

Crick P&A Exhibition Report



29th of September 2021



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1 Introduction and Welcome

Rosie welcomed everyone to the Crick and the opening of the exhibition! It was great to all finally be here together for the opening.

Yasmin shared some of the ways the PAP had influenced the exhibition development and her curation:

“You have all been incredibly influential in my curation of this exhibition... I hope as you go round you sense that collective spirit of teamwork”

“The exhibition was supposed to destigmatise cancer and we had those sessions where we asked how should we show cancer? And you really influenced me to push that through.”



Shae and Amanda spoke about their experience on the PAP and what the Crick PAP has meant to them.

Little did I know that I'd get to meet all these amazing people and I never felt better than when I came out of a PAP session.

Amanda

What really struck me about the exhibition was that it brought out the beauty in cancer in a funny way and I feel like you people were the beauty I found in my cancer.

Amanda

Even though this is all about cancer, you'll see me grinning so widely as we go around because this means so much and it's making the science of cancer accessible, there's something about that that doesn't happen that often

Shae

Meeting all the people here has actually changed my life, Amanda and I are in contact... we're just different people because of this experience so I hope that it continues.

Shae

2 Exhibition

After some incredibly touching and heart-warming introductory speeches, the members and their friend/familie viewed the exhibition. Everyone thought about their impressions and then reconvened as a group to share reflections on the exhibition.

Many of the boards included the quotations of the PAP members which reinforced their influence on the curation emphasised by Yasmin.



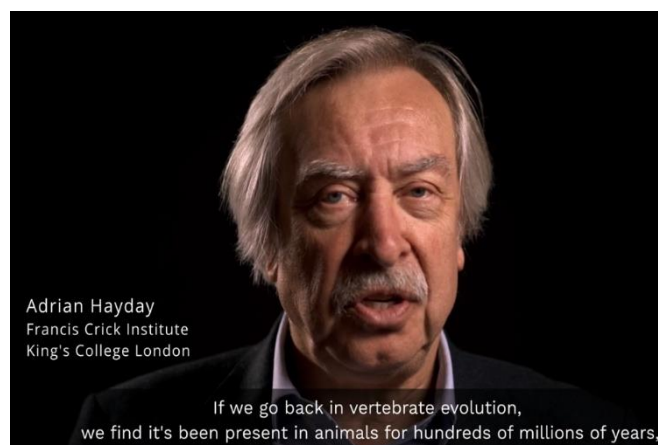
The exhibition itself was a mixture of narrative text, audio and film which gave a variety and unique feel when walking around and studying each board. 6 short films are included, featuring Crick researchers with well-known figure such as:

- BBC Journalist George Alagiah + Vivian Li (R)
- Cell biologist Mariann Bienz + Charlie Swanton
- Lawyer Adam Blain + Simon Boulton

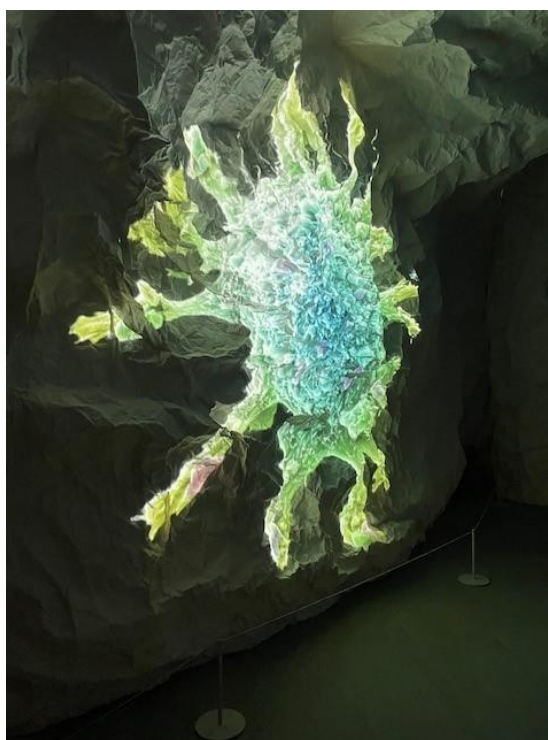
- Broadcaster and sex educator Alix Fox + Karen Vousden
- Plastic reconstructive surgeon Dr Georgette Oni + Erik Sahai
- Journalist Tim Jonze + Dominique Bonnet

In addition to the encounter interviews, two short films featuring new treatments building on research at the Crick are displayed:

- Achilles Therapeutics
- GammaDelta Therapeutics (R)



The “Micro Cosmos” holistic film composed by Mira Calix is a big part of the exhibition. The immersive film encompasses the three themes of the exhibition and sound experience is an impressive feature that blends images and sounds from the labs with images and sounds from nature/human scale.



3 Reflections

After the PAP members had time to take in the exhibition, we brought the group together, and Wendy asked for reflections on what they had seen. The PAP and their families/friends shared their impressions, often thought-provoking and in a touching but positive way.

“It feels colourful, inviting, and warm with the colours being used...it doesn't feel like a dark scary space to go into which cancer is often deemed to be...” – Rachel

“Vibrant, hopeful and uplifting would be my three words” - PAP family/friend

“I would say that the biggest thing (not being part of the immediate group) is that it is very visual and those images of cancer that you would never see...” - PAP family/friend

“I think when you get ill the worst thing you get is fatigue, then sympathy when you just want somebody to give you a bit of hope, something a bit joyful... so what's lovely here is that there is nothing morose and upsetting, it's great.” - Amanda

“It's such accessible language, I think it's been written and put together nicely... and I think for children and millennials it's not difficult to take on board and understand”
Rachel

“When I was looking at the cells, my son is 7, and he's been there the whole journey and I'd like to explain the possibility of death so for him to be able to actually see it... he doesn't have to be scared about it all the time... this is what's happening inside the body so I think is really good and easy for different ages, whichever background you come from, you'll be able to understand” – PAP family/friend

“It feels really special to be here and I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed by it because we saw these things and thought we knew what we were going to see and it's just wonderful to see how it's come together, and it's got enough of a balance between easy language and the science behind it but appealing enough to carry on through and have a visual draw to it.- Penny

“There's an honesty isn't there? Which I think it to be commended.” – Patrick

“I think you managed to create an environment where we felt we could be that being honest, and we felt that we trusted each other... and so it's nice to see these words... to us it's not unexpected but it'll be interesting to see how other's respond to those words.” – Penny

“I think it's very appealing to young people because young people don't really want to know about cancer it's something that happens to old people... it's written in a language that explains things with lots of information that explains the science in a different way... I have a lot of connections to schools, and I will encourage them to come along and visit here.” Noel

4 Closing statements

After a special and emotional evening of shared experience, food and drink were served as the private viewing came to an end. Everyone was encouraged to leave feedback. We'd like to thank you all for coming and sharing your reflections on a truly spectacular exhibition!

