

The Oxford Urology Foundation supports the research, clinical and educational activities of the Department of Urology at The Churchill Hospital in Oxford.

Filling the gap in research funding for benign urological conditions

The Foundation's research aims are to fund research into non-cancerous (so-called 'benign') urological conditions. These conditions include kidney stone disease, bladder overactivity and incontinence, and a variety of neurological conditions that affect bladder function such as spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis and spina bifida.

One in eight people are likely to suffer with kidney stones in their lifetime!

The expression 'benign urological condition' belies the pain and loss of quality of life associated with many of these conditions. If you or a relative have ever suffered the pain of passing a kidney stone, you'll never want to repeat the experience. However, for many patients that's exactly what happens. Current methods of preventing stones are limited by our knowledge of what causes them, but with your support the Oxford Urology Foundation can help change that. Urinary incontinence is another example of a very common 'benign' urological condition, but as with stone disease, research into ways of treating incontinence also receives little funding. Once again, the Oxford Urology Foundation aims to support research into this common and distressing problem.

Large kidney stone, 7mm in diameter



The Foundation's support of benign urological research research will pump prime basic research projects in conditions which receive very little funding support from mainstream charities. Preliminary results from these projects will help with the search for further funding, so bridging the gap in research funding.

Supporting clinical care of patients

One of the great frustrations for many people who donate money to medical charities is not knowing whether their donation will ever translate into tangible benefits for patient care. With this in mind, the Foundation's second aim is to support ideas for clinical projects which have a realistic prospect of directly benefiting patient care within a short (2 year) time frame.

Supporting educational and training opportunities for young doctors and nurses

The Foundation's third aim is educational. It aims to support the career development of young doctors and nurses interested in the management of benign urological conditions, by providing funding for educational and training opportunities.

"Quote from patient with symptoms"

What has The Foundation done so far?

Already The Foundation has already provided pump-priming financial support for ground-breaking research that is being carried out in Oxford aimed at preventing urinary stone disease. Using the cutting-edge technique of 'proteomics', researchers in the Oxford Stone Centre have identified proteins in urine which are likely to prevent development of stones in certain individuals, and other proteins that promote the development of stone disease. The preliminary results from this research were recently presented at the British Association of Urological Surgeons Endourology Meeting (2010), achieving the 'Best Presentation' prize for its innovative approach to stone prevention. The Foundation's initial investment has allowed this project to seek further funding from The Wellcome Foundation, so allowing this promising area of research to develop and expand.

The Foundation has also recently supported a clinical project which has led to the development of an Electronic Patient Record for patients with kidney stone disease. Within the space of just 12 months, this project has gone from being an idea to being used in the Urology Department's Stone Clinics, so streamlining care for patients with stone disease. This new Electronic Patient Record will also act as a large database of patients with stone disease, so providing a vital information source for research into the causes and prevention of stone disease.

The Oxford Urology Foundation is also providing support for the development of a new type of discreet urinary catheter for patients with spinal cord injury and multiple sclerosis.

Description of image

