



thank you

for supporting Crohn's research



Thank you

from the Principal

Dear friends of King's,

As we enter a new academic year we must also look back at the past 12 months and all the great work we have achieved.

Once again, I am humbled to see the generosity, commitment and passion with which our alumni and supporter community give back.

Without you, the incredible work that makes up our university would simply not take place. You may have funded vital research in areas such as Neuroscience, Cancer or Crohn's. Or enabled a student to access education, regardless of their social or financial background. Whatever your motivation, you have made a significant and lasting difference. Thank you.

Within this booklet you will find some stories to highlight these wonderful achievements, as a small gesture of our gratitude. I hope you enjoy reading them and feel proud, as I do, to be part of such a dedicated community.

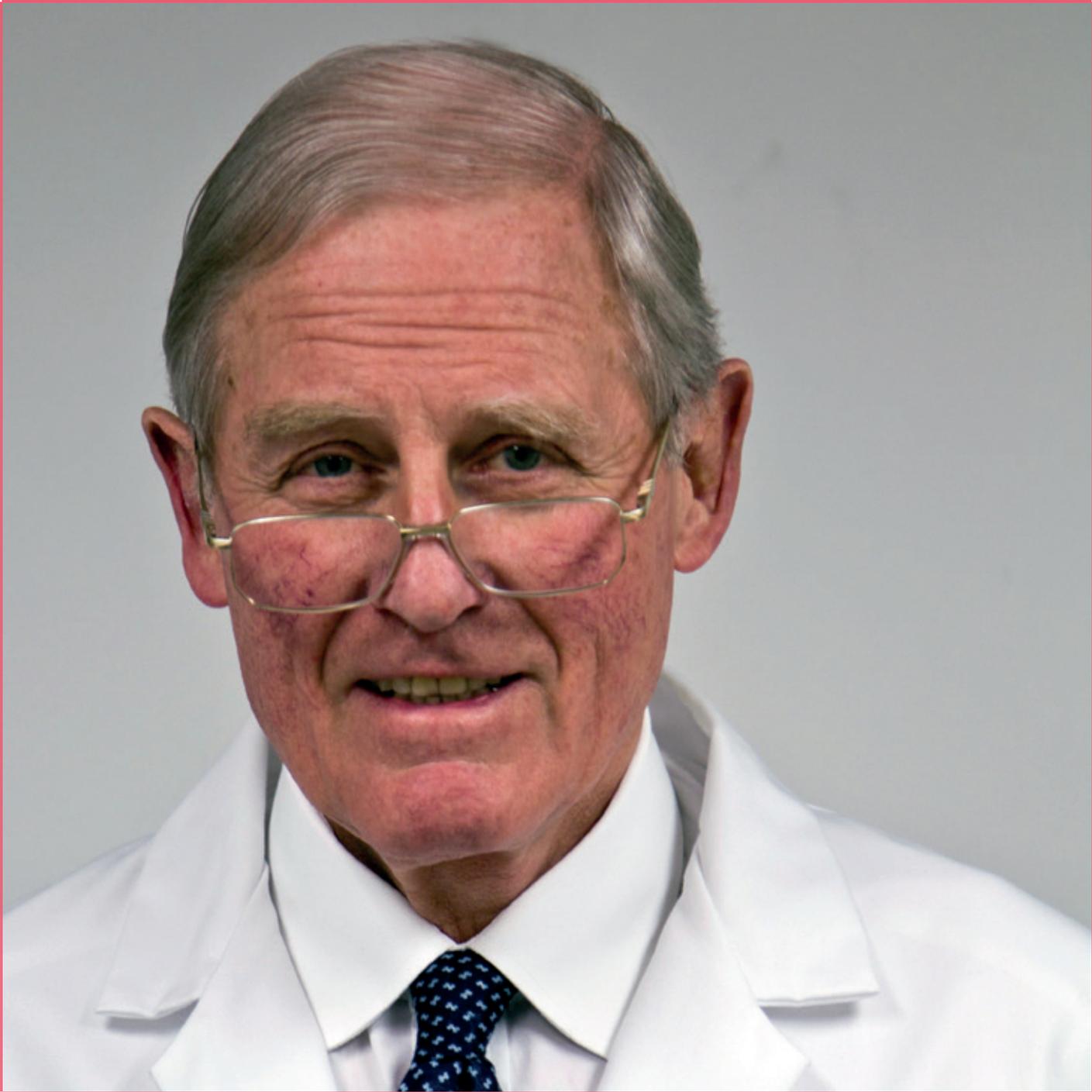
On behalf of myself, the Alumni Office and all those across the university your support has benefitted, thank you once again.

