

GIVING REPORT 2023



## WELCOME FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

# I am delighted to welcome you to the 2023 issue of our annual giving report, a celebration of your support and the remarkable things that it has enabled us to achieve over the past year.

Southampton's community of donors, of which you are an integral part, is coming together to achieve the most remarkable things. With your support we have been able to develop new treatments for cancer, help children with life-limiting eye conditions, and help our most disadvantaged students live up to their potential.

There are some major milestones to celebrate in these pages. We look back over five years of world-leading cancer immunology research, housed in the dedicated Centre for Cancer Immunology funded by your donor community and opened in 2018. We also congratulate our first full graduating cohort of Ignite students; as they approach their graduation ceremonies, we are so proud of all they have achieved, and of your part in supporting them to do so over the course of their education.

I am personally so grateful for your dedicated support of this university. Southampton is fortunate in its alumni and friends, and I hope that together we can continue to go from strength to strength. Thank you for playing your part in the story of the University: inspiring excellence, creating positive change in the world and transforming lives

With thanks and warmest wishes,

**Professor Mark E. Smith CBE** President and Vice-Chancellor



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## IGNITE: FUELLING BRIGHTER FUTURES

This year, the University of Southampton is proud to celebrate the graduation of the first full cohort of students supported by the Ignite Programme. Fully funded by your generous donations, Ignite provides a gateway into higher education for those who have traditionally struggled to access it.





Find out more and donate This year we celebrate a major milestone for the programme. With donations now surpassing an incredible £1 million, our offer to students has expanded from just one place in 2017 to 30 students in each year today. With 108 applicants for 30 places this year, the Ignite team is keen to expand to support even more students from non-traditional university backgrounds through their higher education journeys. An aspiration only possible due to your continuing donations.

### Taking the next step on the journey

Some of you may remember Jade, who joined the University in 2020. This July, Jade will graduate with a law degree, having already secured a training contract with a legal firm.

The first of her family to go to university, Jade was fearful a law degree was not something she could aspire to. It just wasn't something that seemed open to her, with only one third of students at her school scraping the required GCSE passes. For many students, however, getting the grades only leads to more questions. The costs of university, food, accommodation and day-today supplies can have a significant impact on both students and their families. For Jade, the fear of placing an extra financial burden on her family felt like an impassable barrier.

Thankfully, she was able to win a place on the Ignite Programme generously funded by our donors. "I really wanted to build a good future for myself," says Jade. "The Ignite Programme has helped me so much." It was a huge relief when Ignite took up the financial burden.

During this recent period of economic hardship, 24% of students surveyed felt economic pressures could force them to drop out without completing their degrees. 48% said they had fallen back on financial aid from family to keep them going, a safety net that many do not have access to. However, despite facing extra barriers, students from underrepresented groups feel that Ignite helps to level the field, ensuring that, like Jade, they feel "part of a community" rather than outsiders.

### Enhancing the university experience

The support our Ignite students receive goes beyond the financial. Ignite offers a specialist team of supportive staff who work closely



with our students to help them navigate university life. There are opportunities for mentoring, access to TedX talks, and regular social activities to help create a sense of belonging within the group. Every Ignite student is also given a paid internship to give them work based experience and skills.

Maleeha (pictured above) is another of our graduating Ignite students. One thing which has really stood out for her is the personal nature of the support provided. She particularly praises the one-to-one support which enabled her to find opportunities beyond the University.

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Jade

Through Ignite Maleeha became aware of opportunities abroad and how to access them: "I applied for and got accepted to the University of Gothenburg's summer school of sustainability."

This year, for the first time, Ignite was able to offer a field trip to Amsterdam, open to all students on the Programme. The focus was on sustainability and was an opportunity to develop intercultural communication. More than that, this was an opportunity for our hardworking students to take a wellearned break.

