

2021/22

Annual supporter update



Alfred, clinical trial participant and Cancer Insights Panel member, with his partner Grace

Thank **you**  
for bringing  
hope to  
everyone  
affected  
by cancer

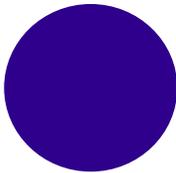


CANCER  
RESEARCH  
UK

Together we will beat cancer



# Thank you for playing your part



## Together we're...

beating cancer .....	4
celebrating a year of you.....	6
celebrating our 20th anniversary .....	10
preventing cancer .....	14
diagnosing cancer earlier.....	16
optimising existing treatments .....	18
funding new research.....	20
collaborating around the world.....	22
looking ahead .....	24

**1 in 2 people**  
will get cancer in  
their lifetime\*. All  
of us can support  
the research that  
will beat it.

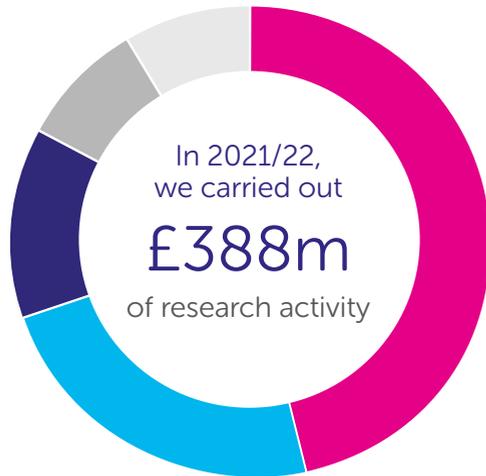
\*Ahmad A.S. et al. British Journal of Cancer, 2015





# Together we're beating cancer

## Breaking down our annual research activity



**£193m**  
Specific cancer types – research projects focused on specific types of cancer.

**£79m**  
Relevant to all types of cancer – this includes research infrastructure, for example, research studies looking at cancer survival.

**£62m**  
Basic research – into the understanding of the fundamental biology of cancer.

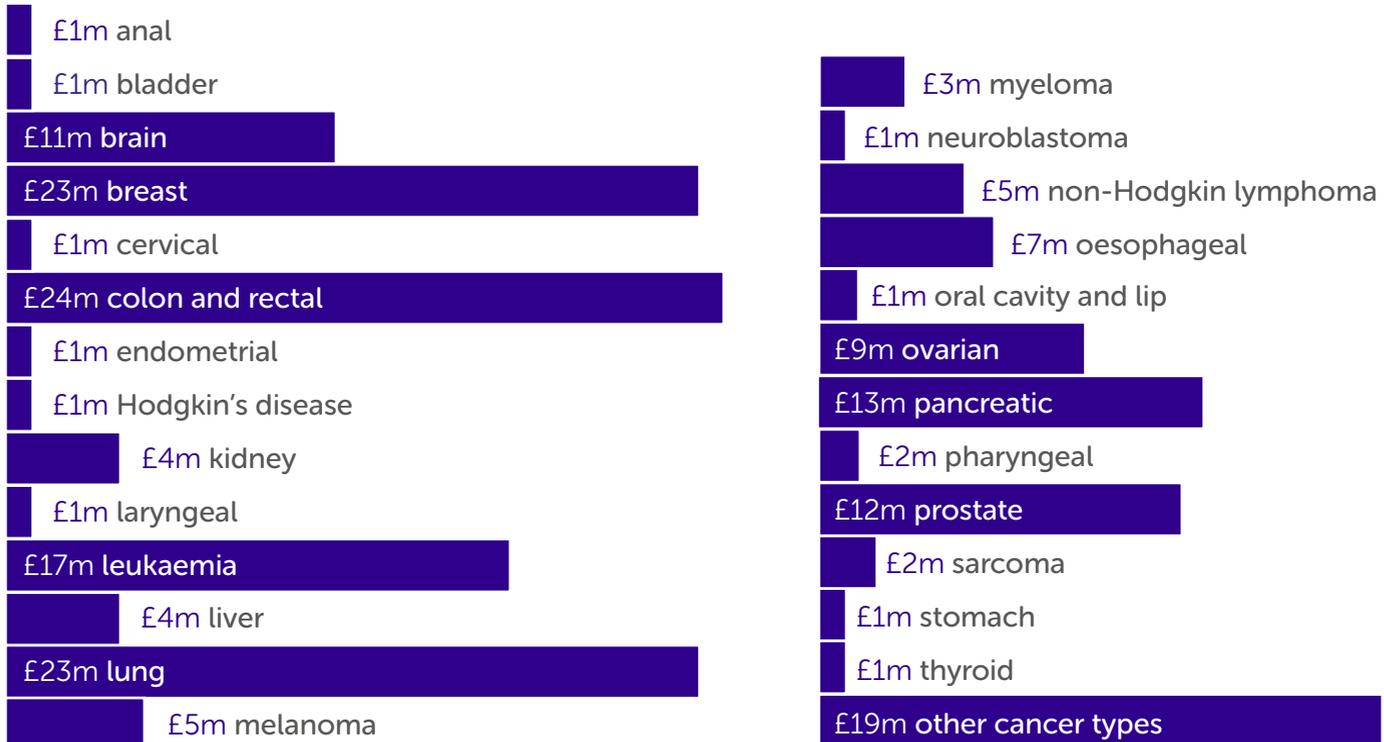
**£22m**  
Research admin and support costs – this includes costs to support our research activity, such as peer review, grant management, IT and more.

