

**Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for  
the year ended 31 December 2023**



**Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund**

**Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended  
31 December 2023**

**Company Registration Number: 04370087  
Registered Charity Number (England and Wales): 1091708  
Registered Charity Number (Scotland): SC042612**

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Contents**

Legal and Administrative Information .....	3
From the Chair of Trustees .....	5
From the Chief Executive .....	7
Planning for the year ahead – Putting Prevention First.....	10
Objects and Activities.....	12
Achievements and Performance.....	13
Structure, Governance and Management .....	28
Financial Review 2023.....	33
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities .....	34
Independent Auditor's Report.....	36
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 31 December 2023.....	41
Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023.....	42
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2023.....	43
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	44

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Legal and Administrative Information**

### **Charity Name**

Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund – operating as 'The Eve Appeal'

### **Trustees**

Tamara Box	(Appointed 01/07/2020) (Chair of Trustees effective 08/02/2024)
Sarah Clark	(Appointed 04/11/2019)
Ian Drew	(Appointed 29/09/2016)
Dr Christine Ekechi	(Appointed 26/10/2020)
Dr Ian Jacobs	(Appointed 29/05/2022)
Sarah Morris	(Appointed 19/12/2019)
Marion O'Hara	(Appointed 27/10/2021)
Cathy Pittham-Wiley	(Appointed 04/11/2019)
Dr Adam Rosenthal	(Appointed 26/10/2020)
Sally Bailey	(Appointed 18/10/2023)
Dee Brecker	(Appointed 18/10/2023)
Emma Dean	(Appointed 18/10/2023)

### **Chief Executive**

Athena Lamnisos

**Registered Charity Number (England and Wales):** 1091708

**Registered Charity Number (Scotland):** SC042612

**Registered Company Number:** 04370087

### **Principal Office of Charity and Registered Office**

The Eve Appeal, 10-18 Union Street, London, SE1 1SZ

### **Auditor**

Moore Kingston Smith LLP, 6th Floor, 9 Appold Street, London, EC2A 2AP

### **Bankers**

CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Unity Trust Bank plc, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

## **Solicitors**

Bates Wells, 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1BE

Reed Smith, Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose St, London EC2A 2RS

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **From the Outgoing Chair of Trustees**

### **A Legacy of Dedication and Impact: A Future Filled with Hope**

Dear Supporters and Friends of The Eve Appeal,

As I pen this annual report, I do so with a profound sense of pride and gratitude, reflecting on the remarkable journey we have undertaken together at The Eve Appeal. It has been an honour to serve as a Board member for the past 14 years and as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Eve Appeal since 2019.

In 2023, we celebrate not just the culmination of another impactful year but also the launch of a transformative initiative – our Fellowship Scheme. This forward-thinking program signifies our commitment to investing in the research stars of the future, fostering innovation, and ensuring the longevity of our mission to eradicate gynaecological cancers. The Fellowship Scheme is a testament to our dedication to the next generation of researchers who will undoubtedly lead us to new frontiers in the fight against these devastating diseases.

Our commitment to innovation and strategic partnerships continues to be a cornerstone of our success. By leveraging collaborative efforts and thinking creatively, we continue to maximise the impact of our research funding, enabling us to support groundbreaking projects and initiatives. We are thrilled to be working with the medical research charity, North West Cancer Research. By co-funding the fellowship scheme, we have the opportunity to provide the transformational support that researchers need to make impact. This approach not only amplifies our reach but also paves the way for sustained progress in gynaecological cancer research.

The challenging economic climate of recent times has tested our resilience, but I am pleased to report that we have weathered the storm. In the face of adversity, we have remained steadfast, demonstrating the true impact of our work and the critical need for our mission. By sticking to a clear strategy and effectively managing risks, we have navigated through a uniquely challenging time, emerging stronger and more determined than ever.

We want to share our thanks to our wonderful donors and partners who have helped us meet our fundraising objectives in the past year. We are grateful for their continued support. None of what we achieve would be possible without each and every one of our donors and strategic partners and their continuing efforts and generosity.

It is important to recognise the dedication and ambition of our incredible staff team under the excellent leadership of our Chief Executive, Athena. Their passion, diligence, and commitment are the driving force behind every success we celebrate today. A brilliant example of this dedication is

## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

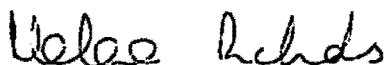
our Ask Eve Coordinator, Helen, who received an MBE in the New Years Honours list. Despite a significant increase in callers to our gynae health information service, and the challenges she faces with managing her own treatment for womb cancer, Helen's unwavering commitment has provided a lifeline for so many women with gynae health concerns. To Helen, and to each member of The Eve Appeal family, I extend my deepest gratitude for your tireless efforts and steadfast belief in our shared mission.

As I step down from my role as Chair of the Board of Trustees, I do so with immense pride in what we have accomplished together. The Eve Appeal is not just a research charity; it is a community united by a common goal. I have every confidence that we will continue to break barriers, drive innovation, and make strides towards a future where gynaecological cancers are a thing of the past.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being part of this incredible journey. Our collective impact is a beacon of hope for countless individuals affected by the gynaecological cancers.

I'm very proud of our legacy and hopeful for the future. I know that under the insightful stewardship of the new chair, Tamara Box, with our brilliant board, team and world class researchers, we will make powerful strides forward in 2024.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Richards'.

**Melanie Richards CBE, Outgoing Chair**

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **From the Chief Executive**

### **Rising Above the Challenges**

As we reflect on the past year, it is impossible to ignore the unparalleled challenges: for those affected by health concerns, for The Eve Appeal, and for society.

We continue to see the overwhelming pressure on the NHS and gynaecology services. The tireless efforts of our medical advocates have been stretched to their limits as they grapple with the backlog of cases, with patients often waiting many weeks for crucial diagnostic tests. This wait extends significantly for those in areas with limited access to gynaecological oncology support or specialist women's health services.

Our focus at Eve is on prevention and early diagnosis. We know that when diagnosis comes late, the prognosis is often much poorer. Our Ask Eve nurse information services has never been more needed for those waiting and worrying.

One of the most pressing challenges we confront is the glaring inequality in research funding with so little available for gynaecological cancers. The disproportionate global investment in prostate cancer research is striking, perpetuating a systemic imbalance that leaves gynaecological cancer research severely underfunded. The consequences of this funding gap are deeply felt in our ability to make strides in the prevention, early detection, and treatment of gynaecological cancers.

Comparative analyses of global investment in cancer research reveal an alarming trend where women disproportionately lose out. The glaring disparities in funding are not merely financial but translate into real-life consequences for women grappling with gynaecological health concerns. The detrimental impact of this discrepancy is evident across various fronts, from research initiatives to public awareness campaigns and accessible healthcare.

The consequences of this underinvestment are acutely felt by women diagnosed with gynaecological cancers, as they confront not only the physical and emotional toll of the disease but also the systemic neglect in research and healthcare infrastructure. It is disheartening to witness the disparity in outcomes when compared to cancers that receive more substantial financial support.

We are working to break this cycle of inequality in women's health.

We continue to advocate for increased awareness, understanding, and, most importantly, equitable funding for gynaecological cancer research. We will continue to push for increased investment, foster collaborations, and champion research initiatives that aim to transform the landscape of gynaecological cancer research.

We know that to reach our ambitions we need to work in partnership. During 2023 Eve continued our powerful work in many coalitions including One Cancer Voice, Cancer52 and the new HPV Coalition. We also fast-forwarded a new strategy to fund research in partnership with other charities – effectively doubling the investment into gynaecological cancer research. We are so proud of the

## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

impact that our Fellowships partnership with North West Cancer Research will bring to the most common gynaecological cancer, womb cancer.

We are proud to have supported groundbreaking research such as Martin Widschwendter's work on the WID test, marking a significant step forward in our mission. Creating kinder, more specific and more equitable diagnostic tests is core to our mission. Make screening better for women. This early test for womb cancer could create a step change.

Seeing Professor Ranjit Manchanda's work on population testing for BRCA gene mutations manifest into a nation-wide screening programme via the NHS was a defining moment for the charity. Research funded by Eve proved the clinical efficacy of this programme in 2016. Our research paper demonstrated that rolling screening out to high risk populations would save 56% more lives. It is fantastic to see this mainstreamed in the NHS in 2024. In the future, we would like our findings to get to the clinical setting faster.

Thanks to the generosity of our incredible supporters, our Rare Gynae Cancer Fund continues to grow. The first two projects awarded in 2022 got started in earnest this year, and Professor Sudha Sundar's project on mucinous ovarian cancer has already received two significant pots of follow-on funding. We ran our second Rare Gynae Cancer call, and we look forward to announcing details of the award in the near future.

We are equally delighted to welcome Dr. Kelechi Njoku as our inaugural Eve Fellow, and his support his search for a kinder, simpler test to detect endometrial cancer. Dr. Njoku's dedication exemplifies our commitment to advancing knowledge and finding innovative solutions. Our partnership with North West Cancer Research extended to support the co-funding of a second fellowship, and this call launched in early 2023.

Despite the limited resources and persistent challenges, our outreach and engagement programs continue to make a meaningful impact. The 'You Need to Know' Campaign, tailored for Black women to recognize the red flag symptoms of womb cancer, has proven especially impactful. Addressing the alarming statistic that black women are 2 times more likely to succumb to womb cancer, this initiative aims to bridge the gap in awareness and empower women to take control of their health.

As we navigate this ever-evolving landscape, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our outgoing Chair of Trustees, Melanie Richards CBE, for her invaluable leadership. We warmly welcome Tamara Box as our new Chair, confident in her ability to lead The Eve Appeal into the next chapter of our mission.

Heartfelt thanks also go to Professor Iain McNeish, Chair of our Research Advisory Committee. We've had the pleasure of having Professor Iain McNeish leading our RAC for the last six years – we could not have been in more capable and insightful hands. Iain is a leading light in the field of gynaecological cancer research. He has brilliantly supported our Board in keeping the focus on our mission and research strategy. 2023 has been a particularly exciting year as we have developed a new fellowship scheme and open research calls in rare gynaecological cancers. Our new programme will build the gynaecological cancer research stars of the future.

We extend our appreciation to the entire Eve community for their unwavering support and dedication to our cause. Together, we will continue to make strides in the prevention, early



## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

detection, and screening of gynae cancers, and continue reaching out to those in need with support and information to support gynaecological health.

Our work is fuelled by philanthropy and the generosity of so many.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Athena Lamnisis'.

**Athena Lamnisis, CEO**

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Planning for the year ahead – Putting Prevention First**

Working with a range of stakeholders, Eve launched a 3-year strategy in 2023. Our mission for 2023-2025 is to be here for everyone affected by gynaecological cancers – to provide them with information, amplify awareness, drive education, inspire support for the cause and fund world-class research to transform early diagnosis and prevention of these diseases.

This is the area of cancer research with the deepest funding gap and the greatest potential to prevent the immeasurable costs of treating late-stage disease.

We are the only national charity to focus all our efforts on prevention, funding world-class research and programmes to raise awareness of signs, symptoms and risk factors across all five cancers.

We will achieve our vision – a future where gynaecological cancers are diseases of the past – through our single-minded focus across all our programmes on early diagnosis, risk prediction and prevention of these cancers. We believe that every single case of cancer that can be prevented should be, and we include everyone in our work.

