

**ANTHONY
NOLAN**

saving the lives
of people with
blood cancer

THE ANTHONY NOLAN
NEWSLETTER FOR STAFF
AND VOLUNTEERS

INSIGHT



ISSUE 25 | MARCH 2017

**BEHIND THE
SCENES AT WORLD
CANCER DAY**

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DIRECTOR**

WELCOME TO INSIGHT

WELCOME TO INSIGHT 25

Anthony Nolan's lifesaving work would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of our supporters. Supporters can be staff, volunteers, donors, patients... anyone who goes the extra mile to help save and improve lives.

In this edition of Insight, we look at the latest ways in which people are supporting our work, say 'thank you' to a long-serving volunteer, and find out what led one supporter to go from raising lifesaving funds to recruiting potential donors. Plus the latest figures on our Marrow volunteers' massive contribution, how staff and volunteers helped kick-start our awareness-raising for World Cancer Day 2017, and a look at how we honoured outstanding individuals at the 2016 Anthony Nolan Supporter Awards.

We also get our Medical Director Dr Chloe Anthias's take on our research strategy and what the future holds for the field of stem cell transplantation, and get the latest on our campaign to reinstate funding for second stem cell transplants.

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Cover image:
World Cancer Day 2017 Unity Bands®

MINISTER SEES LIFESAVING RESEARCH FIRST-HAND

In January, the Minister for Public Health and Innovation, Nicola Blackwood MP, visited our Laboratories and Research Institute to learn more about our pioneering work to save and improve the lives of people with blood cancer and blood disorders.

The Minister met Anthony Nolan's Chief Executive, Henny Braund; Dr Katy Latham, Laboratory Director; Professor Steven Marsh, Director of Bioinformatics and Deputy Director of Research; and Emma Paine, Patient Ambassador. Nicola was welcomed with a tour of our SMARTLAB®, including a demonstration of our world-leading Third Generation Sequencing technology, and took part in a discussion about the challenges facing transplant research, including the need for more clinical trials. Emma Paine shared the story of her diagnosis and treatment for myelodysplastic syndrome - including her two stem cell transplants.

Nicola Blackwood MP said: 'Anthony Nolan has been at the forefront of innovation and life-changing treatment for a long time. It was fantastic to see their research institute in action today, and I'm excited to see what they do next.'

Anthony Nolan's Chief Executive Henny Braund said: 'We were glad to have the opportunity to highlight the important work that medical research charities like Anthony Nolan carry out, and share our ambitious aims for the next ten years to improve transplant survival rates and reduce post-transplant complications.'

OUR INFLUENCE IN WESTMINSTER

Awareness of Anthony Nolan continues to increase among Nicola's colleagues in Parliament. In our annual survey of MPs, 44% said that they see us as experts in stem cell research (up from 31% last year).

Additionally, over the last few years MPs have become much more likely to approach Anthony Nolan for a briefing in key areas, including bone marrow donation (62%, up from 54% in 2013), stem cell research (27%, up from 7% in 2013) and blood cancer (12%, up from 4% in 2013).

MPs have also helped us champion key policy issues over the last year. In January, MPs held a debate in the House of Commons on the issue of funding for second transplants, something which really helped raise the profile of the issue.



An exhibition in the House of Commons displaying our work to MPs in 2016.



(Lto R) Professor Steven Marsh, Nicola Blackwood MP, Emma Paine, Henny Braund and Dr Katy Latham holding SMRT cells.

SECOND TRANSPLANT SUCCESS

As *Insight* went to press, we had just got the wonderful news that NHS England would routinely fund second stem cell transplants for patients who relapse one year or more after their first transplant.

In December 2016, NHS England announced it would not routinely fund second transplants for patients whose blood cancer or blood disorder relapses. This meant patients who needed the treatment after relapsing had to hope a rarely-granted Individual Funding Request (IFR) was approved by an independent panel, or fund it themselves. So we rallied patients, clinicians, supporters and the public to tell the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, why no one should be denied access to the treatment that could save their life.

Since we started campaigning on this issue in July 2016, over 25,000 people have taken action in support of funding second transplants; including the thousands of people who signed the latest petition that we launched just five days before NHS England changed their minds on Friday 24 February.

