Ioannis is on target

Clinical analyst, Ioannis Chrisinas, has a big dream. He wants to represent Britain as an archer at the 2012 Olympics in London. But he needs help. Ioannis is appealing for sponsors and support to purchase more up to date equipment to compete to achieve his dream.

“When I first started, my equipment was already second hand and now it’s 10 years old,” Ioannis told ORH News. “New equipment would be lighter and easier to use in high winds and in longer competitions.”

Ioannis started archery in January 2009 and has already become gold medal winner with Oxford Archers and bronze medalist in individual competitions. In March 2010, he earned fifth position in the Southern England Counties Championship as a member of the Oxfordshire Archery Team.

Ioannis practices four times a week in a field loaned by Oxford Rugby Club in North Hinksey. “When I tell people I’m an archer, they say ‘Oh, I always see you from the A40!’ It must look very odd to them,” he said.

With another two years’ practice and the right equipment Ioannis believes he could become a member of the exclusive group of NHS staff to have competed in the Olympics, following the likes of Dr Tim Brabant, from Nottingham, who, won a gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics for kayaking.

To find out more, contact Ioannis at ioannis.chrisinas@orh.nhs.uk

Generous hearts

Children’s charity ‘Young Hearts’ has raised almost £1,500 to fulfil a wish list provided by staff on Bellhouse-Drayson Ward in the Oxford Children’s Hospital.

Young Hearts is run by volunteers and was set up by local parents of children with heart conditions, to offer a listening ear and to make a difference in the care of children with heart problems, and their families. They provide advice, support and information, as well as fundraising and arranging social events.

Donations included toys, TVs, DVD players and games consoles to provide the extras for the children which make their stay in hospital a little easier. Nikki Bound, Treasurer of Young Hearts said, “Most of the money for these donations was raised by our 70s and 80s disco Boogie Nights at Abingdon Football Club. Seeing the difference they make to the children really spurs you on, it is the best reward.”
Dr Paul Harrison, a clinical scientist at the Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre, has been featured in a Department of Health book, ‘Extraordinary You – Healthcare Science’. The book profiles the pioneering work of outstanding healthcare scientists within the NHS and celebrates their vital contribution to improving healthcare for all.

Dr Harrison originally trained as a toxicologist but found his way into research. He then found out about haemostasis and became completely fascinated. Now he combines specialised clinical assays with research and development.

Haemostasis is the complex highly regulated but balanced process that prevents bleeding or thrombosis. Normally cells called platelets rush to the site of an injury to play an important part in clot formation. Paul measures special platelet function and other tests in patients with either bleeding or symptoms of thrombosis. Improving, researching and developing more accurate diagnostic tests for these patients is an important part of Paul’s job.

Platelets have taken a bit of a back seat as Paul and his research colleagues investigate the mysterious micro and nanovesicles also found in blood. In the past these were simply thought to be debris but now it appears that they are actually doing something, although quite what is still not fully understood. Their measurement may become important as a biomarker of various diseases including cancer, heart disease and stroke. Of special interest is their function within pregnancy when they are produced by the placenta in huge quantities every day. There is evidence suggesting that they might be involved in a dangerous pregnancy complication called pre-eclampsia, but the first task has been how to measure and identify them accurately.

It has involved Paul in collaborations with Professor Ian Sargent in the Nuffield Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Oncology and Nanotechnologists in the University as well as industry. This project was recently funded by a Wellcome Trust technology grant. Paul is also busy with the organisation of an International Symposium entitled “Micro and Nanovesicles in Health and Disease” to be held at Magdalen College in September.

Dr Harrison said, “I have a very diverse life as a clinical scientist and particularly enjoy the training and teaching of students. It’s a privilege being a practising scientist.”

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**Better Healthcare Programme for Banbury and surrounding areas**

At a special meeting of its Board of Directors held on 14 June, the ORH agreed to implement proposals from NHS Oxfordshire for the delivery of paediatric and maternity services at the Horton General Hospital.

A detailed project plan is being drawn up for consultant-delivered services in paediatrics and maternity at the Horton, reducing the reliance on middle grade doctors that have been difficult to recruit and retain. The plans will also strengthen anaesthetic services.

