

# Saving lives, *together*

Our impact in 2021-2022



**ANTHONY  
NOLAN**

saving the lives  
of people with  
blood cancer



## ***Every day I hear incredible stories from across the Anthony Nolan community.***

The remarkable bravery of four-year-old Esha in the face of leukaemia – and her family’s incredible determination to find the perfect match not only for Esha but for all South Asian patients in need of a donor.

The passion of Femi, who became a donor this year, and shared his story to encourage as many people as possible to join the Anthony Nolan register.

The kindness of clinical nurse specialist Jan, whose support means her patients know they are cared about and for, for as long as they need.

The selflessness of Mary, who has dedicated her life post-transplant to giving other people the second chance of life that she herself has been given.

It’s these stories, and the shared determination, commitment and kindness of the Anthony Nolan community, that make my job such a privilege. And it’s also these stories that keep us urgently working to reach the day when we can save the lives of everyone with blood cancer or a blood disorder.

***Every day we give three people a second chance of life by matching them with incredible strangers willing to donate their stem cells.***

We are living in times characterised by uncertainty. Over the past year, we’ve felt the impacts of Brexit, the pinch of rising costs and the lingering presence of Covid-19. But we’ve remained focused on improving access to treatment, care and support for patients, and developing our understanding of what leads to a successful transplant and better quality of life – including the socioeconomic factors

at play. Getting more donors from diverse ethnic backgrounds on our register, including internationally, is a key piece of this puzzle.

Our staff, patients, donors, volunteers and supporters, and our partners across the wider scientific, stem cell register and cancer charity sectors, made it possible to keep pushing forward this year, no matter the obstacles. Thanks to your passion and dedication, we’re emerging an even kinder, more resilient organisation, more determined than ever to save and improve the lives of everyone who needs a stem cell transplant.

Yet despite the progress we’ve made to grow our donor register and achieve research breakthroughs, not every patient is finding their lifesaving match. People from minority ethnic backgrounds continue to be less likely to find the best possible match from an unrelated donor. And only 51% of adults survive the first five years after transplant. Read on to find out what we’re doing about these very real challenges, and what we have yet to accomplish to change this reality.

In the pages that follow, you’ll also read more about Esha, Jan, Femi and others whose stories have made our work possible.

Together, we’ll arrive at the day when we can save the lives of everyone with blood cancer. **But without you, there is no cure.** So thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being part of our story.

**Henny Braund**  
Chief Executive



# It all started with *Anthony*



Ever since one little boy and his mother, Shirley, sparked a revolution by creating a register of stem cell donors, we've been driven by the same purpose – to save and improve the lives of everyone in need of a stem cell transplant. This is mostly people with blood cancer and blood disorders.

Because of Anthony and Shirley's amazing legacy, we've facilitated over 24,000 transplants since 1974, by matching patients with incredible individuals willing to donate their stem cells and give someone they've never met another chance at life. In the next few years, we expect our millionth person to sign up to our register of stem cell donors.

But we're not satisfied. We won't stop until everyone who needs a stem cell transplant has the support they need throughout their journey, no matter who they are, where they live or what their background is. That's what Shirley and Anthony's legacy means to us today.

Thanks to you, our amazing community of patients, donors, partners, volunteers, supporters and staff, we'll keep working together until we can save the life of everyone who needs a stem cell transplant.

# This year, we focused on *three important things*

1

## Improving access to treatments by making more lifesaving matches.

### *Why?*

Because not everyone has the same chance of getting the match they need. Finding the right donor is more challenging for patients from minority ethnic backgrounds, so we've worked hard to make our register more diverse than ever before.

2

## World-class research to improve survival rates and quality of life.

### *Why?*

Because, while we know that treatment saves lives, *quality* of life depends on a range of factors that aren't yet fully understood. We're changing this by carrying out groundbreaking research.

3

## Being there for patients by improving access to care and support.

### *Why?*

Because whoever you are, receiving stem cell treatments and getting back to normal life afterwards is challenging – physically, mentally and emotionally. Getting the right support and advice is crucial, but not all patients are getting what they need, so we've taken action to give more people access to it.

**Read on to find out how we achieved these things together - and what is still left to do.**

# What we achieved this year: *in numbers*



More than  
**1,350**  
patients given a  
second chance of life.



More than  
**875,000**  
potential donors active  
on the Anthony Nolan  
stem cell register...  
(At the end of 2021/22)

... including more than  
**41,000**  
new sign ups  
aged 16-30.

**26**

countries received  
stem cells for patients  
from Anthony Nolan  
donors.



**£9M**

raised and donated by  
our incredibly dedicated  
supporters and  
partners.



**165**

cord transplants  
facilitated for UK  
and international  
patients.

## The fine print: our 2019-2023 strategy

The results you're reading were made possible by having a crystal-clear idea of where we are as an organisation, and where we are trying to get to.

