

# Moorfields Magazine

A magazine for patients, carers,  
members, staff and visitors

## Oriel: All systems go

The return of  
Moorfields' Stars

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Behind the scenes  
at Northwick Park

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Reusable  
contact lenses  
increase risk of  
rare eye infection



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# Welcome from Martin Kuper, chief executive



**Welcome to our December issue, with a focus on the many people who make your visit to Moorfields possible.**

We take you on a journey through Northwick Park, introducing you to some of the characters you are unlikely to meet but whose dedication makes your treatment as welcoming and efficient as we can.

We introduce you to the text-based services that many of you have already received and update you on our Covid-19 safety measures and our plans for east London services.

We showcase the accolades given to our staff, honouring and celebrating the achievements of Moorfields Stars of 2022 as well as those from the cancelled 2019 event.

We also mark our patron, Her Late Majesty the Queen's, passing by remembering her visits to Moorfields.

After six and a half years, Tessa Green has decided to step down from her role as chairman of Moorfields. During this period, she has seen our global reputation grow significantly, and has helped to steer Oriel through to final NHS and government approval.

I am delighted to welcome Laura Wade-Gery, who will join as chair in January, with Ros Given-Wilson, vice chair, serving as acting chairman in the interim.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Kuper'.

Martin Kuper,  
chief executive



Behind the scenes: our logistics team

# In memory of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022)

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We were deeply saddened by the passing of our patron, Her Late Majesty the Queen. Our chairman, Tessa Green, wrote to His Majesty King Charles III to offer condolences on behalf of everyone at Moorfields Eye Hospital.

The Queen visited Moorfields on several occasions, and, in a spirit of sadness and reflection, we would like to give thanks for her life and the years of support and dedication Her Late Majesty gave us.



**1988** – The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the hospital for the official inauguration of the refurbished hospital at City Road.



**1999** – Her Late Majesty visited Moorfields to mark our century at City Road, unveiling a commemorative plaque and our famous eye clock.



**2007** – The Queen opened our new Richard Desmond Children's Eye Centre.

# Remembering the Queen's first visit at Moorfields

Blossom Jackson joined Moorfields in 1954 and was one of the first black nurses to train at the hospital. She recounts her time at Moorfields as being some of the happiest days of her lives, where she formed part of the Queen's guard of honour in 1955.

“On that day, I was on night duty when Sister Spon selected six students including myself to bridge the gaps on the corridors where the Queen would pass.

“Try conjuring up the picture of six animated teenagers, trained to take on our nursing role seriously at the patient's bedside, but now giggling whilst excitedly hurrying down the back stairs of the hospital - much to the chagrin of a stern Sister Spon, who would call us on our way down to 'hush up'. By the time we reached

our final destination on the ground floor we were puffing and blowing and our butterfly hats were all askew!

“I remember the look on Her Majesty's face and could only imagine that she had cottoned on to what we were up to!

“When I saw the Queen on that day, within arm's length as she passed by, I thought that she was beautiful and, as the years passed during her long reign, I have admired her, for her lifelong commitment to service. May she now rest in peace.”



**1955** – Her Late Majesty visited Moorfields Eye Hospital to mark its 150th anniversary.

“

**When I saw the Queen on that day, within arm's length as she passed by, I thought that she was beautiful and, as the years passed during her long reign, I have admired her, for her lifelong commitment to service. May she now rest in peace.**

”



Blossom Jackson

# New site at Stratford

We have recently secured funding from NHS England to provide additional eye care in east London at a proposed new site on Stratford High Street, bringing together a range of eye services for the local community all in one place.

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We expect this significant increase in capacity to help reduce waiting times across east and north east London, as well as being more convenient for the majority of our patients.

We hope to open our new Stratford site in spring/summer 2023. This would involve transferring all activity from our current sites at Mile End and Sir

Ludwig Guttmann to the new site.

We expect our site at Barking to become a centre offering diagnostic tests, with face-to-face eye clinics relocating to the new Stratford facility.

Surgery for all our east London patients would also move to Stratford from its current location at St Ann's Hospital in Tottenham.

For full details, visit [moorfields.nhs.uk/site/moorfields-stratford](https://moorfields.nhs.uk/site/moorfields-stratford). If you would like to give us your views on our proposals, please email us at [moorfields.stratfordviews@nhs.net](mailto:moorfields.stratfordviews@nhs.net).



“

**We are excited to deliver our mission of preserving sight and driving equity through innovation, particularly for those in greatest need.**

”

Professor Sir Peng Tee Khaw



## NIHR Moorfields BRC receives £20 million for five years of vision research innovation

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and UCL Institute of Ophthalmology has been awarded £20 million funding for a five-year period starting from December 2022.

“I am extremely pleased that we have been awarded NIHR BRC funding for the fourth time, demonstrating our joint sites’ world leading track record,” said

Professor Sir Peng Tee Khaw, our research and development director and co-director of the NIHR Moorfields BRC. “We are excited to deliver our mission of preserving sight and driving equity through innovation, particularly for those in greatest need.”