At the Board meeting, Directors thanked all the staff involved in delivering the interim arrangements at the Horton for their hard work and dedication in keeping services going through this transitional period, and also all those who have been involved in drawing up the new proposals. At the same meeting the Board considered a framework for developing a new vision for the services to be provided from the Horton, and agreed to set out a new strategic plan for the hospital based on this.
What’s new on the web?

The Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals’ website, www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk, attracts up to 34,000 visits in a week, mainly in Europe and North America.

You can find pages relating to individual departments by typing the name of the department into the search box, on the top right hand corner of the home page.

Recent additions to our website include:

- **NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme**
  ('For patients / Departments / Gastrointestinal services')

- **The Oxfordshire Deaf Children’s Society**
  ('For patients / Departments / Women’s / Maternity / Newborn Hearing Screening')

Did you know you can also follow us on Twitter? http://twitter.com/oxfordradcliffe

While every effort is made to keep the website updated, we depend on the help of individual departments to let us know when their details change.

If you would like to update the information on your web pages, please contact Frances Bonney, Web Communications Officer, on ext. 31474 or at frances.bonney@orh.nhs.uk

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**Health and Safety team win award**

The ORH Health and Safety team are celebrating being awarded a Silver Standard Award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

RoSPA recognises those organisations that have worked effectively to reduce the number of accidents and cases of ill-health at work.

Jim Roy, ORH Safety Risk Manager, said,”We are delighted with this award that recognises the Trust’s commitment to protecting the health and wellbeing of its employees and others. We were hoping for a Bronze award so to win Silver is fantastic. We have already started working towards achieving the Gold merit award next year.”

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Jane Piper, Senior Health and Safety Advisor and Jim Roy, Safety Risk Manager receive their award from Eric Clark, RoSPA Trustee.
1,000th baby born on the The Spires

The Oxford Spires Midwifery-led Unit (The Spires) celebrated its 1,000th birth, when at 4.48am on Thursday 11 March Emily Louisa was born at 2490g (5.7oz).

Proud parents, Catherine and Jon Spinage of Bicester were delighted to hear that Emily was the 1,000th baby born at The Spires. Jon told ORH News, “Everything went brilliantly. As a Dad I found it really relaxing, and I felt part of the whole process. It is a positive place to be and we are grateful for all the help we have received.”

Damian Randell was baby number 1,001, weighing 3610g (7.15½ oz), born to first-time parents Kim and Katherine Randell, from New Hinksey, Oxford. Katherine said, “My Mum flew in from the States as I was giving birth and, like us, she has been really impressed by how relaxed and comfortable this unit is.”

Midwife Sue Channell said, “There is no clinical atmosphere and many women find that more comfortable. We can offer all pain relief apart from epidurals. And, of course, we are right on top of a consultant-led maternity department, so if there are any complications we can get women there very quickly.”

The Spires opened on 1 September 2008 and is based on Level 7 of the Women’s Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital. Midwifery-led units offer women an alternative to the consultant-led maternity service at the hospital or home births.

Any woman who is regarded as ‘low risk’ from a medical and pregnancy point of view, and is booked to have her baby at the John Radcliffe Hospital, may have her baby on The Spires unit if she chooses. Midwifery-led facilities are also available for women at Chipping Norton, Wantage and Wallingford maternity units.

The Spires consists of three birthing rooms, including a pool and a sensory room with special lighting effects. All rooms have equipment to encourage active birth, such as mats, bean bags and birthing balls.
Raising awareness about skin cancer

Staff from the Dermatology department at the Churchill Hospital organised stalls and posters to give sun safety advice and remind patients and other staff about the importance of checking moles just in time for the start of the summer sun.

The drive was part of ‘Sun Awareness Week’, the British Association of Dermatologists’ annual event to promote sun safety, which takes place in May each year.

Dr Richard Turner, Consultant Dermatologist, said, ”There are so many things you can do to protect your skin – avoid sunbathing during the sunniest times of the day, wear longer sleeve shirts, use sunscreens and avoid the intensity of the strong sunshine. Many people enjoy having a tan but my advice would be to spend a little money on some decent fake tan if you really want that bronze glow, and use a high factor sunscreen (SPF 30+) to save your looks and your health.”

