



## In Search of A Cure

**T**he Lions International Blood Research Appeal (LIBRA) recently launched the 'Tree of Life' fundraising campaign to help power the creation of ground breaking new treatments for blood cancer patients at King's College Hospital, in London. LIBRA is the hospital's official haematology charity and its world class haematology department relies on our funding.

We need your support to raise £100,000 to cover the cost of four items of specialist equipment, urgently needed for clinical studies into Acute Myeloid Leukaemia, Lymphoblastic Leukaemia, Myeloma and other life limiting blood conditions. Now is your chance to be a part of our campaign to save lives.

LIBRA Trustees work closely with Professor Ghulam Mufti OBE, Head of the Haematol-

ogy Department at King's College Hospital. His department will use the funding to cover the cost of four essential items of equipment that will enable ground-breaking research into adult blood cancers. So far £25,000 has been raised, so there is still a long way to go.

Professor Ghulam Mufti OBE said: "Our aim is to find a real cure or very long-term control for our patients. Please support LIBRA's Tree of Life Campaign. Now is your opportunity to help another human being. By supporting our work, you are helping to get rid of the suffering associated with blood cancers. We need your funds to help us carry out our vital research."

**Please support our Tree of Life campaign and visit [www.libralionscharity.org](http://www.libralionscharity.org) to find out how you can make a difference.**

# ERADICATING LEUKAEMIAS



**Professor Ghulam Mufti OBE explains how LIBRA funded equipment will be of great benefit for studies into various types of leukaemia...**

targets a specific mutation most effectively, resulting in better outcomes for adult patients. To carry out this vital research we require a LIBRA funded Chromium Single Cell Controller and Accessory Kit.

"We also need funding for a Thermal Cycler to help us make multiple copies of cells for research purposes. If there are abnormal genes in a cell we have to make many copies for our studies. We study genetics, how the abnormal genes respond to treatments – and that is when we can see when we are able to eradicate a mutation in leukaemic cells.

"Thanks to LIBRA funding we will also be able to purchase an Incubator and Freezer, providing extra storage capacity. We need to store more patient cells so that we have more samples to work with. This will help us to gain an insight into the diversity in leukaemias."

**Find out more at [www.libralionscharity.org](http://www.libralionscharity.org)**

"Through extensive research we now know that leukaemic cells act in very different ways, which is why leukaemia can recur in patients who have been treated. Going forward we must study single leukemic cells, many thousands, to realise the various and most common genetic mutations. This is known as 'single cell genomics'.

"We can then identify which cells we are successfully able to treat and we will have a clearer understanding of which treatment

## ORDER YOUR CARDS

LIBRA notelet cards featuring a peacock design are now available for you to buy in packs of six. The beautiful artwork was created by professional designers at White Cotton Cards in Surrey. These blank cards can be used for any occasion.

A pack of six cards cost just £4.50, with an additional £1 postage charge. Please email [info@libralionscharity.org](mailto:info@libralionscharity.org) if you would like to place an order. For an additional £1 donation we will send you a LIBRA pen.



# LIBRA Supporters Tour King's



LIBRA Trustees held a special evening for supporters at King's on 5th September 2017. The event provided Lions members from across the South East with the opportunity to meet with Professors and to visit some of the LIBRA supported wards. They also enjoyed a buffet and drinks. Trustee Geoff Jeal organised the event with King's and he joined LIBRA Chairman Andrew Lodge in welcoming 45 Lions to the hospital.

They introduced Lion Chandra Kumar, President of Woolwich and Greenwich Lions Club. In 1975 the Club was instrumental in bringing the plight of the then run-down Haematology Department at King's to the attention of Lions in the South East.

Professor Ghulam Mufti OBE and his colleague Farzin Farzaneh, Professor of Molecular Medicine, reflected on the growth of the department that has occurred since the early days and they looked positively towards the future.

Professor Mufti OBE announced: "Had it not been for LIBRA, we wouldn't be where we are today. LIBRA kick-started this and now we are growing bigger. Our goal is to become world leaders in disorders of the blood and we plan to develop a haematology institute on the King's site here at Denmark Hill.

If the funding required is in place, we aim to begin the build of the institute in 2018. If all goes to plan we will be able to take on more

research projects and develop even more treatments for patients with blood cancers and many other disorders of the blood."

Professor Farzin Farzaneh went on to discuss immune gene therapy and said: "Thanks to LIBRA funded equipment, we now produce all the viral vectors required by research laboratories across Europe, for gene therapy trials at centres including Great Ormond Street Hospital and University College London.

"We continue to develop a new vaccine for Acute Myeloid Leukaemia and we are seeing real results in patients who are taking part in trials. We see their cells fighting the leukaemia. The knowledge that we gain from our research and clinical trials will help us to better treat patients with blood cancers, but also those with solid tumours and metastatic cancers."

Following presentations, £1,000 was donated to LIBRA by Lion President Terry Parr, Whitstable and Herne Bay Lions Club. Guests then enjoyed a tour of the ELF and LIBRA Ward, and the Davidson Ward where the new LIBRA funded Ambulatory Care Unit is situated.

It was here that visitors could see some of the equipment LIBRA has funded, making it possible for the hospital's haematology team to undertake outpatient allogeneic bone marrow and stem cell transplants.



Give a little  
this Christmas

## Every time you shop online, you can give to LIBRA during the festive season!

Each item you buy online this Christmas and throughout 2018 can help raise funds for LIBRA. Easy and quick to install, Give as you Live allows you to do your shopping at all your favourite online stores and support the essential work being undertaken by King's haematology team.

The good news is that it isn't just for Christmas – it can be use all year round! You can use Give as you Live, a popular fundraising price comparison site, to ensure you get the best deal on anything from holidays, utilities, clothes, to household essentials.

Make your purchase from over 3,500 retailers including Amazon, eBay, M&S, Sainsbury's and John Lewis. A percentage of the value will be donated to LIBRA without costing you a penny.

Every penny raised will go to the Haematology Department so that new lifesaving treatments for patients with blood disorders and cancers

 @LIBRACharity

 LibraCharity

Tel: 01428 656283

can be created. Please support LIBRA this Christmas and buy your loved ones' gifts that keep on giving long after they have been received.

**All you need to do is sign up at**

**[www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/libra](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/libra)**

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If online shopping isn't for you then please consider making a donation via our website, where there is a 'ways to give' section.

Some generous supporters ask family and friends to make donations to LIBRA in place of presents.

Alternatively, you might like to organise a festive fundraising activity such as a Christmas drinks party, raffle or cake sale, with proceeds going to LIBRA.

Don't forget there are even more opportunities to raise funds in the New Year! Why not organise a fancy dress party or fireworks display and ask your guests to make a donation to attend?

**Thank you for your generous support!**

**[www.libralionscharity.org](http://www.libralionscharity.org)**

***Supporting King's Since 1976  
Charity Number 276685***