“We are at a turning-point in ophthalmology and it is vital that we seize the momentum,” said Professor Sobha Sivaprasad, NIHR Moorfields clinical research facility (CRF) director. “Especially in areas from gene, cell, innovative

laser, surgical and drug therapies through to artificial intelligence. It is an exciting time, and this investment will ensure that our remarkable researchers and clinicians, who are demonstrating true leadership, have the infrastructure to deliver our eminent research portfolio.”

Professor Sobha Sivaprasad



# Louisa Wickham appointed first national clinical director for eye care

Louisa Wickham, consultant ophthalmologist and our medical director, has been appointed by NHS England as the first ever national clinical director for eye care.

Louisa will take responsibility for overseeing eye care across England. This new role will put ophthalmology, which is the largest generator of outpatient appointments, on a par with other major specialties.

“I am delighted that ophthalmology has been recognised as a specialty by the creation of this position, and it is an

honour to be the first national clinical director for eye care,” said Louisa. “I am looking forward to working with partners from across the system to develop a national strategy for eye care and I am relishing the challenge of helping to tackle the post-pandemic eye care backlogs across the country.”

“

**I am delighted that ophthalmology has been recognised as a specialty by the creation of this position.**

”

Louisa Wickham



## Health Secretary visits Moorfields

Stephen Barclay, Secretary of State for Health, chose Moorfields as the location to announce new funding for surgical hubs. He saw first-hand how we have increased our capacity for cataract surgery

by moving the waiting area, theatre and recovery areas physically closer together and by making our processes more streamlined, also meeting with colleagues to learn about our plans for Oriel.



The Health Secretary looking at Oriel concept art

## Moorfields patient becomes first in Europe to trial pill for dry AMD

A Moorfields patient has become the first person in Europe to take part in a brand-new treatment for geographic atrophy (GA), an advanced form of dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

AMD currently leads to gradual and untreatable vision loss, and treatments in existing clinical trials involve intravitreal injections or gene therapy. This treatment offers the hope of saving sight for patients with GA with an oral tablet, danicopan. Damage to the immune

system can lead to its overactivity, which can damage the eye. Danicopan aims to treat a molecule crucial to a component of the immune system, thereby repairing it and slowing GA progression and sight loss.

The new clinical trial is led by Professor Sobha Sivaprasad, our clinical research facility (CRF) director and Shruti Chandra, medical retina fellow.

“I am absolutely thrilled that we are moving towards oral treatments for this advanced condition,” says Professor

Sobha Sivaprasad. “Huge thanks to Shruti and the CRF team for this success.”

Shruti Chandra



# Reusable lenses triple the risk of rare eye infection

A study led by Moorfields and UCL Institute of Ophthalmology researchers found that people who wear reusable contact lens are almost four times as likely as those wearing daily disposables to develop acanthamoeba keratitis (AK).

This is an infection of the cornea which can lead to painful inflammation and, in the most severe cases, vision loss or total blindness. The study, published in the journal *Ophthalmology*, identifies multiple factors that increase the risk of AK.

People who wore reusable soft contact lenses (such as monthlies) had almost four times the chance of developing AK, compared with those who wore daily disposable lenses. Showering with lenses in increased the odds of AK by around three times, while wearing lenses overnight increased the chance by almost four times. Among daily disposable wearers, reusing their lenses increased their infection

risk. A recent contact lens check with a health professional reduced the risk.

The researchers estimated that 30-62% of cases could be prevented if people switched from reusable to daily disposable lenses.

“In recent years, we have seen an increase of AK in the UK and Europe,” said Professor John Dart,

lead author. “Given that an estimated 300 million people across the globe wear contact lenses, it is important that people know how to minimise their risks.

“Contact lens packaging should include information on lens safety and risk avoidance, even as simple as ‘no water’ stickers on each case, particularly given that many people buy their



lenses online without speaking to a health professional.

“Basic contact lens hygiene measures can go a long way in avoiding infections, such as by thoroughly washing and

drying your hands before putting in your lenses.”

The study was funded by Fight for Sight, the NIHR Moorfields Biomedical Research Centre and Moorfields Eye Charity.

“  
**Basic contact lens hygiene measures can go a long way in avoiding infections, such as by thoroughly washing and drying your hands before putting in your lenses.**

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### Taking part in research just got easier

Are you interested in taking part in our ground-breaking research? We always need volunteers, and award-winning ROAM (Research Opportunities at Moorfields) makes this easier than ever.

Available nationally to anyone with an NHS number, simply register at [research.moorfields.nhs.uk](https://research.moorfields.nhs.uk) and we will do the rest, including alerting you of new studies you may be suitable for.

Further details from [moorfields.roam@nhs.net](mailto:moorfields.roam@nhs.net), or ask us at your next appointment with us



Professor John Dart



# New services coming to you by text message



If you get a text message through from [07860 039 092](tel:07860039092) or an email from [no-reply@drdoctor.co.uk](mailto:no-reply@drdoctor.co.uk), don't worry – it's from us.