**£32m**  
Revenue shares – the portion of royalty income from the innovations we've developed passed on to others involved in the research.

In 2021/22, we spent **£13.4m** on research specific to cancers that affect 0–24-year-olds, making us the biggest charitable funder of research into children's and young people's cancers in the UK.



# Research into specific cancer types





# Celebrating a year of **you** in numbers



---

**30,000** of you volunteered your time this year to support our work – that's enough of you to fill the Royal Albert Hall over **5** times.



---

Cancer Research UK is **20** years old this year and over **1,000** of you have volunteered with us for that whole time.



---

**56,841** of you made your voice heard and signed a petition for the UK Government to invest in the NHS cancer workforce.

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR



---

Thanks to your donations, our online shop raised over **£1.6m**.

You used over **20** different types of transport (including tractors) in your fundraising efforts.



---

**890,689** of you gave a total of over **£83m** to our life-saving work through regular gifts.



---

You raised over **£19m** with your fundraising challenges, with over **155,000** of you playing your part.

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG





---

**1** world record was smashed by Kat, Abby and Charlotte who rowed **3,000** miles across the Atlantic Ocean **7** days faster than the previous record.



---

**26,729** of you took part in over **170** fundraising events across the country.

**7,875** of you pledged a gift in your Will, leaving a legacy of a future free from the fear of cancer.



---

You loved our Christmas cards – we sold **13 million** to fund vital research.

You raised **£17.7m** by taking part in Race for Life – we all have a reason to Race.



SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC



Together with

## Mike

Mike, aged 91 and from South Wales, has fundraised ever since his youngest daughter was diagnosed with cancer in 1983. After her final round of chemotherapy, she said, "Perhaps we ought to give something back". Nearly 30 years on, Mike has been awarded an MBE for his fundraising and just recently hit his target of £1m #MikesMillion to Cancer Research UK with the Newport and District Group of Friends.

## “ Mike says:

We've raised over £1m and we've done it by any possible means. One of the things personally I've done, I've made and sold more than 2,000 jars of marmalade. I am no cook, so I am not sure why it has become so popular, but people keep buying it!

It has given me a purpose in life. It is far better to do this than spend all my time on the golf course. I spend enough time there as it is! ”

