

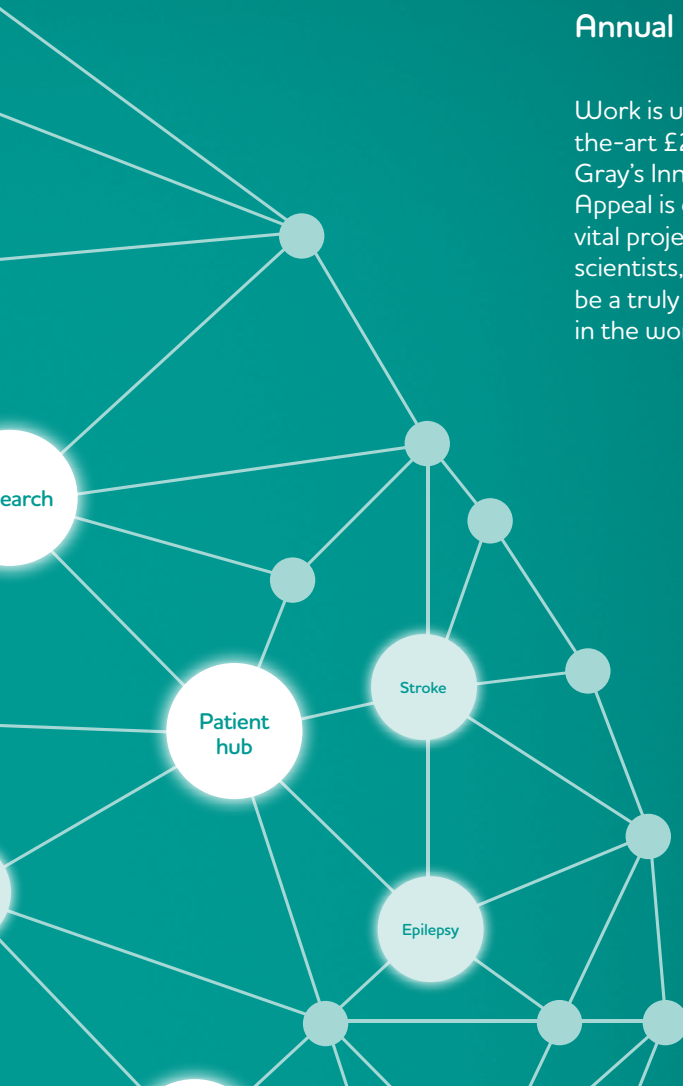
The National
Brain Appeal
Funding advances
in neurology and
neurosurgery