Heidi Waite, Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist for Skin Cancers is based at the Churchill Hospital. Heidi offers support, advice and guidance to people affected by skin cancers. She explained why awareness is so important, “Early detection is key to treating skin cancers and checking your moles is one of the best ways to ensure you stay safe. However, not all skin cancers are the same, so keep an eye on all of your skin and tell your doctor about any changes you see. Remember – if in doubt, check it out!”
Such good friends

The League of Friends isn’t just a handy place to grab a cuppa or a sandwich – the money raised provides support to hospital departments across the ORH.

New camera

The John Radcliffe Hospital’s League of Friends has donated £54,000 to buy a new camera for operating theatres in the Women’s Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital. The camera will be used in keyhole surgery, a procedure that enables women to have a less invasive form of surgery that does not require a large incision.

The Women’s Centre has two operating theatres and one already has a camera – but it’s 15 years old. The new more sophisticated camera will enable the gynaecology team to perform more keyhole surgery, a move which will enable them to treat more patients.

Consultant gynaecologist, Mr Simon Jackson, said “Keyhole surgery, or laparoscopic surgery as it is also known, is a better option for many women as it means they have less scarring and they don’t need to spend as much time in hospital afterwards. The recovery tends to be easier too, and there is less risk of infection.

“Most gynaecological surgery is performed this way, so having two operating theatres equipped for this kind of procedure will be a big help to us. We are really grateful to the League of Friends for their support.”

Senior staff nurse Rowena Deans approached the League of Friends for the funding. Peter Howlett, League of Friends manager, said, “We raise about £150,000 a year for the Trust through our two cafés and we have about 100 volunteers who work a shift system to prepare the food and run the cafés – some coming at 6.00am to help us before they go to work.

“We are always pleased to see that the money we raise makes a difference to patients. This camera is a big purchase and we can see that staff are very excited about having it. It’s great to see that it has been a wise purchase.”

The Churchill Hospital’s League of Friends have donated new chairs for the waiting room atrium at the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM). Replacing old furniture, the chairs provide more supportive, comfortable seating for patients and their relatives. Neil Cowan, Directorate Manager for Specialist Medicine, said, “OCDEM sees around 20,000 patients a year so naturally the furniture suffers from a lot of wear and tear. The new chairs have really smartened up the waiting room in OCDEM and are much easier to clean. We’ve been lucky enough to be allowed to pick chairs of a variety of shapes and sizes thanks to their very generous donation.”
Bang goes the JR

The Oxford Eye Hospital took centre stage this April as BBC One’s science series ‘Bang Goes the Theory’ started its filming of the third series.

The new series includes an item focusing on the eye, and its evolution, so presenter Liz Bonnin and the crew interviewed the ORH’s Professor Robert MacLaren for an explanation about how it all works.

Davina Bristow, a researcher from the show, said, “We speak to experts like Professor MacLaren to explain the science that is all around us. The eye is so unbelievably clever – we know our viewers will be fascinated to find out how it evolved and creates the images we see every day.”

Professor MacLaren and BBC presenter, Liz Bonnin, film for the new series of BBC One’s ‘Bang Goes the Theory’.

New trial at Oxford Eye Hospital

A new retinal implant technique is being trialled at the Oxford Eye Hospital later this year for the first time in the UK.

Professor Robert MacLaren, Consultant Retinal Surgeon at the Oxford Eye Hospital, is leading a trial to look at new technology that aims to restore sight to blind patients. By implanting a device underneath their retina (the back of the eye) the trial presents a promising new treatment for patients who are blind from retinitis pigmentosa, a form of inherited retinal degeneration that typically causes severe vision problems in adulthood.

The new implant is a major step forward in retinal implant technology as it imitates the photoreceptor, or light sensitive, cells on the retina (back of the eye). By collecting light the implant can create more detailed images than were previously possible. The new device is also significantly smaller meaning it can all be contained within the eye, with the power supply located under the skin behind the ear, similar to a hearing aid.

