

# Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK Limited

England & Wales · Charity number 1142037

## Details

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Other names	ORACLE CANCER TRUST
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	<a href="#">07125497</a>
Registered	2011-05-20
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	167-169 Great Portland street 5th Floor London W1W 5PF
Phone	0203 475 3471
Email	<a href="mailto:info@oraclehnc.org.uk">info@oraclehnc.org.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.oraclehnc.org.uk">www.oraclehnc.org.uk</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** The objects of the Charity are for the public benefit to preserve and protect health and to provide relief for individuals affected by head and neck cancer, including without limitation: 1. by advancing education and promoting and funding research in relation to the causes, prevention, treatment and cure of head and neck cancers, and publishing the useful results of that research; 2. by providing practical support, information and assistance to individuals affected by head and neck cancer, their carers and family; and 3. by promoting collaboration and best practice in the treatment and care of individuals affected by head and neck cancers, including (without limitation) through the provision of grants and financial support. Nothing in the objects shall authorise an application of property for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with s.7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

**Activities:** The charity funds pioneering research into all matters connected with or bearing upon the causes, prevention, treatment and care of cancer to include research into and to advance the art and science of surgery as applied to cancer of the head and neck and for the publication and dissemination of the results of such researches.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

## Geography

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- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-31	£648,454	£918,289	£46,203	5
2024-05-31	£498,898	£364,105	-	-
2023-05-31	£500,248	£445,010	£181,245	2
2022-05-31	£465,691	£512,232	-	-
2021-05-31	£319,335	£346,639	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Frances Rhys-Evans		2025-09-05
GARETH THOMAS		2023-12-01
James Paterson Robertson		2022-08-01
Jaymit Patel		2025-08-06
Keith Jones		2013-11-21
Mehmet Sen		2022-09-01
Toby Amis		2023-04-01

**Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK Limited**

England & Wales - Charity number 1142037

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# Accounts

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**Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK Limited**

**Charity No. 1142037  
Company No. 07125497**

# **Report and financial statements**

**For the year ended**

**31 May 2025**

# ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

## Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 May 2025

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# ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

## Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 31 May 2025

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**Trustees:** Keith Jones - Chair  
Gareth Thomas  
James Robertson  
Dr. Mehmet Sen  
Toby Amis  
Frances Rhys-Evans (appointed on 4 March 2026)  
Jaymit Patel (appointed on 4 March 2026)  
Ghassan Alusi (resigned 19 November 2025)

**Chief Executive:** Tamara Khan

**Company number:** 07125497

**Charity number:** 1142037

**Registered office:** 167-169 Great Portland Street  
5th Floor  
London  
W1W 5PF

**Auditors:** Goldwins Limited  
75 Maygrove Road  
West Hampstead  
London NW6 2EG  
[www.goldwins.co.uk](http://www.goldwins.co.uk)

**Bankers** CAF Bank Ltd  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4JQ

Metro Bank PLC  
One Southampton Row  
London  
WC1B 5HA

# ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

## Report and financial statements

### For the year ended 31 May 2025

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The trustees, who are also directors under company law, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2025.

The trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

## Objectives and activities

### Purposes and aims

The objects of the Charity are for the public benefit to preserve and protect health and to provide relief for individuals affected by head and neck cancer, including without limitation:

1. by advancing education and promoting and funding research in relation to the causes, prevention, treatment and cure of head and neck cancers, and publishing the useful results of that research;
2. by providing practical support, information and assistance to individuals affected by head and neck cancer, their carers and family; and
3. by promoting collaboration and best practice in the treatment and care of individuals affected by head and neck cancers, including (without limitation) through the provision of grants and financial support.

The Trustees confirm they have referred to the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

### Activities

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer continues to deliver on this mission across 4 areas:

R (Research). A (Awareness). C (Collaboration). E (Experience of the Patient).

These pillars act as a core focus for all the charity sets out to do to overcome the Head and Neck cancer crisis.

#### Research

We have approved grants for the following research projects:

##### Audit Feasibility Study

Working alongside a coalition of funders, we are delighted to fund a study which aims to lay the foundations for a national audit of head and neck cancer in England using existing NHS cancer data. By analysing where and how people are diagnosed, how quickly they start treatment, and how outcomes vary across the country, the project will identify important gaps and inequalities in care. We hope this will allow services to be compared, improvements to be targeted, and progress to be tracked over time; ultimately supporting earlier diagnosis, more timely treatment, and better outcomes for people affected by head and neck cancer.

## Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 May 2025

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### Early Detection and Awareness

This qualitative study explores how adults of South Asian heritage understand head and neck cancer, what influences their decisions to seek help and how awareness and early diagnosis could be improved in culturally appropriate ways. The findings will inform the design of culturally sensitive awareness and early detection initiatives that can support earlier presentation, improve access to care and ultimately reduce inequalities in outcomes.

### Language Impact Study

This PhD project aims to improve outcomes for people affected by head and neck cancer by identifying how the language used to describe these cancers influences awareness, help-seeking, and patient experience. By examining public discussions, surveying knowledge, and gathering perspectives from patients, families, and clinicians, the study pinpoints where confusing or technical terminology creates misunderstandings, delays diagnosis, or limits access to support, including around HPV-related cancers. The project will produce evidence-based recommendations to improve how head and neck cancers are communicated about, helping to reduce inequalities and improve experiences and outcomes across the cancer pathway.

### Laryngeal Cancer Cohort Expansion

The Laryngeal Cancer CoHort (LARCH) is a national research study designed to improve understanding and care of laryngeal (voice box) cancer by collecting detailed clinical information, scans, voice recordings and tumour samples from people newly diagnosed with the disease and following them over time. By expanding LARCH and ensuring long-term follow-up, this project will generate high-quality evidence to improve shared decision making, develop tools for earlier diagnosis and better predict who will benefit from different treatments.

### Electrical Nerve Stimulation Pilot Project

This study aims to improve quality of life for people with head and neck cancer who undergo neck dissection surgery, a procedure that commonly damages a nerve controlling shoulder movement and leaves many patients with long-term pain, weakness, and inability to return to work. The project will test whether applying short bursts of electrical stimulation to the injured nerve during surgery can help it recover and prevent shoulder problems. The NHS currently has no effective treatment for this complication; we hope it could lead to a simple, low-cost treatment that reduces disability, speeds recovery and significantly improves long-term outcomes and independence for thousands of patients each year.

### Investigating Metabolic Reprogramming

The project aims to discover new treatment options for adenoid cystic carcinoma (ACC), a rare and difficult-to-treat salivary gland cancer, by understanding how these tumours rewire their metabolism to grow and resist therapy. Building on promising early work that used a personalised model to identify a three-drug combination that temporarily shrank a patient's tumour, the study analyses tumour samples from many ACC patients to map shared metabolic weaknesses that can be targeted with drugs. The project seeks to improve survival and quality of life for people with ACC and contribute to broader advances in treatment for rare head and neck cancers.

## Report and financial statements

### For the year ended 31 May 2025

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#### The Impact of Paan and Smokeless Tobacco

The use of paan (betel quid) and smokeless tobacco is common and strongly linked to higher cancer risk. By studying tissue samples from affected patients, the research identifies the molecular changes that characterise paan-related oral cancers and determine how they differ from cancers caused by smoking or alcohol. The findings will also support prevention and awareness efforts around paan and smokeless tobacco use. As the first UK study of its kind, this work has the potential to make a lasting impact on reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for an underserved high-risk population.

#### Boron Neutron Capture Therapy

This study aims to develop and advance boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT) as a promising and more precise form of radiotherapy for head and neck cancer. Unlike conventional radiotherapy, which can damage healthy tissues and cause severe long-term side effects, BNCT is designed to concentrate radiation within cancer cells, potentially increasing tumour killing while sparing surrounding normal tissue. Using patient-derived tumour models and innovative laboratory systems, the study will explore how head and neck cancer cells respond to BNCT and uncover the biological mechanisms behind its effects. Ultimately, it has the potential to improve survival, reduce treatment-related side effects, and offer patients more effective and kinder treatment options.

#### Research & Impact Evening

Once again, we held a successful Research Impact evening in April at the Tower Suites where guests heard presentations from clinicians and researchers, as well as a presentation from a patient and a family member. The evening finished with a panel discussion, which gave all attendees the opportunity to ask their own questions. Thanks must go to the whole team at Tower Suites for their support with the event – especially our patron, Tony Matharu.

#### Awareness

- Oracle was invited to collaborate on a cancer awareness leaflet with Roche and the Prison Reform Trust for women prisoners.
- We launched our barber shop awareness campaign in Greenwich in collaboration with the Greenwich NHS trust in memory of Robert Shaw. We offered training for barbers in the area with the aim of getting barbers talking to clients about symptoms with a sticker on their mirrors encouraging more awareness of symptoms and self-checks.
- With the financial support of Macmillan Thames Valley we extended our work on the Sign Away Cancer Campaign. This focussed on raising awareness amongst parents of Year 7, 8 and 9 children of the importance and power of signing the HPV vaccine consent forms.
- Thanks to the team at EasyJet, we were able to feature a HeadNeckCheck campaign on 20,000 EasyJet Boarding Passes for those travelling to 4 key mediterranean destinations over June and July.
- Our CEO, along with a patient speaker, attended the Merck Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Day Lunch & Learn on July 25th alongside a leading HNC Late Effects Lead from UCLH.
- We actively participated in the European Make Sense Campaign, an annual week-long initiative aimed at raising awareness of head and neck cancer across Europe. The campaign, themed "Equal Access, Equal Care: Uniting Europe Against Head and Neck Cancer," focused on promoting early diagnosis, prevention and advocating for equal access to care.

# ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

## Report and financial statements

### For the year ended 31 May 2025

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- One of our patient ambassadors who is a Major General in the military and secured us a slot to present to all the military primary care doctors at one of their regular briefings. This gave us the opportunity to speak to all those military GPs and Dentists about Head & Neck cancers, symptoms and realities.
- To mark Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Day, our team secured PR coverage which reached millions of people through pieces in The Sun, The Mirror, MailOnline, NetMums and extensive regional press.
- Thanks to Mark Steel & Jules Buczacki, we have produced a fabulous resource to raise awareness. The all new HeadNeckCheck video can be found on our website.

#### Collaboration

- Our work as a key member of the Head and Neck Cancer Coalition continued. Key to our outreach was liaison with new Ministers following the changes in government.
- We worked with NHS England to update their HPV, HPV Vaccine and Head and Neck Cancer pages.
- We held our annual York Oracle Head and Neck Oncology event in September. The meeting brought together leading experts, researchers and clinicians to discuss cutting edge advancements in the treatment of head and neck cancer. The event was filled with inspiring presentations on ground-breaking clinical trials, innovative therapies and emerging technologies.

#### Experience of the Patient

- Our incredible Oracle Voices volunteers continued to support PPIE projects, making sure that the patient voice is at the heart of all activities relating to Head and Neck Cancer.
- We launched a community/participatory theatre project in Leicester to follow up on our community engagement and barriers to diagnosis associated with the inequalities project we have been running in the city. Through the use of forum theatre the audience can participate in an effort to improve health literacy and improve confidence in primary care experiences.
- Our CEO, Tamara Khan, worked with the Head and Neck Cancer Coalition to input into the Government consultation on a new 10 year Cancer Strategy.

#### Fundraising

Fundraising continued to be a challenge through the year, especially when set against our ambition to fund more ground-breaking research into head and neck cancers.

However, we are fortunate to benefit from some amazing individuals who consistently go above and beyond to support the charity, as well as our committed corporate community and trusts and foundations. We would like to offer our most sincere thanks to everyone who supports the work we undertake on behalf of our patient community.

# ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

## Report and financial statements

### For the year ended 31 May 2025

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#### Financial review

Total income for the charity was £648,454 (2024: 498,898). The total distribution of the charity funds was £918,289 (2024: £364,105). Carried forward funds, £46,203 including restricted funds of £29,353.

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

##### Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, the articles of association, and is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

##### Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The statutory power of appointing new trustees hereof shall be exercisable by the persons who are for the time being the trustees hereof.

#### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

## Report and financial statements

### For the year ended 31 May 2025

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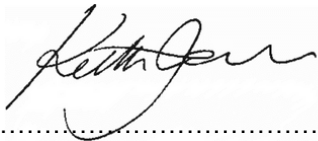
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- 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 auditors are aware of that information.

#### AUDITORS

The auditors, Goldwins Limited, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Keith Jones

**Chair, Trustee**

**20 April 2026**

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE MEMBERS OF ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

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#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK Limited (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 May 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement, and the related notes. 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 May 2025 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended:
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **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 Charity 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.

#### **Material uncertainty related to going concern**

We draw attention to note b of the accounting policies in the financial statements, which indicates that the charity has experienced financial pressures, including reduced income and limited reserves. These events or conditions, along with other matters set forth therein, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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.

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

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

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##### **Other information**

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

##### **Opinion on other matter 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' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' 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 Charity 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 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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.

##### **Responsibilities of the trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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 give a true and fair view and for such internal control as they

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE MEMBERS OF ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

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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 Charity'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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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 are set out below.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [[www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities)]. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

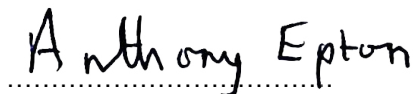
### TO THE MEMBERS OF ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

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#### **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. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters 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 anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Anthony Epton (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**for and on behalf of**

**Goldwins Limited**

**Statutory Auditor**

**Chartered Accountants**

**75 Maygrove Road**

**West Hampstead**

**London NW6 2EG**

**22 April 2026**

**ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donations and legacies	1	188,542	393,696	582,238	474,371
Fundraising events		-	65,333	65,333	21,052
Investment income	2	-	883	883	3,475
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>188,542</u>	<u>459,912</u>	<u>648,454</u>	<u>498,898</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Costs of raising funds</b>					
- costs of generating voluntary and fundraising income	3	-	317,528	317,528	155,306
Expenditure on charitable activities and Governance costs	4	328,893	271,868	600,761	208,799
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>328,893</u>	<u>589,396</u>	<u>918,289</u>	<u>364,105</u>
<b>Net Income (Expenditure) for the year</b>		(140,351)	(129,484)	(269,835)	134,793
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>					
<b>Total Funds brought forward 1 June 2024</b>		115,535	200,503	316,038	181,245
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		41,666	(41,666)	-	-
<b>Total funds carried forward at 31 May 2025</b>		<u>16,850</u>	<u>29,353</u>	<u>46,203</u>	<u>316,038</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 15 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

**ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**At 31 MAY 2025**

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible	9	166		450	
		<u>166</u>		<u>450</u>	
			166		450
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	10	200		35,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>257,827</u>		<u>405,607</u>	
		<u>258,027</u>		<u>440,607</u>	
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	11	<u>188,353</u>		<u>125,019</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>69,674</u>		<u>315,588</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			69,840		316,038
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year</b>					
	12		23,637		-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>46,203</u>		<u>£316,038</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted funds	13		16,850		115,535
Unrestricted funds	14		<u>29,353</u>		<u>200,503</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>46,203</u>		<u>£316,038</u>

**20 April 2026**

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the .....  
and are signed on their behalf by:



**Keith Jones**  
Chairman and Trustee

Company registration No: 07125497

The notes on pages 15 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

**ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED**

**CASHFLOW STATEMENT**

**At 31 MAY 2025**

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b> (see note below)		(148,663)		39,469
<b>Cash inflows from investing activities</b>				
Investment income	883		3,474	
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	-		-	
Net cash provided by investing activities		883		3,474
<b>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(147,780)</b>		<b>42,943</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		405,607		362,664
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		<b>257,827</b>		<b>405,607</b>
<b>Note - reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities</b>				
Net income (expenditure ) (as per statement of financial activities)		(269,835)		134,793
Investment income		(883)		(3,474)
Depreciation of tangible assets		284		284
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors		34,800		(21,505)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors		86,971		(70,629)
Net cash used in operating activities		<b>(148,663)</b>		<b>39,469</b>
<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>				
Cash in hand		257,827		405,607
<b>Total</b>		<b>257,827</b>		<b>405,607</b>

**1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**a) Accounting convention**

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) including Update Bulletin 1. The Company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity established as a company limited by guarantee and therefore has also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the 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 (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Companies Act 2006.

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

**b) GOING CONCERN**

The Trustees have carefully considered the financial position of the charity and its ability to continue as a going concern. The charity has faced a challenging period during the year, marked by reduced income streams, increasing operating costs, and ongoing uncertainty in the funding environment. These conditions have placed pressure on cash flow and reserves.

Despite these challenges, the Trustees remain committed to ensuring the charity's sustainability and have taken a number of proactive steps. These include implementing cost control measures, reviewing staffing and operational structures, and prioritising core charitable activities. The Trustees have also intensified efforts to diversify income sources, including pursuing new grant opportunities, strengthening donor engagement and other various fundraising initiatives.

Cash flow forecasts have been prepared covering a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements. These forecasts indicate that, while there are uncertainties, the charity is expected to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due, provided that planned funding and cost-saving measures are achieved.

The Trustees acknowledge that there are material uncertainties related to future income generation and external economic conditions, which may cast doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. However, based on the actions taken and planned, along with the anticipated funding, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the financial position closely and take further action as necessary to safeguard the charity's long-term viability.

**c) Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, the receipts is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Legacies are recognised following probate and once there is sufficient evidence that receipt is probable and the amount of the legacy receivable can be measured reliability. Where entitlement to a legacy exists but there is uncertainty as to its receipt or the amount receivable, details are disclosed as a contingent asset until the criteria for income recognition are met.

- Bank interest is accounted for on an accruals basis.
- Voluntary income by way of donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

**d) Resources expended and irrecoverable VAT**

Resources expended including grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

Commitment to fund future grants are recognised as liabilities once the obligation has been communicated to the grant recipient. Where there is an annual review or other performance review related conditions which means that the charity may withdraw a commitment if the conditions are not met, the liability is not recognised until the conditions have been fulfilled, and the commitment can no longer be revoked.

Expenditure includes VAT which is not recoverable by the charity.

The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities.

Support costs include central functions and are allocated to cost categories on the basis of staff time spent on those cost categories.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

**e) Allocation of support costs**

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the Trusts artistic programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. Further detail can be found in Note 5.

**f) Operating leases**

The charity classifies the leasing of office equipment as operating leases, the title remains with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the lease period.

**g) Tax status**

Oracle Cancer Trust has suffered no tax charge, as it is not subject to UK Corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**h) Fund Accounting**

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds that can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds - these are funds that are set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds - these are funds that are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

**i) Fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - Straight line over 3 years

**j) Government grants**

Government Grants represent funding received from the AMRC for qualifying projects.

Funds are recognised on receipt.

**k) Financial Instruments**

**l) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with a maturity date of three months or less.

**m) Debtors and creditors**

Debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year of the reporting date are carried at their at transaction price. Debtors and creditors that are receivable or payable in more than one year and not subject to a market rate of interest are measured at the present value of the expected future receipts or payment discounted at a market rate of interest.

**ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

<b>1a) DONATIONS</b>		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General donations	restricted	169,342	119,473
	unrestricted funds	386,507	219,605
Grant funding	restricted	19,200	124,793
	unrestricted funds	18,500	10,500
Legacies	restricted	-	-
	unrestricted funds	54,022	-
		<u>647,571</u>	<u>474,371</u>

The Trust benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

<b>2) INVESTMENT INCOME</b>		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank interest receivable -	unrestricted funds	883	3,475
		<u>883</u>	<u>3,475</u>

<b>3) COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY AND FUNDRAISED INCOME</b>		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>			
Fundraising Costs	Salaries and Fees	53,924	99,649
	Events	189,320	13,448
Support Costs allocated (Note 5)		74,284	42,209
		<u>317,528</u>	<u>155,306</u>

ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

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4) CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNANCE COSTS		2025	2024
		£	£
Research grants		59,525	2,852
	Salaries	181,121	68,979
Impact delivery	Patient Support	0	28,133
	Website	11,116	5,631
	Events	1,821	22,300
	Other Research Costs	306,032	23,232
Support costs (Note 5)		11,669	9,601
Governance costs (Note 6)		29,477	48,071
		<u>600,761</u>	<u>208,798</u>

All grants are payable to a range of research organisations to cover salaries and expenses of researchers.

During 2025 the charity was paying grants accrued in prior years.

**ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

<b>5) SUPPORT COSTS</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Sub-contractors	48,900	25,084
PR consultancy	836	7,456
Printing, postage, stationery and database	7,258	12,160
Other office, travel and sundry	23,074	8,771
Recruitment	8,160	0
Allocated to Charitable activities (Note 4)	(11,669)	(9,601)
Allocated to Governance costs (Note 6)	(2,275)	(1,661)
	<u>74,284</u>	<u>42,209</u>

Sub-contractors includes the Chief Executive and Operations Manager

The Trust identifies its support costs, it then identifies those costs relating to Governance.

The remaining support costs are allocated between Cost of Generating Funds and Governance costs.

Staff and related costs are allocated on a time basis, overheads are allocated in proportion to staff time.

<b>6) GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bookkeeping and external audit	27,202	27,181
Legal and other professional	-	19,229
Support costs allocated (Note 5)	2,275	1,661
	<u>29,477</u>	<u>48,071</u>

<b>7) NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
This is stated after charging (net of VAT):		
Fees payable to the Auditor	5,250	5,250
Depreciation charge for the year	284	284
	<u>5,534</u>	<u>5,534</u>

**ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

**8) PERSONNEL**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Salaries	259,943	159,986
Employer NI	29,346	12,512
Pension costs	4,718	3,167
Total employment costs	<u>294,007</u>	<u>175,665</u>

The number of higher paid staff withing the following scales were:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
£110,000 - £120,000	1	-
£60,000 - £69,999	-	2

During the year the average numbers of employees was 5 (2024 : 4)

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and CEO. The total compensation paid to key management personnel amounted to £136,950 (2024 : £129,999).

No trustee was remunerated in the current or preceeding year. Total key management personnel costs of one (2024: two) individuals.

ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

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9) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<u>2025</u>
	Computer Equipment £
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>	
At 31 May 2024	852
Additions	
Disposals	
<b>At 31 May 2025</b>	<u><u>852</u></u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 31 May 2024	402
Charge for the year	284
Eliminated	
<b>At 31 May 2025</b>	<u><u>686</u></u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>	
<b>At 31 May 2025</b>	<u><u>166</u></u>
<b>At 31 May 2024</b>	<u><u>450</u></u>

**ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

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<b>10) DEBTORS</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grant and event debtors	-	5,000
Other debtors and prepayments	200	30,000
	<u>200</u>	<u>35,000</u>

<b>11) CREDITORS - Due within 1 year</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grant accruals	81,712	80,076
Deferred Income and other accruals	11,715	7,215
Trade creditors	87,788	33,092
Social security and other taxes	5,941	3,786
Other creditors	1,197	850
	<u>188,353</u>	<u>125,019</u>

<b>12) CREDITORS - Due after 1 year</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grant accruals	23,637	-
	<u>23,637</u>	<u>-</u>

ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

13) RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1 June 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 May 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
AMRC & Swire - Pioneers of Discovery - supporting Fleming and Melake	1,456	0	(1,456)	-	-
AMRC for Lin	16,575	0	(16,575)	-	-
HPV awareness	6,750	0	(6,750)	-	-
PPI projects	53,904	53,500	(97,404)	-	10,000
Late Effects project	5,000	0	0	-	5,000
Oncology meeting, York - Merck	30,000	12,000	(42,000)	-	-
Mercers Livery	1,850	0	0	-	1,850
NaHaNCA Feasibility Study	-	83,000	(83,000)	-	-
Sign Away Cancer	0	12,200	(12,200)	-	-
Education (Fellowship / Scholarship)	0	200	(200)	-	-
Sophie/Pemberton#headneckcheck	-	25,642	(25,642)	-	-
Sue Sherman (Sheffield)	-	-	(41,666)	41,666	-
Oakdale Trust	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
	<u>115,535</u>	<u>188,542</u>	<u>(328,893)</u>	<u>41,666</u>	<u>16,850</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
CHK/AMRC / Mason Le Page / Get-a-head for Koteva	-	30,000	-	(30,000)	-
AMRC & Swire - Pioneers of Discovery - supporting Fleming and Melake	16,998	48,965	(15,340)	(49,167)	1,456
AMRC for Lin	16,814	0	(239)	-	16,575
AMRC for Cicero / Sala	1,100	-	(1,100)	-	-
AMRC for Marsh	-	34,078	(9)	(34,069)	-
HPV awareness	-	6,750	-	-	6,750
PPI projects	-	53,904	-	-	53,904
Young Tongues	-	10,569	(10,569)	-	-
Late Effects project	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Inequalities project	-	25,000	-	(25,000)	-
Oncology meeting, York - Merck	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Mercers Livery	1,850	-	-	-	1,850
	<u>36,762</u>	<u>244,266</u>	<u>(27,257)</u>	<u>(138,236)</u>	<u>115,535</u>

**ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

**14) UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Balance 1 June 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 May 2025
	£	£	£		£
Designated funds					
Blair Hesketh Memorial	60,473		(3,960)	(56,513)	-
General unrestricted funds	140,030	459,912	(585,436)	14,847	29,353
	<u>200,503</u>	<u>459,912</u>	<u>(589,396)</u>	<u>(41,666)</u>	<u>29,353</u>
	Balance 1 June 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 May 2024
	£	£	£		£
Designated funds					
Blair Hesketh Memorial	64,793		(4,320)		60,473
General unrestricted funds	79,690	254,632	(332,528)	138,236	140,030
	<u>144,483</u>	<u>254,632</u>	<u>(336,848)</u>	<u>138,236</u>	<u>200,503</u>

The Blair Hesketh Memorial Fund has been set up to provide funds for the Blair Hesketh lectures.

**15) TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement for expenses in respect of the current year or preceding period.

**16) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2025 (2024: none). There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Disclosures relating to Key Management Personnel are detailed in Note 8

**ORACLE HEAD AND NECK CANCER UK LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

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**17) ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Fund Designated</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2025 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Tangible fixed assets	166	-	-	166
Debtors	200	-	-	200
Cash at bank and in hand	76,805	-	181,022	257,827
Creditors due within one year	(24,181)	-	(164,172)	(188,353)
Creditors due after one year	(23,637)	-	-	(23,637)
Balance on fund	<u>29,353</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,850</u>	<u>46,203</u>

**18) CONTROL**

The Charity is controlled by the Trustees under the terms of the Trust Deed.

**Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK Limited**

England & Wales - Charity number 1142037

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# Accounts

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**ORACLE**  
Head & Neck Cancer UK

# Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2023/24

**Our R.A.C.E to overcome the UK's  
head & neck cancer crisis**

# Contents

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# Thank you

We want to thank everyone who has been a part of this challenging but impactful year.

To our wonderful team and volunteers - your dedication shines through in everything you do. We see the difference you make every day, and we couldn't be prouder to have you with us.

Our brilliant researchers and healthcare professionals continue to push boundaries, working tirelessly to transform head and neck cancer care across the UK. Your groundbreaking work gives hope to so many people affected by this disease.

And to everyone who has shared their head and neck cancer journey with us - you are the reason we do what we do. Your strength and stories guide our work and fuel our determination to make things better.

We've taken big steps forward this year, but there's still so much more to do.

With your support, we'll keep pushing forward until we overcome head and neck cancer's biggest challenges and improve the lives of everyone affected by this disease.

Thank you for standing with us.

# Our year in numbers

A Year of Impact



HNCF and Oracle Cancer Trust became Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK



MPs and key policymakers briefed



National campaigns launched



Head & neck cancer oncologists, surgeons & allied specialists engaged.



Peter Rhys-Evans Scholarships awarded



Invested in research\*



Patients & carers steering our work as part of Oracle Voices, our Patient & Public Advisory Group (PPIE)



Fundraising income



Preventing Cancer  
Beats Curing it

# Introduction

We are the UK's largest charity focusing on head and neck cancers, working to improve lives through research, awareness and support. Our mission drives everything we do - from funding awareness campaigns and innovative research to providing comprehensive support for patients and their families.

Prevention and early detection are at the core of our approach. Through pioneering initiatives like Sign Away Cancer and HeadNeckCheck, alongside partnerships with dental and GP practices and community organisations, we're making head and neck cancer awareness part of everyday healthcare. Early detection saves lives, and knowledge makes all the difference to patient outcomes.

Research is at the heart of creating change. We fund pioneering projects that push boundaries in understanding, treatment and outcomes. Among our diverse research portfolio this year, one example is the completion of a 3-year multi-centre HPV study across seven UK hospitals led by Associate Professor Elizabeth Marsh from the University of Derby.

This and other research projects are helping build our understanding of how these cancers develop and affect different groups, leading to better prevention strategies and more personalised treatments.

Supporting patients and their families throughout their head and neck cancer journey remains fundamental to our work. Through initiatives such as our Oracle Voices patient and carer advisory group, who lead our PPIE activities (patient and public involvement and engagement), we are working to break down barriers to care and ensure every voice is heard - from diagnosis through treatment and beyond.

Working together creates a bigger impact. By bringing together healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, patients, carers and communities, we are building partnerships to tackle healthcare inequalities and champion prevention and early detection. The launch of work towards a comprehensive national audit feasibility project, supported by multiple partners across the head and neck cancer community, demonstrates how collaboration drives meaningful change.

Through Research, Awareness, Collaboration & Engagement with people affected by head & neck cancer, we are committed to creating lasting change.

Together with our supporters, we are building a future where these cancers are better understood, more effectively treated, and ultimately prevented.



## Our Mission

Improve Head and Neck Cancer patient quality of life and outcomes in the UK.

## Our Vision

A future where head and neck cancer rates decline, symptoms are widely recognised, diagnoses come early, and healthcare teams have the resources to provide excellent care. Where the UK leads in outcomes, inequalities are eliminated, and a strong community of patients, carers, and healthcare professionals ensures no one faces their journey alone.

# Kelly's Story



**Kelly Watson knew something wasn't right when she started choking on food. But getting answers would prove to be one of her biggest battles.**

## Patient Story

### Fighting for Answers

What started with swollen glands and difficulty swallowing in August 2023 led to multiple GP appointments and frustrating delays. Despite her instincts telling her something was seriously wrong, Kelly was initially told she just had a swollen tonsil.

Despite presenting with clear symptoms, including choking on food and visible lumps, Kelly faced multiple hurdles, including cancelled appointments, delayed test results and an initial misdiagnosis as infection.

**“ I felt like I had to fight to stay alive.**

At just 43, this Yorkshire mum faced a three-month journey from her first symptoms to starting treatment. "I felt like I had to fight to stay alive. To fight and fight to get the care I needed."

"While I was waiting for treatment, I felt the cancer was just being left to grow... It was really scary. It would have helped so much to be treated on time."

Despite the difficulties, Kelly found crucial support through our Oracle Voices volunteers, Dani and Hazel, who connected her with others who understood her journey.

Our partnership with Young Tongues charity provided additional age-specific support that proved invaluable.

**“ I want future patients to get good care, no matter who they are or where they are. At the moment, it's a postcode lottery. And if we don't speak up, nothing will change.**

Kelly's experience reinforces why our work is so vital. From our primary healthcare #HeadNeckCheck awareness campaign to funding research, to providing support networks and advocating for better care standards across the UK.

Her story drives us to keep pushing for earlier diagnosis, consistent care, and better outcomes for everyone affected by head and neck cancer.



**The 2023/2024 fiscal year has marked a period of meaningful progress and strategic development for Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK.**

While navigating the ongoing economic challenges and aftermath of recent years' disruptions, we have focused on strengthening our foundation through improved data management, enhanced systems, and a more robust approach to fundraising - all vital steps in better delivering our charitable objectives.

A landmark achievement this year was our merger with the Head & Neck Cancer Foundation (HNCF). We are deeply grateful to HNCF's founders, Professor Mark McGurk and Sir Frederick Hervey-Bathurst, for entrusting us with their legacy and for their continued commitment to our shared mission.

# Message from our Chair

Their vision and dedication remain integral to our future work. As part of this strategic union, we were delighted to welcome Michelle Vickers, HNCF's former CEO, who has taken on the crucial role of Chief Awareness Officer, working alongside our Chief Executive, Tamara Kahn, to strengthen our combined impact and reach.

Head and neck cancers remain a significant healthcare challenge, with their impact often understated. As the UK's largest head and neck cancer charity, we maintain our unwavering dedication to raising awareness, supporting patients, and driving research to improve outcomes for those affected by these cancers. This commitment underpins all our work, from community engagement to healthcare professional collaboration.

