds for the Cardiorespiratory Biobank, which contains over 110,000 samples donated from patients undergoing surgery. The Biobank is used in a wide range of early phase research projects with the aim of identifying new therapies for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. The Cardiorespiratory Biobank has recruited 256 patients in 2022/23, distributed over 1,300 samples, and tissue from these patients has aided 33 active projects.

Equipment and infrastructure

£413,180

GRANTED ON EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

164

PIECES OF EQUIPMENT BOUGHT

Part of our work to keep Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals at the forefront of patient care is ensuring that they have the latest equipment.

We have a long history of providing leading edge equipment for our hospitals and our Next Generation Genetics appeal is the latest example of this. This appeal will buy a new sequencer to allow the Genetics and Genomics Team to process more DNA samples from patients so that they can be diagnosed with inherited heart or lung conditions.

Mat Edwards, a clinical scientist and the deputy head of Royal Brompton’s Genetics and Genomics Lab, said that the new sequencer will enhance his team’s work by being able to sequence more DNA samples at the same time. “The new machine will double the number [of tests], so we’ll be able to get samples out a lot more quickly and more efficiently and cost effectively,” he said.

He also stressed the importance of getting the results of genetic tests to patients as quickly as possible.

“Some of the diseases that we test have things like a high risk of sudden cardiac death. It’s really important to get these results out to patients as quickly as possible, so they can get the treatments they need, and their family members can get tested.”

We are now raising funds for a new gamma camera, which is used to diagnose and evaluate treatment of a variety of diseases. Due to this latest technology, the camera offers the potential to identify conditions with the highest accuracy and at an earlier stage than other imaging methods, such as X-rays or ultrasound.



A sequencer currently used by the hospitals’ Genetics and Genomics Team

Patient experience

£707,460

GRANTED TO PATIENT EXPERIENCE

274

GIFTS DISTRIBUTED TO PATIENTS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity is striving to improve a visit to either hospital to create a positive patient experience.

Patients' Fund

38

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

£102,878

FUNDS SPENT

25

APPLICATIONS AWARDED

50,000

PATIENTS, THEIR FAMILY AND CARERS IMPACTED

Our Patients' Fund is dedicated to enhancing patient amenities at both hospitals. Our Doubling December appeal raised nearly £100,000 for this fund. One recent project supported by the Patients' Fund was the refurbishment of the Quiet Room in Royal Brompton's Fulham Wing. The Quiet Room provides space for patients or their families to relax, reflect, pray or have some peace. It provides an important oasis of calm during what can be a difficult hospital visit for patients and their families.

In the 2022/23 financial year the grants were awarded in two waves; one in October 2022 and the other in March 2023. Projects funded included improved seating in waiting rooms and an audit of the hospitals' artwork to help with the improvements to the art collection through a lens of equality, diversity and inclusion.

CASE STUDY

Kerry Engelbrecht is helping babies in intensive care feel connected to their mothers

Royal Brompton's paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) looks after seriously ill young patients who need around the clock care. Some of the youngest patients on the ward are new-borns. These tiny babies will need to stay on the unit for extended periods and will not always have the presence of a parent to comfort them.

It is widely known that those first few days of life can shape a child's development, so paediatric occupational therapist Kerry Engelbrecht applied for a grant from the Patients' Fund to buy Zaky Hands.

Zaky Hand is a weighted, hand shaped cushion that parents can use when they are not able to hold their baby. The cushions can be held against a parent's skin to pick up scent and placed on the infant's bed to support their body and provide the sensation of touch and closeness to their mum.

"It's really important for parents to know that their baby is safe and secure on the ward and it's really important for us too," said Kerry. "We've only had incredibly positive feedback from families about the Zaky Hand. Some telling us: 'These are miracle workers. My baby sleeps longer as she thinks she is still being held' or 'The Zaky hand has given my baby a safe, soft and close personal touch.'"

Each Zaky Hand is taken home with the baby on its discharge from hospital, which helps the baby to settle into its new environment and keeps them safe, comfortable, and centred.

Kerry said:

"We're so grateful for the support of the Charity, we wouldn't be able to supply items like these to our parents without this funding."



rb&hArts

Thanks to funding from Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity, this year rb&hArts celebrated their 20th anniversary.

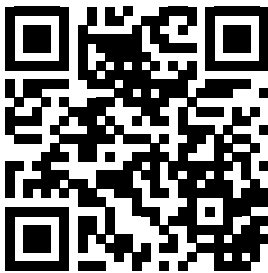
We are also proud to fund the work of rb&hArts who bring the healing power of art to patients. This includes programmes such as Vocal Beats, which assists young patients with lung conditions by improving their breathing as well as giving them an opportunity to socialise and have fun; or Crafternoons, which provide artistic expression and entertainment to in-patients; or the nature and wellbeing programme, which includes many gardens and artworks around the hospitals.

Members of Singing for Breathing are delighted to be meeting back together in person both in Harefield and Chelsea, with the option to sing online still available. The groups performed live at the Harefield Fun Run and Carols by Candlelight.

Patients enjoy live music across the trust with veteran Harefield comedy-violinist Adrian Garratt providing weekly live music on hospital wards and online. At Royal Brompton, Live Music Now provide diverse musical performances of exceptional quality by the bedside, including harp, hand-pan and theorbo.

rb&hArts is supported by a committed and passionate group of volunteers with activity including Crafternoons, Singing for Breathing, music, and the visual arts collection. We are so grateful to everyone who has donated their time to help patients through creative health.

