

Shaping the future of medicine

Philanthropy at the
Royal College of Physicians



Royal College
of Physicians



'Ever since our founding in 1518, philanthropy has been at the heart of the Royal College of Physicians. Our work is strengthened every day by the generosity of our current members, fellows and supporters. Your support helps us champion clinical excellence, foster leadership, advance equity and preserve the stories that shape our profession.'

Thank you for helping us continue to improve health and healthcare across the world.'

Professor Mumtaz Patel, president, Royal College of Physicians

Introduction

For more than five centuries, the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) has stood at the forefront of medical progress – shaping clinical practice, advancing knowledge and supporting physicians to improve patient care around the world.

From our earliest benefactors in the sixteenth century to today's global community of supporters, philanthropy has played a defining role in this story. It has built libraries and learning spaces, supported pioneering research and education, and preserved one of the world's most important medical heritage collections.

Today, philanthropy continues to drive our mission – powering global health partnerships, clinical research fellowships, physician wellbeing, public health advocacy, digital innovation, and programmes that embed equity, patient voice and inclusive leadership at the heart of medicine.



Transforming health through philanthropy

How visionary giving shapes the future of medicine

Every gift to the RCP helps turn medical possibility into reality – strengthening clinical excellence, improving patient care and supporting physicians in the UK and around the world. Philanthropic giving enables the RCP to:



Develop **physician leaders**
and support workforce
wellbeing



Expand **global health**
programmes and partnerships



Champion equity and **patient
voice** in healthcare



Drive **clinical research**,
innovation and education



Preserve the **heritage and
values** that define the
medical profession



Ensure that medicine remains
compassionate, evidence
based and equitable





If you're inspired to explore how your support could help shape the future of health and medicine, or safeguard our shared past, we would be delighted to work with you to bring this to life.



Impact case studies

Here are a few examples of how philanthropy is shaping the future of medicine – and why your support makes a difference.

The Jeelani Drabu Palliative Care Programme

Expanding compassionate care in Pakistan, and Kashmir, India

The Jeelani Drabu Palliative Care Programme, made possible by the generosity of the late Dr Ghulam Jeelani and Mrs Ayesha Drabu, is transforming access to compassionate palliative care in Pakistan and Kashmir, where such services are still limited. Pakistan and Kashmir were formative in Dr Jeelani and Ayesha's lives and giving back via education meant a great deal to them both.

The Drabu family chose to invest their donation with the RCP because of its international reputation, educational expertise and collaborative approach. Their vision was deeply personal: their father, born in Kashmir and educated in Lahore, built his life in the UK, where his son-in-law later received

exceptional palliative care. Inspired by this experience, the family wanted to help bring the same compassion, dignity and care to people in Pakistan and Kashmir, India, where access remains limited and inconsistent.

Working with local clinicians and supported by the RCP's Global team, the programme has already:

- trained specialist palliative care nurses and doctors
- developed culturally sensitive educational resources
- strengthened clinical leadership and local networks
- raised national awareness and advocacy for palliative care as a discipline.

The Jeelani Drabu Palliative Care Programme honours Dr Jeelani and Mrs Drabu's legacy and stands as a powerful example of how philanthropy, rooted in personal experience, can lead to sustainable change for communities most in need.



'We are proud to support the RCPs global health work. It is incredibly rewarding to see the real measurable impact our parents' gift has made'

Dr Reefat Drabu and
Dr Yasmin Naqushbandi



Royal College of Physicians



The Sir Michael Perrin lecture and research scholarship

Inspiring dialogue, research and leadership in global health

Established in the late 1980s through a generous endowed gift, the Sir Michael Perrin lecture honours the values of international collaboration and medical research to drive progress. Each year, distinguished speakers address urgent issues at the intersection of health, society and equity, from the impact of climate on health to decolonising global health.

This enduring gift continues to spark critical thinking, broaden perspectives and inspire action among physicians and health leaders, encouraging them to confront complex challenges and work collaboratively towards solutions.