Mr James Ramsden, consultant ENT surgeon at the John Radcliffe Hospital and a cochlear implant specialist, will also be performing surgery on the power supply. The image capture device contains a 1,500 pixel array which is inserted under the retina and acts like a digital camera, except that the image is transmitted to nerve cells instead of a memory card. The surgeons will be studying how blind patients adapt to the new image from the chip over a period of a year.

Professor MacLaren said, “Electronic devices for restoring sight are now entering the clinical arena and preliminary work with this particular implant is very impressive. I would now certainly consider this technology as a viable treatment option for patients who are blind from retinitis pigmentosa. This represents a true fusion of electronic technology with the human central nervous system.”

The trial will start early in 2011.
An electronic patient record for the ORH – part of our digital future

An electronic patient record has been an ambition for the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals for the best part of a decade. This ambition is now on course to become reality. The implementation of an electronic patient record will revolutionise how we see, process and treat patients, positively impacting on their journey through the healthcare system. Above all, it will be an information revolution, transforming the way in which we record, store and access crucial clinical data necessary to treat patients effectively.

This will build upon existing systems, such as the medical imaging system PACS, which has demonstrated what a positive difference technology can make to just one aspect of patient care. We now have electronic discharge documentation and discharge management, and an interim order communications system; our laboratories are increasingly automated, and have dispensed with paper reporting. At the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre (NOC), they have trialled “no notes” clinics, with new patients having an entirely electronic encounter – so the introduction of fully electronic patient records is a natural step of the electronic evolution in healthcare, and a major part of the broader digital future for Oxfordshire.

Although implementing an electronic patient record in an organisation as large and complex as the ORH is a daunting prospect, the benefits are enormous. The Electronic Patient Records team have been planning for the ORH implementation, looking at how we currently work, how we could work, and what opportunities the new system will bring. There will be one system for the requesting of all tests, with secure electronic access to all the results and correspondence to manage each patient’s care and their pathway through our hospitals. It will also mean that live patient and bed information will be available, meaning smarter scheduling, which can increase the speed of treatment for patients, as well as delivering greater efficiency all round for our hospitals. When the NOC system is upgraded early next year, it will bring a much richer set of clinical functionality, which the ORH implementation will similarly receive, and we will then have a single, unified electronic patient record here in Oxfordshire by the end of 2011.

Dr. Ivor Byren, Consultant in Bone Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the NOC, has been working with the Electronic Patient Records (EPR) system since it went live at the NOC in 2005, and now sees the system as an integral part of everyday working life.

Acknowledging that the degree of transformation and learning can be daunting at first, Dr. Byren told ORH News, “Initially, I thought the system was cumbersome and clunky, but what I now realise is that it was I who was clunky!” This view is backed up by Dr. Susie Dunachie, who has worked as a junior doctor at both the John Radcliffe Hospital and the NOC. She sees the real, practical, benefits of an electronic patient record every day; “I have noticed the difference between using the EPR and other systems. I’ve used CaseNotes at the ORH, but the information is not so detailed; since moving to the NOC, I rarely request any paper medical notes, because the information is on the system and there is a better quality of information.”

For more information, please contact – OxonEPRComms@orh.nhs.uk, or go to http://orh.oxnet.nhs.uk/CRS
Opening the doors on research for patient benefit

Staff and members of the public played with small furry virus animals, watched DNA being extracted from strawberries and had their blood sugar and blood pressure tested during the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (OxBRC) open day. Researchers were on hand to talk about and demonstrate the vast amount of research activity that goes on in our hospitals to improve patient care.

The OxBRC was founded in 2007 with a grant from the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR). It combines the research expertise of the ORH and the University of Oxford. Its main aim is to enable clinical research and foster innovation to improve healthcare. The open day was held as part of its commitment to generate greater public understanding and involvement in research.

One stand that captured the public’s interest belonged to the genetic research theme as they demonstrated science in the kitchen by extracting DNA from strawberries. Visitors could also try out an ultrasound machine to test density of water-filled surgical gloves and could have their BMI (body mass index), blood sugar and blood pressure tested. Local artist, Emma Reynard, set up a stand to record people’s memories and impressions evoked by vials of scents. This is a project she has worked on for years in different settings and hopes to tie into future research on memory loss.