Anthony Nolan's Chief Executive, Henny Braund said:

'This is such fantastic news and means that, every year, around 20 people will be able to access the treatment that could save their lives, and give them a chance to be cured.'

'I want to thank everyone who has played a part in making this a reality - by coming together we have made a difference to people's lives and ensured that the voices of patients have been heard.'

'Tragically, this decision comes too late for those patients who were denied the treatment that could have saved their lives. For others, this has been a source of huge anxiety and concern. But for those patients in need right now, and in the future, this decision offers hope.'

WORLD CANCER DAY AT ANTHONY NOLAN

For this year's World Cancer Day, Anthony Nolan collaborated with nine other charities for an act of unity.

The purpose of the campaign was to raise awareness about cancer by uniting everyone with one iconic symbol – the Unity Band®. Selling these bands enabled supporters to spread the word about our cause, while helping us to raise funds for our lifesaving work. You can buy your Unity bands® for a suggested donation price of £2 - they will be on sale until 30 April 2017 at shop.anthonynolan.org

THE TOP-SECRET MISSION

As part of our campaign, we asked staff and volunteer couriers to take part in our top-secret mission over Christmas. The mission was to pack a band in your suitcase, go abroad (or at least away from home) and take a photo wearing the band somewhere iconic. The idea was to highlight our important work across the world, while providing international content for the launch.

FAMILIAR FACES

You may have seen some of our bands make an appearance on a few famous wrists. Thanks to the work of our Celebrity Liaison, Christine Spooner, celebrities such as Katy Derham, Olivia Colman and Joe Wicks brandished the bands. Our celebrity supporters really value the work that we do, and are keen to give us a helping hand! Spot some of the photos that they posted in our World Cancer Day montage...



The secret mission was a great success, with photos from Hong Kong, Mauritius, York, Australia, Exeter, Paris and Sicily to name a few! Thank you to everyone that took part.

WORLD CANCER DAY IN NUMBERS

3,305

We sold 3,305 bands online since 1 January 2017

10,501

The shop received 10,501 visitors from January-February

62%

62% of our WCD customers were women aged 25-34

£3,566

We received £3,566 in donations, compared to £720 last year

897

people clicked through from Pay Per Click ads

21%

21% of customers from last year bought a band after our email

1,854,661

We reached 1,854,661 people on Facebook

1,553

1,533 people engaged with our video, over double that of last year

SPREADING THE WORD

Thanks to the work of our corporate and community teams, we had four corporate partners and four fundraisers that offered to sell our bands directly to members of the public. We've sent out over 4,000 bands to be sold offline.

The digital team used pay-per-click ads (PPC), emails and social media posts to increase traffic to the website and encourage more sales.

A collective effort from staff and supporters really maximised the impact that our campaign had, including content from our Marrow groups.

The Policy and Public Affairs team took part in a drop-in parliamentary event hosted by Cancer Research UK on 1 February, promoting the charity in the House of Commons alongside Cancer Research UK, CLIC Sargent, Breast Cancer Care, Bowel Cancer UK and Breast Cancer Now.

BEHIND THE SCENES

In 2016, we sold 4,355 bands online and 2,315 offline, selling a total of 6,633 bands. In 2017, we aim to sell 20,000 – that's 13,367 more than last year! Considering how well the campaign was received last year, we decided to raise the bar and aim high.

Our landing page (anthonynolan.org/worldcancerday) was designed and supported by IT, Operations and the Studio. It includes a data visualisation map showing the number of worldwide trips our couriers made last year to deliver stem cells to patients needing a lifesaving transplant. In 2016, this included 890 trips to 21 countries, including Italy, Canada, Australia, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.

The Communications team found people whose stories demonstrate how the World Cancer Day partner charities help people in different ways. For example, the Royal Marsden treated cancer patient Georgina Hayes, while CLIC Sargent provided Georgina with a social worker and Anthony Nolan found a match for her stem cell transplant. The connection between the three charities helped to save and improve her life, demonstrating the importance of collaborative working.

'Anthony Nolan, CLIC Sargent and the Royal Marsden have made a massive difference to my life. I can't put in to words how helpful they've all been.'

