

Annual Review 2017-18

TOGETHER, WE ARE WORLDWIDE CANCER RESEARCH

Worldwide Cancer Research funds lifesaving research projects in the UK and across the world. It funds exceptional researchers who work tirelessly 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It does all of this to look after people, **your people** - whether it's your mum, your gran, your brother, your husband, your neighbour or that friend you haven't seen in years...

In the 40 years since the charity was founded in St Andrews, Scotland, research has helped double cancer survival rates. It has led to better ways to prevent, diagnose and stop cancer sooner. However, the search for answers can't stop here.

The research we fund, thanks to your support, enhances our understanding of cancer every day and helps us develop more effective treatments. Treatments you, your family or your family's family may rely on in the future.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

The answers to cancer will not be found by one scientist, in one lab, in one country. Instead, we take a global approach to solving a local problem because cancer touches people in your city, your street, your family, but the answers could be found anywhere in the world. Cancer knows no boundaries - in outsmarting it, neither should we.

We exist to fund that search for the answers to all cancers, because cancer is not one disease - it is more than 200.

From Argentina to Australia, Milan to Manchester, cancer researchers are working around the globe searching for those answers. There are over 15,000 research institutions worldwide investigating, discovering, collaborating and sharing knowledge. That is why we use the money you give to fund cutting edge, early stage research. If we don't invest in the ideas of today, we risk losing the cures of tomorrow - potentially life-saving answers to cancer...

In 2019, Worldwide Cancer Research will celebrate 40 remarkable years building an exceptional reputation as leaders in funding innovative cancer research, into any type of cancer, anywhere in the world.

When I look back over the years I have proudly chaired this small but significant charity, I am overwhelmed by how much it has achieved thanks to the people who day in, day out work hard to drive it forward in support of so many affected by cancer.

As we look to the 40th anniversary celebrations, a time of joy, reflection and the start of a new chapter, it seems the right time for me to hand over the role of Chairman and reflect on my time at such a worthwhile and determined charity. I am humbled every day by the generosity of our dedicated supporters and the utter magnitude of the research projects the money we receive goes towards funding.

Researchers across the world work all day and night in their labs dedicating their lives to their work - it means everything to them. I should know - I've been lucky enough as Chairman to see it happen first hand over the years - so I understand the importance of receiving a grant from Worldwide Cancer Research, especially when funding generally is scarce.

Over the last 40 years the charity has awarded almost £200 million into ground-breaking early-stage research in 34 different countries. Since the beginning, the charity has recognised the importance of taking a chance on great ideas from all scientists, however early-stage the research is. Providing this platform and allowing researchers to understand cancer better will lead us to new advances in prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

This year, has for many charities, been a challenging and increasingly competitive environment. My fellow Trustees and I recognise the charity has remained in a difficult position and suffered a further fall in fundraising income this year, due to a decline in the charity's historic fundraising streams. Following a change in strategic direction, it is however, still in a transitional phase. And to ensure the charity continues to fund the best research the world's scientists have to offer for another 40 years, Worldwide Cancer Research has developed a new regional fundraising approach to bolster supporter relationships across the UK, with future potential to mirror this structure across the world. We believe that this structure will prove to be a better fit with the size and scale of the charity and give the best chance of success.

Diversification of income streams and developing new ways to engage with supporters has also been a major strategic aim for the charity. We have been working with individuals, corporate organisations and in the education community to share skills, knowledge and opportunities. This will not only encourage additional fundraising support, but will also enhance the careers of our young people - the future of tomorrow - in higher and further education through partnerships secured with a number of establishments across the country.

As a pioneering, modern and risk-taking charity, these collaborative partnerships and new fundraising programmes will protect the sustainability of the charity and set us apart from other like-minded organisations.

In April 2017, we were pleased to open a grant round which culminated in a decision to fund £4 million of new research. This comprised 19 new grants across 12 countries, including Argentina, Canada and Finland. As a consequence of the level of funding commitment being lower than in previous years, Worldwide Cancer Research was able to end the year with a positive reserve position. This has put the charity on a much more secure financial footing but still with significant research funding that continued during the year, with over £8 million being paid to grant holders.

I wish to thank all members of staff and volunteers for their continuing commitment in a wide range of roles, particularly in this year of change. Without their efforts and enthusiasm Worldwide Cancer Research's work would be impossible and it is thanks to all of them that the charity remains an inspiring place to work.

Heartfelt thanks are above all given to our thousands of supporters. Every contribution is valued, no matter how large or small.

And so as I begin to bid farewell I know I will whole-heartedly miss my daily involvement with Worldwide Cancer Research. However I will always hold a special place for it in my heart and remember fondly the memories of my time as Chairman of this wonderful charity.

