

# IMPACT

*act*  
Addenbrooke's  
Charitable Trust

The supporter magazine for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust

Autumn 2022



**You bought  
Addenbrooke's  
a robot...  
thank you!**

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# Hello

With the challenges of winter approaching, being there for each other feels more important than ever. As Addenbrooke's and its staff care for you through the inevitable flu season and possible return of Covid, they'll be uplifted by your continuing support.

We were deeply saddened last month by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and acknowledge with gratitude her part in the history of Addenbrooke's – the late Queen opened our current hospital in 1962.

Our royal links continue and over the summer we were very pleased to be able to show the Prince and Princess of Wales a model of the new children's hospital planned for the Addenbrooke's site. As you may already be aware, we are looking ahead with great excitement to this key project along with the much-anticipated Cancer Research hospital. We'll be sure to keep you updated over the coming months with the latest developments for these two important new hospitals in our region.

Finally, we are sharing in this edition some inspiring examples of how your gifts make a real difference to your wonderful hospital, its staff, and patients. We really could not do this without you. Thank you.

With my warmest wishes,

*Shelly Thake.*

Shelly Thake, CEO  
Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust



# It's all thanks to you!

ACT would be nothing without your generous support. Here are just a few of the recent highlights that have helped make your world class hospital even better.



## Sparing children a lengthy hospital stay

The stop-start breathing causing by obstructive sleep apnoea is a serious disorder requiring a lengthy hospital stay to diagnose. Your donations are helping evaluate a new device that could provide a fast, home-based diagnosis, sparing children an unsettling hospital stay and enabling quicker treatment.



## A much-needed service for children with brain injuries

Your generous gifts will help support over 170 families of children affected by an acquired brain injury. Children and their families will benefit through counselling, practical assistance for returning home and in arranging care in the community.



## A wellbeing boost for the haematology ward

Patients on haematology ward C10 are often admitted for up to six-week periods due to the high risk of acquiring an infection during



cancer treatment. Now, thanks to your generous gifts, a visiting beauty therapist provides a range of uplifting treatments to help patients through challenging times.



# Robot Appeal Success!

In 2021 we asked you, our supporters, along with the communities in and around Cambridge to help buy Addenbrooke's a new surgical robot. You stepped up in your thousands, and we're thrilled to announce that we've reached our £1.5 million target!



Robot assisted surgery will give our surgeons extra dexterity.

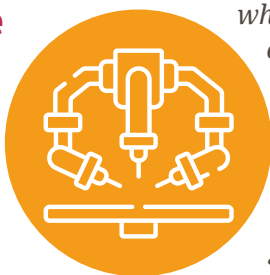
“We are bowled over by the impressive efforts of our fundraisers in helping us to reach our target; a massive thank you to everyone who has supported this appeal.”

Shelly Thake  
ACT Chief Executive

patients can be recovering at home with loved ones much faster, building up their strength for the journey ahead. There's still more to be done, the staff at Addenbrooke's will need training and support to use this new piece of equipment, and now the funds have been raised, the procurement process begins to make sure the new robot is the one that will have the greatest impact on patients at Addenbrooke's. But for now, we can all celebrate that thanks to your support and generosity, surgery for so many patients at Addenbrooke's will soon be even better.

## You made the difference

Thousands more patients will benefit from robotic surgery thanks to your support. We've been blown away by people's generosity and over the past 18 months you have rowed Dragon Boats, run marathons, taken a penalty kick challenge, and scaled flights of stairs ten times a day for 100 days. ACT Chief Executive, Shelly Thake, said: *“We are bowled over by the impressive efforts of our fundraisers in helping us to reach our target; a massive thank you to everyone*



*who has supported this appeal. Many more people undergoing surgery will now benefit from a reduced risk of complications and infection, less pain and scarring, and will be able to get back home to their loved ones much sooner. In short, you've helped to make your hospital even better.”*

## The impact of your support

Often a surgeon in Urology would have no choice but to perform 'open' surgery, cutting through the abdominal wall and creating an incision 15 centimetres long or more.

