

UCARE

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Oxford Prostate Cancer Support Group

09 July 2018

Dear OPCSG Members

On behalf of UCARE, I am writing to thank you all for your very kind and generous donation of £4000 in support of two projects in prostate cancer.

£2000 for funding a Robotic Simulator: Robotic surgery is the future of surgical treatment for prostate cancer with the potential to dramatically reduce length-of-stay in hospital, time taken to return to work and the productivity of urology surgeons. It is important that university teaching hospitals such as Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust take a lead in training robotic fellows to perform this complex surgery. Men with prostate cancer in the Oxford region will benefit from this additional man-power and expertise. The Urology Department is fully equipped with state-of-the-art robotic equipment (da Vinci Si robot, Intuitive Surgical Inc) and performs increasing numbers of robotic operations. The aim is to make Oxford a leading International centre for robotic training but a vital component of this is simulator training. This enables aspiring robotic surgeons to become familiar with the equipment and key steps of each operation *before commencing supervised modular training on real patients.*

£2000 for funding for a research project investigating how prostate cancer spreads from the prostate to the bone, in order to identify new ways to prevent this. At present, undertaking these studies is very difficult. These cellular functions and interactions are active processes where timing is critical and it is not currently possible to study these cellular functions as they are occurring. The research team are requesting funding for the purchase of a Real-Time Cell History Recorder.). This equipment is vital as it will allow the research team to observe the cellular changes and interactions (e.g. cell death, growth, movement) between prostate cancer cells and bone cells as they happen. These studies are essential to find new mechanisms that control the spread of prostate cancer to the bone and the development of bone disease. This will lead to the *identification of novel therapeutic approaches to treat prostate cancer bone metastases.*

Your donation has made it possible for both the simulator and the cell history recorder to be purchased within the next few months and I will update you as soon as we have further news.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Valerie Berry' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Valerie Berry

Senior Executive