

More  
Research  
Less  
Cancer



# Bold Visionaries, better futures

How to leave your transformational legacy



CANCER  
RESEARCH  
UK

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Together we are  
beating cancer



**Professor Richard Gilbertson**  
paediatric oncology clinician  
and director of the Cancer  
Research UK Cambridge  
Centre and Cancer Research  
UK Children's Brain Tumour  
Centre of Excellence

Photo credit: David Vintiner

# More Research Less Cancer

**Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will to Cancer Research UK.**

By leaving a gift in your Will to power cutting-edge research, you'll join our global community of Visionaries: philanthropists, advocates and ambassadors who trust in our mission and are determined to leave a legacy for future generations.

Since the mid-1980s, more than a million lives have been saved from cancer in the UK thanks to advances in the prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of the disease.\*

**With the help of our Visionaries, we'll save millions more.**

**"When I wrote my Will, I thought it would be a conversation about death. But when I approached it from the perspective of wanting to achieve something important for the future, it was exciting. I felt empowered. And it ended up paving the way for a new stage in my life, where I've been absorbed in Cancer Research UK's work – as a mentor, a volunteer and more. So, it turned out my Will wasn't my last chapter, but the next chapter of a new phase of life!"**

**Alison**  
Cancer Research UK Visionary



# More gifts, more discoveries



## How to leave your legacy

After taking care of your loved ones, you may want to support a cause close to your heart. Over a third of the money we raise to beat cancer is from gifts in Wills. The most common types of gift are:



### Percentage share

**This is the most valuable type of gift because it's a percentage of your estate, rather than a fixed amount.**

This means it retains its value and won't be affected by inflation. It may also reduce your inheritance tax liability.

If you'd like to leave this type of gift, here's some suggested wording:

'I give [...] % of the residue of my real and personal estate to Cancer Research UK (registered charity number 1089464) of 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ for their general charitable purposes absolutely.'



## Index-linked lump sum

This is a specific sum of money linked to the index of retail prices. This means any amount pledged would keep its value in line with any possible inflation increases.

If you'd like to leave this type of gift, here's some suggested wording:

'I give to Cancer Research UK (registered charity number 1089464) of 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ for their general charitable purposes such sum (the legacy) as shall be produced by multiplying [amount in words] pounds (£ [amount in figures] ) by the index figure in the Retail Prices Index for the month immediately preceding my death and dividing by the index figure for the month in which my Will is signed.'



## Lump sum

This is a specific amount of money given in a Will. As it's subject to inflation, the value of the gift can decrease over time. If you'd like to leave this type of gift, here's some suggested wording:

'I give the sum of [in words] pounds (£ [amount in figures] ) to Cancer Research UK (registered charity number 1089464) of 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ for their general charitable purposes absolutely.'



## Specific gift

A particular item, such as a car, jewellery or property. If you'd like to leave this type of gift, here's some suggested wording:

'I give to Cancer Research UK (registered charity number 1089464) of 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ for their general charitable purposes absolutely, my [name and description of item].'



## Life interest trust

If you want a charity to be your ultimate beneficiary, but you also want to ensure adequate provisions for your loved ones who survive you, one option is to include a life interest trust in your Will (or, in some limited circumstances, to settle a life interest trust during your lifetime). A life interest trust effectively gives your spouse or other beneficiaries the enjoyment of your estate (or part of your estate) for their lifetime, while preserving the capital of your estate for your ultimate charitable beneficiary.

