

## The work we fund

Our first task as a new charity back in 1988 was to raise £2 million for a new childhood leukaemia research centre at Great Ormond Street Hospital. The Paul O'Gorman Childhood Leukaemia Research Centre at Great Ormond Street, together with other centres named after Paul in Bristol, London, Manchester and Newcastle, are at the forefront of research into childhood leukaemia.

We also fund a number of welfare initiatives designed to help ease the burden in some small way. Our newest welfare project is in partnership with our friends at Great Ormond Street Hospital where we have contributed to the development of the Paul O'Gorman Patient Hotel which opened its doors to parents and children in 2004, making those frequent hospital visits a little easier to bear. We have also provided parental accommodation facilities at the Royal Free Hospital and contributed to the facilities for leukaemia patients at the new Bristol Royal Hospital for Children.



Paul's parents, Eddie and Marion, with HRH Princess Alexandra at the opening of the Paul O'Gorman Patient Hotel in 2004

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*Fighting Britain's biggest child killer disease*

**CHILDREN with LEUKAEMIA**

Registered Charity No. 298405. Inaugurated in 1988 by Diana, Princess of Wales in memory of Jean and Paul O'Gorman



## Understanding the causes of childhood leukaemia

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## About CHILDREN with LEUKAEMIA

In February 1987, leukaemia killed Paul O’Gorman at the age of 14 years. CHILDREN with LEUKAEMIA was established the following year in fulfilment of the promise that Paul elicited from his parents - to help other children with leukaemia.

CHILDREN with LEUKAEMIA is now Britain’s leading charity dedicated to the conquest of childhood leukaemia through pioneering research, new treatment and support of leukaemic children and their families.

Thanks to the generosity of thousands of people who support our work, we have developed a research programme to find answers to some of the many questions that still surround childhood leukaemia.



*Paul made his parents promise to help other children with leukaemia.*

## Childhood leukaemia is increasing



Leukaemia is a complex disease and we know little about what causes it.

The incidence rate of childhood leukaemia increased steadily during the last century. This strongly suggests that there is something about our modern way of life which is increasing the risk of leukaemia in our children. We need to find out what this is.

A variety of factors have been linked with childhood leukaemia, including exposure to electric and magnetic fields, air pollution and radiation as well as the pattern of exposure to infectious disease in childhood. Such influences may exert their effect at different stages – in the womb, after birth, or even before conception.

If we are to stem the rising incidence of leukaemia in our children we need to understand more about how these factors exert their damaging effects.

*Above: Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia cells.*

## How parents can help

A link between childhood leukaemia and electricity supply was first revealed in 1979. Three decades on, the evidence continues to strengthen but we still don’t understand the underlying mechanisms.

To take the research forward, we plan to go back to basics, working with a small number of families, visiting homes, taking measurements and making observations to see if we can identify any common factors in the homes of children with leukaemia. This may lead to new avenues of research that will help us to understand the link between electricity and leukaemia.

We are looking for families to take part in this study. If you think you might be able to help, please give us a call on 020 7404 0808 – and ask for Edward, Larry, Maggie or Pippa.



*We have funded modern, child-friendly treatment facilities in the Paul O’Gorman Building at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children.*