

People's sight matters



Moorfields
Eye Charity

Visibility

Spring 2023 | Issue 21



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Oriel enters a new phase

It's all systems go for Oriel, the joint initiative between Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology and Moorfields Eye Charity as construction of this new integrated centre for eye health starts this year.

Demolition has started to prepare the site for construction. We're working closely with our new neighbours, the local community, staff and patients. Find out about patient Rob Jones' aspirations for Oriel on page 10. Philanthropy is playing a vital role in the delivery of Oriel and we are very grateful to our donors for their generous support to date and to those of you who have expressed an interest in hearing more about how you can help to realise our plans. The new centre will bring new treatments, faster than ever before to millions of people in the UK and around the world.

We're delighted to announce that in November, Oriel received final NHS and government approval turning it from a proposal into a reality. This moment of celebration was marked with events in December thanking patients and staff who are helping to shape Oriel. The contract to build Oriel was awarded to Bouygues UK in February and construction will start later this year.

Street to a new integrated centre in St Pancras. Our vision is for innovation to flourish in this collaborative environment. It will enable the Moorfields and UCL partnership to deliver the highest quality clinical care and attract and retain the best ophthalmic researchers, educators and clinicians.

"I believe Oriel will be a positive facility within the local community, an important part of the London scientific and knowledge community as well as a great and truly world leading national ophthalmic centre."

Rob Jones, Moorfields patient, trustee Moorfields Eye Charity, Moorfields governor and vice-chair of the Oriel patient advisory group



Thank you to our donors to-date. If you'd like to find out how you can get involved, contact Rachel Jones by email at rachel.jones310@nhs.net or call 020 7521 4610.

Architectural impression, courtesy of AECOM / Penoyre & Prasad / White Arkitekter

Viewpoint

Robert Dufton, chief executive

Welcome to our spring issue of Visibility. As the days get warmer, we're looking forward to a busy year ahead with Oriel as construction of the new integrated centre for eye care, research and education begins this year. And thanks to your support our continued investment in innovations at Moorfields and the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology is benefitting so many patients and their families.

In this issue, we share updates on the impact of projects we're funding. We're very proud to have supported consultant Guy Negretti with a travel fellowship - learning from leading oncologists in the US will help people with eye cancer at Moorfields.

We celebrate the digital cataract service's award for innovation during the pandemic - now a

regular clinic. And we demystify the role of an optometrist following Dr Anish Jindal through a typical day at Moorfields. Rob Jones, a patient at Moorfields and charity trustee shares his inspirational story from an operation at six months old, and how the preservation of some sight in his right eye has enabled him to have an active life and career.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in Eye to Eye. Your fundraising is enabling us to do so much more. Thank you for supporting us in so many different ways whether donating to an appeal, volunteering, leaving a gift in your will or playing the lottery. We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Supporting wellbeing

Mental health support for young people

Sight loss can have a significant emotional and psychological impact on people's lives. Mental health issues have been well-documented in adults with sight loss. However, little is known about the wellbeing of young people who have been recently diagnosed with, or are living with, vision loss.

We're funding a PhD studentship involved in important research by Dr Michael Crossland, optometrist at Moorfields and senior research fellow at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, examining the impact of inherited macular disease on wellbeing and mental health. Dr Crossland is working with a

multidisciplinary team including psychologists, a psychotherapist, ophthalmologists, a paediatrician, a specialist teacher and the parent of a young person with inherited macular disease.

The PhD student is investigating the impact of vision loss on wellbeing, participation, social connectedness, quality of life, depression and anxiety. Working with young people and their parents and carers, they're determining what type of support will be required to maximise wellbeing and mental health in these people.

The aim of this study is to create a useful package of support developed by service-users which will improve patients' wellbeing.

Health and wellbeing advisor for staff

With support from NHS Charities Together, we're funding a newly created health and wellbeing advisor role at Moorfields. The advisor Kate Godfree will focus on improving staff engagement, mental health and wellbeing, and inclusivity across the trust.

In a few short months, Kate has already engaged with high numbers of staff via in-person events, learning sessions and webinars on a diverse range of subjects from managing finances to menopause awareness, nutrition, and pilates classes.