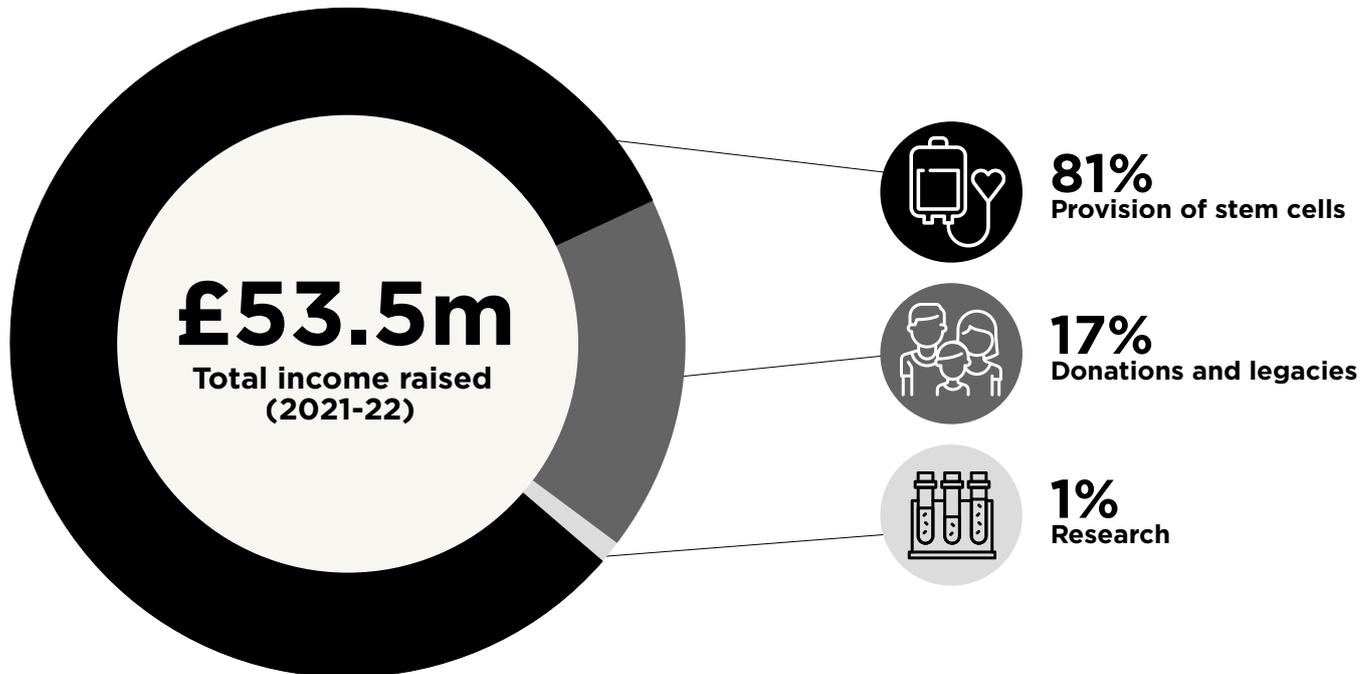
Since April 2019, we've been working against our 2019-2023 strategy '*Together, We Can Save Lives*'. It sets out how we would work with our diverse community of staff, volunteers, funders, supporters, patients, donors, researchers, the clinical community and international registries, to save and improve the lives of more patients. To provide stability during the Covid pandemic, we extended our strategy by a year to March 2023.

For 40 years, we've been pioneers, and our next strategy will keep us bold and ambitious. It will ensure that all the work we're driving forward gets us closer to the day when all patients receive the treatment they need to survive and thrive.