We will send you reminders for your appointments and updates on the safety measures we have in place.

We are increasingly

sending letters this way too, so you can see them sooner and we can save some money. (We still post the letter three days later if you don't open it digitally.)

We are offering more patients the chance to take control of their appointments by requesting their follow-up

when they need it, rather than at a set interval.



Full details are available at [moorfields.nhs.uk/appointments](https://moorfields.nhs.uk/appointments); please make sure our teams have the right phone number for you.

# Help with video consultations for patients

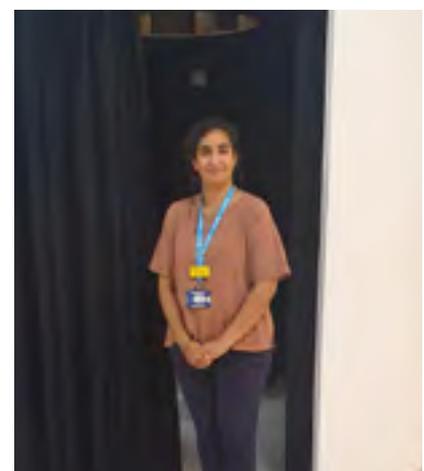


To help our patients to access video consultations, we piloted the use of a 'virtual pod' at Hoxton and Brent Cross, set up to help people log into our virtual A&E service.

Most people we helped felt they would have struggled to use the virtual A&E service from their own home. "This is very convenient and nice to have someone help me as I wouldn't have known

how to log on myself," said one patient.

Following the testing of this support at Brent Cross and Hoxton, the hope is to expand and test in further sites.



# Should I wear a mask at Moorfields?



Based on our experience over the past couple of years, we have now brought in a flexible policy to keep patients and staff safe.

We regularly check Covid-19 rates in London and nationally, as well as Covid-related hospital admissions, staff absences and patient cancellations.

When these are high, we require mask wearing unless medically exempt. When the risk is low, you will have the right to choose whether you wish to wear a mask, though some clinicians may ask you to wear a mask for your appointment, and you are welcome to ask our teams to wear them if you would like us to.

We will continue to provide masks and sanitiser for you at entrances.



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It's rewarding for the patient, but really, it's more rewarding for us. It humbles us. Patients tell you so much about themselves.

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## A day in the life of a hand holder

Many eye operations are carried out under local anaesthesia, where just the eye and the area around it are numbed. Some patients are understandably nervous about such procedures.

Volunteers like Brenda Marsh talk to them before their surgery and go into theatres with them to hold their hands, to reassure and support them.

“Two or three of us volunteers will go up to Sedgewick ward in the morning, where patients are awaiting their surgery. I'll try to speak to as

many people as I can, just introducing myself, asking how they're feeling. Some patients don't need anything, and some say they're fine but will later ask you to come back as they get closer to surgery and I help reassure them.

“We come along for all kinds of surgeries - cataracts, blocked tear eye duct, plastic surgery, retina -and some even take over two or three hours. I had surgery for cataracts in both my eyes last year, so I can explain what they can expect.

“I think the most

worrying part is when they're receiving anaesthetic, so I talk to them then to help them

Brenda Marsh



## A DAY IN THE LIFE



relax, and then hold their hand during the operations.

“I try to help around five patients a day, so sometimes I even leave in the evenings with the theatre teams after a full day. It’s very interesting to be in an operation theatre, time flies by!

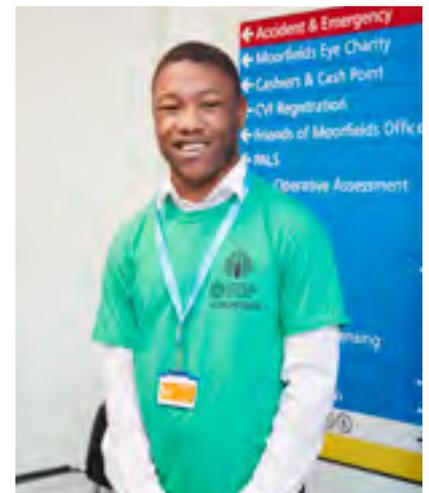
“I first got involved with Moorfields by donating blankets for children with sight loss, when I bumped into Angela [Smith, Friends of Moorfields chief executive] in May and got to talking about the Friends and learned about handholding.

“I’d thought back to my aunt, who has Alzheimer’s and needed surgery for skin cancer. I went into

theatre with her, and it really helped her stay calm, which that made me think I could deal with something like this.

“I was worried I’d be in the doctor’s way, but the whole theatre team are so lovely and welcoming. Some doctors say you don’t need sedation because you’ve got a hand holder.

“It’s rewarding for the patient, but really, it’s more rewarding for us. It humbles us. Patients tell you so much about themselves. There was a lovely patient who afterwards said thank you to the surgeon for looking after my eyes and thank you to me for looking after my soul!”