Next steps include growing and embedding sustained good health and wellbeing practice and developing 'communities of practice' by recruiting advocates across the Moorfields network of sites who can help champion wellbeing, raise awareness and signpost resources.

Fundraising news

Thank you to our Eye to Eye walkers!

It was a wonderful atmosphere on 5 March with over 300 patients, friends, family, staff, researchers and dogs all walking to raise money to support the essential and life-changing work of Moorfields. The routes passed by the site of Oriel, the new integrated home for Moorfields and the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, opening in 2027.

At our virtual version, My Eye to Eye, 30 people walked, ran or cycled to fundraise for Moorfields.

"A huge thank you from the charity, Moorfields and UCL – you're all an inspiration. We love having everyone together and know what a difference the fundraising will make to people with sight loss."

Jo Green, Head of fundraising and engagement



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Play our lottery – win £25,000

Moorfields Eye Charity

1 2 3

Lottery

For as little as £1 a week, you can help us invest in a better future for people with sight loss and be in with a chance of winning £25,000 and other huge prizes.

Your stake goes towards supporting the ground-breaking work at Moorfields and UCL.

Play our lottery today at moorfieldseyecharity.org.uk/lottery
You can also contact us by emailing moorfields.eyecharity@nhs.net or calling 020 7566 2565.





Investing in the future of ocular oncology

In honour of the late Victoria Cohen, world-renowned expert in ocular oncology, we awarded a fellowship to Moorfields consultant, Guy Negretti. Guy has gained an international perspective on eye cancer to benefit patients at Moorfields.

The field of ocular oncology has a small community of around 300 consultants worldwide. It enables practitioners to gain diverse experiences and perspectives through collaboration and sharing of information. This can lead to advancements in the field and new treatments, resulting in better patient care overall.

What is ocular oncology?

Ocular oncology deals with the diagnosis and treatment of tumours and cancer of the eye and surrounding tissues. It encompasses a wide range of conditions, including tumours of the eyelid, conjunctiva, uvea, retina, and orbit. Ocular oncologists are trained to manage these tumours through surgery, radiation therapy, and/or chemotherapy. They also work closely with other medical specialists, such as oncologists and radiologists, to provide comprehensive care for patients with ocular tumours.

Collaborating with the best

In 2022, we awarded Moorfields consultant, Guy Negretti, a travel fellowship. Guy spent six months working as an ocular oncology fellow at the Wills Eye Hospital in the United States. He also visited other major North American ocular oncology centres, such as Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York, The Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto, Byers Eye Institute at Stanford, and The Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles. This allowed Guy to gain an international perspective on the management of eye cancer so he could take his practice to a world class level.

Insights for the future

During his fellowship, Guy gained a thorough understanding of the research and studies that form the foundation for the practice of ocular oncology. At Wills Eye Hospital, Guy collaborated with Professor Carol

Shields. She is an expert in the field of ophthalmic oncology and has authored some of the most important studies in the field. Doing research with Dr Shields gave Guy insights into how to efficiently frame research questions, organise a team of

researchers and write up results. This knowledge is crucial in ensuring that his practice is evidence-based. It will support the design of future research studies at Moorfields and improve outcomes for patients.

“I hope that my fellowship will allow me to ensure that patients at Moorfields are getting the absolute best treatment anywhere in the world. This will mean they have the best possible chance for survival, vision preservation and for quality of life following their diagnosis.”

Guy Negretti, Moorfields consultant



The potential

During his time in the US, Guy established strong relationships with other experts in the field from all over the world. These connections are valuable for future research collaboration, such as a proposed study on

screening low-risk patients for retinoblastoma between London and Toronto. Guy’s fellowship will bring significant benefits to science, education, and clinical practice at Moorfields, positively impacting

patients, staff, students and the general public. Through his important contributions to major studies at Wills Eye Hospital, Guy is involved in work that has the potential to change practice worldwide too.

The Victoria Cohen Eye Cancer Charitable Trust

In honour of the late Victoria Cohen, her husband Nick Rapley has established the Victoria Cohen Eye Cancer Charitable Trust to offer scholarships to individuals who require financial aid for their training and education in the field of ocular oncology.