Georgina Hayes, received a transplant in 2015

OUR WORLD CANCER DAY PARTNERS



TEAM ANTHONY NOLAN

To top off the success of the campaign, staff at Anthony Nolan united for a team photograph for World Cancer Day.

The Internal Communications team helped spread the word and get staff from Labs, Research and Heathgate to join together in one big group photo, and what a turn out we had!



Q&A WITH DR CHLOE ANTHIAS

‘In my field, the biggest thing really has been improving patients’ access to transplant. For example, ten years ago there were some patients where we had to say: “no we can’t find a good enough match so we can’t do a transplant”. Now that doesn’t really happen.’

Dr Chloe Anthias is Medical Director at Anthony Nolan. *Insight* got Chloe’s perspective as a clinician and found out how she and her team apply their expertise to Anthony Nolan’s lifesaving work.

Tell us something we might not know about the Medical Division?

People might not realise the scope of what the Medical Division does. We have two Medical Officers who are kind of split across Divisions – they’re involved in all the Operational work, both are doing research degrees and I’m also involved in research. We work with lots of different people across various projects – wherever medical input is needed to explain things.

And people may not know that I’m only at Anthony Nolan half the time. The rest of the time I’m at the Marsden being an NHS transplanter – performing clinical transplants, looking after patients on the ward, and doing outpatient clinics. My role at Anthony Nolan sort of needs me to be a transplanter – we often need someone from the transplant community involved to sense-check things.

Sometimes it’s as simple as explaining what a transplanter would think about something. There have been various occasions when I’ve had to say ‘no that won’t work because of x, y and z’.

In my role, I have seen first-hand the impact of NHS England’s decision not to routinely fund second transplants. And unfortunately, I know that the options for people who need second transplants are very tough.

I was peripherally involved in the PPA [Policy and Public Affairs] team’s work to put together the strongest possible case for second transplants, and they’ve done a great job. I’m so pleased with the new decision.

What do you think is the most significant medical breakthrough of the past decade?

In my field, the biggest thing really has been improving patients’ access to transplant. For example, ten years ago there were some patients where we had to say: ‘no we can’t find a good enough match so we can’t do a transplant’. Now that doesn’t really happen. We may decide not to do a mis-matched transplant, but we generally can find an acceptable donor. And outcomes from haplo transplants [a transplant from a partially matched related donor] over the last

ten years have massively improved, with haplo-plus. When the platform for post-transplant cyclophosphamide [an immunosuppressant drug] was established, it allowed us for the first time to be able to get decent immune recovery without horrific GvHD and without having to give so much immunosuppressant you kill the patient.

Are there any of our organisational behaviours that you think are particularly important to our success?

One of the challenges for my team now that there are more trials being done in transplant – there weren’t really any studies for a long time – is keeping up to date with all the data and trying to work out what the studies mean for different patient groups. So it’s that spirit of keeping moving forward. And of course collaboration, working together as a team and communication are essential for my team as we work with so many different people in the organisation.

What is your and your team’s role in delivering the research strategy?

There are a few different ways we’re involved in research. We’ve always worked closely with OPS [Operations and Patient Services] on donor-focussed research – for example donor experience, donor recovery. Then there are things like the Patient/Donor project – anything that makes recommendations that might be applied to clinical transplant, you want to have a physician involved in writing up patient outcomes. And the Medical Officers have their own research projects – at the moment one of them is working on post-transplant immune recovery, while the other is looking at vaccination after the transplant. We’re also involved in sense-checking our overall research strategy. Since our primary aim is to improve the outcomes of patients who require a transplant, we need to have transplanters involved in ensuring it really does.



Dr Chloe Anthias, Medical Director

The IMPACT clinical trials network is a huge piece of work so it has its own Medical Director – Professor David Marks – but hopefully the Royal Marsden will be one of the ‘IMPACT centres’ and I’ll be involved as a clinician. And I’d anticipate being involved in helping interpret stuff that’s coming out of the network and its relevance for Anthony Nolan, and making sure that it’s in line with what we set IMPACT up to achieve.

And what do you think the future holds for the field of stem cell transplantation?

