

# Carrying out world-class research

We carry out world-class research to improve our understanding of cancer and find out how to prevent, diagnose and treat different kinds of cancer.

We fund the work of more than 4,500 scientists, doctors and nurses in hospitals, universities and research institutes across the UK.

## Future investment

We are committed to strengthening our long-term research capability. In early 2008 we completed the [Cancer Research UK-MRC Gray Institute for Radiation Oncology & Biology](#) in Oxford, where our researchers will refine radiotherapy treatments for cancer patients.

## Research in partnership

In December 2007, Prime Minister Gordon Brown pledged his support for proposals to develop the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI) on a site near St Pancras, London.

The development of the UKCMRI is one of the most exciting developments in medical research for a generation. Bringing together experts from [Cancer Research UK](#), the [Medical Research Council](#), the [Wellcome Trust](#) and [University College London](#), the centre will be a state-of-the-art facility delivering world-class research as well as training tomorrow's scientists.

## Global outlook

In May 2007, scientists at The Institute of Cancer Research and our Cambridge Research Institute completed a pioneering international study that brought together 15 research teams from around the world. Their groundbreaking work has opened up fresh research directions by discovering genetic variants that affect breast cancer risk. This could help to identify women at a higher risk of breast cancer, and allow doctors to tailor counselling, screening and prevention advice for those most at risk.



*Professor Doug Easton, Director, Cancer Research UK's Genetic Epidemiology Unit*

**“Compared to other cancers, such as breast and lung cancer, we understand little about how prostate cancer develops. These results will greatly improve our knowledge of the disease.”**

A genetic test identifying the men most vulnerable to prostate cancer is now a real possibility, thanks to the work of Dr Ros Eeles and Professor Doug Easton. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among British men, claiming 10,000 lives each year. Working with scientists from the UK and Australia, the team identified seven ‘spelling mistakes’ in the genetic code that raise a man’s chances of developing prostate cancer.



Overall ten-year survival rates have doubled in the last 30 years