



Envisioning the future

Annual Review

2010/11

Fight for Sight
Pioneering eye research

Our Aim

Fight for Sight is a charity that aims to reduce sight loss in adults and children.

What we do

We fund pioneering research to prevent sight loss and treat eye disease.

Our principles

Pioneering – we're here to break new ground

Having impact – because results matter

Enabling – together we can reduce sight loss

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[Thank you to all those who feature within this annual review.](#)

Research funded by Fight for Sight this year has continued to make progress towards the prevention of sight loss and the treatment of eye disease.

This review gives details of key developments announced during the year. These include progress being made towards developing potential stem cell treatments to address glaucoma and inherited eye disease. We have also increased our understanding about the cornea which could help us develop innovative treatments to repair damage to this part of the eye. Last year we reported on the progress of gene therapy trials for children with inherited eye disease. These trials continue and Fight for Sight has committed further funds to identify those patients who would be suitable candidates for clinical trials of novel therapies. We are now closer to the commencement of gene therapy trials to treat choroideremia.

The charity's income in the year increased to £4.8m (up from £3.1m in 2010). Of this increase £1.5m related to legacy income, representing a 149% increase from the previous year. Income from donations increased by 9% and from events

by 11%. Investment income also increased, by 41% from the previous year.

During the year we awarded new grants totalling £3.4m (up from £2.6m in 2010). These grants were allocated to 16 different universities and hospitals in the UK, funding research into a wide range of eye conditions. Details of some of these new grants are included in this review.

The economic environment remains difficult and we are very grateful to everyone who has supported us during the year. Through donations, legacies and fundraising activities the charity has been able to continue to fund vital world-class research. We are also very grateful to the researchers and clinicians in the UK and overseas who volunteer their time and expertise to help ensure that we are funding the highest quality research.

Christopher Moore – Chairman
Michèle Acton – Chief Executive



“It has been a year of good progress in eye research and one of economic uncertainty.”

Michèle Acton –
Chief Executive
Fight for Sight



“I had cataract surgery in both my eyes and it has made the world a brighter and clearer place.”

Frank Shore

Fight for Sight is the UK's leading charity dedicated to funding pioneering research to prevent sight loss and treat eye disease.

Making a difference to people's lives

Fight for Sight funds researchers attached to universities and hospitals throughout the UK. The majority of research takes place in the UK but some research projects are carried out overseas. Our research programme is focusing on preventing and treating age-related sight loss, glaucoma, diabetic eye disease, corneal disease and inherited eye conditions.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to:

- establish the UK Corneal Transplant Service enabling over 48,000 transplants
- save the sight of thousands of premature babies by controlling levels of oxygen delivery
- help to fund the world's first gene therapy clinical trial for inherited blindness
- revolutionise treatment for amblyopia (lazy eye)
- provide £1m for the research unit at the children's eye centre at Moorfields Eye Hospital

To ensure the research that we fund is of the highest quality, we have established an extensive process of independent peer review. As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), our peer review process complies with AMRC guidelines for best practice.



“Fight for Sight funding is helping me prevent sight loss by improving techniques for glaucoma surgery.”

Dr Sumit Dhingra,
UCL Institute of
Ophthalmology



During the year Fight for Sight continued to fund pioneering research into a number of common eye diseases.



“Stem cell treatment is moving forward very fast in many branches of medicine and we are seeing some of the best results in eyes.”

Professor Keith Martin
University of Cambridge

It is estimated that 5% of blindness around the world is caused by corneal disease.

Corneal disease

The corneal epithelium is a layer of tissue made up of epithelial cells which helps to protect the eye from germs, dust and other harmful matter. Professor Karl Matter and his team at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology have been studying the way the epithelial cells stick to each other to form a layer of tissue and, in particular, how they can reform to repair damaged tissue caused by corneal injury or disease.

With funding from Fight for Sight, researchers at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology have carried out important research into the processes that help to form the epithelial layer of the cornea. Professor Matter believes a greater understanding of this process will enable researchers to develop treatments to repair damage to the cornea, preventing permanent sight loss.

Glaucoma

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of sight loss worldwide and affects one in 50 people over the age of 40 in the UK. Professor Keith Martin at the University of Cambridge has shown that transplantation of stem cells derived from bone marrow can protect the optic nerve from damage in a laboratory model of glaucoma. Further studies are ongoing with the aim of demonstrating that this could be a viable therapeutic approach to treating glaucoma. Work also continues at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology under Professor Peng Khaw to establish whether stem cells from the nose can be used to repair and regenerate the damaged optic nerve in glaucoma.

Leber's congenital amaurosis

Choroideremia

With funding from Fight for Sight, Professor Jane Sowden and her colleagues have taken important steps towards the development of a new stem cell treatment for retinal disease. This research, carried out by a team at the UCL Institute of Child Health and UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, could lead to new treatments for the many people affected by retinal disease.

For the first time, researchers have successfully transplanted photoreceptor cells into models of Leber's congenital amaurosis (LCA) – a form of inherited childhood blindness. The photoreceptors, made up of cones and rods, are specialised cells in the retina that help us to see light and colour and enable us to see at night. Damaged photoreceptor cells in retinal diseases such as LCA can cause severe visual impairment or blindness. The implanted cells express a gene called Crx which is needed to make new healthy cone and rod photoreceptors. The new photoreceptor cells integrate with the retina and replace the damaged cells.

