



Believing in the next generation of doctors

Ulster University School of Medicine



**We believe
in improving
healthcare
for all**

Ulster University School of Medicine

Ulster University, with the support of the Northern Ireland Executive, is establishing a new School of Medicine in the North-West at the University's Magee Campus.

Our vision is to inspire and equip the next generation of doctors to make a significant impact on our healthcare and economy.

The Ulster University School of Medicine will directly address the challenges of a healthcare system at breaking point.

It will attract graduates to study, work and live in the North-West. It will train new doctors, thus developing a pipeline of qualified doctors available to work in Northern Ireland and help to address the ongoing medical workforce shortage, which is more intensely felt now than ever before.

Training the Doctors of Tomorrow

The Ulster University School of Medicine will admit students who have already completed an undergraduate degree and provide them with four years of intensive, practical medical education. We will take pride in delivering practical, relevant and evidence-based teaching to the doctors of the future.

The programme will address modern-day healthcare issues such as chronic disease management, mental health and gerontology and will have an element of cross-border collaboration.

Following approval from the Northern Ireland Executive to progress the School of Medicine, Ulster University is committed to growing its presence in Derry~Londonderry and plans to continue to work in partnership with local stakeholders to develop Derry~Londonderry as a university city and improve the broader economy of the North-West.

Since 2016, when we first submitted plans for a new School of Medicine to the General Medical Council, we have worked committedly with local stakeholders to achieve significant milestones to make the school a reality.

The creation of a new School of Medicine has been identified by local government, as a catalyst in the transformation for Derry~Londonderry and the wider region and we are now on an accelerated path to welcoming students in 2021.

You can be part of this transformation.

Investing in the North-West

The addition of a new medical training facility in the region aims to deliver an enhanced, highly-skilled medical workforce to help address the challenges of a healthcare system which is at breaking point by easing staffing deficiencies and **futureproofing our health service.**



Why is change needed?

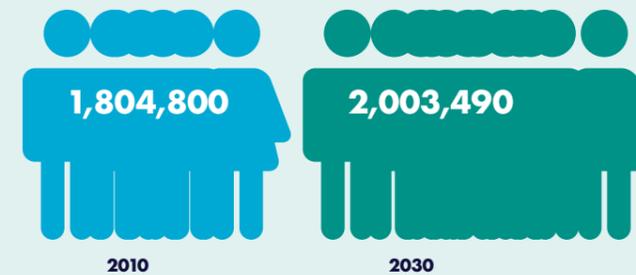
There are **7 medical schools** on the island of Ireland and the opening of an eighth will have significant implications for the recruitment of skilled medical staff in the region.

In Northern Ireland, there is currently **only one medical school** undertaking medical training, and this facility does not provide a graduate entry level option.

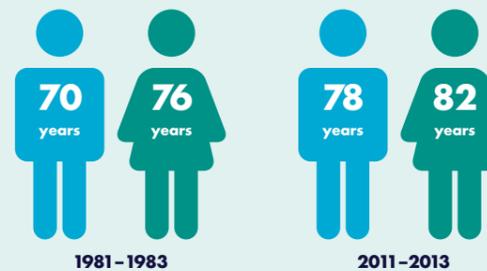
GMC data demonstrate that **65%** of graduates in Northern Ireland work within **50 miles** of their medical school. This is in contrast to **45%** in England.

The shortage of doctors is particularly prevalent in the North-West and providing a facility for medical education in the region will help address this problem.