The board continues to evolve, bringing together diverse expertise spanning clinical practice, academic research, financial management, and strategic planning. This breadth of experience has proved invaluable in shaping our strategic direction and ensuring robust governance as our organisation expands.

Our strategy is showing clear signs of success. Our collaborations, research projects, and patient-focused campaigns are effectively aligned with our objective of creating meaningful change in head and neck cancer care.

Moving forward, we remain committed to addressing key challenges, particularly in fundraising and expanding our reach, to ensure we can make an even more substantial difference.

On behalf of the trustees and team, I express my sincere thanks for your continued support. Together, we are working towards a future where head and neck cancers are better understood, diagnosed, and treated.

**Keith Jones**

Chair of Trustees



# Message from our Chief Executive

**As I reflect on 2023/24, I'm struck by both the challenges we've faced and the remarkable transformation we have achieved at Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK. This was a year that tested our resilience but also reinforced the critical importance of our mission.**

The head and neck cancer crisis in the UK continues to deepen. Every day, we see the impact of growing incidence, late diagnosis, growing inequalities in care, and the devastating effects these cancers have on people's lives.

Through Oracle Voices, our patient and public involvement group, we have heard firsthand how these challenges affect real people - their struggles with diagnosis, treatment, and life-changing after-effects.

We needed to be bolder, more innovative, and more determined in our response.

This drove a fundamental transformation in how we work. We expanded our research mandate wider than early research grants to encompass social determinants of health and crucial data initiatives.

We launched major awareness campaigns – Sign Away Cancer tackling HPV awareness and vaccination, and HeadNeckCheck.com empowering people to spot early symptoms. Working alongside key partners, including BAHNO and the Head and Neck Cancer UK Coalition, we helped launch a vital national audit feasibility study - the first comprehensive review of these cancers in over a decade.

We have had to reimagine our approach to fundraising and operations, finding creative ways to maximise our impact despite limited resources. This meant difficult decisions and countless late nights, but it also sparked innovation in how we work and deliver change.

This year of transformation culminated in our merger with the Head & Neck Cancer Foundation in April 2024. This union wasn't just about organisational efficiency - it was about creating the stronger foundation needed to tackle the growing crisis in head and neck cancer care.

By bringing together Oracle's research excellence with HNCF's community engagement strengths, we have built an organisation better equipped to drive meaningful change.

Throughout these challenges, I have been continually inspired by the dedication of everyone in our community - from the healthcare professionals working overtime to the researchers pioneering new treatments and the often-unsung heroes: community nurses, late effects specialists, allied healthcare teams, and school vaccination teams. Most inspiring of all are the patients and families who, despite their own struggles, share their stories to help others.

While we faced significant challenges and there are more ahead, I am proud of how we have emerged stronger from this pivotal year. Our projects, partnerships, and newly unified organisation demonstrate that even in the toughest times, we can drive positive change.

As we look ahead, we remain more committed than ever to our vision of better outcomes for everyone affected by head and neck cancer in the UK. Thank you to everyone who has supported us through this transformative year.

Your commitment makes our work possible, and together, we will continue to make a difference.

**Tamara Kahn**

Chief Executive Officer

# Head & Neck Cancer

Head and neck cancers have reached a critical point in the UK's healthcare landscape. Now ranking amongst the top-5 cancers in men and top-10 overall, these complex diseases present unique challenges in both diagnosis and treatment.

With 14 distinct areas where tumours can develop in the head and neck region, each case demands specialised expertise and careful assessment.

## Rising Numbers, Growing Concern

The statistics paint a stark picture. Every decade sees a 30% increase in cases, with annual diagnoses now reaching 17,000, including thyroid cancers. This sustained rise shows no signs of slowing, putting unprecedented pressure on our healthcare system.

## Treatment Delays and Survival Crisis

Our NHS faces a troubling reality: head and neck cancer patients endure the longest waiting times of any cancer type. The figures are alarming:

- Over half of patients wait beyond the crucial 62-day target for treatment to begin
- Many face delays of several months before starting vital treatment
- These waiting times are consistently the worst among all cancer types
- The backlog continues to grow despite intervention attempts

The impact on survival is devastating. While other cancers have seen improved survival rates over recent decades, head and neck cancer outcomes remain stubbornly poor:

- Late diagnosis occurs in over 50% of cases
- When diagnosed late, survival rates drop dramatically
- Treatment becomes more complex and costly
- Unlike many other cancers, survival rates have shown minimal improvement over the past decade

This creates a vicious cycle: longer waits lead to more advanced cases, requiring more intensive treatment, which in turn puts more pressure on already stretched resources.

## Infrastructure and Resource Gaps

The UK lags behind its European counterparts in crucial areas:

- Critical shortages of treatment machines
- Insufficient specialist staff
- Limited treatment capacity

# A Growing Healthcare Crisis

## Prevention: A Widening Gap

Three key preventive measures are falling short:

- HPV vaccination rates lag behind comparable nations
- Millions lack access to NHS dental care - a crucial early-warning system for these cancers.
- While traditional cigarette smoking rates are gradually declining there is still concerning cancer risk from other uses of tobacco

## The Human Cost

The impact of head and neck cancer extends far beyond medical statistics. Late diagnosis forces patients through more aggressive treatments, leading to:

- Severe challenges with speaking, eating and swallowing
- Higher rates of mental health issues compared to other cancers
- Devastating financial burden on both patients and the NHS

## Research-Funding Disconnect

Despite representing a growing health crisis, head and neck cancers receive less than 3% of UK cancer research funding - amongst the lowest for any cancer type. This disparity between need and investment hampers our ability to improve outcomes and develop new treatments.

## Call to Action

**This crisis demands immediate attention and action. Without significant changes in prevention, diagnosis, treatment resources and research funding, we risk failing an increasing number of patients who deserve better care and better outcomes.**

Over 50% wait beyond 62-day target

Double cancer rates in deprived communities

Receives less than 3% of research funding

30% increase every decade

Over 50% of cases diagnosed late

17,000 annual diagnoses and rising

# A Powerful New Chapter

**In May 2024, we achieved a momentous milestone and created something extraordinary - the merger of Oracle Cancer Trust and the Head & Neck Cancer Foundation into Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK, complete with a powerful new identity to match our ambitious vision.**

This wasn't just about bringing two organisations together - it was about creating a stronger, more visible force in the fight against head and neck cancer. The Head & Neck Cancer Foundation, founded by the visionary Professor Mark McGurk and Sir Frederick Hervey-Bathurst, brought with it an incredible legacy of innovation and dedication to patient care. We are honoured that they have entrusted us with this legacy and are grateful for their continued guidance and support as we move forward together.

By combining our expertise, resources and shared passion, we've built something special. While our commitment to groundbreaking research remains unwavering, we recognised that awareness could save lives too. That's why education and early detection became central to our new strategy.

This wasn't just about creating a new logo; it was about making our mission more visible and making an impact.

We were thrilled to welcome Michelle Vickers, former CEO of HNCf, as our Chief Awareness Officer. Michelle's passion for spreading awareness and her talent for connecting with people has already helped us reach more communities than ever before.

From our redesigned website to our aligned communications, everything we do now works harder to support our community and spread our message. By pooling our medical networks, research programmes and awareness campaigns under one strong identity, we're now better equipped than ever to make a real difference in the R.A.C.E to overcome the head and neck cancer crisis in the UK.

Together, we're louder, stronger and more determined than ever - with a brand that reflects our bold ambitions for the future.



L-R: Tamara Kahn, CEO and Michelle Vickers Chief Awareness Officer



HEAD & NECK  
CANCER FOUNDATION



# Leading the R.A.C.E

to Overcome Head & Neck Cancer Crisis

**Every day, we witness both the challenges patients face and the incredible breakthroughs that bring hope.**

Our **R.A.C.E** framework isn't just an acronym - it's the heartbeat of everything we do, pushing us forward in our mission to advance research, care, and outcomes for everyone affected by head and neck cancer.



**R**esearch



**A**wareness

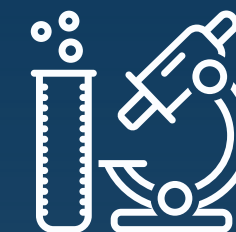


**C**ollaboration



**E**ngagement

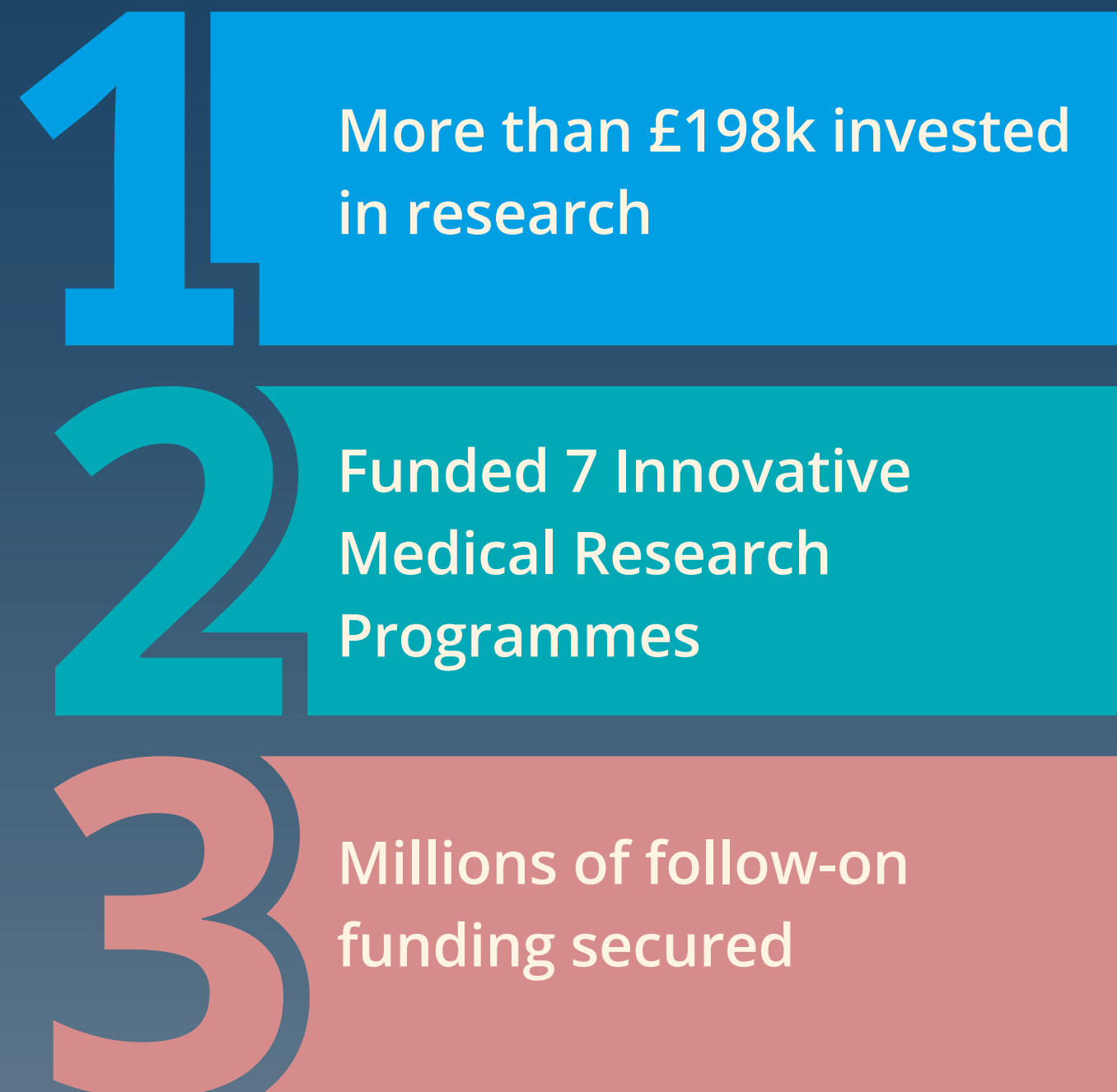
# Research



Research isn't just about labs and clinical trials. It's about Sarah, who can still sing to her grandchildren thanks to voice-preserving surgery developed through research we funded. It's about giving patients better options, kinder treatments, and more tomorrows.

In 2023-24 we expanded our research into three vital areas:

- **Funding innovative research projects to advance diagnosis and treatment:** Working with leading institutions and clinicians, our grants help turn promising ideas into better ways to diagnose, treat and care for patients.
- **Exploring how head and neck cancers affect different communities:** Through research into real-world experiences and barriers to care, we're developing better ways to help patients and families throughout their cancer journey.
- **Improving data on diagnosis patterns, treatment approaches, and outcomes:** By collecting and analysing comprehensive data, we can make informed recommendations around best practices, areas needing improvement, and healthcare policy improvements.

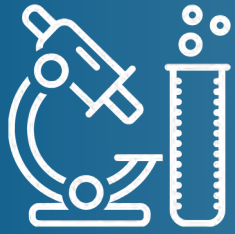




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When we fund research, we want to make sure it **makes a real difference** to people's lives. That's why we work to the high standards set by the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), with an independent research committee carefully overseeing all our projects.

# Researcher Spotlight



## Pioneering HPV Research

Dr Elizabeth Marsh of The University of Derby



Dr Elizabeth Marsh

**In 2023/24, Oracle funded groundbreaking research across six hospitals in the Midlands and North of the UK to better understand how HPV affects throat cancer development.**

This vital work, led by Dr Elizabeth Marsh of the University of Derby, with PHD candidate Mary-Anne Freckleton, helps understand why these cancers are becoming more common and how they might be prevented.

The research team studied 118 participants who were having routine tonsil surgery. They found that about 10% of healthy adults had HPV in their tonsils.

All HPV types found were considered high-risk, with HPV18 being the most common. The team discovered that when HPV was present in one tonsil, it was usually present in both, though it varied across different parts of the same tissue.

The research revealed important differences in how HPV affects tissue. In tonsils with HPV, the team found:

- Increased proteins involved in immune response
- Decreased proteins involved in cell death and genomic stability
- In men specifically, there was a significant decrease in proteins involved in RNA processing and protein production

The team examined lifestyle factors, though no significant difference was found between men and women in HPV detection rates.

This research helps to build a greater understanding of how HPV affects healthy tissue and why certain groups might be more vulnerable to HPV-related cancers. It represents an important step in Oracle's mission to improve outcomes for everyone affected by head and neck cancer.



**Fundamental research like our project is critical to unpick how HPV causes head and neck cancer. Understanding what the virus is doing in early infections will enable better treatments and patient outcomes down the line.**

**With such limited funding for head and neck cancer studies, despite head and neck cancer being the 8th most common cancer, Oracle project grants are essential to progress research and have impact in this field.**

### Looking Ahead

This research represents Oracle's significant investment in understanding and preventing HPV-related throat cancers, bringing the charity closer to its goal of better outcomes for everyone affected by head and neck cancer.

Future research will focus on expanding the understanding of HPV-related cancers, exploring new diagnostic techniques, and identifying effective prevention strategies.

This work will help to build a greater understanding of how HPV affects healthy tissue and could lead to better ways of identifying those at risk.

Mary-Anne Freckleton<sup>1\*</sup>, Rebecca Mallender<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Thomas A. Illingworth<sup>1</sup>, Laurice V. Fretwell<sup>1</sup>, David J. Boocock<sup>3</sup>, Clare Coveney<sup>3</sup>, Gill L. Knight<sup>4</sup>, Amandeep S. Mann<sup>5</sup>, Thomas Hatfield<sup>5</sup>, Ragwinder S. Sahota<sup>1,5,6,7</sup>, Elizabeth K. Marsh<sup>1</sup> †

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<sup>2</sup> HistologiX Ltd, Nottingham, UK

<sup>3</sup> Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK

<sup>4</sup> University of Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton, UK

<sup>5</sup> University Hospitals of Derby and Burton, Derby, UK

<sup>6</sup> University of Leicester, Leicester, UK

<sup>7</sup> University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

\* Equal contributors to the work † Corresponding author e.marsh@derby.ac.uk



# BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH

## What is Immunotherapy?

Immunotherapy is a type of cancer treatment that helps the patient's own immune system fight cancer. Think of it as 'waking up' the body's natural defenses to recognise and attack cancer cells.

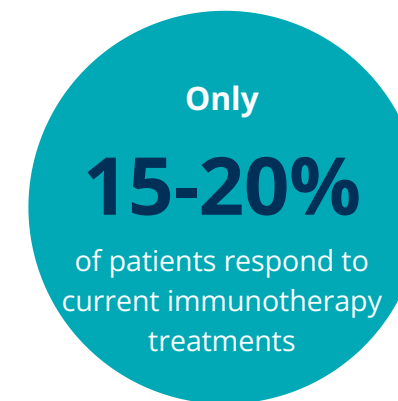
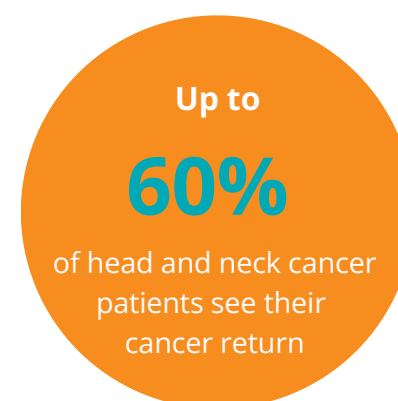
## Why It Matters in Head and Neck Cancer:

- Radiotherapy alone doesn't always achieve long-term tumour control
- Many patients experience severe long-term side effects from current treatments
- Some cancers are harder to treat with standard approaches



# Making Immunotherapy Work for More Patients

## The Challenge



## Our Response

Through the amazing support of a key donor, Oracle was able to launch a call for grant applications in support of groundbreaking treatment innovations. Dr Emmanuel Christian Patin from the Institute of Cancer Research, under the supervision of Prof Kevin Harrington, received multi-year funding for research around combination therapy using immunotherapy for head & neck cancers.

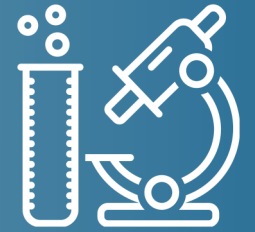
By combining radiotherapy with targeted drugs and immunotherapy, the team has discovered new ways to help the body's immune system fight cancer more effectively. This research aims to tackle both HPV-positive and HPV-negative tumors, with the goal of improving treatment outcomes while reducing side effects.

*This vital work was also made possible through funding from DPS Limited and has led to the development of new research models now used by scientists worldwide.*



# Researcher Spotlight

## Making Immunotherapy Work for More Patients



Dr Emmanuel Christian Patin of The Institute of Cancer Research

**Between 2020-2023, with our support, Dr Patin led groundbreaking research that could transform how we treat head and neck cancer. The research team pioneered an innovative approach combining radiotherapy with targeted drugs and immunotherapy, work that has now progressed to clinical trials.**

- Developed new research models now used by scientists worldwide
- Advanced to Phase II clinical trials, bringing hope closer to patients
- Created specialist tools to study immune responses
- Mentored the next generation of cancer researchers

### The Impact

- Secured £2.3 million Cancer Research UK Programme Grant
- Created new approaches combining radiotherapy with targeted drugs and immunotherapy
- Progressed to clinical trials
- Developed methods that could reduce treatment side effects

### Lasting Change

This project epitomises how our support can create lasting change.

By fostering high-risk, high-reward research, we have contributed to discoveries that have the potential to improve outcomes for patients with head and neck cancer worldwide.



# UNDERSTANDING HEAD & NECK CANCER

## National Audit Feasibility Study

**Unlike most other top 10 cancers in the UK, head and neck cancers have lacked a comprehensive national audit for over a decade.**

This significant gap means we have been missing crucial data to understand who is developing these cancers, where they're being diagnosed, how they're being treated and how the outcomes differ. Without this robust data infrastructure, it is difficult to understand treatment effectiveness, identify best practices, and address disparities in care access.

Cancer audits are also vital tools that help identify areas for improvement, share best practices, and monitor the impact of early diagnosis initiatives. This £270,000 two-year feasibility study, led by Dr. Thomas Cowling at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, aims to establish a national picture of how head and neck cancer is diagnosed and treated.

### Driving Progress Through Innovation

This year, Oracle has played a pivotal role in bringing together key organisations to launch this crucial initiative, working closely with the Head and Neck Cancer UK Coalition and the British Association of Head and Neck Oncology (BAHNO) to unite the head and neck cancer community behind this vital project.

Alongside our £40,000 co-funding commitment, we've helped coordinate support from leading organisations including Oracle, BAHNO, GetaHead, ENTUK, National Association of Laryngectomee Clubs, Young Tongues, BAHNON, HaNC Liverpool, BAOMS, RD-UK, North West Cancer Research. This £270,000 two-year feasibility study, led by Dr. Thomas Cowling at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, aims to establish a first comprehensive national picture of how head and neck cancer is diagnosed and treated.

### The study will:

- Develop and evaluate key performance indicators for diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes
- Assess variations in care across regions and patient groups
- Identify priority areas for improvement
- Explore expanding research to less common head and neck cancer sites

“  
**This process is long overdue and absolutely critical. As clinicians, we need this data to drive best practices, reduce treatment disparities, define research strategies and ultimately save lives.**

*Professor Vin Paleri of The Royal Marsden Hospitals*



By **understanding** and **working** with our communities, we can **advance care** and **improve outcomes** for everyone affected by head and neck cancer.



# Co-Creating Health Awareness: A Community-Led Approach to Cancer Prevention



**A groundbreaking initiative has demonstrated the power of genuine community collaboration in understanding and addressing head and neck cancer awareness.**

The project, co-led by Dr Oladejo Olaleye (Consultant Head & Neck / Robotic Surgeon, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust) and Dr Gianina Ioana-Postavaru (Psychologist, University of Leicester), partnered with seven community groups to identify current awareness levels, understand barriers to early diagnosis, and co-develop effective prevention strategies.

Working alongside Dr Naina Patel (PPIE Lead), Ms Aleksandra Jakubowska (Doctoral researcher), and the Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK team, the project engaged with diverse communities to understand their unique perspectives and challenges.

Through this collaborative approach, the team identified key barriers to prevention and early diagnosis, leading to the co-creation of more culturally responsive and effective awareness campaigns.



Oladejo Olaleye<sup>1</sup>, Gianina Ioana-Postavaru<sup>2</sup>, Naina Patel<sup>3</sup>, Aleksandra Jakubowska<sup>2</sup>, Tamara Kahn<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust & UHL Head and Neck Cancer Research Institute  
<sup>2</sup>School of Psychology and Vision Sciences, University of Leicester  
<sup>3</sup>NIHR Research Support Service, University of Leicester  
<sup>4</sup>Oracle Cancer Trust (Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK)

## More Than Words

One of our most significant findings was the complex relationship between communities and healthcare services. While there is strong trust in GPs, post-pandemic access challenges have created new barriers. Community pharmacists have emerged as vital bridges, often serving as the first point of contact for health concerns. This insight could help to develop more effective pathways for early cancer detection.

## Looking Ahead

The success of this initiative has shown that community co-production is not just beneficial – it's essential. Community participants have actively invited further engagement, demonstrating an appetite for health awareness campaigns that reflect their experiences and values.

Through collaborative work with temples, community centers, and local cultural organisations, we're building a foundation for lasting change in how healthcare messages reach and resonate with diverse communities.

This isn't just about delivering information – it's about creating partnerships that will improve health outcomes for years to come.

**We don't just want information handed to us. We want to be part of creating the solution.**

Participant from the drama group

# LOOKING AHEAD

## Our Plans to Transform Head and Neck Cancer Research

Research holds the key to better treatments and care. That's why we're changing how we fund research to make sure every penny counts towards helping patients. Here's how we're planning to make an even bigger difference in 2024-25.

### Working Together to Fund Major Research

We're partnering with other organisations to fund bigger research projects. By sharing costs with our Partners we can tackle major challenges in head and neck cancer care.

### Small Grants, Big Ideas

Not all great ideas need big budgets. We're launching a new scheme to fund smaller projects. This will help medical professionals develop new ways to improve care, test new ideas, and support different approaches to research.

### Supporting Future Research Leaders

We're working with the partners to support promising researchers. Together, we'll fund experts who want to find ways to reduce the long-term effects of treatment, understand why some people get better care than others and make treatment better for everyone effected by head & neck cancers.

# Awareness



Awareness saves lives - it's that simple. When Tom noticed a persistent sore throat, he remembered our **#HEADNECKCHECK** campaign, went to his GP practice linking his symptom with what he knew about head and neck cancers. This led to an early diagnosis.

That's why we're out there, making noise, starting conversations, and making sure everyone knows the signs, symptoms and risk factors that could save their life.

Throughout 2023-24, we continued to raise awareness of head and neck cancers through participation in key campaigns and initiatives.

Our engagement across multiple awareness days and events has strengthened our key objective to educate the public whilst supporting those affected by these diseases.





In the UK, **over 47 people** are diagnosed with **head and neck cancer** every day.

# YOUR LIFE IN YOUR HANDS

## The #HeadNeckCheck Campaign

Knowing your own body can save your life. That's why we launched **#HeadNeckCheck** in early 2024, turning everyday moments into opportunities for potentially life-saving self-checks.

**Our campaign aims to change this by making self-checks simple, quick and part of everyday life.**

Working with healthcare professionals, we created a straightforward video guide that took the mystery out of self-examination. No medical jargon - just clear, practical steps showing people how to check their mouth, throat and neck.

Whether it's spotting unusual lumps, persistent sore throats that won't go away, or changes in swallowing, knowing what to look for makes all the difference.

We have sent 100s of flyers to GP practices across the country and we have started to run primary healthcare workshops with GPs. Our goal is to raise awareness amongst both the patients in the waiting rooms and the GPs seeing them.

We also partnered with dental practices across the UK to spread our message: your dentist isn't just checking your teeth - they're a crucial first line of defence in spotting early signs of cancer.

By combining regular dental check-ups with home self-checks, we're helping people take control of their health.

**Most of us brush our teeth and check our faces in the mirror daily, but how many of us really know what to look for when it comes to signs of head and neck cancer?**



# LOOKING AHEAD



Making our voices heard and our impact felt

**Awareness is vital for early diagnosis and saving lives. That's why we're transforming how we share the signs and symptoms of head and neck cancer, from launching our #HeadNeckCheck early diagnosis campaign to raising understanding of HPV-related cancers among younger people. We'll also focus on helping people understand the late effects of treatment while working closely with our incredible supporters to raise vital funds. Here's how we're planning to make an even bigger difference in the year ahead.**

## Sign Away Cancer

Following the successful launch of 'Sign Away Cancer' in March 2024, we're expanding this vital campaign to reach even more families across the UK. With HPV-related cancers continuing to rise, and current vaccination rates at just 56% for girls and 53% for boys, we know we must do more.

In the year ahead, we'll build on our partnerships with school immunisation teams and The Eve Appeal to reach communities where vaccination rates are lowest.

We're developing new educational resources, and creating targeted campaigns to help parents understand why their signature matters so much. Our medical experts will continue to share clear, honest information about HPV and cancer prevention.

Working closely with local health teams and other cancer charities, we'll roll out an enhanced schools programme, focusing particularly on areas with low uptake.

We're also expanding our awareness campaign to support the catch up programmes for young people up to age 25.

**Every signature we secure could mean one less cancer diagnosis in the future.**

## Late Effects

For many people who've been through head and neck cancer treatment, the path forward brings its own challenges. Simple things that most of us take for granted, like enjoying a meal or having a chat over coffee, can become daily hurdles.

Many survivors find that their mouth feels constantly dry, which affects not just their enjoyment of food but also makes speaking more difficult. Imagine trying to give a presentation or catch up with friends when your mouth feels like sandpaper - this is a reality for many.

Some people experience swelling and stiffness in their neck and face, which can limit movement and affect confidence in social situations. It's like wearing an invisible collar that restricts natural movement.

The treatment can also affect how the body produces important hormones and maintains bone strength.

These are real challenges that impact daily life, from energy levels to physical activity.

Next year, Oracle will be working with specialists and our partners to change this landscape

**Because surviving cancer is just the first step - living well afterwards is equally important.**

## Barbershop Project

Sometimes the most powerful conversations happen in the most everyday places. Barbers aren't just skilled professionals - they're trusted community figures who often build lasting relationships with their clients. These relationships create perfect opportunities for potentially life-saving conversations about health.

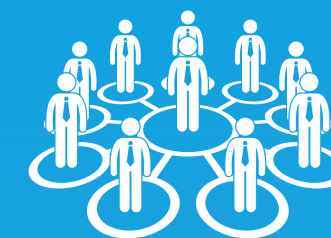
Next year, we will be working with partners across the NHS and local councils to create a comprehensive programme that includes interactive workshops, practical training, and ongoing support for barbers who want to make a difference in their community.

We're not turning barbers into doctors - we're empowering them with practical knowledge about head and neck cancer symptoms and risk factors that they can share naturally during their daily work.

This initiative honours the legacy of Robert Shaw, our NHS colleague whose vision helped inspire this project. It represents exactly what Oracle stands for - finding innovative ways to reach people where they are, working with communities, and ultimately saving lives through earlier detection.

**We're building a community of awareness, where #headneckcheck becomes as natural as looking in the mirror at the barber's.**

# Collaboration



**Collaboration is where the magic happens.**

**By bringing together the brightest minds - researchers, doctors, patients, and other charities - we're stronger.**

Our approach is innovative because we don't just share knowledge - we actively build solutions together.

In 2023-24 we continued reaching across silos and engaging in powerful partnerships because head & neck cancer is on the rise in the UK - it won't slow down - and nor will we in our R.A.C.E to overcome it.

Whether it's co-developing research projects, influencing policy, or supporting patients, our partnerships amplify our impact far beyond what we could achieve alone.





By working together, we can **drive progress** and create **lasting change** for everyone affected by head and neck cancer.

# The 2024 Oracle Head & Neck Cancer Oncology Meeting - York

**In the constant drive to improve outcomes for head and neck cancer patients, bringing together the brightest minds in oncology remains crucial.**

In 2024, Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK took on the organisation of this vital event, ensuring its long-term sustainability and future impact. Thanks to the generous support of Merck, MSD, The Hobson Charity and Oracle donors, we gathered 150 of the UK's leading oncologists under one roof. From Aberdeen to Plymouth, dedicated healthcare professionals came together with one shared purpose: to transform how we treat head and neck cancer.

What makes this gathering particularly significant is its ripple effect across the UK healthcare landscape.

The diverse attendance, representing NHS Trusts from every corner of the country, ensures that cutting-edge research and best practices reach patients nationwide.

The agenda brought together leading voices in head and neck oncology, fostering an environment where innovation meets practical application.

Through structured discussions and informal networking, participants shared insights that will shape the future of patient care.

As we continue our mission to improve outcomes for head and neck cancer patients, events like these serve as crucial catalysts for change. They remind us that in the fight against cancer, collaboration and knowledge sharing are our most powerful tools.

Dr Robin Prestwich, Consultant Clinical Oncologist

**The Head and Neck Cancer Oncology Conference is now a key fixture in the UK oncology calendar, providing a vital platform for multidisciplinary collaboration.**

**The conference brings together experts from across the country, fostering networking and the exchange of best practices.**

**In 2024, 85% of attendees rated the meeting as 'excellent,' and 74% reported that it would lead them to change their clinical practice.**



# WORKING TOGETHER,

## Saving Lives

This year, we launched several vital initiatives with organisations who share our commitment to improving outcomes for people affected by head and neck cancer.

**In the UK, around 17,000 people are diagnosed with head and neck cancer every year**



### Make Sense Campaign

In 2023, we joined the important Make Sense Campaign. As part of this 11th annual awareness week, we focused on the three stages of prevention of head and neck cancer, underpinned by the foundational 1 for 3 rule and the 2023 motto - 3 weeks for 1 life: knowing the signs and symptoms of head and neck cancer could be lifesaving.



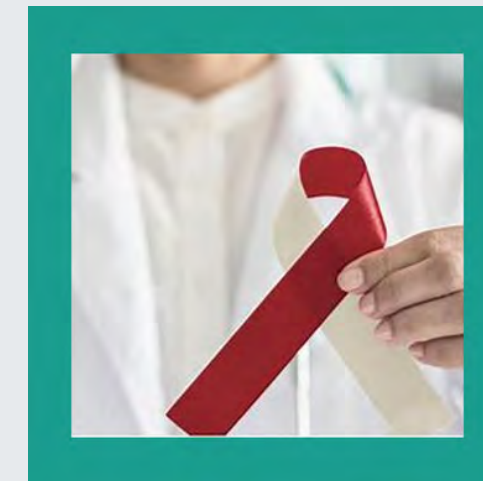
### International Nurses Day

On 12 May 2024, we celebrated International Nurses Day by honouring the vital role of specialist head and neck cancer nurses. These professionals provide essential medical and emotional support, helping patients navigate diagnosis, treatment, and recovery. We published an article highlighting their contributions and reaffirmed our commitment to supporting these nurses, whose work improves patient outcomes and ensures the best care for those affected by head and neck cancer.