Using a robot, patients would instead receive five tiny incisions. There's no large wound, the stomach muscles remain intact and there is very little pain. What's more it can take months to recover from traditional, 'open' surgery, however, following robot-assisted surgery, patients can be discharged from hospital within a matter of days, rather than weeks. We know that people recover much better if they are with the people they love, in an environment they know and feel comfortable in. Following robot assisted surgery,

## Thank you from the staff at Addenbrooke's

Addenbrooke's Hospital's Medical Director, Dr Ashley Shaw, said: *“We are hugely grateful to the generosity of donors and the support of Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust in enabling us to bring the benefits of robotic surgery to our patients in Cambridge. This gift will enable many patients to undergo a range of major surgical procedures with fewer complications and faster recovery.”*

**The new robot makes our world class surgeons even better.**



# Meet our fundraising superstars

As ever, we have been inspired and moved by incredible fundraising stories from our supporters – including seven year old Rita. Here is her story of hope...

## Rita's raffle is child's play

One morning just after Christmas in 2020, seven-year-old Rita woke up completely unable to see. Tests at her local hospital revealed she had bilateral optic neuritis, a very rare condition for someone so young.

Soon after that devastating diagnosis, Rita's treatment began at Addenbrooke's, initially with positive results. In April, sadly, her condition deteriorated quite suddenly to the point that she is now registered as severely sight impaired.

Over the months, Rita's treatment has involved many visits to



Addenbrooke's where she became acquainted with our Play Team. This amazing team, supported by ACT, is there to help children manage their treatment and get through unsettling times – whether that be helping with injections, inserting cannulas or simply taking their mind off everything through play. The ability to put a smile on a child's face at such a time makes all the difference.

Rita's favourite thing to play with when she goes for treatments is the sand art equipment but when she had to move to a different ward, she was sad to find they didn't have any sand art to play with. But what this



bubbly, confident little girl did next was remarkable. She decided that she would raise funds for the Play Team so that they could buy more equipment for other children admitted to hospital.

She designed a raffle poster and, with her dad's help, asked local companies for raffle prizes who responded generously. She sold tickets at school, to neighbours and at her dad's workplace, where she also held a bake sale.

Rita's Dad, Mike, told us they had hoped to raise £100, but in the end her raffle raised a wonderful £1,010 to spend on play equipment. When we asked why she did it, Rita replied. *"Because I thought it would be a nice thing to do as they don't have as much as the downstairs ward, so if they had more stuff other kids might like it."*

## A marathon inspired by Harry

Congratulations to Sarah Stanford, and indeed all of our courageous ACT runners, who completed the London marathon this autumn to raise funds for your amazing hospital. Sarah was inspired to run after her nephew Harry was rushed to Addenbrooke's shortly after he was born with a life threatening bleed on the brain and a torn lung. The PaNDR ambulance team saved Harry's life after making an emergency stop en route and managed to stabilise him until his arrival at Addenbrooke's. Thank you Sarah!



## Moving on to 2023...

As we look forward to Christmas, we'll be working hard to support Addenbrooke's, its staff and patients through the winter months in every way we can. Our next Impact magazine will be back in spring, full of uplifting news about how your ongoing support continues to make your wonderful hospital even better. Thank you!



## We would love to meet you

Our charity offices are open again every day from Monday to Friday so please do drop in to say hello. We are opposite A&E and we would be very happy to see you.

### 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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Box 126, Addenbrooke's Hospital  
Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 0QQ

### Join us online

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If you would like to find out more about supporting Addenbrooke's with a gift in your will or our Free Wills Service, please visit [www.helpyourhospital.co.uk/free-wills-service](http://www.helpyourhospital.co.uk/free-wills-service) or call Paul on 01223 217 757



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