

St. Stephens AIDS Research Appeal : the "STAR appeal" for a new AIDS research centre : for the practical application of state-of-the-art technology and research into the treatment of AIDS / St. Stephens AIDS Trust.

Contributors

St. Stephen's AIDS Trust

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ST STEPHENS AIDS RESEARCH APPEAL

THE "STAR APPEAL" FOR A
NEW AIDS RESEARCH CENTRE



For the practical application of state-of-the-art
technology and research into the treatment of AIDS

HIV AND AIDS

■ **Since AIDS was first recognised** in 1981, the diversity and severity of this condition has become increasingly apparent. It is clear that the majority of patients develop the symptoms of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) 8 - 10 years after being infected by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). AIDS is usually a fatal disease. However, advances in therapy for this condition are beginning to have an effect on improving the quality and the length of patients' lives.

■ **The current approach to caring** for people with early HIV infection is to help them come to terms with their diagnosis and to give them all the psychological and social support they need. The medical care of these patients rests on investigation into the clinical stage of their illness as well as into a series of immunological and virological markers which warn of the progress of the disease. Strategies using anti-retroviral medicine and antibiotics to reduce the incidence of opportunistic infections and tumours are currently being analysed and evaluated.

■ **HIV Progression and treatment approach.** Despite new therapies against HIV infection, the disease usually develops and patients need continual support. The medical care of people who develop AIDS involves a multi-disciplinary and multi-speciality approach which is very demanding in both medical manpower and paramedical time. At the Westminster and St. Stephens AIDS Unit patients are given as much autonomy as possible when deciding on their own course of treatment and it is important to obtain, test and offer as many new treatments as possible. Patients are provided with the full facts about the range of options open to them so they can make the decision which is right for them. The Westminster and St Stephens AIDS Unit combines an approach, which involves the use of established treatments alongside experimental therapies, characterised by a profound belief in the need for high quality palliative care for people with HIV/AIDS.

■ **The continued development** of this philosophy of care for people with HIV and AIDS will be greatly enhanced by the success of the St Stephens AIDS Research Appeal (STAR Appeal). The provision of laboratory and technical services for the clinical care of patients is absolutely essential. The need for further sociological and psychological research on the well-being of patients and how they are best supported in their illness will be invaluable. The success of the STAR Appeal will help achieve these aims for people with HIV infection and AIDS.

A NEW AIDS RESEARCH CENTRE

■ **Right now** a major fund raising programme is taking place to provide a new AIDS Research Centre to run in tandem with the existing clinical treatment unit, The Kobler Centre, so as to continue and expand the current research effort of the Westminster and St Stephens AIDS Unit.

■ **The Westminster and St Stephens AIDS Unit** became involved with HIV and AIDS related illnesses in 1982. Since then it has reported around one-third of the total cases in the UK. As AIDS is a new and usually fatal disease, research is absolutely vital. Whilst there are many agencies undertaking long term research to find a cure, the Westminster and St. Stephens AIDS Unit is developing innovative techniques, acquiring new treatments and testing new drugs for people currently with HIV infection and AIDS. The unit is more active and successful in this field than any other in the UK. It was the first unit in Europe to use many new drugs including zidovudine (AZT), dideoxyinosine (DDI) and it is experimenting with several new antiviral agents which have great promise for the future. These are fine achievements but much more could be achieved with a more independent and dedicated Unit.

■ **This project was conceived** by one of the Unit's patients, Edward van Finnamore, whose idea it was to establish a self-contained research centre. Edward dedicated the final part of his life to the continuing success of the project and the unit's research programme. His friends are involved in all aspects of the project and are totally committed to its success. Edward's estate was left to the St Stephens AIDS Trust and this booklet has been sponsored by the Edward van Finnamore Trust.

-----LATEST NEWS-----

■ The STAR Appeal has succeeded in securing a commitment from Riverside Health Authority to provide space within an existing Health Authority building for the new AIDS Research Centre. This makes the £6 million formerly needed for a site and new building unnecessary therefore achieving a reduction of the Appeal target from £10 million to £4 million. Although this is still a substantial sum it has made the target much more attainable and will result in the Research Centre being completed sooner than originally planned.

-----LATEST NEWS-----

3. Nutrition
4. Genitourinary Infection
5. Immunology
6. Substance Misuse

■ **The Information Exchange.** It has long been a major tenet of medical ethics that patients should be to some degree in charge of their own treatment. With AIDS this has become a reality, thereby speeding up the testing and introduction of new treatments and improving both medical care and the integration between patients, doctors, health workers and voluntary organisations. It is the aim of the Information Exchange to disseminate the results of the Centre's research through the provision of day rooms, seminar rooms, training rooms, offices for AIDS related voluntary organisations and a refreshment area. The Information Exchange will be a Drop-In Centre for all those involved.

■ **The cost** of the project has been calculated by a Cost Consultant and Quantity Surveyor to be at least £10 million.

THE BUILDING

■ A site has been identified close to the existing Kobler Centre and the new hospital on Fulham Road, London SW10. A full professional team are working on the planning and design of the 24,000 square foot building which will have two main areas — the Research and Laboratory section and an Information Exchange.

■ **The Research Area.** This will occupy around two-thirds of the total building area and will break down into six areas of research, three requiring lab space and three requiring offices, meeting rooms and counselling rooms. These six research areas are:—

1. Therapeutics and Pharmacology
2. Psychology and Sociology
3. Nutrition
4. Genitourinary Infection
5. Immunology
6. Substance Misuse

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Please send your contribution to the address overleaf together with this tear off section. If you would like to have more details of other ways in which you can contribute please tick the appropriate box overleaf or call Mark Fear or John Guy at the Campaign Office on 081 746 5592 or on mobile phone numbers 0831 202268 or 0831 273618.

I enclose my donation of £ _____

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Expiry Date _____

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- Gift Aid:** for single cash gifts from £600 to £5 million net of basic rate tax by individuals and/or companies.
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- Legacies:** exempt from Inheritance Tax.
- Gifts in Kind:** for example equipment and materials.
- Gifts of Assets:** for example shares.
- Sponsorship:** parts of the Research Centre's projects, programmes and activities are attractive sponsorship packages.
- Confidential Giving:** Contributors may prefer anonymity.
- Designated Memorial Gifts:** Unique opportunities to designate a gift to commemorate the life or achievements of others.



ST STEPHENS AIDS RESEARCH APPEAL

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The St Stephens AIDS Research Appeal is on behalf of the St. Stephens AIDS Trust, a registered charity No. 1002285

This booklet is sponsored by the
Edward van Fennamore Trust

The St Stephens AIDS Research Appeal
is a self-financing campaign

printed on recycled paper

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