### Mouth Cancer Action

In November 2023, we participated in Mouth Cancer Action Month to raise awareness of mouth cancer and its early detection. We endorsed the Mouth Cancer Charter, calling for better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment through government-funded campaigns, improved dental care access, enhanced professional training, and advanced diagnostic technologies. Our support reinforced our commitment to raising awareness and advocating for policies to reduce the impact of mouth cancer.



### World Head & Neck Cancer Day

On 27 July 2023, we participated in World Head and Neck Cancer Day to raise awareness of the disease. Through social media, we shared educational content on risk factors and symptoms, and survivor stories like Oracle Voice's member Jon Organ's experience after a laryngectomy. We also partnered with University Hospitals of Derby and Burton, and University Hospital Leicester to launch a video on performing oral self-examinations. Our efforts focused on promoting early detection, prevention, and better patient outcomes.

# United We Stand

## The Power of Partnership



In a landmark move for head and neck cancer care in the UK, Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK has joined forces with 14 other leading organisations to create something remarkable - the Head & Neck Cancer UK Coalition HNCUK.org. This isn't just another partnership; it's a transformation in how we support those affected by head and neck cancers.

### Strength in Numbers

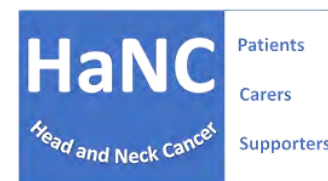
Imagine the impact of 14 organisations speaking with one powerful voice. From patient support groups to healthcare associations, we've brought together diverse perspectives and expertise to tackle the complex challenges of head and neck cancer care. Each member brings unique insights and resources, creating a comprehensive approach to support, education, and advocacy.

### Making Change Happen

Our coalition focuses on what matters most: improving lives. Whether it's enhancing patient support, raising awareness, advancing research, or improving treatment pathways, we're working together to create meaningful change. By aligning our messages and pooling our resources, we're achieving more than any single organisation could alone.

### Looking to the Future

This collaborative approach marks a new chapter in head and neck cancer care. Together, we're not just supporting patients and caregivers - we're transforming their experience and outcomes. From the moment of diagnosis through treatment and beyond, the coalition ensures that no one faces head and neck cancer alone.





# Engagement

**Engagement means giving power back to everyone affected by head & neck cancer.**

From patients to carers to friends and family; it's about ensuring every voice is heard, from the newly diagnosed person seeking answers to the survivor sharing their story to help others. It's about building a community where nobody faces this experience alone.

But engagement goes beyond just listening. It's about action.

It means creating spaces where people feel valued and involved in shaping the future of head & neck cancer care, research, and support.

It's about amplifying lived experiences to drive change, ensuring that those directly impacted have a say in the decisions that affect them.

- 1** Hundreds of patients supported
- 2** Over 30 active Oracle Voices members
- 3** 10 independent research programmes contributed to by Oracle's PPIE group

# Oracle Voices

## A Growing Community Driving Impact in Head & Neck Cancer Research and Advocacy

**From June 2023 to May 2024, Oracle Voices, led by co-chairs Hazel Turner and Anson Mackay, has solidified its role as a national Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) group, uniting 25 patients and carers to shape research, awareness campaigns, and initiatives for head and neck cancers.**

By creating a collaborative and supportive environment, the group has ensured that patient and carer perspectives are central to Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK's work. Over the year, Oracle Voices provided critical input to researchers, including feedback on clinical trial designs, evaluation of patient-facing materials, and contributions to projects addressing healthcare inequities.

For example, the group collaborated with researchers and communities in Leicester on work related barriers to diagnosis in different local communities and supported studies into oxygen-enhanced radiotherapy and liquid biopsy diagnostics. Members participated in specific campaigns like Oracle's "Sign Away Cancer" campaign, aimed at improving HPV vaccine uptake, and Merck's carer-focused video project. These initiatives amplified the voices of patients and carers to raise awareness and inform the public.

Key achievements include establishing Oracle Voices as a national PPI group, developing a growing and engaged membership, and making measurable contributions to research and awareness efforts. These accomplishments underscore the group's commitment to ensuring that head and neck cancer care and research are shaped by those who live and care for others through it, making an impact that is both tangible and deeply relevant.

**Working with Oracle, we help raise awareness of head and neck cancers. As co-leads of Oracle Voices, we aim to build on the existing foundations to further early detection and awareness.**

Hazel Turner, Oracle Voices Co-Chair



# TRANSFORMING PATIENT CARE

**Our commitment to amplifying patient voices and improving care pathways has led to important developments in key areas. Through focused programmes in Leicester and East London, we're working to build stronger, more responsive support networks.**

## Community Impact

Working collaboratively with diverse community groups and healthcare providers, we have:

- Started mapping current support services in underserved communities to identify gaps
- Begun developing relationships with community organisations to better understand local needs
- Initiated conversations about improving diagnostic and treatment pathways
- Created platforms for community group members to share their experiences and insights

## Looking Ahead

These initial steps provide an important foundation for improving head and neck cancer care. By continuing to focus on community-centred solutions and building strong community partnerships, we aim to:

- Work with communities to co-develop campaigns that address their frustrations with them and not for them.
- Work with healthcare providers to ensure feedback around existing pathways is known and heard
- Develop practical solutions to identified challenges



# Real Experiences, Real Support

## What to Expect Guidance

**In 2023/24, we expanded our patient support resources with a comprehensive guide to the head and neck cancer journey, developed in collaboration with Oracle Voices, our Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) group.**

This dedicated group of volunteers share their experiences and insights to help shape our work and support others on their cancer journey.

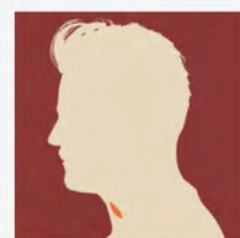
Drawing from their personal insights, we've developed detailed information to help others navigate their journey. Our resources acknowledge that every person's experience is unique while providing practical guidance on what to expect. We've also curated a collection of patient blogs, offering authentic perspectives on living with head and neck cancer.

- Understanding the diagnosis process and initial tests
- What to expect during different treatment pathways
- Managing post-treatment recovery and long-term effects
- Support available for family members and carers

We've also curated a collection of patient blogs offering authentic perspectives on living with head and neck cancer. These personal stories provide valuable insights and help others feel less alone in their journey.

This peer-to-peer support has proved invaluable, with patients and families reporting feeling more informed and better prepared for what lies ahead. We continue to welcome new contributions to our blog collection and support resources, ensuring our guidance remains current and reflects diverse experiences.

**Through Oracle Voices, we ensure that patient, carer and public perspectives remain at the heart of our work, helping us provide the most relevant and meaningful support to everyone affected by head and neck cancer.**



Laryngeal  
Cancer  
(Voice Box)

> Patient

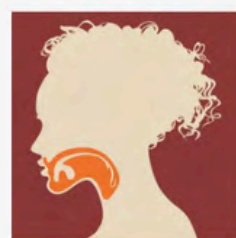
Stories



Lymph  
Node Neck  
Cancer

> Patient

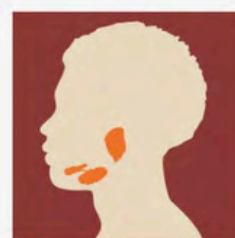
Stories



Mouth  
Cancer

> Patient

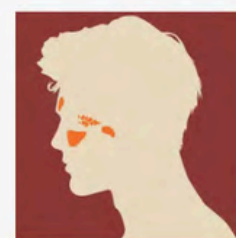
Stories



Salivary  
Gland  
Cancer

> Patient

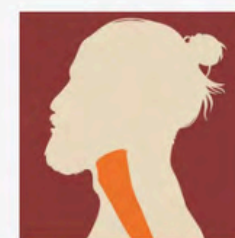
Stories



Sinus  
Cancer

> Patient

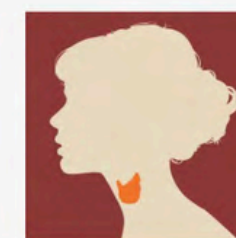
Stories



Throat  
Cancer

> Patient

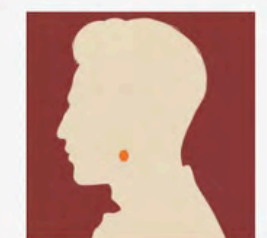
Stories



Thyroid  
Cancer

> Patient

Stories



Tonsil  
Cancer

> Patient

Stories



**ORACLE**  
Head & Neck Cancer UK

# Innovation in Action

## Patient-Led Diagnostic Development

**A breakthrough in faster, gentler cancer testing is happening - and our Oracle Voices members are helping lead the way. Last year, we formed a PPI partnership with medical technology company Curenetics to explore a new quick-test for mouth cancer that could transform how quickly patients get their results.**

This AI-enhanced diagnostic tool could transform the patient journey by combining artificial intelligence with advanced PCR technology - meaning treatment can start sooner, patients experience less physical trauma through minimally invasive testing, and the rapid results significantly reduce the anxiety of waiting for a diagnosis, revolutionizing how we detect head and neck cancer.



**Knowing future patients might only have to wait an hour instead of weeks for results would make such a difference to their mental wellbeing.**

*Oracle Voices member*

Over six months, our Oracle Voices members shared their experiences to explore how this new technology might work for real patients. They highlighted:

- **The anxiety of waiting for results**
- **The fear around having large tissue samples taken**
- **The need for clear, understandable information throughout the process**



### Why This Matters

A faster, gentler approach to diagnosis means patients can start treatment sooner, face less physical trauma from testing, and avoid the anxiety of lengthy waiting times - transforming the diagnostic journey for everyone affected by head and neck cancer.

Our Oracle Voices members met regularly with the research team, ensuring that patient experiences and needs were at the heart of developing this new technology. This partnership shows how bringing together patient insight with medical innovation can create better solutions for everyone affected by head and neck cancer.

### Looking Ahead

This project has created a strong model for how patient voices can shape medical innovation. We're proud that our Oracle Voices members are helping build a future where getting tested for mouth cancer could be quicker, gentler, and less stressful for everyone.

# Fueling Our Mission

Volunteers, Corporate Partners & Supporters

Our work is driven by the dedication of our volunteers, the generosity of our supporters, and the commitment of our corporate partners. Together, they help us raise awareness, fund vital research, and provide essential support for those affected by head and neck cancer.



## Our People

- Volunteers give their time, skills, and passion to support our events, fundraising, and advocacy efforts.
- Corporate partners strengthen our impact through sponsorships, workplace giving, and strategic collaborations.
- Supporters fuel our mission through donations, fundraising challenges, and spreading awareness.

Their collective efforts enable us to reach more people, provide better support, and drive meaningful change in the **R.A.C.E** to overcome head and neck cancer.

**Together, we're not just raising awareness; we're transforming lives.**

**Common Sense**  
**Hear. Smell. Taste. Touch.**  
**#headneckcancercheck**  
**www.headneckcheck.com**

**sense & sensitivity**  
**protect your senses**  
**#headneckcancercheck**  
**www.headneckcheck.com**

# Trekking for a Cause

## Conquering the Sahara Desert

**In 2024, four remarkable individuals – Toby, Lou, Gretan, and Fran – embarked on a truly extraordinary challenge to raise funds for head and neck cancer research. Their journey took them 100 kilometers across the Sahara Desert, where they raised an incredible £10,000 to support Oracle's mission.**

For each of our trekkers, this challenge was deeply personal. Gretan was motivated by friends and loved ones who had been affected by head and neck cancer, while Lou was inspired by the strength and courage of her brother Toby, whose own battle with cancer fueled her determination. Fran, meanwhile, walked in memory of her late husband, Peter Rhys Evans, the founder and heart of Oracle Cancer Trust, whose legacy has shaped the charity for over two decades.

“It was about raising money for a cause which had affected a number of my friends and acquaintances.”

As they navigated the vast, daunting dunes of the Sahara, the team's spirit remained unshaken. From the isolation of the desert to the camaraderie of nights spent under the stars at desert oases, their resolve was tested and strengthened. Lou, in particular, found triumph in overcoming personal challenges, her perseverance becoming a symbol of the determination that carried the entire team through their remarkable journey.

Guided by seasoned experts and supported by a team of camels (a fitting companion for their desert adventure), the trekkers experienced a profound sense of friendship and purpose. Between hearty meals beneath the open sky and the bustling energy of Marrakech, each moment of their journey contributed to an unforgettable experience, all while raising vital funds for head and neck cancer research.



Toby, Lou, Gretan & Fran

**This challenge goes beyond the impressive fundraising total - it shows how ordinary people can do extraordinary things to support those affected by head and neck cancer.**



# Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 May 2024

# Financial Overview

For the year ending 31 May 2024

In a challenging economic environment, Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK successfully raised nearly £500,000 in the year to 31st May 2024. This was achieved through the dedication of our staff, supporters, and volunteers, despite the broader difficulties faced by the charity sector.

We maintained a strong financial position, generating a surplus of £134,793, bringing our total funds to £316,038 at year-end. Our focus remains on financial sustainability, ensuring that the majority of our funds directly support research, awareness, collaboration, and engagement.

Understanding and tracking key financial ratios is essential to maintaining the financial health of Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK. These ratios provide insight into our sustainability, fundraising efficiency, and overall operational effectiveness.

## 1. Surplus or Profit Margin

This ratio indicates the percentage of net income relative to total income.

Formula:  $\text{Net income} / \text{total income} \times 100$

- Our goal is to at least break even and achieve full cost recovery for our projects and services.
- For the year ended 31st May 2024, we generated a surplus of £134,793 (27%), strengthening our reserves for future growth.

## 2. Fundraising Efficiency

This ratio measures the effectiveness of our fundraising efforts by comparing funds raised to the expenses incurred in raising those funds.

Formula:  $\text{Fundraising income} / \text{fundraising expenditure}$

- A result above 1 means that for every pound spent on fundraising, we generate more than one pound in return.
- 2024 Fundraising Efficiency Ratio: 3.2 times (£495,423 / £155,306)
- This demonstrates a strong return on investment for our fundraising activities.

## 3. Programme Expense Ratio (Charitable Costs Ratio)

This ratio assesses the proportion of total expenses allocated to charitable objectives vs core operating costs, reflecting our commitment to our mission.

Formula:  $\text{Total programme expenditure} / \text{total expenditure} \times 100$

- 2024 Programme Expense Ratio: 57% (£208,799 / £364,105)
- This reflects investment in core data, technology and fundraising to support expanded delivery programmes.
- Our target is to increase this to 75% as revenue grows, ensuring that the majority of our spending directly supports our mission.

## 4. Current Ratio

This ratio assesses our ability to meet short-term obligations with short-term assets.

Formula:  $\text{Unrestricted liquid assets} / \text{operational overheads}$

- 2024 Current Ratio: 1.3 times (£200,503 / £155,306), equating to 15 months of operational overheads.
- This provides a strong buffer to maintain financial stability.

## 5. Reserves Ratio

This measures the proportion of unrestricted funds available to support operations during financial uncertainties.

- A reserves target is typically calculated as three months' worth of annual operating expenditure.
- Our reserves are considered "free reserves"—unrestricted and readily available for operational support.

With a key focus on financial metrics and strong governance in place, Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK is well-positioned to enhance its impact, ensuring that our financial strength translates into real-world benefits for those affected by head and neck cancer.

# Legal & Administration

**Charity Name:** Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK (formally Oracle Cancer Trust)

**Trustees**

Mr Keith Jones (Chair)  
Dr Mehmet Sen  
Mr Gareth Thomas  
Mr James Robertston  
Prof. Gus Alusi  
Mr Toby Amis  
Mrs Ali Hansford (resigned October 2024)

**Patrons**

Sir Michael Morpurgo  
Mr Tony Matharu

**Charity Number** 1142037 (England & Wales)  
SC052790 (Scotland)

**Company Number** 07125497

**Principal Address** 85 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 7LT

**Registered Office** 80 Coombe Road, New Malden, KT3 4QS

**Auditors** Goldwins, 75 Maygrove Road, West Hampstead, London, NW6 2EG

**Bankers** CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Road, West Malling, Kent, ME19 1BE  
Metro Bank, Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA

**Solicitors** Dorsey & Whitney LLP, 199 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 3UT

## Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK for the purpose 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 Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Date: 03/02/2025



**Keith Jones**  
Chair, Trustee  
Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK

# Independent auditor's report

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK (formerly Oracle Cancer Trust the 'charity') for the year ended 31 May 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 May 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## 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 Charity 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 charity'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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

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

## Opinion on other matter 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' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' 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 Charity 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 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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.

# Independent auditor's report (cont.)

## Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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 give a true and fair view and for such internal control as they 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 Charity'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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Responsibilities of the trustees

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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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 are set out below.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

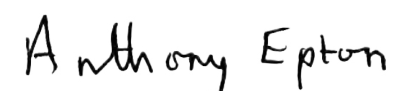
- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## 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. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters 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 anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



[Signature]

Anthony Epton (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Goldwins Limited Statutory Auditor  
Chartered Accountants,  
75 Maygrove Road,  
West Hampstead,  
London,  
NW6 2EG  
26 February 2025

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK**  
**Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the income and expenditure account)**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

	Notes	Restricted Funds (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donations and legacies	1	244,266	230,105	474,371	475,203
Fundraising events		-	21,052	21,052	24,071
Investment income	2	-	3,475	3,475	974
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>244,266</b>	<b>254,632</b>	<b>498,898</b>	<b>500,248</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Costs of raising funds					
- costs of generating voluntary and fundraising income	3	-	155,306	155,306	158,402
Expenditure on charitable activities	4	27,257	181,542	208,799	286,608
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>27,257</b>	<b>336,848</b>	<b>364,105</b>	<b>445,010</b>
Net gains on investments					
Net Income (Expenditure) for the year		217,009	(82,216)	134,793	55,238
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total Funds brought forward (1 June 2023)		36,762	144,483	181,245	126,007
Transfer between funds		(138,236)	138,236	-	-
<b>Total funds carried forward at May 2024</b>		<b>115,535</b>	<b>200,503</b>	<b>316,038</b>	<b>181,245</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 47 - 57 make up these financial statements

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK  
Balance Sheet  
YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

**2024**

**2023**

	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible	9	450		734	
			450	-	734
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	10	35,000		13,496	
Cash at bank and in hand		405,607		362,664	
		<b>440,607</b>		<b>376,160</b>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	11	125,019		180,130	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			315,588		196,030
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			316,038		196,764
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>	12				15,519
<b>Net Assets</b>			316,038		181,245
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted Funds	13		115,535		36,762
Unrestricted Funds	14		200,503		144,483
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>316,038</b>		<b>181,245</b>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the .....03/02/2025... and are signed on their behalf by: Keith Jones

  
Chairman and Trustee

Company registration No: 07125497

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK  
Cash flow statement  
YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

**2024**

**2023**

	£	£	£	£
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>		39,469		(107,743)
<b>Cash inflows from investing activities</b>				
Investment income	3,474		974	
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets			(852)	
Net cash provided by investing activities		3,474		122
<b>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>42,943</b>		<b>(107,621)</b>
Cash at bank and in hand at start of year		362,664		470,285
Cash at bank and in hand at end of year		<b>405,607</b>		<b>362,664</b>
<b><u>Note - reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities</u></b>				
Net income (expenditure) (as per statement of financial activities)		134,793		55,238
Investment income		(3,474)		(974)
Depreciation of tangible assets		284		118
(Increase) / decrease in debtors		(21,505)		(7,831)
(Decrease) / increase creditors		(70,629)		(154,294)
Net cash used in operating activities		39,469		(107,743)
<b>Analysis of cash &amp; cash equivalents</b>				
Cash in hand		405,607		362,664
<b>Total</b>		<b>405,607</b>		<b>362,664</b>

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK  
Notes to the financial statements  
YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Accounting convention

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) including Update Bulletin 1. The Company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity established as a company limited by guarantee and therefore has also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the 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 (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Companies Act 2006.

Oracle Cancer Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

b) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable group to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charitable company's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income. After making enquiries the trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charitable company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. At the date of sign off, the Trustees confirm there are no material uncertainties in relation to the going concern assumption.

c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, the receipts is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Legacies are recognised following probate and once there is sufficient evidence that receipt is probable and the amount of the legacy receivable can be measured reliably. Where entitlement to a legacy exists but there is uncertainty as to its receipt or the amount receivable, details are disclosed as a contingent asset until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Bank interest is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Voluntary income by way of donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of

Financial Activities when receivable.

d) Resources expended and irrecoverable VAT

Resources expended including grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Commitment to fund future grants are recognised as liabilities once the obligation has been communicated to the grant recipient. Where there is an annual review or other performance review related conditions which means that the charity may withdraw a commitment if the conditions are not met, the liability is not recognised until the conditions have been fulfilled, and the commitment can no longer be revoked.

Expenditure includes VAT which is not recoverable by the charity. The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities. Support costs include central functions and are allocated to cost categories on the basis of staff time spent on those cost categories. Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and Statutory requirements of the charity.

e) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the Trusts artistic programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. Further detail can be found in Note 5.

f) Operating leases

The charity classifies the leasing of office equipment as operating leases, the title remains with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the lease period.

g) Tax status

Oracle Cancer Trust has suffered no tax charge, as it is not subject to UK Corporation tax on its charitable activities.

h) Fund Accounting

Funds held by the charity are either: Unrestricted general funds - these are funds that can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Designated funds - these are funds that are set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Restricted funds - these are funds that are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

i) Fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual estimated useful life.

Rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

j) Government grants

Government Grants represent funding received from the AMRC for qualifying projects. Funds are recognised on receipt.

Computer equipment - Straight line over 3 years

k) Financial Instruments

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with a maturity date of three months or less.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year of the reporting date are carried at their transaction price. Debtors and creditors that are receivable or payable in more than one year and not subject to a market rate of interest are measured at the present value of the expected future receipts or payment discounted at a market rate of interest.

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

1)	DONATIONS		2024 £	2023 £
	General donations	restricted	119,473	32,300
		unrestricted funds	219,605	140,521
	Grant funding	restricted	124,793	283,894
		unrestricted funds	10,500	18,488
The Trust benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.			<b>474,371</b>	<b>475,203</b>
2)	INVESTMENT INCOME		2024 £	2023 £
	Bank interest receivable - unrestricted funds		3,475	974
			<b>3,475</b>	<b>974</b>
3)	COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME		2024 £	2023 £
	<b>Unrestricted</b>			
	Fundraising Costs	Salaries and Fees	99,649	56,257
		Events	13,448	33,661
		Support Costs allocated (Note 5)	42,209	68,484
			<b>155,306</b>	<b>158,402</b>

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

4)	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNANCE COSTS		2024 £	2023 £
	Research grants		2,852	172,126
	Impact delivery	Salaries	68,979	-
		Patient Support	28,133	1,284
		Events	22,300	-
	Website		5,631	-
	Lecturer fees & expenses		23,232	495
	Support costs (Note 5)		9,601	65,785
	Governance costs (Note 6)		48,071	46,918
			<hr/> 208,799	<hr/> 286,608

All grants are payable to a range of research organisations to cover salaries and expenses of researchers. During 2024 the charity was paying grants accrued in prior years.

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

5)	SUPPORT COSTS	2024 £	2023 £
	Sub-contractors	25,084	82,672
	PR consultancy	7,456	9,277
	Printing, postage, stationery and database	12,160	11,069
	Other office, travel and sundry	8,771	21,827
	Recruitment	-	15,000
	Allocated to Charitable activities (Note 4)	(9,601)	(65,785)
	Allocated to Governance costs (Note 6)	(1,661)	(5,576)
		<hr/> 42,209	<hr/> 68,484

Sub-contractors includes the Chief Executive and Operations Manager. The Trust identifies its support costs, it then identifies those costs relating to Governance. The remaining support costs are allocated between Cost of Generating Funds and Governance. Staff and related costs are allocated on a time basis, overheads are allocated in proportion to staff time.

6)	GOVERNANCE COSTS	2024 £	2023 £
	Bookkeeping and external audit	27,181	26,665
	Legal and other professional	19,229	14,677
	Support costs allocated (Note 5)	<hr/> 1,661	<hr/> 5,576
		<hr/> 48,071	<hr/> 46,918

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

7)	<b>NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2023</b> <b>£</b>
	This is stated after charging (net of VAT):		
	Fees payable to the Auditor - audit services	5,250	5,000
	Depreciation charge for the year	284	118
		<hr/> 5,534	<hr/> 5,118

The above figures exclude VAT in accordance with the accounting reporting requirements. The actual cost to the charity was £6,300 (2023 : £6,000)

8)	<b>PERSONNEL</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2023</b> <b>£</b>
	Salaries	159,986	54,197
	Employer NI	12,512	694
	Pension costs	3,167	1,342
	Total employment costs	<hr/> 175,665	<hr/> 56,233

**The number of higher paid staff within the following scales were:**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
£60,000 - £69,999	<hr/> 2	<hr/> -

During the year the average numbers of employees was 4 (2023 : 2)

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the CEO and the fundraising manager. The total compensation paid to key management personnel amounted to £129,999 (2023 : £74,600)

Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
 YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

9)	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	2024 £
		Computer equipment
	Cost or Valuation	
	At 31 May 2023	852
	Additions	-
	Disposals	-
	<b>At 31 May 2024</b>	<b>852</b>
	<b>Depreciation</b>	
	At 31 May 2023	118
	Charge for the year	284
	Eliminated	-
	<b>At 31 May 2024</b>	<b>402</b>
	<b>Net Book Value</b>	
	<b>At 31 May 2024</b>	<b>450</b>
	<b>At 31 May 2023</b>	<b>734</b>

Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

10)	Debtors	2024 £	2023 £
	Grant and event debtors	5,000	5,000
	Other debtors and prepayments	30,000	8,496
		35,000	13,496
		35,000	13,496
11)	CREDITORS - Due within 1 year	2024 £	2023 £
	Grant accruals	80,076	163,313
	<b>Deferred Income and other accruals</b>	7,215	11,760
	Trade creditors	33,092	2,400
	Social security and other taxes	3,786	2,321
	Other creditors	850	336
		125,019	180,130
		125,019	180,130
12)	CREDITORS - Due after 1 year	2024 £	2023 £
	Grant accruals	-	15,519
		-	15,519
		-	15,519

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

<b>13) Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Balance 1 June 2023 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance 31 May 2024 £</b>
CHK/AMRC/Mason Le Page/Get-a-head for Koteva	-	30,000	-	(30,000)	-
AMRC & Swire - Pioneers of Discovery - supporting Fleming and Melake	16,998	48,965	(15,340)	(49,167)	1,456
AMRC for Lin	16,814	-	(239)	-	16,575
University of Southampton - Lola internship	1,100	-	(1,100)	-	-
AMRC for Marsh	-	34,078	(9)	(34,069)	-
HPV awareness	-	6,750	-	-	6,750
PPI projects	-	53,904	-	-	53,904
Young Tongues	-	10,569	(10,569)	-	-
Late Effects project	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Inequalities project	-	25,000	-	(25,000)	-
Oncology meeting, York - Merck	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Mercers Livery	1,850	-	-	-	1,850
	<b>36,762</b>	<b>244,266</b>	<b>(27,257)</b>	<b>(138,236)</b>	<b>115,535</b>

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

	Balance 1 June 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 May 2023 £
CHK/AMRC / Mason Le Page for Koteva	12,033	38,076	(37,500)	(12,609)	-
AMRC & Swire - Pioneers of Discovery - supporting Fleming and Melake	52,662	44,489	(68,179)	(11,974)	16,998
AMRC for Emmanuel Patin	31,520	104,208	(13,068)	(122,660)	-
Beaumont/Terradace for Marsh	34,079	-	-	(34,079)	-
AMRC for Lin	30,824	-	(14,010)	-	16,814
AMRC for Cicero / Sala	-	57,500	-	(57,500)	-
AMRC for Freckleton	-	18,488	(34,278)	15,790	-
AMRC for Chan	-	26,133	(22,725)	(3,408)	-
University of Southampton - Lola internship	-	2,300	(1,200)	-	1,100
Inequalities project	-	25,000	(62,076)	37,076	-
Mercers Livery	1,850	-	-	-	1,850
Pennycress Trust	200	-	-	(200)	-
Additional details:	163,168	316,194	(253,036)	(189,564)	36,762

AMRC 2023 funding of £283,894 was received and allocated to the following projects

Koteva - 4 year project to research the development of daily automated treatment adaptation for MRI guided radio-therapy of head and neck cancer patients.

Brunel - This research is investigating the role of a gene, MYB, that is frequently altered in ACC and thought to be a cause of radio and chemo-resistance.

Melake - Research looking at using immunoproteomics to identify molecular markers of tumour cell sensitivity and resistance to killing by cytotoxic T cell, the effectors of anti-tumour immunity.

University of Derby - Research to study the life cycle of HPV infections to determine how they can lead to head & neck cancers.

Patin - 4 year research study to look at the modulation of the immune tumour micro-environment by combinations of radiotherapy and DNA damage response-targeted drugs.

Chan - Research to study the dynamics of T-cell-driven immune responses to radiotherapy and immunotherapy in a HPV16- positive model of Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma.

The CHK fund is currently supporting PhD student, Jennifer Kieselmann, to undertake a cutting-edge computational project at the ICR's Division of Radiotherapy and Imaging. Jennifer is designing software that will allow clinicians to automatically define the boundaries between normal tissues and cancerous tumours on MRI images. It is hoped that Jennifer's work will help to support the development of real-time adaptive radiation therapies such as those that will be delivered by the Royal Marsden Hospital's revolutionary new MR Linac machine.

The Swire/Adrian Swire Charitable trust is funding towards the establishment of a dedicated thyroid cancer research group at the ICR. Thyroid cancers are the most common endocrine tumours and one of the three most prevalent head and neck cancer types in women. The group that has been established is looking to find specific combinations of drugs that will provide a more effective treatment for patients currently exhibiting the treatment-resistant form of the disease.

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

<b>14) UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>Balance 1 June 2023 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance 31 May 2024 £</b>
Designated funds					
Blair Hesketh Memorial	64,793	-	(4,320)	-	60,473
General unrestricted funds	79,690	254,632	(332,528)	138,236	140,030
	144,483	254,632	(336,848)	138,236	200,503
	<b>Balance 1 June 2022 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance 31 May 2023 £</b>
Designated funds					
Blair Hesketh Memorial	66,293	-	(1,500)	-	64,793
General unrestricted funds	(103,454)	184,055	(190,475)	189,564	79,690
	(37,161)	184,055	(191,975)	189,564	144,483

The Blair Hesketh Memorial Fund has been set up to provide funds for the Blair Hesketh lectures.

**15) TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement for expenses in respect of the current year or preceding period.

**16) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Three medical Trustee Directors sit on the Research Sub-Committee. Consequently they make recommendations upon the direction of the research, allocation of funding and related appointments. There is potential for indirect benefit to accrue to these medical Trustee Directors, for example, where the funded appointee delivers a partial clinical role which may alleviate their own clinical responsibilities. To mitigate this risk of related party benefit, the Research Sub-Committee is chaired by an independent Non Executive Director and it formally passes any funding proposals to the Finance & Investment Sub-Committee (whose members are non-medical) for review and necessary approval before onwards submission for a final Board decision.

Disclosures relating to Key Management Personnel are detailed in Note 8

**Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

<b>17) ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Designated £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2024 Total £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	450	-	-	450
Debtors	-	-	35,000	35,000
Cash at bank and in hand	245,023	60,473	100,111	405,607
Creditors due within one year	(105,443)	-	(19,576)	(125,019)
Balance on fund	140,030	60,473	115,535	316,038

**18) CONTROL**

The Charity is controlled by the Trustees under the terms of the Trust Deed.