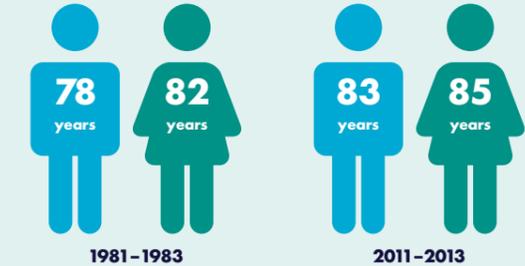
Increasing population



Life expectancy at birth



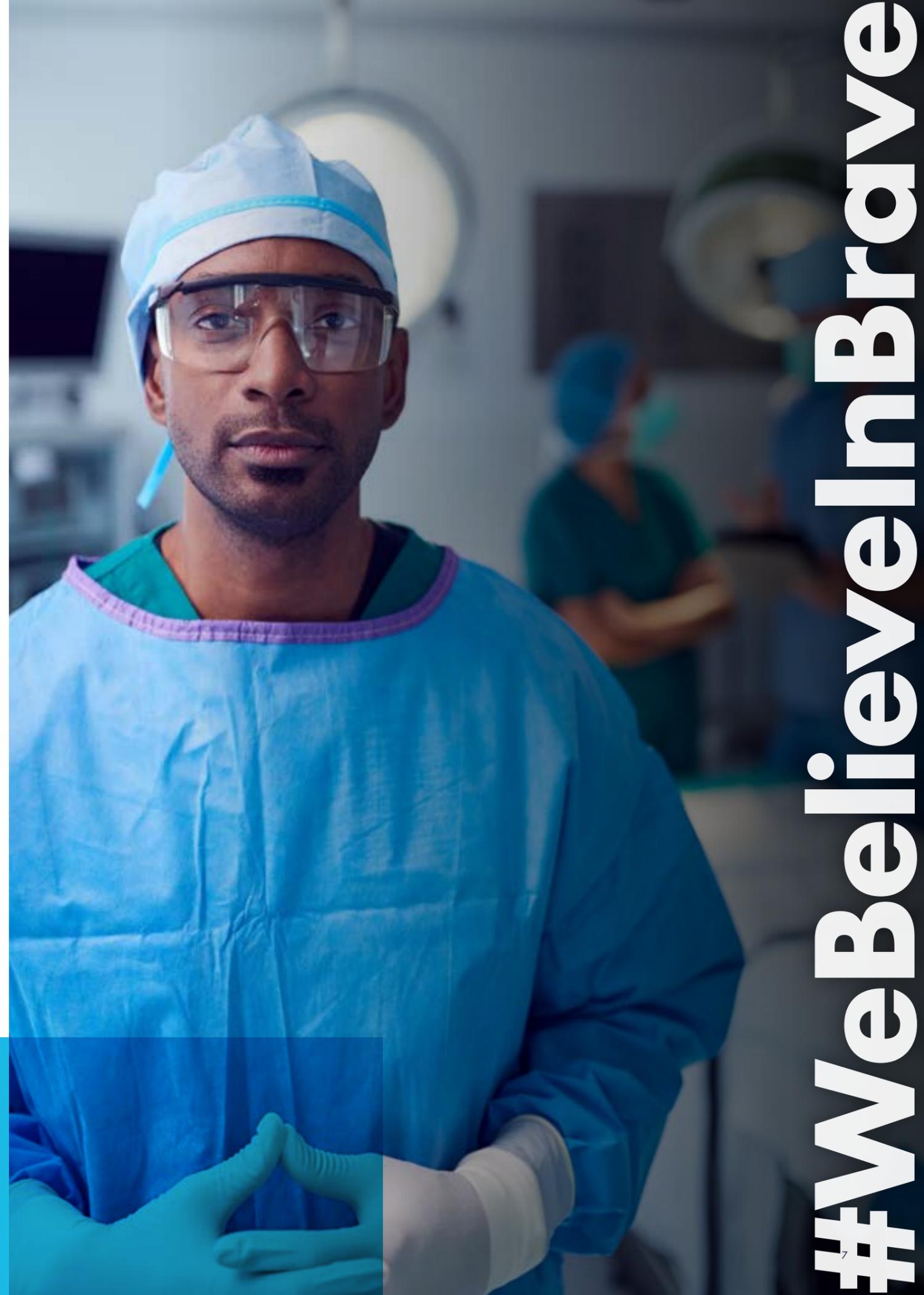
Life expectancy at 65



The North-West faces major health challenges, related in particular to its highly rural nature and the fact that it historically has been unable to attract and retain the skilled staff base it needs to serve its community due likely in part to the lack of medical school presence in the area. The challenge of workforce shortages, particularly GPs, is exacerbated by our growing and ageing population, presenting with increasingly complex needs, and the impact of COVID-19 has highlighted this more than ever.