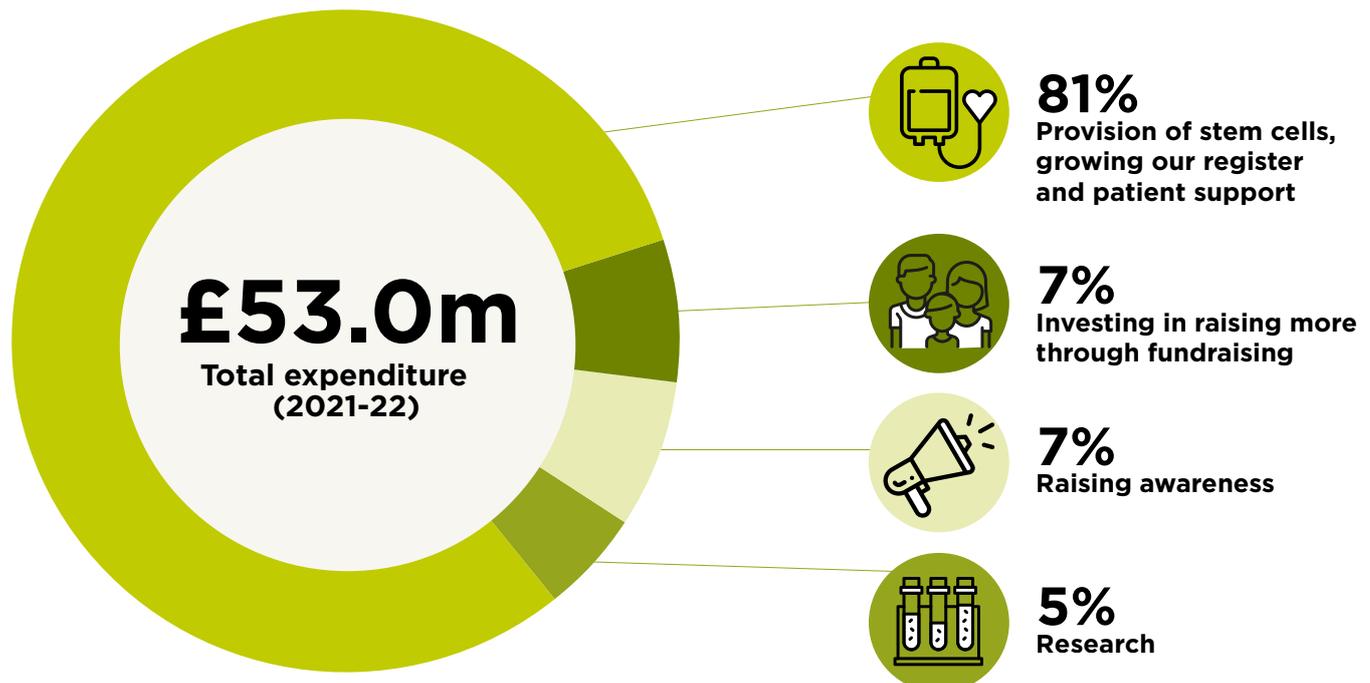
# How we funded our work

Without vital funds, our lifesaving work wouldn't be possible. Here's what we raised and spent to save more patients' lives.

## What we received



## What we have spent



# **Making lifesaving matches possible *for everyone***

## Making lifesaving matches possible *for everyone*

Few things in life can compare to curing someone's blood cancer. That's what our community of donors can do. Our donors are incredible strangers who offer a second chance of life to someone in their most desperate hour.

Our work is about finding the best possible donor matches for patients, giving them the best possible chance of survival and long-term quality of life post-transplant. It's about finding effective alternatives where a transplant isn't possible. And it's about providing the highest standard of support throughout the transplant journey, however long that takes.

**But we still struggle to find everyone their best possible match. People from minority ethnic backgrounds are significantly less likely to find the best possible matching unrelated donor than people from White Northern European backgrounds, and we're not OK with that.**

### What we're doing about it

#### Building the next generation of signups to our stem cell register

- We spoke to 14,500 16-18 year olds in schools and colleges about stem cell, blood and organ donation through our education programme, The Hero Project, with over 1,000 potential donors recruited as a result.
- Over 2,200 potential donors from our younger audience were recruited in the last year through education activity carried out in schools and colleges by our partners, the Adrian Sudbury Schools' Education Trust (ASSET), the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS), the Sue Harris Trust (SHT), the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT) and Race Against Blood Cancer (RABC).

#### Making our register more diverse

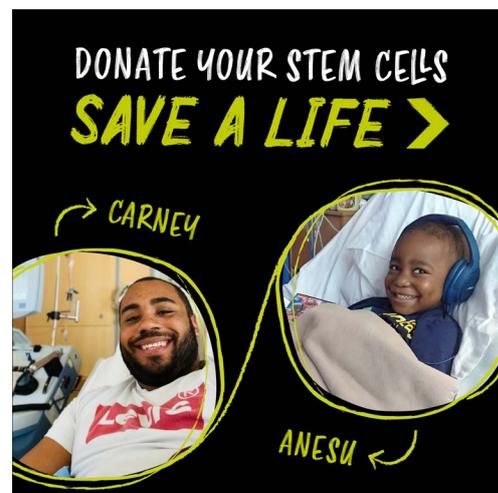
- Ongoing digital recruitment activity focused on our Equal Chance project which inspires young people from minority ethnic backgrounds to sign up to the register. For example, 77% of people who signed up through advertising on The Receipts Podcast come from minority ethnic backgrounds.



Ezra, donating his stem cells in 2021

## Making lifesaving matches possible *for everyone*

- Continuing to work with community-based partners to increase the diversity of our recruitment.
  - Working with the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT) to provide a new role to better engage with the UK's Black community.
  - Funding two Pakistani community partners to join the NHS Blood and Transplant Community Investment scheme, helping community and faith organisations drive awareness and encourage members to join the register.
- Continuing to promote patient stories with appeals for people from specific ethnic backgrounds to join the register.
- Marrow, Anthony Nolan's incredible network of volunteer university student groups, secured over 6,000 new donors this year.