In doing so, it recognises the life and values of Sir Michael Perrin CBE,

a devoted public servant and advocate for international partnership. Throughout his varied career – which spanned the discovery of polythene, the development of the atomic bomb, rebuilding Wellcome Foundation Ltd (the pharma company) and leading Barts Hospital – there were two consistent themes: the importance of investing in research and the need for international collaboration.

Building on this legacy, the Perrin family and the RCP have recently expanded the fund's purpose to establish a new annual Sir Michael Perrin research scholarship. The scholarship supports resident doctors early in their careers to get a taste of medical and health services research, helping to spark an interest and encourage the next generation of clinical academics and future leaders.

Together, the Sir Michael Perrin lecture and research scholarship stand as an example of how endowed philanthropy can inspire ideas, support emerging talent and shape advances in medicine, creating lasting impact.



'My father believed deeply in the power of international cooperation and public service. It means a great deal to our family that this lecture series continues to reflect those values.'

Charles Perrin CBE HonFRCP,
son of Sir Michael Perrin

Championing the patient voice

Development of the Patient and Carer Network

Patients and carers bring vital insight to the way healthcare is designed and delivered. With thanks to a generous philanthropic gift from Dr Eric Watts FRCP, the RCP has been able to place these voices at the centre of our work through the expansion of our Patient and Carer Network (PCN).

This diverse group of individuals with lived experience works alongside physicians to shape policy, guide priorities and inform professional standards. Eric's support has helped the network to grow in both size and diversity, providing members with training and support to share their perspectives confidently and effectively.

The impact can be seen across the RCP, from education programmes and policy development to our long-term strategy, ensuring that the patient voice is present where it matters most.

Through Eric's philanthropic support, the RCP is strengthening patient and public involvement in professional medicine, setting a standard for healthcare organisations across the UK and beyond.





'I support the Royal College of Physicians because it is where doctors come to learn, improve and uphold the highest standards of care. Becoming a doctor is only the beginning – the RCP ensures that physicians continue to grow, share knowledge and lead advances in medicine. My own experience as a patient taught me the importance of openness and partnership in healthcare, and I am proud that the RCP champions patient-centred care. Philanthropy plays a vital role in supporting progress, improving education and strengthening patient-centred care, ensuring that future doctors learn not only from science, but from the people they treat.'

Dr Eric Watts FRCP

The Linacre Wall

In 1518, the great Renaissance scholar and physician Thomas Linacre encouraged Henry VIII to establish a College of Physicians. Linacre was extraordinarily forward-thinking: his original aims – to regulate and educate those who practise medicine – still guide us today, a claim that few institutions can make after 500 years.

Displayed at the heart of the Royal College of Physicians in London, the Linacre Wall is an inspiring tribute to those who support the future of medicine through philanthropy.

Named in honour of Thomas Linacre, the wall celebrates those whose generosity reflects the same spirit of vision and leadership.

Each named brick commemorates a gift of £1,518 or more, a figure chosen to mark the year that our royal charter was granted.

Whether made in your own name or in honour of someone who has inspired your medical journey, a Linacre brick offers a visible, lasting and deeply personal way to be a part of the RCP's enduring legacy. Donations can reflect the area of our work that matters most to you, from global health and education to flagship campaigns, heritage, or the area of greatest need.

We would be delighted to discuss how you can be part of the Linacre Wall and create your own place in the college's history. To find out more about dedicating a Linacre brick, get in touch with the Development team.



Visit www.rcp.ac.uk/support-us/philanthropy/linacre-wall



Rees & Dr Corinne A Rees
FRCP FRICR, FRCP Hon FRCPCH

Dr Rachel Challenger
FRCP Edin

Dr John David Stevenson Higgins
MD FRCP

Dr John Challenger
FRCP FRCR

Miller

In memory of
Professor Sir Ronald Ernest Tunbridge
OBE FRCP



‘During my 12 years as an officer of the college, I saw how deeply the RCP is guided by quality, sustainability and partnership. Supporting a Linacre brick is a meaningful way to uphold those values – creating something lasting, personal and rooted in the college’s long tradition of collective progress.’

