

Barts and The London hospitals produce some of the best clinical outcomes in the UK – evidenced by one of the best survival rate records in the NHS. A recent national report produced by Dr Foster shows that our three hospitals – St Bartholomew's, The Royal London in Whitechapel and The London Chest in Bethnal Green – continue to have an excellent survival rate record – a clear indicator of clinical excellence. The trusts mission is to give patients the best possible care so that they can live better, fuller, longer lives. These world renowned hospitals have made and continue to make an outstanding contribution to modern medicine.

Barts and The London Charity is an independent charity funding innovative healthcare and medical research at Barts and The London hospitals, School of Medicine and Dentistry, and School of Nursing and Midwifery. The fundraising team was set up in 2008 to develop links with the city, support volunteer fundraisers and administer donations and legacies. If there is a particular department or area of research a donor would like to support, The Charity will do its best to identify suitable projects.

In 2010 we were asked by the Mark Master Masons to define a medical project, specifically a Cancer project for their consideration. Mr John Brackley attended a tour of an existing Linac suite and expressed an interest in perhaps funding a much needed additional suite.

£1,282,242.00 was subsequently donated by The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons to fund a state-of-the-art Linear Accelerator (Linac) for the Radiotherapy department at the new St Bartholomew's hospital.

The new Linacs are the gold-standard in radiotherapy and will position Barts as one of the leading NHS centres in the UK. With the addition of the Mark Master Masons LINAC, Barts will be in the unique position of having 5 state-of-the-art machines, increasing clinical capacity by 20% and allowing the Trust to deliver the most advanced radiotherapy techniques available anywhere in the NHS.

Linacs deliver radiation, in the form of x-rays, to the tumour site. Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT) will be delivered to patients, a technique which allows the radiotherapy beams to be shaped around the irregular shape of the tumour, avoiding critical anatomical structures such as the spinal cord. Alongside IMRT, one of the biggest patient benefits of the new Linacs is Image Guided Radiotherapy delivered by the built in imaging system. This allows the radiographers to check the position of the tumour when the patient is on the couch, rather than relying on an earlier scan, ensuring greater accuracy.

The generosity of enlightened individuals and organisations has created a unique legacy for generations to come. The fundraising team continue to seek funding to help these institutions achieve more. We are delighted this year to have been named as the main beneficiary charity for The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2011 – 2012. In addition the Metropolitan Master Masons have generously pledged to fund a Cyber knife suite at St Bartholomew's Hospital.