

# Wellington TODAY

Summer 2008 | Issue 07

## Wellington in Talks for New Underground Hospital



Artist impression of the new Hospital Atrium

**The Wellington Hospital is in discussions with Lords Cricket Ground, developers and planners about the possibility of building a revolutionary underground health facility under part of Lords and next to the existing hospital.**

While plans are at an early stage at present, the proposals, if accepted and planning permission granted, would be part of a huge redevelopment of the Lords cricket complex and could range from a sports medical centre with comprehensive diagnostic and treatment facilities to a major underground tertiary care centre – the first of its kind in the UK.

The proposal would make use of 40,000 square feet of disused Victorian broad

gauge railway tunnel structures beneath the nursery field end of Lords. By excavating deeper there is the potential for a subterranean hospital up to three storeys down.

The Wellington's Chief Executive Keith Hague said the prospect of expanding the services offered by The Wellington was very exciting. "This is a great opportunity to develop a new facility without any adverse impact on the surrounding area but with tremendous benefits for the community and patients needing a complete range of medical care," he said.

"We have been neighbours of Lords for over 30 years and they have been great partners. This is an opportunity to work

together in the redevelopment of Lords," said Mr Hague.

"There is no land available in the St John's Wood area and hence the enormous price being paid for the buildings that do become available," said Mr Hague. "The kind of space that we have available here is unheard of in central London and the building work and excavations could proceed with none of the usual disturbance to people in the area."

"The possibilities would include a world class sports injury centre or a huge new diagnostic and treatment centre with the very latest scanning and radio surgery equipment and a suite of operating theatres and intensive care facilities," he said.

The proposed entrance for patients and staff would be adjacent to the existing entrance to The Wellington with a potential for links to other sites in the area. The Wellington is working with the Rifkind Levy Partnership and Lords on the proposed development.

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## New Angiography Laboratory



Repair of blood vessels in the New Angiography Lab

### **Work has begun on the Angiography Laboratory in the Imaging Department of the Wellington Hospital.**

The million pound project is scheduled to be completed by October and will enable higher definition images of the vascular system (excluding the cardio vascular system) to be obtained.

Diagnostic and imaging unit manager Leslie Gabriel says the technology being installed represents the latest in an unprecedented level of investment in new equipment. "The new lab represents the icing on the cake; it is the last large capital item that we have put in place over the last couple of years and with everything else, it makes The Wellington's Imaging Department the best equipped Units in the country," he said

In recent years the unit has had two new MRIs, a 64 slice CT scanner, new ultrasound and new X-ray equipment. The unit has been operating with computed technology for some time; it has new fluoroscopy equipment and it was the first in the HCA group to introduce the PACs system creating a film free hospital.

The new laboratory, which will have theatre levels of hygiene, will be used 24x7 to create an in depth analysis of patients' vascular systems with its ability to see through or 'remove' bodily tissue including the bowel, bone and other tissue. It'll be used to treat aortic aneurysms, embolisations, and other conditions often using minimally invasive techniques.

## New Cardiac Imaging Technology at The Wellington Will Save Many Lives



Images from Cardiac CT Scanner

### **The Wellington Hospital's diagnostic and imaging capabilities have again been enhanced by the country's first Dual-Source and Dual-Energy CT scanner to be used for adult cardiac investigations.**

Based at the Cardiac Imaging and Research Centre on the ground floor of Wellington South, the new scanner has a major advantage over current 64 slice CT scanners in that no preparation is needed for the patient and patients do not have to stop current medication beforehand as in the past and the whole process is completed in under 15 minutes.

Professor Avijit Lahiri, who heads up the research centre, said the new machine is able to detect 99% of all coronary artery disease including those in the benign phase.

"As a cardiologist it is difficult to understand how we could have done without this machine in the past!" he said. "This will revolutionise non-invasive diagnostic cardiology in the assessment and management of coronary heart disease. We already identified a number of patients with serious arterial disease who would have been unrecognised by older technology"

"Dual Source cardiac CT is not only useful for the interrogation of the coronary circulation but it will have a great impact on the correct placement of re-synchronising pacemakers (CRT) in heart failure patients where there is a 30% failure rate at present," said Professor Lahiri.