### **Unlocking potential**

Jade is an exceptional student, recently winning a training contract in a hugely competitive legal field. However, she is so grateful to Ignite for providing her an internship, to help her make the most of her skills and drive. "That work placement really boosted me as an employable individual," she says. "I've learnt so much about myself, about my capabilities, and I really feel so much more comfortable in my academic skills, my employability skills and just myself as a person."

Thanks to your continued support of the Ignite Programme, people from under-represented backgrounds are opening doors to new possibilities. Now, with the help of donors like you, we are looking to double the Ignite intake to 60 students per cohort. That's twice as many future stars like Jade who deserve a chance to shine.

Ignite has given our talented graduating students an opportunity to grow and live up to their potential, providing support from their first day on campus, through to graduation, and beyond into the rest of their lives.

Thank you so much for your support of our students on the Ignite Programme. As Jade heads into her graduation ceremony she is passionate about the change Ignite has enabled in her life. "I have a future now."



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my academic skills, my employability skills and just myself as a person."

Jade



## IGNITING POTENTIAL FOR YEARS TO COME

Liz and Michael Arthur met as students at the University of Southampton's newly formed Medical School in 1972. Almost fifty years and two successful careers later, they remain passionate about the value of a Southampton education, and the ways it can transform the lives of our students.

Liz built a career in paediatrics, becoming a consultant and lead clinician in community paediatrics and Director of Medical Education for medics in training. Michael has worked across a range of academic medical roles, including working as Dean of the Southampton Medical School for several years. He has also been the Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University and President and Provost of University College London and has received many national and international awards and honours for his work in advancing higher education.

Of his time studying medicine, Michael says, "My fourth year project shaped the rest of my life and career. That period of in-depth study taught us the limits of knowledge, how new knowledge is created and used and how to put it all together to make breakthroughs."

The experience of studying at Southampton goes beyond the academic benefits, and Liz credits her time at the University for many lasting friendships. "We were the second intake of the new medical school, and because of this, we really bonded as a group and felt that we were all part of the team at the hospital. Many of us have remained in contact and still meet up regularly, some 50 years later."

Liz and Michael have donated regularly to the University over many years and have recently pledged to leave a gift in their will to support the Ignite Programme, helping students ignite bright futures for years to come.

As alumni of Southampton, they see their support of the programme as an extension of their connection to the University. Michael says, "I feel as though I've never left. My relationship with the University of Southampton is lifelong.

We have decided to leave a legacy as we wanted to give something back to our alma mater. It's a continuum of giving, a development of our support over time. Our children are all very supportive of that choice." The decision to direct their gift towards the Ignite Programme was an easy one. Liz says, "The majority of our giving has been focused on student support – it's been a theme all along. We were fortunate that we were able to go to university fairly easily and got a grant. We want more students to have that opportunity, and to be able to do the extra things beyond academic study."

The Ignite programme is about more than just access to university, but it also enriches and enhances that experience. The student feedback makes it so clear that it's the right thing to do."

#### **Liz Arthur**

The Ignite programme addresses the ongoing need to support the best students from underrepresented backgrounds to access the life-changing opportunities at Southampton.

Opening up the possibility of a world-class education to all students is an ongoing challenge, and one that will require funding far into the future. Michael explains, "The need is timeless: it will always be there. It feels good to help fulfil that need. The money that we can give will make a significant difference. It's a way we can be useful. I hope it allows people to come to Southampton who otherwise wouldn't be fortunate enough to do so.

It's good to feel that our gift can continue doing good after we've gone. I like the in-perpetuity aspect of it. It's about doing good over a long period of time."

Michael adds, "It's nice to feel that you're helping someone. There's a real joy to giving."



## SUPERCHARGING CANCER RESEARCH – FIVE YEARS OF THE CENTRE FOR CANCER IMMUNOLOGY

Fully funded by your community, the life-changing Centre for Cancer Immunology opened in 2018 Five years ago, this spring, we opened the doors of the UK's first centre dedicated to cancer immunology research.



Since that proud day, our researchers continue to push the boundaries of cancer research, to develop and run important clinical trials to test potential therapies; and continue to work closely with our clinical colleagues to ensure our lab-based activity translates to patient benefit.