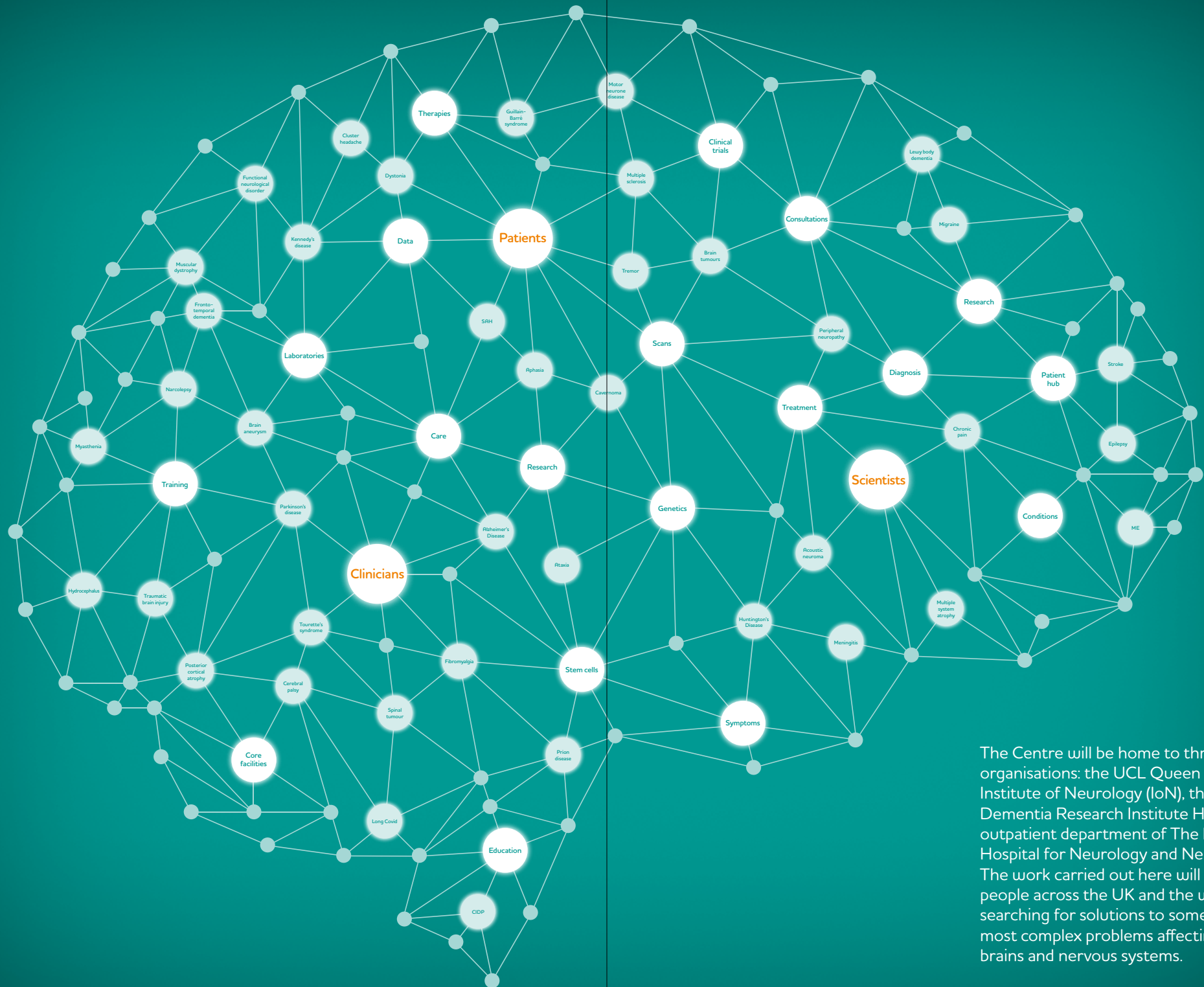
NEURO
MUSCULAR
BRAIN INJURY
STROKE EPILEPSY
BRAIN TUMOUR
DEMENTIA
PARKINSON
MIGRAINE
SPINAL
MULTIPLE
SCLEROSIS

CONNECTING & COLLABORATING

Annual Review 2021

Work is underway on a new state-of-the-art £281m neuroscience centre on Gray's Inn Road – and The National Brain Appeal is delighted to be a part of this vital project which will connect research scientists, clinicians and patients. This will be a truly groundbreaking collaboration in the world of neurology...





The Centre will be home to three organisations: the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology (IoN), the Dementia Research Institute Hub and the outpatient department of The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. The work carried out here will benefit people across the UK and the world, searching for solutions to some of the most complex problems affecting our brains and nervous systems.

• A new home for neuroscience

Nearly 15million people in this country are affected by a neurological or neurodegenerative condition.

These diseases include dementia, stroke, motor neurone disease, neuromuscular diseases, brain cancers, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and epilepsy to name just few. They account for 13% of global disease prevalence – more than cardiovascular disease and cancer combined* and the annual cost to the UK is estimated to be £134bn.

The entire £281m project is fundamental to fulfilling the Queen Square 20-year clinical vision and strategy: to establish a research hospital that is pre-eminent in clinical care, research and teaching, and aims to improve the clinical outcomes and quality of life for every individual living with a neurological disorder.

By co-locating ground-breaking neurological disease research alongside world-class translational clinical facilities,

clinicians and researchers will be better placed to investigate the global health challenges of these disabling and life-limiting conditions, and to quickly put new treatments into action.

