



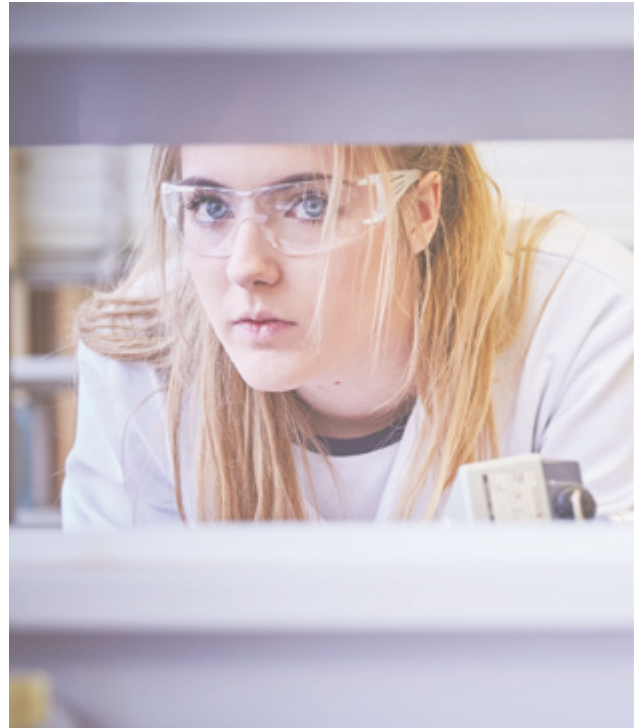
UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER



www.le.ac.uk/giving

2020/21

Bold vision Big ideas



The Impact of Philanthropy
at the University of Leicester



Welcome

I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to write this foreword as I would not be leading this great civic University today were it not for a scholarship made possible through philanthropic support. It has transformed my life.

Every day I witness the extraordinary power of higher education changing people's lives and, in many cases, it is made possible through the generosity of supporters like you. Indeed, it's the very reason why the University was established 100 years ago by our

founding benefactors in the wake of the First World War – so that others may have a new life through the gift of learning.

That is as true today as it was then. In these turbulent times, we stay true to our mission to empower people through a first-class education and help to create a better society for all. At Leicester, we are truly 'Citizens of Change', building together on our rich heritage to transform lives through inspirational teaching and world-class research.

Through the gift of giving, you are creating opportunities and helping to ensure our University continues to grow and flourish. This report vividly illustrates how you are making a big difference – and how your philanthropy and support are creating an enduring legacy for future generations.

In our Centenary year, your support has never been more important in helping to address the pandemic and the world's greatest challenges. For people like me, and for many others, higher education was life-changing and we in turn can now give back in supporting the next generation.

Thank you once again for all you have done on behalf of the inspirational people featured in this report, from me personally and from everyone at the University of Leicester.

Please stay safe and well.



PROFESSOR NISHAN CANAGARAJAH,
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

University Priorities

Student Support

Research Excellence

Infrastructure and Estates

Greatest Need

Philanthropy Advisory Board

Professor Robin Graham-Brown (Chair)

Mrs Janet Arthur MBE

Mr Mark Dunkley

Mr Birju Ghelani

Mr Philip Quirk
(LLB Law, 1982)

Dr Vijay Sharma
(Honorary Doctor of Laws, 2014)

Mr Michael Turnbull

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Support Fund



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RESEARCH

COVID-19

Over the last 12 months, the fabric of society has changed momentarily with the spread of COVID-19. The University of Leicester's staff, students, alumni and research community have pivoted to support the NHS, the wider community and to advance our understanding of COVID-19.

Being at the forefront of cutting-edge research is part of the University of Leicester's commitment to being 'Citizens of Change'. Philanthropic support from alumni and friends enables the advancement of pioneering and impactful research by scores of dedicated research and academic staff at the University, who are working tirelessly to contribute to the global fight against COVID-19.



