

St Mark's Hospital
Foundation

June Newsletter



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St Mark's Hosts First Use of New AI Surgery Tool

Surgeons at St Mark's Hospital have become one of the first medical teams in the UK to use a new artificial intelligence system that colour codes internal anatomy during live surgery.

The technology, known as the Eureka system, analyses the surgical field in real time and overlays colours onto structures such as nerves, connective tissue, and other critical anatomical features. By doing so, it aims to enhance precision, reduce the risk of accidental injury, and support surgeons during complex procedures.

The system was used for the first time this month by St Mark's Consultant Surgeon and Director for Innovation, Mr Kapil Sahnan, during a bowel resection on a woman in her 60s with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).



"You have this kind of extra helping arm with artificial intelligence running at the same time as your surgery, preventing errors and making everything a lot more safe. And we were the first hospital in the world outside of Japan to use it."

- Mr Kapil Sahnan

St Mark's Consultant Surgeon & Director for Innovation

The introduction of real time AI guidance marks a significant shift in how surgeons may navigate anatomy in the future and showcases St Mark's position as a world leader in colorectal surgery.

Mr Sahnan compared the leap to the transition from paper road atlases to modern digital navigation apps—an evolution from static reference to dynamic, moment by moment support. The hope is that such technology will reduce complications, shorten operating times, and improve outcomes across a wide range of procedures. Early use suggests the system can identify structures faster than the human eye, offering a safety net during intricate dissections.



St Mark's surgeons performing a bowel resection using the colour-coded AI overlay of patient anatomy | Photo by James Manning, PA Wire

St Mark's Hospital is working with partners to develop more uses for the device and evaluate the system's impact. While still in its early stages, the technology has the potential to become a standard tool in operating theatres worldwide.

If adopted at scale, AI assisted visualisation could represent one of the most significant advances in surgical safety in decades—bringing a new level of clarity to some of the most challenging moments in modern medicine.

[Read More About Innovation at St Mark's Hospital](#)

My Life in the Bathroom – Memoir of an Ulcerative Colitis Warrior



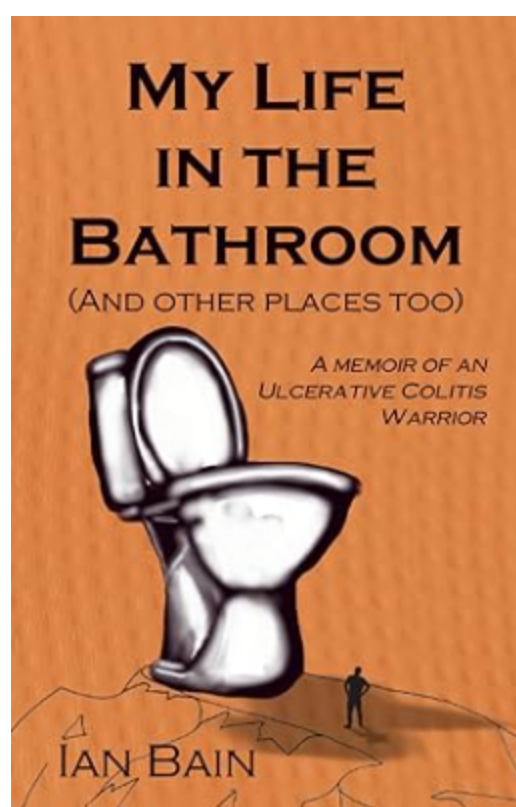
Last month, on World IBD Day, we were excited to welcome author, Ian Bain, to St Mark's Hospital to talk about his new book 'My life in the bathroom – memoir of an ulcerative colitis warrior'.

Ian shared some of his story with the Foundation and his thoughts on writing a memoir to raise awareness of IBD.

" I had lifesaving stoma surgery at Great Ormond Street in my teens, but I couldn't bring myself to accept it. I was anxious and mentally struggling. By creating my J-Pouch, St Mark's saved my sanity; I could suddenly see a future worth living.

Before the surgery, I felt isolated, lonely, and constantly fearful. I wanted someone to look up to who had been through the same thing—someone who could show me it would be okay.

I wrote my book initially for my teenage self, to give me the heroic figure I craved. But that wasn't enough; I want to ensure no one else has to go through their journey alone, and to help them feel they can be their own hero, too."



We are incredibly grateful to Ian for donating several copies of his book to St Mark's Hospital Foundation. The proceeds from their sale will go to support crucial research that will make a difference in the lives of individuals with complex, and rare, bowel diseases.

" My donation to St Mark's is my thank you for giving me a fulfilling and wonderful life."

- Ian Bain

[Get Your Signed Copy of Ian's Book](#)

St Mark's Intestinal Rehabilitation Unit Staff Awards

St Mark's Hospital Foundation is proud to support research and education at St Mark's Hospital which helps our clinical colleagues

provide unparalleled care to patients from across the country. Recently, we were excited to recognise excellence in the St Mark's Intestinal Rehabilitation Unit.



The Intestinal Rehabilitation Unit (IRU) at St Mark's is currently one of only two national centres specialising in the area of intestinal regeneration and rehabilitation. The IRU is dedicated to the assessment and care of patients with severe intestinal failure from across the UK.

In May, the IRU held their annual awards ceremony to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the team over the past year and recognise the hard work, compassion, and resilience shown by every member as they provide excellent care to their patients.

Clinical nurse manager, Sarita Dhamala-Bhatta shared with us,



"At the heart of our team is a shared belief that every voice matters, every individual is valued, and everyone plays an essential role in making a meaningful difference to the lives of our patients, families, and colleagues. Together, we look forward to continuing our shared journey of excellence, support, innovation, and outstanding patient care for the future."

Congratulations to the winners!

Thank you to the whole IRU team for their extraordinary work for our patients and communities.

[Help Us Support Clinical Excellence at St Mark's](#)

Dr Ahmad is Climbing Ben Nevis!



Dr Ahmir Ahmad is a gastrointestinal endoscopist and luminal gastroenterologist who was appointed to the consultant staff at St Mark's Hospital in 2023.

An avid beekeeper and dedicated clinician, Dr Ahmad is combining his passion for both bees and

bowels by climbing Ben Nevis to fundraise for two causes that mean a lot to him. He shared his thoughts with the Foundation:

"As a Consultant Gastroenterologist at St Mark's, a world leader in bowel care for more than 190 years, I see first-hand the transformative impact of its patient care, research and innovation. Beyond medicine, I'm also a passionate

beekeeper and I've come to appreciate the similarities between these two worlds: both rely on the health of complex, interconnected communities, whether cells in the gut or bees in a hive.



Your support will help St Mark's continue its pioneering work."

We are incredibly grateful that Dr Ahmad has decided to raise funds for St Mark's Hospital Foundation and help us support crucial research in gastroenterology and colorectal surgery.

[Support Dr Ahmad's Fundraiser Here](#)

Register Now for the London Landmarks Half Marathon



Are you interested in taking on a physical challenge to support St Mark's Hospital Foundation and help us make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals with complex, and rare, bowel diseases?

Places are now available for the 2027 London Landmarks Half Marathon!

This is a closed road, central London run and is the only half marathon to go through both the City of London and City of Westminster. From cultural landmarks and heritage to the city's quirky and hidden secrets,

runners get to explore the capital on a route like no other!

Every registrant will receive a St Mark's branded top and one-on-one support from the St Mark's Hospital Foundation team to help make your fundraiser a success.

Email us at info@stmarkshospitalfoundation.org.uk for more information or with any questions.

[Register Now for London Landmarks Half Marathon](#)

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

[Donate to St Mark's Hospital Foundation](#)



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