The Wellington's Chief Executive Keith Hague said he was delighted the hospital was again keeping at the forefront of technology. "The Wellington has long had an international reputation for the high standard of cardiac care and the ground breaking techniques available to patients," he said.

"This latest machine gives us a new dimension in diagnostics and will aid some important research programmes being carried out in partnership with the NHS," said Mr Hague.

Among the research programmes currently being progressed at The Wellington, is the Radical Trial involving the study of 800 patients attending NHS chest pain clinics at Barnet General, Chase Farm and the Royal Free hospitals.

## Demand Grows for Medical Admissions Unit Services

**More resources have been dedicated to the Medical Admissions Unit in order to meet the increasing demand from local GPs since the unit opened in May of last year.**

Chief Nursing Officer Kim Handel said the range of conditions treated varied from acute asthma to severe chest pain arising from cardiac conditions, to patients suffering serious side effects from diabetes.

“We are able to cope with almost any condition and our aim is to help GPs and Consultants get patients with acute conditions admitted within minutes of their call and to have them assessed and treated by senior specialists as soon as they arrive,” she said.

“We have in effect a one stop shop medical admissions unit available 24x7 with a rota of consultant physicians and neurologists constantly available and backed by our specialist medical teams and two of the best equipped intensive care units in London. We also have high

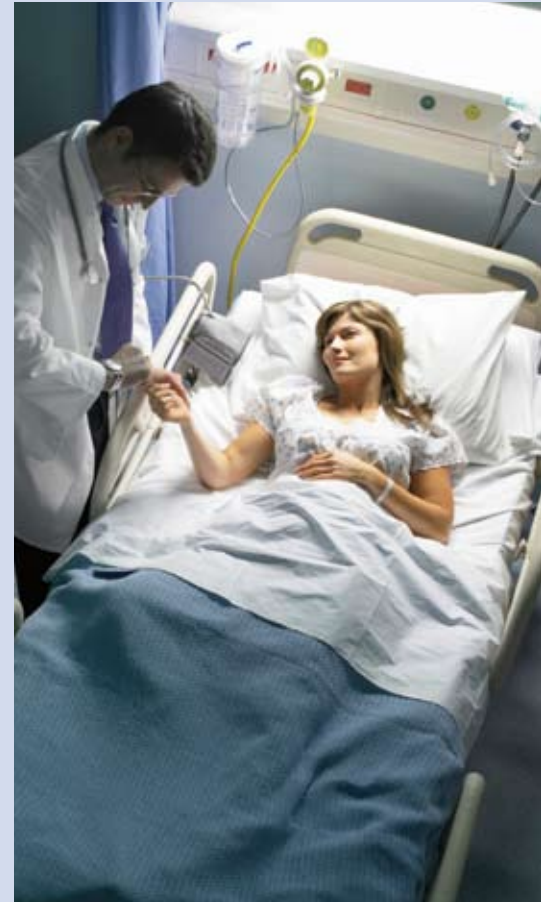
dependency units available for the less critically ill patients and over the past year we have needed to use all of these facilities for a number of urgent cases,” she said.

“Some patients arrive with multiple disorders needing immediate investigation and diagnosis, some with serious respiratory conditions and some suffering multiple problems associated with age,” said Kim. “It has been very satisfying to see these patients recovering quickly and being able to return to their homes because they have had rapid access to specialist help. The team work between MAU staff and patient’s GPs has been very important in making this service such a success.”

The number to call for the Medical Admissions Unit is as follows:

**Weekdays between 08.00 to 18.00  
and Saturdays between 09.00 and  
17.00: 020 7586 4926**

**At all other times: 020 7586 5959  
and ask for the Duty Bleep Holder.**



## The Day Case Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy Procedure



Prof. Brian Davidson

**Following a lengthy assessment programme, the Wellington Liver Unit is now offering patients with painful gall bladder problems the option of a Laparoscopic cholecystectomy operation which can allow recovery much faster than was possible before.**

Traditional open surgical techniques to remove the gall bladder frequently mean an average stay in hospital of about five days and up to six weeks

before a patient can return to work. The Laparoscopic procedure means most people can go home later the same day and can return to work much faster.