Congratulations to the digital cataract service at Moorfields for winning the Moorfields Eye Charity award for innovation and improvement at Moorfields Stars 2022! This event celebrated the achievements of staff and volunteers at Moorfields and UCL.



Innovation award for cataract service

The cataract service was severely disrupted due to Covid-19 and this caused a backlog of cataract patients. The cataract team at the Croydon network site set up and put into practice a telemedicine model to deliver cataract care, replacing face-to-face cataract assessment with a virtual consultation.

The service is now a regular clinic and the team is looking to expand to other Moorfields sites.

Why is their work so outstanding?

The team acted quickly, extending the digital platform used in A&E and combining it with imaging technology. The entire team from clinicians, nurses, managers, clinic managers and matron pulled together to not only help reduce the backlog during the pandemic but demonstrate a new way of working.

What impact has this had?

- demonstrated it is safe with a lower national complication rate compared to traditional face-to-face services.
- high conversion to surgery rate at 93% compared to the national average of 74% enabling surgery to be carried out safely by all levels of surgeons.
- reduced the overall assessment time to 1.5 hours compared to a 3-4 hour wait in a face-to-face clinic.
- 24% of patients (demographics mean likely to be digitally excluded) were able to access the service from home.

Overall the digital cataract service provides a safe, effective, efficient way of delivering cataract care with a reduced carbon footprint by minimising patient and staff travelling, and with excellent patient feedback.

“It was ace...this sort of consultation should continue.” Patient

The Moorfields Stars judges were particularly impressed by the data that backed up the winning submission. They felt the project covers many stages of innovation from trying something out to embedding it within the trust’s operations. Moorfields Eye Charity supports the Moorfields Stars event and awards for innovation and improvement, and the award for charity champion.



Optometrists help us all look after our eyes. Ever wondered what the difference is between an optician, optometrist and ophthalmologist? We follow a typical day for Dr Anish Jindal at Moorfields, an experienced optometrist of almost 20 years.



Day in the life of an optometrist

Optometrists examine the eyes to detect defects in vision, signs of injury, ocular diseases or abnormality and problems with general health, such as high blood pressure or diabetes. They make a health assessment, offer clinical advice, prescribe spectacles or contact lenses and refer patients for further treatment, when necessary.

Opticians are usually the sites where optometrists work within the community and where people buy spectacles and contact lenses. Optometrists were previously known as opticians.

My day:

I split my time between working with patients and doing research and training.

I currently work in A&E at Moorfields Eye Hospital at City Road, where optometrists, nurses and ophthalmologists all work together. As well as prescribing spectacles, I can also treat and manage ocular diseases. Many of the optometrists working at Moorfields have achieved additional qualifications such as those being able to independently prescribe and work autonomously.

Morning

- In A&E, after the patients have been triaged by our nurse team (the HSJ award-winning A&E online triage service), I take the patient through and discuss their history, signs and symptoms. This is followed by clinical investigations which could involve photographs, swabs, ultrasound and blood samples.
- Once I have examined the patient and interpreted the results, I form a management plan and prescribe where necessary.

- In cases that are high risk, these are usually escalated to the consultant in the team, another specialist at Moorfields or externally to another hospital if they need alternative treatment.

“It is incredibly satisfying to manage and treat patients whilst working in an experienced team where expertise and knowledge is being shared.”

Afternoon

- As an honorary associate professor at UCL, I carry out research and support the education of clinicians.
- This goes hand in hand with my other role as joint associate education director at Moorfields and UCL helping to strengthen the relationship between these two great institutions and deliver the next generation of optometrists.

What inspired you to become an optometrist?

I always wanted to help people and being myopic myself, I was naturally curious about eyes and wanted to learn more. Optometry was the ideal career choice!

What’s the best thing about working at Moorfields and UCL?

The ability to work within fantastic multi-disciplinary teams. I am constantly learning and the Moorfields and UCL partnership means there are opportunities to keep making patient care better and better.

Rob's Moorfields' journey

Rob has had multiple eye operations throughout his life to preserve the residual vision in his right eye. He is blind in his left eye. Thanks to Moorfields' care, he has had an accomplished career. Now retired, he is active in voluntary roles at Moorfields including helping to shape Oriel.