#### **Research success**

There have been many successes over the past five years. Our teams have revealed further insight into the mechanisms of immune checkpoint blocking antibodies and launched a clinical trial to test an immunotherapy treatment for a rare form of bladder cancer.

Earlier this year, our scientists discovered a new way to identify patients who are twice as likely to die from lung cancer. Led by Dr Chris Hanley, this research used state of the art techniques to study fibroblasts, a cell that surrounds tumours. These are healthy cells that support wound healing but can be hijacked by cancer to help tumours grow and spread.

Using equipment created by engineers at the University of Southampton alongside the very latest technology, they were able to identify three different types of fibroblasts for the first time – one 'hijacked' myofibroblast and two 'normal' fibroblasts.

The research, published in Nature Communications, shows patients with a high proportion of myofibroblasts have double the risk of dying from lung cancer within four years compared to patients with fewer myofibroblasts in their tumours.



#### The next generation

Thanks to your continued support, we've been able to develop and fund future generations of cancer scientists at the Centre.

Our PhD students and early career researchers are working side by side with leading professors who are at the forefront of their fields. They receive the support, confidence and skills to pursue their own research area they are passionate about. We are delighted that more than 50 PhD students have worked within the Centre, since it opened.

Anne Rogel is a senior postdoctoral researcher, working with the Antibody and Vaccine Group. Her research mainly focuses on CD8+ T cells, which are a subset of white blood cells that have the potential to recognise and kill tumour cells and can be harnessed to create better treatments for cancer.

Anne said: "Although current immunotherapy drugs (checkpoint blockers) have shown unprecedented results in the clinic, only a fraction of cancer patients respond to the most effective ones currently available. It is critical to develop new immunotherapy drugs, and more effective combinations of drugs, to help more people. I am really proud to be part of this team, working together to find more innovative therapeutic approaches to fight cancer."



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#### **Channel Island focus**

Throughout our campaign to build the Centre for Cancer Immunology and since it opened, we have received fantastic support from people living in the Channel Islands. More than half of the  $\pounds_{25}$ million raised to build the Centre came from Channel Island donors and that generosity has continued.

The Guernsey branch of the Oddfellows has been instrumental in securing support for the Centre for Cancer Immunology. In November 2022, we welcomed representatives from the Oddfellows to the Centre, to see the impact of this generous support first-hand. While visiting, the Oddfellows group presented us with the first of three instalments of an extremely kind donation from the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund. This gift will support our talented PhD student, Nur Zainal, whose research will focus on a specific gene which can potentially be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine.

Like Nur, many of our PhD students receive generous philanthropic support to help them to undertake their studies. This type of support enables our teams to keep pushing forward with vital research and personal development.



Professors Raimund Ober and Sally Ward. Image credit: CRUK

### World-leading expertise

Southampton's international reputation for cancer immunology research has enabled us to attract some of the world's leading experts in the field.

Based in the Scott Lab, a space exclusively funded by Ray and Baiba Scott, Professors Raimund Ober and Sally Ward are using antibody engineering and fluorescence microscopy to develop antibodybased therapeutics.

Their work has underpinned a new drug, known as efgartigimod (Vyvgart), which has recently received approval from the FDA and EMA, for the treatment of Myasthenia Gravis (MG), a rare and serious neuromuscular autoimmune condition.

Professors Ward and Ober have worked collaboratively with the pharmaceutical company Argenx to bring the drug out of the lab and into patient clinic and are hoping to bring that experience to their cancer research in Southampton.

"As scientists, we know it can take years for our lab-based research to have an impact in the clinic and on patient lives," Sally explained. "It is both very gratifying and exciting to see the drug, which stemmed from our lab, approved for clinical use.

"There is an interrelationship between autoimmune diseases and cancer – for cancer, we need to upregulate the immune response against tumours, whereas in autoimmunity, we need to downregulate the self-directed immune response that is causing the disease. We are using our experience in these areas to drive our research in cancer immunology forward and because we are working alongside clinicians every day which greatly facilitates translation, we hope to be able to move our research further along the clinical line than we have done in the past."