Fight for Sight, through the Tommy Salisbury Choroideremia Fund, have continued to support Professor Miguel Seabra's research into choroideremia at Imperial College London. This research, in collaboration with Professor Robert MacLaren at Oxford University, is helping us move closer to a clinical trial.

Up to 1,500 people in the UK and 100,000 people worldwide are affected by choroideremia. It is a recessive hereditary X-linked eye disease that generally affects males only. Diagnosis is usually made in childhood and leads to blindness in men by their forties. To date there is no treatment for the condition. Choroideremia is characterised by degeneration of the retinal pigment epithelium, photoreceptors and choroid. The aim of this research is to investigate the feasibility for gene therapy to halt the disease progression and pave the way for future trials.



“We have shown for the first time that it is possible to transplant new cone photoreceptors into the mature retina. It may now be possible to translate this success into treatments for humans.”

Professor Jane Sowden
UCL Institute of Child Health



Up to 1,500 people in the UK and 100,000 people worldwide are affected by choroideremia.

Increasing our understanding of the causes of eye disease will significantly influence how we prevent and diagnose it.

“The funding from Fight for Sight means I will be able to study the genetic basis of keratoconus and help the search for new treatments.”

Professor Chris Inglehearn
University of Leeds



Keratoconus

Keratoconus is an inherited condition which causes the cornea (the protective layer at the front of the eye) to thin and change in shape. This stops light focusing on the retina at the back of the eye and vision can become blurred and distorted. While treatments are available for the condition, which affects around 1 in 2,000 people worldwide, they carry risks and are not always successful.

Professor Chris Inglehearn and Dr Manir Ali at the University of Leeds have been awarded a grant to study the genetic basis in families in which keratoconus is inherited in an autosomal recessive fashion. The knowledge gained will allow clinicians to give a clearer picture of likely risks and outcomes to patients and their families. It will also allow ophthalmologists to determine the success of different therapies for the different forms of keratoconus and will help the search for new treatments.

Age-related macular degeneration

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of sight loss in people over 65 in the UK. A Fight for Sight Clinical Fellowship has been awarded to Mr Tiarnan Keenan of the University of Manchester for his research into new treatments for AMD. His work will focus on a particular gene mutation, found in 35% of the European-descended population, which increases the risk of the disease developing. It leads to loss of central (detailed) vision through damage to a part of the retina called the macula, and frequently affects both eyes.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of sight loss in people over 65 in the UK.

Primary Open Angle Glaucoma

Glaucoma refers to a range of conditions characterised by damage to the optic nerve which is responsible for carrying information from the retina to the brain. It is the leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide. Fight for Sight's research programme aims to understand more about the causes of glaucoma, develop ways to diagnose the condition and develop new treatments.

In 2010/11 a new grant was awarded to Dr Forbes Manson from the University of Manchester to investigate the causes of Primary Open Angle Glaucoma (POAG). POAG is the most common form of glaucoma. It is characterised by raised internal eye pressure and damage to the retinal ganglion cells at the back of the eye.

Mutations in four known genes account for less than 10% of patients diagnosed, indicating that other genes remain to be found. Dr Manson's research has identified a region on the chromosome containing a novel POAG gene. This project will characterise this gene and determine its role in POAG and eye development. This will aid in the identification of patients at risk of developing glaucoma and in the management of the disease. In addition it may identify novel drug treatments for the disease.

Amblyopia

The most common cause of reduced visual function in childhood is amblyopia, also known as 'lazy eye'. The condition affects approximately 3-4% of the total population. It most often results from either a misalignment of a child's eyes, such as crossed eyes, or a difference in image quality between the two eyes (one eye focusing better than the other). These problems lead to abnormal development of the visual areas of the brain. If left untreated, it can cause permanent sight problems.

Fight for Sight has awarded a PhD studentship to Dr Anita Simmers at Glasgow Caledonian University to use new methods for measuring and monitoring amblyopia and correcting visual problems resulting from the condition. She hopes to develop a better understanding of the way amblyopia affects the visual processes in the brain, which will have an impact on the development of effective strategies for the prevention and treatment of amblyopia.

"The PhD studentship award from Fight for Sight will give me the chance to develop a better understanding of how amblyopia affects the visual processes in the brain."

Dr Anita Simmers
Glasgow Caledonian
University

The most common cause of reduced visual function in childhood is amblyopia also known as 'lazy eye'.

Detecting and diagnosing eye disease early can prevent sight loss.

Enabling earlier detection of glaucoma

Damage to the optic nerve caused by glaucoma cannot be reversed but early detection enables earlier treatment which can slow down the progression of the disease and prevent permanent sight loss. Dr Thomas Jehle and Mr David Broadway at the Glaucoma Research Unit of the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital will use their grant to test the effectiveness of the Pattern Electroretinogram (PERG) technique for detecting early stage glaucoma. It is hoped this new technique can also be used to help doctors determine cases where the disease is likely to progress and new treatment is needed.

Dr Julie Albon, Professor James Morgan and Professor Rachel North, from the School of Optometry and Vision Science at Cardiff University, will use their Fight for Sight Small Grant Award to detect the early stages of optic nerve damage caused by glaucoma.

