

The Liver Group Charity

Chairman's Statement 2021

It has been another year hampered by the pandemic, with staff shortages, lab closures, supply issues, and difficulties in fundraising all to contend with. Despite these strictures, Clare and the team have made great progress on a number of important fronts.

Firstly, UCL has finally accepted our terms and conditions enabling them to regard us as undertaking sponsored research. This is still to be formalised, however this would mean a lower cost to the Charity. I would like to thank Mary Collier for her help on contractual matters in relation to this issue.

Secondly, and despite the difficulties, we still managed to raise over £16 thousand during the year, including a £7.6 thousand donation from the Christmas letter appeal.

On the overall financial front, it means we come out of this year with just over £432 thousand in the bank. Fundraising is always difficult at the best of times and the challenge going forward is to ensure we have enough funding to take the HepatiCan™ project to the point where commercial funding takes over.

On the technical front there have been some significant achievements since my last statement, including pre-compliance testing of the workstation for electrical safety and emissions; finalising of tubing mapping; usability study and ISO standard draft report; interfacing HepatiCan™ with apheresis equipment; improving software on graphical interface; and starting work on improving and automating smaller scale chamber mimic of disposable chamber to overcome current raw material availability issues.

There is a full plan of activities for the next 12 months also in place which we shall report on next year. All in all Clare and her team deserve much thanks for their endeavours and achievements in a difficult environment.

On the governance front the board has sought to manage its finances more prudently in terms of bank accounts and financial controls and has adopted a more formal approach to risk audit and management. I would like to thank Martin Giles in particular for his help in these matters.

In terms of the research team, we have had one Liver Group Charity funded student Maoz Awan complete, submit and had viva for a Ph.D.

In summary, much has been achieved in difficult circumstances and I would like to thank all involved – in particular Clare and Elizaveta, our tireless administrator, – for keeping the wheels on in such a professional manner.



Dr David Holbrook

Chair of Trustees