



Pears

In association with



Building

Issue 10 December 2018



Building starts to take shape

An explosion of colour

Schools get designs on science

The construction site takes on a new look as schools and the institute work together to explain the science in an art display

A series of graphic panels have been installed across the hoarding around the embryonic Pears Building to tell the story of the research that will be conducted in the new facility aimed at improving treatments for patients.

A series of professionally-designed panels explaining the science have been enhanced with artwork from students at two local schools who were visited by one of the IIT's researchers who researches viruses.

The images overleaf tell the story of a collaboration between science and students to help inform passers-by of the work in the new Pears Building that will find new treatments for patients.

Inside we devote two pages to the wonderful results of this collaboration.

We will be producing an extra issue in January to bring you more news of the work of the IIT.

Schools get designs on science

Dr Joe Grove, a researcher at the IIT, visited two local schools to explain the work of the institute, particularly as it relates to viruses. The students were then asked to produce some images representing their understanding of the science he had explained.

Joe said: "We asked the pupils to create art inspired by the microscopic world or viruses and antibodies. The results were fantastic. The artwork is a great fusion of biology and creativity; not only do they look great but they're scientifically accurate".

"It was very rewarding to work with the pupils, they asked such great questions, I'm sure there are some budding Einsteins (and Picassos) among them!"



Student Toby Driskell-Poole



Student Hermione Carpenter



Student Kira Dillon



communi

Here, pupils from the Royal and Fleet Primary School have shared us their take on the battle between viruses and antibodies.

Professor Hans Stauss, director of the IIT, with students from the Royal Free Hospital Children's School.



Professor Hans Stauss



Chris Burghes

Reflections 2018

Professor Hans Stauss, director of the IIT, and Chris Burghes, chief executive of the Royal Free Charity, which is funding the new building, reflect on 2018 and look forward to the year ahead.

Hans Stauss

This year saw the transformation into reality of an idea that was conceived 10 years ago for a world-class research institute that would work closely with clinical teams and patients to understand the causes of disease and develop new medicines. Key to this vision is a strategic partnership between University College London and the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust to build the most modern facility to perform patient-focused research.

The award of strategic funding from the UK government, combined with excellent support from the Royal Free Charity and generous philanthropic gifts from the Pears Foundation, Wolfson Foundation and other donors, have made the transformation possible.

As director of the Institute I am particularly proud of the "Medicine for Members" event in 2018 at which patients with diabetes and inherited defects of the immune system spoke in public about why the IIT's research will be so important to those suffering from these conditions.

Another highlight was the IIT's school open day, during which about 100 A-level students came to learn about clinical research and the career of scientists and doctors. We also visited local primary schools to discuss with students how the human immune system attacks viruses. This inspired the students to produce the fantastic art work on these pages representing their interpretation of the research, which is now displayed for the public on the hoardings around the building site.

The start of construction of the Pears Building paves the way for clinicians and scientists to work more closely with our patients to accelerate the development of new types of medicine for diseases that are currently incurable. I look forward to us all taking the next steps in this exciting journey.

Chris Burghes

The past 12 months have been as rewarding a time as I can remember while I have been chief executive of the Royal Free Charity. It was a long journey to get to this point, but it was a great moment in January when we signed the contract to start the building works.

The same month I spent some time on one of the hospital's wards speaking to patients who will benefit from the scientific discoveries generated by researchers working in the building.

They spoke with enthusiasm about the impact of what we are doing and how it can change lives. I was amazed at even how the smallest discovery can influence people's both physical and mental wellbeing. It was their passion and motivation that I think about every time I attend meetings or speak to people about the building.

In my role I am lucky to see the daily change in the site as the building starts to take shape. And, although we've had a series of construction milestones through the year, it was the "bottoming out" ceremony in October that brought home to me how much has changed this year.

In this, the 70th year of the NHS, we are building a facility that will help patients across the health service benefit from better treatments. The fact that this is all happening at our hospital, the Royal Free, is something that fills me with pride. We're all working to ensure that 2019 proves to be just as rewarding.

Do you have any feedback on this newsletter?

Please contact rf.pearsinfo@nhs.net with your comments