The successes and challenges, the opportunities, the stories, the discoveries and most of all the people - without our supporters, researchers, staff, volunteers, suppliers and my fellow trustees - none of this would be possible, and for that I thank you most sincerely and wish you all the success in the **world**.

James C Murray

Chairman

Page 5-6

CEO's words

I'm incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to meet so many inspiring people in my role, and I am often asked by them why they should support Worldwide Cancer Research.

There are a million reasons why and being a scientist myself, I tend to want to tell them everything about the research projects the charity funds and the exceptional researchers working 24 hours a day, seven days a week to find the answers to cancer, but really when I think of it - it comes down to something rather simple which our Chairman James Murray talked about. It's **people**.

We all know, every day, cancer turns millions of lives upside down. Whether it's a family in the daunting early days of their first experience with a cancer diagnosis, or a survivor being told their cancer has returned after a previous long, gruelling battle with the disease - a living nightmare they thought was behind them.

The reason to support Worldwide Cancer Research? We are fighting for people now, in a year from now, five years from now, ten years from now, fifty years from now.

In fact, at this moment, donations are being used to fund research by Professor Aznar-Benitah in Spain. He has been working out how tiny fragments of fats or oils that are found in our diet help cancer cells to spread - the stage of the disease when it becomes hardest to treat.

And Professor Maries van den Broek who is based in Switzerland is trying to work out how to increase the number of cancer fighting cells of our immune system that collect in and around a tumour. These research projects are just two of over 113 happening worldwide at this moment. You can read more in our Impact Report.

As our Chairman James Murray mentioned, we have embraced collaborating with different organisations across a variety of sectors and this is not only true in fundraising but also in our research line of work too. In fact, we partnered with two other cancer charities, The Brain Tumour Charity and The Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund so that, together, we could pool resources and fund more research. These co-funding partnerships enabled us to support two extra research projects, bringing the total awarded to 21 grants, with a total value of £4,114,897.

With your continued support, there *will* be a day when no life will be cut short by cancer. The more research you help us fund, the sooner that day will come.

So when I'm asked, why? I think of my son, my friends, my family, my colleagues and I think - they are my world, and Worldwide Cancer Research is a charity which will do whatever it takes for me, for them, for us.

To our supporters - whether you have supported the charity since the start, or this is the first time you have heard of us - we thank you for helping us to outsmart cancer. We have to be realistic about what science can achieve, but we shouldn't stop hoping and we mustn't stop trying.

We're all in this weird and wonderful world **together**, so let's outsmart cancer - **together**. Because **Together We Can**.

And to Mr James Murray who sadly will step down from the role of Chairman shortly, I would like to personally thank you for all of your support over the years. The charity has benefited enormously from your guidance, experience, commitment, time and sheer passion, and I thank you on behalf of everyone at Worldwide Cancer Research. We wish you all the best for your retirement and hope you will keep flying the flag for Team Worldwide!

Thank you.

Dr Helen Rippon

Page 7-8

Financial Review

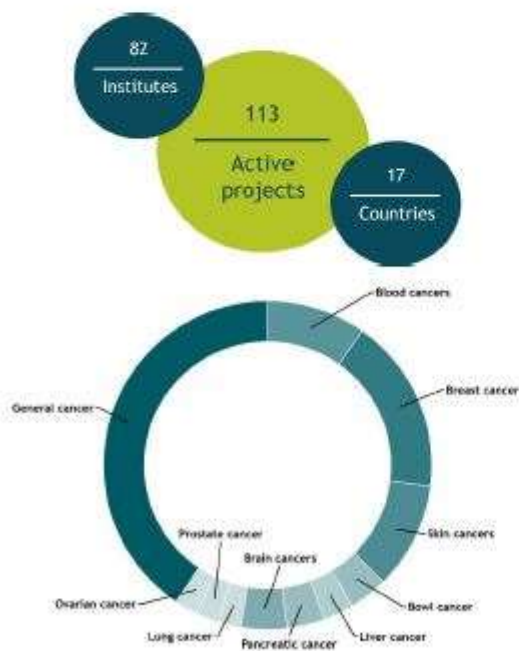
[\[link to Report and Accounts on website\]](#)

Research report:

2017 grant round in numbers



Our active portfolio




Our ongoing impact


636
Scientific papers published since 2010



8 clinical trials set up as a direct result of our research



157
Registered clinical trials involving olaparib



We started this year by preparing and opening the April 2017 grant round. At the September 2017 Scientific Advisory Committee grants allocation meeting, nineteen grants were funded, covering a wide range of exciting projects from twelve different countries. We also secured partnerships with The Brain Tumour Charity and The Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund which has supported two extra research projects bringing the total awarded to 21 grants

Worldwide Cancer Research grant sets in motion bowel cancer clinical trial

In 2005 we awarded a grant to Professor Awen Gallimore at Cardiff University to study how cancer cells evade the immune system. Her work revealed that one specific type of immune cell could be manipulated to limit tumour progression in mice.