# KILIMANJARO NATIONAL PARK

## MACHAME GATE

- ELEVATION: 1800M amsl  
VEGETATION ZONE: MONTANE FOREST  
FROM MACHAME GATE TO:
- MACHAME CAMP: 11KM (5HRS)
  - SHIRA CAVE CAMP: 16KM (11HRS)
  - LAVA TOWER: 23KM (15HRS)
  - ARROW GLACIER: 25KM (16.30HRS)
  - BARANCO: 28KM (17HRS)
  - KARANCA: 31KM (21HRS)
  - BARAFU CAMP: 35KM (25HRS)
  - UHURU PEAK: 40KM (32HRS)



**At Oracle Head & Neck Cancer UK, we're working towards a world where head and neck cancer no longer devastates lives. We support those affected by head and neck cancer today, fund pioneering research for better treatments tomorrow, and raise vital awareness to promote earlier diagnosis.**



**Call us**

0203 475 3471

**Email us**

info@oraclehnc.org.uk

**Visit us**

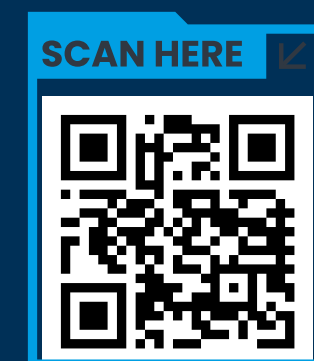
oraclehnc.org.uk

**Write to us**

85 Great Portland Street  
First Floor  
London W1W 7LT

**Follow us**

@oraclehncuk



**Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK Limited**

England & Wales - Charity number 1142037

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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

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**Oracle  
Head  
and  
Neck  
Cancer  
UK**





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# Who we are

## Our mission

Improve Head and Neck cancer quality of life outcomes in the UK.

## We will do this by

Enabling greater understanding, knowledge and awareness of Head and Neck Cancers.

**Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK will deliver on this mission across 4 areas: R (Research). A (Awareness). C (Collaboration). E (Experience of the Patient). We use these pillars as our R.A.C.E. to overcome the Head and Neck cancer crisis.**

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK (formally Oracle Cancer Trust) supports **research projects** that demonstrate potential to deliver and drive greater understanding about Head and Neck cancers, how best to treat them and where the greatest unmet needs are;

- We will promote and fund projects that have the potential to deliver research breakthroughs in diagnostics and improved, patient-focused approaches to treatment of Head and Neck cancers;
- We will promote, fund and/or help deliver research projects that can create better understanding of patient populations and their needs;
- We will promote, fund and/or help deliver projects that collect and analyse Head and Neck Cancer data so that we learn from our successes and our mistakes.

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK drives, delivers and supports **awareness campaigns** focused on Head and Neck cancers;

- We will run, support and/or deliver campaigns that promote ways to prevent and/or reduce risk of Head and Neck cancers;
- We will run, support and/or deliver campaigns around Head and Neck cancers symptoms with the aim of reducing late-stage diagnosis;
- We will run, support and/or deliver campaigns promoting appropriate and more accessible resources for patients with Head and Neck cancers from diagnosis through treatment and post treatment support;
- We will run, support and/or deliver campaigns that ensure that the route to diagnosis is clear and positive, including ensuring that primary healthcare professionals have the knowledge and understanding required.

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK promotes and supports **collaboration** and creates key opportunities for knowledge sharing and agreeing best practice within Head and Neck cancers;

- We will fund, support, promote and/or deliver events with the aim of sharing and exchanging breakthroughs, innovations and best practices amongst Head and Neck cancer and allied healthcare professionals;
- We will fund, support, promote and/or deliver training opportunities for healthcare professionals interested in Head and Neck cancers to learn, share and exchange information, best practices and innovations in Head and Neck cancers.

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK will support, promote and encourage more focus and understanding on the **experience of the patient** within Head and Neck cancers;

- We will fund, support and promote projects that focus on better understanding Head and Neck cancer patients of all backgrounds and what barriers / unmet needs currently exist;
- We will fund, support and promote projects that directly improve support and/or ensure more visible support for all Head and Neck cancer patients pre, during and post treatment.

The above areas of work all directly link to the organisation's charitable objectives which are to preserve and protect health and to provide relief for individuals affected by Head and Neck cancer.

1. by advancing education and promoting and funding research in relation to the causes, prevention, treatment and cure of head and neck cancers, and publishing the useful results of that research;
2. by providing practical support, information and assistance to individuals affected by head and neck cancer, their carers and family; and
3. by promoting collaboration and best practice in the treatment and care of individuals affected by head and neck cancers, including (without limitation) through the provision of grants and financial support.

# Thanks from our Chair

The 2022/2023 financial year was a year of stabilisation and regrouping following the challenges of the pandemic, untimely death of our founder and former Chair Peter Rhys-Evans and the difficult economic environment that continues to put pressure on this sector.

Raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of Head and Neck cancers is a top priority and vital if we are to change the increasingly worrying trends in the UK. Head and Neck cancers are the 4th most common type of cancer in the UK for men and the 8th most common overall. Advanced stage of diagnosis in Head and Neck cancers is associated with poor quality of life outcomes and survival and yet recent figures demonstrate that 60% of those diagnosed in the UK are diagnosed late stage. We also see a significant and growing number of Head and Neck cancers in our working age population in the UK and the cases globally are predicted to see a 30% increase annually by 2030. Significant efforts have been invested in growing our reach across the United Kingdom through a series of local engagement activities, more active social media presence, and focused campaigns.

Raising awareness and addressing the rising inequalities in Head and Neck cancer diagnoses in the UK is also a key focus. There is broad agreement and evidence that late stage diagnosis has a high correlation to deprivation and there are growing socio-demographic inequalities. As a national charity we are committed and focused on raising awareness and reaching communities across the UK, particularly those that are often underserved to ensure that the key signs and symptoms are more recognised, multiple routes to diagnosis promoted and risk factors highlighted.

In recognition of our expanding presence across the nation and our broadening scope dedicated to elevating awareness, fostering collaboration, and amplifying the patient voice, the Board, in late 2023, resolved to rebrand the charity as Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK (formally Oracle Cancer Trust). This name change is designed to enhance our public visibility and more accurately convey our refined strategic emphasis.

We want to acknowledge the significant contributions of departing trustees Sir Michael Lockett and John Fallon and to welcome new trustees Professor Ghassan Alusi, Ali Hansford, Dr. Mehmet Sen, Gareth Thomas and Toby Amis who bring a broad and deep experience of oncology and business to the charity.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we believe that our focused strategy and concerted efforts are steering Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK in the right direction. The collaboration, research, awareness, and patient-centric initiatives undertaken align with our core mission to overcome the crisis in Head and Neck cancers. The challenges ahead, especially in fundraising and economic uncertainty, necessitate continued drive, ambition and adaptability. Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK remains committed to advancing its mission, motivated by a dedication to improving the lives of those affected by Head and Neck cancers.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Keith Jones,**  
**Chair, Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK**

# Welcome from our CEO

During late 2021 and early 2022, the charity conducted an extensive 360-degree strategic review, involving consultations with various stakeholders, examination of current cancer research, data analysis, and internal patient surveys, to concentrate efforts on areas with the greatest unmet needs and potential for significant direct impact.

It was clear from the review that we are facing a Head and Neck cancers crisis in the UK. Things are not going in the right direction and there is urgent need to address the root causes of this crisis. To have an impact and create change we need to be focused and efficient as an organisation, work together with key partners, and harness the power of our community.

The unfortunate truth is that Head and Neck cancers are a complex medical area with growing numbers, later stage diagnoses and more inequalities. To date it is an area that has been unrecognised, underfunded and with not enough collaboration between those involved. There are more than 30 different cancer types that can affect 14 separate physical sites in the head and neck area, making it a challenging area to navigate as a patient, carer or even healthcare provider. Creating more awareness of this cancer area in all communities and population groups is critical; as is ensuring that the key signs and symptoms are recognised and routes to diagnosis more straightforward. The diagnostic pathway is characterised all too often by missed opportunities for early diagnosis, struggling primary healthcare professionals, frustrated patients and overbooked specialist clinics. And the variance and inequalities across the treatment and post treatment pathway are troubling. The area of post treatment support is a particular area of unmet need.

Due to the location of the tumours and associated treatments, patients are often left with debilitating appearance, speech, eating, swallowing and/or respiratory problems as well as psychological effects of loss of function and change in body image. Many of these side effects are life changing and can last for months, years or are permanent. Unfortunately there are wide differences between one postcode and the next, which needs addressing.

To reflect our focus and objectives in addressing these challenges we have decided to rename the charity to Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK (formally Oracle Cancer Trust). We believe this more clearly identifies what we are focused on and reflects our growing national footprint.

We look forward to continuing our work with and for our Head and Neck cancer community over the next year. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to remember those whom we have lost to this disease over the past year and before their time. We need to do much more to ensure that future patients and generations have better chances at good quality of life outcomes.

We will continue to work tirelessly in your memory and you will not be forgotten.

With gratitude and hope for the future,

**Tamara Kahn**  
CEO, Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK

# National Impact

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK is focused on having reach and impact across the UK. This is a challenging thing to achieve for a small charity and we are delighted by the amazing partnerships and collaborations that we have put in place over the last year. For us working nationally also means working locally and we look forward to more of this over the coming year. We are particularly delighted that we are now registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator, OSCR. We look forward to extending our reach and support for Head and Neck cancer across local communities and the 4 major Research Boards in Scotland.

## Research

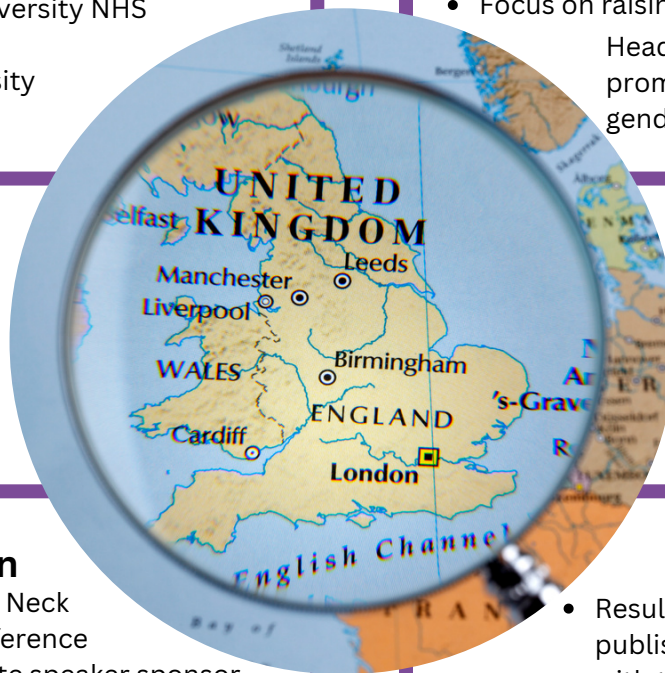
8 distinct UK Head and Neck Cancer translational research programmes, across 5 research centres

- University of Derby NHS Trust
- Institute of Cancer Research
- Newcastle University NHS Foundation
- Brunel University London

## Awareness

- Increased the number and diversity of patient ambassadors we work with.
- Increased social media activity and focus on increasing awareness of signs and symptoms
- Focus on raising awareness of HPV+

Head and Neck cancers and promoting uptake of the gender-neutral HPV vaccine.



## Collaboration

- York Head and Neck Oncology conference
- BAHNO Keynote speaker sponsor
- Launch of Peter Rhys-Evans scholarships
- Joined the HPV Coalition
- Leadership in Head and Neck Cancer Coalition UK. (England and Scotland Cancer Strategy recommendations)

## Experience

- Results of patient survey published in collaboration with the Head and Neck Cancer Coalition (HNCUK.org)
- Launch of 'Oracle Voices' - marrying patient experience with available scientific and medical expertise. To get our voices heard." Hazel Turner, Co-Chair

# Caroline's story

**5 years after receiving treatment for HPV 16 Oropharyngeal Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Caroline considers herself as one of the lucky ones and wanted to give back. In 2023, accompanied by her friend, she walked an epic 192 miles coast-to-coast and raised crucial funds for Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK**

In February 2018, I received the shocking news that I had head and neck cancer. The diagnosis came after months of investigations at Salisbury hospital for a damson-sized lump on the right side of my neck.

Despite good results from ultrasound scans, needle aspirations, a camera scope up my nose and down my throat, a CT scan and finally a PET scan (specifically to check for cancer cell activity), it turned out to be cancerous. I found out that I had oropharyngeal squamous cell cancer caused by the HPV virus.

The primary site of the cancer was found in the lingual tonsil, a difficult area to operate on due to its proximity to important structures like the carotid artery and jugular vein. I therefore faced two operations: one to secure the carotid artery and another to remove the tumour. In the end I never had the operation to remove the tumour because too much time had passed since investigations started, so it was decided to go straight to chemo-radiation. This was a bit worrying but was the best choice in hindsight.

The treatment plan involved radical chemoradiation (6 weeks of radiotherapy Mon- Fri and some Saturdays, with one long day a week of chemotherapy all morning before radiotherapy in the afternoon). There can be intense side effects: loss of ability to eat, swallow and talk due to severe burns, ulcers and destruction of the delicate and protective mouth lining (the mucosa). There was also loss of taste, and, prior to loss of saliva gland function, thick stringy mucus would gather at the back of my throat which I had to regularly remove via gagging and spitting. The mucosa protects the inner mouth from burning, so when the protective barrier is destroyed it results in extreme sensitivity.

The radiotherapy was unpleasant too, because I had to wear a thermoplastic mask made to fit me to the radiation table so that I couldn't move my head, as this would risk my brain or spinal cord being radiated and damaged.

Talking became difficult during the hardest part of treatment, but it softened to a husky hoarseness. I would learn to feed myself via a tube inserted direct through my skin and into my tummy, via an endoscopic procedure. The recovery process was tough, but I slowly started to regain my strength and taste sensation. However, my sense of taste was unpredictable, and I had to relearn how to eat certain foods. The lack of saliva due to the treatment was a long-term issue that affected my eating habits.

Despite the difficulties, I remained optimistic and grateful for surviving the ordeal. 5 weeks after my treatment I was able to travel to London by myself to visit my daughters. By September 2020, my condition had improved, and I could eat most foods my family did, although some things remained challenging. Walking and daily exercise helped with fatigue, but my weight remained the same as before treatment.

Now, in May 2023, I am continuing to recover, and my food consumption has improved. I have different tastes compared to before, and reduced saliva remains a long-term issue. Despite the lingering challenges, I am thankful to be alive and planning to take on a charity walk this summer.

Cancer treatment is a difficult journey, but it can be overcome with perseverance and medical support. Early detection and acting promptly are crucial for the best possible outcome. I hope my experience can raise awareness about the risks of HPV-related cancers and the importance of regular check-ups and vaccinations



# Impact: Research

There have been some positive advances in treatment approaches and we know more than we did 5 years ago BUT patient outcomes are still not where they should be. Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK continues to fund innovative research that provides better understanding and has the potential to improve Head and Neck cancer quality of life. During the 2022/2023 Financial Year Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK paid out £310,247 in grants to 8 distinct UK Head and Neck translational research programmes.

The research grants issued by Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK have supported programmes of work across 5 UK research centres from the University of Derby NHS Trust, Institute of Cancer Research, Newcastle University NHS Foundation and Brunel University London. We are very proud of the work that has and continues to come out of these programmes of work which include looking at areas such as:

- Salivary Gland Cells and Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma;
- Immunotherapy use and delivery in Head and Neck cancer;
- HPV+ Oropharyngeal Cancers;
- Combination treatment opportunities and possibilities for Head and Neck cancers;
- Opportunities for improved delivery of Radiotherapy in Head and Neck cancer patients.

Also during the year, Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK and North West Cancer Research joined forces as co-funders and issued a funding call around improved data around the rising inequalities in Head and Neck Cancer in the UK. This was a successful collaboration that resulted in a 2-year £125,000 award being given to a team of researchers led by Linda Sharp, Professor of Cancer Epidemiology at Newcastle University and colleagues. The project will compare incidence and survival rates across England and Wales with a focus on inequalities and deprivation links.

## Research spotlight

Adenoid cystic carcinoma (ACC) is a type of cancer that starts in the salivary glands. It is linked to a gene called MYB, which, when activated, transforms normal gland cells into cancerous ones. The research focused on inhibiting MYB target genes, such as BUB1, a protein crucial for cell growth, to see if it could sensitize ACC cells to standard chemotherapy or radiotherapy. This study led by Arturo Sala found that a small molecule inhibitor called BAY 181 could effectively inhibit BUB1 in ACC tumors, potentially improving patient outcomes after cancer treatment.

Please scan here to hear more about the project:





**Dr Charleen Chan Clinical  
Research Fellow**



# Meet the Researcher:

## Charleen Chan

**This research investigates the underwhelming results of combining radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy in clinical trials for Head and Neck cancer. Examining T-cell responses in mouse models, the study seeks to understand and improve treatment efficacy, offering insights into optimal combinations and potentially reducing chemotherapy and radiotherapy doses to mitigate side effects in patients.**

### **When did you first know that you wanted a career in research?**

Through my training in clinical oncology I have seen first-hand how rapidly the field of treatment options for our patients can change based on new research findings and discoveries. This has made me want to be involved in research that can impact on clinical treatment.

### **How did you come to specialise in Head and Neck cancer?**

I worked with Head and Neck cancer patients during my clinical oncology training at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust and The Royal Marsden NHS Trust. Head and Neck cancer affects such a wide range of demographics and both diagnoses and treatment can have such a profound impact on patients' self-image and quality of life. I applied for a PhD investigating radiotherapy and immunotherapy combinations in Head and Neck cancer as this is an exciting area of research we hope will result in positive outcomes for patients.

### **What is the take home message of your research?**

My research aims to investigate the dynamics of T-cell driven immune responses in locally-advanced Head and Neck Cancer. Understanding how T-cells change in activity and function over time when treatments are given can help guide us as to the best method of delivering these treatments and combining them with other agents such as immunotherapy.

### **Why did this research need to be done?**

There has been increasing interest in treatments that boost the body's immune response against cancer (immunotherapy) to lead to long-lasting tumour control. Combining both radiotherapy and immunotherapy treatments in Head and Neck cancer has shown to be promising in the laboratory setting. Unfortunately, clinical trials testing these combinations in humans have thus far been disappointing. The reason behind why these clinical trials have failed is unknown and there is clearly a gap in translating laboratory findings to clinical trials. My project hopes to investigate the reasons for this by tracking T-cells which are important in kick-starting and sustaining our anti-cancer immune response. We hope that understanding this can help guide us as to the best method of delivering current and new treatments.

### **What have you learnt along the way?**

I have learnt that research plans evolve and change depending on new results. It is important to keep an open mind and always ask the 'why'.

### **What difference will this make to patients?**

I hope that my research into standard-of-care treatments in Head and Neck cancer will be able to better guide combinations of radiation with novel agents such as immunotherapeutics. Particularly in light of recently failed clinical trials, the aim is to provide improve outcomes as well as provide better quality of life for patients.



# Impact: Awareness

**Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK has put significant effort over the past year into growing our reach across the United Kingdom. We are actively growing the number and diversity of patient ambassadors we work with.**

Combining local awareness raising with more active social media activity and some key campaigns in the plans for this coming year will hopefully allow us to:

- Reach more members of the public across diverse community groups, increasing awareness of the most common signs and symptoms of Head and Neck cancers and routes to diagnosis. Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK is working with local NHS Head and Neck cancer centres to engage directly with diverse communities to better understand and co-design awareness materials.
- We are also very focused on raising awareness of HPV+ Head and Neck cancers and promoting uptake of the gender neutral HPV vaccine. When most people think of HPV and cancer they think of cervical cancer. The awareness campaigns, HPV vaccine programmes and screening approach of cervical cancers are

a great example of how you can reduce incidence and drive early diagnosis of a cancer area through focus and concerted efforts. Unfortunately, the link between HPV and Head and Neck cancer is not as well recognised, awareness campaigns are slim on the ground and the vaccine isn't even formally recognised as preventing Head and Neck cancers. And yet, this is the fastest growing cause and type of Head and Neck cancers.

The most recent data shows that HPV-positive oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma accounts for up to 2,500 new cases each year in the UK, and this incidence is rising across the world. In the UK it is estimated that 50-70% of cancers in the Oropharynx region are HPV+ cancers. Within Head and Neck Cancers, HPV linked disease is being found in much younger population groups and with increasing proportional incidence in women.

# Impact: Collaboration

Over the past year Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK has continued to be a member and leader within the 15-member Head and Neck Cancer Coalition (HNCUK), which it helped set up in 2021. The Coalition members have agreed on key priorities and are actively engaging with stakeholders to drive much needed change around data, government cancer strategies and NHS reviews.

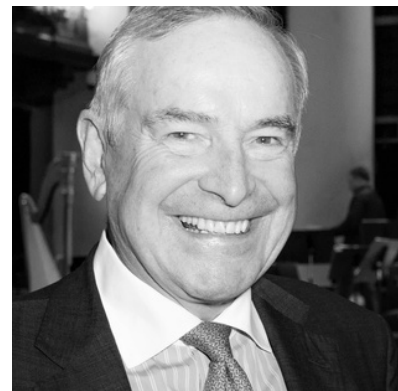


Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK was also a founding member of the HPV Cancer Coalition in 2022. This Coalition published a key Roadmap towards making the elimination of all HPV-related cancers a reality across the UK.

The HPV virus will affect 80% of us at some point in our lifetimes and is the main cause of a range of cancers in both men and women, including Head and Neck, cervical, anal, vaginal, penile and vulva cancers.

Unfortunately although the rate of Head and Neck cancers is the highest amongst HPV cancers in the UK there is very little awareness or vaccine take up focused on this. These cancers are preventable through uptake of the HPV vaccine which is a key focus of the Coalition.

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK set up and has committed funding for an annual Peter Rhys-Evans Head and Neck cancer lecture at the Royal College of Medicine, Laryngectomy section. This annual talk that honours our Founder, Peter Rhys-Evans and his focus and drive on multidisciplinary discussion and exchange to improve Head and Neck cancer patient outcomes will support education and best practice sharing in Head and Neck cancers.



Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK announced a new annual scholarship scheme for senior Head and Neck Cancer Trainees who would benefit from financial support to attend international multidisciplinary Head and Neck cancer conferences. The scholarships are being awarded in the name of Oracle’s Founder, the late Peter Rhys-Evans, who was a strong advocate of multidisciplinary and international best practice exchange.

# ESTRO



# Impact: Patient experience

**Across everything we do is a focus on the patient experience. Over the course of the last year we have focused much more on embedding patient voice into all aspects of our work.**

Working with the Head and Neck Cancer UK Coalition we ran a Head and Neck cancer patient survey to capture the experience of Head and Neck Cancer patients in the UK and how their treatment could be improved. Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK ran and hosted the patient survey and the Head and Neck Cancer Coalition helped to compile the results into a report titled 'Head and Neck Cancer in the UK: Patients, healthcare professionals and landscape analysis', which was supported by Merck. The report found that patients experienced significant physical and emotional side effects during treatment, which affected their quality of life. They also encountered communication problems during their care, as well as limited access to support services.

More recently we set up Oracle Voices which is co-chaired by two patients and is a national Head and Neck Cancer focused Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Group with the aim of increasing the diversity of patients that are involved in research, surveys, unmet needs identification and campaigns. We are working with local PPI groups and individual patients and carers across the UK and starting to get engaged in a number of different projects both large and small.

“Healthcare providers and researchers need to hear from patients to fully understand how both current and future treatments can impact lives. PPIs like Oracle Voices can empower patients to do this through a collective voice.”

Anson Mackay, co-chair Oracle Voices



## Jon's story

**Jon (56), a husband and dad of 4, experienced a persistent hoarse voice for over a year but put it down to the new inhaler he was taking. In November 2022, his world turned upside down and here he shares his story.**

Jon, a 57-year-old builder, shared his life story, which took a drastic turn when he discovered he had cancer of the voice box. Initially, he dismissed it as a persistent sore throat, but an urgent ENT appointment revealed the severity of his condition. After a biopsy and scans, he was diagnosed with stage 3 cancer covering 40% of the airway. Plans for 30 weeks of radiotherapy and chemotherapy were made, but the situation worsened when the cancer spread through the thyroid.

Facing the choice of a total laryngectomy or a limited life expectancy, Jon chose the surgery. His operation on January 9th lasted 9 hours,

and he woke up in ICU with COVID. After a challenging recovery, including 21 days in the hospital, he returned home before starting chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Despite the hardships, Jon can now speak and perform daily activities through a hole in his neck. Reflecting on his experience, Jon emphasises the importance of seeking medical advice promptly and not delaying when noticing changes in one's body. He regrets waiting too long before consulting a doctor and encourages others not to make the same mistake. His life has undergone significant changes, and he shares his story as a testament to the critical role of early medical intervention.

# Our fundraising approach

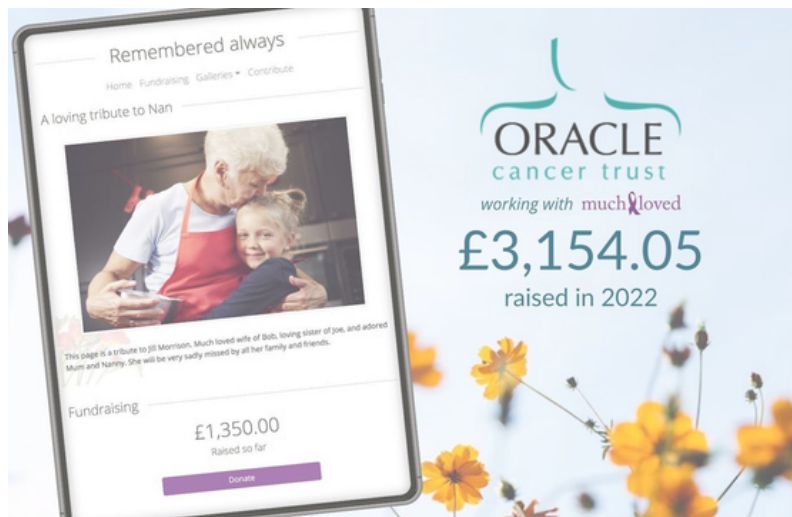
In 2022/23, £500,249 was raised in support of our work. This came from amazing individuals, organisations and trusts - all helping to improve outcomes for Head and Neck cancer patients. We thank every single one of our supporters; because of them we are one step closer to winning the RACE against the crisis in Head and Neck cancers.

Our amazing fundraisers, and supporters are at the centre of everything we do. Their passion, determination, and belief in our mission inspire us every day. And even during the toughest times, faced with myriad economic challenges, our supporters continued to run, swim, cycle, and rally together for people affected by Head and Neck cancers. Here are just a handful of the courageous ways our supporters got involved and helped raise vital funds for our lifesaving work.

Our razor- sharp focus to work in partnership and accelerate fundraising in our race against the Head and Neck cancer crisis has never been more crucial.

## Thank You

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK relies almost entirely on public support to continue our work - whether this be through financial donations, fundraising, donating time, or donating skills and services. We would like to thank every single person who has supported us for 2022/23 – without you, we could not do what we do for Head and Neck cancer patients!



# Report from the Trustees

## Financial Review 2022/23

From a financial perspective 2022/23 was a continuation of our recovery from the impact of the pandemic. Our total income for the year increased by 7.5% to £500,249 (2021/22: £465,691). This is a step forward but we still need further growth to enable Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK to deliver our ambitious strategic plans as outlined in the CEOs report.

The cost of generating income was £159,686 for the year (2021/22: £132,478). This represents 32% of total income and 35.8% of our total expenditure. The increase in costs reflects the cost of developing the fundraising and admin processes of the charity including more staff and a higher cost of delivering events.

### Research Grants

New grants are charged to the accounts at the date they are awarded for the period to which the charity is committed; this is normally the duration of the grant for awards of 18 months or less and the first year for multi-year awards. Subsequent years are recorded upon annual renewal. During 2022/23 grant amounts of £172,126 (21/22 £321,109) were recorded in the accounts and this includes new grants awarded totalling £84,801. The charity paid out cash funds of £310,247 (2021/22: £551,603) in respect of grants awards made in the year and earlier.

The charity has ongoing grant funding commitments of £178,832 (21/22 £298,037) being grant accruals on our balance sheet (Notes 11 & 12). Expenditure on research in 2022/23 included costs of managing our research programme, including working with research institutions and other funders, gathering data, promoting grant investment opportunities, working with our Research and Funding boards, and co-ordinating reviews ahead of making grant awards for following years. Proposals for new grants undergo a robust process of review before being awarded. Research grant awards normally have a duration of 1 to 3 years

### Investments

At present Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK does not have any significant investments and any reserves are held in a current account.

### Reserves

Restricted funds at the end of the year totalled £36,762 (2021/22: £163,168) and Unrestricted funds at the end of the year totalled £144,483 (2021/22: £(37,161)). Included in Unrestricted funds are Fixed Assets with a net value of £734, (2022: £nil). It is our policy to continue to grow our unrestricted reserves to secure the resources to spend with patients, carers, clinicians, fellow charities and healthcare associations and other key stakeholders to ensure that we know where the unmet needs are and that those that need support have their voices heard.

The charity's policy is to maintain the following reserves:

- **Restricted funds** – funds that have been donated to the charity for a specific project or stream of work,
- **Designated funds** – funds identified and already committed for expenditure of research, awareness, partnership development and key operational commitments
- **General funds** – funds used towards operations, project management and delivery of Oracle's strategic pillars and key objectives with oversight by the CEO and Board of Trustees.

The benchmark for the Charity's general funds has been set at 6 months of operating expenditure. Once this level of reserves has been achieved, the Trustees will review the policy again, re-considering the long-term funding needs of our work

# Structure, Governance and Management

## Organisational structure

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14th January 2010 and registered as a charity on 20th May 2011. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the powers and objects of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association of the same date.

In December 2023 the Board approved a name change of the charity to Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK. This more closely aligns to our strategic ambitions and national reach.

Continuing the activities previously carried out by the unincorporated charity called the Head and Neck Cancer Research Trust (HNCRT), which had been established in 1979. The assets of the HNCRT were transferred to the Trust on 1st June 2011.

## Related parties

The Trustees of Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK (who are also Directors for purposes of Company Law) are listed on page 21. Board Directors and Trustees are leading industry figures and have varied backgrounds including finance, data, AI, general management, healthcare and oncology.

The Board meets bi-monthly and take overall responsibility for ensuring that the financial, legal and contractual responsibilities of the charity are met, and that there are satisfactory systems of financial and other controls. All decisions are currently ratified by the Board.

New Trustees are selected by a two stage process. The Board then selects the candidate/s to formally approach by majority decision. All Trustees, key management personnel and independent members of committees are required to sign a Conflicts of Interest Policy on an annual basis.

The charity has a Research and Funding committee that helps direct the work of the charity by providing expert advice to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Trustees on:

- providing input, opinion and perspective on funding applications that the charity receives with regards to their potential to benefit and/or improve the Head and Neck Cancer patient pathway in the UK;
- helping source independent expert advice that helps direct and decide funding;
- providing recommendations to the Charity Board on suitability of applications for funding;
- overseeing the monitoring, governance and impact reporting of all research/impact funding at Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK.

The Charity has developed a robust peer-review process and are members of to AMRC (Association of Medical Research Charities).

The day-to day management of the charity is delegated to the CEO, appointed in September 2021.

## Risk statement

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity may be exposed. The principal risks that we face in the charity are:

- that we might choose to allocate funds to programmes of work that are unlikely to succeed or are, at worst, fraudulent. The charity has established an independent Research and Funding Committee with relevant experts with a robust set of procedures to ensure that there is objective review and process around all significant research expenditure.
- that we may not meet our annual income targets and not be able to resource our planned activities. To this end the Charity develops an annual budget in support of its operational plan which is approved by Trustees. This forms the basis for financial monitoring. Management accounts and financial forecasts are reviewed monthly by the Trustees,
- that we might lose key members of staff. The Board has a succession plan, going forward all staff contracts ensure sufficient notice periods to allow recruitment and handover.

We also recognise that whilst our employees retained by the charity are incredibly motivated about our cause, we still need to treat them fairly and compensate them accordingly for their efforts and provide other ways to keep them feeling invested by the organisation. An annual pay review will take place, and we also know that in time our non-financial benefits can be enhanced to retain and recruit the calibre of employees we need to drive the charity forward.