Achromatopsia

Fight for Sight has awarded funding through the Dr Hans and Mrs Gertrude Hirsch Award scheme to Dr Michel Michaelides from Moorfields Eye Hospital to support his research into new treatments for the rare inherited retinal disease achromatopsia. Achromatopsia affects the cone photoreceptor cells in the retina which enable people to see colour and light. It causes colour blindness, nystagmus, sensitivity to light and poor vision. There is currently no way of preventing or treating the disease.

Working with Professor Tony Moore, Dr Michaelides, who has a particular interest in inherited retinal disease, will use the £15,000 award for his research into gene replacement therapies for achromatopsia. He aims to

identify people with the disease who still have some functioning cone photoreceptors and may be suitable for clinical trials planned for the near future.

The Dr Hans and Mrs Gertrude Hirsch Award scheme, administered by Fight for Sight, was established through funding from the estate of the late Dr Hans Hirsch who had a particular interest in helping people with visual impairment.

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of sight loss worldwide and affects one in 50 people over the age of 40 in the UK.



“Three years ago I was diagnosed with glaucoma and I had to give up Pilates, yoga and swimming but I still do Zumba. I am having an operation in the new year to hopefully hold back its progression.”

Maureen Hart

Developing ways of preventing early damage to eyes will help save the sight of millions of people.

Diabetic retinopathy

Diabetic retinopathy is now the leading cause of irreversible blindness in the working population in developed countries. Based on recent findings linking inflammation to the progression of diabetic retinopathy, Professor Alan Stitt and his colleagues Dr Heping Xu and Dr Hongliang Zong at Queen's University Belfast have been awarded a grant to investigate the role of a protein 'RAGE' which is known to cause inflammation in several other diseases. In particular, they will look at the link between RAGE and the damage caused in the early stages of diabetic

retinopathy. Preventing this early damage could stop the disease progressing and causing sight loss.

This project will establish if RAGE has a role in several key aspects of early-stage diabetic retinopathy, with special emphasis on pro-inflammatory pathways and infiltration of inflammatory cells into the retina. New methods for RAGE blockade in pre-clinical models will be developed. Such an approach is important because if early damage can be prevented then this could prevent progression to the sight-threatening stages of retinopathy and be of considerable clinical significance.

Trachoma

Trachoma is a scarring disease of the conjunctiva and is the leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide. The disease is triggered by repeated infections with the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*, which causes chronic conjunctival inflammation. Progressive scarring develops, turning the

eyelid inwards and causing the eyelashes to rub on the cornea, eventually leading to blindness. Although this can be partly treated by surgery, the disease usually returns after a few years. There is no treatment available, and very little is known about how and why the disease progresses.

Dr Maryse Bailly from the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology and her group, including Dr Daniel Ezra, have been awarded a grant to develop a model using cells taken from patients following surgery for trachoma to study the scarring process and identify some of the mechanisms involved. By comparing the genes that are expressed by normal and trachomatous cells, they hope to identify the major molecules that underlie the disease progression. This will allow them to identify new targets for treating the disease, and validate them in the laboratory. This project will be conducted in collaboration with Dr Matthew Burton and his group at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Diabetic retinopathy is now the leading cause of irreversible blindness in the working population in developed countries.



“With funding from Fight for Sight I am working with colleagues to identify the major molecules that underlie the scarring process in trachoma.”

Dr Maryse Bailly
UCL Institute of Ophthalmology

Pioneering new treatments that could restore sight.



“My half-sister lost her sight. She had AMD. The loss of her independence hit her hard. Her great hobbies were reading, driving her car and gardening and that was all taken away from her.”

Margaret Grant

Corneal dystrophy is a group of inherited eye diseases which cause sight loss.

Age-related macular degeneration

The most common cause of sight loss in people over 65 in the UK is age-related macular degeneration (AMD). It can result in the loss of people's central vision and impact on their ability to undertake simple tasks like reading, driving and recognizing faces.

In 2010/11 Fight for Sight continued to fund a wide ranging programme of research aimed at addressing AMD and also awarded new grants in this area. A new grant awarded to Professor Majlinda Lako and colleagues at Newcastle University will look at the potential of transplanting new photoreceptor cells (light sensitive cells) into the retina. It is hoped that these new cells that are derived from stem cells will replace the photoreceptors that have failed as a result of AMD. This would then have the potential to restore sight to people with AMD and may also help those with inherited eye conditions such as retinitis pigmentosa.

Some limited treatments exist for the wet form of AMD and can involve regular injections into the eye. This can be unpleasant for patients and represents a significant burden for their carers and for the NHS. A new research grant awarded to Mr Tim Jackson of King's College Hospital, London, aims to develop new ways of delivering existing or novel therapeutic agents to the eye to replace injections.

Corneal dystrophy

Corneal dystrophy is a group of inherited eye diseases which cause sight loss. A Fight for Sight funded project, led by Professor Irwin McLean of the University of Dundee and Dr Tara Moore of the University of Ulster, will test a new method being developed to correct the genetic defects that cause corneal dystrophy. This technique, called knockout-replacement gene therapy, involves silencing of the genes involved in the disease and replacing them with healthy genes to correct the defects.

Improving the success of corneal transplants

Corneal transplants are used to restore sight in patients affected by corneal disease or injury. Although transplantation restores vision in the long term in many patients, immunological rejection of the transplanted donor cornea is the commonest cause of failure.

