

Thank you so much to all the Trustees of the **Sandhu Charitable Foundation** for your continued interest and support of our work, most recently through a grant of £10,000 in March 2021. This report updates on the progress of our research, whilst also setting out some of our future plans - linked up to a major new research endeavour.

### REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

**Last year saw the official opening by our Royal Patron, HRH Countess of Wessex, of our landmark £2.5 million facial reconstruction (“ReconRegen”) research programme, based at Swansea University.**

Co-funded by Health & Research Wales, the programme aims to revolutionise facial reconstructive surgery by advancing technologies to 3D bioprint nose and ear cartilage. Running alongside is the world’s largest psychological study of people living with visible facial difference, which will inform better mental health support.

Our work in Swansea is reflective of our approach to ensuring that our research funding has the greatest impact. We target our support to those who are world-leading and pioneers in their respective fields, and to research that is collaborative, cross-disciplinary, and patient-focused, and work closely with major research bodies to co-fund programmes. Leading the programme is Professor Iain Whitaker, an esteemed plastic surgeon and the only Professor of Plastic Surgery in Wales, based at Swansea University Medical School and The Welsh Centre for Burns & Plastic Surgery.

### CENTRE FOR CONFLICT WOUND RESEARCH

**Founded five years ago with major funding from the Government’s LIBOR grants programme, our Centre in Birmingham is home to research that improves outcomes across the care cycle, from first response to long-term psychological support and rehabilitation for those injured while serving alongside civilian casualties of conflict, acute trauma, and disasters.**

Across this research we’ve worked closely with the CASEVAC Club, which represents former military personnel who were seriously injured and “casualty evacuated” from the battlefield while serving in recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and its members across this research.

One of our newest projects looks at the biological aging of cells in 150 veterans. This research is helping us to build an understanding of the link between trauma and accelerated biological aging and identifying ways to reverse this, including through exercise. It highlights how much there is still to learn from these “unlikely survivors.”

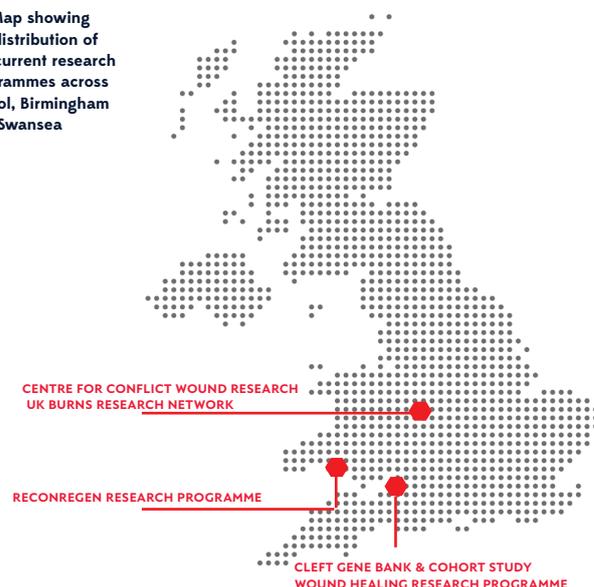


HRH Countess of Wessex, pictured with Professor Iain Whitaker, who leads our research programme in Swansea, and our Lead Ambassador Simon Weston CBE



CASEVAC Club’s Co-Founders Dave Henson MBE (furthest left) and David Wiseman (centre) pictured with other CASEVAC Club Members (from left to right) John Boggi, Simon Harmer, Karl Hinett and Craig Winspear

UK Map showing the distribution of our current research programmes across Bristol, Birmingham and Swansea





Cross-disciplinary research in Bristol is already underway to identify genes that may regulate scarring and exploring how changes to the equivalent genes in zebrafish produce changes in healing outcomes.



Scar Free Ambassador and our newest Trustee Hemani Modasia in conversation with Professor Janet Lord CBE

## FUTURE PRIORITIES FORM, FUNCTION & FEELING

This is our major new research endeavour which seeks to address the research strategy question, How do we live with scars?

Drawing on the knowledge and expertise held by us and our collaborators across everything from basic science, biology, genetics and psychology through the Form, Function and Feeling programme we are setting out to discover:

1. Why scarring happens?
2. How it can be damped down or prevented completely?
3. How, on our journey there, we can better support and improve the outcomes for those living with scars today?

## IMPACT REPORT

Whilst we look towards the future, supported by an important new research direction, we're also taking the time to look back and learn from our milestones and achievements in our first 23 years. The Impact Report document and film are available to read and watch [here](#).

## LIVED EXPERIENCE & CO-DESIGN

Since our inception as the Healing Foundation in 1999, we have always prioritized the inclusion of individuals with lived experience of scarring, trauma, and visible difference. Our commitment to this principle is at the core of everything we do. Over the years, we've cultivated an incredible and inspiring community through our Ambassadors network and partnerships with disabled- and community-led groups and networks such as the CASEVAC Club. These collaborations have fostered deep, trusting relationships, and the voices, ideas, and perspectives of our community hold great resonance and relevance, which we highly value.

We communicate our impact and rally support by empowering Ambassadors to share their stories. In recent years, we have focused on bringing this community even closer to our work. Through our annual Scar Free Ambassadors events, we facilitate meaningful conversations and knowledge exchange between Ambassadors and our researcher community. Our Ambassadors and lived experience communities not only participate in many of our studies but also contribute at the strategic level. Notably, last year, we appointed two Ambassadors, Hemani and Jaco, to join our Board of Trustees and Research Council, respectively.



Interested to learn more? Please check out our new podcast series featuring interviews with researchers, volunteers, staff, visitors and Ambassadors. [Listen here](#)

## OUR PARTNERS



## CURRENT & RECENT FUNDERS



Angelica Kavouni & Lucian Ion | Arbutnot Baking Group | The Atkin Charitable Foundation | BAPRAS } CHEAR Foundation | Childwick Trust | Charles & Rowena Wilson | The Clore Duffield Foundation | The Dorus Trust | Dominic Johnson | Douglas McGeorge | Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust | Garfield Weston Foundation | GJW Turner Trust | The Gosling Foundation | Harry Hampson | Hintze Family Charitable Foundation | Holbeck Charitable Trust | Professor Jonathan Sandy | Karim Tabet & Alexia Ackermann | Kavli Trust | Lady Jenny Rose | Lois Collier & Scar Family | Marco Compagnoni & Bruce Sansom | Next PLC | Nigel Mercer | PF Charitable Trust | Professor Naiem Moiemem | Professor Peter Dziewulski | Richard Collier | Simon & Julia Boadle | The J P Moulton Charitable Foundation | The Stephen Forrest Charitable Trust | Professor Vivien Lees | The Worshipful Company of Tin Plate Workers alias Wire Workers | Wyfold Charitable Trust

## PATRON

HRH The Countess of Wessex