### **Goals 2023-25**

#### **Invest in innovation and discovery**

We will unlock new and better ways to understand gynae cancer, through seed-funding innovation and moonshot research programmes. We will explore new avenues to fund our researchers, including commercial opportunities that arise from research. We will streamline the way we work and engage to help achieve our mission.

#### **Engage and translate**

We will accelerate our research findings into clinical practice, by sharing impact with the broadest range of policy, public, academic, lived-experience and clinical stakeholders. We will seek out those who need access to our health information and ensure it is shared in a way that is accessible and relevant to them.

#### **Drive support for our vision through collaboration**

We will work across disciplines, across boundaries, and connect in meaningful ways with all of our new and existing stakeholders, with the aim of raising the funds necessary to achieve our mission.

### **Priorities & Plans**

As a medical research charity and an expert health information provider, we need to understand inequalities within health and research (they are many and varied) and make addressing these, part of everything we do. This commitment underpins our charitable activities 2024 and beyond.

We are progressing our ambitious agenda through unprecedented challenges and during a time of economic uncertainty resulting from global events. The impacts on health services have been huge and this has provided us with challenges but also opportunities – to pivot our programme work online, form exciting partnerships and thereby reach more people with our services.

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Our priorities for 2024**

### **Research & Providing Expert Information**

- Continue to advocate for funding of gynae cancers amongst the scientific research community, highlighting the need for additional funding to enable risk prediction and early detection, by engaging and leading committees and steering groups, and working closely with policy makers and government where possible.
- To support the vision of The Eve Appeal through raising in excess of £1.3m in cost-effective ways, allowing us to support our research programmes, our Ask Eve nurse-led information service, and our education awareness and information campaigns.
- To develop further partnerships with research charities in the sector to fund collaborative programmes and fellowships.
- Work closely and collaboratively with fellow members of the Association of Medical Research Charities to make the case for investing in medical research and the impact that this achieves.
- Issue an open call during 2024 in the core strategic areas of fellowship.
- Continue to market the Ask Eve service as the 'go to' charity for expert information and signposting on all five gynaecological cancers; with a particular focus on signs, symptoms, risk factors and prevention. Making the service accessible to all with a focus on those with the highest barriers to accessing health information and screening services. Prioritising developing resources for groups disproportionately affected by health inequalities and where needs are currently unmet.

### **Extending our reach**

- Build our European and international research networks through stakeholder work and attending and leading international conferences and events which focus on gynaecological cancer prevention.
- Extend our Ask Eve service through further consolidation and formalisation of our partnerships with a diverse range of community, patient and peer organisations that work directly with communities disproportionately affected by gynaecological cancers, and in areas where there are significant gaps in information provision. Launch our 'Eve Voices' collaboration in Autumn 2024 for Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month.
- To reach more communities in the workplace by signing up both larger organisations and SMEs to our Every Woman Promise gynaecological health at work initiatives.
- Continue to build The Eve Appeal's brand and reputation as an authoritative voice on all matters in relation to gynaecological cancers and their signs and symptoms, through targeted awareness campaigns for the public, clinical and relevant policy audiences. A new website will be launched during the summer which will work to meet all our supporter needs.

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Building a strong team to meet our ambition**

- Meet the ambitious targets set out in our 2024 financial year which build on learnings from 2023 successes. The plans demonstrate our commitment to a 'test, learn, implement' approach and support digital innovation across our fundraising streams and focus on the development of our major gifts programme. This is critical in meeting the needs of our research strategy and building new funding streams for fellowships, through new relationships with private donors, trusts and foundations.
- Consolidate the new governance structures within the Board of Trustees, and support continued functioning of the Finance and Audit Committee, Research Committee and the Development Board.
- Continue embedding the equity, diversity and inclusion workplan across all our activity, focusing on co-production and working with patients and other groups to ensure that everything we produce meets the needs of the communities who would benefit from our information and services.
- Complete the revision of all workplace policies and procedures (from cyber security to enhanced parental leave) and roll out training to all staff. This will ensure the team is supported and can operate effectively, and ensure that the charity is operating to best practice in all areas.
- Publish our impact report in Summer 2024 which brings together the monitoring, evaluation and impact data that we have gathered across programmes and gynaecological cancer research and unmet need.

We begin 2024 and the new financial year in a stable but cautiously optimistic position, intently focused on continuing our vital mission and with a clear plan for what we need to achieve over the next two years.

## **Objects and Activities**

### **Introduction**

Originally founded as the Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund in 1984 by Professor Ian Jacobs, The Eve Appeal was established in 2002 to raise awareness and funds into the research of the five gynaecological cancers: womb, ovarian, cervical, vulval and vaginal.

Every day in the UK, 60 women are diagnosed with a gynaecological cancer and 21 will die. Improving these grim statistics will take targeted investment in preventative research, but only 5% of UK cancer funding research goes on prevention<sup>1</sup> and a tiny percentage of the total on the gynaecological cancers. One in three people can't name a gynae cancer and one in four have felt not listened to in a gynae health appointment<sup>2</sup>.

The Eve Appeal was set up to save lives by funding ground-breaking research; since 2015 we've awarded over £3m to research focused on developing new screening, risk prediction and early detection methods. The research we fund is ambitious and challenging, while our razor-sharp focus means our funding leverages further funding from other sources. Alongside research, we also raise

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<sup>1</sup> World Cancer Research Fund

<sup>2</sup> Get Lippy YouGov Survey

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

vital awareness of signs and symptoms, break down taboos and stigma, and offer a free nurse-led information service, where anyone can ask anything.

The case for investing in gynaecological cancer research has never been more needed. As a research charity, we are proud to have been able to continue our research impact by investing new funds this year and not pausing or reducing any previously awarded research funds.

Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund, trading as The Eve Appeal, is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. In its memorandum and articles of association (last updated 2 February 2022), the Charity's objects are outlined as follows:

- To advance and fund research into gynaecological cancers and disseminate the results of such research;
- To advance public education and thereby raise the profile and awareness of gynaecological cancers, and their signs and symptoms, risk factors (including BRCA and inherited risks);
- To relieve the needs of women affected by the gynaecological cancers, and inherited risk factors (including genetic mutations) by providing information and support services for such women, their families, friends and health and social care professionals.

## **Aims and objectives**

The Eve Appeal is the leading UK national charity raising awareness and funding research into the five gynaecological cancers.

The Charity was set up to save lives by funding ground-breaking research focused on developing effective methods of risk prediction, earlier detection and prevention for the gynaecological cancers. We have played a crucial role in providing seed funding, core infrastructure funding and project funding in addition to campaigning to raise awareness of gynae cancers.

**The world-leading research that we fund is ambitious and challenging but our vision is simple:**

**A future where the gynaecological cancers are a disease of the past.**

## **Public Benefit Statement**

In reporting on the objectives and achievements of the Charity, the Trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit under the Charities Act 2011. The Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

## **Achievements and Performance**

### **Research**

The Eve Appeal continues to show that in the under-profiled field of gynaecological cancer research, a small fund focused on early detection, prevention and screening can have great impact. Increasingly, more stakeholders – including government, policy and allied charities – are recognising the importance of preventing and detecting these cancers before the burden is great. We continue to strive to detect every case of gynaecological cancer as early as possible, when it is most treatable, and ultimately prevent these cancers from developing in the first place.

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

We continue to make significant progress on our objectives set in the 2023-2025 organisational strategy:

- Establish the Eve Appeal Fellowship Programme
- Support early career researchers from clinical and academic backgrounds
- Fund research across all five gynaecological cancers
- Support our heritage core programmes
- Strengthen and support the Research Advisory Committee
- Capture and share impact of research activity across the organisation
- Ensure partnership and collaboration with key stakeholders across the research landscape
- Develop patient engagement with research

## **Establish The Eve Appeal Fellowship Programme – supporting early career researchers**

With limited funding, and uncertain pathways, the challenges for researchers working in gynaecological cancer are numerous. A priority for The Eve Appeal is to continue our legacy of investing in the next generation of gynaecological cancer research stars. The aim is to attract and retain these researchers in the field, by providing substantial financial assistance, resources, network, support and opportunities. By fostering the expertise and passion of these emerging leaders, we hope to drive advancements, potentially leading to groundbreaking discoveries and improved prevention and detection strategies.

The Eve Appeal has a 20-year track record of seed funding research on screening, early detection, prevention and risk prediction. We have supported and nurtured the careers of a series of outstanding researchers at an early stage of their career. They have all gone on to secure major programme awards and have had a major impact in gynaecological cancer research. Some of the leading researchers supported by Eve include Ian Jacobs, Martin Widschwendter, Usha Menon, Adam Rosenthal, Anne Lanceley, Simon Gayther and Susan Rasmus.

After extensive consultation with a range of allied charities, researchers and key stakeholders both nationally and internationally, the fellowship programme was launched in May 2023. The scheme was open to exceptional researchers in UK institutions, who have the potential to lead their own groups in discovery, translational or clinical research within the realm of prevention, risk prediction and early detection of gynae cancer.

Recognising the track record of The Eve Appeal and the impact of the projects funded over the last 22 years, North West Cancer Research – a medical research charity working in the North West of England – approached the charity to co-fund research projects. As The Eve Appeal was already in the midst of the call for applications for the fellowship scheme, a memorandum of understanding was organised between the two charities to jointly fund the 2023 fellowship scheme. The total financial investment for The Eve Appeal / North West Cancer Research Fellowship was up to £120,000 per year, to cover salaries and directly incurred costs of research for 3 years.

Our review processes were constructed in line with guidance and governance considerations set out by the Association of Medical Research Charities Principles of Peer Review.

In November 2023, we appointed our first inaugural fellow: Dr Kelechi Njoku from the University of Manchester, who will use his fellowship to develop a simpler and kinder test for detecting womb cancer.

There were many strong applications and hope to see more fantastic researchers joining Dr Njoku as Eve/NWCR Fellows in the future. We have confidence that The Eve Appeal and North West Cancer Research Fellowships will provide a step-change in transforming gynae cancer research, and

## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

achieve our shared vision of a future where the five gynaecological cancers are either prevented or diagnosed at the earliest stage.

Dr Njoku hopes to begin his project in Summer 2024.

### **Fund research across all five gynaecological cancers – active grants 2023**

#### **Small Cell Ovarian Cancer Registry**

The Small Cell Ovarian Cancer Registry is led by Dr William Foulkes at McGill University, Montreal. It is a collaboration between The Eve Appeal, Angela's Fund and researchers at Cambridge University and University College London. The project aims to develop an International Research Collaboration and Patient Registry, consolidating the knowledge and experience of both patients and clinicians to provide a necessary foundation for effective research into small cell ovarian cancer.

In 2021 (and as a direct result of early support for the project) we were delighted to receive news that the project had been successful in securing a large grant of \$600k from the Canadian Department of Defense Rare Diseases Fund to support the project over several years. Consequently, we have been able to redirect much of our committed grant to other vital research into rarer ovarian cancers.

Dr Foulkes has changed the focus of the remaining Eve grant and has been awarded a no-cost extension. Dr Foulkes is focusing on the assessment of the disease-causing potential of SMARCA4 variants in the context of Small Cell Carcinoma of the Ovary, Hypercalcemic Type. We are looking forward to monitoring how this research progresses. Ultimately, this project aims to improve variant classification for *SMARCA4*.