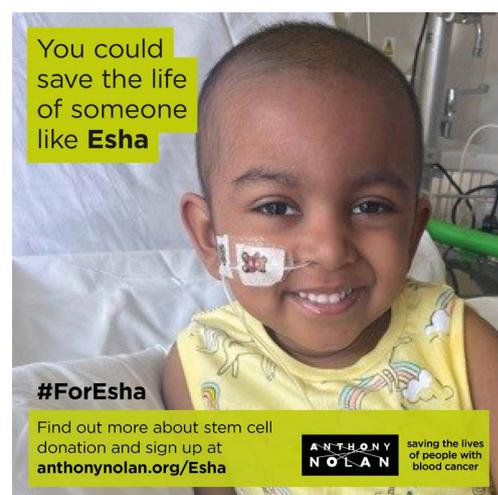
### Expanding treatment options for everyone

- We continued to promote the use of umbilical cord blood for transplantation, and our network of cord collection experts worked across the UK to increase supply of this important resource. This helps to ensure all patients have a viable treatment option, especially patients from minority ethnic backgrounds.
- We collaborated with registers worldwide to give people in the UK the best possible match wherever their donor lives, and to ensure people globally have the best possible treatment.



### What we achieved together this year

- The Anthony Nolan stem cell register grew to 876,130 potential stem cell donors, with 41,202 new donors added aged 16-30.
- We facilitated 1,365 lifesaving stem cell transplants this year, including 128 using cord blood. 26 countries received stem cells for patients which came from Anthony Nolan donors.
- We rolled out CMV (cytomegalovirus) testing at recruitment and worked to enrich existing recruits with CMV data. A total of 145,000 active potential donors on our register are now enriched with CMV data – about 17% of the total.
- We increased our national broadcast coverage by 250%, making sure more people know about Anthony Nolan and are involved in our work – Esha's appeal alone added 1,000 Sri Lankans to the register.



## Making lifesaving matches possible *for everyone*

### CMV - Cytomegalovirus

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a very common virus, often caught during childhood, and is usually harmless. For healthy people, the immune system controls CMV and it lives dormant in the body without causing symptoms (much like chicken pox). After a stem cell transplant, a patient's immune system can be weak and unable to keep CMV at bay as it usually does. The virus is then able to replicate, known as reactivation. CMV reactivation can occur post-transplant and, although it's usually treatable, it can have a negative impact on recovery.

### What's next?

In the future:

- More potential lifesavers will have joined our register, particularly those from our target groups, so that we can find more patients the matching donors they need.
- More people will know about the impact of Anthony Nolan. With the help of our community, we'll have continued to develop exciting and compelling ways to get involved.
- We'll have increased funding through more diverse channels that can sustainably support our ambitious and lifesaving goals.
- We'll unlock the power of technology and digital to drive meaningful engagement and deepen relationships with our supporters.

### CMV

EASY AS:

- 1 Fill in the form ✓
- 2 Do a swab ✓
- 3 Post it back ✓



## Making lifesaving matches possible *for everyone*

### The donor hunt #ForEsha saved her life - and could save so many others

*'It is beautiful to see and hear how many hearts Esha has touched and inspired. We really want to encourage the South Asian and minority ethnic population of the UK to consider joining the Anthony Nolan register because they can really make a difference.'*

#### Esha's family

Esha Nadeswaran's family were devastated when their bright, chatty and princess-obsessed four-year-old was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia. She urgently needed a lifesaving stem cell transplant, but there wasn't a match within her family. Doctors told her family that she needed a matching stem cell donor within two weeks to give her the best chance of survival.

Alongside other charities, we supported the #ForEsha campaign, which Esha's family set up to find the donor Esha urgently needed.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Esha's family, a donor was found for Esha within a few weeks. Since then, Esha and her family have been sharing Esha's transplant journey on Instagram and continuing to raise awareness about the Anthony Nolan donor register, especially encouraging people from minority ethnic backgrounds to register.

Esha was nominated for the Inspiring Hope category of the **Anthony Nolan Supporter Awards 2022** in recognition of her bravery and her family's incredible efforts helping to inspire more than 1,000 people to join a stem cell donor register.

Esha's aunt, a doctor, said *'When we set out to find a bone marrow match for Esha and raise awareness towards the lack of ethnic minority donors on the register, we never could imagine reaching so many people across the world.'*



*Esha, during hospital treatment*

## Making lifesaving matches possible *for everyone*

### Ten years of allowing newborns to be little lifesavers

January 2022 marked 10 years since the first ever cord blood unit was shipped for a patient from the Anthony Nolan Cell Therapy Centre.

Ever since, thousands of incredible mums have been donating their lifesaving cord cells and transforming people's chances of survival.

**Cord blood is special because it can play an important role for people who can't find a suitable adult donor, such as patients with rare tissue types and of minority ethnic backgrounds.**

Because the stem cells found in the umbilical cord are immature, it isn't necessary to have as close a match as needed with an adult donor transplant.

Running a cord centre is expensive, so we established centres in cities with the most ethnically diverse populations – London, Leicester and Manchester – to help us provide more potential matches for patients from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Thanks to the tireless work of teams across collection sites, laboratories and medical services, we have gone on to provide another **285 chances of life**. Happily, the patient who received that first unit a decade ago is still with us today.

10 years  
providing  
cord blood  
units



### What's cord blood?

It's the blood left in the placenta and umbilical cord after a woman has given birth. Cord blood contains lots of stem cells, which can be used in lifesaving transplants and/or cell therapy for people with blood cancers and disorders.