**Friends of  
Moorfields  
Eye Hospital**

**For more details on how to volunteer with the Friends of Moorfields, [visit the website here.](#)**



# Plans for Oriel have been given the green light

The joint initiative between Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology and Moorfields Eye Charity for a state-of-the-art eye care, research and education centre has now been given final NHS and government approval. This will move services to a brand-new centre on part of the St Pancras Hospital site in Camden.

This significant milestone is the final step before construction starts in 2023 and it follows Camden Council granting full planning permission for the centre in August. It is due to open in 2027.

The new centre will harness the expertise of the partners under one roof and will enable closer collaborative working between clinicians and researchers to speed up

the delivery of the highest quality treatments and therapies for patients.

When the final approval for Oriel was announced, Health and Social Care Secretary Steve Barclay said: "These new facilities, supported by over £500m of investment, will mean more people can be seen and help cut backlogs. The latest technology will be utilised to help the visually impaired

throughout their hospital trips. By 2031/32, it is expected to deliver over a million appointments and procedures a year."

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[Keep up to date on the plans and latest developments on the Oriel website.](#)

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## O R I E L

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**“This is an extraordinarily exciting moment for Moorfields. Thank you to our teams, our partners, our patients, our donors and our stakeholders. Your patience, determination and dedication over 10 years to the vision for Oriel has progressed it this far. I am so very proud of what we have together achieved and look forward to seeing Oriel built and open its doors to patients.”**

”

Tessa Green,  
chairman



“

**“This is the final approval we have been waiting for, turning Oriel from a proposal into a reality. Our next step will be to start construction work in the new year to build our world-leading centre, which will support our reputation for excellence and our ability to deliver outstanding care for our patients.”**

”

Martin Kuper,  
chief executive



“

**“I am absolutely delighted that our exciting plans for Oriel have been given the regulatory seal of approval. Oriel will allow us to drive forward the improvements to support our work in the long-term and strengthen our partnership with Moorfields in delivering real benefits for patients.”**

”

Professor  
Alan  
Thompson,  
dean of the  
UCL Faculty  
of Brain  
Sciences



“

**“This is a real moment of celebration for us all. We’ve been working in partnership with our generous donors because philanthropy has a vital role in securing the future of eye health on a global scale. We believe the new centre is going to provide patients, who are at the heart of everything we do, with the best treatments, faster.”**

”

Robert Dufton,  
Moorfields Eye Charity  
chief executive



Thank you to the generous donors who are helping to secure the future of eye health worldwide. To find out how you can get involved, please ring Rachel Jones on 020 7521 4610.



# Spotlight on

## Moorfields Eye Centre at Northwick Park

Moorfields Eye Centre at Northwick Park is one of our district hubs, bringing our expert eye care closer to your home. Located on the same campus as Northwick Park Hospital, it provides comprehensive outpatient and diagnostic care for a wide range of eye conditions, as well as more complex eye surgery.

Patients visiting us are first referred by local GPs and may have also seen an optician first. A consultant then reviews the referral, checking if there is enough information and whether the referral has gone to the correct speciality.

To deal with waiting lists, the hub uses upskilled nurses and technicians to see patients, carry out scans, and senior nurses

will carry out intravitreal injections and see patients on their post-operation appointments. Patients requiring glaucoma and medical retina screenings will often go to the new diagnostic hub at Brent Cross Shopping Centre.

## Following a patient's journey through Northwick Park



**Bianca Suciu**  
Clinic coordinator

“

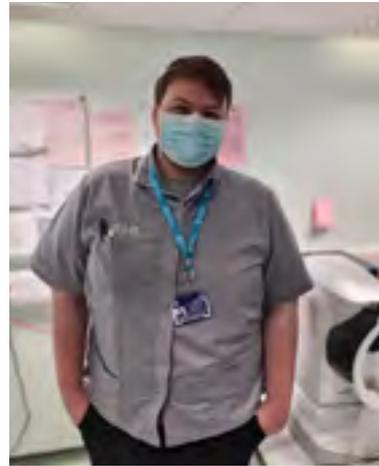
I work between reception, where I'm one of the first faces patients see, and the office, booking appointments, preparing clinics and answering calls.

“We're very busy! We're recruiting more coordinators due to the demand for our clinics, which are spread out across the week. Mondays and Wednesdays, have corneal, medical retina and glaucoma and general clinics, so are very busy. Fridays can feel overwhelming; it's paediatrics, so there are a lot of young patients, and their parents are often very stressed.

“But many patients really appreciate what you've done for them, whether it's helping them to be seen sooner or calling to remind them when their appointment is.

”

With their scans done, the patient is seen by a doctor and, depending on their condition, they may need surgery, laser treatment, an intravitreal injection or prescription eye drops.



**Patrick Titmuss**  
Healthcare assistant

“

Once patients have been signed in, we'll carry out all the tests a patient may need – visual acuity, visual fields, checking the pressure in the eye, OCT scans and more.