#### **Discovery of biomarkers for the early detection of vulvar cancer and pre-cancer by spatially resolved gene expression**

Dr Jackie McDermott, at Imperial College London, examined samples of vulval cancer using a new technology called spatial transcriptomics, which allows researchers to measure the gene activity in specific areas of vulval tissue samples. The information is being used to build a picture of the genetic changes between normal skin, areas of inflammation, precancerous lesions and cancer, allowing the team to unpick why pre-cancer turns to cancer. This will help to identify the women at risk to prevent vulval cancer from occurring.

The team are awaiting finalised results, and a key team member was awarded an Honorary Research Officership to remain at Imperial College London after graduation in recognition of this ongoing work.

## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Increasing awareness of gynaecological cancer and early detection in young women: Feasibility study of a university-based educational and behaviour change intervention**

Dr Patricia Holsch at Leeds Beckett University is running a mixed methods feasibility study to assist in the development of a university multi-centre trial to increase awareness of and symptoms for gynaecological cancers.

After a delayed start due to Covid and the resulting delay with ethics and recruitment, the study started in January 2022. The team have secured extra funding from the Centre of Psychological Research (PsyCen) for additional research assistant time to enable them to complete the project after the Covid delays.

Ultimately, the intervention will empower young women to be aware of and seek help for symptoms of gynaecological cancer.

### **Lynch Syndrome Prediction of Endometrial Cancer (LSPEC)**

Lynch Syndrome increases the risk of an individual developing endometrial (womb) cancer, as well as several other cancers. Dr Adam Rosenthal at University College London Hospital is investigating the hypothesis that mismatch repair (MMR) defects develop in the normal endometrium, prior to the development of atypical endometrial hyperplasia (AEH) and/or endometrial cancer.

The team received ethics approval after significant delays and have now started analysis.

This proposed work is essential in developing the direction of the research team which is now focusing on endometrial surveillance in women with Lynch Syndrome.

### **High throughput laser-assisted Rapid Evaporative Ionisation Mass Spectrometry (Laser-REIMS) in the early detection and diagnosis of vulval precancer and cancer**

Professor Maria Kyrgiou is using technology previously used in Eve funded research; the technique is now being used for early detection and diagnosis of vulval cancer. The diagnosis of precancerous and cancerous lesions can present difficulties as the disease can present with atypical symptoms and lesions that can mimic other skin conditions. There are many challenges when surgically treating the disease.

The technology, called Laser-REIMS, allows interrogation of biological samples in near-real time without the need for prior sample preparation. During analysis with laser-REIMS a sample is rapidly heated with the use of a minimally invasive laser, producing an information-rich vapour, which can be used to accurately identify whether the tissue is healthy or contains precancerous/cancerous regions. By identifying these regions in real time within the gynaecology clinic or operating theatre, doctors can offer an immediate diagnosis and proceed to further excisional treatment of the diseased areas if necessary.

Maria's aim is to expand the use of this technology to improve diagnosis and allow earlier detection of rarer gynaecological diseases, such as vulval intraepithelial conditions (VIN) and cancer.

### **Characterisation of steroid metabolome in mucinous ovarian cancer**

This project, led by the leading gynae oncologist Professor Sudha Sundar, aims to identify new tools for the earlier diagnosis of mucinous ovarian cancer. This is an extremely rare type of ovarian cancer which when diagnosed at advanced stages has very few successful treatment options.



## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

The team's previous research investigated urine steroid profiles in healthy women and women undergoing surgery or biopsy for suspected ovarian cancer. This was based on work by Professor Wiebke Arlt in adrenal cancer, where her team established that urine steroid profiles could differentiate accurately between adrenal benign tumours and adrenal cancers. The adrenal gland and the ovaries arise from the same 'ridge' of tissue when babies are developing as embryos.

In their work, rather serendipitously, they identified that 5 steroid metabolites involved in the earliest stages of steroid hormone production were elevated in mucinous cancer and mucinous borderline ovarian tumours compared to healthy women /women with benign tumours or other cancer types.

In the project, they want to confirm their findings in urine samples collected from a larger set of women undergoing surgery for ovarian masses, analyse urine from women with known mucinous ovarian cancer undergoing follow-up and analyse samples from women undergoing surgery for suspected mucinous cancer of possible bowel origin.

An excellent team have been recruited, and a number of patient engagement and collaboration initiatives are already in place.

### **Fund research across all five cancers – open call Rare Gynae Cancer Research 2023**

The second Rare Gynae Cancer Research Call opened in May 2023, with a funding pot available to award was £90,000.00. A number of strong applications were received from candidates around the country. These were reviewed by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) in September 2023. There were robust external peer reviews for each of the applications.

The RAC unanimously agreed to fund the project proposed by Dr Jason Yap from the University of Birmingham, which focuses on developing a vulval cancer risk prediction model based on the cancer field theory in Lichen Sclerosus. The Eve Appeal are delighted to be supporting another project focused on the under-researched area of vulval cancer. This project is due to start in May 2024.

### **Support our heritage core programmes**

A penultimate research grant was awarded to Professor Martin Widschwendter's team at University College London to ensure the continued momentum of his Eve-supported portfolio of research as he works to secure long-term funding from other sources.

The team's work on the WID®-qEC test for detection of womb cancer continued. Womb cancer is the 4th most common cancer in women and case numbers are increasing. Womb cancers diagnosed early are treatable and outcomes are good. But even small delays in diagnosis mean that a cancer is likely to be diagnosed at a later stage. The project team has developed a simple, quick to process, objective test that detects womb cancer. The test – called the WID®-qEC test was discovered and validated in several sample sets but required further validation in a 'real world' clinical setting.

Results of the EPI-SURE study were finalised in June 2023, with excellent results and a publication in Lancet Oncology. The study compared the performance of the team's test with routine diagnostic procedures, with the test performing very well. Implementing the WID®-qEC would simplify and speed up diagnosis for women with womb cancer symptoms.

## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Further investigations into populations who are at increased risk for womb cancer (including black women and those with Lynch Syndrome) will be investigated this year. The team have strong patient and public involvement initiatives, and have embedded equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives into their research plans.

### **Strengthen and support the Research Advisory Committee – Research Governance**

In addition to the action points set out in the organisational strategy, we are continually reviewing governance measures to ensure they are in compliance with AMRC guidelines, and in keeping with the charity's mission and purpose.

In September 2023, the Research Committee (RComm) was established. The committee fulfils a number of important functions within the charity, namely:

- Research strategy and planning, focused on organisational three-year priorities, TEA strategy and guidelines
- Review research initiatives, opportunities for strategic partnerships and collaboration in research
- Providing assurance about the peer review process conducted by the Research Advisory Committee (including handling any challenges or conflicts of interest that arise)
- Scrutiny of application budgets, to ensure requests are reasonable
- Funding and resourcing for research
- Translation of impact of TEA-funded research
- Monitoring of key research performance indicators, including the utilisation of funds awarded
- Risk and associated mitigations arising from research activity
- Regulatory obligations specifically related to research activity.

Our external review body, the Research Advisory Committee, recruited a new Chair, Emma Crosbie, Professor of Gynaecological Oncology at Manchester University. Emma has taken over from 1 January 2024 after Professor Iain McNeish stepped down at the end of 2023. We are delighted that Emma will be leading our group of external and lay reviewers.

The Eve Appeal are keen to develop membership of the RAC, and this will be done with Professor Crosbie leading the process for review by the charity Board. Areas of interest have been outlined, and a shortlist of names are under review.

We are grateful to Professor McNeish for his leadership and support over several years and grateful to all past and present members for their time and commitment.

### **Capture and share impact of research activity across the organisation**

The Eve Appeal has a particular strength in sharing research impact and success with key stakeholders and the general public. This is important not only for the researchers who are looking to build their profile, but to build patient engagement with research, and develop researcher's chances for follow-on funding and share details of their research. It also provides our donors and supporters with evidence of the work we are supporting.

In addition to sharing news across a range of platforms (including social media, newsletters, with press and public relations with broadcast and regional press), the charity shares impact of research

## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

investment with donors and supporters. We are gathering stories and impact data on the range of heritage projects that The Eve Appeal has supported over the years, and will be sharing this in an impact report in Summer 2024.

A number of Eve researchers have attended staff meetings to share details of their work. This is particularly meaningful for those not engaged with the research on a daily basis – for example, the fundraising team. Their work is vital to the continued support of research, and this connection between research and fundraising provides an important inspiring and engaging link to the whole staff team.

### **Ensure partnership and collaboration with key stakeholders across the research landscape**

Collaborative working is a key value at The Eve Appeal, and this has been exemplified by the partnerships, connections and collaborations developed in 2023.

The partnership with North West Cancer Research (NWCRC) is a key example, where after being approached to co-fund research, we were able to rapidly engage in a partnership to co-fund fellowships. We leveraged the connection with the Association of Medical Research Charities, and their partnership focus over 2023, to facilitate an arrangement which draws on the strengths of both organisations to realise a coveted fellowship scheme. We have worked together not only on the funding side, but also on marketing, communications and support. We are delighted to be working with NWCRC on a second fellowship in 2024.

The Eve Appeal has developed a network of allied charities, meeting regularly to discuss challenges, opportunities and ways to collaborate to maximise funds available. This connection has facilitated the sharing of a range of opportunities, and we hope that this further manifests into additional joint-funded projects in 2024 and beyond.

### **Develop patient engagement with research**

With the focus of funding medical research and raising awareness through outreach and education, some may argue that patient involvement is less relevant for The Eve Appeal. Many voices contribute across the organisation in meaningful ways already (lay members on the Research Advisory Committee, people sharing their stories, a bank of medical advocates who regularly contribute, along with several established Ambassadors) and there is a strong sense of community. However, systems for supporting these individuals, tracking engagement and recognising the important role they play within the charity has not been defined. As more people get involved, it is important to impart our values to those who are connected with the charity, provide a structured induction, support them along their journey with the charity, and recognise (and where possible) reward their efforts, as they help us work towards achieving our mission.

A proposal for meaningful lived experience engagement with research has been developed after extensive consultation with stakeholders, and we are excited to consult with the community and implement a number of these initiatives in 2024.

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Ask Eve – Nurse-Led Information Service**

Ask Eve continues to be a lifeline for anyone concerned, diagnosed, or affected by a gynaecological cancer, enabling people, from all communities, to access trusted health advice when they need it. With ongoing pressures on the NHS, the demand for Ask Eve is rapidly increasing alongside the complexity of contacts. Ask Eve had a 109% increase in contacts over the last 12 months. Many people with concerns about symptoms, questions about genetics and who are experiencing significant delays in appointments, investigations, results and treatment contact Ask Eve for information, signposting, and support.

We continue to engage with hundreds of people, from diverse communities, providing vital information on gynaecological cancers, raising awareness of important signs and symptoms, promoting early diagnosis, encouraging preventative action for those at risk and supporting those diagnosed and their loved ones, at all stages of the pathway.

We are delighted to continue to improve the accessibility of Ask Eve using both telephone and written interpretation services, extending our range of easy read materials and having access to BSL as required.

We now offer access to Ask Eve via an online contact form. This is a popular option and we have had over 200 contacts since it was introduced in April 2023. A substantial proportion of Ask Eve contacts are via email with the average time spent on a response taking 20 mins. There has been an increase in the number of calls with the average call 42 mins long which is over four times longer than the average GP appointment. This level of engagement gives people the opportunity to talk through their concerns, at their own pace, receive the individualised information and support they need as well as empowering them to advocate for their own gynae health.

