Beatson Pebble Appeal
Pioneering Cancer Research

How your donations are making a difference
See page 1

World leading scientists arrive in Glasgow
See page 2

Students raise funds at charity fashion show
See page 2
Thank you for making a difference

Your donations are continuing to have a huge impact on cancer research at the University of Glasgow. Over the past year alone, your support has helped us to bring leading scientists to Glasgow, who are attracted by the outstanding facilities and the vibrant research community. Philanthropic donations are also helping us to innovate by transforming the way we capture data from clinical trials. In addition, your support is helping us to develop vital research into specific areas like pancreatic cancer, whose survival rates are among the lowest of all cancers types.

The University of Glasgow’s research in Cancer Sciences has been rated among the best in the UK. Continued donations are vital to helping us ensure that we continue to pioneer cancer research in Glasgow. I hope you enjoy reading about how your donations are making a difference.

Professor Jeff Evans, Director of the Institute of Cancer Sciences

Developing Clinical Trials

Clinical trials allow scientists to find out if a new treatment or procedure is safe, and if it is more effective than what is currently available. The Glasgow Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) is one of the major research strengths of cancer research in Glasgow. Charitable donations from the Beatson Pebble Appeal are helping us to create an electronic system to capture clinical trials data, which will allow us to replace paper systems and make us competitive with other CTUs. It will also allow us to integrate these data-sets with other strategic initiatives, for example in cancer genomics. The ultimate aim is to enhance our understanding of drug actions and host response in order to facilitate more efficient drug discovery and development programmes in the future, thereby improving the success rates in developing new therapeutic strategies for patients.

Breakthrough in Pancreatic Cancer Research

In February 2015 Prof. Andrew Bankin, Regius Professor of Surgery and Director of the Wotton Wolf Cancer Research Centre, and Prof. Sean Grimmond, Chair of Medical Genomics, published ground-breaking pancreatic cancer research discoveries. Working with an international team, the research shows that pancreatic cancer can be split into four unique types, that differentiate tumours by their gene arrangements - a discovery that they hope will lead to more effective treatments for patients.

This is one of the most significant breakthroughs in the past 50 years in pancreatic cancer research, which is currently the 4th most common cause of cancer death.

Cancer scientists at work in the Wotton Wolf Cancer Research Centre in Glasgow. The Centre was built with the help of £10 million of charitable donations to the Beatson Pebble Appeal.

Support the Beatson Pebble Appeal

Thanks to your support, the facilities are now in place. With your continued support we will develop ground-breaking research and transform the lives of cancer patients.

Following the opening of the Wotton Wolf Cancer Research Centre, we have been delighted to continue to see individuals, charitable trusts, schools, university students, businesses and a whole range of organisations support the appeal.

Whether you choose to set up a regular donation, leave a gift in your will, organise an event, select us as your corporate charity partner or take on a challenge, there are lots of ways that you can make a difference to the future of cancer research in Glasgow. If you would like to discuss your donation, please contact us using the details on the next page.

Glasgow University Charity Fashion Show:

On Saturday 21st February, the Glasgow University Charity Fashion Show (GU ChS) held their inaugural show in the University Hunter Halls to raise funds for the Beatson Pebble Appeal. Over 600 guests gathered to see student models showcase local and international designers.

The society chose the Beatson Pebble Appeal as their charity partner and all the proceeds from the event will be used to fund staff, equipment and ground-breaking research in the University of Glasgow’s cancer research laboratories. The fashion show raised £3,000!

Leave a gift in your will

Did you know that around 20% of all philanthropic donations to the University of Glasgow are from gifts in wills? Leaving a gift in your will is straightforward and makes a huge difference to the work that we do. Helping to ensure that your hopes for research into cancer like you are gone. If you decide that you would like to leave a gift in your will to develop cancer research at the University of Glasgow, or if you would like more information, please contact Catherine McGrory, Development Officer on 0141 330 8007 or Catherine.mcgrory@glasgow.ac.uk

£15 Million initiative puts Scotland at the forefront of Gene led healthcare

A major investment in gene sequencing technology was announced in January 2015. The investment will enable scientists and clinicians to access equipment that can decode the entire genetic make-up of a person for less than £750. The University of Glasgow and the University of Edinburgh announced a new partnership with Illumina, the global leader in sequencing and genomics, in the £15 million project. The investment will establish The Scottish Genomes Partnership, which will install 15 state-of-the-art HiSeq X sequencing instruments divided between two hubs within the Universities.

As a result of this investment, researchers will be able to study the genomes of both healthy and sick people on a large scale and faster than before. Linking genetic data with clinical information will enable more precise, personalised treatment and safer therapies for patients.

Scottish NHS, leading to more molecular diagnoses for patients in the future, thereby improving the success rates in developing new therapeutic strategies for patients.

The ultimate aim is to investigate these molecules as possible targets for future therapeutic interventions.

Recruiting the best scientists from around the world

Since 2014, a number of world leading scientists from around the world have arrived in Glasgow. They include:

Prof. Sean Grimmond, Chair of Medical Genomics

Prof. Grimmond, formerly Director of the Queensland Centre for Medical Genomics, is a world leader in cancer genomics. Since joining the University of Glasgow, he has continued to lead the genomic analysis on the International Cancer Genome Consortium. This analysis will help to develop a personalised approach to treat each individual patient, not just their cancer type. The University of Glasgow’s close links with local hospitals are vital for providing tumour samples and clinical information to enable Prof. Grimmond to develop his research.

Dr David Bryant, Senior Lecturer

Dr David Bryant joined the University of Glasgow in 2014, having developed a distinguished career with the University of California. Dr Bryant’s team focuses on how cell polarity (spatial differences in the shape and organisation of cells) is controlled in prostate tumours. The ultimate aim is to investigate these molecules as possible targets for future therapeutic interventions.

Dr Jurre Kamphorst, Senior Lecturer

Dr Kamphorst was appointed in January 2014, joining us from Princeton University where he was a Postdoctoral Fellow.

Dr Kamphorst’s research aims to develop and apply state-of-the-art technologies to understand how changes in metabolic pathways are associated with cancer, thereby creating new opportunities for diagnostics and therapeutics.

Dr Kamphorst is a CRUK Career Development Fellow.

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Donate today!

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