The establishment of a new medical school in the North West will be transformational and a once-in-a-generation opportunity to:

- 1** Provide the skilled doctors that the NHS needs, with an emphasis on combatting shortages in the North-West – students studying a high-quality curriculum combined with local placements are more likely to stay in the area in which they have trained.
- 2** Address chronic specialist shortages – particularly in primary care and mental health (The Western Trust is at the greatest risk of GP closures due to lack of doctors willing to work and live in the area).
- 3** Reduce dependence on locum/agency staff by providing permanent staff.
- 4** Unlock the North-West's potential to create a medical workforce that is from the community, for the community by widening participation and improving access, so that our doctors are increasingly representative of the population they serve.
- 5** Build on existing areas of excellence to drive innovation, transform education and industrial partnership in medical education – to benefit the whole health system and wider economy.



#WeBelieveInBrave

We believe everyone has a right to an education.

Together, we can make a difference



The financial burden for all medical students is considerable, but even bigger and often prohibitive for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We are now focusing on the needs of the students. Part of our vision is to encourage qualified students, with potential, from all walks of life to study medicine at Ulster, opening new doors for them and their families while diversifying and strengthening our medical workforce.

To achieve this, we need to attract more students from rural and remote areas and low socio-economic backgrounds. Removing the financial barriers to ensure equal access is essential and therefore our top priority.

Together we can remove the final obstacles on the path to achieving the impact of our bold vision, but to make this possible, we need to establish a strong financial assistance programme which will ensure that highly capable students can fulfil their dreams and become the much-needed medical practitioners of the future, providing competent and compassionate care where it is needed most.

Students entering the school of medicine are not eligible for any Student Loan Company assistance as they have already undertaken an undergraduate degree. It is therefore our **initial short term aim to raise £600,000** to offer means tested scholarships to five students each year for the first five years of the medical school. (Scholarships will be paid until 2028/29).

It is also our ambition to **create an endowed fund of £5,000,000** - this will support **5 new students each year** in perpetuity over the course of their four years of study.

There are many options for supporting these students - including supporting individual students for the duration of the programme, supporting multiple students, contributing to the endowment funding and supporting students in perpetuity.

Our priority is to raise these much needed funds as soon as possible so that we can begin to promote and incentivise recruitment from the target cohort.

By supporting students with scholarships, you will not only be personally contributing to the development of the future medical workforce but you will also be helping to create an attractive package to ensure our Magee campus is a destination of choice for medical students to train and live, for families to remain and most importantly, significantly improving patient outcomes and investing in the life-long future of the medical school in Derry-Londonderry.



"I remain amazed how the vision for the Ulster University School of Medicine has come to admitting a class in Sept 2021. Surely heavy lifting and passion by many to get to this point - for the benefit of many. It feels great to think that we can be a small part of helping a few students realize their dreams. They are the ones now that will do all the hard work to get their degree and then give back to the community in spades. Who knows what great things they will accomplish. It's a win-win."

Dr Susan K Whoriskey,

Whoriskey Associates (Biotechnology Advisors), will be supporting three students entering the School of Medicine in 2021 for each year of their degree.

What do you believe in?

Doesn't everyone deserve an opportunity?

As part of the initial application process, applicants are required to complete a personal statement on an expression of interest form. Below are extracts from the personal statements of three potential students to the first intake in 2021.



Ben*

First Class Hons in Biochemistry

"There is no doubt that for someone like me, from a working-class family, the financial commitment and requirements are a real barrier which makes me feel sad as I'm someone with brains and a big heart.

I'm not able to give it to the world how I want to currently.

I hopefully will be able to do so someday."

Angela*

First Class Hons in Biomedical Engineering

"When I was 15, I left secondary school with no qualifications.

At 22 I realised my mistake and wanted to achieve something with my life and help people. I studied a foundation degree in Biomedical Sciences which led to a BSc in Biomedical Engineering and then to a PhD in Engineering Science at the University of Oxford, specialising in gene delivery.

I don't come from a wealthy family and so worked hard to secure every grant and loan going.