Professor Ali Jawad OBE FRCP

Dr Sophie Tomlinson
BSc FRCP

In memory of
Rachel Wojtulewski
BA (Hons)

Dr Gurcharan Singh Rai
MD FRCP

Professor Stephen John G Semple
MD FRCP

Dr Audrey Spencer Willis
MBChB FRCP

Bowden

Dr Pradeep Sanghi
FRCP AGAF

In memory of
Katherine Soble Emery

The Linacre Wall

Tax-efficient giving

Gift Aid (UK)

If you are a UK based taxpayer, you can increase the value of your donation by 25 % through Gift Aid. For example, a donation of £1,000 can become £1,250 at no additional cost to you. Simply complete a Gift Aid Declaration when making your donation.

If you are a higher-rate or additional-rate taxpayer, you may also be able to claim personal tax relief on your donation via your self-assessment tax return, significantly reducing the net cost of your gift.

Your donation	£5,000	£10,000	£25,000	£100,000	£500,000	£1,000,000
Charity receives (with gift aid)	£6,250 (£1,250)	£12,500 (£2,500)	£31,250 (£6,250)	£125,000 (£25,000)	£625,000 (£125,000)	£1,250,000 (£250,000)
Higher-rate (40%) tax relief	£1,250	£2,500	£6,250	£25,000	£125,000	£250,000
True cost (40% taxpayer)	£3,750	£7,500	£18,750	£75,000	£375,000	£750,000
Additional-rate (45%) tax relief	£1,562.50	£3,125	£7,813	£31,250	£156,250	£312,500
True cost (45% taxpayer)	£3,437.50	£6,875	£17,187	£68,750	£343,750	£687,500

Giving from the USA

Supporters based in the USA can make tax-deductible donations through our partner organisation, the British Schools and Universities Foundation (www.bsuf.org) a registered 501(c)(3) supporting transatlantic giving to UK institutions.

Other ways to give

We are pleased to accept gifts of shares, which can be a highly tax-efficient way to give, often offering relief on both income and capital gains tax.

If you are considering making a gift through a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), we would be glad to work with you and your DAF representative to ensure that your donation is recognised in a way that reflects your intentions.

We also welcome discussions about other types of gifts, such as matched funding, valuable artefacts or gifts in kind.

To explore how to maximise the impact of your gift, or to request a personalised illustration of tax-efficient giving options, our head of philanthropy would be delighted to assist.



Legacy giving

Leaving a gift in your Will is a powerful way to support lasting improvements in health and healthcare.

The RCP has a long history of legacy giving, dating back to our first president, Thomas Linacre, who bequeathed his home to the college in 1524, and William Harvey, who gave his patrimonial estate to the college in 1656.



'I have always believed in the power of medicine to change lives, but that impact relies on strong institutions and committed people. Supporting the RCP through philanthropy is a meaningful way to help shape a fairer, healthier future for the patients and communities we serve.'

Dr Olwen Williams OBE FRCP

The Dorothy Whitney-Wood Legacy

The Whitney-Wood scholarship was founded in 2020 by a generous legacy from Dorothy Whitney-Wood. The scholarship offers up to £50,000 annually towards research projects in all areas of health and medicine, with a particular focus on cancer research.

Though neither Mrs Whitney-Wood nor her husband were associated with the RCP, she chose to leave a significant legacy to aid research, both in memory of her husband and in recognition of the medical care that he received.



Whether you choose to support a specific area of our work or give where the need is greatest, your legacy will be a lasting testament to your values and commitment to better health and will benefit future generations of physicians and patients.

To learn more about leaving a gift in your Will, please visit our Legacy Giving page (www.rcp.ac.uk/support-us/legacy-giving) or contact our Development team for a confidential conversation.



‘The Whitney-Wood scholarship has been instrumental in my investigation of the complex interplay between the immune system and cancer. With this generous support, I am employing cutting-edge technologies to uncover novel therapeutic immune targets and improve patient outcomes in breast cancer.’