With best wishes,

Professor Edward Byrne AC

President & Principal, King's College London

'Thank you so much for your support.'



Professor Hermon-Taylor

‘Once again, I am thrilled by the support we have received over the last year. Our dedicated community help us in so many ways, not least by raising important awareness for our work and this dreadful disease. Each donation, whatever the size, brings us one step closer to our goals: trialling the vaccine, providing an accurate diagnostic test for MAP (to tell us whether the vaccine is working and aid our understanding of Crohn’s) - and ultimately finding a cure for Crohn’s.

‘In January this year, the Phase Ib vaccine trial was launched. Still using healthy volunteers, this stage tests the safety and immunity stimulated by the second booster shot of the vaccine, both on its own and alongside the first priming shot. This trial is now nearing completion and results so far are promising, which lays good foundations for Phase II, set to commence in the coming months. Our application to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has been submitted so we will know in a few weeks whether we have approval to start the trial!

‘The Phase II trial will be conducted in patients with mild Crohn’s Disease aged between 18-50 and who are not taking any immunosuppressant medications. The trial will be similar to the Phase I and will concentrate on safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine. We will be using our new MAP test to assess MAP levels before and after vaccination.

‘What has kept me going all these years is the possibility of making people better; that really excites me. Finally we are on the cusp of starting the Phase II trial in Crohn’s patients and having our first indication of whether the vaccine will work as we hope. We couldn’t have done it with the support of each and every one of you – a heartfelt thank you from me and the team.’

‘We couldn’t have got this far without the support of each and every one of you – a heartfelt thank you from me and the team.’

Dr Amy Hermon-Taylor

Lead for Crohn's MAP Vaccine Support Group

'A big, big thank you to all our wonderful fundraisers and donors! I'm very excited to see everything slotting into place in the run up to the trial launch and none of this would be possible without your support.'



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'This year I will be making my role at King's official as a 'Visiting Research Assistant' (a voluntary post) which should enable me to offer additional support to the project as well as continuing to lead on the awareness and fundraising side.

'I am also delighted to introduce two new members of our team: Dr Paul Cross is a Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Consultant and quite simply a genius when it comes to navigating the complex rules and regulations of research, which can seem pretty scary. To have someone on the team with his wisdom and expertise in this area is an absolute godsend.

'Dr Gaurav Agrawal is a Consultant Gastroenterologist who is working alongside Professor Jeremy Sanderson leading the clinical side of the Phase II vaccine trial. He's come all the way from Centre for Digestive Diseases, Sydney, where he's been leading the way in MAP research as well as looking after many Crohn's patients taking a MAP-targeted approach to treatment. He is a wonderful doctor and passionate about this area of research.'

Dr Gaurav Agrawal

Consultant Gastroenterologist

'I have been collaborating with Professor Hermon-Taylor for a number of years now and have always believed the science behind the MAP diagnostic test and the vaccine. I am helping to organise the trial to be run at Guy's Hospital and to assess the impact and safety of the vaccine in Crohn's sufferers. I have a fantastic team to work with.'

'For me there are two tragedies surrounding Crohn's disease. First is the impact on sufferers and that people are severely debilitated by this disease. Secondly, that the science behind it is misunderstood, which means that an effective therapy is being ignored.'

'This project will create a paradigm shift in our understanding of Crohn's. Not only will we provide evidence of MAP causality, but also the creation of a novel therapy to alleviate this condition and many others.'