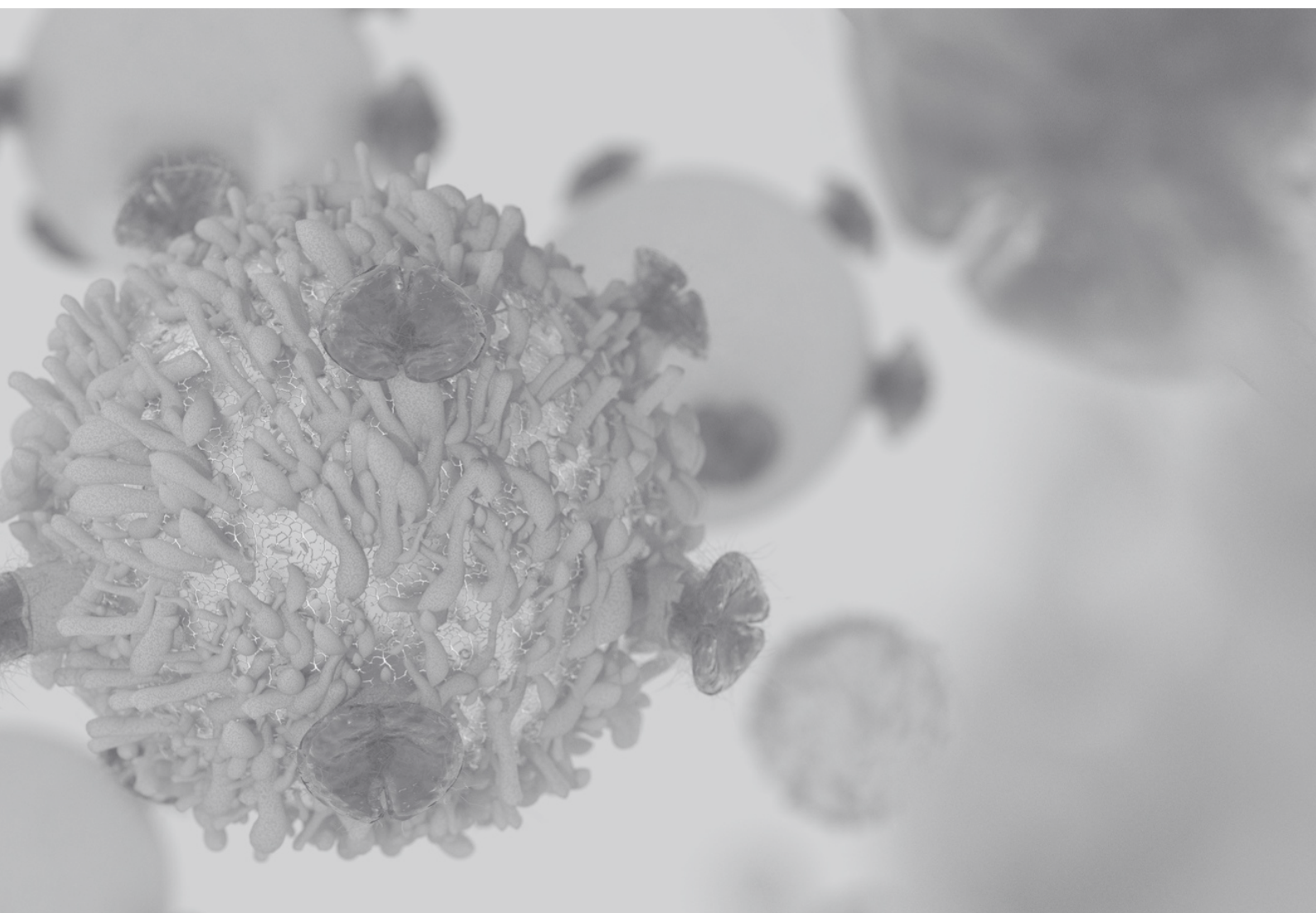
As the charity looks forward, we have seen the impact of the volatility of the employment market across the sector, which may affect our turnaround time to hire and with some roles struggle to hire and have had to adjust our recruitment practices accordingly.

### **Database and data management**

A new fundraising database was implemented in the previous financial year, making it easier for the charity to remain compliant, help us engage with our donors in the right way and make decisions based on data available. improve . We continue to streamline some necessary processes and is already allowing us to use staff time more efficiently.

### **Marketing and communications**

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK currently operates an “opt in” communications policy for all new supporters, this policy is being updated to ensure that we are reaching the maximum amount of people enabling us to meet our strategic objectives in the next Financial Year.



- that the impact on the economy from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the cost of living crisis will materially reduce the charity's annual income from 2022 onwards, and increase costs. The charity's budgeting and monitoring process in (b) above mitigates this risk.

### Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity. The Trustees' Report section sets out how the charity addresses the public benefit requirement, and this is also explicit in our Charity's aims.

In this way we fulfill the charitable objects to fund pioneering research into all matters connected with or bearing upon the causes, prevention, treatment and care of cancer to include research into and to advance the art and science of surgery as applied to cancer of the head and neck and for the publication and dissemination of the results of such research.

### Our approach to fundraising

As a supporter-focused charity, we recognise that the progress we make for people affected by Head and Neck cancers would not be possible without our supporters' generosity and passion. That is why our Fundraising Promise remains at the heart of how we fundraise.

If you choose to support us, you can be certain that we will:

- never put you under pressure to donate · be clear with you about our charity's aims and objectives
- respect your choices to opt in or out of our fundraising communications
- never share or sell your details to other charities or third parties for their own marketing purposes
- comply with all relevant data protection laws
- listen and learn – you can provide feedback about our fundraising at any time
- communicate with you in a way that suits you best

We are registered with the regulatory body for fundraising in the UK, the Fundraising Regulator, and pay an annual levy to support its work. We adhere to the standards outlined in the regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice (the code).

We fundraise in diverse ways to tell as many people as possible know about our work. We are currently focused on Individual, Corporate and Trust and Foundations and our activities include direct mail, email direct marketing, sponsored running, challenge and community-led events, and cash collections. We also host fundraising events and other social activities.

We review all of our fundraising campaigns to ensure they fully comply with the code, do not place an unreasonable intrusion on anyone's privacy or put undue pressure on them to donate. Our fundraising activities are also closely monitored by our Board of Trustees.

We encourage and learn from feedback from our supporters. In accordance with disclosure guidance from the Fundraising Regulator, we received no complaints relating to our fundraising activity in 2022/23, (2021/22:0). With the diversification of income streams and increased focus on acquisition this may change, as a result of increased activity.

### Our people

We aim to ensure that the infrastructure that supports our work and governance remains fit for purpose, while retaining our positive attributes and aspiring to be a leading charity in employee support and benefits.

Our headcount as of 31st May 2023 was 4, which equated to less than 3 full time equivalents.

- CEO
- Head of Fundraising and Communications
- Fundraising and Communications Officer
- Intern

## Legal and Administrative Information

<b>Charity Name</b>	Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK (formerly Oracle Cancer Trust)
<b>Trustees</b>	Mr Peter Rhys-Evans, MB, BS, LRCP, FRCS, DCC ( <i>resigned 17 May 2022</i> ) Sir Michael Lockett, KCVO ( <i>resigned 21st March 2023</i> ) Mr John Fallon ( <i>resigned 14 December 2022</i> ) Mr Keith Jones Mr James Robertson Mrs Nicola Ridges-Jones Prof. Gus Alusi ( <i>appointed 1 September 2022</i> ) Mrs Ali Hansford ( <i>appointed 1 September 2022</i> ) Dr Mehmet Sen ( <i>appointed 1 September 2022</i> ) Mr Toby Amis ( <i>appointed 1 April 2023</i> ) Mr Gareth Thomas ( <i>appointed 1 December 2023</i> )
<b>Honorary Trustees</b>	Prof. Kevin Harrington, BSc MBBS MRCP FRCR FRCP PhD DIC Prof. Christopher Nutting, BSc MBBS MD PhD FRCP FRCR MedFIPeM Dr Kate Newbold, MBChB MRCP FRCPE FRCR MD Prof. Vinidh Paleri MBBS MS FRCS (CSig) FRCS(ORL-HNS)
<b>Patrons</b>	Sir Michael Morpurgo Tony Matharu
<b>President</b>	Jimmy Mulville
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Nigella Lawson Jenny Pitman OBE
<b>Charity Number</b>	1142037 England & Wales / SC052790 Scotland
<b>Company Number</b>	07125497
<b>Principal address</b>	85 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 7LT
<b>Registered Office of Charity</b>	80 Coombe Road, New Malden, KT3 4QS
<b>Auditors</b>	Goldwins, 75 Maygrove Road, West Hampstead, London, NW6 2EG
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 1BE
<b>Solicitors</b>	Dorsey & Whitney LLP, 199 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 3UT

## Statement of trustees responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK for the purpose 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 Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

### **In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:**

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Date: 21st December 2023



**Keith Jones**

Chair, Trustee

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK

# Independent auditor's report

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK (formerly Oracle Cancer Trust the 'charity') for the year ended 31 May 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 May 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## 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 Charity 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 charity'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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

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

### **Opinion on other matter 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' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' 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 Charity 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 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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.

### **Responsibilities of the trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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 give a true and fair view and for such internal control as they 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 Charity'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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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 are set out below.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [[www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities)]. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### **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. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters 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 anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

.....  
**Anthony Epton (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**for and on behalf of Goldwins Limited**  
**Statutory Auditor**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**75 Maygrove Road**  
**West Hampstead**  
**London**  
**NW6 2EG**

**14 February 2024**

# Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 May 2023

## (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donations and legacies	1	32,300	159,009	191,309	293,559
Government grants received	1	283,894	-	283,894	144,228
Fundraising events		-	24,071	24,071	27,730
Investment income	2	-	974	974	174
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>316,194</b>	<b>184,054</b>	<b>500,248</b>	<b>465,691</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Costs of raising funds</b>					
• costs of generating voluntary and fundraising income	3	0	159,686	159,686	132,478
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities and Governance costs</b>	4	<b>253,036</b>	<b>32,288</b>	<b>285,324</b>	<b>379,754</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>253,036</b>	<b>191,974</b>	<b>445,010</b>	<b>512,231</b>
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
<b>Net Expenditure for the year</b>		<b>63,158</b>	<b>(7,920)</b>	<b>55,238</b>	<b>(46,541)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>					
Total Funds brought forward 1 June 2022		163,168	(37,161)	126,007	172,548
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		<b>(189,564)</b>	<b>189,564</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward at 31 May 2023</b>		<b>36,762</b>	<b>144,483</b>	<b>181,245</b>	<b>126,007</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

## Balance Sheet at 31 May 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible	9	<u>734</u>		<u>-</u>	
			734		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	10	13,496		5,666	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>362,664</u>		<u>470,285</u>	
		376,160		475,951	
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	11	<u>180,130</u>		<u>349,944</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>196,030</u>		<u>126,007</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			196,764		126,007
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year</b>	12		15,519		-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>181,245</u>		<u>126,007</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted funds	13		36,762		163,168
Unrestricted funds	14		144,483		(37,161)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>181,245</u>		<u>126,007</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the 20th December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



**Keith Jones**  
Chair and Trustee

Company registration No: 07125497

# Cashflow Statement at 31 May 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>		(107,743)		(244,045)
(see note below)				
<b>Cash inflows from investing activities</b>				
Investment income	974		174	
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	<u>(852)</u>		<u>-</u>	
Net cash provided by investing activities		122		174
<b>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<u>(107,621)</u>		<u>(243,871)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		<u>470,285</u>		<u>714,156</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		<u>362,664</u>		<u>470,285</u>
<b>Note - reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities</b>				
Net income (expenditure) - as per statement of financial activities		55,238		(46,541)
Investment income		(974)		(174)
Depreciation of tangible assets		118		-
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors		(7,831)		35,242
(Decrease)/ increase in creditors		<u>(154,294)</u>		<u>(232,572)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>(107, 743)</u>		<u>(244,045)</u>
<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>				
Cash in hand		362,664		470,285
Total		<u>362,664</u>		<u>470,285</u>

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## Accounting Policies

### a) Accounting convention

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) including Update Bulletin 1. The Company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity established as a company limited by guarantee and therefore has also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the 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 (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Companies Act 2006.

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

### b) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable group to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charitable company's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income. After making enquiries the trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charitable company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. At the date of sign off, the Trustees confirm there are no material uncertainties in relation to the going concern assumption.

### c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, the receipts is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Legacies are recognised following probate and once there is sufficient evidence that receipt is probable and the amount of the legacy receivable can be measured reliability. Where entitlement to a legacy exist but there is uncertainty as to its receipt or the amount receivable, details are disclosed as a contingent asset until the criteria for income recognition are met.
- Bank interest is accounted for on an accruals basis.
- Voluntary income by way of donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

### d) Resources expended and irrecoverable VAT

Resources expended including grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Commitment to fund future grants are recognised as liabilities once the obligation has been communicated to the grant recipient. Where there is an annual review or other performance review related conditions which means that the charity may withdraw a commitment if the conditions are not met, the liability is not recognised until the conditions have been fulfilled, and the commitment can no longer be revoked.

Expenditure includes VAT which is not recoverable by the charity. The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities. Support costs include central functions and are allocated to cost categories on the basis of staff time spent on those cost categories. Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## Accounting Policies

### e) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the Trusts programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. Further detail can be found in Note 5.

### f) Operating leases

The charity classifies the leasing of office equipment as operating leases, the title remains with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the lease period.

### g) Tax status

Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK has suffered no tax charge, as it is not subject to UK Corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### h) Fund Accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- Unrestricted general funds - these are funds that can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.
- Designated funds - these are funds that are set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.
- Restricted funds - these are funds that are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

### i) Fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. Computer equipment - Straight line over 3 years.

### j) Government grants

Government Grants represent funding received from the AMRC for qualifying projects. Funds are recognised on receipt.

### k) Financial instruments

- **Cash and cash equivalents** - Cash and cash equivalents include cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with a maturity date of three months or less.
- **Debtors and creditors** - Debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year of the reporting date are carried at their at transaction price. Debtors and creditors that are receivable or payable in more than one year and not subject to a market rate of interest are measured at the present value of the expected future receipts or payment discounted at a market rate of interest.

# Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

## 1. Donations and Legacies

		2023 £	2022 £
General donations	Restricted	32,300	67,555
	Unrestricted funds	140,521	224,791
Grant funding	Restricted	-	-
	Unrestricted funds	18,488	-
Legacies	Restricted	-	-
	Unrestricted funds	-	1,213
		<u>191,309</u>	<u>293,559</u>
Government grants	Restricted	283,894	144,228
	Unrestricted funds	-	-
		<u>475,203</u>	<u>437,787</u>

The Trust benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

## 2. Investment Income

		2023 £	2022 £
Bank interest receivable	unrestricted funds	974	174
		<u>974</u>	<u>174</u>

## 3. Costs of generating voluntary and fundraised income

		2023 £	2022 £
<b>Unrestricted</b>			
Fundraising and impact	Salaries	57,541	40,291
Delivery costs	Events	33,662	11,003
Support costs allocated (Note 5)		68,483	78,984
		<u>159,686</u>	<u>130,278</u>
<b>Restricted</b>			
Printing, Postage and stationery (from Mercers' Fund)		<u>-</u>	<u>2,200</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### 4. Charitable activities and governance costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Research grants	172,126	321,109
Lecturer fees and expenses	495	-
Support costs (Note 5)	65,785	31,377
Governance costs (Note 6)	46,918	27,268
	<u>285,324</u>	<u>379,754</u>

All grants are payable to a range of research organisations to cover salaries and expenses of researchers.

### 5. Support costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Sub-contractors	82,672	69,838
PR consultancy	9,277	7,065
Printing, postage, stationery and website	11,069	12,403
Other office, travel and sundry	21,827	18,887
Recruitment	15,000	3,600
Allocated to Charitable activities (Note 4)	(65,785)	(31,377)
Allocated to Governance costs (Note 6)	(5,576)	(1,432)
	<u>68,484</u>	<u>78,984</u>

Sub-contractors includes the Chief Executive and Operations Manager

The Trust identifies its support costs, it then identifies those costs relating to Governance. The remaining support costs are allocated between Cost of Generating Funds and Governance Staff and related costs are allocated on a time basis, overheads are allocated in proportion to staff time.

### 6. Governance costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bookkeeping and external audit	26,665	25,836
Legal and other professional	14,677	-
Support costs allocated (Note 5)	5,576	1,432
	<u>46,918</u>	<u>27,268</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### 7. Net expenditure for the year

	2023	2022
	£	£
This is stated after charging (net of VAT):		
Fees payable to the Auditor      Audit services	5,000	4,500
Depreciation charge for the year	118	-
	5,118	4,500

The above figures exclude VAT in accordance with accounting reporting requirements. The actual cost to the charity was £6,000 (2022 : £5,400)

### 8. Staff costs, trustee remuneration and key management personnel

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries	54,197	-
Employer NI	694	-
Pension costs	1,342	-
	56,233	-

During the year the average numbers of employees was 2 (2022 : nil)

Additional support has been provided throughout the year in administering and running the Charity.

In both 2022 and 2023 no employee earned more than £60,000 in that year.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the CEO and the operations manager. The total compensation paid to key management personnel amounted to £74,600 (2022 : £58,775)

No trustee was remunerated in the current or preceding year. Total key management personnel costs of three (2022: two) individuals.

# Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

## 9. Tangible fixed assets

	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Computer Equipment</b>
	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>	
At 31 May 2022	1,180
Additions	852
Disposals	<u>(1,180)</u>
	<u>852</u>
<b>At 31 May 2023</b>	
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 31 May 2022	1,180
Charge for the year	118
Eliminated	<u>(1,180)</u>
	<u>118</u>
<b>At 31 May 2023</b>	
<b>Net Book Value</b>	
At 31 May 2023	<u>734</u>
At 31 May 2022	<u>-</u>

## 10. Debtors

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grant and event debtors	5,000	-
Other debtors and prepayments	8,496	5,666
	<u>13,496</u>	<u>5,666</u>

## 11. Creditors - Due within 1 year

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grant accruals	163,313	298,037
Deferred Income and other accruals	11,760	12,370
Trade creditors	2,400	39,537
Social security and other taxes	2,321	-
Other creditors	336	-
	<u>180,130</u>	<u>349,944</u>

## 12. Creditors - Due after 1 year

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grant accruals	15,519	-

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### 13. Restricted funds

	Balance 1 June 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 May 2023 £
• CHK/ AMRC/ Mason Le Page for Koteva	12,033	38,076	(37,500)	(12,609)	-
• AMRC/ Swire - Pioneers of Discovery for Fleming and Melake	52,662	44,489	(68,179)	(11,974)	16,998
• AMRC for Patin	31,520	104,208	(13,068)	(122,660)	-
• Beaumont/Terradace for Marsh	34,079	-	-	(34,079)	-
• AMRC for Lin	30,824	-	(14,010)	-	16,814
• AMRC for Cicero/Sala	-	57,500	-	(57,500)	-
• AMRC for Freckleton	-	18,488	(34,278)	15,790	-
• AMRC for Chan	-	26,133	(22,725)	(3,408)	-
• Inequalities project	-	25,000	(62,076)	37,076	-
• University of Southampton for Lola internship	-	2,300	(1,200)	-	1,100
• Mercers Livery	1,850	-	-	-	1,850
• Pennycress Trust	200	-	-	(200)	-
	<b>163,168</b>	<b>316,194</b>	<b>(253,036)</b>	<b>(189,564)</b>	<b>36,762</b>

	Balance 1 June 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 May 2022 £
• CHK	39,533	-	(27,500)	-	12,033
• Swire - Pioneers of Discover for Fleming and Melake	130,000	-	(77,338)	-	52,662
• Beaumont/ Terradace/ AMRC for Patin	56,438	71,457	(76,150)	(20,225)	31,520
• Beaumont/ Terradace for Marsh	-	50,000	(25,558)	9,637	34,079
• AMRC for Lin	-	72,770	1,589	(43,535)	30,824
• Chellaram (Hobart)	37,311	17,556	1,190	(56,057)	-
• Worshipful Company of Mercers	4,050	-	(2,200)	-	1,850
• Pennycress Trust	200	-	-	-	200
• Big Give Immunotherapy appeal	18,310	-	-	(18,310)	-
	<b>285,842</b>	<b>211,783</b>	<b>(205,967)</b>	<b>(128,490)</b>	<b>163,168</b>

# Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

## Additional details

- **CHK Charities** are supporting PhD student, Jennifer Kieselmann, to undertake a cutting-edge computational project at the ICR's Division of Radiotherapy and Imaging.
- **Swire – Pioneers of Discovery** Match funding initiative to support PhD fellows in establishing their careers in the field, while directing more innovative research towards head and neck cancer.
- **Beaumont / Terradace / AMRC (Patin)** The aim of this project is to use drugs to make radiation more effective in killing cancer cells, but also to alert the immune system to their presence. In this way, the study aims to make radiation work better against hard-to-treat head and neck cancers (eg HPV-negative tumours), but also to reduce the side effects of treatment by needing to use less radiation dose to control more sensitive cancers (eg HPV-positive tumours).
- **Beaumont/Terradace (Marsh)** This project intends to understand the lifecycle and development of HPV infections within the mouth to determine how HPV causes head and neck cancer, in order to develop new treatments.
- **AMRC (Lin)** The work of Daniel Lin will study baseline IDO activity in patients and map this throughout head and neck cancer (HNC) treatment to establish IDO as a biomarker for HNC and support a more personalised therapeutic approach to improve patient outcomes.
- **Chellaram (Hobart)** PhD project looking at how medical imaging can be used to predict how likely a head and neck cancer patient is to respond to immunotherapy treatment.
- **The Worshipful Company of Mercers** Funding to support the production of awareness materials.
- **Pennycress Trust** Match funded by Pioneers of Discovery fund, supporting PhD fellows.

Any negative fund balances are rectified in the following financial year through the receipt of further income into the relevant fund.

## 14. Unrestricted funds

	Balance 1 June 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 May 2023 £
Designated funds					
• Blair Hesketh Memorial	66,293	-	(1,500)	-	64,793
General unrestricted funds	(103,454)	184,055	(190,475)	189,564	76,690
	<u>(37,161)</u>	<u>184,055</u>	<u>(191,975)</u>	<u>189,564</u>	<u>144,483</u>

	Balance 1 June 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 May 2022 £
Designated funds					
• Blair Hesketh Memorial	67,664	50	(1,421)	-	66,293
General unrestricted funds	(180,958)	238,858	(304,843)	128,490	(103,454)
	<u>(113,294)</u>	<u>253,908</u>	<u>(306,264)</u>	<u>128,490</u>	<u>(37,161)</u>

The Blair Hesketh Memorial Fund has been set up to provide funds for the Blair Hesketh lectures.

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### 15. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement for expenses in respect of the current year or preceding period.

### 16. Related Party Transactions

Three medical Trustee Directors sit on the Research Sub-Committee. Consequently they make recommendations upon the direction of the research, allocation of funding and Trustee Directors, for example, where the funded appointee delivers a partial clinical role which may alleviate their own clinical responsibilities. To mitigate this risk of related party benefit, the Research Sub-Committee is chaired by an independent Non Executive Director and it formally passes any funding proposals to the Finance & Investment Sub-Committee (whose members are non-medical) for review and necessary approval before onwards submission for a final Board decision.

Disclosures relating to Key Management Personnel are detailed in Note 8

### 17. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Fund designated £	Restricted £	2023 Total £
Tangible fixed assets	734	-	-	734
Debtors	6,996	1,500	5,000	13,496
Cash at bank and in hand	125,853	63,293	173,518	362,664
Creditors due within one year	(38,374)	-	(141,756)	(180,130)
Creditors due 1 - 2years	(15,519)	-	-	(15,519)
<b>Balance on fund</b>	<b>79,690</b>	<b>64,793</b>	<b>36,762</b>	<b>181,245</b>

### 18. Control

The Charity is controlled by the Trustees under the terms of the Trust Deed.

### 19. Post Balance Sheet Event

On 14th December 2023 the company changed its name from Oracle Cancer Trust Ltd to Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK Ltd.



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## Get in touch

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## Support us now, donate today.

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Company Registration Number 7125497 Registered  
Charity Number England & Wales 1142037  
Charity Number Scotland SC052790

**Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK Limited**

England & Wales - Charity number 1142037

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# Accounts

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ORACLE CANCER TRUST

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2021-22**





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# Thanks from our Chair

This year I was warmly welcomed as the new Chair of Oracle Cancer Trust, which was bittersweet as it was with great sadness that we saw the passing of Oracle's founder Peter Rhys-Evans. It has been a difficult year and resilience and adaptability have been key. We will continue to build on the foundations that Peter set out and ensure that his legacy lives on. He was particularly keen that Oracle operate and be seen as a national charity, helping to bring the community closer together through greater collaboration, addressing the growing inequalities facing patients and the clinical profession, fostering more exchange of best practice and opportunities for international cooperation, improving patient outcomes and raising awareness.

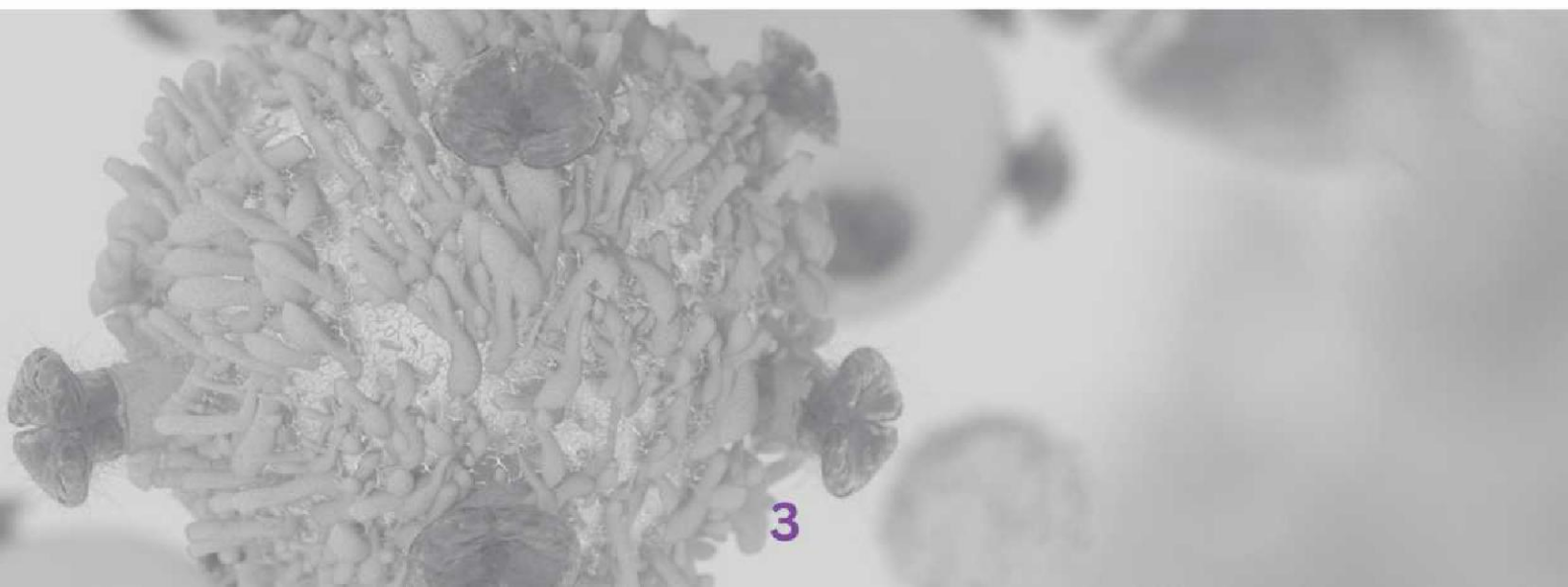
Head and Neck cancers are seeing one of the fastest growth in incidence rates, especially amongst the younger population. Across the UK there is little recognition of this ticking time bomb, and it is an area that continues to remain underfunded. Our ambitions for Oracle are critical to ensure that this dire situation is reversed.

This year we have made great strides, strengthened our management team and board of trustees. We have welcomed Tamara Kahn as CEO and further strengthened our management team with the appointment of Gemma McKnight as Head of Fundraising and Communications. Also in 2022, Ali Hansford, Dr Mehmet Sen and Prof. Gus Alusi joined our Board of Trustees, each bringing key experience and perspective. We are actively seeking additional trustees to achieve balance across all key focus areas.

We became the founding member of the Head and Neck Coalition, uniting key Head and Neck cancer charities and organisations, with the ambition of improving the care, experience and outcomes for everyone affected by Head and Neck cancer in the UK. Underpinning our work going forward will be 4 pillars of activity; improving the patient experience, increasing awareness and understanding, funding research that have the potential to improve outcomes and collaboration and improving best practice.

I am so proud of where we are today as a charity and excited to see what the future holds. Thank you to every one of our supporters, corporate partners, volunteers, researchers and staff who help us improve Head and Neck Cancer outcomes in the UK. We simply could not have done it without you.

**Keith Jones,**  
Chair, Oracle Cancer Trust



# Welcome from our CEO

The last 12 months have been some of the most challenging of our time, but they have also presented us with some of the greatest opportunities. We have heard from many of our diverse stakeholders who have helped us identify where the greatest unmet needs are where we can have the greatest impact.

What I have realised over the last year is how many people are part of the Head and Neck cancer community and how many people are involved in the patient journey. From researchers who are unlocking kinder and more effective treatments, to GPs and dentists that can drive early diagnosis to ENT specialists, surgeons, oncologists, radiologists, nurses, physios, speech and language therapists, dieticians, restorative dentists and many more who support the patient journey. And of course the carers, families, communities, charities and patients themselves.

## My top reflections from my first full year as CEO

As a charity we are coming out of a difficult time after the pandemic and the loss of our amazing Founder and Chairman, Peter Rhys Evans - but we have a plan. Head and Neck cancers in healthcare is in a bit of a crisis. I was surprised at how little awareness there is about this area of disease that is disproportionate to the number of cases and those affected. As a daughter of a sinus cancer patient and a wife of an ENT Surgeon I knew about these cancers a bit more than most I suppose. I knew that these cancers were less common than the other big cancers but that those that get them can have some really difficult realities post treatment. I knew about HPV and I knew that it took quite a few specialists to support a patient through treatment. But over the course of this year I have been somewhat alarmed by the lack of recognition, funding, coordination and support Head and Neck cancers receive compared to other areas of disease. There are many GPs and Dentists that don't know much about these cancers, there is no national audit for Head and Neck cancers and the number of people getting diagnosed late stage is rising not declining. And that is before you even start considering the inequalities that exist.

It has also really hit me that improving early-stage diagnosis is one side of the crisis at the moment. The other side is the post treatment support. I think often the most difficult part for a patient is once the treatment is over, the adrenalin goes and you are left with digesting what has just happened, how your life has been impacted and how you will now have to live going forward. This can be a very lonely and difficult place.

## My hopes and vision for Oracles future

One of my main hopes is that we can continue the work that Peter Rhys Evans started with Oracle Cancer Trust. I was lucky enough to spend quite a few hours with Peter in the first 6 months of my joining; discussing where the needs were, how we could make the most impact and what Oracle should be focusing on if we could get the funding. Becoming a national charity, helping to bring the community closer together through greater collaboration, addressing inequalities, fostering more exchange of best practice and opportunities for international cooperation, improving patient outcomes, raising awareness are probably the main themes we covered. And as a charity we are actively working across all these areas.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our small team for their hard work and perseverance in challenging times. Through their efforts, the charity has continued to improve the chances of survival and quality of life for Head and Neck cancer patients everywhere.

**Tamara Kahn**  
CEO, Oracle Cancer Trust

# Peter Rhys-Evans

On June 3 2022 we lost a widely recognised and respected ENT/Head and Neck Surgeon, Mr Peter Rhys-Evans. Peter worked most of his recent Consultant career at the Royal Marsden Hospital as well as the Lister Hospital, Cromwell Hospital, King Edward VII Hospital and St Luke's Hospital. He was also an Honorary Civilian Consultant ENT Surgeon to the Royal Navy.

Peter was modest by nature and so his varied contributions and achievements across numerous fields was not something he widely shared. He not only had an eminent career as a leading UK and international Head and Neck surgeon but he was also very prolific and highly regarded for his research and publications, charity work and appreciation for music and musicians.

Peter Rhys-Evans was born in May 1948, the third of six children. His parents met while both working at St Bartholomew's Hospital where his mother Jean was a nurse and his father Rhys was a surgeon. His father went on to become an ENT Consultant at The Royal Infirmary in Sunderland and as we know Peter enthusiastically followed in his footsteps becoming a widely respected and highly regarded ENT/Head and Neck Surgeon in his own right.

Rhys-Evans qualified from St Bartholomew's Hospital in 1971 and his ENT training included a few years at the Royal National ENT Hospital Otolaryngology and roles at Dudley Road Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1978 and in 1980 he started a Head and Neck Fellowship at the University of Paris French Gustave-Roussy Institute. His knowledge and proficiency of the French language was something that he never forgot according to close friends and colleagues.