A new grant has been awarded to Mr Frank Larkin and optometrist Mr Scott Chin Hung Hau, based at Moorfields Eye Hospital. They are developing a method of predicting the risk of corneal graft rejection following corneal transplants. The new non-invasive technique will measure the number of white blood cells found in the cornea following transplantation to see if there is a correlation between white blood cell count and corneal graft rejection. If successful, the technique could be used to identify patients at risk of corneal rejection and improve the success rate of transplantations.

Gene therapy for Stargardt's Disease

Stargardt's Disease is one of the most common forms of retinal degeneration that starts to affect people in childhood and early adulthood. An award was made during the year to Professor Robert MacLaren of Oxford University to develop a gene replacement therapy trial for patients with the disease.

The disease is caused by defects in the ABCA4 gene. The aim of the current project is to produce essential data to show that the healthy ABCA4 gene can be effectively delivered to the cells in the retina and that these cells can then start to produce the normal protein to replace the defective one. This pre-clinical data is essential in order to move rapidly towards a gene therapy trial for patients with the disease.



“By ascertaining why corneal grafts are rejected by certain patients we can improve the success rates of transplantation.”

Mr Frank Larkin
Moorfields Eye Hospital

Stargardt's Disease is one of the most common forms of retinal degeneration that starts to affect people in childhood and early adulthood.

Fight for Sight is committed to supporting young researchers to progress their career and develop innovative treatments for a range of eye conditions.

New cell-based therapy

Dr Reinhold Medina Benavente at Queen's University Belfast was awarded a Fight for Sight Early Career Investigator Award this year. His research will focus on eye conditions such as diabetic retinopathy and retinopathy of prematurity where the blood vessels fail to supply the retina with oxygen and nutrients causing severe visual impairment. Dr Benavente will investigate a new cell-based therapy using patients' own cells (vascular stem cells) which could prevent these sight-threatening ischaemic retinopathies from developing.

Current treatments are mainly focused on the late stages of the diseases. Therefore there is an urgent need to explore novel treatment modalities for the early stages of vessel damage to prevent progression that leads to sight-threatening complications. Results from this research will have extensive

clinical implications by providing basic information on how to develop a novel vascular stem cell therapy for treatment of sight-threatening ischaemic retinopathies.

Regenerating nerve cells

An Early Career Investigator Award has also been made to Dr Barbara Lorber at the University of Cambridge. Dr Lorber will look at transplanting specialised cells taken from the retina to repair the damage to the optic nerve caused by glaucoma. Glaucoma is characterised by progressive death of retinal nerve cells and loss of their processes in the optic nerve which connects the eye to the brain. Current treatments focus on lowering the eye pressure to slow the disease progression, but these fail in some patients. There is therefore an urgent need for the development of new treatment strategies.

Dr Benavente will investigate a new cell-based therapy using patients' own cells (vascular stem cells) which could prevent sight-threatening ischaemic retinopathies from developing.

At Fight for Sight we believe working together with key partners in the field maximises the impact of our work.

Prestigious MRC Training Fellowship

This year Fight for Sight has teamed up with the Medical Research Council (MRC) to award new Clinical Research Training Fellowships. The three-year Fellowships, jointly funded by Fight for Sight and the MRC, are open to clinically qualified professionals who are interested in pursuing vision research. The awards enable Fellows to undertake specialist training to develop research skills and still spend up to 20% of their time seeing patients. Mr Andrew Bastawrous from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is the first person to receive one of these prestigious awards.

The award will support Mr Bastawrous with his research into the incidence and progression of eye disease in Kenya. The project, which is a collaboration between the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Rift Valley Provincial Hospital in Kenya, will look specifically at

diseases affecting the back of the eye including glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). These diseases are believed to be a major problem in Africa but there is little reliable information available about how many people are affected or how fast the diseases are progressing.

By revisiting patients who were tested for glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and AMD in 2007 Mr Bastawrous will be able to measure how fast the diseases have progressed in those previously diagnosed with the conditions, and how many new cases have arisen. This information will help in the development of blindness prevention programmes in Africa.

Improving visual impairment in children

With joint funding from Fight for Sight, RNIB and Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, Dr Naomi Dale of the UCL Institute of Child Health in London will work with Dr Alison

Salt and Dr Michelle de Haan to investigate different ways of supporting the development of babies and young children with severe visual impairment. She will compare the standard care offered to children with a new Development Journal tool, in particular looking at how practitioners use materials and how they interact with parents. The project will test the effectiveness of the new tool and will provide feedback that can be used to improve early intervention support.

Fight for Sight is working with the Medical Research Council to award new Clinical Research Training Fellowships.

Fight for Sight aims to make the latest information on eye health and research available to as wide an audience as possible.

“The researchers funded by Fight for Sight are encouraged to share their results with those affected by eye disease.”

Dr Dolores Conroy, Director of Research, Fight for Sight



Fight for Sight supported a number of information events in 2010/11 including:

Birdshot Uveitis Day

At the first Birdshot Uveitis Day held at University College London (UCL) in September 2010, participants were given information on Fight for Sight-funded research into uveitis and other eye-related diseases. The day was a unique opportunity for people with a Birdshot diagnosis to meet leading specialists and nursing staff to share experiences and learn from one another. Participants also had the chance to find out more about new treatments and research, help shape the future for people with Birdshot and meet others with the same rare eye condition.