### **Unwavering support**

It's your amazing philanthropic support that has really set the Centre apart from other cancer research facilities in the UK. The £25million to build the Centre all came from generous donations and people's tireless fundraising efforts. That wonderful support has continued ever since we opened the Centre, allowing us to supercharge the research being done at the Centre, gain a deeper understanding of various cancers, and deliver better treatments to patients.

### WEATHERING THE STORM

As many of you will be aware, due to the COVID-19 pandemic there have been significant cuts in research funding to other disease areas, including cancer. Over the past three years, about £100million was lost nationally from funding pots for cancer research. The Centre itself lost a significant funding contract, making it a challenging time for some of our research groups.

But your unwavering support has enabled us to weather this storm, make up this shortfall, renew researchers' contracts and keep making progress on research and treatments throughout the pandemic. We could not have done this without your generosity.

As we emerge from this challenging funding environment, we are delighted to announce that the Southampton Clinical Trials Unit has recently received £5.5m from Cancer Research UK, over the next five years, to run worldleading trials testing new cancer treatments and help find ways to diagnose the disease at an earlier stage.

This significant funding is a testament to the groundbreaking work taking place at the Centre and will enable us to increase our research capacity and capability in the coming years.

## ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO BE VIGILANT

The impact of our cancer immunology work on patients is at the heart of everything we do at the Centre for Cancer Immunology. Our scientists and researchers dedicate their careers to finding new treatments for cancer, and to bringing those discoveries from the lab to the patients who need them.



Andy with Jason, who was able to catch his testicular cancer early, thanks to Andy's experience.



Andy may be a familiar face to some of you. One of our former patients at the Centre, he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2019. He was able to join the ACCEPT trial – a Phase II trial of immunotherapy drug acalabrutinib, used in conjunction with chemotherapy, and it had fantastic results. Within a year, Andy was in remission.

We recently caught up with him, to find out how he was doing. He continues to feel well, remains extremely grateful to all those involved in his care and has been using his experience to encourage others to get checked if they notice anything wrong.

He said: "We are more open when it comes to talking about how we are feeling, and we have encouraged more of our friends and family to get things checked out if there's something they're worried about. Awareness is so important – in the past, I probably wouldn't have talked at length to my friends about ailments or body functions, but now, we're always talking about it. You cannot be too careful, and the doctors and nurses are only too happy to help."

A more open and honest attitude has helped friends and family members be confident in speaking up. Andy's daughter's boyfriend Jason discovered a lump and went to the doctor. However, the doctor couldn't find anything, but he knew something wasn't right. Seeing Andy's experience, gave him the confidence to push 66

My simple view on clinical trials is that nothing progresses and moves forward without them and I would not have had the amazing treatment I have been fortunate to have without others undertaking trials before me."

Andy Ayres Clinical trial patient

for further investigation. He was diagnosed with testicular cancer a few months after Andy had started his treatment.

Thankfully, the chemotherapy was successful, and Jason made a full recovery.

Andy said: "Jason is really relaxed about things and before my diagnosis he might not have persisted when he knew something wasn't right. But thankfully this experience pushed him to get checked. He's now fine and well. Having cancer has changed my perspective on things, I'm more open about speaking to people about what they're going through. Talking is the first step to diagnosis."

Having a different outlook on things has led Andy to become selfemployed and spend more time enjoying the finer things in life.

"When that diagnosis happens, you fear the worst," he continued. "And then you live in a surreal bubble while you're having treatment, and then when that stops, it takes time to come to terms with what's happened.

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Looking back, I am surprised the treatment worked so quickly. But the care I received was second to none and I now feel like we are back to normal. I've changed my job and I'm now appreciating time with my wife, family, and friends more than ever before."

