
Make your legacy life-changing

A guide to supporting
our research with a
gift in your Will





“Choosing to leave a legacy donation to The Institute of Cancer Research, London (ICR) in your Will is an exceptional way to contribute to our research and offer hope to future cancer patients. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, millions of pounds have been received through legacy donations over the past year. These funds are crucial in supporting our daily research work in our Chelsea and Sutton laboratories. Read on to discover how you can leave a gift in your Will that will ensure our scientists can carry on making the discoveries that defeat cancer.”

Professor Kristian Helin, Chief Executive Officer
The Institute of Cancer Research



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How you can help us make the discoveries that defeat cancer

Today, twice as many people survive cancer than in the 1970s. You can leave a gift in your Will to help us increase that number even more.

Our 800-strong body of scientists and clinicians based in our laboratories in Chelsea and Sutton are working on a broad spectrum of research, from understanding the underlying biological causes of cancer through to designing and testing the latest cutting-edge therapies.





Double

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In the last 100 years, our discoveries have played an important role in shaping modern understanding of cancer and how it can be treated. We identified many of the cancer-causing chemicals in cigarette smoke; we discovered a number of the early chemotherapies; and we established that damage to DNA is the basic cause of cancer.

Today, we lead the world in revealing the genetic diversity and complexity of cancer, and exploiting these findings to develop new and better treatments. Through our research, we have been able to make a real impact on cancer patients' lives.

We couldn't have come this far without our supporters who have helped fund our ground-breaking work. We hope you will consider joining the thousands of people who have made a difference through leaving us a gift in their Will. Your legacy has the potential to change lives and make cancer a disease of the past.

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Legacies have made our discoveries possible

Legacy gifts are a vital source of funds for us. They have underpinned our discoveries and achievements in cancer research throughout our history, leading to better diagnosis and treatments and improving patients' lives.



Legacies have helped us build new laboratories, such as the Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery which opened in 2020. They have helped us to purchase numerous pieces of equipment, so that we can take advantage of the latest cutting-edge technologies, for instance genetic sequencing technologies. And legacies have helped us to fund PhD studentships – giving us the opportunity to train the very best young minds to become future leaders in cancer research.

We now discover more new cancer drugs than any other academic centre in the world.

Working together with our hospital partner, The Royal Marsden, we can test and turn these new drugs into effective treatments for patients. Thanks to research like ours, survival rates have improved enormously in some types of cancer, such as breast and prostate cancers. But patients with other types of cancer, such as pancreatic, brain and lung cancers, have yet to see a similar improvement in survival rates.

That's why leaving us a gift in your Will is so important.

It means that we can continue to invest in our research, so that our scientists can make more discoveries and translate their work into real benefits for patients, including those for whom prognosis is currently poor.



“The Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery brings together almost 300 scientists, from cancer and evolutionary biologists to big data specialists and clinician scientists, united in a shared goal.”

Dr Olivia Rossanese, Director of the Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery

100 years of discovery

1920s-30s



Our scientists, including Ernest Kennaway (above), identified many of the chemicals in cigarette smoke and coal tar that cause cancer.

1930s-50s



Our researchers became the first in Europe to develop chemotherapy agents.

They discovered melphalan and chlorambucil, which are still used to treat cancer today.

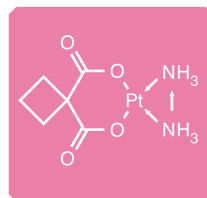
1960s



We found the first conclusive evidence that DNA damage is the fundamental cause of cancer.

This dramatically changed scientific opinion, and laid the foundation for the now universally accepted idea that cancer is a genetic disease.

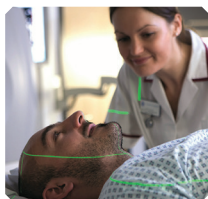
1970s



We helped to discover and develop carboplatin, a drug still used globally to treat a range of cancers, including ovarian and lung cancer.

We have a 100-year history of finding the causes of cancer, developing treatments for it, and understanding how to prevent it.

1980s



Our scientists developed radiotherapy techniques such as intensity-modulated radiotherapy and image-guided radiation therapy.

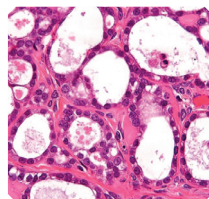
These techniques target radiation doses precisely to the shape of tumours, increasing the effectiveness and reducing side-effects.

1990s



We identified the breast cancer gene BRCA2. Finding this meant families with a history of breast cancer could be assessed to see whether they were at risk of the cancer in the future.