Professor Derrick Crook gave a café talk on infection control and Professor Chris Redman presented an overview on safer pregnancy research. Dr Jenny Taylor and Dr Mark Sheehan led a discussion with local secondary schools on the ethics and implications of ‘designer genes’.

Professor Keith Channon, Director of the OxBRC, said, “This event was about opening our doors and showing the public how much research goes on that stimulates innovation, creates novel treatments and encourages and funds doctors and nurses to make research an integral part of the way they deliver patient care. A wide range of research is carried out by doctors, nurses and therapists in our hospitals in partnership with the University of Oxford. The OxBRC is the funding stream and support function which is acting as a
catalyst for the partnership to achieve even greater things for patient benefit, in the future.”

The evening’s events were introduced by Dame Fiona Caldicott, Chairman of the ORH, followed by a panel discussion on ageing and research. Eminent doctors, such as Professor Gordon Wilcock, Dr Paresh Vyas, Dr Bernard Prendergast and Dr Heidi Johansen-Berg from the fields of dementia, cardiothoracic services, haematology and stroke rehabilitation discussed the findings from their latest research projects.

Visitors to the exhibition were given the chance to win prizes by filling in a questionnaire as they visited the various stands.

Kate Hutton, a student from Headington who won a £25 i-tunes voucher, said, “I really enjoyed the day and got a lot out of it. I’m studying sciences and wasn’t sure about going into medicine or research; now I realise I can do both.”
The new digital mammography suite at the Horton General Hospital was officially opened by Trust Chairman, Dame Fiona Caldicott, in July.

The Horton now has the latest symptomatic mammography equipment, which provides a much faster turnaround for patients and a much more comfortable experience. It cost about £300,000 for the new equipment and the refurbishment of the room, and will mean that the Horton can see more patients than it did before.

Dr Penny Haggett, Consultant Radiologist, said, “We are getting excellent feedback from patients coming to the Horton for this service. Any woman who has had a mammogram will tell you it can be quite an uncomfortable experience, but this new equipment is much better than the older models and the computerised images are much clearer than before. We also have a great refurbished room.”

The new equipment at the Horton is identical to the mammography equipment used at the new Oxford Cancer Centre. “This is a really important factor,” Dr Penny Haggett explained. “Mammograms taken at the Horton can be quickly viewed by clinicians in Oxford, saving a great deal of time and ensuring consistency – something that makes a big difference when we want to make comparisons over a period of time.”

Cancer services at the Horton are seeing new investment this year. A fundraising effort, spearheaded by Yolanda Jacob, Fundraising Project Manager at the Horton, raised over £479,000 to extend the Brodey Centre, and pathology services at the Horton are scheduled for refurbishment within the coming months.

Mr Carl Griffiths, Consultant Surgeon, welcomed the new investment; “Clinical collaboration across a number of clinical specialties, including oncology and pathology, is a key factor in providing a good service to patients at the Horton. Having the right equipment, in the right environment, with excellent staff who work together as a team is hugely important too. I am confident that we now have the tools we need to make a difference to patients locally, and I am really pleased that we are investing in the Horton so that patients from the north of the county can access these services without having to go to Oxford.”

Dame Fiona Caldicott thanked everyone involved in delivering the service to patients. “It’s so important that we provide services in an environment with up to date facilities where patients can also be as comfortable as possible,” she said.
Tingewick raise £20k for charities – Oh yes they did!

Medical students of Oxford University’s Tingewick Society have raised over £20,000 for charity this year, the society’s 70th anniversary year.

Events were held throughout the year culminating with the annual charity pantomime that ran for four nights in Tingewick Hall at the JR during December 2009. With an all-star cast of over 150 fourth year medical students, as is Tingewick tradition, this year’s panto ‘Bedpan’s Labyrinth’ was organised by fifth year medical students who performed in the show in the previous year.

Tickets for the shows were free with charity donations collected from the audience at the end of each performance. The total will be split between this year’s charities – ROSY (Respite nursing for Oxfordshire’s Sick Youngsters), the Alzheimer’s Society and The Children’s Hospital Trust, South Africa.

Panto Director, Kath Middleton, said, “This year’s show was fantastic and I would like to thank everyone who made the show possible, especially all the hospital staff who came along, laughed loudly and gave so generously.”

