

St Mark's Hospital
Foundation

February Newsletter



February Newsletter Contents

- ['Boomers' Research Project Featured on BBC Breakfast](#)
- [Fundraising Feature: Beki & Isobelle's Story](#)
- [Lynch Syndrome Transformation Project Update](#)
- [The Final Push—Help Us Reach Our Campaign Goal!](#)
- [A Quick & Easy Way to Support St Mark's](#)

'Boomers' Research Project Featured on BBC Breakfast



"We believe that our unique resource of historical tumour samples at St Mark's Hospital will open a window to new approaches to prevention of bowel cancer in the young"

- **Professor Kevin Monahan**, St Mark's Gastroenterologist (pictured above)

According to Bowel Cancer UK, bowel cancer is currently the fourth most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the UK. While national screening programmes have helped reduce cases in older adults, young people are being diagnosed at unprecedented levels. In the UK, diagnoses of under 50s are projected to double between 2010 and 2030.



The 'Boomers' research programme, a collaboration between St Mark's Hospital and the Institute of Cancer Research, is trying to determine the cause of this massive increase in cancer rates amongst young people. By comparing tens of thousands of tumour samples from the St Mark's archives to present day

cancer cases, researchers are looking to determine whether specific environmental factors are responsible for the increase in diagnoses.

St Mark's Hospital has over 190 years of experience in colorectal and intestinal disease. The Boomers project demonstrates the value of this legacy and St Mark's ability to combine historical expertise, clinical excellence, and a strong collaborative ethos to create opportunities for cutting-edge research.

[Read the Full BBC Article Here](#)

Fundraising Feature: Beki & Isobelle's Story



We're so grateful to the mum and daughter duo for their fundraising efforts over the last year and to Beki for sharing their family's experience with St Mark's.

"I'm running the Manchester Half Marathon with my daughter, Isobelle, to raise money for St Mark's Hospital, a place that has saved my mum's life twice. Their amazing care has given me more time with my mum, a woman who has been a huge role model throughout my life. Her constant support has

shaped who I am today.

When I was 6, my mum's life was saved by the incredible team at St Mark's. I remember how scary it was for me and my brother. We were so little, and being apart from our mum while she was in hospital for such a long time was hard. Then, just last year (and nearly 40 years later) my mum was back at St Mark's again, facing another life-threatening challenge. The hospital's care was just as amazing, with everyone from the doctors, nurses, nutrition team, physios, and the lady who cleaned her room all being so kind. Every single one was inspirational in their own way! Twice now, St Mark's has given me more time with the woman who has shaped so much of my life.

