

Cambridge

Independent

September 27-October 3, 2017 | cambridgeindependent.co.uk

£1
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Prof Kevin Brindle and the Cancer Research UK team
Picture: Keith Heppell

Cambridge Independent
£100,000
CAMBRIDGE
RAPID SCAN APPEAL
CANCER RESEARCH UK

Help us fund city trial of cancer scan technology

- We launch £100,000 Rapid Scan Appeal with Cancer Research UK
- It will pay for study of groundbreaking technique at Addenbrooke's

The *Cambridge Independent* is launching a new campaign this week with Cancer Research UK to fund clinical trials at Addenbrooke's Hospital of pioneering technology.

We have teamed up with the charity's Cambridge Institute to raise £100,000 in 12 months to help pay for research that could revolutionise the way cancer patients are treated.

It will pay for a new imaging technique to be tested that could show whether cancer drugs are working or not within a day or two of treatment getting under way. Currently, patients must wait for weeks or months to find

out if a treatment is working or not.

We hope businesses and their employees will support our Rapid Scan Appeal to help change this.

Professor Kevin Brindle, who is joint leader of the project at the CRUK Cambridge Institute, said: "We're very excited to be one of the first groups to test this technique in patients and we hope that it will soon improve treatment – and put an end to giving patients treatments that don't work for them, along with the unpleasant side effects that accompany them."

"Each person's cancer is different

and this technique could help us tailor a patient's treatment faster than ever."

Dr Ferdia Gallagher, the co-lead who is also funded by Cancer Research UK and based at the Department of Radiology at the University of Cambridge, said: "It's fantastic that we are able to try this technique in patients."

"We hope this will progress the way cancer treatment is given and make therapy more effective for patients in the future. This new technique could potentially mean that doctors will find out much more quickly if a treatment is working for their patient

instead of waiting to see if a tumour shrinks."

Since 2013, the researchers have been working together to develop a new type of MRI scan that can be used to spot when cancers first start responding to treatment.

They were the first in Europe to test the technique in patients and are continuing their work at Addenbrooke's.

Their imaging research involves patients who are being treated for a wide range of cancer types.

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Our winners revealed



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London's great...here's why I prefer Cambridge



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Our guide to Cambridge Literary Festival



Culture | pages 34-35



Families can socialise and get support with essential issues such as housing

Family support charity's £42,000 funding appeal

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A charity is appealing for donations to help continue its work supporting families in the city.

The King's Hedges Family Support Project was set up in 1995 to provide support to families in need, initially in the King's Hedges area of the city, and it also runs drop-ins in the Abbey and East Chesterton wards.

These sessions are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, but from January next year they will only have funding to continue two.

The group needs to raise £42,127, which covers staff costs, healthy lunches and activity materials, before the new year to ensure the survival of the sessions.

Around 60 families attend the affected Thursdays Together sessions each week, for 50 weeks of the year, at Brown's Field Youth and Community Centre in Green End Road.

The drop-in sessions aim to provide families who have babies and pre-school children a chance to socialise and to play together, with the support of trained and experienced family and play workers.

Family support workers work alongside

parents, who may feel the need for extra support on everyday parenting issues like sleeping, feeding, and child development, or on more complex financial concerns, housing advice, budgeting and the ups and downs of family relationships.

They also help to support families to eat well, offering advice for sensible portion sizes and good hygiene practices.

"Our project aims to ensure that we are both preventative and reactive," said Hannah Chong, development worker and fundraiser.

One family, a young father who had been granted residency of his one-year-old daughter, was referred by an agency.

"He attended the session with his daughter and, after time spent getting to know the family, it became apparent that he had difficulty with reading and writing," said Hannah.

She added: "He was helped with reading the paperwork received from statutory agencies, and with applying for additional funding to purchase clothing and toys for her."

"He was also supported to claim benefits and to access the social housing bidding system as their accommodation was unsuitable for a young family."

■ Donate at thebiggive.org.uk (type 'kings hedges' in the 'Find a charity' search box)

Charity at core of apple day event

An event celebrating the apple will help raise money for charity.

Apple Day at Burwash Manor will be held on Saturday, October 14, between 10am and 4pm. It will raise funds for

The Sick Children's Trust, which provides accommodation for the families of sick children at Addenbrooke's and The Rosie hospitals.

At the event there will be games, crafts, stalls

and, of course, apples to enjoy. Sawston Steel Band will be performing, and there will be face painting, pony and tractor rides, and falconry.

Last year's event raised more than £5,000.

Health

Dr Anoop Kuttikat

Consultant Rheumatologist at Mulberry Clinic, Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Visit cambridge-kettering-rheumatologist.com



Sepsis: How to spot and stop hidden killer

Sepsis is a medical emergency. If not treated appropriately it can cause death. Chances of survival decrease with every hour delay in starting antibiotics. Globally, it is one of the most common but least recognised diseases. Around 150,000 people develop sepsis every year in the UK and 44,000 of those die. Among the survivors, a quarter suffer life-changing disabilities such as organ failure and amputation.

Sepsis is always caused by an infection, most often by bacteria. Our bodies are usually well equipped to deal with infections by activating our immune system. However, some infections breach the body's defence and generate toxins and germs which poison the blood. This causes widespread inflammation in various organs leading to organ failure. A sudden and dangerous drop in blood pressure (called septic shock) can occur and lead to death if not treated.

Sepsis can affect anyone but risk is higher if you are older or bedridden; staying in the hospital or have had recent surgery; have thin tubes such as urine catheters or drips in the body; or have weak immunity due to cancer, HIV or immunosuppressant drugs.

Early recognition and treatment save lives.

World Sepsis Day was celebrated on September 13 to raise awareness of this condition among general public. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has also published updated guidance for the healthcare professionals to improve the early diagnosis and management of sepsis.

Sepsis can initially look like any infection such as flu, gastroenteritis or chest infection. Seek urgent medical help if you have any of the following: slurred speech/confusion, extreme shivering or muscle pain, passing no urine (in a day), severe breathlessness, mottled or discoloured skin. If sepsis is a possibility, doctors will arrange for immediate investigations and treatment including antibiotics and fluids via drip.

Preventing infections is the best way to prevent sepsis. Vaccinations, hygienic practices such as frequent hand washing, improved sanitation and nutrition can reduce the global incidence of sepsis.

With improved awareness of this condition among both the general public and healthcare professionals, early and appropriate treatment can be given. This will, no doubt, reduce the global burden of this deadly disease in the future.