

26B, Daleham Gardens,

London NW3 5DA

December 5th 2014

About the proposed institute at the Royal Free

My first reaction when I heard the news was to think how lucky we are. We shall have a tower of learning in our neighbourhood here in NW3 with medical and scientific experts from all over this country and indeed the world. The quality of the research will be unparalleled. The importance of the proposed work in immunology for the benefit of transplant patients, one of the specialisms for which the Royal Free is rightly famous, cannot be too strongly emphasised. This is just one example of the kind of advance we are to going to see that will save many lives.

On a more practical level, I understand there is to be a patients' hotel for those who need ongoing treatment but not a hospital bed. Brilliant. Patients will not be forced to stay in an expensive London hotel. This is not a grabby developers' plan to put high blocks of flats on our beloved heath. It is a chance for the neighbourhood to shine.

The Royal Free may exasperate us all from time to time but we must admit it usually gets things right. I cannot afford private medicine. I have been going to the Royal Free since it opened in the seventies. My family too, three generations of us. My husband is there as we speak, being treated for heart failure. He is going to be fine. Let's trust the Royal Free and look forward to this new Institute of which we shall be proud.

Helen Rogers