Don't let funding for four years be the reason Northern Ireland misses out on a potentially amazing doctor. The passion to care, the person's ability and drive to be great at what they do should be the deciding factors on whether someone will make a great doctor, not their, or their family's bank balance. I certainly wouldn't be where I'm at without help."



Thomas*

Working in healthcare

"Working closely with Radiologists and various other health care professionals in my current role reignited my dream. I know I have the intelligence, the drive and the skills to be a force for good by helping people.

With limited finances and no savings, I simply can't see how I could afford to study medicine. It is sad because I am the type of person who could bring so much to the course and the field."

Why partner with us?

Ulster University is uniquely placed to address some of the main challenges the health sector faces with the academic excellence, research expertise and healthcare leadership that is required to deliver world-leading medical education.

We have developed a global reputation for providing outstanding training for allied health professionals and our biomedical sciences research across the breadth of the medical sphere. We have never been in a stronger position to take the lead in delivering practical, relevant and evidence-based medical teaching.

Since 1974, we have been a provider of health-related education with almost 800 graduates in a range of areas including radiography, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, taking up employment in the NHS every year. We respond to industry need and have recently introduced specialist courses in Stratified Medicine and Paramedic Science.



2020 nursing students graduating early to help alleviate COVID-19 staffing needs.



Professor Tara Moore is one of Ulster's researchers helping the UK Government develop its COVID-19 antibody testing programme.

We are one of the top five universities in the UK for world-leading research in biomedical sciences.



Our School of Nursing based at our Magee campus is ranked 7th in the UK and 49th in the world.*



100% of our nursing and health science research environment is classified as world-leading.**



We are consistently ranked in the top 5 in the UK for Pharmacy and Pharmacology study.***



* QS World University Subject Rankings 2020 ** REF2014 *** Guardian subject rankings league table

The School of Medicine aligns clearly with existing expertise, providing opportunities for the development of novel teaching methodologies, and builds on significant recent investments:



£11m

Centre for Stratified Medicine

Globally renowned for pioneering personalised treatments for chronic health conditions



£5m

Investment in our Institute of Mental Health Research

Responding to the growing crisis



£20m

Data Related Research

Including expertise in Precision Medicine and Functional Brain Mapping

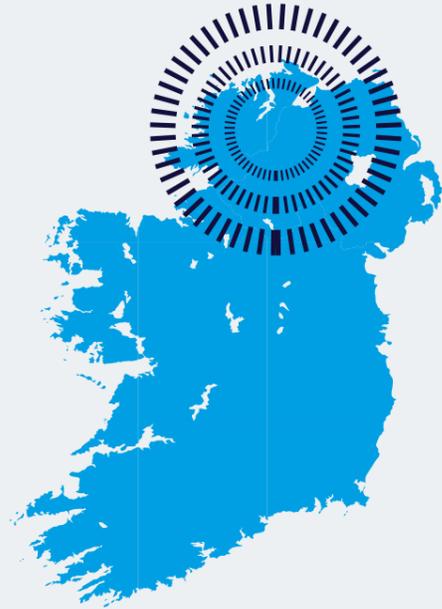
In addition, the city and growth deal for the Derry City and Strabane District Council area supported by government – worth over £200m – will provide an additional investment in University research in personalised medicine, data analytics and robotics in the coming years.

Partnership Opportunities

Working together to build a healthy future for all

Ulster University Medical Education Fund

Ulster University wishes to secure philanthropic funding from individuals and organisations to support the medical school's current priorities which will help address the systemic medical workforce problem across Northern Ireland and border areas of the Republic of Ireland.



As well as scholarships, there are a number of other ways you can support the Ulster University School of Medicine through research and educational excellence.

The University wishes to attract and retain the best thinkers to drive research impact aligned to the School of Medicine and the wider Faculty of Life & Health Sciences.

In order to ensure that Ulster University grows a reputation as a renowned global research and teaching facility, support is sought for several key research positions, including PhD researchers, with a focus on medical and health related research.