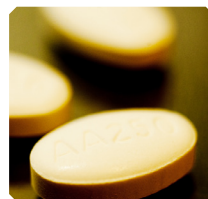
2000s



We discovered a genetic weakness in cancers with BRCA gene mutations. We then discovered that these cancer cells were susceptible to a new class of drugs called PARP inhibitors.

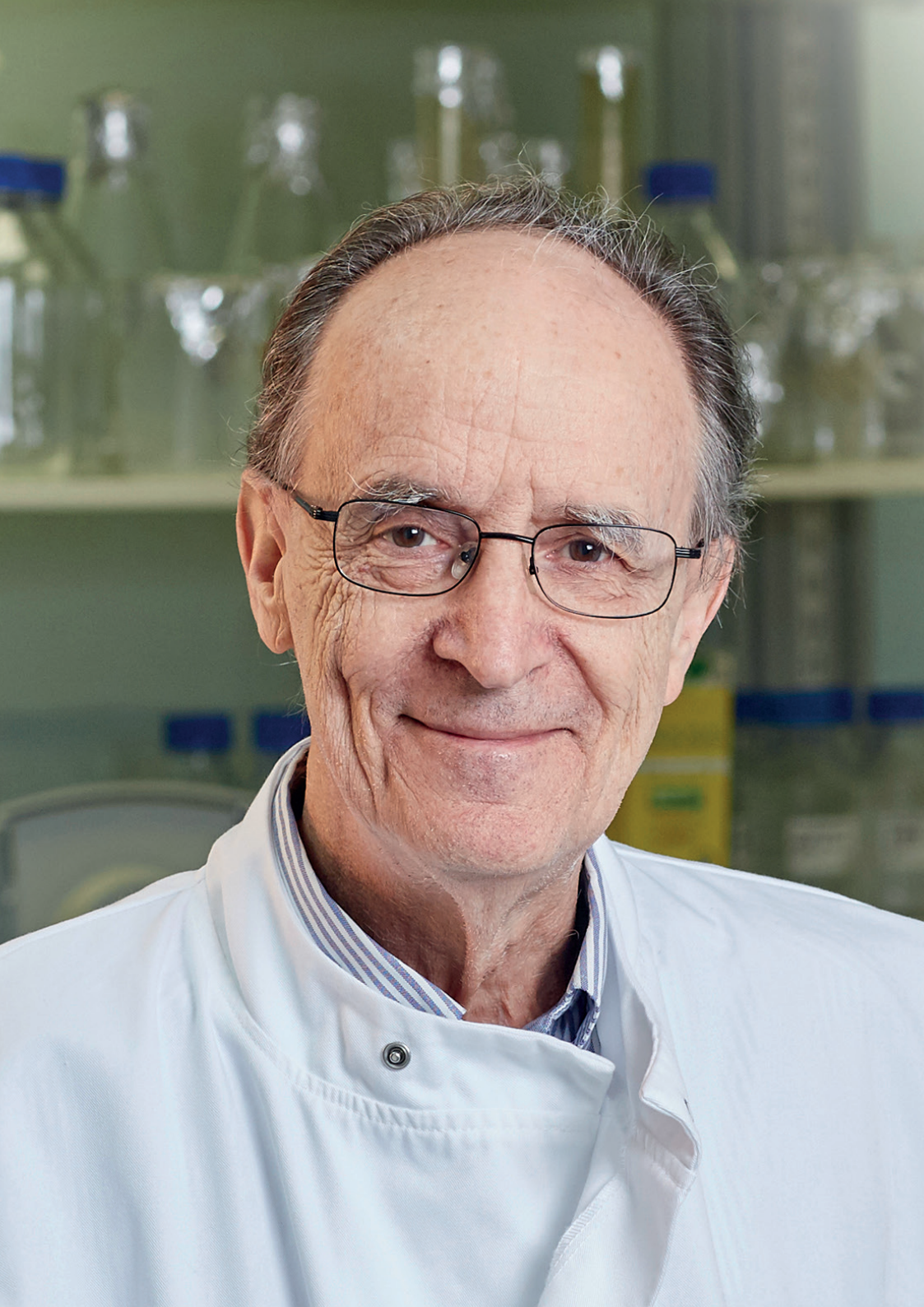
More recently, the PARP inhibitor drug olaparib has been approved for patients with certain breast and prostate cancers in England.


2010s



Abiraterone, a life-extending prostate cancer drug discovered and developed in our labs, is approved for use in the UK.

It is now treating hundreds of thousands of men worldwide, and has recently been shown to be effective when used earlier in treatment.





Without the generous donations of our supporters, our life-saving discoveries may not have been possible.

Now cancer patients need our scientists to build on the knowledge they have and make more advances, more quickly. By pledging a gift in your Will, you can help our scientists to drive forward their research and tackle new challenges with confidence, safe in the knowledge of sustained funding.