*I found your website so helpful and informative, wish I'd found it just after diagnosis. I was so impressed with the support That I received from Helen, nurse specialist. She was kind, caring, supportive and listened. I didn't feel foolish, I felt for the first time supported and reassured.*

*Helen followed through with all she said she would. I wish more nurse specialists were like her. Her interaction, manner and listening skills are wonderful, just what is needed. I have already shared your charity's information and will support you in the future.*

The most common reasons for contacting Ask Eve are for information about signs and symptoms, delays in treatment, concerns about care, HPV, cervical screening, menopause and hereditary risks. This highlights the valued and unique role we have in cancer prevention and early diagnosis.

Our outreach work continues to show an increasing number of contacts, from these groups, demonstrating the impact of our work.

Our Ask Eve Nurse Service Co-ordinator was awarded a Points of Light Award in May 2023 and an MBE in December 2023 for charitable services to women with gynaecological cancers.

## **Information and Awareness**

Information and Awareness is a cornerstone of charitable activity at The Eve Appeal. In the relentless pursuit of reaching as many people as possible, with trusted, clear health information, the team's efforts have led to a series of impactful milestones throughout 2023.

The Eve Appeal continued its steadfast commitment to speak clearly and strongly, reach diverse communities and empower individuals with crucial knowledge about gynaecological health and understanding the signs and symptoms of gynae cancer. Efforts in 2023 have provided a beacon of

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

best practice in the realm of gynaecological health advocacy, winning awards along the way.

Below are some of the highlights of the impactful endeavours of the team, showcasing their unwavering commitment to empowering women, and reaching out in creative, unique and impactful ways.

Across the whole year we had nearly 333,000 views of our website, and our gynae health information pages had nearly 56,700 views. Over the course of 2023 our social posts, which contain vital gynae health information and updates on The Eve Appeal, reached over 4,835,000 people. We started work on the development of a new website, engaging with hundreds of our key audiences to hear about their needs.

Despite the taboos around women's health, The Eve Appeal were mentioned in the media nearly 590 times, where we shared gynae health information, details about our Ask Eve service, and commented on key stories that were in the news. We were featured in key outlets such as iNews, HuffPost, BBC online, The Independent, The Daily Mail, The Sun, Mirror Online, BMJ, Mail Plus, The Times, BBC Radio (Women's Hour), The Guardian, The Stylist, The Metro, Black Ballad, The Express, ITV News, Podcasts: The Guilty Feminist, Media Storm, Should I Delete That? and Outspoken Beauty. Crucially, the team were able to share research updates and successes in the broadcast press, with a number of stories appearing on national television and in the newspapers.

## **January – Cervical Cancer Prevention Week**

In January, for Cervical Cancer Prevention Week (CCPW), we shared our 'Check Me Out' video across Instagram to encourage women and people with gynae organs to attend their cervical screening test when invited. Working with a creative agency on a pro-bono basis, this unique and eye-catching video reached over 185,000 people with this message.

## **March – Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month**

This Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month (OCAM) we teamed up with doctors and nurses to develop videos with the key signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer in different languages- Bengali, Krio, Gujarati, Fanti, Farsi and Yoruba, which was shared across ours and their channels. Later in the year we promoted the videos on Facebook to women in the UK who speak those languages, the three videos were seen by nearly 165,500 people from these communities.

## **May – Get Lippy**

May 2023 saw our sixth year of the Get Lippy campaign. We ran a YouGov survey which found that only 7% of people had a good understanding of gynae symptoms before they experienced them themselves. We asked people what they wish they had known about gynae health when they were younger, to help people open up about their experiences and share the important gynae health information we should all know. The campaign media and communications had an estimated total reach of 950 million, across our own channels (website and social) we had a reach of 1.3 million people.

We landed 34 pieces of coverage, with an estimated potential reach of 950 million. This included several pieces in The Sun, iNews and the Guilty Feminist podcast.

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **June – Cervical Screening Awareness Week**

For Cervical Screening Awareness Week this year we shared tips on how to make yourself feel more comfortable during a cervical screening test, especially if you have any barriers that make this particularly difficult. Our content through the week reached 45,500 people.

## **September – Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month**

During Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month we shared key information on hormones and how they affect cancer risk through a woman's lifecycle. Our YouGov survey which found that only one in five people know about the link between womb cancer and oestrogen and less than a third are aware of its link with ovarian cancer. Over 900 people read our informative blogs on hormones and cancer risk and early menopause from cancer treatment over the month. We gained 67 pieces of coverage in GCAM and our informative social media posts reached over nearly 102,000 people.

We also ran a week-long collaborative campaign, called Spot Check, with GSK and Peaches Womb Cancer Trust to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of womb cancer. The campaign focussed in on abnormal vaginal bleeding. We launched a microsite with key information and signposting, ran a campaign on social media and had out of home adverts in service station toilets across the country. The campaign had an estimated potential reach of nearly 13.5 million people. With nearly 145,000 impressions across social media, 11 pieces of media coverage and 3,800 people visiting the website. There were a total of 161 posters in 24 service stations in the UK, which an estimated 3 million people would have had the chance to see.

## **Outreach- pilot project**

In 2023 we finished off our pilot outreach project with south Asian communities in London, Birmingham and Manchester. We worked with four different grass roots organisations and charities working with south Asian women to co-produce awareness resources and sessions to raise awareness of the five gynae cancers, their key signs and symptoms and information to help empower women to access medical support when they need it. We ran a total of 23 workshops with nearly 220 women across the three cities. We asked the women what they felt they knew about the gynae health topics both before and after the sessions and on average across 3 educational sessions per group and 15 feedback questions, 68% of them said they knew very little or a little before session, and afterwards 96% of them felt they knew information well or very well.

Since our pilot project, the number of south Asian women contacting Ask Eve has risen from just 1% of total callers to 8%.

In 2023 we already received further funding from Gilead Sciences to continue our outreach work and expand it to Black communities in the three cities, and work is now underway to co-produce the content and sessions with our working group of Black women and grass roots organisations. We are grateful to Gilead for their generous support; with the impact data presented above, we know that meaningful community engagement has the potential to save lives.

## **Outreach- You Need to Know**

In 2023 we ran a joint local campaign with the North East London Cancer Alliance to raise awareness of abnormal bleeding as the red flag symptom of womb cancer in Black and south Asian women across the North East London boroughs. We worked with the cancer alliance and a working group of

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

women from the community to co-produce campaign adverts and videos to get the message out. Adverts were placed in community hubs, such as pharmacies and beauty salons. We ran 10 talks in local community centres and places of worship to over 225 people to share information about abnormal bleeding and womb cancer. The project impact is being evaluated by an expert team at the University of Leicester.

## **Health information**

In 2023 we gained our PIF Tick accreditation - a symbol of trustworthy and co-produced health information which is backed up by thorough processes for producing health information to ensure it is accurate and accessible and involves people who it is for from start to finish.

We also launched a Guide to Lynch Syndrome, for anyone looking for information on the inherited genetic risk factor for womb, bowel and ovarian cancer - whether someone has had a cancer diagnosis, is considering or going through genetic testing or has found out they or a loved one has Lynch Syndrome. So far over 1000 people have downloaded our guide - which is also available in an Easy Read version - and over 4000 people have visited our webpage for information. The guide was also covered in iNews.

In 2023 we revamped our general gynae cancer information leaflets. We worked with a group of experts by experience to produce new, engaging, and accessible leaflets to raise awareness of the key signs and symptoms of the gynae cancers in the general population. Since they were launched at the end of August our leaflets have been downloaded by over 1400 people.

In 2023, 'Probably Nothing', The Eve Appeal's weekly online series hosted by Ask Eve's Ambassador, Karen Hobbs, continued for its sixth and seventh series, with eight new 45-minute conversations with experts broadcast live on our social media channels totalling in over 10,000 views. Through series seven we discussed topics related to gynae cancers and menopause, including what cancer symptoms to spot if you are post-menopausal, early menopause due to cancer treatment, and fertility options for women and people with gynae cancers.

The Ask Eve team delivered several workplace lunch and learn sessions this year. This programme, which takes gynaecological health into the workplace and on to the corporate wellbeing agenda, has been developed into an employee programme, The Every Woman Promise. The Every Woman Promise sees employers make a commitment to women's health in the workplace and has been incredibly well received by employers and employees alike.

## **Fundraising**

### **From the General Public**

We are overwhelmed by the continued support of all those who choose to donate and fundraise towards our work during the year and the difference they are making.

Whether taking on virtual challenges, running marathons or donating in response to our appeals, generous people across the UK continued to pull together and do what they could to help make gynaecological cancers diseases of the past.

Gifts from the general public account for the majority of our income and so it is only thanks to these inspiring and generous individuals that we can deliver fund world-class research, our cancer information service *Ask Eve* and our vital awareness raising work.

We are also touched by the incredible supporters who chose to include a gift to The Eve Appeal in

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

their Will. These gifts make a real and lasting difference that will benefit all those affected by gynaecological cancers for generations to come. It's an incredible legacy to leave.

## **From Businesses**

We are truly thankful for the ongoing support of our long-term corporate partners, including Tesco, Cosmetic Executive Women UK (CEW) and Saks Hair and Beauty Salons, who continue to support The Eve Appeal in so many ways.

We are also incredibly grateful to all of those businesses that joined our wellbeing programme (the Every Woman Promise) requested lunch and learns or supported us in other ways throughout the year. We would specifically like to thank the League Manager's Association for their phenomenal ongoing support.

We again ran our flagship Get Lippy campaign in May, a campaign which sets out to encourage everyone to speak up about gynae cancers. We were delighted with how many incredible brands chose to participate in donating 10% of sales from specific products in the month to The Eve Appeal. This was, again, our most successful campaign to date and we truly appreciate each and every brand that participated and every member of the public who purchased these products and contributed to its success. A special thanks, also, to our Get Lippy lead partner Tesco who have supported the campaign since its inception.

## **From Trusts, Foundations and Statutory Funding**

We are hugely grateful to have benefitted from the support of numerous Trusts and Foundations throughout the year. Thanks to their support we could fund vital research into rarer gynaecological cancers, maintain our Cancer Information Service *Ask Eve* and deliver outreach sessions within targeted communities.

We are also delighted to have received the second instalment of our grant from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). This funding is enabling us to deliver our *Every Woman Promise* programme to Small and Medium sized Enterprises - ensuring more businesses are able to support women's health in the workplace.

## **Impact**

Despite the many challenges of capturing the impact as a small medical research and advocacy charity, we continue to support real change – in transformative research discovery, in clinical practice, in accessing appropriate care, in developing a broader understanding about gynaecological health, in reaching women who are not supported, and in breaking down the barriers that women face in managing their health.

Impact can be difficult to judge through numbers alone; success can mean a single call encouraging someone to attend a cervical screening appointment or feasibility funding to a small-scale research project.

Our relatively small research investments have enabled our researchers to leverage significant follow-on funds from national and international funding bodies. New awards made in the past 12 months provide the foundations of novel research that could make quicker diagnosis and ultimately improve treatment outcomes. It is particularly gratifying for all of our stakeholders to see that riskier



# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

research, supported in the early days, has many years later led to important changes in clinical practice.

Staff, trustees and volunteers have continued to show incredible commitment to the mission of The Eve Appeal. Our progress in this mission - a future where fewer women are diagnosed with, and many more women survive, gynaecological cancers - has been unyielding, and the impact of these investments spurs our community on further.