Within the building, a range of core facilities including stem cell, genetics, gene therapy and imaging will be shared by researchers across disciplines. This will enable joined-up working across neuroscience teams, improving diagnostic and therapeutic advances and translating science to clinical practice – directly benefitting patients. A truly concept-to-care approach. The building will also provide an inspiring environment in which to train the next generation of translational neuroscientists.

The National Brain Appeal is proud to be funding three areas: a stem cell facility, two MRI scanners and a patient research hub.

*Collins et al. 2011

1 Stem Cell Facility

Researchers at the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology are already world-leaders in stem cell research and this lab will provide a highly progressive facility to generate and maintain stem cells.

Skin biopsies taken from patients will be 'transformed' into stem cells and then their dysfunctional cells will be grown in a petri dish. These can then be used to speed up the development and testing of new treatments and therapies. This process will touch the face of truly personalised medicine to treat some of the most devastating and complex neurological and neuromuscular conditions. The facility will be led by Professor Rickie Patani and Professor Selina Wray.



Stem cell modelling has revolutionised the way we model diseases in the lab, allowing us to create patient-specific disease models in a dish. This approach will increase the likelihood of lab findings translating into clinical benefit, which is the core aim of everything we do"

Professor Selina Wray

2 MRI Scanning Unit

This suite of six MRI scanners – in addition to those already operating at The National Hospital – will create one of the largest research-focused neuroradiology scanning facilities in the world.

Such an integrated clinical-research facility will enable access to the most advanced imaging techniques which will improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients. It will accelerate the immediate translation of research innovation into clinical care.

Patients will only need to attend one appointment for their clinical and research scan, greatly improving the efficacy and ease of the patient experience.

The National Brain Appeal has committed to fund the purchase of two 3T MRI scanners for research and clinical use – and these two scanners alone will be able to scan 7,000 people annually. The unit will be led by Professor Tarek Yousry.

3 Patient Research Hub

Currently, around 190,000 patients are seen in The National Hospital clinics each year – yet only 3,000 of these people take part in clinical research. The new, dedicated hub will accelerate enrolment with patient-oriented research promoted from the very first clinic appointment onwards.

Ongoing research will be widely publicised to those attending clinics, and patients will be encouraged to participate and use the dedicated spaces on site to get a detailed explanation of what is involved and for the necessary tests to be done. Research ambassadors will be on hand to answer questions and encourage enrolment in a welcoming and informative setting.

It's expected that this will lead to 25,000 people volunteering to take part in research every year. The creation of the research hub will be led by Professor John Duncan, Dr Chris Turner and Professor Olga Ciccarelli.



The state of the art MRI unit to be constructed at Gray's Inn Road will incorporate both research and clinical MRI scanning. This will be invaluable as new imaging methods will be developed on site and can be quickly introduced into clinical practice, and individuals can have regular clinical scans and research scans at the same visit"

Professor John Duncan



This research hub will be a world leading, state-of-the-art facility. Its co-location alongside the clinical facilities will maximise the potential of every appointment. The proximity of the clinical areas to research labs will also enable patient and public interaction with researchers working on the conditions that affect them. This will be highly motivating for research teams, and inspiring for patients who will recognise the efforts being made to improve their lives"

Dr Chris Turner



All artist's impressions of UCL's new neuroscience centre on Gray's Inn Road. All rights reserved by UCL.

Top: The north side of the new building on Gray's Inn Road.

Middle row: The new building will focus on the sharing of equipment, space and services to encourage a collaborative, efficient and sustainable way of working.

Left: The MRI imaging suite

• A letter from our Chief Executive



Despite the unpredictable times we have been living in, we are so grateful to everyone who has supported The National Brain Appeal.

We fully expected that we would need to delay or withdraw funding due to the impact of Covid and it is incredible that this was not necessary and in fact we were able to support a whole host of new projects, including two major capital appeals. It is amazing to know that we can rely on you to help us fund crucial projects at Queen Square.