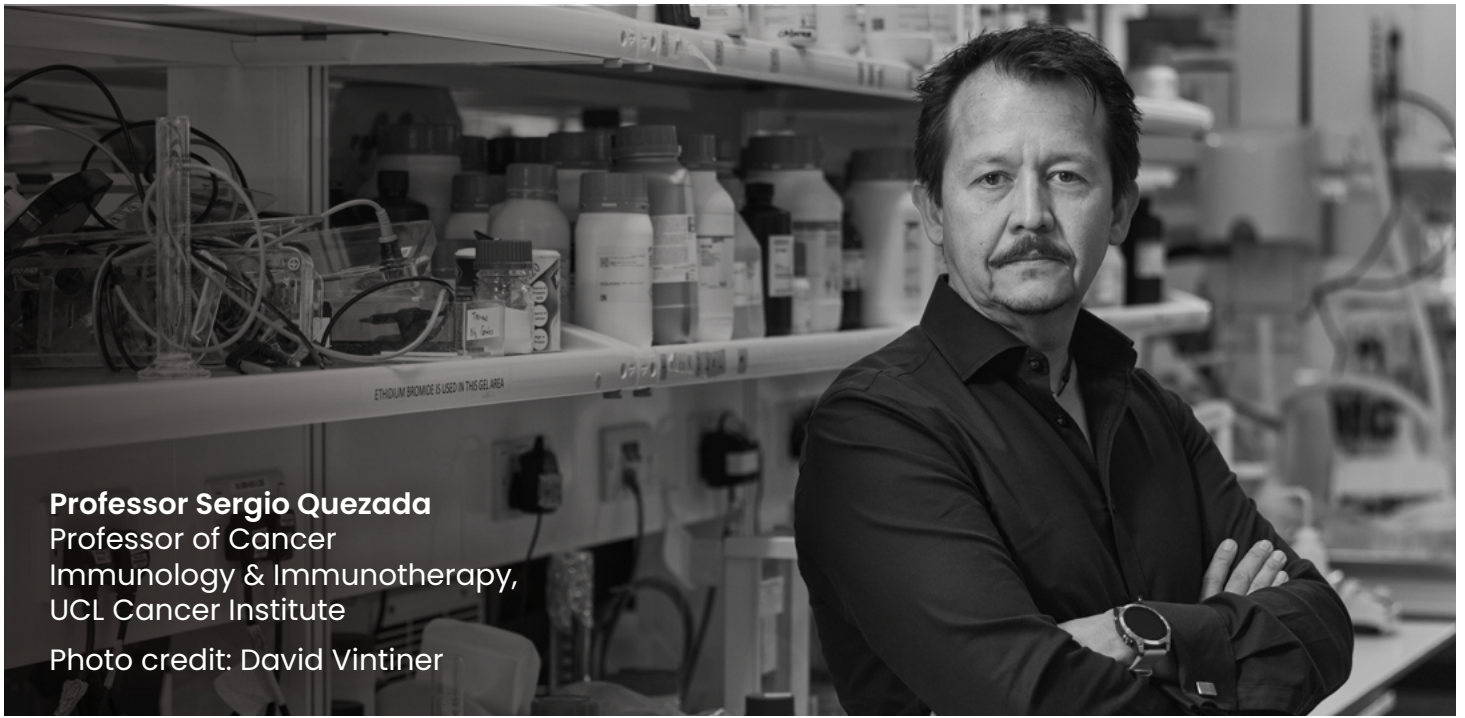
When a life interest trust is established, either during your lifetime or upon your death, there may be inheritance tax consequences. We advise you seek legal advice regarding this option to fully understand how the trust works and the tax implications.

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**“Legacies are an easy way to give. They offer an opportunity to do something more meaningful than is possible in your lifetime, when financial decisions like buying a house and embarking on other projects can get in the way. Once you make the decision and document it, that's it. It's ready for when it's needed.”**

**Elaine**

Cancer Research UK Visionary



**Professor Sergio Quezada**  
 Professor of Cancer  
 Immunology & Immunotherapy,  
 UCL Cancer Institute  
 Photo credit: David Vintiner

# Tax-efficient giving from your estate

## Inheritance tax relief

If you leave a gift in your Will, you may be able to reduce your inheritance tax liability. Gifts to charities are 100% tax-free and are taken out of your estate before tax is calculated. Since April 2017, if you leave 10% of your net estate to charity, after certain deductions your inheritance tax rate is reduced from 40% to 36%. The example below outlines the benefit that this reduced rate can have for an estate worth £5,000,000.