“Resistance to cancer drugs is the result of the evolutionary process taking place over four billion years. But we are getting smarter, and learning lessons from the research into infectious diseases where using drugs in combination often combats resistance.”

Professor Sir Mel Greaves, Founding Director of the Centre for Evolution and Cancer

Why legacies are crucial to our research now

Cancer is constantly evolving – so we're looking for new ways to stay ahead of it

Cancer is more complex than we ever imagined. Just as every patient is different, so is their cancer – and cancer doesn't stand still. It evolves over time. As we learn how to create new drugs to tackle it, so cancer learns how to adapt and resist their effects. This makes some cancers incredibly difficult to treat.

But our scientists are starting to unravel some of this complexity. We've increased our understanding of how cancers change and evolve, sidestepping the therapies designed to halt their progress. Now we must build on this knowledge, discover smarter new drugs and trial them in combination with other therapies, to find kinder, more effective treatments for patients.

For example we are expanding our research into immunotherapy, looking at how we can harness the body's

52,254

new cases of prostate cancer every year
in the UK


own immune defences to recognise cancer and fight it. And we are developing ways to pinpoint cancers within the body using advanced scanning techniques, so that we can target them more precisely with high-tech radiotherapy and ultrasound treatments.

Your support means we can afford to look ahead, to make more life-changing discoveries

From initial discovery through to becoming available to men on the NHS, the journey of abiraterone, our game-changing drug for prostate

cancer, took 20 years. Despite increased knowledge and rapid advances in technology our future discoveries will require long-term dedication from our world-leading teams of experts.

This is why legacies are so important. A gift in your Will gives our scientists the knowledge that the support and resources they need will be there, throughout the journey.

A portrait of Professor Robin Weiss, a middle-aged man with white hair and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a light blue shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a laboratory or office setting with shelves and equipment.

As a former ICR director and scientist, and now as a cancer patient participating in a clinical trial, I have seen first hand the importance of sustained cancer research. Cancer research is a long-term endeavour, with discoveries made in the 1980s now standard treatments. With this in mind, I have decided to leave a monetary legacy to the ICR, to match my scientific one – in the hope that my gift will help to fund new treatment options for future patients.”

Professor Robin Weiss, former Director of the ICR and legacy supporter

How our supporters' legacies are making a difference



Mrs Mair Robinson's legacy helped us to train a cancer research leader of the future

When Mrs Mair Robinson passed away in 2015, she left us more than £100,000 in her Will. She wanted her legacy gift to be spent on a studentship – The Mair and Franklyn Robinson Research Scholarship.

"The generosity of The Institute of Cancer Research's donors is what helps cancer research to evolve. Legacy gifts mean they can invest in training scientists like me who will lead cancer research into the future."

Suzanne O'Connor



Suzanne O'Connor was the fortunate PhD student who benefited from Mrs Robinson's generosity. Suzanne joined the ICR in 2016 and is now working as a Senior Drug Discovery Scientist in the Medicinal Chemistry Team at the University of Dundee.

Her PhD project sought to block a protein called Hsp70, which is known to help cancer cells survive. Usually, chemotherapy drugs put cancer cells under a lot of stress – but Hsp70 helps them deal with the stress and survive. Because of this, blocking Hsp70 and its activity has the potential to boost the effectiveness of chemotherapy and lead to drugs that tackle cancer in a new way.



Mr Mullard's legacy is helping us reach a new level in analysis of blood cancers

When Mr Mullard died and left a generous legacy to charity in his Will, his executors decided to support research into blood cancers. This was because they knew how much Mr Mullard had been affected by a family member's suffering from leukaemia. Advised of our track record in this field and in particular, the reputation of Professor Mel Greaves FRS, they got in touch with us.

Following discussion with Mr Mullard's executors, it was agreed that his legacy be used to purchase a new, cutting-edge flow cytometer machine.

With this latest technology we can analyse cell samples more quickly and in more detail than ever before. Seven lasers distinguish between up to 26 different colour combinations in cell samples – providing a depth of insight not previously possible.



Generous legacies from our supporters have helped us to build our new Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery

Many of our supporters leave us legacies to be used wherever our need is greatest at the time their gift is received. So, when we started to plan our new Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery, we decided to put aside legacies we received over a couple of years, to help us fund what was our highest priority for investment.

Thanks to the generosity and foresight of our supporters, their legacies enabled us to complete this building project to provide new state-of-the-art laboratory facilities.

The new Centre has brought together a unique multi-disciplinary team of biologists, chemists, big data specialists and clinicians to collaborate in designing more and better cancer drugs and tackle the major challenge of drug resistance.

What your legacy could do

Letting us know that you intend to support us with a legacy will allow us to confidently advance our research programmes well into the future.