“A lot of the patients needing regular monitoring now go to Brent Cross. This has helped us get through the backlog, though it does mean the patients we do see tend to have more complicated needs.

“This has been my first job and I've really come out of my shell since working here. It's been good. Everyone gets on, everyone pitches in if a clinic is running late.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON

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**Merlyn De Souza**  
Sister/nurse practitioner

“

Patients who need intravitreal injections for the first time are often very nervous – I know I was the first time I gave one! But in both cases, after you go through one, it'll be fine.

“We use plenty of anaesthetic, so patients really do feel nothing other than pressure. If any patients are nervous, remember to try and work together with the nurse. Regardless of how many injections we've done, we'll always carry out the same safety checks.

“I also see surgery patients in their post-op appointments, checking their replacement lens if they had cataracts, seeing if they need the other eye listed for treatment, checking them for swellings or if they can be discharged, which can all be done without them needing to see a doctor.

”



**Jamal Brown**  
Pharmacy technician

“

I moved to Northwick Park from City Road in August 2020, during the Covid-19 pandemic. We take prescriptions and dispense medicines throughout the day, as well as topping up supplies and ordering on behalf of some of the clinics and departments here and at Potters' Bar.

“Patients should never be afraid to reach back out to us even after they've left with their prescription.

“I want to give a shout out to our colleagues – we really came together during the tough times of the pandemic to keep delivering our services.

”

## SPOTLIGHT ON



**David Bessant**  
Consultant ophthalmologist

“

We try to provide as many services as possible. Almost all ophthalmology specialities are seen at the hub, except for rarer conditions requiring highly specialised equipment such as vitreoretinal surgery, which we refer to our main hospital at City Road.

“I still really enjoy operating after 30 years. That’s the thing about eye care - we can do so much for our patients. Sometimes patients have had their eyesight deteriorate quite badly and you can bring them back to 20-20 vision. It’s stressful, but it’s worth it!

”



**Reej Daniel**  
Staff nurse, daycare unit

“

We look after patients before and after their surgery. It’s very rewarding seeing the difference it can make to them.

“We had a patient in his twenties who had such bad cataracts he needed his friends to help him in, and afterwards he was stunned he could see my face. And some patients have told me that one of the first things they found themselves doing after surgery was cleaning their house because they never realised how dirty it was!

”



### Come and join us!

For vacancies at all Moorfields sites, please visit [moorfields.nhs.uk/work-for-us](https://moorfields.nhs.uk/work-for-us)



# Moorfields' Stars



The last Moorfields' Stars, our annual recognition event, had been due to take place in March 2020 when the pandemic struck.

For the first time in four years, our staff and volunteers, and representatives of Moorfields Eye Charity and Friends of Moorfields, all came together to celebrate our Moorfields' Stars of 2022 and to finally recognise our Stars of 2019.

Thank you to everyone that made the event possible and to Moorfields Eye Charity for supporting the awards, and congratulations to all our winners and finalists.

## 2022 Stars winners

**Chairman's award for an outstanding contribution to Moorfields** - Sinead Murphy, sister

**Moorfields' star of the year award** - Andrea Church, senior staff nurse for Moorfields Private

**Moorfields' team of the year award** - Pathology

**Moorfields Eye Charity award for innovation and improvement** - Digital cataract service

**Moorfields' leadership award** - Adnin Chowdhury, senior ophthalmic vision science practitioner and team leader

**Moorfields' excellence in equality, diversity and inclusion award** - Primrose Magala, senior staff nurse

**Moorfields Eye Charity Champion award** - Mariya Moosajee, professor of molecular ophthalmology and consultant ophthalmologist

**The patient choice team award** - Ocular prosthetics

**The patient choice individual award** - Julie Judge, medical secretary

**Moorfields' volunteer of the year award** - Simon Rossi, volunteer, Ealing

## Moorfields' unsung hero award

**"I've worked at Moorfields for 15 years, when Ian Balmer was still chief executive. The hospital's changed a lot."**

"I go across the whole hospital to pick up and drop off post. We have about 2,000 letters coming in a day and 2,000 letters going out, including packages and special and recorded deliveries. Everyone from legal to pharmacy is sending out all sorts of things – letters, records, eye drops, spectacles, contact lenses. Anyone can come down, we just make sure everything goes off in a secure manner.

"It meant a lot to win. We worked all through the pandemic, no days off, just doing the post, and it meant a lot to be recognised for it. It's a big honour, not just for me, but for Raj, who works with me. This award is for both of us, really."



**Michael John-Paul, postroom porter**

## Moorfields' unsung hero award

"I really wasn't expecting it, especially two and a half years afterwards! It was really satisfying to receive acknowledgment for the hard work that is done in pharmacy distribution as it is mainly carried out behind the scenes.

"I lead the pharmacy procurement and distribution team,

who order and supply medicines to the main City Road site and arrange for the transport and supply of medicines across the trust network sites.