Find out more about rb&hArts in this film:



PERFORMANCES



EXHIBITIONS



PRESENTATIONS



ARTWORKS MADE



PATIENTS/PEOPLE WORKED WITH



WORKSHOPS



PUBLICATIONS



AWARDS



ONLINE COURSES

Vocal Beats

Singing and beatboxing project Vocal Beats for 0-25-year-olds has delivered 90 workshops for 517 children and young people. Alongside this, musicians co-designed FRESH TAKES: a 9-week course for young adults to record a music track and video. Beatboxer Grace Savage also led a special LGBTQ+ song-writing workshop. This work was showcased with live performances by young patients at Roundhouse London in Camden. Vocal Beats was also shortlisted for the 2022 Youth Music Outstanding Project Award.

The New Diagnostic Centre

rb&hArts commissioned contemporary visual artists David Lemm, Enya Lachman-Curl and Rumbidzai Savanhu to create bespoke artworks for the new diagnostic centre, which was unveiled in May 2022 by HRH The Princess Royal and drew national attention. The artworks also received the Highly Commended Award for Arts and Interior Design at the European Healthcare Design Awards.



Vocal Beats performing at the Roundhouse in Camden, London

Rosie Bergonzi's music makes a real difference for patients on the wards

Live Music Now musician Rosie Bergonzi sat in bays of adult surgical wards and played the hand-pan - an instrument similar to an inverted steel pan drum.

Patients chatted and asked questions: most had not seen or ever heard of a hand-pan before and seemed enchanted by the beautiful music.

Rosie asked each of them to choose a colour, a mood, a scene, a pet, or a country. A patient would answer, and Rosie improvised a melody based on what they described. Each patient felt very special having music made up especially for them.

In one bay a severely ill patient was being observed by a nurse. She had her eyes closed and had not shown any movement all day. When Rosie played, she started tapping her fingers. Volunteer Maria walked over and said: "I can see you are loving the music," and Rosie came over to play for her. The patient smiled, waving her arms in time to the music. The nurses were very moved, it was a very special moment.

Staff support

£286,628

GRANTED TO STAFF SUPPORT

£18,000

IN PRIZES GIVEN AT RBH STAFF CHAMPION AWARDS

51

STAFF BURSARIES AWARDED

63

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS DISTRIBUTED TO STAFF

Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity works hard to support the amazing staff at these two world class hospitals in their life saving work

The amazing work that Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals do saving the lives of people with heart and lung conditions would not be possible without the brilliant staff who work around the clock providing high quality care. We support the hospitals' staff where we can, including providing festive meals for staff members working over Christmas and long service awards for employees.

We also awarded £30,000 in staff bursaries to allow our NHS colleagues to attend conferences and study days. Investing in staff is also vital for ensuring that Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals remain world leaders in heart and lung disease research, diagnosis and treatment. All of this is to help our staff through the challenging work of caring for heart and lung patients, so that they can continue to deliver the best possible care.





CASE STUDY

Dr Alanna Hare is using new leading edge technology to help diagnose OSA

We funded Royal Brompton's Centre for Sleep, and its consultant in sleep and ventilation, Alanna Hare's project, to pilot the use of AcuPebble SA100s.

Alanna said: "The AcuPebble SA100 is a new device that's been developed for diagnosing Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA), which has been designed to be particularly patient friendly. It's less intrusive than most current diagnostic equipment."

Sleep apnoea can disturb a patient's sleep leading to tiredness, low mood and an increased risk of high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease in the long run. The standard process of diagnosing OSA involves the patient wearing equipment that can be intrusive, which is not suitable for patients with learning disabilities.

"We think this might be particularly useful for patients who might find it difficult to tolerate the currently available diagnostic equipment and might find it difficult to sleep with that equipment on," Alanna said.

The Charity has funded the use of AcuPebble SA100s for a 12-month study at Royal Brompton's Centre for Sleep, one of the largest in Europe. It is hoped that this study will make a big difference to patients with OSA and learning disabilities, by helping them get diagnosed sooner.

"The AcuPebble SA100 is much more tolerable to patients and means that patients can move through to treatment and management, and thereby improved quality of life from reduce morbidity and mortality in a much smoother way than they currently are," Alanna said.

This new study will help keep Royal Brompton Hospital at the leading edge of patient care. "This is an example of the additional value that we as a specialist centre, that is at the forefront of diagnostics and treatment, can offer. We should be at the forefront of new diagnostics strategies, and this is just another example of that," Alanna said.

Innovation

The Charity is passionate about improving the care of people with heart and lung disease. Both hospitals have been responsible for some of the most significant medical breakthroughs ever made in our specialist fields and have a strong reputation for innovation. We want to build on this, which is why we are funding a range of innovative projects that can transform patient care, including Alanna Hare's study looking at a new device to diagnose sleep apnoea (see page p15).

Innovation will continue to be one of our main funding priorities in the future. It is our hope that programmes like this will create opportunities and support further development in the transformation of the treatment of heart and lung disease.



Get in touch

To find out more about the Charity get in touch via the numbers below or find more information on our website and social media profiles.

Find out more

- 🌐 rbhcharity.org
- ✖ twitter.com/RBHCharity
- 📘 facebook.com/rbhcharity
- 📷 instagram.com/rbhcharity

The Charity

- 📞 020 3988 6671
- ✉ fundraising@rbhcharity.org

Our address:
Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity
250 King's Road
London
SW3 5UE

Charity number: 1053584
Companies House: 07795583

Royal Brompton fundraising hub

- 📞 020 3988 5983
- ✉ Rhianne.Liberty-Gibbs@rbhcharity.org

Harefield Hospital fundraising hub

- 📞 020 3988 6672
- ✉ Raf.Notarianni@rbhcharity.org

