

Impact Facts

Charitable expenditure highlights for October 2017

act
Addenbrooke's
Charitable Trust

Registered charity number: 1170103

October 2017

Better outcomes for kidney transplant patients

An increasing number of kidneys for transplantation come from elderly donors. Unfortunately, age greatly affects the quality of the kidney and transplantation using older kidneys tends to have poorer outcomes, with twice the risk of organ failure than with younger kidneys. To combat this, in Cambridge we rely on using urgent kidney biopsy to evaluate the quality of the kidney from elderly donors, and have found that many more of these kidneys, that would previously have been discarded, can be transplanted.

No other UK centre has adopted this approach, largely due to difficulties in providing a 24-hour renal histopathology service. A research trial will evaluate how the introduction of a National Histopathology Service that provides urgent biopsy availability to every UK kidney transplant centre (22 centres) impacts on kidney transplantation. ACT is supporting this trial by providing **£68,500** to buy six histopathology digital slide scanners for use in Cambridge, Newcastle, Leeds, Birmingham, London (Royal Free) and Edinburgh. This will mean the biopsies can be taken and evaluated remotely by the soonest available specialist renal consultant histopathologist in the country. It is estimated that this service will result in around **150 extra transplants** each year across the UK, greatly **reducing waiting** times, and **saving £3.75 million** on dialysis.



Training staff to provide the best possible care

The neuro critical care unit (NCCU) has purchased, with **£3,000**, two highly-detailed life-size anatomy models to support staff training. The *Flexible Vertebral Column with Pelvis* will be used to train staff and students to understand the relationship between the human vertebral column and pelvis and to study the morphology of the vertebral column and the construction of joints. The *Neuroanatomy Head Model* with cervical vertebrae and an eight-part brain mode is used for teaching detailed anatomy of the head and brain.



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Higher quality pain relief for surgery patients

Ultrasound helps anaesthetists to better administer nerve blocks (to provide pain relief for patients undergoing surgery), as they can then visualise the nerves and the needle, thus improving the success rate of the blocks.

While Addenbrooke's has ultrasound machines for siting central lines (made compulsory by NICE), these machines are not of high enough quality to do nerve blocks. NICE have only 'recommended' the use of ultrasound machines for nerve blocks, so the NHS is unable to purchase any at this time.

ACT has agreed to the spend of **£15,000** for a specialist ultrasound to help the anaesthesia team provide higher quality pain relief for their patients.



Improving sleep and recovery

In a recent inpatient survey, approximately 33% of patients who responded said they were disturbed by noise from staff and other patients. ACT has once again provided **£5,000** for 5,000 sleep well packs to be used by inpatients across the hospitals. The packs include ear plugs and an eye mask to improve patients' sleep and rest.

The benefits of improving sleep for inpatients should not be underestimated – sleep is in itself a healer. During deep stages of sleep, the body repairs and regenerates tissues, builds bone and muscle, and appears to strengthen the immune system.

One patient said: *"The noise at night was just from trolleys and sometimes from patients, which couldn't be helped. The ear plugs and eye mask did help with sleep."*



Remembering loved-ones

Memory boxes for families of children who sadly die at Addenbrooke's are being made available thanks to **£1,000** of charitable funds. The hospital's paediatric bereavement lead is creating the boxes when a child passes away on the paediatric intensive care unit, Emergency Department or one of the children's wards. The boxes include:

White gift box with ribbon; heart shaped tea lights in white organza bag; seeded paper hearts; soft bunny toy; clear heart acrylic favour box – for locks of hair; information leaflets and bereavement books for siblings.