"If we are doing our job well, patients spend less time in the hospital, and it's one less thing for our colleagues to worry about."



Rory Coughlin, lead pharmacy technician, procurement and distribution

## 2019 Stars winners

**Chairman's award for an outstanding contribution to Moorfields** - Professor John Dart, honorary consultant ophthalmologist, Moorfields Eye Hospital and honorary professor, UCL

**Moorfields' star of the year award** - Pei-Fen Lin, consultant ophthalmologist, Croydon

**Moorfields' team of the year award** - Accident and emergency

**Moorfields Eye Charity award for innovation and improvement** - Artificial Intelligence research group

**Moorfields' leadership award** - Ranjita Sen, former associate director - IT applications, performance & information

**Moorfields Eye Charity Champion award** - Performance and information team

**The patient choice team award** - Northwick Park injection team

**The patient choice individual award** - Althea Tomlin, outpatient clinic coordinator

**Moorfields' volunteer of the year award** - Pamela Bell, former volunteer for Moorfields at Bedford Hospital Eye Theatre

# Moorfields Private launches New Cavendish Street location

Moorfields Private is now offering its outstanding patient care, diagnostic and refractive procedures from world-leading consultants and nursing teams in a brand new state-of-the-art facility at New Cavendish Street, in the heart of London's medical district.



The facility comprises of 11 consulting rooms, 12 outpatient procedure rooms, an operating theatre suite, and five supporting nurse rooms, and welcomes adult patients seeking expert advice and treatment for a wide range of eye problems from the UK and across the globe.

It complements Moorfields Eye Hospital, with a number of treatments not being available on the NHS. These include Lasek, Lasik, TransPRK and SMILE laser eye surgery.

Other services offered include a minor operations room for day surgery (including cataracts) and

intravitreal injections. It also offers ultrasound and has its own pharmacy.

Cataract, eyelid surgery (blepharoplasty) and glaucoma patients can choose to have their procedure done at either our New Cavendish Street or Bath Street locations.

“Moorfields is world-renowned as a centre of excellence for ophthalmic care, and we are delighted to have extended our services in the heart of London's clinical district,” said Andrew Robertson, director of private care. “This fully refurbished building, with its laser eye surgery suite, operating theatre and consulting

rooms provides patients with more choice when accessing private services and treatments”.

Moorfields Private's financial surplus is re-invested into Moorfields Eye Hospital to support NHS patients and services.



For more information about Moorfields Private's services, visit [moorfields-private.co.uk](http://moorfields-private.co.uk) or contact their New Patients Team on 0800 3283 421 or [moorfieldsprivate.enquiries@nhs.net](mailto:moorfieldsprivate.enquiries@nhs.net)



# Awards and accolades

Moorfields Eye Hospital's Home Vision Monitor was awarded Virtual or Remote Care Initiative of the Year at the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Patient Safety Awards 2022.

The Home Vision Monitor is a smartphone-based app that enables patients to test and monitor

changes in their vision at home during Covid-19 lockdowns and beyond. This was its first large-scale deployment in real-life clinical practice.

The judges felt this was a fantastic display of how remote monitoring can empower patients and relieve pressure on the NHS.



Konstantinos Balaskas and Claire Lovegrove accepting the HSJ award

Congratulations to Anthony Khawaja, who was awarded the Lister Research Prize Fellowship 2022 for his work identifying many new genetic markers of glaucoma and building prediction tools to enable both population screening for early detection and more personalised glaucoma care, saving sight and considerable cost.

"It is a huge privilege to be awarded the Lister Institute Prize, and I am excited at the doors this will open," said Anthony. "Initially, this will support me hiring a senior bioinformatician to manage my growing team and data resources. In the longer term, flexible funding is so helpful as it can massively accelerate new collaborations and the testing of new ideas."

Rashmi Mathew, consultant ophthalmologist, and Christin Henien, clinical training fellow at UCL IoO, have been awarded a University College London (UCL) inclusion award.

These recognise work to progress equality, diversity or inclusion (EDI) practice within the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology (IoO). Rashmi has been recognised for incorporating EDI values into the way she works, resulting in a positive shift in the culture at the IoO.

"These awards mean so much to us," says Rashmi.

"An inclusive curriculum means the way we deliver our content enables each student to feel valued and fully participate. In turn, our health professionals of the future are better equipped to care for diverse and complex patient populations."

## Joyce Amanor honoured with RCN award

Joyce Amanor, a senior nurse from Moorfields Eye Centre at Croydon University Hospital with 35 years' experience, has been honoured with an RCN (Royal College of Nursing) Rising Star Award for her outstanding contribution to the capital's health and care system. This year's theme was 'Anti-racism: striving for justice and promoting wellbeing'. Her colleagues who

nominated her, said: "On one occasion, Joyce helped an elderly patient decide to undergo an operation by just spending some extra time with him, striking up a rapport. Afterwards, she personally went out of her way to drop off his forgotten medicine and belongings to his nursing home." "I'm over the moon about this, and totally surprised," said Joyce.