COVID-19

Professor Mike Barer, Professor of Clinical Microbiology in our Department of Respiratory Sciences, is conducting world-leading research to trial a new approach to curb the spread of COVID-19. His method uses a mask sampling approach to detect the virus in a person's breath, which is easy to carry out and safe for the person taking the sample. Professor Barer's crowdfunding campaign successfully enabled him to further extend his work in this critical area, helping him to secure more external funding and bring additional experienced scientific colleagues into the team, which will accelerate research to stop the spread of the virus. The support was really appreciated by the team during the very challenging days of early lockdown.

"Coronavirus is spread from the mouth, throat and respiration system of infected individuals. This new approach is exciting because it could help us determine whether a person is infectious or not, even before symptoms of the virus have appeared." said Professor Barer.



PROFESSOR MIKE BARER
CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

An expert working group led by Professor Kamlesh Khunti, Professor of Primary Care, Diabetes & Vascular Medicine in the Diabetes Research Centre, has developed a novel Risk Reduction Framework for NHS Staff at risk of COVID-19 infection, including those who are male, pregnant, older with long term health conditions, or from a BAME background.

Professor Khunti said: "There is an urgent need for a greater level of understanding as to why workers, and indeed patients, including those from a BAME background, appear to have a disproportionately increased morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 infection."

Professors Barer and Khunti are just two examples of the many Leicester researchers who are applying their expertise to combat the devastating impact of COVID-19 across the world. As 'Citizens of Change', the University of Leicester is committed to delivering transformative research and learning. We are incredibly grateful to all our supporters who make these projects possible and we hope you will enjoy reading about the impact of donations over the past 12 months.



PROFESSOR KAMLESH KHUNTI
PRIMARY CARE DIABETES AND
VASCULAR MEDICINE

Highlights from 2019 - 2020



1,074
donors



£69,502
raised
through the
telephone
campaign

IN OUR FOUNDERS' FOOTSTEPS

Centenary scholarships

As we celebrate 100 years since the University of Leicester's founding, our Centenary Scholar programme continues to recognise and support first year students on their higher education journey. These students embody the spirit of sacrifice and triumph over hardship that the University was founded upon following the First World War.

"The Centenary Scholarship has helped both financially and with my confidence, I now feel as though I am accepted as an academic." – Lucy Sarroukh

Despite the unprecedented challenges we have all faced, our scholars have achieved many of their academic and personal goals. The independence the scholarship gives students can be the boost they need to succeed.

First-year nursing student and father, James, is proud of his achievements and

Being a Centenary Scholar has helped me in so many ways, I think it gives students such an amazing opportunity and is also something to be proud of. Thank you to all who made this possible for students

GAYNOR OUZMAN,
MEDICAL GENETICS

credits the scholarship with alleviating some of the financial stresses of studying with a young family, "I've been able to properly sit down and study for assignments and exams without having too many concerns about finances."

A GARDEN PARTY IN THE COLLEGE GROUNDS
FOR THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, SEPTEMBER 1933



Centenary



STUDENT SUPPORT

Excelling in engineering

University of Leicester Aerospace Engineering student, Penny Gunn, was awarded the Santander STEMship last year. Santander supports female students in engineering subjects at universities across the UK through STEMship scholarships. These scholarships create opportunities for students like Penny to progress their careers and to learn from leading women in engineering, through membership of the Women in Engineering Society.

STEMship funding has allowed Penny to pursue further educational courses outside

It's a huge benefit to know there are other women out there making the same career choices I am

PENNY GUNN,
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING STUDENT

the University, allowing her to broaden her knowledge and further her career. In her own words, "The scholarship has boosted my confidence and afforded me opportunities I never would have had otherwise".

Opportunities like this are vital to supporting women in engineering disciplines, as they make up around 11% of professional engineers in the UK* and are even less represented in technical roles. "It's a huge benefit to know there are other women out there making the same career choices I am," says Penny.

