

**Great Ormond Street Hospital celebrates Topping Out of The Zayed
Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children**

Monday 11 December 2017 - Great Ormond Street Hospital marked a crucial milestone in the construction of The Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children, as a Topping Out ceremony was held to mark the moment when the building reached its highest point.

The Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children was made possible thanks to a generous £60 million gift from Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, the wife of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, as well as Chairwoman of the UAE General Women's Union, Supreme Chairwoman of the UAE Family Development Foundation and President of the UAE Supreme Council of Motherhood and Childhood. The centre is a partnership between Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), University College London (UCL) and Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

The centre is due for completion at the end of 2018 and will be the first purpose built centre of its kind in the world. It will bring together hundreds of clinicians and researchers under one roof to drive forward new treatments and cures for children with rare diseases, and will support translational research that focuses on taking discoveries from the lab bench to the patients' bedsides.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Sulaiman Hamid Al Mazrouei, UAE Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Her Excellency Professor Maha Barakat, Advisor to the Executive Council of the Government of Abu Dhabi and a number of officials from the Government of Abu Dhabi.

During the ceremony, Al Mazroui expressed his gratitude to Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak for her generous support locally and internationally. He also thanked the partners and shareholders of this centre for their ongoing commitment to the project.

HE Al Mazroui. said "The Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children is an innovative and collaborative partnership that brings together world-class medical and scientific expertise, which will have an immediate and lasting impact on the lives of many children from around the world."

Peter Steer, Chief Executive of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We're delighted to celebrate this important milestone which marks the culmination of many months of work with our contractors and UCL in the construction of The Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children. By creating a facility that brings patients, clinicians, and scientists together in one place we will advance pioneering research into paediatric rare diseases further and faster. The work we do



ZAYED CENTRE
FOR RESEARCH
INTO RARE DISEASE
IN CHILDREN

here
help



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will



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Great Ormond Street 
Hospital for Children
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children with rare conditions across the world to thrive and fulfil their potential.”

Professor Graham Hart, Dean of the UCL Faculty of Population Health Sciences said “This generous donation and the building it has helped create will help progress international quality research into the causes and treatments of rare diseases in children across the globe. UCL is proud of its association with its partner Great Ormond Street Hospital, and together we will work tirelessly to improve the health of children and the adults they will become through the efforts of our colleagues in the Zayed Centre.”

Tim Johnson, Chief Executive of Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity, added: “I would like to thank the family of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Thanks to their generosity the charity has been able to support GOSH to discover new treatments and cures for children with complex and rare conditions both at the hospital and across the UK.”

GOSH sees children from more than 90 countries and specialises in the treatment of children with rare diseases. These include children from the UAE who come to GOSH to be treated for a range of conditions including rare heart and neurological conditions.

Work has now begun on the interior of the centre, which will house state-of-the-art laboratories and highly-specialised facilities for the development of new gene and stem cell therapies as well as a much-needed outpatient clinic.

The construction of the building involved the demolition of an office block built in the 1960s, which was being used by the University of London and had been disused for some time. Designed by award-winning architects Stanton Williams, construction of the new building began in 2017 by Swedish contractor Skanska, who is responsible for the construction, mechanical and electrical fit-out of the facility.

On completion, the building will include:

- 4,200m³ concrete to build the frame, weighing 10,500 tonnes
- 520 tonnes of steel used in the building structure
- 5,000 metres of drywall partitions
- 13,000sqm of floor space
- 2,500sqm of glass within the external walls
- A BREEAM rating of excellent

The Topping Out event was celebrated with a traditional Scandinavian ‘flying of the fir’ in which a fir tree was flown over the building by tower crane, as well as a final pouring of cement, in a rooftop ceremony.



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NOTES TO EDITORS

Great Ormond Street Hospital and Children's Charity

Great Ormond Street Hospital is one of the world's leading children's hospitals with the broadest range of dedicated, children's healthcare specialists under one roof in the UK. The hospital's pioneering research and treatment gives hope to children from across the UK with the rarest, most complex and often life-threatening conditions. Our patients and families are central to everything we do - from the moment they come through the door and for as long as they need us.

Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity needs to raise money to support the hospital to give children who need help the most, the best chance for life. The charity funds research into pioneering new treatments for children, provides the most up to date medical equipment, funds support services for children and their families and supports the essential rebuilding and refurbishment of the hospital. You can help us to provide world class care for our patients and families. For more information visit www.gosh.org

About the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health (ICH)

The UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health is part of the Faculty of Population Health Sciences within the School of Life and Medical Sciences at UCL. Together with its clinical partner Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH), it forms the largest concentration of children's health research in Europe.