Dr Stephen-John Sammut, consultant in medical oncology at the Royal Marsden and clinician scientist at the Institute of Cancer Research.



The Harveian Oration

In 1656, Dr William Harvey – physician, donor, and discoverer of the circulation of the blood – gifted his estate in Burmarsh, Kent, to the Royal College of Physicians. In doing so, he established one of our most enduring traditions: an annual oration and dinner in honour of learning, collaboration and generosity.

Harvey asked that, each year, a distinguished physician deliver an address to further medical knowledge – and that benefactors of the college be formally thanked and celebrated.

More than three centuries later, the Harveian Oration remains one of the RCP's most prestigious occasions, bringing together leaders in medicine to reflect on new ideas and pay tribute to those who support our mission.

We would be honoured to welcome you to join us at a future Harveian Oration and dinner, where we celebrate our supporters and recognise the importance of philanthropy in shaping the future of medicine.





'I support the RCP because its mission reaches far beyond any single programme — advancing medical education, strengthening global health, championing equity and supporting doctors and patients alike.'

Professor Chuka Nwokolo CBE FRCP

Summer garden reception

Each summer, the Royal College of Physicians opens its medicinal garden and historic home in Regent's Park to welcome supporters for our annual Summer garden reception.

This special event brings together fellows, members, friends and philanthropic supporters to celebrate the achievements made possible through generosity and shared commitment to advancing medicine.

Guests can meet the president and senior college officers, connect with fellow supporters and hear firsthand how philanthropic partnerships are strengthening education, research, global health and the wellbeing of physicians and patients.

Set within our renowned medicinal garden – a living collection that reflects centuries of botanical knowledge and healing practice – the reception is an opportunity to reflect on progress, build connections and recognise the vital role that philanthropy plays in shaping better healthcare for all.

We look forward to welcoming those who have supported the college, and those interested in learning more, to join us at this inspiring and enjoyable gathering.



RCP highlights

1518 – College of Physicians created by King Henry VIII

1618 – *London pharmacopoeia* first published to regulate composition of medicines

1627 – Report of hazards of industrial work published

1628 – RCP fellow William Harvey publishes his theory on circulation of blood

1726 – Report on excessive gin drinking published

1859 – MRCP membership examination introduced

1869 – *Nomenclature of diseases* first published

1948 – Major contribution to establishment of the NHS

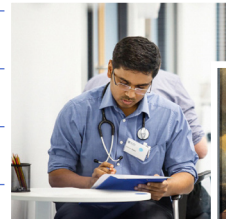
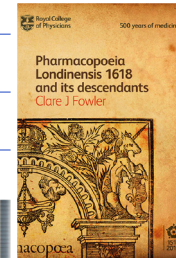
1962 – *Smoking and health* – landmark report published

1968 – MRCP(UK) established as gold standard exam for physicians

2013 – Future Hospital Commission published its vision for the future of healthcare – leading to the launch of the RCP's flagship Chief Registrar Programme

2016 – *Every breath we take: the lifelong impact of air pollution* – landmark report published

2021 – The Spine opens in Liverpool, the RCP's home in the North



Thank you

We are sincerely grateful to all those who support the work of the RCP through philanthropy. Your generosity helps us to take on challenges we could not face alone – supporting doctors, improving patient care and shaping a better future for health.

When you give to the RCP, you join a tradition of leadership and vision that stretches back over 500 years, from our earliest benefactors to today's pioneering supporters. Together, we are preserving the past, transforming the present and shaping the future of medicine.

If you are considering a gift to the RCP, thank you for your interest and your curiosity. We hope that you will feel encouraged by what is possible when we work together, and we would be honoured to work with you to make it happen.

Contact us

Our Development team is here to help you explore how your gift could make a lasting difference and ensure that it is invested in the most impactful way. Whether you are considering a one-off gift, a longer-term commitment, or support for a particular area of our work, we are here to listen, support and help shape a giving opportunity that reflects what matters most to you.

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