Hopefully, with the novel therapies that are coming out we will be able to treat patients when their transplant doesn’t work. It’s not clear at the moment how some of these therapies will be used. They could be used instead of a transplant, or for relapsed patients as a potential curative thing, or for relapsed patients to get them to transplant. And I think the other thing is to be able to better tailor treatments to people. For example, if a patient has leukaemia we

may use cords more because they do seem to have good outcomes, whereas with treatments for lymphoma it may be that people move more towards haplos. And, as we offer transplant to more and more people and get better and better at being able to pick up even tiny amounts of disease, we’ll be able to say: ‘well you’ve got this specific disease, here’s your personalised transplant pathway.’

The main thing that Anthony Nolan will hopefully have a role in in the next couple of years is establishing transplant trials through IMPACT, and also improving UK data about transplants, which will be instrumental in allowing us to see the results.

FIRST TERM: DONE

For most of us, it may seem like the year has only just begun. For Marrow, the year kicked off back in September with car loads of kitchenware, plenty of beer pong and of course, some lifesaving in between.

FIND A FRESHER. FIND A MATCH.

The Marrow year got off to a flying start, with students heading back to university and Marrowers kicking things off with a brand new campaign: 'Find A Fresher. Find A Match.' Our Marrow volunteers got out on campus, foam fingers in (or on) hand, to raise awareness of Anthony Nolan and the amazing opportunities that volunteering with Marrow presents.

THE (LEGENDARY) MARROW AGM

October might be known to most for autumnal colours and Halloween (or more appropriately Marroween), but in the world of Marrow, October is all about the AGM. This year saw nearly 250 students from over 50 Marrow groups descend on Leeds for a weekend packed with presentations, workshops and of course, celebrations. Highlights included hearing an inspirational talk from Seb Casalotti, who helped to organise an event with Cambridge Marrow earlier in 2016 that recruited 565 people to the register as part of the Match4Lara campaign.

One student who came along said, 'as someone who has never engaged with Marrow before, I felt very welcome and it has made me so excited about the next year!', while another simply said 'Marrow is life'. You can find out more about the AGM from a student's perspective by reading Ellie from Cardiff Marrow's account, at blog.anthonynolan.org

At the AGM, we also welcomed the new National Marrow Committee into post. The new committee members (pictured on the opposite page) volunteer to help support Marrow groups across the country. They've already been meeting regularly with staff from Anthony Nolan to help shape Marrow's future.

LEED(S)ING THE WAY

Our Marrow groups are known for their dedication to donor recruitment, and together they managed to recruit a total of 7,236 potential donors during the first term of this academic year. Leeds Marrow went above and beyond last term, holding eight donor recruitment events which recruited a seriously impressive total of 1,132 potential lifesavers!



Volunteers from new group, Bath Marrow, at a recruitment event.

IS IT A BIRD? IS IT A PLANE?

No, it's 12 Marrow volunteers and two dads. These brave supporters took part in the first ever National Marrow skydive, which saw a total of 14 jumpers raise a whopping £8,308.37! While these heroes were in the sky, Marrow volunteers on the ground once again donned their capes to celebrate Hero Week, recruiting heroes to our register and raising lifesaving funds.

NEWLY MARROWED

The first term of this academic year has welcomed lots of new faces to the Marrow family. We've seen nine new groups set up before the Christmas break, including: Loughborough, Glasgow Caledonian, Sunderland, Winchester, Bath, Salford, Royal Holloway, Northampton and Goldsmiths. Collectively they've recruited a total of 594 potential donors at their events so far, and we can't wait to see what they, and the rest of the groups, have got in store in 2017!

'The reason I love Marrow is it's simple. We contribute directly to patients' lives by helping them find their match. Every extra person we sign up could be that special donor.'

Jemma, the new National Marrow President



Plymouth Marrow's Hero Week event taking off.



The new National Marrow Committee at Anthony Nolan's London office. (L to R) Amy, Emily, Ben, Jemma, Maisie and Jess.

MARROW IN NUMBERS

£ 2 3 , 9 8 7

RAISED BY MARROW GROUPS LAST TERM

£ 8 , 3 0 8

FROM THE FIRST NATIONAL MARROW SKYDIVE

7 , 2 3 6

POTENTIAL LIFESAVERS RECRUITED LAST TERM

2 5 0

STUDENTS CAME TO THE AGM IN OCTOBER

5 9

ACTIVE MARROW GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

3 6

MARROW DONORS DONATED LAST TERM

2 6 %

OF ALL DONORS DURING THAT TIME

GREAT SCOTS

Bill Thompson is a great example of the unique ways in which our supporters in Scotland help us with our lifesaving cause.

