



**East Grinstead & District Lions Club**  
**(International Association of Lions Clubs)**  
District 105 SE England

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# ***News Release***

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**February 2004**

## **Blond McIndoe Research Centre Welcomes Lions**

East Grinstead & District Lions Club recently donated £2,500 to the research centre's Tissue Banking Clean Room Appeal and when she was presented with the cheque, Head of Research Dr Liz James invited representatives of the club to take a guided tour of the research centre to see for themselves just why the appeal, which must raise £500,000 by April this year, must succeed.

Lions Roger Mead, who organised the fund-raising swim night that made the donation possible, his wife Diane, Lions PR man Andy McPherson and town Mayor Cllr Beverley Heaseman saw a comprehensive presentation illustrating the unique combination of scientific research and collaboration with surgeons that has enabled the Blond McIndoe Research Centre, which is entirely funded by research grants and charitable donations, to conduct research into plastic and reconstructive surgery, developing new treatments for burn injuries, wound healing, corneal restoration and cartilage repair.

"The achievements of this dedicated team are extremely impressive" said Lion Roger Mead "their collaboration with surgeons at the Queen Victoria Hospital and at other hospitals around the UK is saving lives and reducing suffering and speeding up recovery, especially for burns victims – at the Queen Vic alone, there are over 200 cases a year of scalding and burns to young children and the work that is being done here is ensuring that the majority of them will recover quickly and suffer little disfigurement in later life.

"Saving the life of the adult victim we heard about, who suffered 90% burns is an excellent illustration of the scale of benefit made possible by the research that is being done here" said town Mayor Cllr Heaseman. "After seeing this presentation I was even more pleased and proud to have presented the Lions contribution to the Clean Room Appeal".

### Clean Room Appeal

EU legislation that takes effect in April this year requires the research centre to construct a clean air-filtered environment in which to conduct the culturing of tissue for transplantation and skin grafts. Without the installation of such a facility, the Centre's pioneering research work with cell culturing will not be able to continue.

Anyone interested in making a donation or in helping to raise funds toward the appeal should contact Mrs Sue Batten at the Tissue Banking Clean Room Appeal, Blond McIndoe Centre, Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead RH19 3DZ.