In fact Peter maintained international links and sought out sharing and exchange of best practice with specialists from other countries

throughout his career. He was a member and elected fellow of a number of international societies and associations including the Cartesian Society, the American Head and Neck Society, American College of Surgeons, the Colombian Society of Otolaryngology, European Academy of Facial Surgery, European Laryngological Society and Rhinological Association and the South African Society of Otolaryngology. And he held visiting professorships in the West Indies, South Africa and in the United States. Peter's US fellowship was with Mark Singer and Eric Blom where he studied the tracheo-oesophageal voice restoration puncture, a revolutionary technique at that time that he brought back to London to restore speech to laryngectomy patients.

Colleagues share that what made Peter particularly special was the rare combination of not only surgical excellence but also his progressive approach to multi-disciplinary team working, his ability and dedication to developing patient trust and rapport, a strong focus on research, and a real skill and interest in training.

Peter's former patients share often similar stories of feeling particularly listened to and safe in his care. Indeed he went on to establish close friendships with a number of his patients many of whom also became advocates and supporters of his charity work with Oracle Cancer Trust.

As a researcher he was prolific. He authored over 200 publications, including 5 books and a prize winning textbook "Principle and Practice of Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology" published in 2003 with a second edition in 2009. He gave over 250 national/international lectures, was Assistant Editor of the Journal of Laryngology and Otology for 9 years and Examiner for the Royal College of Surgeons for 12 years.

Peter's energy towards information exchange was reflected in his training. Previous trainees

share that they felt he was genuinely interested and focused on imparting his knowledge and supporting the next generation of up-and-coming surgeons. He enabled the theoretical knowledge in writing the textbook itself but was also very present and involved in the practical and human side of training as well. He is remembered as being encouraging and enabling of trainees' own development and progress but also always ensuring they felt that they were in a safe and supportive environment.

The boundaries of Peter's research extended beyond the medical sphere too. He authored the book *The Waterside Ape: An Alternative Account of Human Evolution* which was praised by Sir David Attenborough and built on the Aquatic Ape Hypothesis initially proposed by Sir Alister Hardy in 1964. The subject is somewhat controversial but Peter's book was seen as balanced and well researched, providing a medical perspective on an alternative evolutionary journey for humans coming from more watery habitats and having important aquatic characteristics (eg. Ear canal and sinus structures and how the larynx functions).

In 1999, the Royal Marsden's hospital data

manager retired and there were not funds to hire a replacement. Peter was worried that without this role vital data for research studies would not be available and so he decided to try his hand at fundraising. His primary focus was getting enough to pay for a new data manager but he had other areas of research to fund in mind as well. Although it went through an interim name change, Oracle Cancer Trust was born. Peter helped raise over £8m over the last twenty years for Oracle and set up an independent research committee that has funded over 50 projects.

Peter also became involved with an Indian charity raising money for patients to pay for cancer treatment. Peter was particularly keen on addressing the inequalities and inequities that exist in Head and Neck Cancers. He saw how in many areas of the UK and in countries of the world there were very bright and keen young Head and Neck trainees who were desperate to have the opportunity to come to move to UK centres of excellence to train and do research. Just prior to his death he was exploring how to create more exchange and opportunities for senior trainees. Oracle is establishing a memorial fund in his name to try and ensure that his legacy and this project are taken forward.

Finally, it would not be a well rounded obituary if Peter's love of music was not recognised. He listened to many different genres of music but was perhaps most widely known for his love of classical music and opera. Peter was an active supporter and helped organise the annual Petworth Music Festival for many years and he was also very involved in the annual Oracle Cancer Trust Glory Christmas concert.

Peter Rhys-Evans' death is a great loss and he will be missed by the Head and Neck Cancer community. He leaves behind his wife Fran and their three children who he was very proud of.

# Who we are

## Our mission

Ensuring everyone has the best chance of surviving Head and Neck cancers across the UK

## We will do this by

Enabling greater understanding, knowledge and awareness of Head and Neck Cancers.

## Head and Neck cancer in the UK

- **12,400** new cases are diagnosed every year in the UK and numbers are rising
- **1 in 42** men and **1 in 97** woman will develop Head and Neck Cancer in their lifetime.
- **34%** increase in total cases diagnosed across the four nations from 2011-2018.
- **58.5%** of Head and Neck cancers are diagnosed at stage III or IV
- Over **50%** of cases of Head and Neck Cancers have been associated with HPV in the UK with other risk factors being smoking and drinking.
- By 2030 the incidence of Head and Neck cancers are expected to increase by **30%**, to over **16,000** people per year
- There are around **4,100** Head and Neck cancer deaths in the UK every year, that's **11** every day

## Our year in numbers

- **27,591** page views for our website of which 9,185 were new users
- We saw the number of donations increase from 1,212 in 2020/21 to **2,770**
- Our patient stories were accessed by **1,971** users from around the world
- Information about Head and Neck cancers on our website was accessed by **697** users
- Our first in-person Glory, Christmas Concert, following Covid was attended by **227** people
- We held **2** webinars, giving supporters the opportunity to hear from Oracle's researchers
- **1** incredible community made all of this possible – our supporters

# Robert's story

## NHS worker diagnosed with cancer urges men to talk to each other about worrying symptoms.

An NHS worker forced to endure months of painful treatment after being diagnosed with cancer at a late stage has urged men to open up earlier about their worrying symptoms to friends and family. Robert Shaw, 54, has been joined by his young son, George, 11, in his mission to get men to talk about their feelings and any health concerns they have, to mark International Men's Day (19th November).

Rob believes that if we start encouraging young boys at an early age to talk openly about any concerns amongst friends, we will remove the stigma around men needing to 'man up' and will save countless lives in the long run.

Rob who was diagnosed with Head and Neck cancer in 2018 and most recently again in July 2022, has sent an urgent plea urging men to not ignore symptoms and reach out to loved ones and health professionals as soon as possible.

Recent research suggests that 85% of men don't open up about their struggles to friends\* and Rob wants to use the day to encourage men to confide in each other and their families.

There are over 12,500 people a year diagnosed with Head and Neck cancer in the UK. It is the 4th most common cancer that affects men and in particular those of working age, yet it has no national profile. If caught early, depending on the type and location of the tumour the survival rate significantly increases.

Rob said: "Facing cancer for a second time, I am determined to beat it and carry on living life. This time I didn't wait, and I got help straight away, received a diagnosis within 12 days of seeing my consultant and started much less invasive treatment weeks later. Getting cancer is very scary, and having to tell my family especially my children, that Dad

had cancer for a second time was very difficult and emotionally took me to the cleaners and back again.

"Talking about my cancer and the support of my family, friends and work colleagues has helped me tremendously, I couldn't cope without them - it's that simple. My youngest son, George, has joined me in my campaign appearing on my Instagram page, @robscancercheck, as well as on a recent podcast interview with Lads Talk Health. He will also join me at a special Christmas Service for Oracle Cancer Trust in December.

"It's so brave of George, an 11-year-old boy, to go through this for a second time and have the courage to speak about it. He's a great example of a young man who isn't afraid to talk about his feelings and is a role model to me, and I hope to others too.

"I want to give Head and Neck cancer a national profile and do everything I can, through the support of Oracle Cancer Trust, to ensure everyone knows the signs and symptoms to seek help straight away."

Symptoms differ from individual to individual but can include a painless lump, persistent sore throat, difficulty swallowing, white or red patches in your mouth, sore tongue and ulcers that don't heal. If you experience any one of these symptoms for more than 3 weeks see your GP or Dentist. The quicker head and neck cancer is diagnosed, the higher chance of a successful outcome.

Rob has recently started new and ground-breaking immunotherapy treatment (Pembrolizumab) at University College Hospital, London. This treatment reprogrammes elements of the immune system and the body goes on the attack to kill the cancer, which has eliminated the need for Rob to undergo invasive surge

# Working in Partnership

Head and Neck Coalition has been established to help improve the care, experience and outcomes for everyone affected by head and neck cancer in the UK, now the 8th most common type of cancer.

The coalition is chaired by Oracle's CEO Tamara Kahn and is joined by a team of Head and Neck Cancer experts with the aim of:

- Being the recognised Head and Neck Cancer collaborative in the UK that is seen to be proactive, responsive, impactful and ambitious.
- A recognised resource for all those affected by and working in Head and Neck Cancer so that individuals, groups, charities and organisations are able to access support and connect with those that have the expertise.

support, awareness and education, research, policy, multidisciplinary team support and data.

We will take a collaborative, inclusive and multi-perspective approach to ensure that the complexity of Head and Neck Cancers are addressed. Working together will allow us to have greater alignment on messaging, ensure all voices are heard and collaborate on key priorities so that we have greater collective impact. Together we will improve the patient and caregiver experience and outcomes. The coalition have been actively involved with a formal response to the England and Scotland Ten Year Cancer Plan.

Coalition members will do this by working together on focused objectives and projects within the areas of patient and caregiver



Cancer52 is an alliance of over 90 organisations, united in improving the future for everyone affected by rare and less common cancers. Oracle Cancer Trust joined the alliance and support their vision of seeing a better future for everyone affected by the rare and less common cancers, which account for more than half of all cancer deaths in the UK.

It's aim is to promote improved diagnosis, treatment and support for those affected by rare and less common cancers. Cancer52 works on matters that impact on the rare and less common cancer community – defined as all cancers outside the 'big four' of breast, prostate, lung and bowel. Current data shows that 47% of cancers diagnosed are rare and less common cancers, yet they account for 55% of cancer deaths.



# Our research impact

**New radiotherapy machine offers hope of reduced treatment time with impressive accuracy for head and neck cancer patients. The machine, based at The Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton combines MRIs with X-rays to accurately detect the cancer's location and automatically adjust the radiotherapy beam.**

Head and neck cancers are notoriously tricky to treat as the tumour and the patient's face often change shape during treatment due to the often significant weight loss.

“When I started training, we basically laid someone down on the bed, put a plastic mask on them and took some x-rays from the front and the side,” Prof Kevin Harrington, Head of Radiotherapy and imaging at the Institute of Cancer Research.

“We would then blast away at them every day for six or seven weeks, treating the same area irrespective of the fact that during the treatment the patient would lose up to 10 per cent of their body weight.

“Their body would shrink, the shape of the area we were radiating would shrink and as they subsided and lost weight the position of their head would slightly change and we wouldn't adjust one iota to that, we just carried on the way we were.”

In an ideal world, Prof Harrington said, scans would be done every day to create a bespoke programme overseen by a doctor, but this is extremely time and labour intensive, needing up to two hours per session.

The team of researchers at the Institute of Cancer Research, sought to find a middle ground between the time-consuming fully

customisable method and the antiquated, inflexible approach. This automation of the adjustment process, Prof Harrington says, can cut the treatment down from as two hours to as little as 30 minutes without any drop-off in the quality of care.

“The technique cuts out a very laborious, time-consuming step without any detriment to our ability to target the cancer, as we found it to be 99.9 per cent as good as a fully bespoke programme.”

“The failure rate of the old approach was as high as seven per cent, which means that there was a significant risk of either missing the tumour target, and therefore reducing the chance of curing the disease, or overdosing the normal organs and increasing the risk of toxicity,” Prof Harrington said.

“We believe the new approach means we maximise the opportunities to cure the cancer while minimising the risk of toxicity.”

Oracle Cancer Trust have funded two PhD students who have been working on computational models for the MR-Linac specifically for head and neck cancer patients. These studies have been running alongside Prof Harrington's main CRUK grant and we are delighted that these results are benefiting head and neck cancer patients.

**In May, Oracle announced a new research funding initiative in collaboration with North West Cancer Research. The two charities announced grant funding for a new project to tackle inequalities in head and neck cancer and applications are open now.**

North West Cancer Research are the only independent cancer research charity funding quality research to benefit local people in the North West of England and North Wales. The charity funds pioneering research to tackle the cause, improve the care and find the cure for cancer.

Together, North West Cancer Research and Oracle Cancer Trust are collaborating to jointly fund a Head and Neck Cancer research project. This will focus on the need for better data to highlight the inequalities in Head and Neck cancers.

The two charities will fund a research project that will provide data gathering, mapping and analysis on inequalities in Head and Neck Cancer in the UK's National Health Service.



**Robotic surgery trial yields exciting results for Head and Neck cancer patients. Oracle jointly funded a new study that suggests robotic surgery can improve survival rates and reduce recovery for some Head and Neck cancer patients.**

Professor Vinidh Paleri (pictured) is leading a new pioneering international study along with his team at The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. The study reveals that, following robotic surgery (TORS), the two year overall survival rate for recurrent Head and Neck cancer patients whose recurrence has been detected at an early stage is nearly three quarters. This improves on other treatments currently available to this patient group, which often includes further radiotherapy or open surgery, in combination or alone, or chemotherapy and/or immunotherapy with palliative intent.

Study lead Professor Vinidh Paleri, Consultant Head and Neck Surgeon at The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, said:

“These exciting results demonstrate that TORS, a cutting-edge robotic surgical procedure, offers durable survival for patients with recurrent Head and Neck cancer compared with current standard treatments, such as open surgery.

“Until now, there was little evidence that robotic surgery could improve outcomes for patients with this disease. Recurrent Head and Neck cancer can be incredibly difficult to manage as patients have already been treated, often with surgery and radiotherapy, which can cause anatomical changes, scarring, and impaired healing. For these patients, the very latest in surgical technology and treatment is vital for successful treatment, so TORS is an extremely welcome innovation.

“Crucially, this study also suggests that TORS can improve the quality of life of people with the disease. Treatment for recurrent Head and Neck cancer can have a devastating impact on the ability to speak and eat, which are so fundamental to our enjoyment of life, and this minimally invasive technique can offer patients faster recovery times, with reduced need for medical equipment to support breathing and eating.”

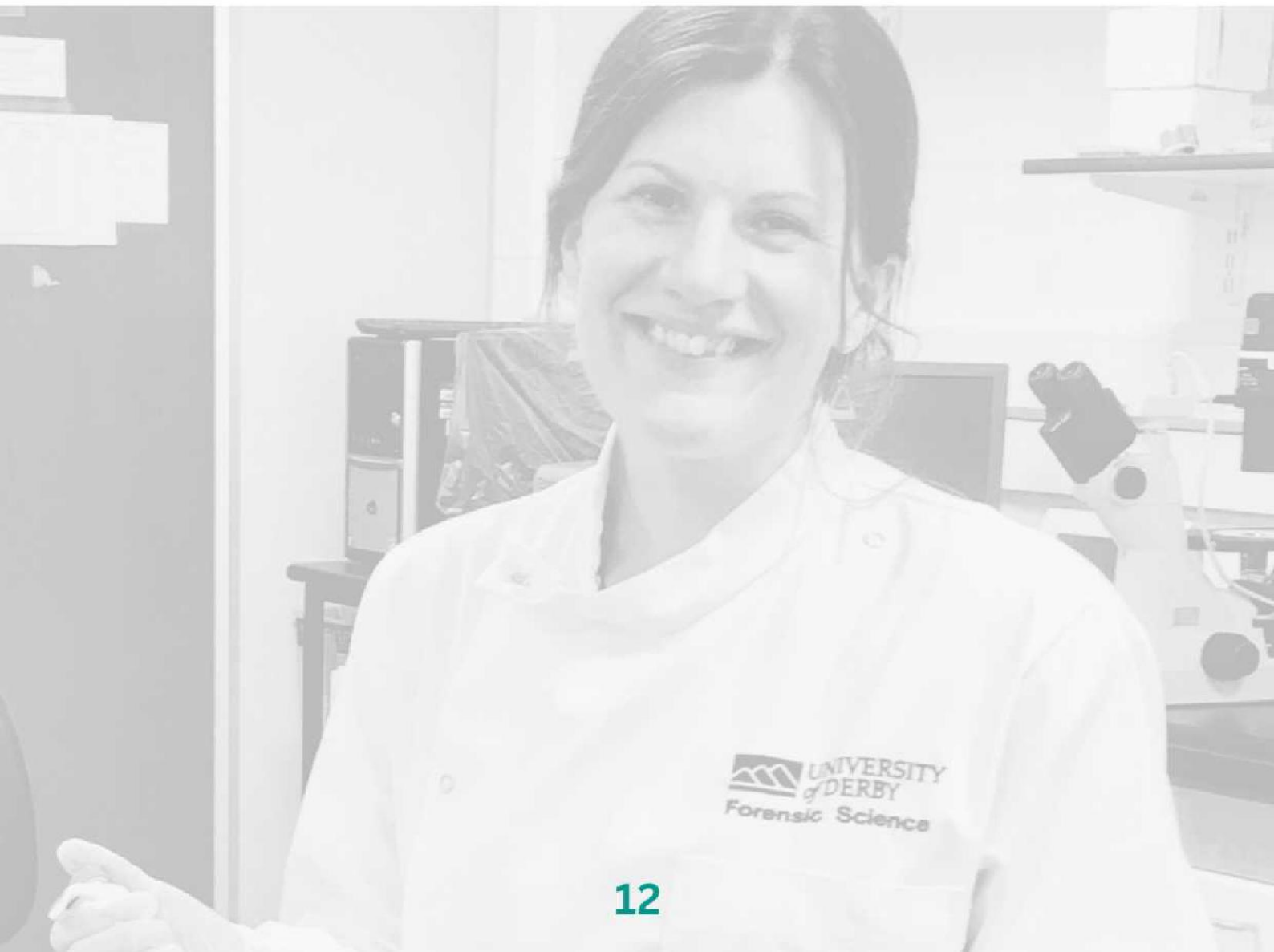
**Human Papillomavirus (HPV) predominantly causes cervical cancer. However, we know that HPV also causes a subset of Head and Neck cancers, particularly in younger men. The disease is often diagnosed very late, and treatment is difficult.**

We do not know how HPV causes Head and Neck cancer. We are currently funding a research project at Derby University we intend to understand the lifecycle and development of HPV infections within the mouth to determine how HPV causes Head and Neck cancer, in order to develop new treatments.

The project hosts have a clinical study with University Hospitals Derby and Burton that recruits patients who are routinely having their tonsils removed, and collects both tonsils, a mouth swab and a questionnaire relating to lifestyle behaviours thought to be risk factors for this disease. The research team will examine tonsils (the site of HPV positive

cancer) for HPV infections and disease, and identify any pre-cancerous changes which may act as predictive biomarkers of dangerous HPV infections that could influence the development of cancer.

This research will enable a greater understanding of the HPV lifecycle and characterise the disease with the tonsil to examine how infections lead to cancer, whether biomarkers can be identified which predict cancer, and whether infections are influenced by lifestyle. This work will inform intervention strategies for the disease, and may also identify new candidates for treatment, leading to improved outcomes for patients.





## Janet's story

**Janet West has had a varied career including being a former commercial airline pilot before turning her hand to broadcasting.**

Says Janet, "I have worked all over the world and enjoyed a fantastic career in broadcasting. My most recent role was a TV presenter for a US broadcaster hosting chat shows in Las Vegas and Amsterdam discussing technology and the environmental impact of broadcasting. I have been fit and active my whole life and everyday enjoy going to the gym as well as hiking and skiing.

In February 2019 I was diagnosed with tongue cancer and was operated on at The Churchill Hospital in Oxford on my birthday, the 1st May 2019. The tumour was removed successfully with no sign of having spread to my lymph glands. I even surprised the surgeons by talking almost straight after the surgery. I have worked hard to get back to full fitness and

enjoy keeping fit, surrounding myself with good friends - my stubborn determination has got me through my cancer journey and am delighted that I am now cancer-free.

"BBC South Today documented my cancer journey from diagnosis, the surgery itself and my life afterwards. Please do take a moment to watch my story which I hope will raise awareness about the growing prevalence of tongue cancer in both men and women."



**Please scan here to watch Janet's story**

# Our fundraising approach

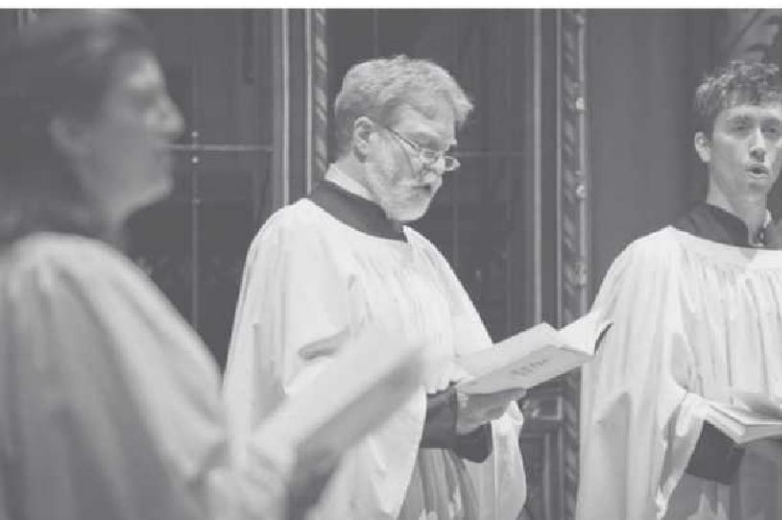
In 2021/22, 2,770 donations were made to support our work from 821 amazing people, organisations and trusts – all to help Head and Neck cancer patients. We thank every single one of our supporters; because of them we raised £465,691 to help Head and Neck cancer patients.

Covid saw communities coming together and funders going above and beyond to support charities, but this giving behaviour can't be relied upon during the latest crisis impacting the charity landscape.

To achieve our strategic ambitions, Oracle appointed Gemma McKnight as Head of Fundraising and Communications in the year. A new fundraising and communications strategy was implemented in 2022, which involves diversifying our portfolio and aiming for a more sustainable fundraising approach. Growing awareness and communicating our impact will be vital towards us realising our impact and fundraising ambitions; as will acquiring new supporters, to expand our donor base.

## Thank You

Oracle Cancer Trust relies almost entirely on public support to continue our work - whether this be through financial donations, fundraising, donating time, or donating skills and services. We would like to thank every single person who has supported us for 2021/22 – without you, we could not do what we do for Head and Neck cancer patients!

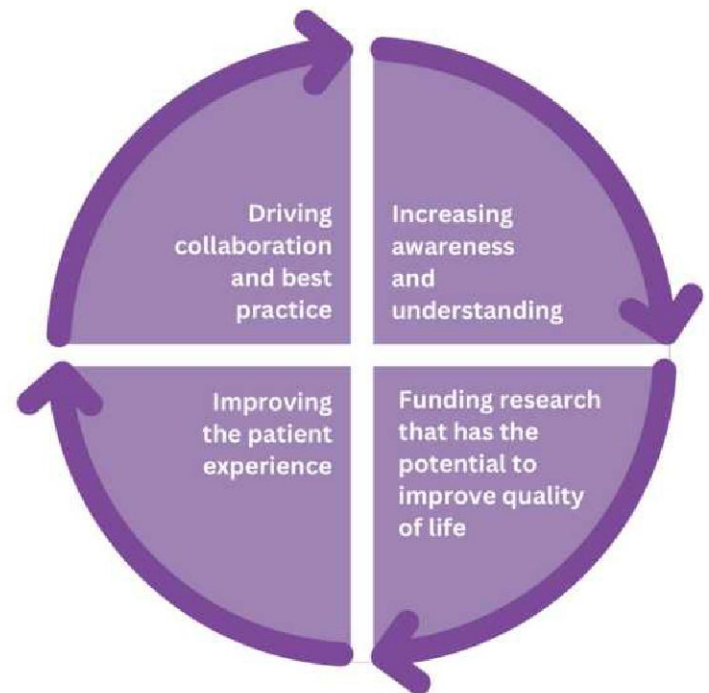


# Looking forward

We are at a pivotal point of the Charity's history, and are moving beyond only early stage research. We are actively engaging and working across UK Head and Neck cancer multidisciplinary teams to identify and address gaps in achieving earlier diagnosis, better treatment and more successful outcomes.

Our 5-year vision is that by 2027:

- Head and Neck cancers and their symptoms will be more widely recognised;
- The rates of late-stage diagnoses will show signs of levelling off and all key stakeholders will have a common plan we are collaboratively working towards;
- We will have better data and will have made some visible progress in addressing the inequalities within Head and Neck cancers;
- There will be more consistent and visible support for patients and their caregivers pre, during and post treatment;
- There will be recognised resources and opportunities for knowledge and experience sharing to improve treatment options and quality of life outcomes for Head and Neck cancer patients.



## How we are going to do this

We will do this and deliver on our 5-year vision by;

1. Raising and funding an additional £2m in new grants across our four pillars of focus.
2. Engaging with individuals and communities across the UK to make sure that they have the information they need at whatever stage and whenever they feel they need it.
3. Providing support and funding for projects that result in better data and improved patient outcomes for Head and Neck cancers
4. Promoting greater attention to quality of life outcomes support pre, during and post treatment for Head and Neck cancer patients
5. Supporting Patients and Caregivers by improving access to information, and creating opportunities to alleviate pressures within the NHS for Head and Neck cancer patients
6. Encouraging collaboration and best practice sharing across the Head and Neck cancer community.

# Report from the Trustees

## Financial Review 2021/22

2021/22 was a year when we built back from the toughest of times, re-launched our research programme, innovated and moved forward at pace with our plans. Our supporters and partners, galvanised by the stark inequalities faced by Head and Neck cancer patients, stepped forward in support of our mission. This is reflected in the results for the year which have shown progress in returning to pre-pandemic levels. Total income for the year was £465,691 (2020/21: £319,335).

Even though we have increased our funds, we still need to raise more income to substantially grow our income to achieve our vision. Costs of generating income were £132,478 for the year (2020/21: £96,968). We re-launched our research programme following covid and invested in building capacity and efficiency for longer term income growth and sustainability. These costs represented 28.4% of our total income and 25.8% of our total expenditure.

### Research Grants

New grants are charged to the accounts in full at the date they are awarded, which is when the charity is committed to payment for the duration of the grant. During 2021/22 no new grants were awarded and we paid out £504,805 (2020/21 £392,128) in cash in respect of grant awards made in 2020/21 and earlier. The charity has ongoing grant funding commitments of £298,037 being grant accruals on our balance sheet (Note 11) plus commitments that are approved but not yet committed of £159,480 (Note 18). Expenditure on research in 2021/22 included costs of managing our research programme, including working with research institutions and other funders, gathering data, promoting grant investment opportunities, working with our Research and Funding Board, and co-ordinating reviews ahead of making grant awards for following years. Proposals for new grants undergo a robust process of review before being awarded, which can take over a year, and grant awards normally have a duration of 1-3 years.

### Investments

At present Oracle does not have any

significant investments and any reserves are presently held in a current account. The Trustees will establish an investment strategy if we sustainably secure over six months of operating cash requirement in reserve.

### Reserves

Restricted funds at the end of the year totalled £163,168 (2020/21: £285,842). At present, Oracle does not have significant unallocated freely available reserves. However, our objective is to significantly grow and improve our current reserves position. This will allow us to have required resource capacity to spend with patients, carers, clinicians, fellow charity and healthcare association leaders and other key stakeholders to ensure that we know where the unmet needs are and that those that need support have their voices heard.

The charity's policy is to maintain the following reserves:

- **Restricted funds** – funds that have been donated to the charity for a specific project or stream of work,
- **Designated funds** – funds identified and already committed for expenditure of research, awareness, partnership development and key operational commitments
- **General funds** – funds used towards operations, project management and delivery of Oracle's strategic pillars and key objectives with oversight by the CEO and Board of Trustees.

The benchmark for the Charity's general funds has been set at 6 months of operating expenditure. Once this level of reserves has been achieved, the Trustees will review the policy again, re-considering the long-term funding needs of our work

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Organisational structure

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14th January 2010 and registered as a charity on 20th May 2011. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the powers and objects of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association of the same date.

Continuing the activities previously carried out by the unincorporated charity called the Head and Neck Cancer Research Trust (HNCRT), which had been established in 1979. The assets of the HNCRT were transferred to the Trust on 1st June 2011.

### Related parties

The Trustees of Oracle Cancer Trust (who are also Directors for purposes of Company Law) are listed on page 22. Board Directors and Trustees are leading industry figures and have varied backgrounds including finance, media, learning, retail and banking.

The Board meets monthly and take overall responsibility for ensuring that the financial, legal and contractual responsibilities of the charity are met, and that there are satisfactory systems of financial and other controls. All decisions are currently ratified by the Board.

New Trustees are selected by a two stage process. When required, a Nominations Committee examines a wide array of possible candidates that are reviewed by the Board. The Board then selects the candidate/s to formally approach by majority decision. All Trustees, key management personnel and independent members of committees are required to sign a Conflicts of Interest Policy on an annual basis.

The charity has a Research and Funding committee that helps direct the work of the charity by providing expert advice to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Trustees on:

- providing input, opinion and perspective on funding applications that the charity receives with regards to their potential to benefit and/or improve the Head and Neck Cancer patient pathway in the UK;
- helping source independent expert advice that helps direct and decide funding;
- providing recommendations to the Charity Board on suitability of applications for funding;
- overseeing the monitoring, governance and impact reporting of all research/impact funding at Oracle Cancer Trust.

The Charity has developed a robust peer-review process and are members of to AMRC (Association of Medical Research Charities).

The day-to day management of the charity is delegated to the CEO, a part-time consultant appointed in September 2021.

### Risk statement

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity may be exposed. The principal risks that we face in the charity are:

- that we might choose to allocate funds to programmes of work that are unlikely to succeed or are, at worst, fraudulent. The charity has established a Research and Funding Committee and robust set of procedures to ensure that there is independent review and process around all significant research expenditure.
- that we may not meet our annual income targets and not be able to resource our planned activities. To this end the Charity develops an annual budget in support of its operational plan which is approved by Trustees. This forms the basis for financial monitoring. Management accounts and financial forecasts are reviewed monthly by the Trustees, on a monthly basis.
- that we might lose key members of staff. The Board has a succession plan, going forward all staff contracts ensure sufficient notice periods to allow recruitment and handover.

- that the impact on the economy from the Covid-19 pandemic, the cost of living increase and the global economic impact of the conflict in Ukraine will materially reduce the charity's annual income from 2022 onwards, and increase costs. The charity's budgeting and monitoring process in (b) above mitigates this risk.

### Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity. The Trustees' Report section sets out how the charity addresses the public benefit requirement, and this is also explicit in our Charity's aims.

In this way we fulfill the charitable objects to fund pioneering research into all matters connected with or bearing upon the causes, prevention, treatment and care of cancer to include research into and to advance the art and science of surgery as applied to cancer of the head and neck and for the publication and dissemination of the results of such research. We are in the process of updating our Charitable Objectives in line with current context and unmet needs of Head and Neck cancers in the UK.

### Our approach to fundraising

As a supporter-focused charity, we recognise that the progress we make for people affected by Head and Neck cancers would not be possible without our supporters' generosity and passion. That is why our Fundraising Promise remains at the heart of how we fundraise.

If you choose to support us, you can be certain that we will:

- never put you under pressure to donate - be clear with you about our charity's aims and objectives
- respect your choices to opt in or out of our fundraising communications
- never share or sell your details to other charities or third parties for their own marketing purposes

- comply with all relevant data protection laws
- listen and learn – you can provide feedback about our fundraising at any time
- communicate with you in a way that suits you best

We are registered with the regulatory body for fundraising in the UK, the Fundraising Regulator, and pay an annual levy to support its work. We adhere to the standards outlined in the regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice (the code).

We fundraise in diverse ways to tell as many people as possible know about our work. We are currently focused on Individual, Corporate and Trust and Foundations and our activities include direct mail, email direct marketing, sponsored running, challenge and community-led events, and cash collections. We also host fundraising events and other social activities.

We review all of our fundraising campaigns to ensure they fully comply with the code, do not place an unreasonable intrusion on anyone's privacy or put undue pressure on them to donate. Our fundraising activities are also closely monitored by our Board of Trustees.

We encourage and learn from feedback from our supporters. In accordance with disclosure guidance from the Fundraising Regulator, we received no complaints relating to our fundraising activity in 2021/22, (2020/21:0). With the diversification of income streams and increased focus on acquisition this may change, as a result of increased activity.

### Our people

We aim to ensure that the infrastructure that supports our work and governance remains fit for purpose, while retaining our positive attributes and aspiring to be a leading charity in employee support and benefits.

Our headcount as of 31st May 2022 was 4, which equated to less than 2 full time equivalents.

- freelance Fundraising consultant
- freelance Research Lead
- freelance administrator
- Part time CEO

In 2022 a resource review took place which resulted in a restructure. In April 2022 a full-time permanent Head of Fundraising and Communications was appointed to aid in the future sustainability of the charity.

We also recognise that whilst our employees and those freelancers retained by the charity are incredibly motivated about our cause, we still need to treat them fairly and compensate them accordingly for their efforts and provide other ways to keep them feeling invested by the organisation. An annual pay review will take place, and we also know that in time our non-financial benefits can be enhanced to retain and recruit the calibre of employees we need to drive the charity forward.

