


# IMPACT

*act*  
Addenbrooke's  
Charitable Trust

The supporter magazine for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust

Spring 2022



The road to recovery –  
helping Addenbrooke's  
face the next phase of  
living with Covid

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# Hello

With the pandemic adding another twist in the form of Omicron, our hospitals were once again tested during the dark months over Christmas and New Year. And again, the wonderful staff at Addenbrooke's rose to meet the challenge, as they have done over and over.

We're very proud of them and the fact we can stand with them to help our hospital recover whilst it grapples with the ongoing impact of Covid: through investment in technology and equipment; world-leading research and by supporting staff well-being. Thanks to the wonderful support of people like you, we can now help with the next phase of recovery, tackling the backlog built up over the past two years and ensuring we are equipped to deal with anything else the pandemic might throw at us.

As you'll see in the following pages, there are many things to look forward to this year, including our Diamond Jubilee when we'll celebrate 60 remarkable years since the Queen opened Addenbrooke's on its current site in 1962.

Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you. Without kind and generous supporters like you we simply could not achieve the amazing things you'll find in this issue. Thanks to you, we can ensure that Addenbrooke's emerges from this most challenging of times, better than ever.

With my very best wishes,

*Shelly Thake*

Shelly Thake, CEO  
Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust



## News in brief



### Celebrating historic innovation

Thanks to a grant from ACT, Addenbrooke's will have a new museum display to celebrate its pioneering innovation. The showcase will feature many key achievements and remarkable advances, some of which ACT funding has made possible.



## Winning gold for RITA

With the help of ACT-funded computers and tablets, the Falls Prevention Team won gold at the RITA (Reminiscence Interactive Therapy and Activities Devices) Awards. A RITA system is a truly magical device that enables older patients, many with dementia, to rediscover much-loved songs, films and memories, helping to entertain, relax and comfort, making a huge difference to patients' well-being.



## Saving the hydrotherapy pool

After developing major technical issues, Addenbrooke's and Cambridgeshire's only NHS hydrotherapy pool risked being decommissioned. Hearing from patients about the adverse impact this would have on their recoveries, ACT decided to step in to save it. Over 1,000 people a year will once again benefit, restoring exercise and activity in patients with pain and disability.



# It's all thanks to you!

None of the wonderful things we make happen would be possible without your generosity and support. Here are just a few of the amazing things that have helped make our world class hospital even better this year.

## Revolutionising head and neck surgical planning

A cutting edge, highly precise scanner has seen its first patient at Addenbrooke's. The next generation, 3D cone beam scanner, which is part of the wider surgical planning service, is set to transform the lives of patients with head and neck cancer, facial trauma and cleft palates. Combining specialist modelling software and a 3D printer, it allows clinicians to plan highly complex surgery like never before. This will dramatically cut operating times by up to 60%, reduce waiting times by



several weeks and allow even high-risk patients to undergo life-saving surgery.

You may well recall our appeal for this incredible scanner back in 2019 and now, thanks to our supporters, this valuable service has become a reality.



Expert  
clinicians  
planning  
treatment

## Supporting the future stars of research

Research is the heart and soul of innovation at Addenbrooke's and your generosity has helped ACT support our talented staff through the funding of five fellowships this year. A fellowship is a wonderful starting point for aspirational clinicians whose research is of direct benefit to patients through clinical trials and cutting-edge developments that improve future patient care. Many of those who receive a fellowship are inspired to remain at Addenbrooke's to pursue research careers and help advance patient health.

“

**As a trainee neurosurgeon with an interest in brain cancer I had few opportunities to pursue research. The ACT fellowship provided the funding for me to do this and it was transformational.**

**I moved from my Yorkshire training rotation to Cambridge and obtained data for a project that formed the basis of my PhD. I was then appointed as a clinical lecturer, which enabled me to complete my training in neurosurgery. I am now an Assistant Professor in Neurosurgical Oncology at the University of Cambridge and an Honorary Consultant Neurosurgeon at Addenbrooke's. My current role is the perfect mix of science (I have my own lab and team investigating brain cancer) and surgery. Without the ACT fellowship none of this would have been possible. ”**

Richard Mair



## Taking care of the siblings too

Paediatric intensive care is clearly a challenging time for young patients but it is also, understandably, very difficult for those who are separated from them, especially siblings. The visiting restrictions introduced during the pandemic have only served to highlight and intensify this over the last two years.