'It is so important to me that people all over the world support this project, it couldn't have been done without you. Your support is not only physical and monetary but more importantly emotional. It gives us independence and persistence to overcome obstacles in order to give a better life for so many people.'

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Dr Paul Cross

Clinical Research Consultant

'Having only joined in April, I am one of the newest members of the Crohn's Vaccine team and am very excited to be here. I have a passion for clinical research, especially early phase trials which test the safety of a new treatment.'



'I am currently involved in setting up the Phase II trial, conducted in patients with mild Crohn's disease. My role is to help us develop systems to ensure that our research is conducted to the highest standards and meets the complex rules and regulations needed to make the treatment widely available.'

'We are working on the research applications to both the UK medicines regulator (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency), the Health Research Authority and the Research Ethics Committee. Over the next six months, I will oversee the set-up and management of the trial.'

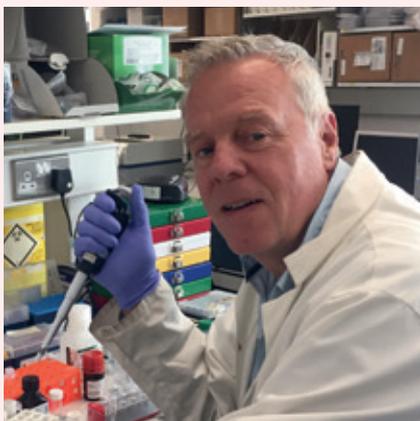
'This project is incredibly important as we must test out new treatments for Crohn's disease, to hopefully one day improve the quality of life of patients living with the disease. I am amazed by the level of support the team receives and know that this work would not be possible without donations like yours.'

'I know this work would not be possible without you.'

Neil Rayment

Research Fellow

'This year has been a busy one in the lab. We recently submitted a grant to the prestigious Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Harwell, Oxfordshire. The aim of this application was to enable us to make use of the super resolution microscopy facilities at the institute, and by doing so increase our understanding of MAP at a cellular level. I'm very pleased to say that we were successful in our application and I'm looking forward to generating some more important data to support our current research.'



'We have also been working towards perfecting techniques that will enable us to generate further data for our antibody validation. Although a lengthy process, such stringent techniques are essential for these reagents to be accepted in future publications on the MAP Vaccine. With the lab work progressing at a fast pace and with the successful application to undertake some 'state of the art' microscopy studies at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, spirits are high!

'It means a lot to us that there are people out there donating hard earned cash to fund this research, as without your support none of this valuable work would have been possible.'

'It means a lot to us that there are so many of you donating to this vital work.'



Christine Clifford

Volunteer

Christine Clifford has been volunteering for the Crohn's MAP Vaccine Team since 2016 due to her daughter's Crohn's diagnosis. Here Christine talks about her involvement.

'My journey with the Crohn's MAP Vaccine began seven years ago when my adult daughter was diagnosed with Crohn's disease, just one year after her own daughter was born. Looking back she'd had episodes all through her life

since she was a baby, when she would refuse milk and stop eating for a week. Later, the doctors said she was making it up to miss school!

'After her own daughter was born and Crohn's was finally diagnosed, she had a resection and was told that as Crohn's was autoimmune with no known cure and no known cause,

it would probably return and she would have to be on maintenance drugs for the rest of her life. I started months of research and eventually I came across the work of Professor Hermon-Taylor and the Crohn's MAP Vaccine Team.



'Appalled at how difficult it was to get funding for something so important, I joined the CMV fundraising group immediately. Later on, I became part of the small but dedicated and hard working team who update and post news on Facebook of the vaccine's progress, hot from the lab at KCL, the team at Guy's and St Thomas' and the Jenner Institute. We collate and write free newsletters, update the Crohn's MAP Vaccine website, answer questions on the Facebook site, answer emails and do our own personal fundraising.

'At last, everything is beginning to move into the final countdown and hopefully, in the not too distant future, Crohn's disease will be a thing of the past. I for one will be very proud to have been a small part of this historic journey towards 'Cured not Managed.'

'My hope is that in the not too distant future Crohn's will be a thing of the past.'

*Your donation
makes the
difference*