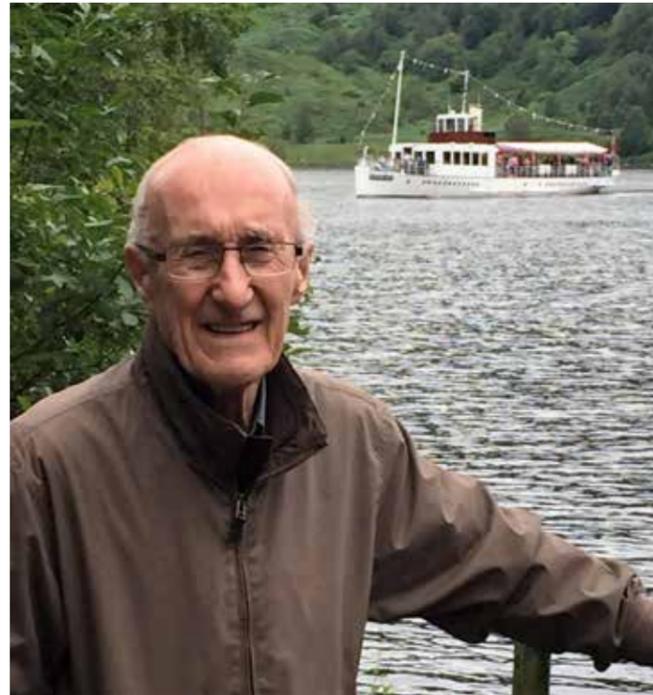
Bill has been the lead volunteer for many years at the tea bar in Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court, having taken over the role from his late wife.

Bill's is one of a network of tea bars in Sheriff Courts (the equivalent to an English magistrates' court) all over Scotland. Groups of volunteers serve tea, coffee and a range of food in the courts, with all the profits going to Anthony Nolan.

Community Fundraising Assistant, Melissa Cleese, explains: 'Anthony Nolan was lucky enough to become the beneficiary charity for the tea courts in 2002, and these amazing volunteers raise around £20,000 a year for us.'

'We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that works in the tea courts for their commitment to the cause. They give up so much of their time and put so much heart into what they do and it really does pay off.'

'We would also like to give a special thank you to Bill Thompson, who sadly cannot continue in his role. We can't thank him enough for how much of his time and efforts have gone into his work. It is truly remarkable to see such dedication. Thank you!'



Bill Thompson, an incredibly dedicated volunteer in Scotland

OUR STRATEGY IN SCOTLAND

Last year, Anthony Nolan introduced a new strategy for Scotland, to build on our lifesaving work in the area to date - made possible by individuals like Bill and his fellow volunteers, and partners such as Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. *Saving Lives: Achieving More, Working Together in Scotland* sets out our ambition to achieve the following in Scotland:

- Recruit more potential lifesavers to the register
- Support more Scottish patients
- Form stronger partnerships and maximise our impact
- Increase awareness of the vital nature of our cause
- Raise more vital funds

READ THE FULL STRATEGY AT anthohnolan.org/scottishstrategy



WITH US FOR THE LONG RIDE

Taking on a 100-mile cycle challenge was just the start of one remarkable supporter's lifesaving journey with Anthony Nolan.

Kathryn Eastwood got her place in 2016 for the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 through the public ballot, and decided she wanted to raise money for Anthony Nolan.

'I first heard of Anthony Nolan when a friend was asked to donate,' says Kat, 'and in a short space of time had two family friends whose lives were saved because a donor had been found for them through the charity - it's pretty powerful when it's so tangible.'

Kat says the support she got to take on the event made her want to do even more to help our lifesaving work. 'Anthony Nolan was really supportive throughout the training process and made the day itself one to remember. I felt like my support was really acknowledged and appreciated, and the thought that I'm making a difference in some way has meant I've kept involved ever since.'