ACT funding is helping to ease that difficult situation with the creation of sibling packs. The packs will contain books explaining what happens in intensive care and, amongst many fun activities, there'll be a photo frame for a picture of themselves, which they can decorate for their sibling's bedside.

# Meet our fundraising superstars

Despite the dark winter months, our supporters have once again risen to the fundraising challenge, bringing light and joy over the festive season.

## Collecting for our robot whatever the weather

If you were Christmas shopping in Cambridge, you may have seen our intrepid fundraising volunteers collecting for the new surgical robot. ACT volunteer Fiona Lowe said, *“Despite the wind, rain and sub-zero temperatures it has been brilliant. The camaraderie amongst us as volunteers has been very special. I’ve met some wonderful people.”*



*life-saving consultants who dealt with me for my five months as an inpatient. I am running to prove to myself I am recovered.”*

## Lighting up Christmas

A loyal supporter for many years, Kirsten Bailey has been raising money for the stroke ward, having suffered from a stroke last September. Over the festive period, Kirsten dressed as a different Christmas character every day and she and her mother lit up their houses to collect donations for our robot appeal – thank you Kirsten.



## The proof is in the running

Aged 17, Emma Vinyard contracted Gullian-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and became paralysed, apart from her eyelids, and spent 10 weeks in the Neurosciences Critical Care Unit (NCCU). To mark the 10-year anniversary of her recovery, she signed up to run the London Marathon for ACT last autumn, *“I feel it’s time I gave back to the charity that helps the amazing nurses, knowledgeable doctors and*



Several supporters lit up their homes to support ACT





## ACT now for free will service

ACT has teamed up with the National Free Wills Network, so you can now write or update your will free of charge using local solicitors. Of course, you're under no obligation to leave a gift for Addenbrooke's, but we do hope

you'll think of us. After all, leaving a gift of any size is a lasting legacy that will help transform care for the generations to come.

ACT supporter, Bethan Rees, has already used the new service, **“This came at the perfect time as I really needed to update my will. All I really had to do was tell ACT I was interested, choose the solicitor and make the appointment. I've also left a small donation to Addenbrooke's – they have done so much for me and my family, most recently helping me recover after a dreadful accident.”**

## Looking forward to a sparkling jubilee year ahead

A wonderfully successful vaccination programme and the current low rate of hospitalisations allows us to begin looking beyond Covid. And indeed we must, because there are so many other patients who continue to need the care of our brilliant hospital staff.

So, as we move into the spring and summer months after a busy and challenging winter, we can start looking forward to Addenbrooke's Diamond Jubilee year and all that it will bring.

There are three exciting projects in particular to get our teeth into. Firstly, we aim to complete our Robot Appeal and reach our ambitious target to raise £1.5 million for an additional surgical robot. Next,

we will start to develop our plans that will help raise funds for the ground-breaking new Cambridge Children's Hospital, as well as a new cancer research hospital, both here at Addenbrooke's.

While this pandemic is clearly far from over, we will continue to do all we can to help our wonderful staff recover. And of course to look forward to some Diamond Jubilee celebrations of our own.

It means the world to us that you'll be with us as we move on to these exciting new projects, thank you!



## We'd love to hear from you!

We are aiming to have reopened our charity offices by the time you read this, having had to close during the Omicron wave. Some of us might not be in every day, but there will always be someone there to say hello when we do reopen. Whichever way you prefer to get in touch, we look forward to hearing from you soon.

### Call us

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(9am-5pm Monday to Friday)

### Email us

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### Visit us

[www.helpyourhospital.co.uk](http://www.helpyourhospital.co.uk)

### Write to us

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