*Mike (right) with his wife*



Thank you

# Celebrating our 20th anniversary

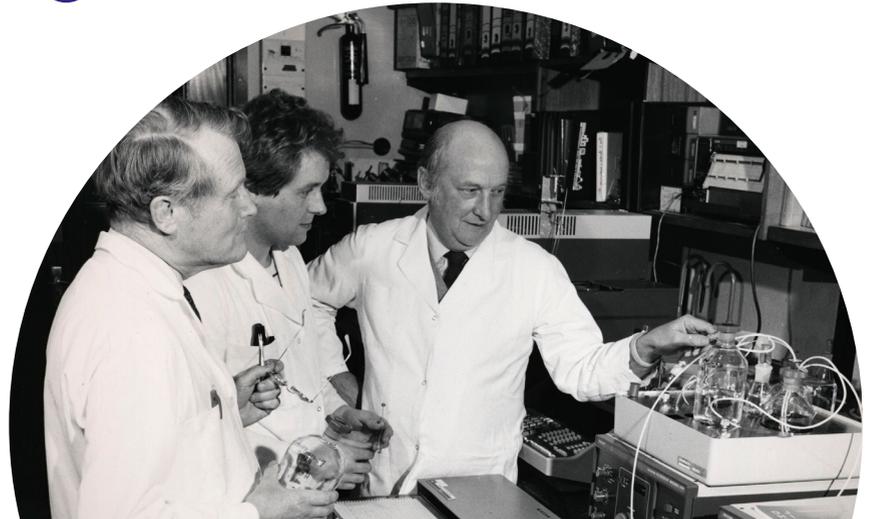
This year, we celebrated 20 years since Cancer Research UK was formed from the merger of the Cancer Research Campaign and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, but our history goes all the way back to 1902.

During that time we've played a leading role in advances in cancer diagnosis, prevention and treatment that save countless lives and benefit millions of people around the world. Thanks to everyone who has supported us.

Here are just a few of our proudest achievements that you have helped make possible:

## Building a legacy of life-saving treatments

We've been at the forefront of research for over a century: from kick-starting the era of chemotherapy in the early 1900s, to pioneering early radiotherapy, through to developing advanced, targeted treatments and immunotherapy. Our work has contributed to more than 50 cancer drugs in use today. In the UK, these treat 120,000 people a year on the NHS. Globally, several of these drugs appear on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines.





## Understanding cancer's weak spots

Our scientists have helped revolutionise our understanding of how cancer works. In 2015, Professor Tomas Lindahl won a Nobel Prize for his pioneering work on how cells repair their DNA – something we now know plays a fundamental role in the development of cancer.

His work led to a deeper understanding of how the disease develops and a toolbox of treatments that hit cancer's weak spots. Now, targeted treatments like PARP inhibitors are being developed. These are a class of drugs that wouldn't exist without the foundational knowledge from Tomas's lab and could transform treatment options for people affected by cancer.

## Discovering the causes of cancer

From understanding how processes inside our cells lead to cancer, to studying how environmental triggers can accelerate these changes, our scientists have played a key role in discovering the causes of cancer.

After tobacco was first linked to cancer in the 1950s, we supported world-leading research to understand how this happens. This work formed the cornerstone of campaigning efforts to reduce tobacco's impact. After years of campaigning, the UK Government rolled out smokefree legislation, including the indoor-smoking ban in 2007. A decade later, our supporters helped introduce standardised cigarette packaging, all helping to prevent thousands of people from dying prematurely.



## Jennifer

Jennifer, from Northern Ireland, was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2013. Following chemotherapy and surgery, she has been cancer-free for more than eight years. Jennifer was treated with cisplatin, a chemotherapy drug that our scientists helped to develop.

### “ Jennifer says:

I feel funding lab research is of utmost importance because that is how new treatments are found and it brings us one step closer to a way of fighting this awful disease. Cancer Research UK are amazing in their crucial work because they are giving patients not only a hope of survival but true hope for the future.





We've  
come  
so far.  
And we  
will go  
much  
further.





# Together we're preventing cancer

Around 4 in 10 cases of cancer in the UK are preventable. We fund world-class research into how cancer develops and identify risk factors that can lead to cancer so we can reduce people's risk of developing it in the first place and ease the pressure on the NHS.

We know that cancer prevention requires changes to the world around us to help make it easier for everyone to make healthier choices, so we're continuing to influence government policy and industry.

## Campaigning for action on obesity

Overweight and obesity is the second biggest cause of cancer. That's why we've continued to push for the UK, Welsh and Scottish Governments to legislate on price promotions of foods high in fat, sugar and salt.

In 2021, following many years of campaigning as a member of the Obesity Health Alliance, we saw restrictions on TV and online advertising of junk food receive huge support within the Health and Care Bill. Together, we will keep using our voices to prevent cancer.

## Drastically reducing cervical cancer rates

This year, we showed that the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme saves lives. Our work proved the link between HPV and cervical cancer more than 20 years ago, and now we've shown that vaccination reduces cervical cancer rates by almost 90% in women in their 20s who received the vaccine aged 12 and 13.