Rob was born with congenital glaucoma otherwise known as buphthalmos. He was operated on at the age of six months in 1948. The right eye operation gave him a very low level of vision.

Care at Moorfields

During his childhood his care was transferred to Moorfields Eye Hospital and leading world experts whom he still sees today. Rob sustained a retinal detachment and developed a cataract in his seeing eye, the cornea had also become ulcerated. Surgery restored a very limited level of vision. His level of sight is just a little more than light perception.



Rob Jones with Vesper

“This small level of sight is crucial, it has greatly supported me in key roles, also at home and in many other spheres of my life. I’m very thankful to Moorfields.”

An active career and life

Rob is a chartered physiotherapist and worked in the NHS for 40 years, including in senior management and leadership roles.

He is a former chair of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. He has served on Department of Health working groups and is author of many papers, articles and books. He has also gained a MPhil in social policy and a PhD in management/leadership.

Rob takes part in Eye to Eye almost every year, with his wife Gill as his guide. He has five grandchildren and a labrador called Vesper. He also enjoys Latin American and ballroom dancing.

Helping shape Oriel

Since he retired, Rob has been a Moorfields governor for nearly 20 years and a trustee of Moorfields Eye Charity since 2017. He is also vice-chair of the Oriel patient advisory group. He wants to ensure that the new centre is fully accessible and has the best possible facilities for patients and carers, staff, researchers and educators.

Rob believes Oriel will be a positive facility within the local community, an important part of the London scientific and knowledge community as well as a great and truly world leading national ophthalmic centre.



Our gifts in wills programme

Are you thinking about writing or rewriting your will? We’ve lots of help available to you ranging from a planner to set out your will ‘wishes’, a log for the information your executors will need and of course, our free will writing offers.

In the summer of 2022, we launched our new free face to face will writing scheme where you don’t have to leave the comfort of your home to have a solicitor written will prepared for you. This sits alongside our

free online will writing offer, which now includes a half hour consultation with a solicitor. If you’d like more details of either scheme, please get in touch with Jackie Birch our legacy development manager.

You can also get in touch with Jackie about any will-related questions you might have – she’s very happy to help.

For more information, contact Jackie Birch on email jacqueline.birch1@nhs.net or by calling 020 7521 4697



“My vision went blurry and after attending A&E at Moorfields I was diagnosed with uveitis. I have received such wonderful care and by including provision in my will to Moorfields Eye Charity, it’s my way of giving something back for all the help I have received.

I’m so very grateful for everything Moorfields has done for me and I hope this gift helps them to continue the work which has benefitted me so much in my lifetime.”

Mike O’Dwyer, Moorfields patient and legacy pledger



How you can get involved

There are many ways in which you can support us: set up a regular direct debit, leave a gift to us in your will, do your own fundraising, play the lottery, or donate to one of our seasonal appeals – these are just a few of them.

Regular giving – support us with a regular gift and have an impact on the future of eye health

Lottery – play our weekly lottery, win £25,000 and support Moorfields at the same time

Fundraising event – cycling, running or walking – we have lots of challenges to get you active

DIY fundraising – hold a cake sale, play a 24 hour game-athon - you can be as creative as you like!

Remember us in your will - become part of our supporters' circle - the Moorfields Visionaries

Summer appeal – look out for this launching in June

Volunteer – help us in the charity hub and at events!

Visit moorfieldseyecharity.org.uk for more details on the projects we fund and our support of innovations.

Get in touch

For further details: **Email:** moorfields.eyecharity@nhs.net **Tel:** 020 7566 2565

If you have a specific enquiry:

Individual giving – John Painter, john.painter1@nhs.net or 020 7566 2633

Leaving a gift in your will – Jackie Birch, jacqueline.birch1@nhs.net or 020 7521 4697

Fundraising events – Jo Green, joanne.green28@nhs.net or 020 7521 4614

Major giving, trusts and foundations – Julide Troedson, julide.troedson@nhs.net or 020 7521 4610

Oriel fundraising campaign – Rachel Jones, rachel.jones310@nhs.net or 020 7521 4610

Research and grant making programme – Ailish Murray, ailish.murray1@nhs.net or 020 7566 2632

Volunteering – Jo Green, joanne.green28@nhs.net or 020 7521 4614

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