Andy Ayres Clinical trial patient

The trial Andy was on contributed to the immunotherapy drug being approved for use in the NHS without the need for chemotherapy, something which Andy is proud of.

"I feel good knowing that the trial has led to more people being able to have this treatment on the NHS. Clinical trials are so important, and I wouldn't hesitate to encourage others to take part in one if they can. If people hadn't taken part in trials, I wouldn't have been able to take part in the one I was involved in. Trials are needed to ensure the patients of the future have the right treatment available to them. It's how we push things forward."



I feel good knowing that the trial has led to more people being able to have this treatment on the NHS."







Find out more and donate

## CHAMPIONING ICE AGE RESEARCH

A major philanthropic gift from the WoodNext Foundation will accelerate our research into Earth's ice ages.

The University has received a pledged multi-year commitment of £1.9 million from the WoodNext Foundation, a component fund administered by Greater Houston Community Foundation, to study the Earth's long-term climate cycles.

This significant donation will fund research that promises to reveal how Earth's climate has behaved over the past billion years, during times when the planet experienced severe ice ages. This knowledge could prove to be crucial in understanding future climate response and the potential impact of mitigation strategies.

The study aims to develop a data-driven understanding of Earth's ice ages, investigating how multiple factors—like the Earth's orbit and surface environmental changes have combined through time to influence the intensity of climate change.

Associate Professor Tom Gernon, from the University's School of Ocean and Earth Science, will lead the research. Dr Gernon's team will develop next-generation modelling approaches, utilising machine learning and deep time ice records, to decipher the inherently complex climate system and the natural cycles at play. They will also collect new observations from around the world to gain fundamental insights into the factors that have driven climate change at different times in Earth's history.

The team will address the limitations of previous studies that have tended to explore individual Earth processes in isolation. Instead, the team will analyse the impact and interaction between multiple potential drivers of ice ages simultaneously, evaluating huge swathes of dynamic data. This approach will allow Dr Gernon and his multidisciplinary team to evaluate how Earth's internal and external rhythms, together with major environmental changes, have shaped the planet's surface and impacted the evolution of life over time.

## DRIVING DEEP LEARNING

A grant of £735,000 from the Wolfson Foundation will help drive forward the development of artificial intelligence (AI) and help progress solutions to some of society's greatest challenges.

The grant will fund the creation of a new interdisciplinary centre for the design of the next generation of deep learning AI approaches and the application of deep learning in new scientific areas. This could lead to research breakthroughs with a major impact on a wide range of societal challenges.

Deep learning AI is now understood to be a catalyst for a fundamental transformation across society. This transformation will be powered by previously unimaginable breakthroughs in scientific research and engineering, where neural networks will be used to solve some of the most complex challenges of our time.

Bringing together AI researchers and experts in photonics, the Centre for Fundamental and Applied Deep Learning will be based in the refurbished Gower Building on the University's main Highfield Campus. Co-location of the Centre will provide a focus for research and innovation in both photonics and AI, facilitating greater knowledge exchanges between researchers and external collaborators alike.

Breakthroughs in deep learning are primarily a matter of scaling up the available computing power, and therefore the barrier to entry in the scientific field of deep learning is hugely dependent on the computing infrastructure available to researchers. The Centre will house state-of-the-art equipment to support Southampton researchers to make these breakthroughs which could have applications in fields from climate science to medicine and healthcare.



## IN MEMORY OF CHARLES ELDER

Charles Elder worked at the University as Media Relations Manager from 2011 until his death in 2021. A much-loved member of our community, he embodied Southampton in everything he did. Over the course of his career with us he inspired countless individuals, supported and promoted hundreds of initiatives, achievements, and ideas, and could always be counted on to put his all into anything he turned his hand to.

Speaking about Charles at the Vice-Chancellor's Awards earlier this year, colleagues said: "His pride in Southampton was palpable, and his enthusiasm was infectious. He never tired of wanting to talk to colleagues about their research, and their teaching, and their lives. To me, Charles was the soul of Southampton."

