



leading  
leukaemia  
research

Annual  
Review  
—  
2018

## Year in Review

It is a pleasure to look back at our achievements over the past, busy year. That said, none of this work would be possible without the generosity of our supporters and donors. Thank you so much.

During March, patient recruitment began on the first clinical trial within the UK-wide IMPACT Stem Cell Transplant (SCT) Trials programme being spearheaded with co-funding from Leuka. By working with partners from different sectors our aim is to bring hope to SCT patients everywhere.

In June we awarded four more John Goldman Fellowships for Future Science – forming part of a growing alumni of some eighteen scientific leaders of tomorrow, whom we hope will follow in the footsteps of our inspirational founder in discovering better, more effective treatments for blood cancer.

September saw us host our 2nd Annual Science Seminar where we welcomed our grant holders, scientists and clinical advisors, as well as our keynote speaker, Professor Mel Greaves, a world class expert in childhood leukaemia, who spoke about a subject close to the hearts of many of our supporters.

Later in September, we awarded eight International Scholarships allowing scientists and doctors from around to world to advance learning and foster global collaboration. And in October, we awarded two more Clinical Training Research Fellowships in partnership with the Medical Research Council (MRC) to support innovative doctor-scientists looking to accelerate treatments from bench to bedside.

In December, in the face of overwhelming demand, another two more Leuka Project Grants were awarded, each worth £0.25m. One going to the Francis Crick Institute London and one to a team at Queen's University Belfast both of which will begin work in early 2019 for three years.

Olive Boles  
Chief Executive

**Demand for our work continues to grow and thanks to the support and generosity of our donors and fundraisers, by the end of the year we were able to support eight new research projects. At the end of 2018 we are involved in funding thirty different projects, with work taking place at twenty-four different Research Institutes and healthcare facilities across the UK.**

**“Leuka funding provides crucial financial support that allows us to undertake important translational research for the study of chronic myelomonocytic leukaemia (CMML)”**



**“Our research will provide a better understanding of CMML progression and help patients through identifying new drugs and potentially a cure.”**

Professor Jacqueline Boulwood, University of Oxford

## The facts

**9,900** new leukaemia cases in the UK every year

**4,600** leukaemia deaths in the UK every year

that's **27** people diagnosed every day

that's **13** people dying every day

**50%**

of blood stem cell transplant patients do not reach the 5 year survival mark.



Blood cancer is the 3rd biggest cancer killer, claiming more lives than breast or prostate cancer each year



In 1960 less than 1 in 10 children survived acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL).



Today nearly 8 in 10 children do.

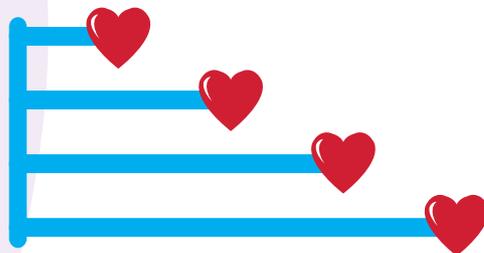
Incidence rates for leukaemia are projected to rise by

**5%**

in the UK between 2014 - 2035 to 19 cases per 100,000 people by 2035



Thanks to research leukaemia survival rates are improving and has more than quadrupled in the last 40 years



## Our work in 2018

**2** clinical professionals given the vital opportunity to launch novel research projects that combine clinical care and biological research, through our Clinical Research Training Fellowship partnership with the Medical Research Council.



**8** International Scholarships given to young scientists and researchers to enhance knowledge and build international scientific collaborations.



**20** clinical trial centres established to improve long-term outcomes for stem cell transplant patients. A pioneering project in collaboration with Anthony Nolan, NHS Blood and Transplant and the University of Birmingham.



**£500,000**

committed to developing the scientific leaders of tomorrow, through the John Goldman Fellowship Scheme.

invested into ground-breaking research to develop kinder, more effective treatments through our project grant programme.



## Accelerating research

The demand for research funding continues to increase; applications far outweigh Leuka's available funds.

Last year Leuka invited applications for John Goldman Fellowships, Clinical Research Training Fellowships (in partnership with the MRC) and Project Grants. The overall total of funding requested was £7.3 million. All applications were of high quality and potentially worthy of funding.

However, with limited sustainable resources available Leuka had to apply a stringent selection process and funded only a proportion (16.4%) - £1.2 million worth of research.