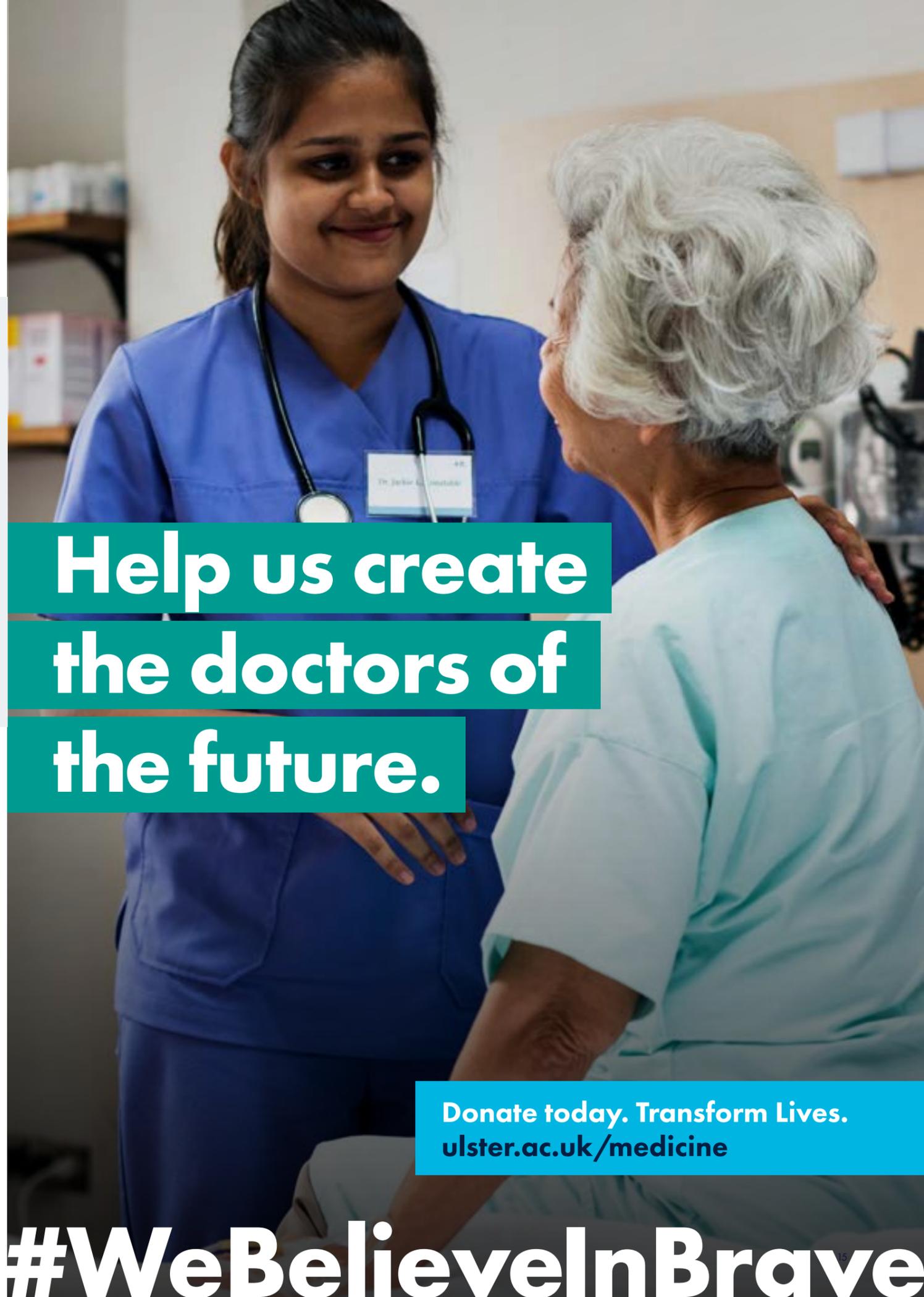
We have ambitions to attract world-class researchers with an outstanding international reputation, contributing to academic excellence, which in turn promotes and influences the

teaching experience thus ensuring that we attract the best researchers and students and invest in future generations of medical leaders.

Recognising your support

The School of Medicine provides naming opportunities that allows donors to be officially recognised for their gift. Naming opportunities help to leave a lasting legacy and can also be used to honour a family or friend.

For further information, please email d.mcgrath@ulster.ac.uk



Help us create the doctors of the future.

Donate today. Transform Lives.
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