## **Research Impact Overview**

Despite funding early-stage, 'riskier' and novel projects, The Eve Appeal has an extraordinary track record of success when it comes to research impact. Below are a few examples of the impact of legacy projects, as well as current funded projects.

The Eve Appeal funded PROMISE study, which started in 2011, continues to receive significant follow-on funding from a range of organisations including the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, and the NHS Innovation Accelerator Fellowship scheme. They aim to develop and validate models for risk stratification, early detection and diagnosis of ovarian cancer which incorporate clinical, epidemiological, genetic, proteomic and imaging data and to then assess how best to apply them in large populations. The goal is to transform outcomes for people at risk from ovarian cancer, giving them a far stronger chance of survival.

The bioresource created during the course of UKCTOCS, re-branded as the UKCTOCS Longitudinal Women's Cohort (UKLWC), continues to support academic and industry collaborations. UKLWC has its own dedicated access and governance structure to support wide and efficient sharing of samples and data. The resource therefore provides an ideal setting for case control studies for early detection biomarkers. Longitudinal samples also provide a unique opportunity to improve biomarker performance for screening through development of longitudinal algorithms. The UKLWC bioresource has to-date supported over 70 collaborative projects, with over 65 publications resulting from these collaborations to date.

The research led by Professor Sadaf Ghaem-Maghami from Imperial College London has developed a tool to instantly diagnose or rule out womb cancer. If used in clinic, the intelligent knife (iKnife) technology – and the high diagnostic accuracy and positive predictive value - could provide a diagnosis within minutes for people with abnormal vaginal bleeding. This would speed up access to treatment for those with womb cancer, as well as reducing the stress and anxiety of waiting for results. The next step will be to run a multi-centre trial, to enable the technology to be put into clinical practice.

We continue to support the Professor Widschwendter's University College London's strategic programme through the funding of the UCLH lab team. In 2022, nine new academic papers relating to the results of Eve Appeal funded projects were published in journals including Nature Communications, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Genome Biology, Genome Medicine, Clinical Epigenetics and the International Journal of Cancer. Further research was published in 2023, and with the support of The Eve Appeal, the team continue to drive the translation of this research into clinically actionable tests.

Eve's support of Professor William Foulkes at McGill University (Montreal, Canada) was instrumental in helping to establish a research registry that would facilitate access to research data and materials for the study of small cell ovarian cancer (SCCOHT). The funding continues to support Q&A sessions with the public on SCCOHT and the registry has had an increase in requests for advice from patients

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

and families, particularly around life-changing decisions like whether to perform preventive oophorectomies (the removal of both ovaries).

Our longstanding relationship with Professor Ranjit Manchanda at Queen Mary University in London has focused on hereditary risk and population testing of BRCA mutations. This work has led to the start in spring of 2023 of NHS population testing for BRCA, undertaken through the NHS Cancer Screening Programme. We have developed connections with Jewish community organisations, to support stakeholder engagement and support structures and networks, and will support outreach, awareness and engagement programmes going forward.

Vulval cancer remains a significantly under-researched disease. With over 1,400<sup>3</sup> cases diagnosed each year in the UK and an estimated 45,000 globally<sup>4</sup> there is potential for scientific advances in this area. We are pleased to be supporting two research initiatives in this area. Data from the first study led by Dr Jackie McDermott examining biomarkers for the early detection of vulvar cancer and pre-cancer by spatially resolved gene expression will be presented at a global open meeting in 2023 to share developments and next steps with this community. Working with the National Cancer Research Institute, we hope to develop a network to support those who are advancing knowledge around vulval cancer. By providing support, sharing knowledge and offering opportunities this will enable researchers to direct their efforts towards the most promising hypotheses.

A second project on vulval cancer, led by Professor Maria Kyrgiou at Imperial College London, is focused on early diagnosis of precancerous and cancerous lesions. Diagnosis of the disease is difficult, and surgically treating the disease is challenging. With the support of our generous donors to the Rare Gynae Cancer Fund, Maria and her team are developing novel technologies – called laser-assisted Rapid Evaporative Ionisation Mass Spectrometry (Laser-REIMS) - which could enhance diagnosis and intra-operative decision making, and this could lead to significant benefits and reduced morbidity for this commonly elderly population. This would minimise the need for repeat visits, unnecessary extensive surgical removal of skin whilst optimising clearance and minimise repeat surgical procedure by enhancing margin clearance and intra-operative sentinel lymph node diagnosis. The proposed technology has the potential to offer a single, rapid, low-cost and objective test for the early detection and further develop into a tool for bedside diagnosis. We will update our supporters as the study progresses, and the team have already won prizes and recognition for their work.

The second Rare Gynae Fund project led by Professor Sudha Sundar has received matched and follow-on funding in its first year and continues to seek additional support for their work. They recruited an excellent team to progress their work in understanding mucinous ovarian cancer. The team have been building collaborations both nationally and internationally and have had significant patient engagement through focused groups and on social media. The team are also making efforts to reach out to ethnically diverse communities and have translated their work into multiple languages. The team have a real opportunity to derive new insights into this disease to help women with mucinous ovarian cancer.

## **Information and Awareness Impact**

Engagement across the range of activities connected with our many information and awareness initiatives is an excellent indicator of impact. With hundreds of thousands of views to our website and millions of views across social media channels, The Eve Appeal has become the 'go-to' source for

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<sup>3</sup> Cancer Research UK

<sup>4</sup> Cancer.net

# Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

honest, trusted health information and support.

From stories in the mainstream press, downloads of focused health information resources like our Lynch Syndrome Guide, large-scale campaigns across the calendar year and partnerships with a range of stakeholders to co-produce innovative ways of engaging with those who are experiencing social and health inequalities, we know that this targeted work has the potential to save lives.

We are grateful for the support of organisations that help us to do more and reach more people. While we know we are making a difference, funding for outreach is limited. We have identified communities in need and will continue our efforts to reach out to as many as possible.

## Ask Eve Nurse Service Impact

Ask Eve has provided a lifeline for so many women unable to access gynaecological care to address their concerns. It has helped many with a new gynaecological cancer diagnosis to understand their situation, and access support. It has provided a supportive and empathetic ear to those facing extraordinary challenges. The many quotes and testimonials from callers attest to this:

*"Many thanks to the wonderful Eve Appeal staff, in particular Tracie, for supporting me through an exceptionally isolating situation due to a very rare diagnosis. I would be in a very bad way without your help. I want to use my horrendous experiences and constant gaslighting and dismissing of serious symptoms to try and enact some changes. It's just unacceptable what some women have to go through to receive support for gynae problems. Thanks for all you do."*

Our extraordinary team of gynae nurses are stretched to the limit and it would be ideal to grow the team to support more people. The challenge in 2024 will be to continue demonstrating impact to grow our service for more women.

We are grateful to everyone who supports Ask Eve and contributes to its ongoing development and success. The added value of Ask Eve is summed up by one of our users: *"You are all amazing and we are so lucky to have a charity like you!"*

## Fundraising Impact

Our incredible supporters donated £1,310,542 towards our work during the financial year.

We are overwhelmed by this ongoing generosity, and we are truly thankful to everyone for their donations and support. They have helped to fund our cancer information service, Ask Eve, vital research via our Rare Gynae Fund and supported our wider work to help make gynaecological cancers diseases of the past.

Some standout achievements include:

- Continuing our partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to bring gynae health information to small businesses;
- Another record-breaking year for our annual Get Lippy campaign – working with beauty brands to donate 10% of sales on specific products during May;
- Securing a partnership with The Big Give meaning all donations to Ask Eve, our nurse-led cancer information service, were doubled during the campaign period.

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Organisational structure and decision making**

The Charity is governed by a Board of Trustees who are members and also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act. The Board sets the strategic direction of the Charity ensuring that the charitable purposes of the Charity are met. Day-to-day running of the Charity is delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer.

The Eve Appeal considers each of the Trustees to be independent in character and judgement and understands that they have no relationships that are likely to affect, or could appear to affect, their judgements with regard to the Charity. Declarations of interest are required from new Trustees upon appointment and every meeting of the Board requires that any new interests are declared. No remuneration is provided except for reasonable travel and subsistence costs; in 2023 this figure was £0.

There are two Committees which make recommendations to the Board: the Finance & Audit Committee and the Research Committee.

The purpose of the Finance & Audit Committee is to ensure that a strategic approach is taken in the areas of finance, risk, audit, remuneration and other operational areas. The Finance & Audit Committee is comprised of at least four members, all of whom are Trustees, who give detailed consideration, on behalf of the Board, to these matters.

The Research Committee provides scientific research advice and works on the recommendations of the external Research Advisory Committee for new funding decisions. These recommendations are viewed in light of the charity's mission, charitable objectives and financial position, and the committee makes recommendations and provides advice to the Board of Trustees.

The Charity had one 100% owned subsidiary company in the year. Eve Appeal Limited is a trading company that distributes its profits under Gift Aid to the Charity.

In 2021, in recognition of the Charity's support for key support programmes, the Principal Investigator, Professor Martin Widschwendter has gifted The Eve Appeal shares in a company, Sola Diagnostics GMBH which will be taking forward innovative diagnostic tests which are at an early stage of development. Any profits arising from the venture will be fed back into academic medical research programmes. In 2023 Sola Diagnostics GMBH had yet to make a profit.

### **Trustee appointment, induction and training**

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, taking into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able, by virtue of his or her personal or professional qualifications and experience, to make a contribution to the pursuit of the objects or the management of the Charity.

Trustees and staff consider the skills gaps formed by departing Trustees and both openly advertise

## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

for and nominate appropriate individuals with skills to match before recommendation to Board for appointment. References are taken before appointment is formalised and prospective Trustees are then proposed and appointed at the AGM.

The Charity undertakes a comprehensive induction programme for all new Trustees, which includes induction materials relating to its purposes and finances, the powers and duties of the Trustees and information about day-to-day running of The Eve Appeal. Key documents are provided, such as the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charity Commission's Essential Trustee guide, up-to-date accounts, and minutes of the most recent Trustee meetings. Prospective Trustees may also attend relevant Trustee meetings as an observer as part of the induction process alongside introductions to key people and places. Trustees continue to be supported through ongoing training, with skills requirements regularly reviewed.

The Trustees who served in the period under review were:

Melanie Richards CBE	(Chair of Trustees) (Resigned, 07/02/24)
Jenny Leonard	(Resigned 17/11/2023) (Chair, Finance & Audit Committee)
Tamara Box	(Appointed 01/07/2020)
Sarah Clark	(Appointed 04/11/2019)
Ian Drew	(Appointed 29/09/2016)
Dr Christine Ekechi	(Appointed 26/10/2020)
Dr Ian Jacobs	(Appointed 29/05/2022)
Sidonie Kingsmill	(Resigned 25/01/24)
Sarah Morris	(Appointed 19/12/2019)
Marion O'Hara	(Appointed 27/10/2021)
Cathy Pittham-Wiley	(Appointed 04/11/2019)
Kathleen Pritchard	(Resigned 20/02/2023)
Dr Adam Rosenthal	(Appointed 26/10/2020)
Sally Bailey	(Appointed 18/10/2023)
Dee Brecker	(Appointed 18/10/2023)
Emma Dean	(Appointed 18/10/2023)

### **Declaration of Interests**

All Trustees and staff are required to declare their interests, and any payments (including, but not limited to, benefits in kind such as gifts, hospitality shopping/travel concessions, preferential treatment, etc) received in connection with their role in The Eve Appeal where such interests would, or might, conflict with, or otherwise influence their decision-making in respect of the Charity's activities.

## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Staff**

A Senior Management Team comprising the Chief Executive, the Fundraising Director, the Head of Finance and Head of Programmes allows for distribution of organisational responsibility and both staff and Trustees continue to be happy with the structure. The CEO has particular responsibility for issues relating to governance and for the financial management of the organisation.

The Eve Appeal has 21 permanent members of staff and the Trustees record their appreciation of the efforts of the staff, who have again made an enormous contribution to the success of The Eve Appeal and its mission during the year.

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Volunteers and Advocates**

Volunteers form a vital part of The Eve Appeal's operations; from our dedicated fundraisers holding bake sales or sporting events, to those who help staff at larger events like Festival of Carols or assist with day-to-day tasks in the office over a busy period. Those affected by gynaecological cancers and their loved also play a vital role in adding their voice, their stories and their experiences to our work and events. As a small charity, these supporters make a real difference to our achievements throughout the year.

The Eve Appeal continues to benefit from the voluntary efforts of our community of researchers, scientists and clinicians, who willingly give up their time to help achieve the Charity's aims through engagement with the media.

A focus for the coming year is to enhance our 'Eve Voices' voluntary network and ensure that every person who contributes their time and expertise to Eve – whether a celebrity ambassador, a woman or loved one affected, or a clinical expert – is fully briefed, thanked and stewarded as part of the charity's mission.

The Trustees wish to extend their sincere thanks to all the volunteers who have supported The Eve Appeal.

## **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

Being here for the people and communities who need us most, that are disproportionately affected by the gynaecological cancers and health inequalities, is a focus that runs through all our programmes.

The charity has an EDI working group and with Trustees, all policies and impact assessments have been reviewed during 2023. These policies apply to all Trustees, staff, service users and the public we serve. Commitment to equity and diversity are central to the work of The Eve Appeal. We will treat all people with dignity and respect, valuing the inclusion of all. We will promote equality of opportunity and diversity. We will seek to eliminate all forms of discrimination on grounds of race, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, disability, sex, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and also caring responsibilities, social class, or any other factor irrelevant to the purpose in view.

We continue to take proactive steps to instil inclusivity across everything we do and make sure that all voices are amplified, all groups are listened to, represented and heard.

As part of this, we will ensure our policies and procedures are independently reviewed and fair and equal. Further we will review to ensure our research is reaching the diverse audiences we seek to serve and ensure that our communications reflect and engage all audiences. In line with the recent review of charity governance guidance, we will be actively stating the actions we take.

We will tackle social exclusion, inequality, discrimination and disadvantage. We value diversity and lived experience and understand that people from many backgrounds are currently underrepresented both within our organisation and across the communities who we support and work within the health sector and medical research. We believe these sectors are poorer for their lack of diversity and inclusivity and we take our role in changing that landscape seriously.

For this policy to be successful, it is essential that everyone is committed to and involved in its delivery. The Eve Appeal aims to embed this in all its policies, procedures, day-to-day practices and external relationships.

## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Safeguarding Policy**

Our safeguarding policy has been reviewed and updated during 2023 and all staff and Trustees offered training. We have a safeguarding lead Trustee and a clear escalation process in place. Safeguarding issues and concerns are notified to the Board as part of the quarterly reporting process.

The Eve Appeal believes everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, ability or disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.

The Eve Appeal is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

The Eve Appeal acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved.

The Eve Appeal recognises that health, well-being, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience. We recognise that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help. We recognise that these factors can vary at different points in people's lives.

Safeguarding actions taken by The Eve Appeal will be consistent with the principles of adult safeguarding ensuring that any action taken is prompt, proportionate and that it includes and respects the voice of the adult concerned.



# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Financial Review 2023**

### **Transactions and Financial Position**

At December 2023 year end, we reported a surplus of £362,326 in unrestricted reserves to carry forward into 2024. This surplus comprises funds of £182,326 above our agreed operating reserves level of £180,000.

In 2023 we introduced a Research Fellowships Programme, supporting our legacy programme with Prof. Martin Widschwendter, as well as holding a research open call. We have an ambitious programme for 2024 grant awards.

Ending 2023 with substantial unrestricted reserves places The Eve Appeal in a position to meet our award ambitions.

In summary, we begin 2024 in a cautious but stable position with £362,326 in free reserves and an overall cash balance of £928,895.

### **Funding**

Fundraising policy Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities. The legislation defines fundraising as 'soliciting or otherwise procuring money or other property for charitable purposes'. Such amounts receivable are presented in our accounts as 'donations and voluntary income'.

We confirm that all solicitations are managed internally, without involvement of commercial participators or professional fundraisers or third parties. The day-to-day management of all income generation is delegated to the executive team, which is accountable to the Trustees. We have received no complaints in relation to fundraising activities.

The Eve Appeal is funded principally by voluntary donations from individuals and community groups who continue to support our work and mission. Corporate sponsorship and donations also account for a significant proportion of our funding. Without this support we would not be able to operate, and we are incredibly grateful for every penny that is donated.

### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which The Eve Appeal is exposed and are satisfied that systems are established to mitigate the Charity's exposure to those risks. These risks are detailed on the Risk Register for The Eve Appeal, with information on the current practice and strategy used to mitigate the risk. The Register is reviewed quarterly by Trustees.

The current Risk Register pays particular attention to the risks around the impact of the pandemic and the on-going economic crises on income and operations, research not reaching intended objectives, fundraising targets being missed, loss of key individuals, IT failure (including cyber security risk) and incorrect information being provided on a health issue.

The integrity of medical information provided by the Charity is managed by agreed peer-reviewed protocols, with information standards applied across all materials and channels.

A balanced portfolio of fundraising activity spreads risk to reduce any potential impact. Regular

# **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

financial planning, including re-forecast of fundraising income and expenditure, ensures early interventions can be made.

## **Reserves Policy**

The 2023 annual review of the reserves policy determined that no adjustment was required to the figure as set in 2022 of £180,000. This figure is set by the Board as a target of holding £180,000 in free reserves. This target is based on the contingency for wind up funds, calculated to satisfy all the Charity's liabilities in the event of closure. In real terms, £180,000 represents just under three months' budgeted expenditure, excluding expenditure on research grants.

The Board will continue to review the reserves policy annually to ensure it remains appropriate to the needs of the Charity in the context of the economic climate.

## **Going Concern**

The Trustees have reviewed the Charity's financial position, taking into account the levels of reserves, cash, committed income included in the accounts, future plans and its systems of financial and risk management. The Trustees believe that the Charity is well placed to manage operational and financial risks successfully. Accordingly, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and consider that there are no material uncertainties about the group's ability to continue as a going concern.

## **Grant Making Policy**

The policy of the Trustees is to fund world-class medical research that will make the biggest impact in saving women's lives from gynaecological cancers, including funding proof-of-principle work to enable the award of future funding. As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, we have developed a strategy and funding decision-making processes that meet strict awarding criteria and review, and recommendations are made by independent experts in the research field.

## **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The Trustees (who are also directors of Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company and charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

## **Annual Report incorporating a Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate and proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

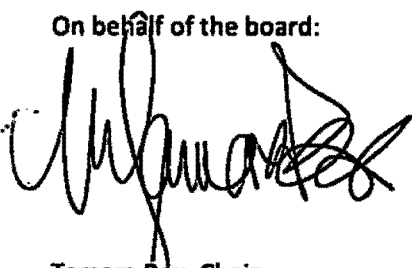
In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tamara Box', written over a horizontal line.

Tamara Box, Chair

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

# **Independent Auditors Report to the Trustees of Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund**

## **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Activities (including the Group Summary Income and Expenditure Account), the Group and Parent Charitable Company Balance Sheets, the Group Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (as amended), regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011.

## **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other

# **Independent Auditors Report to the Trustees of Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund**

information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' annual report for the financial period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' annual report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from preparing a strategic report.

## **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 34, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they

# **Independent Auditors Report to the Trustees of Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund**

give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the group and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the group or parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under Section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Companies Act 2006 and Section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report to you in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group and parent charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group and parent company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report.

# **Independent Auditors Report to the Trustees of Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund**

However, future events or conditions may cause the group or parent charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit report.
- We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

## **Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (as amended), regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council and UK tax legislation;
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance;
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance;
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations;

# **Independent Auditors Report to the Trustees of Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund**

- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

## **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006; and to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and in respect of the consolidated financial statements, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and Trustees those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charitable company, the charitable company's members, as a body, and the Charity's Trustees, as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

*Moore Kingston Smith LLP.*

James Saunders, FCCA, DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Statutory Auditor

6th Floor  
9 Appold Street  
London  
EC2A 2AP Date:

Date: 24 May 2024

Moore Kingston Smith LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.



**Independent Auditors Report to the Trustees of  
Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund  
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an  
income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
<b>Income</b>					
Donation and legacies	3	915,249	325,956	1,241,205	1,514,513
Other trading activities	4	87,901	-	87,901	78,321
Investment Income		15,474	-	15,474	4,780
Other Income		278	-	278	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,018,902</b>	<b>325,956</b>	<b>1,344,858</b>	<b>1,597,614</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Raising Fund	6,7,9,10	594,006	750	594,756	519,514
Charitable activity	8,9,10	667,337	338,187	1,005,524	1,136,282
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,261,343</b>	<b>338,937</b>	<b>1,600,280</b>	<b>1,655,796</b>
<b>Net Income/Expenditure</b>		<b>(242,441)</b>	<b>(12,981)</b>	<b>(255,422)</b>	<b>(58,182)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	20,21	<b>6,756</b>	<b>(6,756)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>		<b>(235,685)</b>	<b>(19,737)</b>	<b>(255,422)</b>	<b>(58,182)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		598,011	339,198	937,209	995,391
<b>Total funds Carried forward</b>		<b>362,326</b>	<b>319,461</b>	<b>681,787</b>	<b>937,209</b>

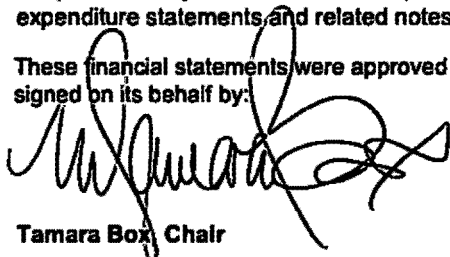
All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

**Independent Auditors Report to the Trustees of  
Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund  
Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023**

	Notes	Group 2023 £	2022 £	Charity 2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Intangible fixed assets	15	3,461	4,260	3,461	4,260
Tangible fixed assets	16	17,981	12,171	17,981	12,171
Investment	17	7,431	7,431	7,432	7,432
		<u>28,873</u>	<u>23,862</u>	<u>28,874</u>	<u>23,863</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock		-	250	-	250
Debtors	18	191,025	286,431	180,863	308,920
Cash at bank and in hand		928,895	1,074,607	841,477	976,899
		<u>1,119,920</u>	<u>1,361,288</u>	<u>1,022,340</u>	<u>1,286,069</u>
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due</b>					
	19	<u>(467,006)</u>	<u>(447,941)</u>	<u>(455,056)</u>	<u>(444,940)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>652,914</u>	<u>913,347</u>	<u>567,284</u>	<u>841,129</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>681,787</u>	<u>937,209</u>	<u>596,158</u>	<u>864,992</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
Restricted		319,461	339,198	319,461	339,198
Unrestricted funds		362,326	598,011	276,697	525,794
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>681,787</u>	<u>937,209</u>	<u>596,158</u>	<u>864,992</u>