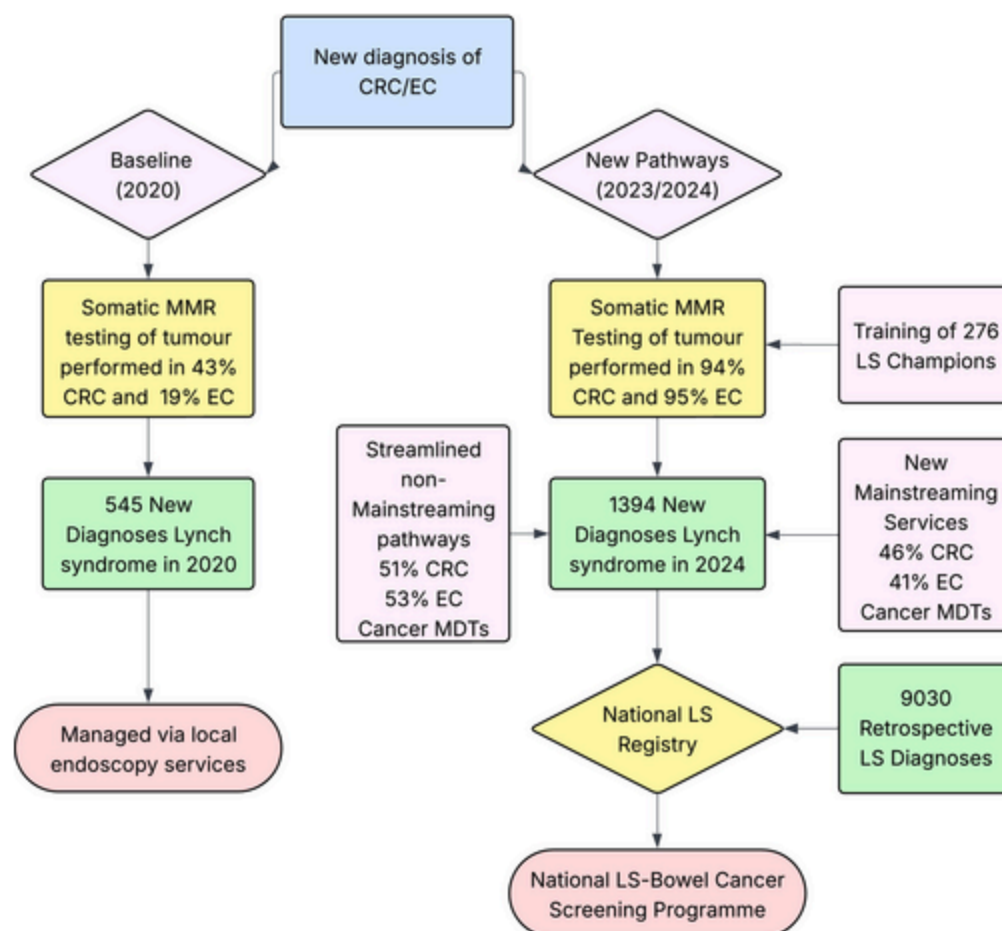
Running this half marathon with Isobelle is about more than just raising money for the hospital that saved my mum's life, it's about celebrating people who inspire us, whether that's the incredible medical team at St Mark's or my mum herself. "



Are you interested in taking on a fundraising challenge to support St Mark's Hospital Foundation this year?

Find upcoming events for all ages and ability levels on our [Run for Charity](#) page, or email us at info@stmarkshospitalfoundation.org.uk for more information.

Lynch Syndrome Transformation Project Update



The 'Lynch Syndrome transformation project' team published an article on 11 January 2026, reporting an incredible 255% improvement in Lynch syndrome diagnosis across England over the last 4 years.

The Lynch Syndrome and Family Cancer Service at St Mark's Hospital is a UK leader in genetic testing for Lynch and was integral to the creation of an English National Lynch Syndrome Registry.

Finding people who have Lynch Syndrome is the first step toward personalised screening pathways for cancer prevention. More diagnoses means more opportunities for risk mitigation, early intervention, and tailored treatment options for colorectal and several other types of cancer in people with Lynch.

The overwhelming success of this project and the creation of a National Lynch Registry is expected to enable "systematic risk-reduction on a scale unprecedented worldwide".

[Take a Look at the Research Findings](#)

The Final Push—Help Us Reach Our Campaign Goal!



A major THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to our 2025 seasonal appeal. Your generosity helps St Mark's to continue its vital work, which is making a difference for thousands of individuals affected

by complex, and rare, bowel diseases.

The St Mark's Difference has raised £13,000 so far. Please help us with this final push to reach our campaign goal of £15,000.

With your support, we can continue to:

- Invest in more research pushing the boundaries of what is possible for patients.
- Fund the costs of our research fellows, the future leaders in gastroenterology and colorectal surgery.
- Deliver an annual programme of education which is helping to improve standards of care.

Every single donation, no matter the size, helps to transform lives. If you'd like to support us today, please visit our [JustGiving page](#).

[Support the St Mark's Difference](#)

A Quick & Easy Way to Support St Mark's

Support St Mark's Hospital Foundation on [easyfundraising](#) this year!

Shop online with over 8,000 retailers and raise FREE donations. It's quick, easy, and takes just 2 minutes to sign up. Every contribution makes a BIG impact!



Thank you for supporting research, education and innovation at St Mark's, the UK's national bowel hospital.

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