Combined with cervical cancer screening, HPV vaccines could reduce cervical cancer to the

point where almost no one develops it. This allows us to plan for a future in which cervical cancer is effectively eliminated as a health problem – the first cancer we've ever been able to say this about. This is truly a remarkable achievement and the World Health Organization has estimated that 62 million cervical cancer deaths could be avoided over the next century. It's a testament to the power of research and global collaboration, which is only made possible by our supporters.



## DID YOU KNOW?



We're the only charity to fund research into **200+** types of cancer. And we can only do it thanks to your support.

Together with

### Justine

Justine is a mum of three from the West Midlands, England. Following a cervical screening, she was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2017 aged 29. She was treated with a hysterectomy – surgery to remove the womb.



Justine says:

Three weeks after the operation I got a call from a nurse to say that everything was okay, and they would see me again in three months' time for a follow up. I think the HPV vaccine is an amazing advancement. I wish I'd had the chance to be vaccinated to save this happening to me.



# Together we're diagnosing cancer earlier



Diagnosing cancer early means people have more treatment options and a much better chance of survival. But only around half of cancers with a known stage are diagnosed early in England.

That's why we're continuing to use our influence to keep diagnosis high on the agenda, fund ambitious research into new and better ways to detect cancer and ensure everyone can spot cancer at the earliest opportunity.



## Influencing the Government

Last year, we launched our #CancerWontWait campaign, calling on the UK Government to invest in our NHS so it can train and employ more staff and help diagnose more cancers at an early stage. For people affected by cancer, every second counts. But far too many face long and growing waits for diagnostic tests and treatment caused by longstanding issues that have been made worse by the pandemic.

Together, our voice was heard and, in the Autumn Spending Review, the Government responded to our call by announcing it will provide "hundreds of millions of pounds in additional funding...to ensure a bigger and better-trained NHS workforce". Cancer Won't Wait. Thank you for helping us bring about a world where people affected by cancer shouldn't have to either.

## Understanding ethnic differences in diagnosing cancer

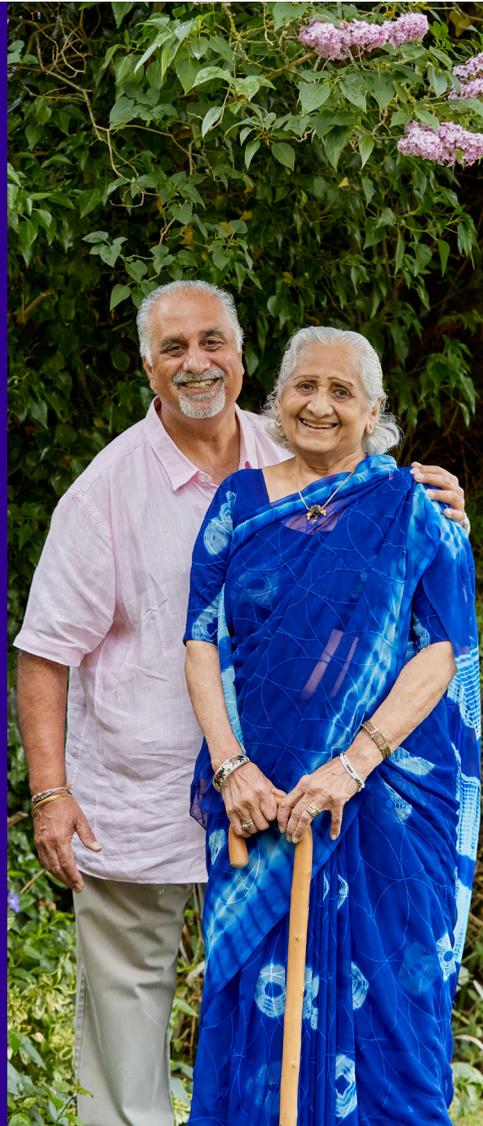
This year, for the first time in 10 years, we published research on ethnic differences in cancer. It showed that rates of some cancers vary by ethnicity. White people in England are more than twice as likely to get some types of cancer, including lung and skin cancer, compared with people from Black, Asian or mixed ethnic backgrounds. However, the study also found that compared to White people, Black people are more likely to get stomach and liver cancers, and Asian people are more likely to get liver cancers.

Knowing the differences in cancer rates in ethnic groups is key to helping us to develop ways to reduce inequalities in cancer outcomes and improve the experience for everyone affected by cancer.