**Basic example of a tax calculation:** The gross estate value is worth £5,000,000 for inheritance tax purposes and a one 'nil-rate band' (£325,000) has been applied leaving a net taxable estate of £4,675,000

	0% gifted to charity	5% gifted to charity	10% gifted to charity
Charitable gift	£0	£250,000	£500,000
Inheritance tax due	£4,675,000 at 40%	£4,425,000 at 40%	£4,175,000 at 36%
Amount of payable tax	£1,870,000	£1,770,000	£1,503,000
Estate balance for distribution	£3,120,000 to beneficiaries £0 to charity	£2,980,800 to beneficiaries £250,000 to charity	£2,997,000 to beneficiaries £500,000 to charity

# From Alec's legacy to Professor Tomlinson's discovery

In 2004, we received a generous gift from the Will of philanthropist Alec Catt. His legacy helped Professor Ian Tomlinson and his team to discover gene mutations that could increase the risk of bowel, breast and prostate cancer.

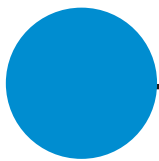
In 2007 and 2008, the team identified that these genes were involved in repairing DNA damage, an insight that helped build our understanding of how genetic faults can cause cancer.

This discovery is now helping scientists to develop methods to accurately predict cancer risk, so people at high risk can be monitored more closely to detect cancer sooner if it develops. Detecting cancer early is a powerful tool to improve survival, as it allows doctors to intervene when treatment is more likely to be successful.



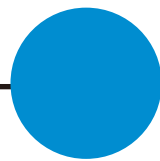
**Professor Ian Tomlinson**  
Director, Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre,  
University of Edinburgh

Alec's legacy not only allowed us to improve our understanding of how genetic faults can cause cancer, but also helped Professor Tomlinson become a world-leading expert in his field and train the research leaders of tomorrow. In recognition of his work, Professor Tomlinson was elected to the Royal Society in 2019.



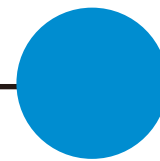
**2004**

Receiving Alec's gift



**2007/08**

Discovering genetic mutations that increase bowel, breast and prostate cancer risk



**Today**

Developing methods to more accurately predict cancer risk



**"Having seen the impact of cancer across several generations of my family, I chose to leave a gift to Cancer Research UK. I don't have children and my nephew will inherit from multiple estates. Inheritance tax relief seemed like a simple way to give to charity and for my overall estate to benefit from the lower tax rate."**

**Nicola**  
Tax Adviser and Cancer Research UK Visionary



# How to restrict a legacy and future-proof your Will

**If you choose to leave a legacy to Cancer Research UK, you can be sure you'll be funding world-class science with the greatest potential to change and improve the lives of people affected by cancer.**

We always endeavour to fulfil your wishes if you choose to direct your pledge towards a specific cancer type, area of research or geographical location. But there are a few things to consider when drafting a restriction (a specific purpose for your gift) into your Will.

As the landscape of cancer research is changing rapidly, the most urgent research areas right now might not be the same in the future. As scientists across the globe discover new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer, it's essential we remain flexible and able to fund the most critical, courageous and innovative research. That's why it's vital to future-proof legacy restrictions.

For example, if there's no longer a need for research into a specific cancer type and you've written a restriction for that purpose, then we might not be able to receive your gift. Similarly, we might not be able to receive a gift with a geographical restriction if we're not conducting research projects in that location.

However, there are ways you can restrict your gift while still making sure we use it to power world-leading research. Our Legacy Partnership team will be very happy to discuss all the options to find the best one for you.



## Expression of wish

To future-proof your Will, you could use an 'expression of wish'. We'll seek to honour this wish, but if we've reached the fortunate position of no longer requiring funding for your primary wish, the gift will be directed to other equally important areas of our work.