Collection only happens after the birth, when the baby is safely delivered. It's totally risk-free for mothers and newborns.

## Making lifesaving matches possible *for everyone*

### We're on Joshua's team

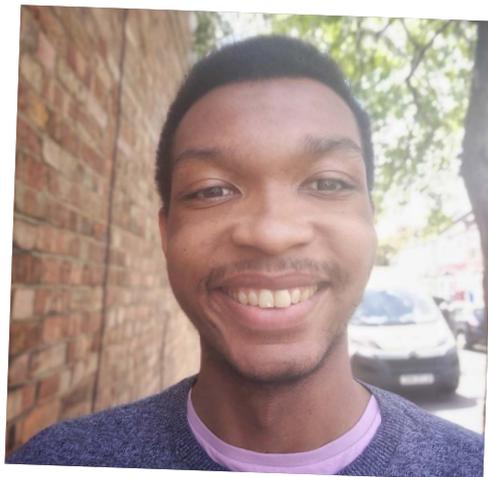
Joshua was a very active 14-year-old and was on his school rugby and athletics teams. After experiencing severe shortness of breath and ongoing symptoms of cold, Joshua was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, a rare and serious blood cancer.

He began chemotherapy immediately. However, when the leukaemia returned, Joshua was told he needed a stem cell transplant, and shortly after, Joshua received stem cells from cord blood.

Now aged 23, Joshua is building his own graphic design business. He says that without his transplant he *'wouldn't be here today'*. Joshua understands that it's much harder for young Black men and women like him to find their lifesaving stem cell donors and is working with Anthony Nolan to help build a more ethnically diverse stem cell donor register.

***'For every person that donates, you're saving someone's life. I wouldn't be here now if someone hadn't done it for me.'***

Joshua



*Joshua, now aged 23*

# **World-class *research***

## World-class *research*

Our research has had a profound effect on thousands of patients' lives. We aspire to be pioneers in discovering the full range of factors that influence the success of stem cell transplants and to be drivers of change by ensuring patients have access to the benefits of research sooner.

We know that the best way to achieve our goals is working together with others. We're very proud to work closely with patients, the clinical community, research bodies and other charities around the world to drive cutting-edge research and ensure our research reflects the needs of patients.

**But we know there is more to learn. We won't rest until we can save the lives of everyone with blood cancers or blood disorders, and give them the long-term quality of life they deserve.**

***'We're at a time in scientific research when we could be on the crest of the next breakthrough. The thought that every day we get one step closer to a discovery that could save thousands of lives gets me out of bed in the morning.'***

Dr Neema Mayor, Head of Immunogenetics Research at Anthony Nolan



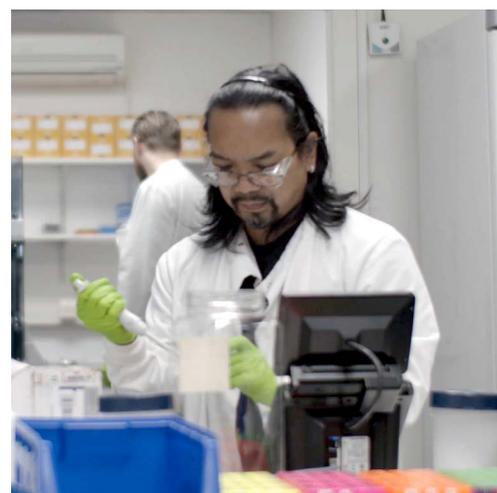
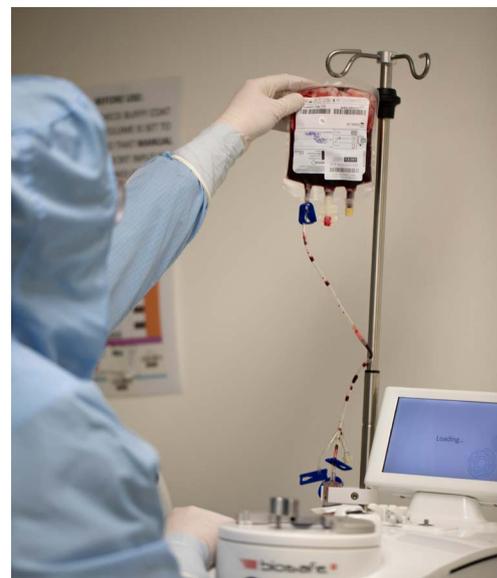
Dr Neema Mayor at the Anthony Nolan Research Institute

### What we're doing about it

This year, we focused on working with others to understand what leads to successful transplants and better quality of life for an increasingly diverse population.

#### Cutting-edge research to make better matches and improve chances of survival

- Alongside industry partners at ONK Therapeutics, we've been focusing on harnessing the power of a type of white blood cell called natural killer (NK) cells, which can target fungal infections in immunocompromised patients, and increase chances of survival.
- We explored how stem cells rebuild the immune system after transplant, and how to find ways to reduce post-transplant complications like acute graft versus host disease (GvHD).
- In partnerships with researchers at the Banc de Sang I Teixits (BST) in Barcelona, we're working to develop an eye treatment to alleviate the dry, gritty and painful symptoms of ocular GvHD using cord blood plasma.