Ama Guron, Community Fundraiser from The Alzheimer’s Society said, “We are very grateful to Tingewick Society for raising such an amazing amount. Funds raised will help us care for people today and to find a cure for tomorrow.”

Back to the floor

Elaine Strachan-Hall, ORH Director of Nursing and Clinical Leadership, works clinically every week around the Trust and tries to visit clinical areas at least twice every week, helping her keep in touch with frontline staff and update her clinical skills.

“There is no substitute for getting stuck in,” Elaine explained. “As a registered nurse it’s really important to me to spend time with patients and staff and I really enjoy it. The experiences I have on the wards are crucial to the decisions I make as part of the executive team.”

Elaine chats with patient Colin Moore about his experiences on the ward with Ward Coordinator, Bernie Halsey.

Commendation for mortuary staff

Mortuary staff at the John Radcliffe Hospital have received a Commendation for Mortuary Services from the Armed Forces’ Provost Marshall. The award was collected by the Mortuary Manager, on behalf of his team at a ceremony in July at the Bulford Camp army base. This award is recognition for the very sad and difficult work the staff do for the fallen soldiers who pass through the hospital after their repatriation. This is also a chance to thank the doctors, radiographers and other staff who help provide this service to the Ministry of Defence.
As belt-tightening increases, the ORH Fundraising Team wants to remind you that when we work together, massive improvements can be made to benefit both patients and staff in your area. On average, £7m of charitable money is raised for the Trust each year to fund ground-breaking research, state-of-the-art medical equipment, additional staff training and improved facilities – allowing us to go beyond the limits of standard NHS funding.

Amanda Lee, Deputy Matron for Neuro ITU, has looked after her ward’s fund for two years. She is enthusiastic about fundraising and has seen her department’s fund dramatically boosted by two recent events. Amanda told ORH News, “I have learned that with a bit of effort the results can be fantastic. Simple things, like putting up posters in waiting areas explaining what we are raising money for and what donations have recently bought, can bring great rewards. Staff, patients and their families like to see that they can make a difference and to know how their money is spent.”

A former Neuro ITU patient, 19 year old Joe Robinson, had just a 3% chance of survival after an horrific car crash. The teenager wanted to give something back to say thank you for the fantastic care he had received, so decided to raise money by cycling from Paris to the JR.

Joe Robinson (right) with Amanda Lee (second right) and staff from Neuro ITU. Joe’s fundraising total now stands at over £35,000.

“We heard from the Charitable Funds team that Joe was planning this epic journey and all the ITU team really got behind it. It is so inspiring to watch a former patient achieve something like this. Joe wanted to raise £20,000, enough to pay for a thermo cooling machine, and in fact went on to raise £15,000 more than that. We are now able to purchase a portable ventilator and monitor as well – a fantastic result.”

Staff from Neuro ITU helped the fundraising effort by taking part in ‘THE Abseil’, a sponsored abseil from the top of the Women’s Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital. “A team of 20 staff and supporters raised over £9,000 for our department,” Amanda explained. “It was brilliant for team morale and a real boost to see some of our former patients out of hospital doing so well – something we don’t normally get the chance to see. Sometimes you just have to put yourself out there and go for it! I feel incredibly proud of what we all achieved.”

Whilst donations cannot be used to support standard NHS costs, they can still make an incredibly positive impact. Although the successes of the major fundraising campaigns such as the Children’s Hospital (£14 million) and the Cancer Centre (nearly £3 million) can not be replicated for every department, Amanda has shown that teamwork can generate some great rewards.

“Our fund now has a very healthy bank balance and I am able to do so much more for the department, buying things that we simply don’t have the NHS budget for. I am at last able to refurbish the relatives’ waiting room, I’m sending nurses on additional training courses in London and buying all the equipment that Joe has fundraised for. It’s a brilliant feeling and a real boost for the team.”

ORH Charitable Funds is here to help you to fundraise in your ward or department – call 01865 743444 for a chat or email campaign@orh.nhs.uk
New robot speeds up drug delivery

The Churchill Hospital is now the proud home to a pharmacy robot, to help Churchill and Cancer Centre patients. This is thanks to the generosity of the Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund.