By restricting your gift to cancers of unmet need, you can make sure your legacy powers vital research into cancer types where progress hasn't advanced at the pace of other cancers.

Here's some suggested wording you can use that proposes a broader alternative destination for your gift if your primary wish isn't viable:

'I leave [type of gift specified] to Cancer Research UK (registered charity number 1089464) of 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ and I express the wish that it is applied to [e.g. cervical cancer research], failing which I leave [type of gift specified] to Cancer Research UK to be applied to research into [e.g. cancers of unmet need].'

Alternatively, you can request for Cancer Research UK to direct your gift to another important area of world-class science if your primary wish isn't viable. Here's some suggested wording:

'I leave [type of gift specified] to Cancer Research UK (registered charity number 1089464) of 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ and I express the wish that it is applied to [e.g. cervical cancer research], failing which I leave [type of gift specified] to Cancer Research UK to be applied as Cancer Research UK see fit.'

## Letter of wishes

Another option is to write a 'letter of wishes' alongside your Will.

The terms of the Will leave the gift to be managed by the executors and trustees, while the letter of wishes guides them as to how the gift should be used. It's important to note that the letter isn't binding, but it can offer a greater degree of flexibility in terms of the choices you may wish to make. The letter could be structured along the lines of:

'It is my primary wish that [the gift specified in clause x of my Will] to Cancer Research UK (registered charity number 1089464) of 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ be used for research into [e.g. early detection research]. I will retain an ongoing dialogue with the charity to identify another area of research should the charity reach a position where funding is no longer required for [e.g. early detection research] and I would ask you to have regard to any further notes, memoranda or wishes that I make known to you in that regard.'

# Lasting legacies, longer lives

Our story is one of investment consistently turning into improvements for people affected by cancer.

We've taken huge steps forward. But we must – and will – go further, faster. Our vision is a world where everybody lives longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer. And your visionary support is what will take us there.



Globally nearly  
**19 million**  
people are diagnosed  
with cancer every year\*

Over the past 50 years,  
our work has helped  
double cancer  
survival in the UK

1970

Today



Gifts in Wills  
**fund over  
a third**  
of our work

\*International Agency for Research on Cancer, Global Cancer Observatory, 2024. [gco.iarc.fr/en](https://gco.iarc.fr/en)  
Number of new cases of all cancer excluding non-melanoma skin cancer worldwide in 2022



The Francis Crick Institute, image credit:  
Modified from - Dave Guttridge,  
The Photographic Unit Ltd



# Thank you

**Thank you for your interest in leaving a visionary legacy to create a better future for people affected by cancer.**

Rapid advances in genomic sequencing? Harnessing the as-yet untapped potential of artificial intelligence and machine learning? What was science fiction only five years ago is rapidly becoming science fact.

But cancer still ends millions of lives worldwide every year. Hundreds of children still don't live long enough to see adulthood. Mums, dads, uncles, aunts and grandparents leave their families too early, too often.

You can help make the crucial difference. More Visionaries mean more people living with cancer, not dying from it. More Visionaries mean more treatments, more therapies and more hope. More Visionaries mean more research.

**And more research means less cancer.**

# More Research Less Cancer

## Bold Visionaries, better futures

To talk about the impact you can have, please contact:

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Cover image  
**Dr Giulia Biffi**  
Junior Group Leader,  
Cancer Research UK  
Cambridge Institute

Photo credit: David Vintiner

### Disclaimer

Cancer Research UK is unable to offer advice on an individual's tax circumstances and we recommend you speak to a professional adviser or visit the HMRC website. The information and opinions contained in this note are for general interest and information purposes only, and are based on tax rates at the time, which may be subject to change. They aren't intended to constitute specific legal, commercial or other professional advice, and shouldn't be relied on or treated as a substitute for specific advice relevant to particular circumstances. Readers should obtain specific legal advice before making or refraining from making any business or personal decisions.



Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666), the Isle of Man (1103) and Jersey (247)

