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## Welcome

- from Jeremy Tigue, Chair of the WHRF Trustees

In 2023 St Bartholomew's Hospital will celebrate its 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Established in 1123 it is Britain's oldest hospital still providing medical services. Today, it serves a richly diverse community of 2.5 million people in East London, with the Barts Heart Centre serving a much wider population of 6 million. This has a significant benefit for medical research, bringing from bench to bedside new drugs and treatments to meet the urgent medical needs of a population with globally representative demographics.

This is why WHRF is supporting the fundraising campaign for a new Professorial Chair in Intensive Care Medicine. With COVID-19 disproportionately affecting ethnic-minority populations in Britain, research and development in intensive-care medicine by William Harvey Academics at Barts will have a major global impact. And, it is all happening round the corner, in a quiet square of the City.

For the full Case for Support and to watch WHRF's COVID-19 diaries, including from Barts intensive care unit, go to [www.williamharveyresearch.com/foundation](http://www.williamharveyresearch.com/foundation)



# Intensive Care Medicine

- By Professor Sir Mark Caulfield

**COVID-19 has shone a light on the vital importance of intensive care research and the potential for innovative studies to influence the course of the pandemic.** British researchers including Barts/William Harvey Academics have identified 7 areas of the genome that make people more susceptible to severe COVID-19 and three of these are potential drug targets. The UK has led the world in major trials such as RECOVERY where dexamethasone (a steroid) has been shown to save 1 in 8 of the most severely ill patients in intensive care. The development of an effective vaccine in record time (the Oxford-Astra Zeneca vaccine) is another UK success. These achievements highlight the quality of Critical Care Research that is possible in the UK and the importance of building a cadre of excellent academic intensivists to ensure we maintain the momentum established during COVID-19. We believe, therefore that this is the right moment to raise funds for a new **Professorial Chair of Intensive Care Medicine** based at **St Bartholomew's Hospital ("Barts")** and the **William Harvey Research Institute, Queen Mary University of London**.

The full time Clinical Academic post will be for an initial five years and will allow the appointment of a pre-identified world-class expert with an outstanding international reputation in the field of translational Intensive Care Medicine as evidenced by publications, presentations, grant funding, fellowships, awards and prizes, and senior leadership roles.

After the initial five year term, Queen Mary University of London and Barts Health will take over funding, so this initiative will establish a durable legacy and a team of researchers who will continue to deliver world class intensive care research in one of the largest centres for Critical Care in the UK.

The overall funding requirement is GBP 1.675 million over a five year period. The NHS will contribute GBP 484,000 towards the full time Professorial post, leaving **GBP 240,000 per annum for five years** or **GBP 1.2m in total**.

The new Professor will build on the achievements to date of our research under the leadership of **Professor Charles Hinds** (now Professor Emeritus), and the unrivalled research opportunities provided by the internationally renowned bench to bedside environment of the William Harvey, together with the clinical opportunities and scale of Barts Health. The aim will be to transform the NHS care of critically ill patients. This appointment will address a gap in intensive care research following Professor Hinds' retirement and will create new interdisciplinary collaborations with clinical and scientific colleagues throughout the University, as well as nationally and internationally, while also fostering established academic relationships.

***Professors Hinds and Caulfield would be delighted to meet potential donors. Meetings with other leaders and key individuals from Barts and QMUL can be arranged as required.***

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To make an online donation, go to [williamharveyresearch.com/foundation](http://williamharveyresearch.com/foundation)

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# The John Vane Academy

Sir John Vane, FRS, founder of the William Harvey Research Institute (WHRI) and its charitable arm the William Harvey Research Foundation (WHRF), made important contributions to many fields of research, with a focus on addressing unmet medical needs through therapeutic innovation. He believed that a sound scientific 'apprenticeship' would enable his students to do likewise and so, to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of WHRF, the Trustees of the Foundation are launching a new flagship programme called *The John Vane Academy*.

Unsurprisingly, given the events of 2020, we have had to delay our formal launch of this exciting programme. Nevertheless, critically during 2020, WHRF has used funds from generous donors to help support PhD students whose research projects were at risk from delay. With the laboratories closed and then operating at limited capacity given the need to keep everyone safe, it has been a challenging and stressful time. By offering grants of up to £10,000, WHRF has been able to offer the reassurance necessary that projects started can be completed – a valuable tool to support early-career researchers in this time of great uncertainty.

One such recipient of funds is Anna Majkowska, PhD researcher in Dr Egle Solito's lab at WHRI, who is developing a bioengineered system (an *in vitro* 3D blood brain barrier (BBB) microfluidic model) for the study of drug discovery in the brain in neuroinflammatory conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and Multiple Sclerosis. Very excitingly, Anna has been accepted recently to Conception X, a venture programme that helps PhD students launch deep-tech start-ups based on their research and receive enterprise training designed for scientists and engineers (<https://conceptionx.org>). Congratulations to Anna!

## Lady Daphne Vane RIP

We were very saddened to learn earlier in 2021 that Sir John's widow, Daphne, had died. She was an indefatigable supporter of everyone at William Harvey Research, in memory of all that her husband had achieved and championed. She will be sorely missed.



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