As permitted by S408 of the Companies Act 2006, the Company has not presented its own income and expenditure statements and related notes.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 1 May 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



**Tamara Box, Chair**

Company No. 4370087

**Independent Auditors Report to the Trustees of  
Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund  
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31  
December 2023**

	2023	2022
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Cash provided by operating activities	(151,812)	5,670
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Interest income	15,474	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(9,384)	(6,535)
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	-	-
Purchase / acquisition of investments	-	-
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	6,090	(6,535)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period</b>	(145,722)	(683)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2023	1,074,607	1,075,290
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31-Dec-23</b>	<u>928,885</u>	<u>1,074,607</u>
<b>Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities</b>		
Net income/(expenditure) for the period	(255,422)	(58,182)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income	(15,474)	-
Depreciation	3,564	6,666
Amortisation	799	799
Decrease/(Increase) in stock	250	950
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	95,406	(76,238)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	19,065	131,675
<b>Net cash provided by/used in operating activities</b>	<u>(151,812)</u>	<u>5,670</u>
<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents and net debts</b>		
Cash in hand and at bank		
Opening balance	1,074,607	1,075,290
Cash-flows	(145,722)	(683)
Closing balance	<u>928,885</u>	<u>1,074,607</u>

# **Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

#### **1 GENERAL INFORMATION**

##### **Company information**

Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund, operating as The Eve Appeal, is a public benefit entity, a charity registered in both England and Wales (registered charity number 1091708) and Scotland (SC0462612) and a company limited by guarantee (company number 04370087), registered in England. The registered office and its principal place of business is The Eve Appeal, 10-18 Union Street, London, SE1 1SZ

#### **2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### **(a) Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) including Update Bulletin 2, (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the group's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### **(b) Going Concern**

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of going concern is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the group to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have given due consideration to the current economic uncertainty and have reduced the risk with income spread across different stream of activity.

Having reviewed forecasts prepared by management the Trustees are confident that the Charity and the group will continue to meet its obligations as they fall due and that therefore the going concern basis continues to be appropriate.

##### **(c) Group Financial Statements**

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary, The Eve Appeal Limited, on a line-by-line basis. The subsidiary company has the same year end date of 31 December 2023.

##### **(d) Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives. Designated funds are unrestricted funds which are earmarked for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific restrictions imposed by the donors.

##### **e) Income**

Income represents amounts receivable by the Charity during the year from all sources. All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

# **Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

Legacies are accounted for when the Charity has entitlement, receipt is probable and the amount is measurable. Donations are accounted for on a receivable basis. Other trading activities are accounted for on a receivable basis and in the year to which they relate.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the Charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the Charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

#### **(f) Expenditure & VAT**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Grants payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when authorised by the Board of Trustees and communicated to the recipient.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its objectives. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and the costs of an indirect nature as necessary to support them.

Costs of raising funds comprise fundraising costs and the costs incurred in the subsidiary trading activities. Fundraising costs include advertising, producing publications, printing and mailing fundraising materials, associated staff costs and an appropriate allocation of support costs.

Support costs are those costs incurred in support of the Charity's primary objectives and are allocated on the basis of staff time spent on those objectives.

Governance costs are those costs relating to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and the structure and governance review and are allocated on the basis of time spent overseeing the relevant activities.

#### **(g) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation**

Tangible Fixed assets are recorded at cost less depreciation and impairment.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets in order to write off their cost by equal annual instalments over their expected useful lives. The rate adopted is as follows:-

Fixtures and Fittings 25% on cost

#### **(h) Intangible Fixed Assets and Amortisation**

Intangible Fixed assets are recorded at cost less amortisation and impairment.

Amortisation is provided on all intangible fixed assets in order to write off their cost by equal annual instalments over their expected useful lives. The rate adopted is as follows:-

Trademarks 10% on cost

#### **(i) Investments**

Unlisted investments comprise the following:-

- investments in subsidiaries which are measured at cost less impairment
- investments in a joint venture acquired in the year under review.

Under the charity SORP this is measured using the equity method of accounting.

The equity method of accounting requires the associate to be initially recognised at its cost (the transaction price paid), including any cost incurred making the investment (transaction costs).

Using the equity method, the carrying amount of an investment in an associate is subsequently adjusted through the SoFA to reflect the investing charity's share of the associate's results. The carrying amount thereby reflects the investor's share of the post acquisition change in the net assets of the associate.

**Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**(j) Stock**

Stock principally consists of artwork donated by artists and is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Artworks provided by artists are recognised in the financial statements at their anticipated sales price, less anticipated cost of sales and any subsequent impairment.

**(k) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank and in hand includes deposits which can be withdrawn within 24 hours without penalty and short-term deposits which have a maturity period of 3 months or less and are not subject to significant risk of changes in value.

**(l) Tax Status**

Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund (Limited by Guarantee) is a registered company, number 04370087 and is exempt from corporation tax under the provisions of Sections 466-493 of the Corporation Taxes Act 2010.

**(m) Operating Leases**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the period of the lease on a straight-line basis.

**(n) Pensions**

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The contributions to the defined contribution scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable.

**(o) Financial Instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. The Charity does not have any bank loans.

**(p) Significant Accounting Estimates and Judgements**

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances:

**(i) Gifts in kind**

Gifts in kinds are recognised within incoming resources and expenditure at an estimate of the value to the Charity of the donated services or goods. Where possible the value of services/goods are confirmed directly with the supplier however in some instances this information is not available and a best estimated is made of the expected cost of such goods based on what the Charity would be willing to pay for similar services or goods at a market rate.

**(ii) Grant creditors**

In the year ended 30/06/2019 year the Trustees considered the treatment of the recognition of grant creditors falling due within one year and after one year and have adopted a better estimation of creditors falling due within one year.

As a result, a prior year adjustment was raised in the year ended 30/06/2018 to align the change in treatment of the comparatives with the current year.

## Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

3. Income-Donation and Legacies	2023		£	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted		£
Individual giving	300,484	27,705	328,189	334,157
Community	319,828	39,043	358,871	353,948
Trusts and foundations	12,292	225,408	237,700	266,761
Major donors	22,871	14,800	37,671	91,598
Corporate	89,278	19,000	108,278	51,030
Legacies	55,870	-	55,870	202,526
Gifts in Kind	114,626	-	114,626	214,493
<b>Total</b>	<b>915,249</b>	<b>325,956</b>	<b>1,241,205</b>	<b>1,514,513</b>

In 2023 £880,855 (2022: £1,136,282) of donations and legacies related to unrestricted funds and £325,956 (2022: £378,231) was attributable to restricted funds. Income from donations and legacies includes donated services worth £77,958 (2022: £214,493).

#### 4. Income - Income From Trading Activities

	2023		£	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted		
Community				6,104
Trading subsidiary (see note 17)	87,901	-	87,901	72,217
<b>Total</b>	<b>87,901</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>87,901</b>	<b>78,321</b>

## Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Direct Cost	Support Cost	Governance Costs	Total 2023
Expenditure on raising funds (Note 6 and 7)	495,588	80,336	18,832	594,756
Expenditure on charitable activities (Note8)	850,379	126,894	28,249	1,005,522
Charity Expenditure on raising funds	1,345,967	207,230	47,081	1,600,278
Consolidated	1,345,967	207,230	47,081	1,600,278

	Direct Cost	Support Cost	Governance Costs	Total 2022
Expenditure on raising funds (notes 6 and 7)	404,461	98,347	16,706	519,514
Expenditure on charitable activities (note 8)	963,376	147,846	25,060	1,136,282
Charity Expenditure on raising funds	1,367,837	246,193	41,766	1,655,796
Consolidated	1,367,837	246,193	41,766	1,655,796

Expenditure relating to raising funds in 2023 was £594,006 unrestricted (2022: £517,818) and £751 restricted (2022: £1,696). Expenditure on charitable activities in 2023 was £667,336 unrestricted (2022: £732,476) including donated services worth £114,626 (2022: £214,493) and £338,186 from restricted (2022: £403,806).



## Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 6. DIRECT COSTS OF GENERATING DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
Individual giving	47,870	313	48,183	41,628
Community	72,777	335	73,112	89,744
Legacies	3,264	-	3,264	-
Trusts and foundations	727	-	727	4,891
Major donors	279	102	381	3,941
Corporate	16,152	-	16,152	7,123
Central	353,768	-	353,768	249,149
	<b>494,837</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>495,587</b>	<b>396,476</b>

#### 7. DIRECT COSTS OF TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
Community	-	-	-	7,985
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,985</b>

#### TOTAL DIRECT COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

**495,587      404,461**

All staff costs (including salaries) relating to Direct Costs of Raising Funds have been allocated this year to Central costs (note 6).

#### 8. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
Research grants (note 11)	152,528	96,333	248,861	367,492
Ask Eve - Nurse-Led Information Service	38,204	38,572	76,776	77,603
EWP-DHSC	(344)	182,619	182,275	
Information & Awareness	217,870	14,281	232,151	303,788
Research	48,969	-	48,969	
Gifts in kind	61,349	-	61,349	214,493
	<b>518,576</b>	<b>331,805</b>	<b>850,381</b>	<b>963,376</b>

# Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund

## For the year ended 31 December 2023

### 9. DIRECT COSTS OF GOVERNANCE

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
Group - Audit fees	16,679	-	16,679	14,629
Group - Non audit fees	-	-	-	-
Directors Indemnity Insurance	1,157	-	1,157	389
Insurance	1,356	-	1,356	275
Trustee costs	72	-	72	972
Staff and contractor costs	27,738	-	27,738	25,501
Other costs	79	-	79	-
	<b>47,081</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>47,081</b>	<b>41,766</b>

### 10. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
Rent, service charge and utilities	11,961	1,683	13,644	18,994
Insurance	(77)	383	306	2,863
IT, phone and internet	31,122	4,123	35,245	40,476
Staff and contractor costs	139,282	-	139,282	127,178
General corporate services	18,560	193	18,753	36,876
Research administration	-	-	-	19,806
	<b>200,848</b>	<b>6,382</b>	<b>207,230</b>	<b>246,193</b>

## Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 11. RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED BY INSTITUTION

Included in Charitable Activities were the following research grants:

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
University College London	160,393	6,633	167,026	188,405
Imperial College London	-	-	-	90,000
University of Birmingham	-	89,700	89,700	87,262
Grant commitments reclaimed	(7,866)	-	(7,866)	1,825
	<b>152,527</b>	<b>96,333</b>	<b>248,860</b>	<b>367,492</b>

#### 12. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
Wages and salaries	722,927	505,594
Social security costs	69,819	51,271
Staff pensions	27,653	18,614
	<b>820,399</b>	<b>575,479</b>
Cost of contracts	71,499	136,335
Total staff costs	<b>891,898</b>	<b>711,814</b>

The number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer national insurance contributions) amounted to over £60,000 in the year were:

	2023	2022
£60,000 - £69,999	-	1
£70,000 - £79,999	1	-
£80,000 - £89,999	-	-
£90,000 - £99,999	1	1

Average Staff Numbers:

Charitable activities	11	10
Fundraising and support	9	6
	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>

The key management personnel of the parent charity comprises the Trustees, the Chief Executive, the Director of Fundraising, the Head of Programmes and the Head of Finance. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel in the year were £277,417 (2022: £219,902).