Professor Brian Davidson is leading the team who have introduced this new procedure after several years of research and review at the Royal Free and University College School of Medicine. “This procedure reduces the inconvenience and a lot of pain associated with the open procedure and allows people to get back to normal life much faster,” he said.

“We have to be careful about how we select patients for the procedure and mostly that is about having a good medical record and being fit and not obese,” said Professor Davidson. “We are also concerned to ensure that a patient has strong personal support from family and friends as soon as they are discharged

because although this operation is much less demanding, it is still a major procedure and people need someone at home to care for them for a few days.”

“Some people will still need an overnight stay, particularly if we operate later in the day but it is a procedure that should become commonplace across the country because it could save a great deal of pain and inconvenience for a large number of patients and save the tax payer millions of pounds,” he said.

Professor Davidson and his team have recently reviewed all the published information and all trials regarding the safety and effectiveness of day case Laparoscopic cholecystectomy in the following publication: Gurusamy K, Junnarkar S, Farouk M, Davidson BR: Safety and effectiveness of day case Laparoscopic cholecystectomy: a meta analysis of randomised controlled trials.

## Golders Green Diagnostics and Outpatients Centre Reaches New Milestone

**The Wellington Diagnostics and Outpatients Centre at 296 Golders Green Road has reached a new milestone with over six thousand patients visiting the centre since it opened.**

The centre which is equipped with the latest diagnostic technology including an open MRI, a 64 slice CT scan, together with X-ray, ultrasound and a range of cardiology diagnostic equipment, is proving popular for people living close by who want fast access to GPs and consultants covering all forms of family medicine.

"The concept of fast access to the latest diagnostic technology and some of the most experienced doctors and consultants in London closer to where

people live has really taken off," said the Chief Operating Officer of The Wellington, Janene Madden.

"Since we installed the MRI and CT scan the number of patients has risen and our advertising campaign for free health checks has proved very popular," she said. "People tell us they appreciate being able to see a GP or a consultant quickly.

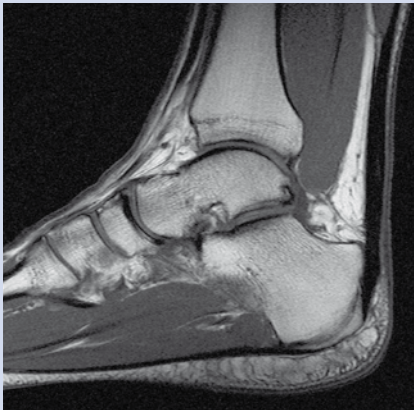
"Having direct digital links to The Wellington Hospital in St John's Wood gives patients direct access to other senior consultants with additional specialist skills and means the results of X-rays, scans and other tests can be relayed back faster than before. This in turn means treatment can begin that much earlier," said Janene.



Golders Green waiting room

Cardiology, general medicine, urology and paediatrics are the busiest areas of medicine for the centre but Golders Green caters for all age groups and all conditions. The number to call for patient appointments is 0208 736 1100.

## Wellington Foot and Ankle Clinic



MRI Scan of an ankle

**Foot and ankle injuries are now the most common musculo-skeletal injury and surgeons Mr Simon Moyes, Mr Nicholas Cullen and Mr Mark Herron are seeing many more sports and leisure related injuries.**

"It is partly because so many more of us are trying to get fit and some of us may even be trying too hard or starting to exercise without 'warming up'

adequately. And we are seeing younger people needing arthroscopy too," said Mr Herron.

"This is one of the more rewarding conditions to treat because we can get people back to full fitness in quite a short time," said Mr Herron.

Surgeons are also seeing more women coming forward with foot deformities. "People are realising that if you don't get foot and ankle problems right then biomechanics means that you can cause problems elsewhere with neighbouring joints and that affects your gait," he said.

"By using minimally invasive techniques we can get people on their feet very quickly often without the inconvenience of a plaster cast and sometimes by using the now famous 'Beckham boot', Said Mr Herron.

**To arrange an appointment at the Foot and Ankle Clinic, please call 020 7483 5321.**



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