Together with

## Jayshree

Jayshree, from South-East England, is a Cancer Research UK ambassador. Following a mammogram, she was diagnosed with breast cancer at 69. After surgery, chemotherapy and hormone therapy, she has been free of cancer for over 10 years.



“ Jayshree says:

I believe that we as a community need to support Cancer Research UK more to achieve greater results from further research studies. Without funding, their research would be slow and could not progress enough to save lives.

.....

I wanted to share my story because often the Asian community tends to hide their illness. I am telling everyone this is what happened to me. If you have any changes which are unusual for you, please do go and get checked.



# Together we're optimising existing treatments



We're improving existing treatments so that people with cancer have more effective, personalised care tailored to their needs and experience fewer side effects.

## Transforming outcomes by exploring bacteria

This year, we launched our flagship OPTIMISTICCC study, where a diverse, global Cancer Grand Challenges team has been discovering how the trillions of bacteria that live in our bodies can influence who develops bowel cancer and whether treatment will work.

Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer worldwide. By exploring how these bacteria can drive a person's response to cancer, we could transform outcomes for people around the world.

## Trialling precision medicine for people with rare cancers

This year, we teamed up with the University of Manchester and pharmaceutical company Roche to launch our multi-drug, precision-medicine trial for adults and children with rare cancers who have run out of other treatment options.

The DETERMINE trial will be one of the largest of its kind and aims to find out whether drugs already prescribed by doctors for more common types of cancer could also help people with rare cancers. These medicines will target the specific genetic makeup of tumours and any promising drugs can be fast-tracked for approval, giving more options to people who have historically been left with limited options.





## DID YOUKNOW?

Although each rare cancer only affects a small number of people, worldwide all rare cancer types together make up

**22 out of every 100**

cancers diagnosed each year. That's **1 in 5** people with cancer.



Together with

### Oliver

Oliver, a father of one from South-East England, was treated for tonsil cancer in 2009. He took part in a study we funded that showed that a type of radiotherapy called intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) is as effective as standard radiotherapy but lessens the side effect of reducing saliva, which can affect speech and dental health and harm people's quality of life.



Oliver says:

I feel fortunate to have been offered the chance to help medical research. There are amazing advances in knowledge about DNA and genomes and more research is needed to make the most of this with all these trials and projects. It's an exciting time.



Thanks to our supporters, we were a key player in the early development of radiotherapy, which now benefits more than 130,000 people each year in the UK alone. And our researchers have helped pioneer modern forms of radiotherapy, such as IMRT.

# Together we're developing new treatments



Thanks to you, in the last 40 years our research has helped double cancer survival in the UK. But we need to go much further if we are to save and improve more lives.

## Using data to fast-track new treatments

This year, we launched our new Data Innovation Awards, providing support and up to £75k of funding for researchers working with data that's useful to organisations developing cancer treatments.

We've already made four awards, including for a project using data from bladder cancer samples to hunt for new ways to spot and treat the disease. These will continue to encourage collaboration and fast-track the development of new treatments so people can live longer, better lives.

## Paving the way for children with inoperable tumours

A team we co-fund at the Institute of Cancer Research, London has been testing different drugs on biopsy samples of an aggressive type of children's brain tumour called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma. This year, their lab work has revealed a promising combination of drugs that could transform how these tumours are treated.

Currently, children diagnosed with this type of aggressive cancer survive, on average, just nine months after diagnosis. But with discoveries like these and further research, we're optimistic that in the years ahead we might unlock new treatments for



## DID YOU KNOW?

Research funded by Cancer Research UK and our predecessors has contributed to more than **50** cancer drugs in use today.

## Ed

Ed, aged 22 from the West Midlands, England, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, a type of blood cancer, when he was just eight years old. After treatment, he is now cancer-free.



Ed says:



I have now graduated from university and am living a very happy and healthy life.

.....

Without the money raised and without the lab research, I don't know if I would even still be here. Essentially, the lab research is incredibly important and completely changes lives. I can attest to that.



# Together we're collaborating around the world



To change lives on a global scale, we need the best scientists and partner organisations from around the world to work together. That's why we have sites worldwide. And by supporting researchers in every corner to develop their skills, we can bring benefits to people affected by cancer faster.

## Supporting diversity in research

Beating cancer for all of us needs all of us. Systemic inequality is unacceptable: Black people are often underrepresented in trials, only 9% of academic staff in biological research are Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic, and less than 2% of all professors in the UK are Black women. Equality, diversity and inclusion must be at the heart of what we do.