Research Day

A Research Day for over 40 of Fight for Sight's supporters in London and the Home Counties was held in October 2010 at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology. Dr Sumit Dhingra presented results from his project which

is developing better outcomes for glaucoma surgery; Professor John Marshall gave an update on his development of a laser rejuvenation therapy for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and Dr Michael Wormstone presented his research results on the prevention of cataract and after cataract formation.

School Dress Down Day

Fight for Sight's Chief Executive Michele Acton addressed the pupils of Kensington Prep School in London in October 2010 and gave a talk to the pupils about the importance of eye health and research. The girls organised a colourful dress down day to raise funds for Fight for Sight. By dressing in the colour of their eyes, the girls in green, brown, grey and blue raised almost £500 to support Fight for Sight's vital eye research programme.



“I was diagnosed with Keratoconus in both eyes in my teens. I have been told that I can have a corneal transplant but I’m waiting for a few years in the hope of new developments.”

Drew Laventure

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has given time and money to support Fight for Sight over the past year.

In 2010/11 Fight for Sight's friends and supporters took part in a number of sponsored events. Here are just a few:

Eye Cycle Land's End to John O'Groats

Congratulations to actor Lloyd Hutchison, jeweller Alex Monroe and scientist Professor John Greenwood who cycled the length of the UK to raise funds to support research into blindness and eye disease. The three cyclists began their gruelling challenge at Land's End on 1 July 2010, and survived heavy rain showers, steep country climbs and sore legs to arrive exhausted but triumphant at John O'Groats on 14 July 2010. John, a professor at University College London's Institute of Ophthalmology, and Alex who has suffered from sight problems in the past, are both aware of the impact that eye disease can have and wanted to do something practical to support Fight for Sight's research programme.

Great Wall of China trek

In October 2010 Sarah Johnson Griffiths joined a group of 25 people to trek along the rugged paths of the ancient Great Wall of China, some of which date back to the Ming Dynasty, to raise funds for Fight for Sight. Seeing the effect of glaucoma on her mother's sight made Sarah determined to raise funds to support our research into new treatments for this serious condition.

Radio 4 Appeal

Actress Phyllida Law fronted a special appeal on behalf of Fight for Sight which was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2010. After watching her mother lose her sight, and ultimately her independence, to glaucoma, Phyllida is only too aware of the devastating effect sight loss can have. Phyllida also has the condition and believes supporting research now is vital for preventing sight loss in the future.

Ties and Tiaras disco

The Tommy Salisbury Choroideremia Committee hosted another successful fundraising event in October 2010. The Ties and Tiaras disco brought together 70 of the committee's supporters and raised £1,100 to support choroideremia research. Choroideremia is a rare inherited eye condition that affects ten-year-old Tommy Salisbury. The Tommy Salisbury Choroideremia Committee has been raising funds to support this research since 2005. The Ties and Tiaras disco was organised by Tommy's mother, Emma Salisbury, and grandmother, Dot Grindley.



Phyllida Law - Radio 4 Appeal

“I’ve been lucky because my glaucoma was caught early but I’m very conscious this could run through my whole family. Research happening now could not only improve treatments for me but could also save the sight of my children and grandchildren.”

Phyllida Law



The Eye Cycle team



Ties and Tiaras

“For five years my mum has undergone treatments and operations to try and stop her glaucoma getting any worse. I decided to sign up to the trek because I don't want other people to experience what my mum has had to.”

Sarah Johnson Griffiths



Sarah Johnson Griffiths

Badge of the Order of Mercy

Fight for Sight Vice President, Clive Stone, was awarded the Badge of the Order of Mercy in June 2010 in recognition of his many years of voluntary service to Fight for Sight. He was presented with his medal at a ceremony at The Mansion House, London, attended by the Lady Mayoress. Continuing a tradition that began over a century ago, The League of Mercy awards around 25 medals every year to volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to charities and voluntary organisations.

Clive, a qualified optometrist and Fellow of the College of Optometrists, has supported Fight for Sight for over 20 years, serving as a trustee, Chairman and, currently, as Vice President. Over the years he has helped to raise funds for major research projects and to establish the Fight for Sight Eye Clinic. He continues to organise an annual golf day to raise funds for the charity.

London to Paris cycle challenge

Congratulations to Simon Birchall, Lars Clausen, Andy Hicks, Marc Nash, Adrian Neal, Tom Robson, Peter Snell and Brendan Murphy who took on the 300km London to Paris cycling challenge in June 2010 in aid of Fight for Sight. The cyclists set off from London on 25 June and cycled to the Eiffel Tower in just three days.

Amsterdam marathon

In October 2010, first-time marathon runner Michael Bowen ran 26.1 miles through the streets of Amsterdam in aid of Fight for Sight. As Head of Research at The College of Optometrists, Michael is aware of the important role Fight for Sight plays in funding eye research in the UK. He has also watched members of his own family cope with sight loss.

Fight for Sight raffle

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket for Fight for Sight's fundraising raffle. The draw took place on the London Eye in November 2010. Actress Camilla Power and Fight for Sight President Mrs Faanya Rose, who drew the winning tickets, were joined by Fight for Sight staff and guests including long-term supporter and marathon runner Charles Medhurst. The raffle was a great success raising £33,500 to support Fight for Sight's vital research into the prevention and treatment of blindness and eye disease. Thanks also to the Merlin Entertainments London Eye for kindly donating the capsule where the winning tickets were drawn.