After raising almost £700 in sponsorship for the event, Kat's next challenge was to get more hands-on, and recruit potential donors to the register. She enlisted the help of her friend and colleague Claire Philips, and worked with our Register Development team to encourage her colleagues at Sainsbury's Head Office to join the register.

Claire joined the register herself while she was at university. Before the recruitment drive at her university, Claire admits that she 'hadn't even heard of Anthony Nolan, or even of stem cell donation! I really came to understand what an effect signing up can have after what is, in comparison, quite a simple thing to do.'

'Realising that Sainsbury's is quite a young team and that we both cared about this cause, we ran the drive together.'

Kat and Claire signed up 60 of their colleagues at the event, held at their offices in December 2016. Regional Register Development Manager Sarah Rogers said: 'Corporate donor recruitment events are most successful when the organisers are able to share their knowledge and passion with their colleagues in advance of the event. Kat and Claire did a fantastic job of educating their colleagues about the donor register and the joining and donation processes. Their invaluable input and support resulted in a great response. We are very grateful to them!'

'In a short space of time I had two family friends whose lives were saved because a donor had been found for them through the charity - it's pretty powerful when it's so tangible.'

Kathryn Eastwood, RideLondon cyclist and donor recruiter



Kat takes on Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 in 2016



Kat (r) and colleague Claire at Sainsbury's Head Office

INFORMATION REVOLUTION

When it comes to finding stem cells for lifesaving transplants, information is power – the power to get the best possible match for everyone who needs a transplant.

That's why Anthony Nolan is collaborating internationally to make more information on our donors available to other registries – and give registries and patients around the world more equal access to donor information.

'It's all about enabling transplant centres and registries to make a well-informed decision about which adult donor or cord blood unit to select for their patient,' says Nic Alderson, Director of Operations and Patient Services. 'In the past, we and other registries and transplant centres have only been able to see very limited information about donors from other countries upfront, but we're starting to change that.'

SHARING IS CARING

Over the last couple of years we have worked with the largest US registry, National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), and NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) on two projects to make UK cord blood units and donors more visible to US transplant centres.

Whereas Anthony Nolan searches the UK and international registers on behalf of UK transplant centres, in the US, transplant centres use NMDP's TRAXIS search application themselves. Anthony Nolan has joined many other international registries in making information about our donors and cords available on TRAXIS, so that US transplant centres can find and request the best stem cells for their patients, no matter where in the world they come from.

Our donors have proved to be in high demand – requests from the US for our adult donors have more than doubled since they became visible on TRAXIS in July last year.

'SUPER DONORS'

We are also enriching our register with more information on young men with the 1,000 most common HLA types

MEET A SUPER DONOR

Medical student Thomas Cox was one of the first donors typed by TGS through the phenotype project who has gone on to donate.

'When I signed up I wasn't expecting to be chosen to donate as I knew the chances were slim, about 1 in 800 for most people, although it's 1 in 170 for men under 30.'

through the phenotype project. These 'super donors' are most frequently chosen by transplant consultants for their patients and give the best post-transplant outcomes. We provide allelic-level HLA typing using our pioneering Third Generation Sequencing (TGS) technology, and CMV status (which is usually only established once a donor is selected as a potential match) on these donors. The extra information means they are likely to appear right at the top of the search report we produce for transplant centres on each patient case.

Since the phenotype project began in 2010, we have typed 3,731 'super donors', and 200 have gone on to donate; in the last financial year they contributed 13.25% of all donations by Anthony Nolan donors.

Nic Alderson calls it 'pre-empting a potential match. These people are more likely to be selected at some point, and we're further increasing that chance by providing high-level typing up front.'

SELECTING DONORS

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) status is an increasingly important factor in donor selection. We are piloting a service in our SMARTLAB® to quickly determine potential donors' status ahead of full verification typing, as well as looking into a research project to determine CMV status from saliva.

A recent paper from the Anthony Nolan Research Institute, working in collaboration with the British Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation and transplant centres around the UK, shows that we are on the right track with our approach to donor recruitment and provision. The paper presents the new finding that matching recipients and donors' CMV status improves patient outcomes, and confirms the importance of HLA matching and donor age, with donors aged less than 30 showing a trend towards better survival.



But a year later I was asked to submit some blood samples for further testing. That's when I knew I might be expected to donate one day.