Professor Gallimore investigated this further and found that these immune cells were present in far higher numbers in bowel cancer compared to healthy tissue, and that tumours are able to use these cells to stop the immune system from attacking the tumour.

In 2012 Professor Gallimore helped to lead a clinical trial that tested an immunotherapy called TroVax in people with bowel cancer that has spread and cannot be removed with surgery. TroVax is a vaccine based cancer treatment that aims to manipulate the immune cells found in abundance in bowel cancer. The trial was a pilot study of 52 patients with the aim to test how the vaccine modifies the immune system in people. The trial was completed in 2016.

The results of the trial were very promising showing a significant survival benefit in patients with metastatic bowel cancer (cancer that has spread) that received the experimental treatment. Professor Andrew Godkin who led the trial said:

“The study showed patients who respond by generating immune responses to up-regulated tumour proteins do well and this is a fundamentally important finding. The clear benefit to patients opens the door for larger immunotherapy trials which have the potential to expand future treatment options of colon cancer.”

The team now wants to test this treatment in further clinical trials and they have applied for further funding to continue this work.

You can find out more about the impact of our research in our Impact Report.

On a mission to ‘Phil the gap’ in cancer research

Anyone who has ever been on the London Underground will know the firm but kind voice behind the famous ‘Mind the Gap’ announcement. But have you ever wondered about the voice behind it?

Well, it more than likely belongs to Phil Sayer, one of the leading voice-over artists of his generation, father to two boys and loving husband to Elinor Hamilton. In April 2016, Elinor’s life changed in a way she never would have imagined - Phil sadly passed away after a two-year fight against oesophageal cancer.

Phil went through several rounds of chemo, an oesophagogastrrectomy with days in the Intensive Care Unit and then palliative care. Despite his survival chances on diagnosis being lower than 16%, his positivity shone through and although the end came suddenly, he used his inimitable brand of Tumour Humour right up until he died.

Only four months later, Elinor was given the devastating news that she had developed breast cancer. Naturally, her world collapsed.

While grieving, she had to manage two surgeries, months of chemotherapy and long sessions of radiotherapy whilst keeping their business running and caring for her bereaved children.

A few months ago, Elinor finally received the all clear. “I feel fortunate that I’ve benefited from years of research - especially because our children now don’t need to face losing another parent.”

To celebrate this, she decided to run the London Marathon and raise funds for Worldwide Cancer Research. At her request, all the money she raises will go specifically towards oesophageal cancer research.

London is also a special place for her to take on this gruelling challenge as Phil was with her all the way, announcing the underground stations below the roads she ran on.

“It saddens me deeply that research into Phil’s type of cancer is so far behind. Hopefully, between us, we can help to ‘Phil the Gap’ between the survival rates for oesophageal and breast cancers.”

Elinor’s passion and determination in the face of adversity is incredibly humbling. Thank you Elinor, and thank you to all your family and friends helping you reach your target.

We were amongst the thousands of supporters cheering for Elinor and as she ran on the roads of London, Phil’s voice was with her supporting her all the way.

Page 11

Face to face with the man who saved my life

After a seven-year battle with cancer, Sandy Tansley, a grandmother from Bedfordshire, has finally come face to face with the researcher who saved her life. And it’s all thanks to you and other supporters of Worldwide Cancer Research.

When Sandy was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer, she endured countless cycles of chemotherapy with no success. With four tumours spreading to her stomach and “nothing to lose”, she was offered the opportunity to take part in a clinical trial for a new targeted drug treatment, olaparib, which arose from the work of British scientist Professor Steve Jackson.

Two years later, the tumours had disappeared. Today, five years after being given the all clear, Sandy remains in complete remission. And with the help of Worldwide Cancer Research, she has finally met Professor Jackson.

“Being cancer-free is a result previously unimagined, after what I’d been through. It’s a dream come true to be able to watch my grandchildren grow up when I thought I wouldn’t be around - I feel like the luckiest person in the world.

“I can’t put into words how grateful I am to Steve Jackson. To have the chance to say thank you to the man who has given me my life back means the world.”