“  
**I love being a nurse, and nothing gives me more pleasure than when patients tell our team how happy they are that they can see better.**”

”

Joyce Amanor, senior nurse



## Nurse consultant Nicola Dunlop awarded a PhD

Congratulations to Nicola Dunlop on her PhD. She becomes the second Moorfields nurse to obtain a doctorate.

For Nicola, working at Moorfields means learning, teaching, researching and delivering excellent patient care. In addition to her PhD, she is an advocate for disadvantaged people.

Her research, 'Living with Benign Essential Blepharospasm (BEB)', addresses the inequality of access to care for people

with this rare chronic neurological condition that causes blindness. Nicola now trains our nurses, optometrists and junior doctors to administer botulinum toxin for blepharospasm.

Reflecting on her doctorate, Nicola said: "I came into the profession having seen the difference nurses made in my grandmother's care. There are many opportunities to progress; we can now safely consult, assess, diagnose, prescribe, undertake surgery and

medically manage a condition. The most rewarding part of my role, though, will always be providing patient care.

"As a black woman, I would like to not only inspire my community but all nurses at Moorfields to learn, educate and undertake research."

Nicola Dunlop, nurse consultant



## Konstantinos Balaskas announced as a Digital Champion by NHS England

In receiving this award, Konstantinos said: “It’s essential to health and care services that digital and data roles are embraced. Not only do they liberate capacity, drive efficiency and facilitate access to care,

but they will prepare us for a future where healthcare is delivered differently.

“In this digital future, no health practitioner, healthcare service and, most importantly, no patient needs should be left behind.”

Konstantinos Balaskas, director of the Moorfields Reading Centre



## Pete Thomas named chief clinical information officer of the year

Pete’s work, which was honoured at the 2022 Digital Health Awards, has been crucial in rolling out our digital A&E service within 48 hours of the first Covid-19 lockdown and in delivering home vision that

saves trips into hospital.

“We’ve taken a new approach to delivering clinical informatics at Moorfields, founding the UK’s first department of digital medicine,” said Pete. “It’s great when the

profession recognises that you’re going in the right direction. Although it’s my name on the award, I’m really only a representative of the brilliant team at Moorfields.”



“  
It’s great when the profession recognises that you’re going in the right direction.  
”

Pete Thomas, director of digital medicine

## New Thunder microscope for Moorfields

Thank you to everyone who supported Moorfields Eye Charity's Thunder microscope appeal. This vital piece of equipment will help researchers work faster than ever towards new

breakthroughs for a variety of sight loss conditions. Moorfields Eye Charity would like to thank to all donors

for their generous contributions.



## Walk with us for Eye to Eye

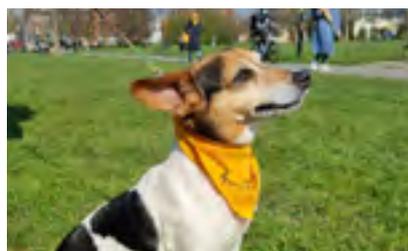


Moorfields Eye Charity's annual fundraising walk Eye to Eye returns on Sunday 5 March 2023. It's a great opportunity to come together with the Moorfields community to raise money for the life-changing work of Moorfields and the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology (IoO).

Walk 5 or 15 miles on routes that explore London and pass by Oriel, the new integrated home for Moorfields Eye Hospital and the UCL IoO, due to open in 2027. The walks start at Moorfields Eye Hospital and finishes at the Richard Desmond

Children's Eye Centre - children under 16 walk for free.

You can also run, ride or walk virtually with My Eye to Eye, held on 4-5 March.

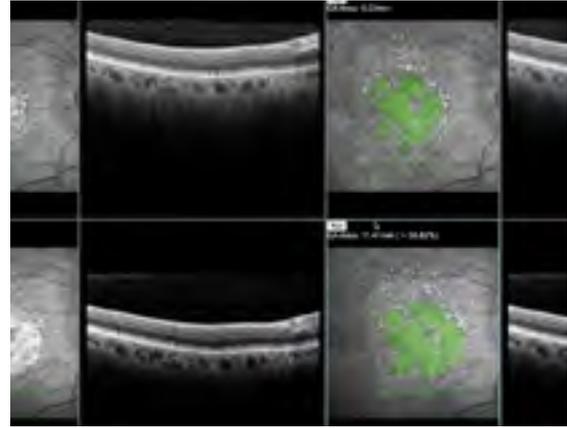


"Our son Jack was diagnosed with congenital glaucoma when he was seven months old. The staff at Moorfields have been brilliant throughout, from the doctors and nurses, through to the play specialists Jack loves to play with. That's why we walked Eye to Eye to fundraise for Moorfields."