The new robot will speed up the process of dispensing drugs to patients and enables pharmacists to dispense drugs remotely – allowing a 24/7 service for the first time.

Head of Major Gifts Andrew House, explains, “The new pharmacy robot is the very best of modern technology. We are incredibly grateful to the Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund for this generous donation and forward-thinking support.”

Emma Pullen, Operational Services Manager, adds, “The Pharmacy team is delighted to have been given funding from the Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund to purchase this wonderful robot. We are so pleased to have been given the opportunity to work closely with the Fundraising team in implementing the project. It certainly brings home to you the importance of having a dedicated Charitable Funds team and the great benefits that they can help bring to departments.”

The Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund has also given a very significant donation towards the Brodey Cancer Centre at the Horton General Hospital.

COMING UP:

• Sunday 19 September – Abseil for the Children’s Hospital.

Show your support for the Children’s Hospital and Fund for Children (which supports children’s services across the Trust) by abseiling 100 feet down the side of the Women’s Centre at the JR. It costs just £10 to enter and we ask you to aim to raise at least £100 in sponsorship. Only 150 places available, so book your place now.

• Sunday 17 October – It’s Not Just a Walk in the Park 2010, 10.30am.

Join hundreds of people of all ages, shapes and sizes on this very special three mile sponsored walk around the beautiful Oxford University Parks. This event raises funds for both the Oxford Cancer Centre and the Oxford Heart Centre – you choose where your money goes.

Art in the atrium

Anyone visiting the atrium between the Children’s Hospital and West Wing can’t have failed to notice the huge painting that has been installed over recent months. The artwork, designed by Michael Craig-Martin, has been paid for entirely by donations made specifically for this purpose, thanks to the enthusiasm of long-term CHOx supporter, Felicity Waley-Cohen, in memory of her son, Tom.
Horse gets rocking restoration

The old rocking horse, formerly stabled at the Radcliffe Infirmary and now in the John Radcliffe Hospital’s West Wing, has just had a much needed makeover.

The 100 year old rocking horse has been a favourite with families for decades, but it was in great need of some tender loving care.

Thanks to five year old Magnus Cameron and his parents Paula and Alisdair, who kindly donated over £1,000, the horse has now been restored to its original beauty.

Paula said, “I remember playing on the rocking horse at the Radcliffe Infirmary when I was a child; now Magnus loves to play on him too whenever we visit. We are delighted to be able to help restore him to his former glory as a ‘thank you’ to the great staff at the Audiology Unit whom Magnus visits at least twice a year.”

Bernadette Mitchell, Sister of Specialist Surgery Outpatients Department said, “We are so grateful to the Cameron family for their fantastic contribution. The horse is a much loved and valued member of our ‘team’ – sadly, we simply could never have afforded to refurbish him.

“The horse provides entertainment and a distraction for the youngsters visiting the department – he is a real asset to the unit. I cannot begin to imagine the number of children that have ridden this horse over the years, it is truly wonderful to see him looking so beautiful and to have him for future generations of children visiting our department.”

Bowel cancer screening programme

NHS Oxfordshire has been allocated £600,000 by the Department of Health to spend on a bowel cancer screening programme over the next two years.

Everyone aged between 60 and 69 – the most likely age group to contract bowel cancer – will be sent kits, which include three ‘windows’ where three separate stool samples should be placed. They are then sent back in a freepost envelope to an ORH laboratory where the stool samples are checked for blood.

Helen Savage, the ORH Screening Centre Manager, said since the programme had started in January, the centre had sent out 13,000 tests. So far, it has received 5,500 back. Helen said, “The earlier the cancer is picked up, the better. If cancer is picked up at an early stage, survival rates are as high as 95% as opposed to a 5% if it is picked up in the later stages.”

AGM 2010

OXFORD MEETING
Wednesday 15 September
Lecture Theatre 1, Academic Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU
6.00pm - 7.30pm (refreshments from 5.30pm)

BANBURY MEETING
Tuesday 21 September
Banbury Town Hall, Bridge Street, OX16 5QB
3.30pm - 5.00pm (refreshments from 2.30pm)