

THE JOHN CHARNLEY TRUST

AIMS

WHEN Sir John Charnley died in August 1982 and the tributes had been paid to his outstanding pioneering work in the field of total hip replacement, it would have been easy to regard his life and contributions to orthopaedic surgery as a matter of history.

Fortunately, his widow, Lady Charnley, was convinced that she had a duty to ensure that a major piece of research that he had commenced should be completed and that his memory be perpetuated through fellowships. Lady Charnley consulted friends and colleagues who had known him, and it was decided to form a charitable trust in his name, to launch an initial appeal to Sir John's former patients and to obtain sponsorship from certain companies with whom he had worked on the many aspects of total hip replacement. Such was the quality of his former patients' experience following the replacement of their defective hip joint by one of his designs that they, and the sponsoring companies, responded generously.

The aims of the Trust are:

1. The promotion of research into the field of human joint replacement and in particular that of Low Friction Arthroplasty of the hip.
2. The creation of research fellowships and the making of grants to enable young orthopaedic surgeons to visit centres of excellence in orthopaedic surgery.
3. The sponsorship of lectures, seminars and conferences to further the technique of Low Friction Arthroplasty pioneered by Sir John Charnley.

The evaluation of the success and failure of any joint replacement can only be obtained by meticulous long term follow up and comparison between different types of prostheses. At present, a cemented Charnley prosthesis is considered the Gold Standard and now has a 30-year follow up. Any modifications or improvements must be rigorously compared and early warning of failure must be published to avoid disasters. Research has shown that a follow up period of less than seven years has little value as a prediction of longevity. The Trust requires donations to fund this research as well as continued applications from orthopaedic surgeons.

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Since Sir John died in August 1982, his widow, Lady Charnley, has worked tirelessly to continue the work he started though *The John Charnley Trust*, which has made charitable payments of over £750,000 to date. If you would like to receive further information about the Trust's work, or if you are able to make a donation, please contact:

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