Hayley,  
Jack's mum



Find out more at [moorfieldseyecharity.org.uk/eyetoeye](https://moorfieldseyecharity.org.uk/eyetoeye)  
Email: [moorfields.eyecharity@nhs.net](mailto:moorfields.eyecharity@nhs.net)



## Help Moorfields do more revolutionary work

By training computer systems to read and assess patient eye scans, experts have developed technology that can diagnose over 50 eye conditions in seconds. This could lead to faster

diagnoses, new treatments and better patient experiences.

Our clinicians and researchers are already doing everything they can to prevent sight loss, but the assistance of artificial

intelligence could help them do more than ever before.

Moorfields Eye Charity's AI (artificial intelligence) appeal aims to push these advances further, and closer to use in clinic.

## Supporting world-leading oncology

Moorfields consultant ophthalmologist, Guy Negretti, was awarded a fellowship by Moorfields Eye Charity to spend six months in the United States researching and learning about eye cancer.

Guy visited the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia and other ocular oncology centres in New York,

Stanford and Los Angeles. Guy also worked with Professor Carol Shields, who has led some of the most important studies into eye cancer.

"I hope that my fellowship will allow me to ensure that patients at Moorfields are getting the absolute best treatment anywhere in the world," said Guy. "This will mean they have the best possible chance for survival, vision preservation and for quality of life following their diagnosis of cancer."

Moorfields Eye Charity was honoured to award this fellowship as a way of marking the life and legacy of [Victoria Cohen](#).



Guy Negretti

# Meet Asif Bhatti, non-executive director

A risk and finance specialist, Asif joined us in June as a new non-executive director.

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“I was born in Zambia, but brought up in Manchester, the youngest of four sons, going on to train as an accountant. Outside work, I love soul, funk and house music, have been known to DJ and enjoy running and cooking. While my parents established shops, many of my family pursued careers in the NHS – six of my relatives are doctors, one brother is a professor of pharmacology and no less than eight of my cousins are pharmacists.

“I have worked in telecoms, music, film, hospitality and for John Lewis, and I am currently group director of risk and audit for caterers Compass, who employ over 600,000 people worldwide. This has recently meant working on a £300m worldwide software implementation programme in cybersecurity and anti-

fraud. I also serve on the Government Legal Department’s audit committee and was chair of Gloucester City Homes until November 2022.

“I have worked hard, battling through night school to progress, and have seen less representation of people like me the more senior I have got. I coach and mentor people from a wide range of backgrounds to help them achieve their potential.

“I was delighted to be approached by Moorfields and will find it a privilege to work for a world leader. I want to bring a private sector lens to the implementation of new systems and major projects such as Oriel.”

“  
**I was delighted to be approached by Moorfields and will find it a privilege to work for a world leader.**

”

Asif Bhatti



# Become a governor

We are always looking for people interested in nominating themselves as patient or public governor candidates. You do not need any specific qualifications, and all new

governors receive training and support to carry out their role.

We hold online events for prospective governors so that you can find out more about what is involved in

being a governor:

To register for these events or find out more, please contact [moorfields.foundation@nhs.net](mailto:moorfields.foundation@nhs.net) or ring 020 7566 2490.



## Become a member

Joining Moorfields gives you the opportunity to support us and get involved in our work.

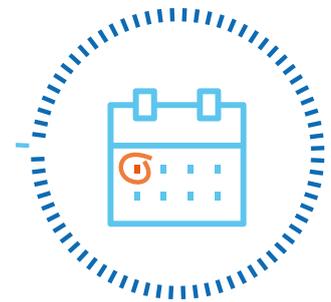
Membership is free and all members can have a say in how the trust develops, giving the community and our patients the opportunity to shape the future of the services we provide.

To become a member, contact [moorfields.foundation@nhs.net](mailto:moorfields.foundation@nhs.net).

## Dates for your diary 2023

### Board of directors

- 26 January
- 23 February
- 21 March
- 27 April
- 25 May



### Membership council

- 1 February
- 4 May

Please email [moorfields.foundation@nhs.net](mailto:moorfields.foundation@nhs.net) to attend (via Microsoft Teams).



## **C O N T A C T U S**

### **Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

162 City Road, London EC1V 2PD

Tel 020 7253 3411

Web [moorfields.nhs.uk](http://moorfields.nhs.uk)

#### **Follow us on**

 @MoorfieldsEyeHospital

 @Moorfields

 @moorfieldsnhs

### **Moorfields Private Outpatient Centre**

9-11 Bath Street, London EC1V 9LF

### **Moorfields Private Admissions and Refractive Suite**

Fourth Floor, 162 City Road, London EC1V 2PD

Tel 020 7566 2803

Email [enquiries@moorfieldsprivate.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@moorfieldsprivate.co.uk)

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### **Moorfields Eye Charity**

162 City Road, London EC1V 2PD

Tel 020 7566 2565

Email [moorfields.eyecharity@nhs.net](mailto:moorfields.eyecharity@nhs.net)

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### **Friends of Moorfields**

162 City Road, London EC1V 2PD

Tel 020 7251 1240

Email [friends@moorfields.nhs.uk](mailto:friends@moorfields.nhs.uk)

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