



LIBRA PATRONS PROVIDE LONG-TERM SUPPORT



Patrons: Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor, 6th Duke of Westminster, TV personality Gary Lineker and 2nd Countess Mountbatten of Burma

The Lions International Blood Research Appeal (LIBRA) is gaining widespread recognition, aided by the support of some high-profile personalities. The Duke of Westminster, Gary Lineker and Countess Mountbatten have all backed the appeal for many years and feel strongly about the need for research into cell therapies. Their ongoing involvement with LIBRA is appreciated by Trustees and it is hoped that the Patrons will be involved with some exciting campaigns in 2010.

Interests . . .

The Duke of Westminster, Chairman of the Grosvenor Estate, has supported LIBRA since it was founded in 1978. He holds the rank of Major General in the Reserve Forces and was the first Reservist officer to be promoted to this rank since before WWII. He is Colonel Commandant of the Yeomanry, Honorary Colonel of the Queen's Own Yeomanry and Deputy Colonel Commandant of the Army Air Corps. He is Colonel in Chief of the Royal Westminster Regiment, Canada and a Knight of the Order of St John (KstJ).

The Duke actively supports LIBRA, taking a long-term interest in its development and commented: “This appeal has proved successful for more than thirty years. I am delighted to be a Patron and fully support the ‘Acorns to Oaks’ project as all donations go towards equipping the cellular therapy unit at King’s College Hospital. It is so important that we continue to provide the hospital with funds for vital equipment – it is used to improve and save lives.

“I took up the role as Patron in the 70’s and over the years LIBRA has worked on some useful projects, public support has increased and groundbreaking treatments have been discovered. The blood research teams at King’s look at ways to help patients with degenerative disorders including liver disease and leukaemia. They are some of the best researchers in the world and the treatments that they develop are used to benefit people in the UK and across the globe.”

Meanwhile, Gary is a popular TV personality and retired English international football striker. He has four sons, George, Harry, Tobias, and Angus. His oldest son George survived a rare form of leukaemia as a baby in the early 1990s. He endured five courses of chemotherapy over seven months to treat acute myeloid leukaemia and he was finally able to leave hospital aged ten months.

Countess Mountbatten is also passionate about her role as LIBRA Patron and is working with Trustees to make sure that she is involved with the appeal going forward. She has a strong interest in health issues and improving patient care.

ENDS

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