#### GvHD - Graft versus host disease

When you have a stem cell transplant, your donor's cells will form your new blood and immune system. Your immune system keeps your body safe from infections caused by bacteria, viruses and fungi that are not part of you. It also scans your body's own cells and removes any that don't appear to be 'normal', such as those turning into cancer cells.

There are still small differences between your new immune system and other cells in your body after you've had a stem cell transplant. As a result, your growing immune system may harm some of the cells in your own body because it sees them as 'different'. This is called GvHD.

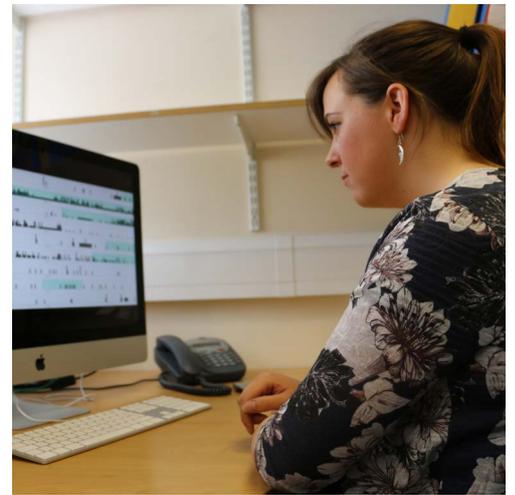
## World-class *research*

### **Analysing transplant data**

Our patient/donor project is analysing the progress of over 2,500 transplants to understanding the genetic and cellular factors that are important when looking for a match. This is helping us identify the factors that influence patient outcomes, which we can use to inform donor selection and recruitment, donor/patient matching and survivorship. Already, this has helped highlight the importance of donor age, so we're now recruiting younger donors.

### **Understanding the UK donor register better**

We continued to use trailblazing bioinformatics to gain insight into the rich genetic variation in the UK donor registry, and to identify gaps that can improve the quality of our stem cell register and inform strategic collaborations with international registries.



### **Bioinformatics**

A relatively new field which utilises computer science, mathematics and biology to address complex biological questions through statistics, building mathematical models of biological processes, and using computer science to store and analyse DNA sequences.

### Supporting global research

We're proud to provide donated stem cells and other blood products from our volunteer research donors to scientists around the world to advance the development of new treatments that have the potential to save and improve the lives of patients.

### Supporting the development and expansion of innovative treatments for patients

- We expanded the diversity of our research donors so that more people have the opportunity to shape treatments of the future. As part of our Cell & Gene Therapy Services, cells from Anthony Nolan research donors (in addition to cord blood and tissue collected through our cord blood programmes) are being used to **support the development of new cell therapies**. These 'living drugs' will provide new treatment options for patients with blood cancer and blood disorders, as well as potential therapies for other conditions.
- We continued to build capacity and capability at our Cell Therapy Centre in Nottingham, including through exploring the efficacy of using cryopreservation to store and preserve cells used in CAR-T therapy. This became particularly valuable during the pandemic lockdowns when collections stopped and banks with frozen materials, like Anthony Nolan's, were some of the only banks able to keep supplying researchers and keep vital work going.



### Cryopreservation

Storing cells at very low temperatures to preserve them in an optimal state for as long as is needed. A home freezer would typically stay at around  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  - we use liquid nitrogen to store cells at  $-196^{\circ}\text{C}$ !

### CAR-T/CAR T-Cell therapy

A patient's own immune cells are collected and modified to fight cancer cells - pretty groundbreaking stuff.

### What we achieved together this year

- We got more patients in clinical trials to help improve the future of treatment and care – in March 2022, the IMPACT clinical trials partnership, of which Anthony Nolan is a founding funder, reached the milestone of 1,000 patients recruited to the seven prospective studies open on the portfolio.
- 373 donors from our volunteer research donor cohort provided their cells for research purposes around the globe.
- The Anthony Nolan Research Institute (ANRI) delivered 40 publications in 2021, with 19 currently published or due in 2022.



### What's next?

- We'll understand more about the factors that influence the success of a transplant, and this will be reflected in clinical practice.
- More transplant patients will be participating in clinical trials, and the findings from these studies will improve treatment and care.
- The Anthony Nolan Research Institute (ANRI) will increasingly be a leading, action-focused platform for patients and the clinical research community, working together to achieve shared goals.
- There will be increased awareness and understanding of our work and its impact among the public, policymakers, and the clinical and research communities.