**At Leuka we are dedicated to investing in the next generation of leading scientists, where funding is limited but the potential to change lives is enormous.**

Our ambition is to increase our investment in research to accelerate the discovery of kinder, more effective treatments and get these from bench to the bedside as quickly as possible.

**“We have discovered a potential new treatment that destroys the mutated protein that causes leukaemia in infants. The funding from Leuka allows us to bridge the step from laboratory to clinical trials. We hope that this discovery will be a game changer for these vulnerable babies suffering from this disease.”** – Dr Jasper de Boer, UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health

To achieve this, we need to significantly increase our income and over the next three years we will be implementing our ambitious growth strategy.



## 2018 financials at a glance

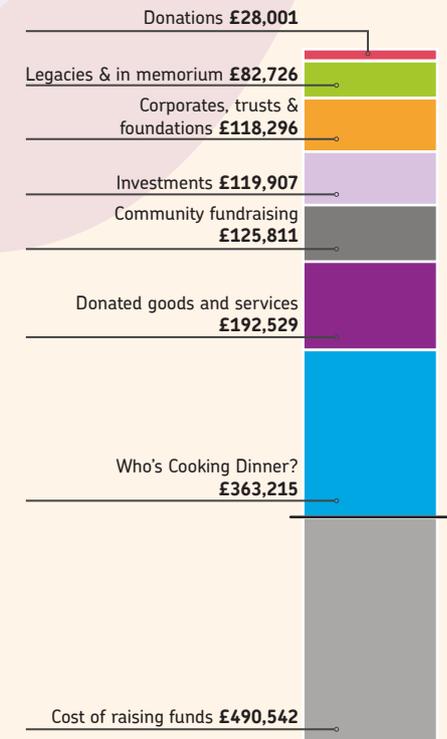
### Spending on charitable activities 2018

Total **£720,468**



### Income 2018

Total **£1,030,485**



## Together we are changing lives

Our work is only possible due to the generosity of our supporters. At Leuka we do not receive any government funding, so all our research is funded through donations and fundraising.

During 2018 we received over £1 million in voluntary donations. We are grateful to everyone who supports us, and we never take that support for granted: we promise to make the best use of every donation we receive, to keep supporters informed about our work and treat their information with respect.

**“I myself became a victim of this awful, often lethal type of blood cancer and if it wasn’t for past donations to Leuka, I’m sure I wouldn’t be here today.” – Rosalind**



At the Royal Parks Half Marathon 2018

Professor Finbarr Cotter has been researching and treating leukaemia for over 35 years. He has seen first-hand how research is helping to save lives and has been personally affected by this devastating disease.

“Leuka is a cause close to my heart, both of my parents died from leukaemia and last year my cousin’s daughter was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukaemia while at university. She was very ill but thanks to research and better treatment has gone

into remission. That is progress, but we still have a long, long way to go. Leuka is dedicated to improving outcomes by supporting research. In reality it means saving lives and providing real hope for the families around leukaemia sufferers. Having cared for many patients with leukaemia, fundraising for Leuka is my way to show I care and I want to help cure more people sooner. Every penny helps Leuka, who are totally dedicated to beating this devastating group of blood cancers.”



Running, cycling and trekking challenges raised an astounding **£125,000**

**£82,000**



donated in memory of loved ones and through gifts in Wills

**£118,000**

received from corporate supporters and trusts and foundations



**£28,000**

donated by regular and one-off donors



**£363,000**

raised at Who's Cooking Dinner?, thanks to the generosity of top chefs and their teams

Thanks to our wonderful supporters, pioneering research projects have been funded in 2018, to bring safer, more effective treatments to patients.

Be part of the next  
leap forward in  
leukaemia research.

Donate today to Leuka's  
life-saving research:  
[www.leuka.org.uk/donate](http://www.leuka.org.uk/donate)

**Together we can beat leukaemia.**

Trustees

**Chris Corbin** OBE (Chairman)

**Oliver Spark** (Treasurer)

**David Krap**

**Professor David Linch** FRCP, FRCPath, FMedSci

**Professor Edward Gordon-Smith** FRCPath, FRCP, FRCP(E), FMedSci

**James Fairclough**

**John Macey** MSc, BA (Hons), MCIPO

**Racheline Garston**

**Ray Kelly**

Auditors

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Investment managers

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