Because we can't be certain now what our research priorities will be in the years to come, most of our supporters choose to leave a gift to help fund the greatest need at the time. However, if you do wish to leave a legacy to fund a particular area of our research, please get in touch with us for advice on wording your gift, and to ensure we can accommodate your wishes.



Here are just a few examples of how your legacy gift could help us defeat cancer.



Fund the purchase of cutting-edge laboratory equipment

Rapid advances in technology mean that we must constantly seek to invest in the latest equipment for our research, to give us the best chance of defeating cancer. This equipment could be a brand new type of microscope to help us better understand cell division, or next-generation genetic sequencing machines for our Genomics Facility. The costs for technology like this can reach many hundreds of thousands of pounds every year.



Help us train the next generation of cancer researchers

We are a college of the University of London, and educating the next generation of cancer researchers is at the heart of what we do. Our PhD students go on to be leading researchers across the world. But funding a PhD is expensive, costing around £40,000 a year, and we are often unable to fund all of the exciting student research proposals that our scientists put forward.



Establish new research programmes

Here at the ICR we research all types of cancer, and we have made great progress in improving survival rates across some of the most common cancers, such as breast and prostate cancers.

But there is still much to be done in these, and other harder-to-treat cancers, such as ovarian, pancreatic, lung, brain and some childhood cancers, where survival rates remain poor. Your legacy could help us kick-start a project, or fund a new research post, to tackle these areas of unmet need.

We have a long history of discovery in cancer research – and we’ve made some great strides forward in recent years. But while 167,000 people a year die from cancer in the UK, there remains an urgent need to further expand our knowledge of cancer and how to manage it.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you will ensure our dedicated teams of experts can pursue their research to defeat cancer and improve the lives of cancer patients worldwide.

How to leave a gift in your Will

To leave a legacy gift to the ICR, you'll need to write it into your Will.

We recommend you use a solicitor or professional Will writer to write or update your Will. They'll make sure it's properly written, and check there are no mistakes. They'll also be able to answer any questions you might have, and help you with things like tax planning and choosing an executor to carry out your wishes.

There are three different types of legacy:

1 A share in your estate – this is called a residuary legacy

This is what's left of your estate – or a percentage of what's left – once all other legacies and expenses have been settled. Residuary legacies are particularly valuable to us because they keep their value over time.

2 A sum of money – this is called a pecuniary legacy

This is a specific cash gift. Pecuniary legacies can be affected by inflation, which means their value decreases as the cost of living increases. But you can link your pecuniary legacy to the Retail Price Index to protect its value. Your solicitor can advise you on how to do this.

3 A specific gift

This is a non-cash legacy such as property, stocks and shares, a painting, or an antique.

For more information about writing a Will, visit
www.gov.uk/make-will

If you decide to leave a gift to us into your Will, you'll need to include our details.

To make sure your gift reaches us, it's important that you include our full name and registered address in your Will:

The Institute of Cancer Research
123 Old Brompton Road
London SW7 3RP

The ICR was designated an exempt charity under the Exempt Charities Order 1962. This means we don't have a registered charity number with the Charity Commission. The ICR's Exempt Reference Number is **x90004** – please include this when writing your gift into your Will.

Contact us

Our legacy team are here to answer any questions you might have.

You can call us on
020 7153 5387
 or email **legacy@icr.ac.uk**.
 Or you can fill in the form attached and send it back to us.

Stay in touch

We know that your Will is a very personal document, and it is completely up to you whether you would like to tell us about your legacy intentions.

If you do decide to let us know about your legacy intentions, we won't start sending you lots of mail. We simply want to be able to say thank you, and invite you to our supporter events.

We'd also like to send you our supporter magazine Search, to keep you up-to-date with our latest research.

FOLD HERE

- ☐ I have already left the ICR a gift in my Will
- ☐ I intend to leave the ICR a gift in my Will
- ☐ I would like further information, please call me on:

.....

Name

Address.....

.....

- ☐ Yes, I'd like to be invited to supporter events
- ☐ Yes, I'd like to receive Search magazine
- ☐ Yes, I'd like to receive email updates from the ICR

Email

Please seal around the edge and send back to us.
 No need for an envelope and postage is pre-paid.

ICR



Freepost RTJY-CREL-LZJC
The Institute of Cancer Research
123 Old Brompton Road
LONDON
SW7 3RP

Thank you

We'd be very grateful if you could think about leaving us a gift in your Will. Our scientists work every day in our labs to make a real difference for cancer patients. By helping to fund our future work, you'll be helping to save lives and ultimately defeat cancer.

**Make your legacy life-changing –
and bring hope to future generations.**

The Institute of Cancer Research: Royal Cancer Hospital
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