**Being there  
for patients,  
*for as long as  
they need***

## Being there for patients, *for as long as they need*

Receiving stem cell treatments and getting back to normal life afterwards can be challenging in many ways. The process can be an isolating and financially draining experience for patients and their families. **Currently, not every patient receives the support they need and deserve in order to feel cared for, understood and supported.**

**So this year, we focused on understanding patient needs better, and finding out how to fill in the gaps better in patient care.**

### What we're doing about it

- We provided financial support to patients who needed it:
  - We provide small one-off grants to help with any unexpected costs before, during or after a transplant. This year, we awarded £78,000 in financial grants to 288 patients (April 2021–March 2022).
- We ensured more patients received the treatment they needed in the fastest time possible.
- We rolled out CMV (cytomegalovirus) testing at recruitment for all donors to improve the chances of patient survival and decrease the risk of post-transplant complications.
- We improved clinical care to make sure more patients received the care they needed throughout their transplant journey:
  - We expanded our team of funded Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) and Clinical Psychologists (CPS) who offer expert, tailored support to patients at every stage of their transplant journey.
  - We began work to make our suite of information and cord consent forms more accessible through translation and text-to-speech technology.
  - We continue to support improved clinical guidelines in areas that directly impact patient outcomes.
- We worked with healthcare professionals to enhance knowledge across UK hospitals through our Anthony Nolan x NHS Adoption Programme. In our first year, the programme has welcomed 14 adoptees working to develop knowledge and support for transplant patients across subjects such as supporting patients' transition post-transplant, nutrition, prehabilitation and a range of other important topics.



## Being there for patients, *for as long as they need*

- We brought groups together to make the difference for patients:
  - We launched a joint inquiry of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Stem Cell Transplantation and Advanced Cellular Therapies, and the APPG on Blood Cancer, on the impact of the pandemic on blood cancer services.
  - Through our role as secretariat for the UK's Stem Cell Strategic Forum (UKSCSF), we've brought together patients, clinicians, aligned registry partners, researchers, and industry representatives to develop a long-term strategy for stem cell transplantation and advanced cell therapies.

### What we achieved together for patients this year

- We provided over £10,000 more in financial support to patients than last year. These grants help with costs related to transplants, including travel to appointments and purchasing household equipment to reduce the risk of infection after transplant. In response to the pandemic, grants were expanded to support people shielding or unable to work.
- We provided support to more people, and improved the accessibility of that support. Referrals to our funded Telephone Emotional Support Service went up by 25%. Our Patient Helpline, email, and forums have seen similar increases in enquiries. We also conducted an accessibility audit and tested translation software on our patient information webpages, which we will apply to the whole site in the coming year.



## Being there for patients, for as long as they need

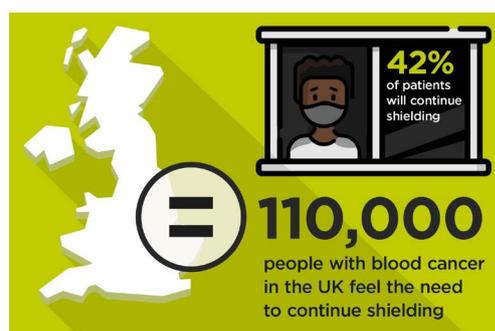
### We won't let transplant patients be left behind

We knew that the Coronavirus pandemic would have far-reaching and long-lasting impacts upon transplant patients. As others re-emerged from lockdown, many patients experienced long treatment delays. Many patients were still shielding for months and were left feeling isolated and struggling with unforeseen costs. Our UK-wide Stop Patients Being Left Behind campaign shone a light on the lack of financial and practical support for immunocompromised people during the pandemic. We refused to let patients be left behind – the campaign secured key changes in vaccination policy.

### What's next?

In the future:

- The time to transplant will have been reduced, meaning that patients receive the treatment they need in the fastest time possible, giving them the best chance of survival.
- More patients will receive the care they need throughout their transplant journey, thanks to our innovative services and advocacy.
- Our decades of expertise and unique infrastructure will help drive the development of innovative new treatments for patients.
- We'll have secured tangible changes to policy and practice, ensuring more patients receive the best possible care and treatment across the UK.
- We'll be even more powerful advocates, using our expertise and voice to protect and promote the interests of patients – including in the development and application of innovative treatments.



## Being there for patients, for as long as they need

### There for Victoria throughout the journey

Jan is a Clinical Nurse specialist funded by Anthony Nolan to support patients, with a particular focus on post-transplant care.

One of Jan's patients is Victoria, who had a transplant as a child. Many years later, during the Covid pandemic, Victoria contracted an infection which triggered an autoimmune response, and she became a patient once again – a frightening experience.

Jan's support has been a source of reassurance to Victoria and her family, especially when Victoria's family couldn't attend appointments with her due to Covid restrictions. *'When I mentioned to them that Jan was there, they just had this massive reassurance, and it was incredible. It's that emotional continuity of having that familiar face and, oddly, looking forward to [appointments].'*

*'I think that one of the great things about my role is that I can be there, at the end of the phone, to listen, support and help someone to navigate the system,'* Jan said.

Having specialist care and kind support can make all the difference for patients on their transplant journey, including long after their transplant has taken place.

***'It feels amazing that Anthony Nolan thinks of the patient at all the different [stages]. You just don't feel alone.'***

Victoria, post-transplant patient



Victoria, coming out of isolation following her transplant in 2002



Victoria, with her boyfriend Will at London Marathon this year

# What didn't we achieve, *and why?*

Challenges and how  
we met them

## Challenges and *how we met them*

Being determined to save the lives of everyone with blood cancer or a blood disorder means constantly learning and growing.