#### 13. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES OR BENEFITS IN KIND

None of the Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2022: none).

During the year £1,157 (2022: £389) was paid in respect of Trustees Indemnity Insurance.

No Trustees claimed for any expenses during the year (2022: none).

#### 14. NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	2023	2022
Net movement in funds is stated after charging:		
Auditor's remuneration - current year	15,579	16,704
Amortisation	799	799
Depreciation	8,011	6,666
Amounts payable under operating leases:		
Land and Buildings	46,765	57,440

**Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**15. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - Group and Charity**

	<b>Trademarks £</b>
Cost at 31 December 2023	7,988
Amortisation	
At 1 January 2023	3,728
Amortisation	799
At 31 December 2023	<u>4,527</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2023	<u>3,461</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2022	<u>4,260</u>

**16. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	<b>Fittings and Equipment £</b>
Cost	
At 1 January 2023	103,654
Additions	9,384
Disposals	
At 31 December 2023	<u>113,038</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2023	87,046
Charge for the year	8,011
Depreciation on disposals	
At 31 December 2023	<u>95,057</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2023	<u>17,981</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>16,608</u>

# Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund

## For the year ended 31 December 2023

### 17. INVESTMENTS HELD AS FIXED ASSETS - Charity

	2023	2022
Shares in Subsidiary Undertakings at cost	1	1
Shares in Joint Venture at fair value	7,431	7,431

#### Joint Venture

The Charity has a share in Sola Diagnostics GmbH, an Austrian company. Shares (which will decrease over time) were gifted to the Charity from Professor Martin Widschwendter.

The carrying amount of the investment was £7,431 at the year end, which is deemed to be its fair value.

### Subsidiary

The Charity has a wholly owned subsidiary incorporated in England, Eve Appeal Limited, which raises funds through trading activity including cause related marketing and sales of goods. The company pays its profits under Gift Aid to the Gynaecological Cancer Research Fund.

A summary of its trading results (included within "Other trading activities") for the period ended 31 December 2023 is as follows:

Profit and Loss	2023	2022
Turnover	87,900	73,092
Administration expenses	(2,270)	(875)
Net profit before tax	85,630	72,217
Taxation	-	-
Net result	85,630	72,217

Profit and loss reserve		
Brought forward at 1 January	72,217	26,653
Net result in period	85,630	72,217
Distribution to Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund	(72,217)	(26,653)
Carried forward at 31 December	85,630	72,217

### Summary Balance Sheet

#### Current Assets

Debtors	28,339	273
Cash at bank and in hand	87,420	97,709
Total current assets	115,759	97,982

#### Current liabilities

Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	30,129	25,764
Net current assets	85,630	72,218
Total assets less total liabilities	85,630	72,218

#### Capital and reserves

Share capital	-	1
Profit and loss accounts	85,630	72,217
Total	85,630	72,218

# Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund

## For the year ended 31 December 2023

### 18. DEBTORS

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Trade Debtors	34,239	7,773	5,896	7,500
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	18,181	22,763
Prepayments and accrued income	146,163	271,040	146,163	271,040
Other debtors	10,623	7,618	10,623	7,617
	<b>191,025</b>	<b>286,431</b>	<b>180,863</b>	<b>308,920</b>

### 19. CREDITORS

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Grants payable	418,838	388,808	418,838	388,808
Trade Creditors	15,631	34,334	9,021	34,334
Accruals	20,450	16,919	15,250	13,919
Taxation and social security	160	6,235	20	5,109
Other Creditors	11,927	1,645	11,927	2,770
	<b>467,006</b>	<b>447,941</b>	<b>455,056</b>	<b>444,940</b>

### 20. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS - GROUP

	At January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
General funds	418,011	1,018,902	(1,261,343)	6,756	182,326
Emergency fund	180,000	-	-	-	180,000
	<b>598,011</b>	<b>1,018,902</b>	<b>(1,261,343)</b>	<b>6,756</b>	<b>362,326</b>

#### Emergency Fund

The reserves policy for the charity, as agreed by the Trustees, is to maintain a minimum of three months budgeted expenditure, excluding expenditure on research grants. Further information on this and the rationale for this can be found in the reserves section of the Trustee Report.

#### Transfers

There was an unrestricting residual balance on NE London Cancer Alliance – Womb Cancer Awareness -this was transferred to Unrestricted Reserves.

### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS – CHARITY

	At January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
General funds	345,794	1,005,490	(1,261,343)	6,756	96,697
Emergency fund	180,000	-	-	-	180,000
	<b>525,794</b>	<b>1,005,490</b>	<b>(1,261,343)</b>	<b>6,756</b>	<b>276,697</b>

## Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 21. RESTRICTED FUNDS – CHARITY AND GROUP

	At January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
Ask EVE	-	113,162	(38,158)	(75,004)	-
Small Cell Cancers	-				-
BRCA Protect	6,633			(6,633)	-
BRCA Research	14,104	1,891	-		15,995
Computational Biology Team	2,250			(2,250)	-
Vulval Cancer	-	872	(15)	(857)	-
Awareness	4	2,081	(5)	76,013	78,093
Know Your Body (formerly known as Every Girl Promise)	1,977		(968)	(1,009)	-
HPV Resource	678				678
e-learning Vulval Cancer Resource	-	6,000	(6,000)		-
Extension of Ask Eve - South Asian Communities	6,349		(6,349)		-
Rare Gynaecological Research	114,515	40,567	(72)	(88,843)	66,167
Ovarian Cancer Research	56,204	4,114	(73)		60,245
Lynch Syndrome Guide	-				-
UCL Strategic Research Funding	-	10,500	(6,633)	8,883	12,750
Every Woman Promise	129,701	126,709	(189,524)		66,886
NE London Cancer Alliance - Womb Cancer Awareness	6,783		(27)	(6,756)	-
Ourreach		20,000	(1,413)		18,587
Fellowships		60			60
Vulval Risk Prediction			(89,700)	89,700	-
	<b>339,198</b>	<b>325,956</b>	<b>(338,937)</b>	<b>(6,756)</b>	<b>319,461</b>

#### Transfers

The Every Girl education and information programme has closed and remaining funds moved into awareness activity focussed on same audience

The computational programme has been concluded and the programme of research continues through the UCL strategic research programme

The Vulval Cancer programme has concluded and the remaining funds moved to the Rare Gynae Fund where further vulval research has been awarded.

# **Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund**

## **For the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Restricted Funds**

**Ask Eve:** The nurse led information service providing free, confidential, gynae information via phone or email.

**BRCA Protect:** The programme aims to identify the mechanisms of cancer development, understand its causes and test potential ways of preventing gynaecological cancer development. The focus of the programme is understanding why those in high-risk groups who carry mutated genes develop cancer.

**BRCA Research:** Several of our research programmes have a strong focus on the BRCA gene mutation to early detect or prevent ovarian and breast cancer – for example BRCA PROTECT, BRCA UNITE and GCaPPS.

**Computational Biology Team:** Our programmes require a substantial computational biology, statistics and bio-informatics which are central to our research.

**Vulval Cancer:** Vulval cancer is one of the rarer gynaecological cancers with just over 1,000 cases in the UK diagnosed each year. Increased awareness of the signs and symptoms of vulval cancer are essential to ensure that women see their GP as soon as they notice something not right for them and to keep going back if it continues.

**Awareness:** This fund is restricted to raising awareness of gynaecological cancers and communication work around certain campaigns such as Get Bleeding Checked.

**eLearning Vulval Cancer Resource:** This fund is the ongoing website hosting for the Royal College of GPs Project.

**Know your Body (formerly know as Every Girl Promise):** This fund is an outreach programme to work with schools about gynaecological health. This is funded by ICAP but has been delayed by the global pandemic.

**HPV Resource:** This project works to embed a deeper and more nuanced public understanding of HPV, seeking to reduce disease risk, promote preventative behavioural change, and improve patient outcomes for HPV and related diseases across the board.

**Extension of Ask Eve – South Asian Communities:** Tailored information provision and community education to improve gynaecological health outcomes. The project will evaluate and address the needs of three key audiences: South Asian women, economically deprived communities, and older women aged 50+.

**Rare Gynaecological Cancer Research:** Less than 5% of the 21,000 women diagnosed with gynaecological cancer in the UK are diagnosed with a rare form. The low number of new cases of these rarer cancers mean individual doctors are unfamiliar with symptoms, too often resulting in a late diagnosis, with treatment that may not be optimal for the disease type and subsequent progression of the disease. More research is needed to advance and improve the early diagnosis and prevention rare gynaecological cancers.

**Ovarian Cancer Research:** In the UK nearly 7,500 people are diagnosed with ovarian cancer every year. The symptoms are not always obvious, and it is often diagnosed in a late stage. Research into early detection, risk prediction and prevention is needed.

**UCL Strategic Research Funding:** focusing Prof Widschwendter's research continuing at UCL. The Clinical Assessment & Work up of the WIDqEC test in women at high risk for Endometrial (Womb)Cancer.

**Every Woman Promise:** This project supports and educates women in the workplace, to report symptoms and seeks advice on gynaecological health issues and makes employers aware of the issues. The aim is to both improve the health chances for each woman but also to improve the corporate environment, through engagement at a corporate ownership and management level.



## Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

**NE London Cancer Alliance, Womb Cancer Awareness:** Working with the NHS to deliver 12 awareness sessions across north east London to increase the awareness of signs and symptoms of womb cancer amongst women. The project will primarily focus on areas where there is a large Black African, Black Caribbean or South Asian population, but will be available to all women regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation or other protected characteristic.

**Outreach:** This fund is separating out our outbound and inbound work as part of Ask Eve.

**Fellowships:** This fund is a new programme funding early stage researchers.

**Vulval Risk Prediction:** This fund is for the rare gynaecology project, it is a new research project.

More information on the research can be found in the research review on page 13 and on the Ask Eve service on page 16 of the Trustee Report.

#### 22. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS – GROUP

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Fixed Assets	28,873	-	28,873	23,862
Current Assets	800,459	319,461	1,119,920	1,361,288
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	(467,006)	-	(467,006)	(447,941)
	<b>362,326</b>	<b>319,461</b>	<b>681,787</b>	<b>937,209</b>

#### 23. LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

The Charity is limited by guarantee and therefore does not have a share capital. The liability of the members is limited to the sum of £1 per member, and the number of members was 14 (2022:13).

#### 24. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

Eve Appeal Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund, which is the ultimate controlling party.

The Ultimate controlling party of Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund are the Trustees.

#### 25. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year under review, the Charity received income totalling £20,254 in donations from 7 Trustees, both current and resigned in the period, including partners (2022: £32,298 from 15 Trustees including partners).

Reed Smith LLP provided pro bono legal services to the charity in the year totalling £14,989.35 (2022: £70,138). Tamara Box, a partner in Reed Smith LLP is also a trustee of the charity.

#### 26. COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

The group and Charity had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases:

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Land and buildings:				
Within one year	10,675	10,675	10,675	10,675
Between one year and five years	36,090	42,700	36,090	42,700
After five years	-	4,065	-	4,065
	<b>46,765</b>	<b>57,440</b>	<b>46,765</b>	<b>57,440</b>