As the charity looks forward, we have seen the impact of the volatility of the employment market across the sector, which may affect

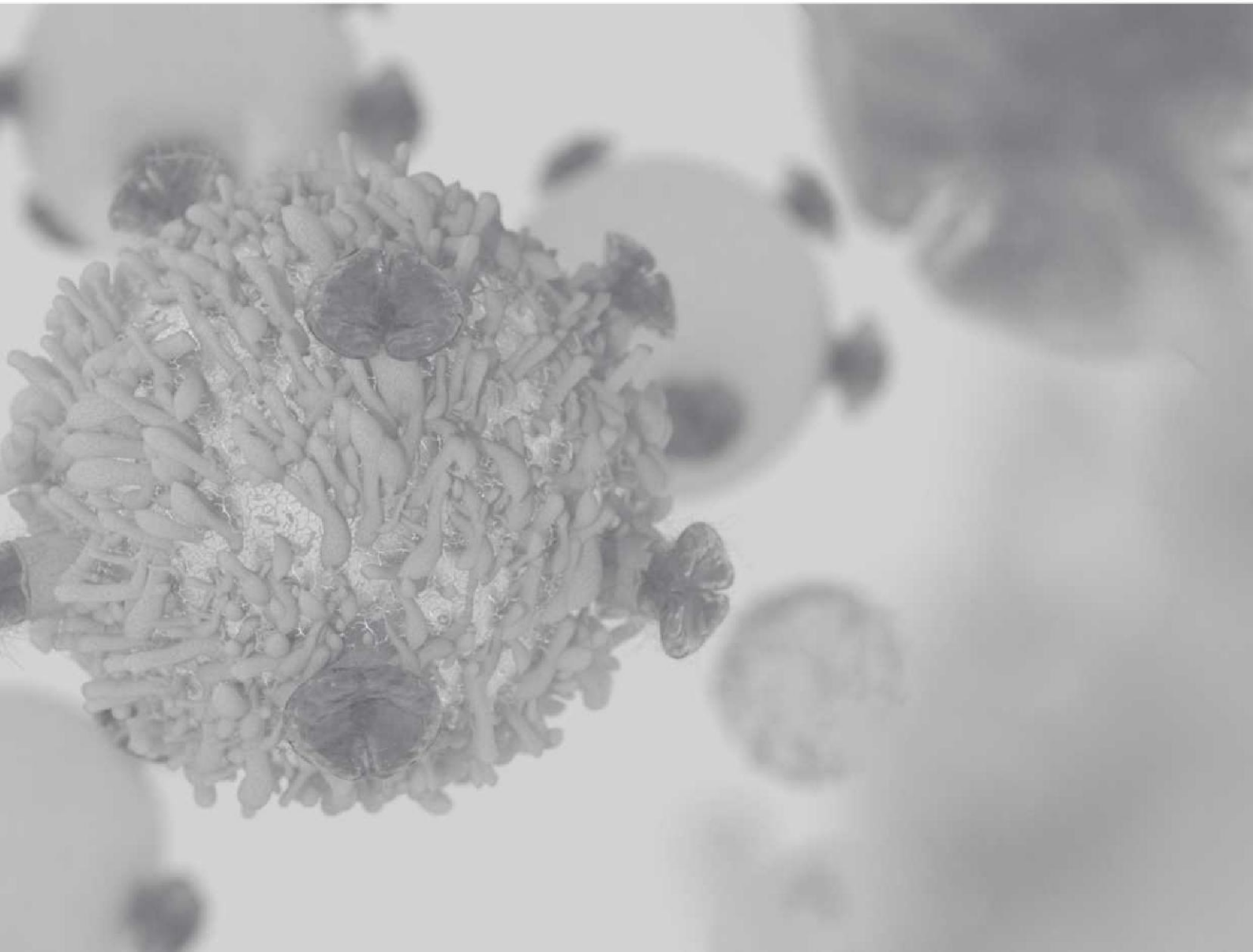
our turnaround time to hire and with some roles struggle to hire and have had to adjust our recruitment practices accordingly.

#### **Database and data management**

A new fundraising database was implemented, making it easier for the charity to remain compliant, help us engage with our donors in the right way and make decisions based on data available. improve . We continue to streamline some necessary processes and is already allowing us to use staff time more efficiently.

#### **Marketing and communications**

Oracle currently operates an “opt in” communications policy for all new supporters, this policy is being updated to ensure that we are reaching the maximum amount of people enabling us to meet our strategic objectives in the next Financial Year.



## Legal and Administrative Information

<b>Charity Name</b>	Oracle Cancer Trust
<b>Trustees</b>	Mr Peter Rhys-Evans, MB, BS, LRCP, FRCS, DCC ( <i>resigned 17 May 2022</i> ) Sir Michael Lockett, KCVO ( <i>resigned 21st March 2023</i> ) Mr John Fallon ( <i>resigned 14 December 2022</i> ) Mr Keith Jones Mr James Robertson Mrs Nicola Ridges-Jones Prof. Gus Alusi ( <i>appointed 1 September 2022</i> ) Mrs Ali Hansford ( <i>appointed 1 September 2022</i> ) Dr Mehmet Sen ( <i>appointed 1 September 2022</i> )
<b>Honorary Trustees</b>	Prof. Kevin Harrington, BSc MBBS MRCP FRCR FRCP PhD DIC Prof. Christopher Nutting, BSc MBBS MD PhD FRCP FRCR MedFIPeM Dr Kate Newbold, MBChB MRCP FRCPE FRCR MD Prof. Vinidh Paleri MBBS MS FRCS (CSiG) FRCS(ORL-HNS)
<b>Patron</b>	Sir Michael Morpurgo Tony Matharu
<b>President</b>	Jimmy Mulville
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Nigella Lawson Jenny Pitman OBE
<b>Charity Number</b>	1142037
<b>Company Number</b>	07125497
<b>Principal address</b>	85 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 7LT
<b>Registered Office of Charity</b>	80 Coombe Road, New Malden, KT3 4QS
<b>Auditors</b>	Goldwins, 75 Maygrove Road, West Hampstead, London, NW6 2EG
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 1BE
<b>Solicitors</b>	Dorsey & Whitney LLP, 199 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 3UT

## Statement of trustees responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Oracle Cancer Trust for the purpose 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 Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

### **In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:**

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Date:



24th February 2023

**Keith Jones**  
Chair, Trustee  
Oracle Cancer Trust

## Independent auditor's report

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Oracle Cancer Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 May 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 May 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### 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 Charity 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 charity'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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

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

### **Opinion on other matter 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' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' 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 Charity 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 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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.

### **Responsibilities of the trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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 give a true and fair view and for such internal control as they 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 Charity'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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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 are set out below.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [[www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities)]. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### 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. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters 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 anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Anthony Epton*

.....  
**Anthony Epton (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**for and on behalf of Goldwins Limited**

**Statutory Auditor**

**Chartered Accountants**

**75 Maygrove Road**

**West Hampstead**

**London**

**NW6 2EG**

27 February 2023

Goldwins Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 May 2022

## (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donations and legacies	1	211,783	226,004	437,787	255,704
Government grants received		-	-	-	2,933
Fundraising events		-	27,730	27,730	39,300
Investment income	2	-	174	174	4,471
Other income		-	-	-	16,927
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>211,783</b>	<b>253,908</b>	<b>465,691</b>	<b>319,335</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Costs of raising funds</b>					
• costs of generating voluntary and fundraising income	3	2,200	130,278	132,478	96,968
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities and Governance costs</b>	4	<b>203,767</b>	<b>175,987</b>	<b>379,754</b>	<b>249,671</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>205,967</b>	<b>306,265</b>	<b>512,232</b>	<b>346,639</b>
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
<b>Net Expenditure for the year</b>		<b>5,816</b>	<b>(52,357)</b>	<b>(46,541)</b>	<b>(27,304)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>					
Total Funds brought forward 1 June 2021		285,842	(113,294)	172,548	199,852
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		<b>(128,490)</b>	<b>128,490</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward at 31 May 2022</b>		<b>163,168</b>	<b>(37,161)</b>	<b>126,007</b>	<b>172,548</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

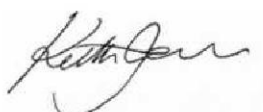
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

## Balance Sheet at 31 May 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible	9	-	-	-	-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	10	5,666		40,908	
Cash at bank and in hand		470,285		714,156	
		<u>475,951</u>		<u>755,064</u>	
<b>CREDITORS:</b> Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>349,944</u>		<u>582,516</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>126,007</u>		<u>172,548</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			126,007		172,548
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>126,007</u>		<u>172,548</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted funds	12		163,168		285,842
Unrestricted funds	13		(37,161)		(113,294)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>126,007</u>		<u>172,548</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the .....  
and are signed on their behalf by:



**Keith Jones**  
Chair and Trustee

24th February 2023

Company registration No: 07125497

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## Accounting Policies

### a) Accounting convention

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) including Update Bulletin 1. The Company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity established as a company limited by guarantee and therefore has also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the 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 (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Companies Act 2006.

Oracle Cancer Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

### b) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable group to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charitable company's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income. After making enquiries the trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charitable company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. At the date of sign off, the Trustees confirm there are no material uncertainties in relation to the going concern assumption.

### c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, the receipts is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Legacies are recognised following probate and once there is sufficient evidence that receipt is probable and the amount of the legacy receivable can be measured reliability. Where entitlement to a legacy exist but there is uncertainty as to its receipt or the amount receivable, details are disclosed as a contingent asset until the criteria for income recognition are met.
- Bank interest is accounted for on an accruals basis.
- Voluntary income by way of donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

### d) Resources expended and irrecoverable VAT

Resources expended including grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Commitment to fund future grants are recognised as liabilities once the obligation has been communicated to the grant recipient. Where there is an annual review or other performance review related conditions which means that the charity may withdraw a commitment if the conditions are not met, the liability is not recognised until the conditions have been fulfilled, and the commitment can no longer be revoked.

Expenditure includes VAT which is not recoverable by the charity. The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities. Support costs include central functions and are allocated to cost categories on the basis of staff time spent on those cost categories. Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## Accounting Policies

### e) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the Trusts artistic programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. Further detail can be found in Note 5.

### f) Operating leases

The charity classifies the leasing of office equipment as operating leases, the title remains with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the lease period.

### g) Tax status

Oracle Cancer Trust has suffered no tax charge, as it is not subject to UK Corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### h) Fund Accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- Unrestricted general funds - these are funds that can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.
- Designated funds - these are funds that are set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.
- Restricted funds - these are funds that are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

### i) Fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. Computer equipment - Straight line over 3 years.

### j) Government grants - job retention support scheme

Government grant income related to Job Retention Support Scheme is recorded in the period to which the claim relates and all conditions required have been completed.

### k) Financial instruments

- **Cash and cash equivalents** - Cash and cash equivalents include cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with a maturity date of three months or less.
- **Debtors and creditors** - Debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year of the reporting date are carried at their at transaction price. Debtors and creditors that are receivable or payable in more than one year and not subject to a market rate of interest are measured at the present value of the expected future receipts or payment discounted at a market rate of interest.

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### 1. Donations and Legacies

		2022	2021
		£	£
Project related donations	Restricted	-	-
	Unrestricted funds	-	5,000
General donations	Restricted	67,555	132,280
	Unrestricted funds	224,791	106,854
Grant funding	Restricted	144,228	-
	Unrestricted funds	-	-
Legacies	Restricted	-	-
	Unrestricted funds	1,213	11,570
		<u>437,787</u>	<u>255,704</u>

The Trust benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

### 2. Investment Income

		2022	2021
		£	£
Bank interest receivable	unrestricted funds	174	4,471
		<u>174</u>	<u>4,471</u>

### 3. Costs of generating voluntary and fundraised income

		2022	2021
		£	£
<b>Unrestricted</b>			
Fundraising Costs	Salaries	40,291	32,697
	Events	11,003	9,391
Support costs allocated (Note 5)		78,984	54,880
		<u>130,278</u>	<u>96,968</u>
<b>Restricted</b>			
Printing, Postage and stationery (from Mercers' Fund)		<u>2,200</u>	-

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### 4. Charitable activities and governance costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Research grants	321,109	199,705
Support costs (Note 5)	31,377	20,292
Governance costs (Note 6)	27,268	29,674
	<u>379,754</u>	<u>249,671</u>

All grants are payable to a range of research organisations to cover salaries and expenses of researchers.

### 5. Support costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Sub-contractors	69,838	36,115
PR consultancy	7,065	6,563
Printing, postage, stationery and website	12,403	14,887
Other office, travel and sundry Recruitment	18,887	19,752
Legal	3,600	-
Allocated to Charitable activities (Note 4)	-	-
Allocated to Governance costs (Note 6)	(31,377)	(20,292)
	(1,432)	(2,145)
	<u>78,984</u>	<u>54,879</u>

Sub-contractors includes the Chief Executive and Operations Manager

The Trust identifies its support costs, it then identifies those costs relating to Governance. The remaining support costs are allocated between Cost of Generating Funds and Governance Staff and related costs are allocated on a time basis, overheads are allocated in proportion to staff time.

### 6. Governance costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bookkeeping and external scrutiny	25,836	27,529
Support costs allocated (Note 5)	1,432	2,145
	<u>27,268</u>	<u>29,674</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### 7. Net expenditure for the year

	2022	2021
	£	£
This is stated after charging (net of VAT):		
Fees payable to the Auditor      Audit services	4,500	4,500
Depreciation charge for the year	-	-
	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>

The above figures exclude VAT in accordance with accounting reporting requirements. The actual cost to the charity was £5,400 (2021 : £5,400)

### 8. Staff costs, trustee remuneration and key management personnel

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries	-	3,872
Employer NI	-	130
Pension costs	-	28
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,030</u>

During the year the average numbers of employees was nil (2021 : 1)

Additional support has been provided throughout the year in administering and running the Charity.

In both 2021 and 2022 no employee earned more than £60,000 in that year.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the operations manager. The total compensation paid to key management personnel amounted to £58,775 (2021 : £26,138)

No trustee was remunerated in the current or preceeding year. Total key management personnel

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### 9. Tangible fixed assets

	2022 Computer Equipment £
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>	
At 31 May 2021	1,180
Additions	-
<b>At 31 May 2022</b>	<u>1,180</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 31 May 2021	1,180
Charge for the year	-
<b>At 31 May 2022</b>	<u>1,180</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>	
At 31 May 2022	-
At 31 May 2021	-

### 10. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Grant and event debtors	-	17,555
Other debtors and prepayments	5,666	18,902
Accrued income:	-	4,451
• Gift Aid and bank interest accrued	5,666	40,908
	<u>5,666</u>	<u>40,908</u>

### 11. Creditors - Due within 1 year

	2022 £	2021 £
Grant accruals	298,037	481,733
Deferred Income and other accruals	12,370	11,752
Trade creditors	39,537	89,031
	<u>349,944</u>	<u>582,516</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### 12. Restricted funds

	Balance 1 June 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains / (losses) £	Balance 31 May 2022 £
• CHK Charities	39,533		(27,500)			12,033
• Swire - Pioneers of Discovery (Fleming and Melake)	130,000		(77,338)			52,662
• Beaumont / Terradace / AMRC (Patin)	56,438	71,457	(76,150)	(20,225)		31,520
• Beaumont/Terradace (Marsh)		50,000	(25,558)	9,637		34,079
• AMRC (Lin)		72,770	1,589	(43,535)		30,824
• Chellaram (Hobart)	37,311	17,556	1,190	(56,057)		0
• The Worshipful Company of Mercers	4,050		(2,200)			1,850
• Pennycress Trust	200					200
• Big Give Immunotherapy appeal	18,310			(18,310)		0
	285,842	211,783	(205,967)	(128,490)	-	163,168

	Balance 1 June 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains / (losses) £	Balance 31 May 2021 £
• Bender Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-
• CHK	69,883	-	(22,500)	(7,850)	-	39,533
• Karsten Schubert	-	-	-	-	-	-
• Mark Donegan Fellowship	-	-	(1,791)	1,791	-	-
• The Swire / Adrian Swire Charitable trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
• Swire Robotic Surgical	-	-	11	(11)	-	-
• Swire - Pioneers of Discovery	156,000	-	-	(26,000)	-	130,000
• Robinson / Lepicard	-	5,569	(8,824)	3,255	-	-
• Julian's Journey	-	-	2,679	(2,679)	-	-
• Bob Howes (Patin)	-	-	-	-	-	-
• Beaumont / Terradace (Patin)	-	50,000	6,438	-	-	56,438
• Robert Luff (Fleming)	-	-	(26,000)	26,000	-	-
• Chellaram (Hobart)	-	73,711	(36,400)	-	-	37,311
• Worshipful Company of Mercers	4,050	-	-	-	-	4,050
• Pennycress Trust	200	-	-	-	-	200
• Big Give Immunotherapy appeal	15,310	3,000	-	-	-	18,310
	245,443	132,280	(86,387)	(5,494)	-	285,842

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### Additional details

- **CHK Charities** are supporting PhD student, Jennifer Kieselmann, to undertake a cutting-edge computational project at the ICR's Division of Radiotherapy and Imaging.
- **Swire – Pioneers of Discovery** Match funding initiative to support PhD fellows in establishing their careers in the field, while directing more innovative research towards head and neck cancer.
- **Beaumont / Terradace / AMRC (Patin)** The aim of this project is to use drugs to make radiation more effective in killing cancer cells, but also to alert the immune system to their presence. In this way, the study aims to make radiation work better against hard-to-treat head and neck cancers (eg HPV-negative tumours), but also to reduce the side effects of treatment by needing to use less radiation dose to control more sensitive cancers (eg HPV-positive tumours).
- **Beaumont/Terradace (Marsh)** This project intends to understand the lifecycle and development of HPV infections within the mouth to determine how HPV causes head and neck cancer, in order to develop new treatments.
- **AMRC (Lin)** The work of Daniel Lin will study baseline IDO activity in patients and map this throughout head and neck cancer (HNC) treatment to establish IDO as a biomarker for HNC and support a more personalised therapeutic approach to improve patient outcomes.
- **Chellaram (Hobart)** PhD project looking at how medical imaging can be used to predict how likely a head and neck cancer patient is to respond to immunotherapy treatment.
- **The Worshipful Company of Mercers** Funding to support the production of awareness materials.
- **Pennycress Trust** Match funded by Pioneers of Discovery fund, supporting PhD fellows.

Any negative fund balances are rectified in the following financial year through the receipt of further income into the relevant fund.

### 13. Unrestricted funds

	Balance 1 June 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains £	Balance 31 May 2022 £
Designated funds						
• Blair Hesketh Memorial	67,664	50	(1,421)	-	-	66,293 (103,454)
General unrestricted funds	(180,958)	253,858	(304,843)	128,490	-	
	(113,294)	253,908	(306,264)	128,490	-	(37,161)

	Balance 1 June 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains £	Balance 31 May 2021 £
Designated funds						
• Blair Hesketh Memorial	68,864	-	(1,200)	-	-	67,664
General unrestricted funds	(114,455)	187,055	(259,052)	5,494	-	(180,958)
	(45,591)	187,055	(260,252)	5,494	-	(113,294)

The Blair Hesketh Memorial Fund has been set up to provide funds for the Blair Hesketh lectures.

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### 14. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement for expenses in respect of the current year or preceding period.

### 15. Related Party Transactions

Three medical Trustee Directors sit on the Research Sub-Committee. Consequently they make recommendations upon the direction of the research, allocation of funding and Trustee Directors, for example, where the funded appointee delivers a partial clinical role which may alleviate their own clinical responsibilities. To mitigate this risk of related party benefit, the Research Sub-Committee is chaired by an independent Non Executive Director and it formally passes any funding proposals to the Finance & Investment Sub-Committee (whose members are non-medical) for review and necessary approval before onwards submission for a final Board decision.

Disclosures relating to Key Management Personnel are detailed in Note 8

### 16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Fund designated £	Restricted £	2022 Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Debtors	5,666	-	-	5,666
Cash at bank and in hand	54,807	66,293	349,185	470,285
Creditors due within one year	(163,927)	-	(186,017)	(349,944)
Creditors due 1 - 2years	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance on fund</b>	<b>(103,454)</b>	<b>66,293</b>	<b>163,168</b>	<b>126,007</b>

### 17. Control

The Charity is controlled by the Trustees under the terms of the Trust Deed.

### 18. Grants approved but not committed to

At the year end the charity has agreed to provide research grants over subsequent years as follows

22/23	£78,160
23/24	£81,320
24/25	£0

Since the year end the following grants have been approved in addition to the above £nil (2021 : £nil)

These amounts are subject to annual reviews and reporting requirements of the grant recipient. The amounts are funded from reserves and fund-raising activities.

These amounts are not provided for in the financial statements as they are subject to annual financial and scientific review.



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## Get in touch

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First Floor  
London  
W1W 7LT

## Support us now, donate today.

[oraclecancertrust.org/donate](https://oraclecancertrust.org/donate)



**Oracle Head and Neck Cancer UK Limited**

England & Wales - Charity number 1142037

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# Accounts

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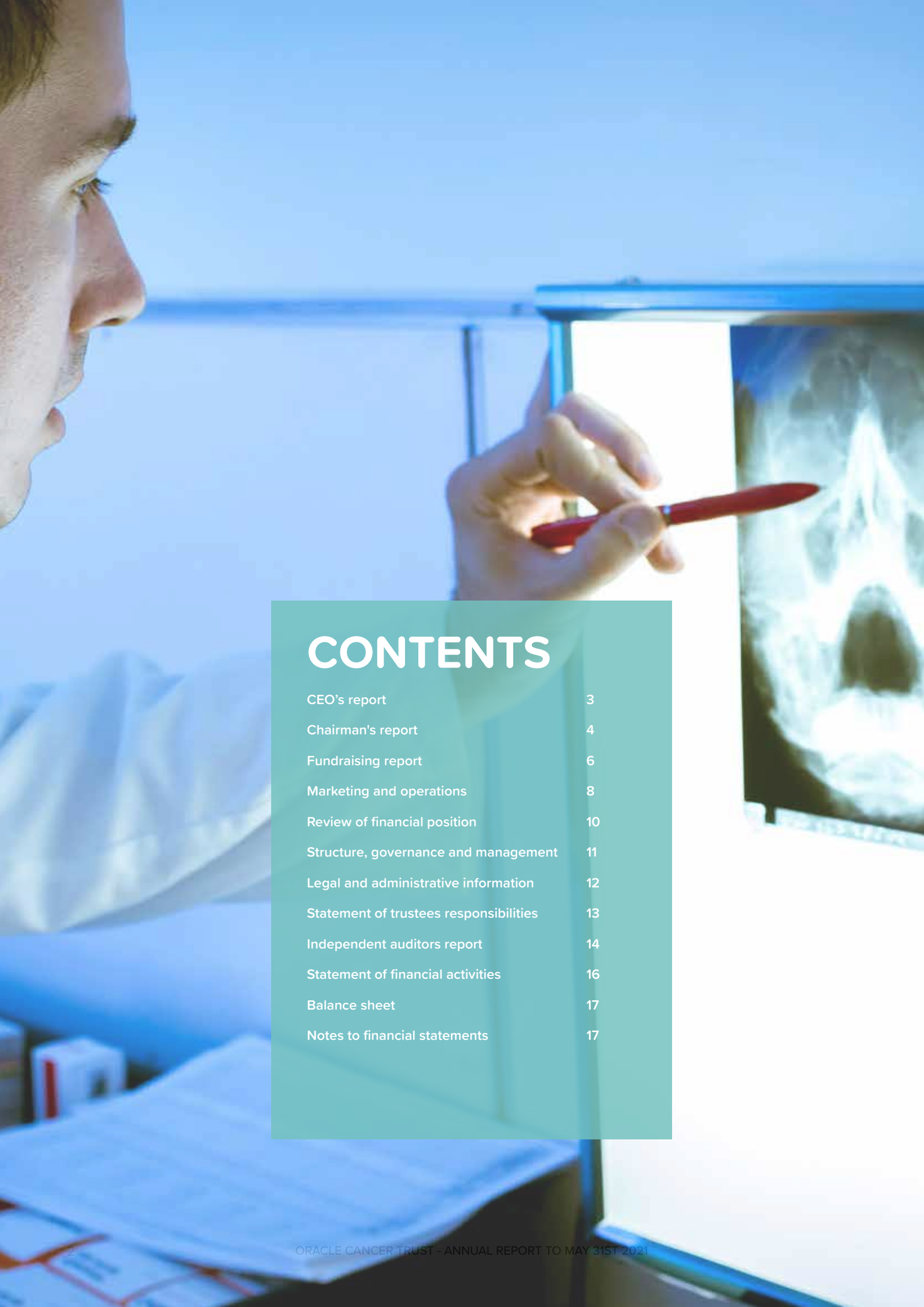


# ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report for the year  
ended 31st May 2021



The UK's leading head and neck cancer charity



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# CEO Report

I joined Oracle in September 2021 as CEO, taking over from Nicola Ridges Jones who served as Voluntary Interim CEO since September 2020. Like most of the world, the last two years have been a difficult time for Oracle Cancer Trust but the commitment of our internal team, dedicated researchers, clinicians, and hugely important donor community has allowed us to get through it intact.

Over the last two years alone we have been able to fund 14 key medical research projects including conducting imaging studies, researching ACC and other rare Head and Neck cancers and evaluating therapies that involve the growing field of immuno and virus therapies.

Ten of these projects have successfully come to a conclusion during the course of the pandemic (no small feat). We are very pleased that a number of these show promise and opportunity and have plans for further research and development.

We also recognise that we have the potential to do so much more. The Oracle team, Board and I have spoken to many of our stakeholders and the wider community over the last few months as part of a market listening and strategic review exercise. Our aim has been to understand where the biggest areas of need are today in Head and Neck Cancers, where the greatest impact can be made and what Oracle Cancer Trust should be focusing on. This has been a hugely helpful exercise and we are so appreciative of the many personal stories, inputs and feedback that we have received. The projects and approaches to funding that we take going forward will directly reflect what we have heard.

As a charity we are going to continue to support and fund research into all matters connected with or bearing upon the causes, prevention, treatment and care of Head and Neck Cancers. In specific that means we will:

1. Fund pioneering and promising research into Head and Neck Cancer diagnosis and treatment improvements;
2. Raise awareness and education of Head and Neck Cancer symptoms in the general public, high risk communities and primary health practitioners to promote early diagnosis;
3. Support clinical service innovation where there are opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness across diagnosis, treatment and post treatment support.

We are also looking to actively expand our reach and engagement to be more truly national. We are already engaging with more Head and Neck cancer patients, centres and communities across the UK. This has already led to greater collaboration which I think is crucial if we are to achieve our objectives.

We have also realised we need to increase both our funding levels and our delivery capability. As a result we will be recruiting into our team adding more fundraising, marketing and operations capability over the course of the next year.



**Tamara Kahn**  
CEO, Oracle Cancer Trust

While this will allow us to gain important momentum we are conscious and mindful of operating costs and aiming to keep them as close to industry best practice levels of 20-25% as possible.

Our Chair, Peter Rhys Evans founded Oracle Cancer Trust over thirty years ago. He has played a well recognised and pivotal role as a leading Head and Neck Cancer Surgeon and ENT practitioner; but it has also been his passion and energy over the years that has helped this organisation deliver key funding for innovative research. Although Peter has recently retired, he continues to be as committed as ever to continuing what he started so many years ago with Oracle. I am very grateful to Peter and the rest of the Board for their support and guidance and I am committed to ensuring that we make sure Oracle continues to deliver and grow on the founding vision Peter had 40 years ago.

I also think that Trustee Nicola Ridges-Jones deserves particular recognition for her help in successfully leading the charity as Interim CEO through a very difficult period during the pandemic. Her experience, wisdom and leadership continue to be greatly valued.

## Research Programmes

As mentioned above, Oracle was able to successfully complete ten research projects over the last year. If we achieve our fundraising targets over the next 6 months we hope that we will be in a position to put out a call for new projects in the next financial year.

We have identified the following two Research and Funding priorities:

Raising awareness and understanding of the inequalities in Head and Neck Cancers; *and*

Bew/improved treatment approaches that deliver better quality of life outcomes.

## Fundraising

Over the course of the last year our fundraising income was £329,464. We are working hard to ensure that we increase these levels. We have to be more active in our outreach, engagement and impact. Many thanks to our community and supporters. Getting your feedback and knowing we are making a difference is what keeps us going. We will continue to do what we can to help the fight against Head and Neck cancer by addressing funding gaps and supporting projects that ensure that the medical community, patients and families get as much support as possible to be beat the odds with regards to this disease.

# CHAIRMAN'S

## Report



**Peter Rhys Evans**  
Chairman, Oracle Cancer Trust

### Message from Peter Rhys Evans

2020-21 was another year of global disruption with the COVID pandemic and Oracle alongside many other medical research charities were faced another year of uncertainty as to when we would be able to re-start our vital grant funding for head and neck cancer research. The Trustees made the difficult decision to suspend any new funding and commit to our existing portfolio to the end of May 2021 which was running at 18 research projects at institutions throughout the UK.

As a small organisation we adapted quickly and moved several events online including "Meet the Researcher" where guests would hear from our researchers and have the opportunity to ask questions about the research.

Research teams up and down the country were faced with laboratories being temporarily closed and having to adapt to the new normal of home working. This resulted in inevitable delays to nearly every research project which were granted no-cost extensions.

In December 2020 our much-loved Glory of Christmas Concert with supporters Susie Cooke, Steve Bergman

and Prof Anson Mackay came to St Paul's Knightsbridge to record their readings which was then edited to include carols from the Choir of St Paul's.

Our Patron Sir Michael Morpurgo generously gave his time to record some very special readings for our virtual concert. Whilst we couldn't celebrate together several hundred friends and supporters joined us from home for a very special evening which was the climax to our "Big Give" Fundraising appeal which you can read more about in our fundraising report.

In May 2020 we hosted our Charity Golf Day at Goodwood Golf - and whilst restrictions meant we couldn't host our traditional prizegiving and post-golf entertainment it was wonderful to finally get together after a long two years.

I have now retired from practice as Head and Neck Cancer Consultant Surgeon but am very much involved as Chairman of Oracle Cancer Trust and am delighted that Tamara Kahn, our new CEO will be taking Oracle to the next phase of its growth.



# When will the next major discovery be made?

Oracle Cancer Trust is the UK's leading charity dedicated to funding research into head and neck cancer, now the sixth most common cancer type in the UK and fourth most common cancer in men.

# FUNDRAISING

## Report

Once again, the head and neck cancer community stepped up and helped ensure that Oracle Cancer Trust was able to keep funding the work of our determined team of researchers

### Who makes our work possible?

After the shock of the first COVID-19 lockdown, 2020/21 was a year of tentatively navigating frequently changing measures which inevitably had an impact on our ability to raise funds. As scientists returned to the laboratory thanks to carefully managed COVID-19 measures, our community got creative and created their own fundraising challenges.

Thanks to their incredible efforts, we were able to maintain funding 15 studies at the best cancer research institutions in the UK. Oracle's reserves have taken a hit and we had to pause our usual grant funding round, however with your help, we are incredibly relieved to have been able to keep funding the work we had committed to before the pandemic.

Our supporters are too numerous to mention individually, but special thanks go to Katrina Doubleday for creating the fiendishly tricky Cranial Conundrums quiz and Ed Vanson for organising Tedstock, a virtual gig that brought together performers from across the world. Julian Gilbert also rallied two teams to complete the Harpenden Cycleval, a virtual non-stop John O'Groats to Lands' End challenge.

And the extreme cycling continued as Darren Murray completed a gruelling Everesting challenge of Cairngorm Mountain, in memory of his brother in law, Mikey Gillespie. Prof Anson Mackay, Angus Penman, Giles Cuthbert, Katie Locke, Tim Hammett and Teresa Forgiione (accompanied by friends) completed running and triathlon challenges. And young Scarlett Davies completed a beach walk in memory of her Grampy, Jeff Seldon. Thank you to them and everyone else who took on a feat of endurance to ensure more people survive.

We were very honoured to receive more support in tribute to those who have faced head and neck cancer; John Wilkinson, who wrote Face Cancer and raised such a huge amount of awareness in his lifetime was honoured by the NEWFS in Action group plus friends and former colleagues from HSBC.

Again, there are too many to mention, but we wish to thank the families of Sylvia Lillis, Jane Austin, Blair Hesketh and Timothy Cox and everyone else who chose to support Oracle as a lasting legacy to their loved ones.