Charles was incredibly passionate about helping our students to achieve their potential, and an enthusiastic cheerleader for their successes. Following his death, Charles's wife Anne has donated an Ignite Award in his memory, to be awarded to one student each year, to help them to make the most of their time at the University. Anne is also generously giving her time to mentor our Ignite students, helping them to develop the skills and confidence they will need to excel in their future careers.

Anne's donation is a wonderful reflection of Charles's values and spirit, and we are delighted that by remembering him in this way we will be able to help more students to thrive at Southampton. 66

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## A NOT-SO-LAZY EYE ON THE FUTURE

Eye specialists, mathematicians and games designers at the University of Southampton have teamed up to develop and launch a smartphone app aimed at helping improve vital treatment for children with amblyopia, a common visual impairment, also known as 'lazy eye'.

Amblyopia causes sight loss in young children, with around one in 50 affected. It occurs when the eye doesn't develop a strong enough link to the brain, but can usually be treated simply and successfully through occlusion or 'patching' therapy. This involves covering the unaffected eye for a set time – commonly three hours a day for six months – forcing the 'lazy' eye to work.

It's important children persist with the treatment, but this can mean a great deal of parent or carer intervention. The success rate for occlusion therapy is only 50 per cent and experts say busy households 'giving up', due to the time and effort involved, is a leading cause of failure.

Dr Jay Self, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Southampton, and Consultant at University Hospital Southampton (UHS), explains: "Consistency in wearing an eye patch is essential for treating amblyopia. The technique works, but there's a short window

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By making eyepatch use a superpower, we expect that this becomes not just a fun element, but also an opportunity for kids to shine."

#### Vanissa Wanick

Games designer and senior lecturer at Winchester School of Art (WSA)

of time for treatment, as it has very limited success after the age of eight. It requires a huge time investment and perseverance and is not much fun at all. Sadly, it's easy to give up.

"Preliminary evidence suggests that the development of immersive smartphone, tablet and computer games could offer an effective solution by making the child want to wear the patch for the first time. This can increase the effectiveness of occlusion therapy and importantly, help relieve some of the pressure on parents to implement the treatment."

The Southampton researchers have founded a spinout company, Nucleolus Software, and launched a phone app designed to encourage children to build a positive association with their eye patch and wear it more often. Together with Gift of Sight, they are also running a national survey to help better understand the barriers to successful patch-wearing and how game technology can help.

The phone app consists of several different computer games designed by graduates of the University of Southampton's Winchester School of Art working at Nucleolus Software. Through complex programming, it



also uses the smart phone's camera to check if the person playing is wearing their patch correctly and encourages them to do so within the game.

Mathematician Joerg Fliege, Professor of Operational Research at the University of Southampton, explains: "By harnessing novel approaches from computational mathematics and artificial intelligence we have enabled the app to sense if the user's eye patch is being worn properly. If it isn't, the game prompts them to correct this by sending them encouraging messages. If they wear their patch properly the game responds by unlocking different levels, or can give rewards.

"We think motivating children in this way will help them to form a more positive association with their patch and ultimately, increase the effectiveness of their treatment."

A prototype of the app called The Amblios Club is now available for (selected) Android devices on the Google Play Store and is hoped to be available for iPhone devices in the coming months. In the games, children play with Bambu the panda and his robot friend Bob who both live in a nature reserve. They

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### Dr Jay Self

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Southampton, and Consultant at University Hospital Southampton (UHS) encounter other animals out in the wild and help Bob in the upkeep of the reserve and in recycling waste.

Games designer and senior lecturer at Winchester School of Art (WSA), Vanissa Wanick, comments: "By using games and Artificial Intelligence, The Amblios Club puts the kids in the centre of the experience. By making eyepatch use a superpower, we expect that this becomes not just a fun element, but also an opportunity for kids to shine. The app also has a nurturing and goal setting scheme that gives children and their parents autonomy and control over the patching treatment.