'Young men, like me, make up only 15% of our register, but provide more than half of all donations. I'm urging more young men to sign up as we do not have enough representation on the register.'



Danny Attias,
Chief Information Officer



Nic Alderson,
Director of Operations and Patient Services

'Whether it's getting more data on our donors, sharing more information with other registers and transplant centres, or giving everyone equal access to donor information - it all adds up to better matches and better outcomes for people who need stem cell transplants around the world.'

EQUAL ACCESS

Information-sharing arrangements like TRAXIS can only go so far, and can mean it's harder for smaller registries to get all the information they need to find the best match. Wouldn't it be better to have information on all 28 million potential donors around the world available in one place?

That's the vision behind the new version of the Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide (BMDW) Search & Match Service. Anthony Nolan took a leading role in the development of the upgraded search application, and launched the first phase at the World Marrow Donor Association (WMDA) meeting last November.

'It's a big step forward from the previous system, with enhanced sorting and filtering, and a predictive algorithm developed by our colleagues in Germany (ZKRD),' says Anthony Nolan's Chief Information Officer, Danny Attias. 'That means when registries or transplant centres search for matches, they can search every potential donor worldwide and get a far more accurate prediction of potential donor suitability, even when we don't have the highest level of DNA

resolution available, such as that provided by TGS. We're working towards international registries and transplant centres being able to get all the information they need to find an initial match using Search & Match.'

In January this year, Anthony Nolan convened a mini-summit to discuss the next phase of the Search & Match Service, expanding its functionality while retaining the focus on giving smaller registries the tools they need. Representatives from registries around the world also discussed the implementation of GRID – a new system to make sure each donor around the world has a unique international ID, which will make sharing donor information easier and safer.

For Nic Alderson, the aim is clear: 'Whether it's getting more data on our donors, sharing more information with other registries and transplant centres, or giving everyone equal access to donor information - it all adds up to better matches and better outcomes for people who need stem cell transplants around the world.'



Thomas Cox, who donated stem cells after being typed in the phenotype project

ANTHONY NOLAN SUPPORTER AWARDS

The House of Commons hosted Anthony Nolan's annual Supporter Awards on Tuesday 22 November 2016. The event returned for its fourth year to celebrate, recognise and thank many of our outstanding supporters, campaigners and fundraisers.

Supporters from across the country were recognised in 15 categories - ranging from Donor Champion of the Year, to Individual Fundraiser of the Year, to the Shirley Nolan Award for Special Recognition. Here are some of the highlights:

DONOR CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

The Donor Champion of the Year Award was won by George Stafford. George's two best friends, Aidan and Harry, were diagnosed with rare forms of blood cancer within months of each other. Desperate to do something to help, George joined the Anthony Nolan register on his 16th birthday. Then, unbelievably, when he was 19, he donated bone marrow to a stranger. Since his donation, George has spoken to the Daily Mirror and BBC Radio 5 live about his experience, and inspired hundreds of Marrow volunteers with his recent talk at the Marrow AGM in October 2016.

George said: 'It feels humbling to have been awarded the Donor Champion of the Year Award. My best mate, Aidan, is only alive today because a stranger was willing to donate stem cells, so it feels amazing for me to be able to save a life too. It's such a special experience; it's only natural that I'd want to share that story with as many people as possible.'

INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

This year's Individual Fundraiser of the Year Award was won by Euan Duff. Euan started fundraising for Anthony Nolan after his dad, Colin, was diagnosed with cancer and received two stem cell transplants. He said, 'As long as he's still fighting, I'll be doing something crazy to share the pain.' Euan has taken on a cycle ride from Germany to Anthony Nolan's London offices in recognition of the journey of his dad's stem cells, the Penrith Triathlon and the Great North Run (twice!). In total he's raised an incredible £17,000.

Euan said: 'I'm thrilled to have won the Individual Fundraiser of the Year Award. These fundraising challenges became a coping mechanism for me while my dad was going through the transplant procedure. I wanted every challenge to show people the constant struggle that transplant patients live with during their first 100 post-transplant days.'