### Virtual Glory of Christmas Concert

Christmas was very different due to COVID-19 however we were determined to raise spirits and bring our community together, even while apart.

Our 2020 Glory of Christmas Concert was organised as a virtual event and was the culmination of our Big Give "Missing Cancer Patients Appeal" which raised almost £45,000 thanks to the backing of The Reed Foundation and our own generous supporters who made the most of the chance to have their gifts doubled in value.

Supporters joined the event which was set up as a YouTube Premiere on the first Monday in December which is traditionally the date we host our annual concert. We were incredibly grateful to patients that read and our Patron Sir Michael Morpurgo who recorded readings set to a backdrop of illustrations.

### Webinars

While our ability to gather together was limited, we embarked on a series of webinars. These webinars gave supporters the opportunity to hear from Oracle's researchers about the programmes with an interactive Q&A session.

Corporate supporters Wealth Matters held their own Christmas themed festive webinar for their clients, and included our good friend Robert Walton MBE giving a festive cooking demonstration.

Vice-President and long-term supporter Tony Matharu arranged a special virtual gathering of his friends and business associates hosted by the wonderful Rory Bremner. Tonia Buxton, Mihir Bose and Professor Kevin Harrington who joined the line-up for an entertaining and informative evening.

## Charity Golf Day

With COVID restrictions changing rapidly the team were relieved to be finally able to host their Annual Golf Day which was held at Goodwood Golf in Sussex. 18 teams joined the event, and the sun shone for a great day's golf on the South Downs. Current restrictions meant we were unable to host any formal prizegiving or post-golf entertainment so winners were announced at a special virtual event.

With generously donated raffle prizes and an online silent auction we were delighted to have raised over £8,500 on the day.

## Charitable Foundations

And lastly, we want to share our appreciation for the charitable foundations who supported Oracle throughout this challenging period. In particular, we want to thank The Chellaram Foundation for their support in memory of Mohan Mathani. They have committed to fully fund our £145,960 collaboration with the ICR and Julia Hoebart's PhD study into how imaging can be used to enhance the success of immunotherapy treatments. They have been incredibly understanding of how the pandemic has impacted how Julia and the team work and we are delighted to be working with them, and all our partners.



### **"MOVE FOR MIKEY" RAISES OVER £9K EVERESTING THE CAIRNGORMS**

Following the tragic loss of "Mikey" at just 45 years old, family and friends joined together raising over £30,000 for head and neck cancer research. In 2020 they organised a cycling challenge in the Cairngorms in his memory..



### **SAM HAGANS RAISES OVER £6,500 IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER**

After losing his father to a rare type of throat cancer, Sam Hagans took on the Brighton Marathon in memory of his father. It was Sam's late father that encouraged him to take up running and was a fitting tribute to him.



### **JOHN WILKINSON'S LEGACY TO RAISE AWARENESS**

Jane Wilkinson has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about head and neck cancer in memory of her husband John who died of a rare head and neck cancer. John wrote a book about his experiences and toured the UK to spread awareness.



### **PROF HARRINGTON JOINS VIRTUAL CYCLING CHALLENGE**

Prof Kevin Harrington joined the Harpenden Cycleval, a virtual team cycling event from Lands End to John O'Groats. Organised by supporter Julian Gilbert, the event was set up to replace the usual cycling festival.



### **PROF ANSON MACKAY RUNS THE VIRTUAL LONDON MARATHON**

Diagnosed and treated for head and neck cancer during the pandemic keen runner Anson took on the virtual London Marathon not only completing the 26 miles but then running a further 10kms raising over £2,500 for Oracle.



### **PHIL AND KATRINA ORGANISE A VIRTUAL CONUNDRUMS QUIZ**

Long-term supporters Philip Johnson and Katrina Doubleday created a series of mind-bending questions for a virtual quiz raising over £500 for Oracle. Philip and Katrina are also corporate supporters with their scaffolding business.

# STAYING

## Compliant

### Fundraising standards

The way we work at Oracle Cancer Trust has not changed and as in previous years the charity has not worked with professional fundraising organisations or engaged in house-to-house or street collections. Oracle Cancer Trust is a voluntary member of the Fundraising Regulator and complies with the Charities Act in regard to fundraising. We take the privacy of its donors very seriously and all personal data is managed in accordance with our published privacy policy which is available on the charity's website. We are pleased that once again, no complaints have been received and the small team are extremely proud to take their duties very seriously in the management and safeguarding of donor information.

### Database and data management

As outlined in previous reports, we progressed with establishing our new database system to make it easier for the charity to remain compliant. We continue to streamline some necessary processes and is already allowing us to use staff time more efficiently.

### Marketing and Communications

Oracle has adopted an "Opt-in" communications policy for all new supporters. As such we do not engage in cold calling. We share news about our work via post and email where we have received consent and like to give everyone the opportunity to meet researchers. We had to pause much of this activity in 2020/21 however we are using our new database system to help us stay in more regular contact with you all.

Around three times a year we print and mail Speak Out, our newsletter covering news of all kinds relating to head and neck cancer research, information events and fundraising.

Our aim is to make sure that this important information is readily accessible and it is part of our charitable mission. Speak Out can be downloaded from our website and we are also experimenting with emailing everyone who has opted in with bite-sized monthly news updates in the coming year.

Social media remains an important and cost-effective channel for Oracle to communicate breaking news quickly and easily to our ever growing followers across facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter.

These platforms help us raise awareness too by celebrating the incredible stories of survivors and everyone who takes challenges to raise funds for us. As a result, even through this testing time, we have been able to keep sharing progress towards our ambitions to discover better treatments.

### Fundraising in numbers

In 2020/21, Oracle's fundraising was once again significantly impacted by the restrictions. We raised £329,464 which included a small contribution from the Government's Furlough Support Scheme.

This is around £170,000 less had been planned to raise in the year due to the impact of COVID-19. We took the decision to not invite researchers to apply for funding this year as a result as the impact on our reserves position has been significant.

However, with a stronger income profile for 2021/22 looking likely, we hope this will not be repeated.

With a focus on addressing the inequality in head and neck cancer treatment laid bare in the aftermath of the lockdown, we are launching several new initiatives and aim to partner with more charitable foundations and businesses to bring them to fruition. We look forward to making the most of more freedom and hope to see many more of our community face to face this year!

# RESEARCH

## Review

In the 2020-21 period Oracle had 15 research projects in running at scientific research institutions throughout the UK

### Charity funded research

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating financial impact on medical research charities, which faced cuts to their research investment of 41 per cent in 2020-21 year - a predicted £310m shortfall in support for life-saving discoveries.

Since the start of the pandemic, medical research charities have been forced to make dramatic cuts to their research budgets, with the BHF reducing its research spend by half this year, while CRUK has already made a cut of £44 million to its research portfolio over the same period. The Association of Medical Research Charities members are projecting a shortfall in research spend of between £252 and £368 million in 2020/21 alone.

Oracle Cancer Trust along with the other 150 members of AMRC have all been impacted heavily by the pandemic resulting in spending cuts and suspended grant rounds.

Oracle Cancer Trust took the difficult decision to cease any future grant funding and focus its efforts on the 15 live projects running at institutions throughout the UK.

### Research Portfolio

The charity has a portfolio of head and neck cancer research projects running throughout the UK focusing on early stage clinical studies into:

- rare cancers
- imaging
- immuno and virus therapies
- drug development

Oracle is very committed to rare cancers and is currently funding two projects researching possible new treatments for Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma, a rare cancer that currently has no effective treatments should the patient relapse.

The charity has been working with institutions throughout the UK including:

- The Institute of Cancer Research
- The Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Newcastle University
- Queen Mary's University, London
- Sunderland University
- Derby University
- Oxford University
- Brunel University

### Research Committee

Oracle's research committee comprises four clinical consultants in the field of head and neck cancer and includes one layperson, Chair Keith Jones. The committee is governed by the guidelines set by AMRC with regard to conflicts of interest, rotation and diversity. In 2022 the Chair, Keith Jones will be retiring and a new Chair will be appointed. The Charity is also looking to include patient and pharmaceutical representation to the committee.

### Research Strategy

The charity's new Research Strategy will be published in 2022 and will focus on a broader scope and range to reflect the changing focus of the charity.

## Review of Financial Position

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### Reserves Policy

The objective of our reserves policy is to ensure that the Charity maintains sufficient cash and readily realisable assets to enable it to withstand any shortfall in income or unforeseen expenditure while any necessary adjustments are made to the Charity's operations. Almost all research commitments made by the Charity extend over future periods of up to 5 years and are recognised in full in the Charity's balance sheet as liabilities at the time the commitments are entered into. In view of the Charity's past record of raising sufficient funds to finance its commitments as and when they fall due for payment, the Trustees consider that the appropriate basis for the Charity's reserves policy is managed cash and investments- a measure of the extent to which liquid assets are available to meet outgoings – rather than accounting reserves as reflected in the Charity's balance sheet.

The Trustees have decided that in order to achieve the policy objective set out above, the Charity should, at all times, maintain a level of managed cash and investments sufficient to fund at least 12 months of annualised forecast gross cash outflows to cover the cost of research expenditure. Based on the total gross cash outflows in 2020/21, this policy requires Oracle Cancer Trust to hold £249,660 of managed cash and investments at 31st May 2021. The actual total managed cash and investment at 31st May 2021 was £714,156 which represents 12 months forecast cash flows.

The table below shows the historical and budgeted managed cash and investments and the cover this represents.

Year Ended 31st May 2021	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Budget/Forecast
Managed cash and investments	£896,089	£714,156	£508,345
Total expenditure	£864,765	£346,639	£401,052
Average monthly expenditure	£72,064	£28,886	£33,421
Months cover	12 months	12 months	12 months

As the impact of the COVID-19 crisis has reduced, it is now expected that the charity will experience an increase in income to the financial year ending 31st May 2022.

# Structure, Governance and Management

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## **i. Objects and Activities**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard for the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit including its guidance "Public Benefit : Running a Charity (PB2)". The objectives of Oracle Cancer Trust as set out in its Articles of Association are research into all matters connected with or bearing upon the causes, prevention, treatment and care of cancer to include research into, and to advance the art and science of, surgery as applied to cancer of the head, neck and thyroid and for the publication and dissemination of the results of such researches..

## **ii. Corporate Structure**

Oracle Cancer Trust was incorporated as a Company limited by guarantee on 14th January 2010 and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It was registered by the Charity Commission on 20th May 2011 to continue the activities previously carried out by the unincorporated charity called the Head and Neck Cancer Research Trust (HNCRT), which had been established in 1979. The assets of the HNCRT were transferred to the Trust on 1st June 2011.

## **iii. The Board of Trustees**

The Trustees of Oracle Cancer Trust (who are also Directors for purposes of Company Law) are listed on page 12. The Board is chaired by Peter Rhys Evans who is a retired head and neck cancer surgeon. Honorary Trustees are leaders in the field of cancer surgery Board Directors and Trustees are leading industry figures and have varied backgrounds including finance, media, learning, retail and banking.

Oracle's Trustees are sufficiently knowledgeable and experienced in their respective fields to provide the required governance and oversight of the Trust's activities. New Trustees (both full and honorary) are selected by a two stage process. When required, a Nominations Committee examines a wide array of possible candidates that are reviewed by the Board. The Board then selects the candidate/s to formally approach by majority decision. All Trustees, key management personnel and independent members of committees are required to sign a Conflicts of Interest Policy on an annual basis.

## **iv. Management**

A Consultant (part-time) CEO Tamara Kahn was appointed in September 2021 to take over the running of the Charity.

Teresa Forgione is retained as freelance fundraising consultant on a part-time basis. Sarah Bender works as Head of Marketing and Operations on a freelance, self-employed basis and is joined by another self-employed freelance part-time member to assist with the administration of the Charity..

## **v. Finance and Investments Committee**

The Finance and Investments Committee, is chaired by an independent chartered accountant, is responsible for scrutinising and approving all significant expenditures and commitments of the Trust, principally its research funding commitments, prior to ratification by the Board. The Committee also reviews and updates the business plan, cashflow forecasts, investment and risk strategies for board review and approval. Other members include a leading City financier and finance expert.

## **vi. Research Committee**

The Research Committee, to ensure good governance, is chaired by a non-medical Trustee. The other four members of the committee are medically qualified and specialise in treating head and neck cancer. The Committee is responsible for considering and approving all new applications for research funding, as well as monitoring the performance of existing research funding commitments. The Charity has developed a robust peer-review process and are members of to AMRC (Association of Medical Research Charities).

## **vii. Office and Administration**

The team are currently working on a hybrid basis and meet several times a month at offices loaned by corporate contacts of the Trustees and team..

The day-to-day management of Oracle Cancer Trust is headed by CEO Tamara Kahn on a permanent, part-time, freelance basis, with one part-time assistant.

## Legal and Administrative Information

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<b>Charity Name</b>	Oracle Cancer Trust
<b>Trustees</b>	Mr Peter Rhys Evans, MB, BS, LRCP, FRCS, DCC Sir Michael Lockett, KCVO Mr John Fallon Mr Keith Jones Mr James Robertson ( <i>Appointed April 2022</i> ) Mrs Nicola Ridges-Jones
<b>Honorary Trustees</b>	Prof. Kevin Harrington, BSc MBBS MRCP FRCR FRCP PhD DIC Prof. Christopher Nutting, BSc MBBS MD PhD FRCP FRCR MedFIPeM Dr Kate Newbold, MBChB MRCP FRCPE FRCR MD Prof. Vinidh Paleri MBBS MS FRCS (CSig) FRCS(ORL-HNS) Dr Ketan Shah, BM, BCh, MA (Cantab), BMChB (Oxon), MRCP(UK) Mr Stuart Winter, BSc, MB ChB, MD, FRCS
<b>Patron</b>	Sir Michael Morpurgo
<b>President</b>	Jimmy Mulville
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Nigella Lawson Tony Matharu Jenny Pitman OBE James Filmer-Wilson
<b>Charity Number</b>	1142037
<b>Company Number</b>	07125497
<b>Principal address</b>	85 Great Portland Street London W1W 7LT
<b>Registered Office of Charity</b>	80 Coombe Road New Malden KT3 4QS
<b>Auditors</b>	Goldwins 75 Maygrove Road West Hampstead London NW6 2EG
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 1BE
<b>Solicitors</b>	Dorsey & Whitney LLP 199 Bishopsgate London EC2M 3UT

## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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The Trustees, who are also the directors of Oracle Cancer Trust for the purpose 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).

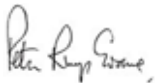
Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

### In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:



Date: 18th May 2022

**Mr P H Rhys Evans**  
Chairman & Trustee

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Oracle Cancer Trust

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## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Oracle Cancer Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 May 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 May 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## 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 Charity 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 charity'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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' 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 Charity 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 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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.

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Oracle Cancer Trust

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charity 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 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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.

## Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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 give a true and fair view and for such internal control as they 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 Charity'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 Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

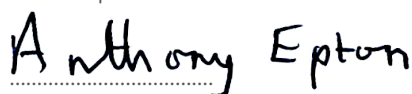
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee 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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. 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 are set out below. In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: ([www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities)). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## 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. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters 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 anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed..



Anthony Epton (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of  
Goldwins Limited, Statutory Auditor  
Chartered Accountants  
75 Maygrove Road  
West Hampstead  
London NW6 2EG

**Dated: 18 May 2022**

# Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 May 2021 (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
Income from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	1	132,280	123,424	255,704	307,049
Government grants received		-	2,933	2,933	2,934
Fundraising events		-	39,300	39,300	41,213
Investment income	2	-	4,471	4,471	8,268
Other income		-	16,927	16,927	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>132,280</b>	<b>187,055</b>	<b>319,335</b>	<b>359,464</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising voluntary and fundraising income	3	-	96,968	96,968	128,593
Expenditure on Charitable activities and Governance costs	4	86,387	163,284	249,671	736,175
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>86,387</b>	<b>260,252</b>	<b>346,639</b>	<b>864,768</b>
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
<b>Net (expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>45,893</b>	<b>(73,197)</b>	<b>(27,304)</b>	<b>(505,304)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward 1 June 2020		245,443	(45,591)	199,852	705,156
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		<b>(5,494)</b>	<b>5,494</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward at 31 May 2021</b>		<b>£285,842</b>	<b>£(113,294)</b>	<b>£172,548</b>	<b>£199,852</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

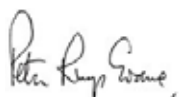
The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

# Balance Sheet at 31st May 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible	9	-		99	
					99
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors	10	40,908		12,807	
Cash at bank and in hand		714,156		896,089	
		755,064		908,896	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	582,516		634,736	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			172,548		274,160
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>			<b>172,548</b>		<b>274,160</b>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year	12		-		74,308
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>£172,548</b>		<b>£199,852</b>
<b>Funds</b>					
Restricted funds	13		285,842		245,443
Unrestricted funds	14		(113,294)		(45,591)
<b>Total funds</b>			<b>£172,548</b>		<b>£199,852</b>

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the **18th May 2022** and are signed on their behalf by:



**Mr P H Rhys Evans**  
Chairman and Trustee

Company registration No: 07125497

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

# Notes to the Financial Statements

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## Accounting Policies

### a) Accounting policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention modified for investments which are accounted for at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The Company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity established as a company limited by guarantee and therefore has also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the 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 (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Companies Act 2006.

Oracle Cancer Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

### b) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charitable company's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income. After making enquiries the trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charitable company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. At the date of sign off, the trustees confirm there are no material uncertainties in relation to the going concern assumption.

### c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Legacies are recognised following probate and once there is sufficient evidence that receipt is probable and the amount of the legacy receivable can be measured reliably. Where entitlement to a legacy exists but there is uncertainty as to its receipt or the amount receivable, details are disclosed as a contingent asset until the criteria for income recognition are met.
- Bank interest is accounted for on an accruals basis.
- Voluntary income by way of donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

### d) Resources expended and irrecoverable VAT

Resources expended including grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Commitment to fund future grants are recognised as liabilities once the obligation has been communicated to the grant recipient. Where there is an annual review or other performance review related conditions which means that the charity may withdraw a commitment if the conditions are not met, the liability is not recognised until the conditions have been fulfilled, and the commitment can no longer be revoked. Expenditure includes VAT which is not recoverable by the charity. The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities. Support costs include central functions and are allocated to cost categories on the basis of staff time spent on those cost categories. Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

### e) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the Trusts activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure of charitable activities on the basis of staff time spent on these cost categories. Further detail can be found in Note 5.

### f) Operating leases

The charity classifies the leasing of office equipment as operating leases, the title remains with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the lease period.

# Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

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## Accounting Policies (continued)

**g) Tax status**

Oracle Cancer Trust has suffered no tax charge, as it is not subject to UK Corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**h) Fund Accounting**

Funds held by the Charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds that can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds - these are funds that are set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds - these are funds that are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

**i) Loan funds**

Loan funds relates to amounts loaned to the charity on a fixed term of five years with the intention of generating an income of 4% per annum. The loan terms allow the Charity to receive all regular distributions made during the term of the Loan, and any capital uplift in excess of the value of the Loan at term, which it shall use to advance its charitable objects. Should the regular distributions made from the Fund be less than 4% per annum of the value of the Loan then the Charity may, without the prior written consent of the Lender, withdraw from the Fund by selling units on the 30 September so as to achieve a distribution of 4% per annum for the year ending on 30 September (or adjusted down pro-rata if the loan commenced during the year to 30 September). The Charity at its sole discretion shall determine whether it chooses to liquidate units to achieve the 4% per annum distribution. If the Fund ceased regular distributions then it is anticipated that units would be sold to generate the 4% per annum distributions in any year to 30 September.

These loans are considered to meet the conditions for exemption from the requirement to account for these under FRS 102 at amortised cost, as they meet the definition of public benefit entity concessionary loans; as such they are accounted for at their transaction value.

**j) Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. Computer equipment - straight line over 3 years.

**k) Fixed Asset Investments**

Investments are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their market value as at the balance sheet date using the closing market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

**l) Government Grants - Job Retention Support Scheme**

Government grant income related to Job Retention Support Scheme is recorded in the period to which the claim relates and all conditions required have been completed.

**m) Financial Instruments**

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with a maturity date of three months or less.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year of the reporting date are carried at their at transaction price and subsequently at settlement value. Debtors and creditors that are receivable or payable in more than one year and not subject to a market rate of interest are measured at the present value of the expected future receipts or payment discounted at a market rate of interest with the exception of public benefit entity concessionary loans which are accounted for as set out in (i) above.

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

### 1. Donations and Legacies

		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		£	£
Project related donations	restricted	-	-
	unrestricted funds	5,000	70,500
General donations	restricted	132,280	181,977
	unrestricted funds	106,854	54,572
Legacies	restricted	-	-
	unrestricted funds	11,570	-
		<b>255,704</b>	<b>307,049</b>

The Trust benefits greatly from the enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

### 2. Investment income

		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		£	£
Bank interest receivable	unrestricted funds	4,471	8,268
		<b>4,471</b>	<b>8,268</b>

### 3. Cost of generating voluntary fund income

		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		£	£
Fundraising Costs	Salaries	32,697	36,705
	Events	9,391	16,930
Support Costs allocated (note 5)		54,880	74,958
		<b>96,968</b>	<b>128,593</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

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### 4. Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Research grants	199,705	680,167
Research costs	-	500
Support costs (Note 5)	20,292	27,791
Governance costs (Note 6)	29,674	27,717
	<b>249,671</b>	<b>736,175</b>

All grants are payable to scientific research institutes to cover salaries, tuition fees and laboratory consumables.

### 5. Support costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Sub-contractors ( <i>includes Chief Operating Officer</i> )	36,115	55,837
Marketing and PR	6,563	5,700
Printing, postage, stationery and website	14,887	23,989
Other office, travel and sundry	19,752	19,343
Recruitment	-	-
Legal	-	-
Allocated to Charitable activities (Note 4)	(20,292)	(27,791)
Allocated to Governance costs (Note 6)	(2,145)	(2,120)
	<b>54,880</b>	<b>74,958</b>

The Trust identifies its support costs, then identifies these costs within this relating to Governance. The remaining support costs are allocated between Costs of Generating Funds and Governance. Staff and related costs are allocated on a time basis, overheads and allocated in proportion to staff time.

### 6. Governance costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bookkeeping and external scrutiny	27,529	25,597
Support costs allocated (Note 5)	2,145	2,120
	<b>29,674</b>	<b>27,717</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

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### 7. Net (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging (net of VAT):		2021	2020
		£	£
Fees payable to the Auditor:	- audit services	4,500	4,500
Depreciation charge for the year		-	99
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		4,500	4,599

The above figures exclude VAT in accordance with accounting reporting requirements. The actual cost to the charity was £5,400 (2020 : £5,400).

### 8. Staff costs, Trustee Remuneration and Key Management Personnel

	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries	3,872	18,871
Employers NI	130	298
Pension contributions	28	56
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,030	19,225

During the year the average number of employees was 1 (2020 : 1).

Additional support has been provided throughout the year in administering and running the charity by individuals who are contracted on a self-employed basis, this includes the head of operations.

In both 2020 and 2021 : no employee earned more than £60,000 in that year.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees, Head of Marketing and Operations.

The total compensation paid to key management personnel amounted to £26,138 (2020 : £28,875).

No Trustee was remunerated in the current or preceding year. Total key management personnel costs of one (2020 : one) individual.

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

### 9. Tangible fixed assets

	<b>2021</b>
	Computer Equipment £
Cost or valuation	
At 31 May 2020	1,180
Additions	-
At 31 May 2021	<u>1,180</u>
Depreciation	£
At 31 May 2020	1,180
Charge for the year	-
At 31 May 2021	<u>1,180</u>
Net Book Value	£
At 31 May 2021	-
At 31 May 2020	<u>-</u>

### 10. Debtors

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£
Grant and event debtors	17,555	-
Other debtors and prepayments	18,902	5,044
Accrued income:		
- Gift Aid and bank interest	4,451	7,763
	<u>40,908</u>	<u>12,807</u>

### 11. Creditors - due within 1 year

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£
Grant accruals	481,733	613,191
Deferred income and other accruals	11,752	5,400
Trade creditors	89,031	14,553
Social security and other taxes	-	333
Other loans	-	1,259
	<u>582,516</u>	<u>634,736</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

### 12. Creditors - due after 1 year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grant accruals - due between 1 and 2 years	-	74,308
	<b>-</b>	<b>74,308</b>

### 13. Restricted Funds

	Balance	Movement in Funds		Gains/(losses)		Balance
	1 June 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers		31 May 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bender Family Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHK Charities	69,883	-	(22,500)	(7,850)	-	39,533
Karsten Schubert Robotic Surgery Fellowship	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Mark Donegan Fellowship	-	-	(1,791)	1,791	-	-
The Worshipful Company of Mercers	4,050	-	-	-	-	4,050
The Swire/Sir Adrian Swire Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swire Robotic Surgery Fellowship	-	-	11	(11)	-	-
The Big Give Immunotherapy Appeal	15,310	3,000	-	-	-	18,310
The Swire Pioneers of Discovery	156,000	-	-	(26,000)	-	130,000
Elise Lepicard PhD	-	5,569	(8,824)	3,255	-	-
Mr and Mrs Howes for Dr E Patin	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pennycress Trust	200	-	-	-	-	200
Terradace Dr E Patin	-	50,000	6,438	-	-	56,438
The Robert Luff Foundation	-	-	(26,000)	26,000	-	-
The Chelleram Foundation	-	73,711	(36,400)	-	-	37,311
Julian's Journey	-	-	2,679	(2,679)	-	-
	<b>245,443</b>	<b>132,280</b>	<b>(86,387)</b>	<b>(5,494)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>285,842</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Prior Year	Balance	Movement in Funds		Transfers	Losses	Balance
	1 June 2019	Income	Expenditure			31 May 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
The Bender Family Trust	20,833	-	-	(20,833)	-	-
CHK Charities	101,925	-	(32,042)	-	-	69,883
Karsten Schubert	12,670	-	-	(12,670)	-	-
Mark Donegan Fellowship	(10,938)	14,133	(23,471)	20,276	-	-
Swire Group of Charities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swire Robotic Surgery	1,004	300	(59,040)	57,736	-	-
Swire Pioneers Fund	100,000	6,000	50,000	-	-	156,000
The Worshipful Company of Mercers	-	4,050	-	-	-	4,050
The Pennycress Trust	-	200	-	-	-	200
Robert Luff Foundation	-	22,000	(40,429)	18,429	-	-
Terradace Dr E Patin	-	50,000	(77,412)	27,412	-	-
Chelleram Foundation	-	55,194	(55,556)	362	-	-
Elise Lepicard PhD	-	10,540	(17,648)	7,108	-	-
Mr and Mrs Bob Howes	25,001	-	(39,083)	14,082	-	-
Julian's Journey	-	4,250	(34,196)	29,946	-	-
	<b>250,495</b>	<b>181,977</b>	<b>(328,877)</b>	<b>141,848</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>245,443</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

*The Bender Family Trust* funded a three-year post doctoral study for Dr Hind Hafsi at The Institute of Cancer Research to research pre-clinical analyses of a novel anti-cancer agent aimed at enhancing the radiation response in head and neck cancer patients. This study has concluded and it is expected the residual funds will be released into unrestricted reserves following confirmation from the Trust.

*CHK Charities* is funding PhD students Jennifer Kieselmann and Vesela Koteva at the ICR's Division of Radiotherapy and Imaging on the new MR Linac machine under the supervision of Prof Uwe Oelfke.

The late Karsten Schubert raised funds to support *The Karsten Schubert Robotic Surgery Fellowship* which is now supporting a pioneering robotic surgery project "Moses" at The Royal Marsden Hospital under the supervision of leading head and neck cancer surgeon Prof Vinidh Paleri.

*The Mark Donegan Fellowship* was set up by the Donegan family in memory of Mark Donegan. This Fellowship is funding work at the Institute of Cancer Research under the supervision of Prof Kevin Harrington, focusing on virus therapies.

*The Swire Group of Charities* are funding a project researching the impact of taste following radiotherapy to the head and neck. This project is at The Royal Marsden Hospital in London under the supervision of Prof Chris Nutting with the research being undertaken by Dr Lucinda Gunn.

*Swire Robotic Surgery Fund* is funding a project using state of the art surgical techniques to diagnose and treat HPV-positive head and neck cancer patients with cancers of an unknown primary origin. The project is being headed by leading robotic surgery expert Prof Vin Paleri at The Royal Marsden Hospital and also involves multiple centres around the UK including Sheffield and Newcastle.

*Julian's Journey* is a fundraising initiative set up by a supporter, Julian Gilbert that started in 2017 and is ongoing. Funds raised are supporting the Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma work of PhD student Alex Rose at The Institute of Cancer Research.

*Mr and Mrs Bob Howes* converted their endowment loan to a restricted fund donation and will be funding a project headed by Dr Emmanuel Patin at The Institute of Cancer Research.

*The Swire Pioneers of Discovery Matched Funding* programme is a fund set aside to support new PhD research studies as part of the Oracle grant funding programme.

*The Swire Pioneers of Discovery Matched Funding* programme is a fund set aside to support new PhD research studies as part of the Oracle grant funding programme.

*The Chelleram Foundation* are funding a four-year PhD immunotherapy project undertaken by Julia Hoebart under the supervision of Prof Kevin Harrington.

*The Worshipful Company of Mercers* have funded a project for the charity to provide a patient advice booklet outlining best practice for diagnosis and treatment for head and neck cancer.

*The Big Give Immunotherapy Appeal* formed part of the The Big Give Challenge in December 2019 and the Charity's appeal was to support further immunotherapy research work.

*The PennyCress Trust* was a restricted grant donation to support a PhD project in the 2019-2020 financial year.

### 14. Unrestricted Funds

	Balance	Movements in Funds		Transfers	Gains	Balance
	1st June 2020	Income	Expenditure			31 May 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds						
Blair Hesketh Memorial Lecture	68,864	-	(1,200)	-	-	67,664
General unrestricted funds	(114,455)	187,055	(259,052)	5,494	-	(180,958)
	<b>(45,591)</b>	<b>187,055</b>	<b>(260,252)</b>	<b>5,494</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(113,294)</b>
	Balance	Movements in Funds		Transfers	Gains / (losses)	Balance
	1st June 2019	Income	Expenditure			31 May 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds						
Blair Hesketh Memorial Lecture	68,864	-	-	-	-	68,864
General unrestricted funds	385,797	177,487	(535,890)	(141,849)	-	(114,455)
	<b>454,661</b>	<b>177,487</b>	<b>(535,890)</b>	<b>(141,849)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(45,591)</b>

The Blair Hesketh Memorial Lecture is a fellowship that funds for a leading ENT clinician to deliver the keynote speech at the annual BAHNO (British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists) conference held in London. The 2021 event was a hybrid conference with speakers presenting from the venue to a virtual audience.

## Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

### 15. Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

No Trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement for expenses in respect of the current year or preceding period.

### 16. Related Party Transactions

Trustee Directors also sit on the Research Committee. Consequently they make recommendations upon the direction of the research, allocation of funding and related appointments. There is potential for indirect benefit to accrue to these medical Trustee Directors, for example, where the funded appointee delivers a partial clinical role which may alleviate their own clinical responsibilities. To mitigate the risk of related party benefit, the Research Sub-Committee is chaired by an independent Non-Executive Director and it formally passes any funding proposals to the Finance and Investment Sub-Committee (whose members are non-medical) for review and necessary approval before onwards submission for a final Board decision.

Disclosures relating to key management personnel are detailed in Note 8.

There were no other transactions in the current or previous period with related parties that required disclosure.

### 17. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Debtors	23,853	-	17,055	40,908
Cash at bank and in hand	210,585	67,664	435,907	714,156
Creditors due within one year	(415,396)	-	(167,120)	(582,516)
Creditors due 1 to 2 years	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance on Fund</b>	<b>(180,958)</b>	<b>67,664</b>	<b>285,842</b>	<b>172,548</b>

### 18. Control

The Charity is controlled by the Trustees under the terms of the Trust Deed.

### 19. Grants Approved but not Committed

At the year end the charity has agreed to provide research grants over the next 1 - 4 years as follows:

2021/22	£112,493
2022/23	£226,256
2023/24	£81,320

These amounts are subject to annual reviews and reporting requirements of the grant recipient. Research projects are funded from reserves and fundraising activities. These amounts are not provided for in the financial statements as they are subject to annual financial and scientific review. Since the year end the following grants have been approved in addition to the above; £nil (2020 : £102,234).



**Oracle Cancer Trust**  
Registered office  
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Company Registration Number 7125497  
Registered Charity Number 1142037

