

Why Our Research Is More Important Than Ever



For 185 years St Mark's Hospital has been helping improve the health related quality of life for people with complex and rare bowel diseases. As a tertiary referral centre for complex conditions 60% of our patients have been referred to St Mark's to receive specialist care. Our clinical teams are the experts when it comes to anything related to bowels and St Mark's has been recognised by Newsweek Magazine as among the world's leading specialist hospitals. St Mark's is also the only centre in the UK with a specialist Complex Cancer Clinic and Polyposis Registry dating back to 1924.

“Our international reputation has been built upon providing the best diagnosticians, highest level of care and most effective treatments. Our gastro medical and nursing teams should be rightly proud of the recognition that their work as gained.” – Omar Faiz, Clinical Director of St Mark's Hospital.

Our charity, St Mark's Hospital Foundation, is dedicated to supporting research, education at innovation at St Mark's, the UK's national bowel hospital. We are committed to helping raise awareness and vital funding for projects that will deepen the understanding of complex and rare bowel diseases.

Research

At any one time St Mark's financially supports as many as 30 Research Fellows undertaking a variety of projects covering IBD, bowel cancer and other complex bowel diseases. These projects are reliant upon charitable support and in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic; our research has become more important than ever. Recent research projects have a focus on the development of personalised medicine; with all of our research having the potential to drive clinical improvements for patients.

Education

Our charity also supports St Mark's Academic Institute which attracts practitioners from across the UK and overseas who undertake research at the Hospital offering a multidisciplinary approach to individual patients combining both medical and surgical expertise with specialist nursing and paramedical skills.

Innovation

Embracing new technologies: Surgical Robotics Research Programme

Since 2017, St Mark's has positioned itself to become one of the only hospitals in the UK to offer robotic colorectal surgery while also researching the techniques efficacy and training other surgeons. Currently, St Mark's has 5 robotically trained surgeons.

Research on the cutting-edge: Tissue Engineering/Bowel Regeneration

This pioneering research has the potential to improve the lives of patients with IBD by generating alternative healthy bowel tissue to replace that lost by disease. This would avoid the need for organ donation because

the stem cells used to grow the new bowel would come from the patients themselves. The early data is promising and this research offers hope to thousands of patients who have lost large amounts of their bowel due to disease or trauma.

Contact the Team

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Your donations help support pioneering research at St Mark's, the UK's National Bowel Hospital. Please consider making a donation to help support our vital work.