Michael Bowen

“My grandmother lost most of her sight through age-related macular degeneration and my eldest cousin has been blind from birth - her mother also recently lost most of her vision through retinal bleeding. Their strength and courage inspired me to do something practical to help prevent blindness and eye disease in the future.”

Michael Bowen, Head of Research,
The College of Optometrists



Clive Stone and Sir Robert Balchin



Fight for Sight raffle on the London Eye

“Working for an optician I know how important research is for preventing sight loss in the future. It is also a cause that is personal to me. My mother has recently been diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration so knowing I am supporting Fight for Sight research into conditions like AMD will make all the steep climbs and sore legs worthwhile.”

Adrian Neal, Fylde optometrists GR Hardwick



Adrian Neal

Our thanks go to the following supporters and partners who have made significant contributions during the past year.

Advanced Vision Science, Inc

Bausch + Lomb

Blindcare

Brian Mercer Charitable Trust

Carmen Butler-Charteris Charitable Trust

Christian Levett

City University

CQS Management Ltd

Fraser Homes Foundation for Ophthalmic Research

H B Allen Charitable Trust

John & Lucille Van Geest Foundation

Miss Barbara Mary Wilmot Discretionary Trust

Moorfields Eye Hospital Development Fund

Peacock Charitable Trust

Rosetrees Trust

Special Trustees of Moorfields Eye Hospital

The Elizabeth Frankland Moore & Star Foundation Trust

The Laurence Misener Charitable Trust

The RD Crusaders Foundation

The Robert and Margaret Moss Charitable Trust

We would also like to thank our supporters who wish to remain anonymous.

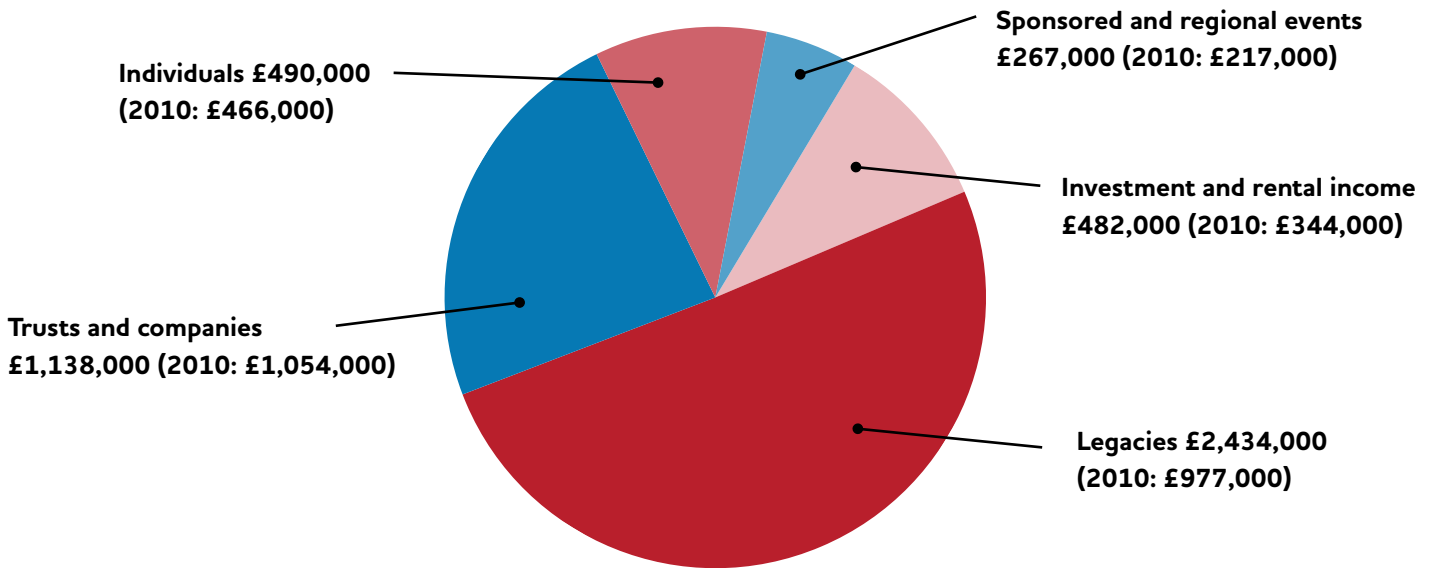
Our thanks

We are extremely grateful to all our supporters who chose to remember Fight for Sight in their will. Legacies are an incredibly important source of income for us. In 2010/11 we received over £2.4m in legacies enabling us to continue to fund much-needed eye research.