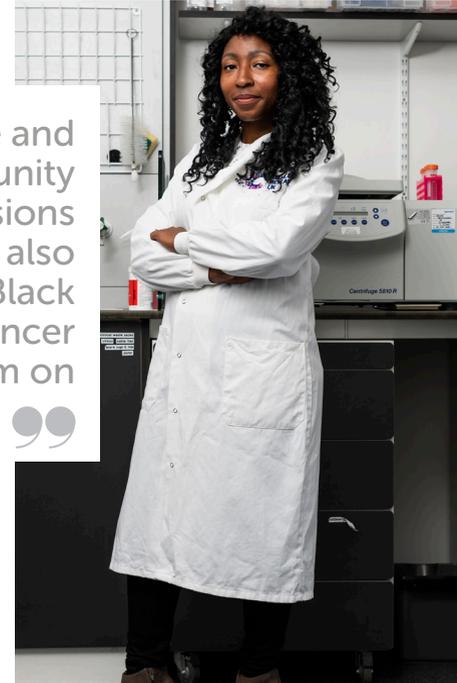
This year, we have been supporting Black in Cancer, a US/UK programme to strengthen networks and champion Black excellence in science and medicine. The programme was co-founded by Sigourney Bell, one of our third-year PhD students in Cambridge, and Dr Henry Henderson III in Tennessee.



Sigourney says:

We want to educate and empower the Black community in their healthcare decisions when it comes to cancer, but also to bring visibility to young Black students about a career in cancer research and support them on their journey.

Black in Cancer launched our brand-new mentorship programme, pairing up Black undergraduate students with cancer researchers via mentorships and summer placements.



## Growing an international task force on cancer early detection

In 2019, we launched the International Alliance for Cancer Early Detection, bringing together the best scientists in early detection to translate research into ways to improve cancer diagnosis and transform outcomes for people affected by cancer. Now in its third year, we're seeing promising results from the 28 research projects

funded so far, 67% of which involve transatlantic collaboration.

From research on new methods of cancer screening in high-risk, diverse populations to harnessing the immune system as an early detection signal, our investment continues to bring together experts from many disciplines. We could not support this vital work without supporters like you.

## DID YOU KNOW?



We are the largest charitable funder of cancer research in the world, funding research across the globe.



## Together with

### Candace

Candace, from Chicago in the US, is a patient advocate on the Cancer Grand Challenges OPTIMISTICCC team, our worldwide partnership studying bowel cancer and bacteria. Candace was diagnosed with bowel cancer when she was 35.



## “ Candace says:

We want to make sure that treatment options, clinical trials, everything about the cancer continuum for those after us is better than what we've experienced in our own journeys. ”





# Together we're looking ahead

We asked people affected by cancer, researchers, clinicians, supporters and staff what beating cancer means. You told us that it's **a world where everyone lives longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer.**



## A world where:

- some types of cancer are effectively eliminated
- many more cancers are prevented from developing in the first place
- people who do develop cancer are diagnosed at the earliest possible stage so they can be treated successfully
- treatments are more effective, kinder and more targeted, so people lead better, more fulfilling lives
- everyone shares in this progress equally, regardless of who they are, where they're from or what type of cancer they have

## Making that vision a reality

In March, we published our new strategy, Making Discoveries, Driving Progress, Bringing Hope. It sets out how we will harness the power of research to bring about a world where everyone can live longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer. Our research strategy, which we published at the same time, establishes our scientific priorities and how we will work with our world-class research community to achieve them.

Find out more about our new strategy at [cruk.org/strategy](https://cruk.org/strategy)



By putting discovery and patient benefit at the heart of everything we do and making an absolute commitment to ensuring research excellence drives our decisions, we are uniquely poised to help lead the next phase in humanity's mission to beat cancer. ””

Catherine Elliott  
Director of Research and Partnerships



## Together we're here to help

Stay up to date with the research news on our science [blog cruk.org/news](https://www.cruk.org/news)

