



Rt Hon Jacqui Smith, Chair of UHB with Lord Mayor Councillor Carl Rice and Clive Richards OBE with Sylvia Richards

Exciting vision for imaging centre

The purpose built ITM Imaging Centre, which hosts the latest in MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) research technology, was officially opened by Dr Nicola Strickland, President, Royal College of Radiologists and Clive Richards OBE, founder of the Clive and Sylvia Richards Foundation.

The new facility is the result of a collaboration between University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB), medical charity Cobalt Health and the Institute of Translational Medicine (ITM).

Predominantly funded by Cobalt Health, the centre provides the newest techniques to routine clinical imaging appointments, and allows development in the research areas of oncology, liver disease, cardiology, neuroscience and trauma.

Over 50 guests, including Lord Mayor, Councillor Carl Rice, and representatives from UHB, Cobalt Health, the ITM and Birmingham Health Partners attended the opening which was held on 6 April at the Institute of Translational Medicine.

A range of knowledgeable speakers shared their thoughts on the progression of imaging techniques and research.

Dame Julie Moore, Chief Executive, University Hospitals Birmingham, welcomed all guests and expressed the positive impact the new facility would have on patient care: "The ITM Imaging Centre will help progress and pave the way for new clinical treatments. It will give our clinicians access to high quality systems, improving diagnostics, treatments – and ultimately outcomes – for our patients."

New facility is an exciting collaboration

The ITM Imaging Centre is a collaboration between the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (QEHB), Institute of Translational Medicine (ITM) and medical charity Cobalt who invested £2m into the research facility.

The MAGENTOM Skyra MRI system from Siemens Healthineers will allow research professionals at QEHB to use a range of different scanning positions and obtain the high image qualities required for the studies taking place. The wild bore design also ensures that participants taking part in the research are comfortable and compliant, and image quality is not compromised.

The new centre will allow the development of research in the areas of oncology, liver disease, cardiology, neuro science and trauma, contributing to the achievement of research outcomes delivered by the Institute of Translational



Institute of
Translational
Medicine

Birmingham

Medicine. Paul Brettle, Commissioning Lead for QEHB said "I'd like to thank all those involved in ensuring that the ITM Imaging Centre opened successfully. This world class facility will put medical imaging at the forefront of its research and we will endeavour to pioneer medical research."

If your team has a research idea and would like to seek funding to use the new MRI facility, email the research application support team at RAS@uhb.nhs.uk

Dame Julie then introduced Lord Mayor, Councillor Carl Rice who praised all those who contribute to the care of patients in the West Midlands and beyond.

Councillor Rice also welcomed and gave thanks to his dear friend Clive Richards OBE,

whose generous donation contributed to the development of the centre.

Professor Stuart Green, Director of Medical Physics at University Hospitals Birmingham, followed Councillor Rice. He delivered a presentation on developing imaging research



Left to right: Professor Stuart, Director of Medical Physics UHB; Joost Lamboo, Director of Lamboo; Dr John Wald, Medical Director, Mayo Clinic, USA; Councillor Carl Rice, Lord Mayor of Birmingham; Peter Harrison, Managing Director, Siemens Healthcare UK; Sylvia Richards; Dame Julie Moore, CEO UHB; Clive Richards OBE; Peter Sharpe, CEO Cobalt Health; Dr Nicola Strickland, President, Royal College of Radiologists; Tim Jones, Executive Director of Delivery; Karen Hackling Searle, MRI Manager, Cobalt Health

at UHB. He reflected on the early successes of the centre and the next stages of development: "Since we first opened the centre's doors in January 2017 we have been delivering scans in a high-class environment and producing top quality images."

He added: "Research opportunities have been utilised by UHB's Trauma Research Team, and there are active discussions with some of the world's most established medical institutes including the Mayo Clinic and the Beckham Institute."

"This early interest in the ITM Imaging Centre and its capabilities is extremely promising for the future."

Visiting speaker, Peter Sharpe, Chief Executive of Cobalt Health followed Professor Green. Collaborative working was the focus of Peter's presentation.

He said: "We are very proud to be working with the Institute of Translational Medicine and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham to deliver this new service."

"The pooling of information technology, operational and staffing resources has allowed us to deliver a first class imaging facility".

Next to speak was Dr John Wald, Medical Director and Associate Professor for the Division of Neuroradiology at the Mayo Clinic, a medical research group based in Minnesota, USA.

He had travelled to the UK to support the opening of the centre and shared his thoughts on the power of knowledge, and the importance of strategic partnerships in academic healthcare.

Following Dr John Wald was Dr Nicola Strickland, who gave insight into the role of radiology in research, drawing on projects past and present.

Finally the centre was officially opened by Dr Strickland and Clive Richards OBE, by the unveiling of a plaque which will be fitted in the ITM Imaging Centre Building.

Following the programme of unique speakers, attendees toured the new centre, viewing the state of at the art Siemens Skyra MRI system from Siemens Health Engineers.

Peter Harrison, Managing Director UK at Siemens Healthcare said: "The new scanner will allow professionals at QEHB to use a range of different scanning positions and obtain the high image quality needed for studies taking place."

The Rt Hon. Jacqui Smith, Chair of UHB added: "Here in Birmingham we have varying clinical commitments and we are well placed to act as a hub for research that can bring real benefits to patients across the UK and Europe."

"This is another fine example as to how UHB is looking to further innovate, collaborate and pioneer medical research."



The ITM Imaging Centre will help progress and pave the way for new clinical treatments. It will give our clinicians access to high quality systems, improving diagnostics, treatments – and ultimately outcomes – for our patients."

Dame Julie Moore
Chief Executive, UHB



Clive Richards OBE with Dr Nicola Strickland, President of the Royal College of Radiologists