Our finances

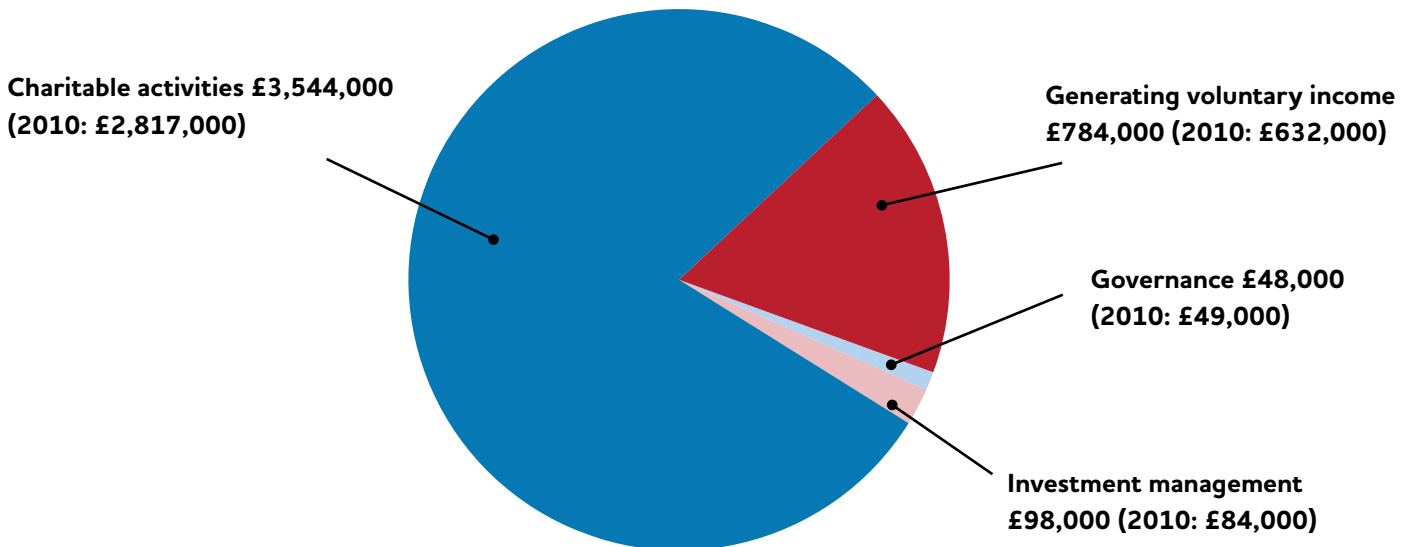
Where our money came from

In the year ended 31 March 2011, our total income of £4.8 million (2010: £3.1 million) came from the following sources:



How we spent our money

During the year we spent £4.5 million (2010: £3.6 million) on the following:



Our commitment to eye research

Since 31 March 2011 Fight for Sight has committed a further £1.9 million to eye research and announced another round of research grants. Every year we have to turn down many excellent applications from leading eye researchers simply because we don't have sufficient funds.

This is a summary of Fight for Sight's income and expenditure taken from our audited accounts. The full financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2011 (which received an unqualified audit report) are available by contacting Fight for Sight or can be downloaded from www.fightforsight.org.uk/reports-and-accounts.

Our people

Royal Patron

HRH The Duke of York KG

President

Mrs Faanya Rose

Vice Presidents

Mr Christopher Prideaux

Mr Clive Stone

Mr Simon Weil

Patrons

Mr Arnold Burton

Miss Joan Collins OBE

The Lord Colwyn CBE

Dr Ahmad Al-Dubayan, Director General of the The Islamic Cultural Centre and the London Central Mosque Trust

His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain

The Very Reverend John Hall, Dean of Westminster

Mr Rolf Harris OBE

Ms Phyllida Law

Miss Jan Leeming

Lady Susanna Lyell

Miss Sue MacGregor CBE

The Free Churches Moderator

The Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland

Mr Philip Mould OBE

Mrs Jane Ridley

President of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists

President of the Royal College of Physicians

Lord Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth

Sir James Spooner FCA

Ambassadors

Professor Peng Khaw

Professor John Marshall

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Mr Christopher Moore (Chairman)

Professor Desmond Archer OBE

Mr Jonathan Brinsden

Mr Neil Cox

Professor Alistair Fielder

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Mr Mark Powell

Mr Alistair Rae

Mrs Faanya Rose

Mr Tom Wiggin

Professor Alan Wright

Executive team

Chief Executive Miss Michele Acton

Head of Finance Mrs Kalok Bonar

Director of Development Mr Julian Jackson

Director of Research Dr Dolores Conroy

Research Strategy Advisory Group

Professor Alistair Fielder (Chairman)