## Chat with others

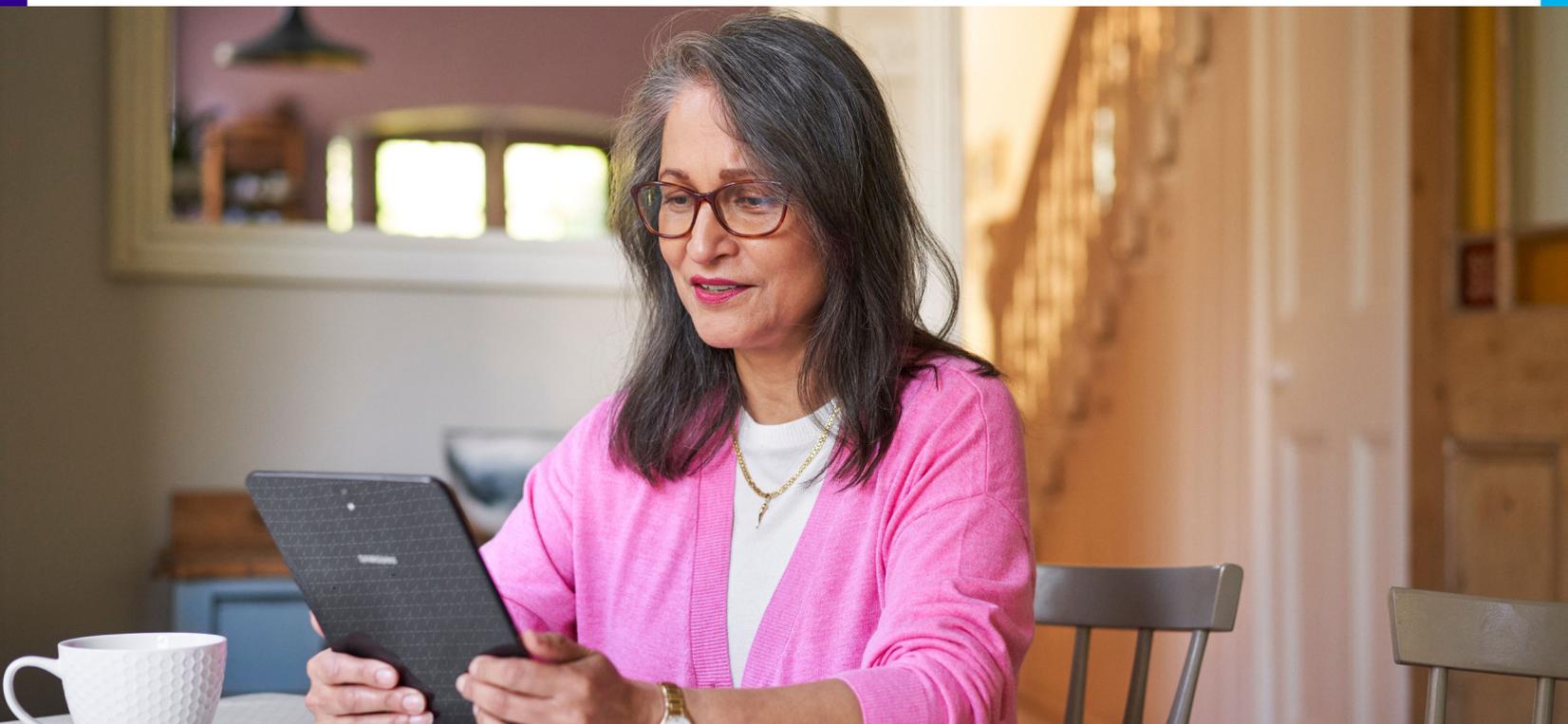
Join our fully moderated online community Cancer Chat to share your experience and get support. Visit [cruk.org/cancer-chat](https://www.cruk.org/cancer-chat)

## Learn about cancer

For information you can trust on 200+ different cancer types, visit [cruk.org/about-cancer](https://www.cruk.org/about-cancer)

## Speak to a nurse

Speak to one of our friendly cancer nurses in confidence by calling our freephone helpline on **0808 800 4040**



Thanks to you,  
we plan to invest  
£1.5bn in life-saving  
research over the  
next five years.

Thank you for bringing hope  
to people affected by cancer,  
now and in the future.





Find out more about our successes at [cruk.org/our-successes](https://cruk.org/our-successes)

Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666), the Isle of Man (1103) and Jersey (247)

Cancer Research UK  
2 Redman Place  
London E20 1JQ  
T: +44 (0)20 7242 0200  
[cruk.org](https://cruk.org)