



PRESS RELEASE

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BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GIBRALTAR DONATES LABORATORY EQUIPMENT TO GHA

Breast Cancer Support Gibraltar has kindly donated a 'state of the art' Base Sledge Microtome and an automated tissue processor costing a total of £45,000 for the Histology Section of the GHA's Pathology Department.

The microtome carries out the first step in the processing of biopsy and full tissue samples essential in the diagnosis of cancer. The process treats representative blocks of human tissue in varying concentrations of chemicals including alcohols, xylene and wax. The automation prevents occupational health and safety issues from arising with in the Laboratory. The quality of this initial stage is crucial for subsequent very fine slicing of the processed tissue in preparation for the staining and subsequent microscopic examination of the tissue sample.

This tissue processor will be used primarily for large block breast cases and will also serve in an essential back-up capacity for our current general processor. This means that representative sections taken from breast tumours are processed in large blocks. The Pathologist's work, in identifying the excision margins of the tumours, is made easier, quicker and aids a more precise diagnosis.

On presenting the cheque, the Chairman of Breast Cancer Support Gibraltar, Isobel Ellul-Hammond said that it was the goal of the charity to do everything in its power to advocate for and help fund the best possible Breast Cancer service for the people of Gibraltar.

Minister for Health, The Hon Yvette Del Agua, in receiving the donation, said "I thank Isobel and her team for the tremendous support that they provide to breast cancer sufferers in Gibraltar, for giving so much of their time and for putting so much effort into the excellent work that they do. I am sure that this successful partnership with the GHA will continue for many more years to come".

GHA Chief Executive Dr. David McCutcheon added "this acquisition provides an essential piece of equipment and increases the capability of the Laboratory to provide a level of service above and beyond the standard of a similar sized hospital elsewhere."

Audrey Olivares-Smith, Deputy Manager Pathology and Head of the Histology Section on behalf of the Pathology Department thanked Mrs. Hammond and her committee for this donation and said that “she was thrilled to have this added capacity to serve the community”.