"This approach resonates with ongoing research and teaching practices at WSA, in which we approach games as a critical tool, via a player-centric approach and unravelling the power of games beyond entertainment."

Anyone who currently wears an eye patch, has ever worn one, or has experience helping a child to wear one, is invited to take the researchers' short online survey.

The team also has a crowdfunding campaign to help continue the development of the new app.



## THE GIFT OF MUSIC AND ART

A £2 million award from Arts Council England's (ACE) National Portfolio Organisations will ensure that the John Hansard Gallery and music venue Turner Sims Southampton continue to play a crucial role in Southampton's cultural scene.

Both venues are loved locally, and respected around the world, for supporting, developing and presenting visual art and music by British and international artists. They also offer an impressive variety of cultural experiences for people of all backgrounds, interests and ages.

John Hansard Gallery will receive £1.8 million over three years to support their programme of contemporary art exhibitions, engagement activities and creative learning, alongside outreach work and community projects across Southampton and the region.

Turner Sims is set to receive £150k over three years, to support its exciting and diverse programme of world-class live music, inspiring engagement and education work, and community activity.

"Both of these much-loved venues play a key role in contributing and sustaining the visual arts and music offer in Southampton locally and further afield. We can't wait to see the positive impacts of their programmes and benefits to local communities over the next three years, helping us achieve the vision we set out in Let's Create." Phil Gibby, Area Director, South West, Arts Council England.

### A vote of confidence

Woodrow Kernohan, Director of John Hansard Gallery, which is based in the city centre, said: "We are delighted that John Hansard Gallery will continue to be part of ACE's National Portfolio during 2023–26. This is a huge vote of confidence in the important role the Gallery plays in the cultural life of Southampton, the region and the country. We look forward to working closely with ACE and the DCMS (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) over the coming three years to realise our vision for a curious, connected and inclusive world, inspired by art."

Kevin Appleby, Concert Hall Manager of Turner Sims Southampton, based on the University's Highfield Campus, said: "We are thrilled to have Arts Council England's continued support. Their investment will enable us to pursue our mission to share live music that connects, moves and inspires people through extraordinary experiences in our venue and beyond. Turner Sims Southampton is excited to work with ACE and DCMS over the coming three years to bring our communities - both locally and globally - together through the joy of live music."

Phil Gibby, Area Director, South West, Arts Council England, said: "We're pleased to offer continued regular investment to John Hansard Gallery and Turner Sims through the Arts Council's 2023-26 National Portfolio programme. Cultural momentum in Southampton has been building for a number of years, and in more recent times, its ambition and fantastic leadership has been proven through the work connected to the Capital of Culture bid."

National Portfolio Organisations 2023-2026 are one strand of Arts Council England's total investment in arts and culture, contributing to the cultural ambitions set out in its 10-year strategy, Let's Create.

## WELCOME TO AN APPEALING COMMUNITY

Have you received one of our appeals through the door this year? If you did and you were one of over 500 people who made a gift in response, we'd like to say a huge thank you for supporting students and pushing forward lifesaving research here at Southampton.

Donors to our appeals contributed over £350,000 in the last year. That's more than a quarter of a million pounds going directly to funding explorations into pioneering therapies to combat cancer, developing new treatments to prevent sight loss, and helping our students to achieve their dreams regardless of their background.

Thank you for being a part of our Southampton giving community. This year, you helped 90 students make the most of their time at the University, opening up access to work placements, international travel opportunities, and financial support to fund basic essentials like their weekly grocery shop or a functioning laptop.

You helped our researchers keep pushing forward the development of drugs to fight many kinds of cancer, from lung to cervical, to head and neck cancers. Your donations have enabled us to conduct more clinical trials, testing these new approaches and fast-tracking these treatments so they can get to the patients that need them sooner.

Thank you for your support over the past year: together we can achieve remarkable things.



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The University of Southampton is an exempt charity. Our HMRC reference number for Gift Aid claim eligibility is X19140.

### SOUTHAMPTON TOGETHER

Your Community is transforming lives. Thank you.