Olaparib, under the brand name Lynparza, was developed following two decades of groundbreaking research by Professor Jackson. In his ‘eureka’ moment with funding from Worldwide Cancer Research, he discovered key proteins that cells use to repair damage to DNA; a major breakthrough he believed could be useful for developing new cancer drugs.

Professor Jackson set up his own company to develop these drugs - one of which was olaparib. A decade later clinical trials of olaparib began across the world and the drug has since been granted approval in the UK, the EU and the USA as a targeted therapy for ovarian cancer.

Professor Jackson explains: “Without funding this drug simply would not have been developed. The faith Worldwide Cancer Research put in me to fund what was, essentially, blue sky research has allowed us to produce something that could ultimately help millions of people around the world.”

“As a research scientist, I don’t come into contact with patients. To be able to meet someone whose life was actually saved by this research is very special and makes everything worthwhile.”

Thank you to everyone who has supported Worldwide Cancer Research over the last year. It is not possible to mention everyone but we would like to give particular thanks to our Scientific Advisory Committee who give their time and expertise in the difficult task of deciding which research projects we will fund.

List of SAC -

Professor John Maher (Chair)	King's College London, England
Professor Eduard Batlle	IRB, Barcelona, Spain
Dr James Brenton	University of Cambridge, England
Professor Amparo Cano	Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain
Dr Oriol Casanovas	IDIBELL, Barcelona, Spain
Professor Paul Coffey	University Medical Center Utrecht, Netherlands
Professor Ruud Delwel	Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands
Professor Peter Fischer	University of Nottingham, England
Professor Awen Gallimore	Cardiff University, Wales
Professor Michelle Garrett	University of Kent, England
Professor Kevin Hiom	University of Dundee, Scotland
Dr Kim Jensen	University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Dr Richard Jenner	University College London, England
Professor Kairbaan Hodivala-Dilke	Barts Cancer Institute, QMUL, London, England
Professor Hemant Kocher	Barts Cancer Institute, QMUL, London, England
Professor Sonia Lain	Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
Dr Michael Lisby	University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Dr Angeliki Malliri	CRUK Manchester Institute, University of Manchester, England
Dr John Martens	Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands
Professor Andrew McAinsh	University of Warwick, England
Professor Iain McNeish	Glasgow University, UK
Professor Jim Norman	Beatson Institute, University of Glasgow, Scotland
Professor Christoph Plass	DKFZ, Heidelberg, Germany
Dr Steve Pollard	University of Edinburgh, Scotland
Dr Simona Polo	FIRC Institute of Molecular Oncology Foundation, Milan, Italy
Dr Sergio Quezada	University College London, England
Professor Mark Searcey	UEA, Norwich, England
Dr Albert Tenesa	The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
Dr Cathy Tournier	University of Manchester, England
Professor Helle Ulrich	Institute of Molecular Biology, Mainz, Germany
Professor Pierre van der Bruggen	Institut de Duve, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels
Professor Christine Watson	University of Cambridge, England

We continue to value the generosity of all charitable Trusts and Foundations. Our special thanks to the following who have made a significant contribution:

Aberbrothock Skea Charitable Trust
Basil Samuel Charitable Trust
Campbell Fraser Charitable Trust
Cecil & Hilda Lewis Charitable Trust
Chiltern International
E F and M G Hall Charitable Trust
Fanny and Moray Glasser Charitable Trust
James T Howat Charitable Trust
John K Young Endowment Fund
Louis and Marion Ferrar Charitable Trust
Marjorie and Viggars Charitable Trust
Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust
Miss E C Hendry's Charitable Trust
Miss Isabel Harvey Charitable Trust
Mrs Iris Noreen Setchell Charitable Trust
Mrs M A Lascelles Charitable Trust
Multithon Trust
R J Wyber Charitable Trust
Sylvia Aitken Charitable Trust
Tayfield Foundation
The Ardwick Trust
The Cumber Family Charitable Trust
The Crerar Hotels Trust
The David Cutforth Charitable Trust
The Huggard Charitable Trust
The John Paramour Trust
The Kells Trust
The Lynn Foundation
The MacKenzie Trust
The Oakdale Trust
The Olga Charitable Trust
The P F Charitable Trust

The Rest Harrow Trust

The Richard Pollock Charitable Trust

The Robert and Margaret Moss Charitable Trust

The Souter Charitable Trust

The Sym Charitable Trust

The Thomas C Maconochie Trust

The Tony Klug and Joanne Edelman Charitable Trust

Ward Family Charitable Trust

Many thanks to our agency and corporate partners for their ongoing support.

Finally, special thanks to our Board of Trustees and Ambassadors - their hard work and advice remains crucial to our success as a charity.