

Tuesday 1st August 2006

Guy's and St Thomas' Annual Report highlights healthcare improvements being spearheaded in Lambeth and Southwark

Guy's and St Thomas Charity distributed over **£28.9 million** in grants to the NHS Trusts in Lambeth and Southwark during the last financial year, but the projects that it supports will benefit the wider NHS by testing new approaches towards improving healthcare and promoting wellbeing.

Highlights of the grants it awarded are detailed in the Annual Report for 2005 -06. These include:

- funding of **£421,500** for the new role of Primary Care Assistant Practitioner in **Lambeth Primary Care Trust**, which extends the remit of the current healthcare assistant role to include some nursing and therapy duties. As well as practical activities like managing wound care and helping with some rehabilitation exercises, the new PCAPs will carry out regular baby checks and deliver health education.
- **£195,000** to fund a research project into the care received by rheumatoid arthritis patients led by researchers at **King's College London** in conjunction with the rheumatology clinics at King's College Hospital NHS Trust and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. The study will assess different experiences of care received by patients across the boroughs, as well as identifying 'quality of life' factors affecting the condition, such as mobility and level of social support, as the basis for developing a protocol for care.
- an update on the **Face initiative** at **Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust** for which **£3.56 million** has been earmarked. This project demonstrates how the Charity's commitment towards improving the patient experience of visiting hospital is being achieved through refurbishments, staff training and improved way finding.

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The report also celebrates the successful fundraising activities of the Charity, notably through its Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal (for which a separate annual report is available), but also recognising the efforts of staff, patients and their families in fundraising or making donations to the Charity to support the services offered by Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

The Charity is also leading the way in developing new approaches towards grant making. For example its new End of life Care Programme was conceived following a workshop involving experts from the field at Southwark Cathedral.

Geoffrey Shepherd, Chief Executive said: "We hope that this year's Annual Report is both interesting and informative. The tremendous achievements of our beneficiary Trusts pays testimony to the added value that our grants bring to the health service. We are grateful to all those who support us in our work."

To obtain a copy of the report please contact Kate Dawson, Head of Communications on Tel: 020 7188 1218 or Laura Mason, Communications Assistant on Tel: 020 7188 9083.

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Notes to News Editors:

Guy's and St Thomas' Charity is the largest NHS-related Charity in the UK. It provides funding to support new services and innovations at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, Lambeth and Southwark Primary Care Trusts and South London and Maudsley NHS Trust. It also awards grants to enable research in institutions linked with the beneficiary Trusts. For more information contact Kate Dawson, Head of Communications on Tel: 020 7 188 1218 or out of hours mobile: 0772 2119 1570 or email:

kate.dawson@gsttcharity.org.uk. You can also visit the Charity's website at www.gsttcharity.org.uk

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