*Source: WES.org.uk



PENNY GUNN

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Highlights from 2019 - 2020



£578,741 raised for student support



521 donors gave to student support

Excelling in

SPACE PARK LEICESTER.
ARTIST IMPRESSION



INFRASTRUCTURE

Space Park Leicester

Space Park Leicester is a landmark initiative being developed by the University of Leicester in collaboration with local, national and international partners, including Leicester City Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership. It will create a world leading hub for innovative research, enterprise and education in space and Earth observation, providing state-of-the-art facilities and a collaborative community to drive development and growth across all three areas.

Opening spring 2021, Space Park Leicester will provide organisations with unrivalled access to academia, pioneering research, development

knowledge and funding to support business growth and excellence.

With its combination of laboratories, clean rooms, workshops, offices, a creative design studio, a virtual reality cave and flexible teaching and business space, Space Park Leicester will create new opportunities in a sector that requires long-term commitments and supporting research infrastructure.

By drawing on the expertise of both industry and academia, working together in one location, Space Park Leicester will drive research excellence and accelerate application of that new knowledge. This will support industrial

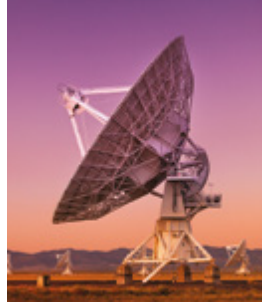
Space Park

growth in the sector and will also develop the skills needed by the workforce to deliver expansion of the space (and wider) economy. A programme of new research will focus on advanced manufacturing for space, the next generation of digital intelligent systems, and novel Earth observation technologies.



Follow the development of Space Park Leicester on Twitter @SpaceParkLeic and on our website at: www.le.ac.uk/spacepark

le.ac.uk/giving



The University of Leicester is excited to witness the new opportunities and developments that will arise from Space Park Leicester in the coming years. Philanthropic giving is already making a difference to the development of this important initiative. The Wolfson Foundation has awarded a £500,000 grant towards the founding of a new centre at the University of Leicester to explore deep space. The Wolfson Foundation funds infrastructure that enables world-leading research. This project will be a key pillar of Space Park Leicester.

Dr Nigel Bannister, Associate Professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy, said:

“The Wolfson Deep Space Centre will develop new technologies and methods, and adapt existing ones, to enable smaller, lower cost spacecraft to be used in deep space - to expand our exploration of the solar system, to visit planets more often and in ways not possible before, and provide an opportunity for the UK to become a leader in a new generation of space exploration mission.”

This donation will allow researchers at the University of Leicester to be at the forefront of our exploration of the solar system and to develop solutions to major challenges in space exploration.

Highlights from 2019 - 2020



£1,372,330 million raised for research



10 donors gave over £10,000 to research



STUDENT SUPPORT FUND

Our Citizens of Change

The Student Support Fund enables us to respond quickly and meaningfully to changing circumstances that impact our students as they arise. This has been vitally important during the current COVID-19 pandemic and has enabled us to provide much needed financial aid to over 200 students in 2020, including 15 international students.

Our Citizens

Many international students have been unable to return home and have remained at the University since the pandemic began, and many have struggled both financially and emotionally during this time.

“This unbudgeted and unplanned development drained my family financial reserves and mental wellbeing, food and medication shopping became challenging for me,” said one international student. Through the generosity of our alumni and community donors around the world, we have been able to provide more students with much needed financial support, and the dedicated Student Welfare team have provided emotional and practical support alongside.



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Being in a different country away from my family and home, the current situation caused a lot of concerns around my studies.

SOFIA, EU STUDENT



International students are a vital part of our University community and bring vibrancy and diversity to our campus. These students go on to become an intrinsic part of our global network of alumni as 'Citizens of Change' across the globe.

Highlights
from 2019
- 2020



246
students
had help
from the
Student
Support Fund



£58,073
raised
for Greatest
Need



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Thank you for your support.

Your gifts fund the continued development of the University, the wellbeing of our students, the advancement of world-changing research and the provision of inspirational teaching.

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