Dr Heather Giles

Dr Elizabeth Graham

Professor Peng Khaw

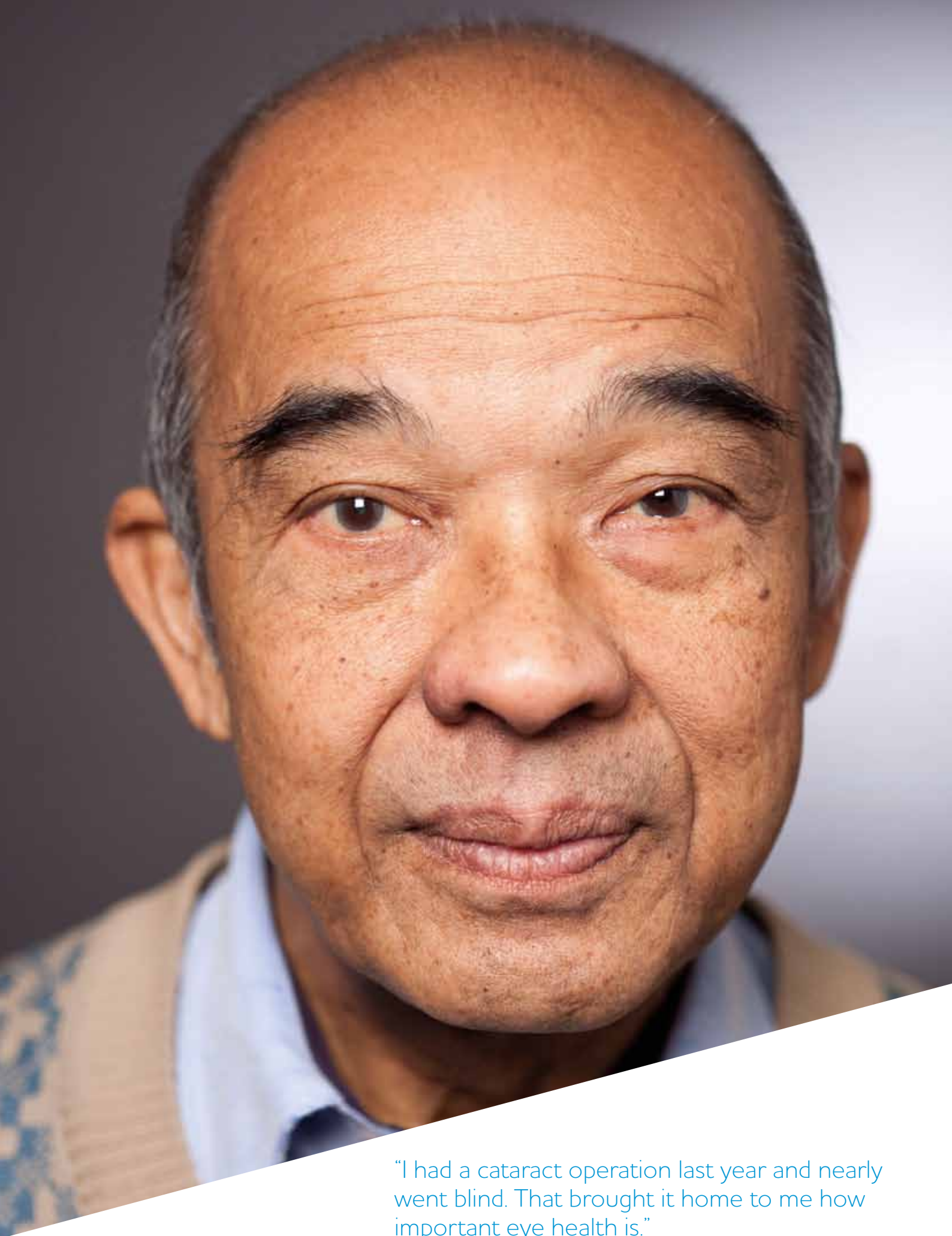
Mr Nigel Pantling

Professor Roy Quinlan

Professor Gary Rubin

Professor Alan Wright

November 2011



“I had a cataract operation last year and nearly went blind. That brought it home to me how important eye health is.”

Horace Chung

How you can help

Leaving a legacy

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to fund a number of important developments in eye research. Leaving a legacy is a meaningful way to support our research beyond your lifetime. With your gift we can make an even bigger difference to people's lives. If you would like to talk to us in confidence about leaving a gift in your will please contact Julian Jackson on Tel. 020 7264 3911/ 020 7264 3900 or email: Julian@fightforsight.org.uk.

Organising an event

Organising an event is a great way to support us. We can help with ideas, planning and fundraising and can provide Fight for Sight T-shirts, balloons, pens and badges.

Making a donation

A one-off donation, a gift in memory of a loved one or a regular gift through direct debit all help to fund further eye research. You can also give online through JustGiving or donate a percentage of profits from goods sold through eBay.

Giving in celebration

Celebrate your special day and give the gift of sight. Ask family and friends to make a donation to Fight for Sight in lieu of presents and help our researchers to find ways of preventing sight loss.

Donating your shares

Share giving is a tax-efficient way to contribute to the prevention and treatment of blindness and eye disease.

Nominating us as your company's charity of the year

Nominate Fight for Sight for your company's charity of the year scheme and involve colleagues, customers and suppliers in raising funds through a variety of activities.

Buying our Christmas cards

Help us to raise awareness of our work and funds to support our research by buying Fight for Sight Christmas cards. You can buy them online or request an order form from the Fight for Sight office.

Donating through payroll giving

Setting up a monthly donation to Fight for Sight through your employer's payroll giving scheme generates valuable funds for us and is tax efficient for you (e.g. if you are a higher rate tax payer, a £10 monthly donation would cost you £6 per month).

Completing a Gift Aid declaration

If you pay UK income or capital gains tax your donations can be worth a further 25% to Fight for Sight. A Gift Aid declaration form is easy to complete or we can do it for you over the phone. Higher rate tax payers can also reclaim the difference between basic and higher rate of tax in their tax return.

To find out more about fundraising for or donating to Fight for Sight call us on 020 7264 3900 or visit our website www.fightforsight.org.uk.

Fight for Sight, 5th Floor, 9-13 Fenchurch Buildings
Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 5HR
Tel 020 7264 3900

www.fightforsight.org.uk

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Fight for Sight
Pioneering eye research