

Grants awarded over £20,000
January 2008

Project: Evaluation of multiplex technology in laboratory diagnosis of autoimmune disease

Beneficiary: Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Award: £49,000

'Multiplex' technology is a new technique to test a single sample for a number of specific antibodies at the same time. The grant will allow the team to evaluate the effectiveness of the technique. If it proves successful and reliable it should help to improve the diagnosis of autoimmune diseases.

Project: Transitional Service Framework for Children and Young People with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)

Beneficiary: Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Award: £161,000

Funding will help develop a transitional service for patients with DMD transferring from paediatric to adult care in order to optimise the cardio-respiratory, nutritional, functional and psychosocial management of this vulnerable patient group. This will be achieved by a Specialist DMD Therapist coordinating the multidisciplinary team with a re-structured neuromuscular clinic service.

Project: Predicting continence in patients undergoing surgery for anal fistulae

Beneficiary: Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Award: £140,000

Treatment for anal fistulae often involves division of part of the anal sphincter which can lead to incontinence. Predicting the chance of this currently relies solely on the experience of the surgeon. The grant will fund the evaluation of a new, more objective predictive tool which combines data from ultrasound readings and physiological measurements. If the tool proves to be accurate it will facilitate a more informed discussion and effective decision-making about surgery.

Project: Lambeth and Southwark Stroke User Involvement Network

Beneficiary: Lambeth and Southwark PCTs

Award: £157,000

Throughout the lifetime of the Charity's Modernisation Initiative, a large number of patients have taken an active role in the programme to redesign stroke services. This grant aims to build on this enthusiasm and further develop the involvement of users in the shaping and delivery of stroke services in the future by setting up a formal Stroke User Involvement Network. The Service, which will span both Southwark and Lambeth, will bring together people living with stroke to constructively engage with providers to develop, deliver and

influence services, promote self care and self management and reduce social isolation through a range of user led support methods.

Project: 3-D ultrasound imaging surveillance of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) stent grafts

Beneficiary: Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Award: £84,000

Patients who have had a stent graft to treat their abdominal aortic aneurysm at Guy's and St Thomas' require regular monitoring for the rest of their lives. This grant will provide funds for 3-D imaging equipment, the use of which will replace CT scanning. This equipment gives staff a better picture of the graft and avoids the use of radiation making it safer for patients. The clearer imaging system will also allow the more sensitive detection and early treatment of stent graft failure, preventing rupture and death.

Project: St Christopher's Hospice

Beneficiary: Lambeth PCT

Award: £300,000 and extra £3,000 under the 1% for art initiative

Funding will contribute towards the costs of a capital project to reconfigure services at St Christopher's. The modernised environment will better support patients' needs and allow the institution to offer an extended range of services. An additional 1% of the grant has been awarded to fund artworks for the new building.

Project: A brief alcohol intervention service in community pharmacies

Beneficiary: Lambeth PCT

Award: £258,000

The grant will support a pilot, building on the public health role of pharmacists working in the community, to develop and use their skills to advise customers on safe drinking. Pharmacists have frequent contact with patients who find them approachable and helpful. They are trusted within local communities and in a prime position to offer healthcare advice.