'I'm so proud of this award, but my achievements can't compare to those of the transplant patients, or of Anthony Nolan. They achieve so much every single day. Anthony Nolan gave my dad another chance of life, not once, but twice. Nothing I do could ever repay them. I'm just so happy that my dad and I are able to celebrate together as we plan the next adventure.'



George Stafford, Donor Champion of the Year



Euan Duff, Individual Fundraiser of the Year

THE WINNERS

Kieron Fairclough
John Petchey Young
Hero of the Year

Alice Byron
Shirley Nolan Award for
Special Recognition

Euan Duff
Individual Fundraiser of the Year

Everyone Active
Organisational Fundraiser
of the Year

Hannah Partos
Journalist of the Year

George Freeman MP
Political Supporter of the Year

The Casalotti family
BAME Advocate of the Year

Mark Lowdell
Scientific Supporter of the Year

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Recruiter of the Year

Chris Newton
Celebrity Supporter of the Year

Emma Paine
Patient Champion
of the Year

Professor John A. Snowden
Clinical Supporter of the Year

George Stafford
Donor Champion of the Year

**The family and friends of
Jo & Charlie Henderson**
Group Fundraiser of the Year

Katherine Cunningham
Simon Dyson Award for
Volunteer of the Year

SHIRLEY NOLAN AWARD FOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Shirley Nolan Award for Special Recognition was won by Alice Byron. Despite being diagnosed with MDS and then leukaemia, Alice campaigned tirelessly for Anthony Nolan. She joined Cardiff Marrow to recruit donors and raise funds, and wrote an incredibly witty, honest and powerful blog about her experiences - which inspired thousands of people to join the register. Alice continued her studies in hospital and received a 2:1 for her English degree. She sadly passed away shortly after receiving a stem cell transplant, but her legacy and the fundraising in her memory will have a lifesaving impact for years to come.

Jonathan Byron, Alice's father said: 'I know that Alice would have felt so honoured to have won the Shirley Nolan Award for Special Recognition among such inspirational supporters of this incredible charity. We are and always will be immensely proud of her immeasurable strength, courage and love for life.'

A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNISE OUR AMAZING SUPPORTERS

Speaking on the night, Henny Braund, our Chief Executive, said: 'Hundreds of people support Anthony Nolan and these awards are a wonderful opportunity for us to recognise so many of the amazing individuals, groups and organisations who have been truly exceptional this year.'

'Each year, the selection process is incredibly difficult, with so many passionate and committed people who have gone the extra mile to champion our work to choose from.'

'Our work relies on the dedication and support of everyone who has been nominated. All that we have done so far - and all that we want to do in the future - wouldn't be possible without the commitment and energy of all our supporters. Together, we can save and improve more lives.'



Alice Byron's family and friend collecting her award

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Jonathan Byron (pictured on left),
Alice's father

ANTHONY NOLAN IN NUMBERS

3 

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE
A DAY WE GIVE ANOTHER
CHANCE OF LIFE.

10% 

OF PEOPLE
ON THE
ANTHONY
NOLAN
REGISTER
COME FROM
SCOTLAND.

20%

OF PEOPLE FROM A
MIXED HERITAGE OR
MINORITY BACKGROUND
FIND THE BEST
POSSIBLE MATCH.

**THAT'S NOT
ENOUGH.**

23 

THE MOST COMMON
AGE OF OUR STEM
CELL DONORS.

25% 

THE CHANCE OF
HAVING THE SAME
TISSUE TYPE AS
A SIBLING.

50% 

50% OF PEOPLE
NOW JOIN THE
ANTHONY NOLAN
REGISTER ONLINE.

£60 

HOW MUCH IT COSTS
TO ADD EACH NEW
PERSON TO THE
ANTHONY NOLAN
REGISTER.

2,000 

PEOPLE A YEAR IN THE UK
NEED A BONE MARROW OR
STEM CELL TRANSPLANT
FROM A STRANGER.

15,000 

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GIVEN
THE CHANCE OF LIFE
SINCE ANTHONY NOLAN
WAS FOUNDED IN 1974.

19,000 

PEOPLE HAVE JOINED
THE ANTHONY NOLAN
REGISTER THROUGH
SOCIAL MEDIA OVER
THE PAST YEAR.



anthonymolan.org

**ANTHONY
NOLAN**

saving the lives
of people with
blood cancer