“This neuroscience centre will be the biggest new collaborative development in the UK since the 1950s”

Since the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology was established in 1950 alongside The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, it has become one of the world's most successful centres of excellence and has demonstrated the importance of having patients and scientists close together.

The neuroscience centre at Gray's Inn Road will be the biggest new collaborative development in the field in the UK in 70 years – bringing patients, scientists and clinicians together with the best equipment, new technologies and educational facilities under one roof. This will enable everyone to look, listen and learn in new and exciting ways.

It provides a unique opportunity to connect and collaborate, enabling patients to participate more in research and be involved in finding the solutions while learning more about their conditions alongside their clinicians and researchers. It has to be the way forward, working together for the good of all.

The work has already begun on the building itself – now we need to make sure the funds are raised to ensure everything within it is of the highest possible specification.

Do keep an eye on our updates as we move ahead and thank you again for your support.

Theresa Dauncey
Chief Executive
The National Brain Appeal

• How we raise our money

Your support powers our work. The projects we fund are enabling research, improving diagnosis with the latest technology and helping to train the next generation of clinicians – but we just couldn't do it without you.

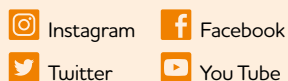
And this past year has been a year like no other – while some of our in-person events had to be cancelled, many moved online.

But our team and supporters adapted and thought creatively, and incredibly we managed to exceed our targets and

although some projects were delayed other new ones were funded.

You are our heroes. The money you donate, the fundraising challenges you take on, the gifts-in-kind you provide and the time you volunteer all helps to improve life for the one in six of us affected by a neurological condition.

To see more of our fabulous fundraisers, follow us:



Our thanks to all the grant-making trusts and organisations who supported our work including:

A Letter In Mind
The Foyle Foundation

Education and Staff Development
Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust

Emergency Fund
The Danny Sullivan Group
Zendium

General/Queen Square
Aylesfield Foundation
Basil Samuel Charitable Trust
Cecil Rosen Foundation
G L Doubleday Charitable Trust
Joseph Strong Frazer Trust
Lord Barnby's Foundation
Lund Trust, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin

Oldhurst Trust
Philip and Psiche Hughes Trust
Rest-Harrow Trust
The Kariya Family Trust
Three T Charity
Toye Charitable Trust
WRA Charitable Trust

Immunotherapy
Ambrose & Ann Appelbe Trust
Dromintee Trust
Q Charitable Trust

Innovation Fund
C A Pilgrim 3
Consuelo and Anthony Brooke Charitable Trust
James Weir Foundation

Neurorehabilitation
SameYou

Neurosurgery
The Stella Foundation

Rare Dementia Support and Rare Dementia Support Centre
Barclays 100x100 UK COVID-19 Community Relief Fund
Dementia Services Development Trust – Disruption Award
Girdlers' Company Charitable Trust
Lindt & Sprüngli (UK)
Mercer's Charitable Foundation
October 09 Charitable Trust
Rosetrees Trust
Selfridges Group Foundation

Small Acorns Fund
A.B. David Charity

• Some of our wonderful supporters



Our Christmas Carol Concert went online for the first time and the Queen Square staff collaborated for a Christmas song



A Letter in Mind also went solely online and was our biggest year for artwork sales – with more than 550 artists taking part



Our 2020 Marathon team had to run the distance locally to comply with lockdown rules, but still raised £23,000 altogether!



Lucy Luck bravely plumped for a sponsored headshave



National Hospital HR Business Partner James Hilton ran the challenging Beachy Head Marathon



Hundreds of you bought our National Brain Appeal face masks



Trustee Caroline Church held a Virtual Quiz Night and raised an astonishing £14,000!




Celebrities – such as Peter Capaldi (above) – read stories for our YouTube channel in aid of our Emergency Fund when the pandemic first hit



Lizi Hislop ran every day in advent to raise money in memory of her mum who had a rare form of dementia

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