It means understanding what worked well, what's a work in progress and how this should shape our actions in the years to come.

### The challenge

The cost of living crisis is putting additional pressure on patients during an already stressful time. Transplants can result in a lot of expenses – whether that's due to transport, care or resources. Engagement with our patient services team over the phone, email, Facebook and the patient and family forum, has increased from **23,000** in 20/21 to **23,872** in 21/22 – showing that many patients need our support right now.

### What we're doing about it

We've given over £10,000 more in grants this year than last year. We're determined to provide all possible support for patients no matter what tomorrow brings – but to do this, we have to continue to diversify our income streams as an organisation.

***‘When you're given a cancer diagnosis or you're told you need a stem cell transplant, the last thing you want to think about is “can I afford petrol to get to my appointment?”’***

Michelle, Anthony Nolan grant recipient.  
Michelle received a stem cell transplant in 2019 for B cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma.



## Challenges and *how we met them*

### The challenge

The availability and type of donors that exist – the ‘transplant market’ – is constantly changing. We provided 5% fewer transplants from unrelated donors this year than last year.

### What we’re doing about it

Diversifying our stem cell register continues to be our priority, including working with partners when they are better placed to reach the communities we want to target than we are.

We need to constantly evolve to understand the present needs for patients and for transplant centres. Our Aspire Programme is doing essential work to understand the needs and requirements of transplant centres and provide insight into how we can improve our services to ensure everyone who could use an Anthony Nolan donor is able to access one.



### The challenge

Stem Cell and Cell and Gene Therapy have the potential to provide incredible scientific breakthroughs. But this is an emerging and fast-moving area – and as a trusted leader in these fields, we want to ensure the partnerships and research we enable are the right ones.

### What we’re doing about it

We continue to undertake rigorous due diligence checks on our suppliers and ensure that the research that we support and partnerships we pursue are scientifically and ethically sound.

### The challenge

Brexit has created more customs requirements. This has presented many challenges to our Cell and Gene Therapy and Laboratory services. Supply chain issues have affected access to essential equipment, such as our cord collection kits. Brexit has also added barriers to collaboration and affected participation in EU Research Programmes such as Horizon Europe.

### What we’re doing about it

We are proactively seeking opportunities to collaborate on research projects internationally and using our influence to ensure that funding is available and accessible.

# Without you, *there is no cure*

We need more potential lifesavers to join our register, especially people from minority ethnic backgrounds and young men aged 16–30 years old. And we need the ongoing support of our incredible community who power our lifesaving work.

Together, we can reach the remarkable day when we can save the lives of everyone with blood cancer.



## Martha

*'Marrow was one of my favourite things about uni. It felt like such a lovely community of people. I was always so proud of what we achieved every year. I also truly believe it was a significant factor in me getting my placement year and graduation roles.'*

**Martha, Marrow volunteer**

## Jean

*'I have given over a hundred talks in schools and colleges in the Yorkshire region (and in Wales at my husband's old school and one even in Lancashire!), to help young people make an informed decision about whether to become blood, stem cell and organ donors. It's a joy to present to interested and positive young people. My fellow volunteers are an inspiration to work with and have become my friends.'*

**Jean, bereaved family member and volunteer**

## Mary

*'My recovery wouldn't have been possible without Anthony Nolan. I feel like I've got this new chance of life and I want to grab it. I want to let [people going through a transplant] know that there is light at the end of this very dark tunnel.'*

**Mary, transplant recipient and volunteer**



## Femi

*'It's been just an insane journey – such a wonderful honour. If you're thinking about doing this, I would strongly recommend it, particularly from the Black community, because there's a massive shortage. It's an amazing opportunity to make such an impact to somebody's life.'*

**Femi, bone marrow donor**



## Jordan

*'My donation changed me as a human being. Right now, I'm currently studying to be a registered nurse here in Canada, because of my experience. If you're reading this, and you were feeling hesitant about becoming a donor, here's my advice to you. Just do it. I can't even begin to tell you what an amazing feeling it is.'*

**Jordan, stem cell donor**

## Join the register

For someone with blood cancer or a blood disorder, a stem cell transplant from a matching donor could be their last chance of survival. If you sign up to the Anthony Nolan stem cell register and one day come up as a genetic match, you could be that amazing stranger. **Join today:** [anthonynolan.org/help-save-a-life](https://www.anthonynolan.org/help-save-a-life)

# Thank you

Everything in this report is only possible thanks to our incredible supporters – from the committed fundraisers and corporate partners, to dedicated researchers and unstoppable volunteers. Together, we will make sure that more people with blood cancer and blood disorders will not only survive, but thrive.

## THANK YOU

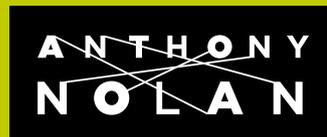
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Find out more at [anthonynolan.org](https://www.anthonynolan.org)

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saving the lives  
of people with  
blood cancer