

PAC at the RTD 'Big Thank You' Celebration - 20th November 2025

Penguins Against Cancer (PAC) were invited to a celebration evening with the team and supporters from **Red Trouser Day** (RTD) Charity. The event is their annual '**Big Thank You**' to their sponsors and donors and a chance for the charity to reflect on the year.

Paul Finch RTD Founder and CEO has been working closely with Charlie Beardmore and Simon Hughes over the last 12 months or so as part of the joint research project, initiated by PAC, to support Colorectal Cancer Research. Our research team, led by Simon Hughes, investigated a number of options and once satisfied, reached out to RTD, a cancer charity with matching values, a similar vision and a simple ethos like ours with clear research goals.

Held in the city, at the Offices of *Cushman & Wakefield*, with an audience of 80-100 sponsors and donors, speaking at this event provided a great opportunity to talk about PAC, explain what we do and how we have grown, briefly referencing our 6 Research Awards, as well as sharing with the audience the inspiration behind our collaboration with RTD on the jointly funded research award. **The Simon Bunting Colorectal Cancer Research Award** provides £10,000 to support research into Colorectal Cancer, with preference being given to research supporting earlier diagnosis and prevention.



They were delighted to learn about the recipient of the 2025 Award and, thanks to Simon Hughes for the context and clarity, I was able to provide detail on the research project and how the money is being used. (Details of which can be found in this [award letter](#).)

As well as Penguins Against Cancer presenting its context and collaboration, we also heard a presentation from Micol Lupi, whose research RTD helped fund. She explained the exciting developments in the work that started off as her PhD research, and has now evolved into a world's first full-fledged solution that helps people with anal cancer.

The event was concluded by the RTD Patron, **Sir Kenneth Olisa HM Lord Lieutenant for Greater London**.

He gave us some inspirational words based on his own personal challenges and journey and he reminded us of all the good that is going on in the UK in spite of the constant stream of bad news.



Simon Bunting:

Is a dentist who trained at Guy's Hospital in the 1980s. Two years ago, following some very mild symptoms, he was diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

Following fairly innocuous symptoms which he acted upon, he was quickly diagnosed. Simon underwent surgery within a couple of weeks followed by a quick recovery - and today he is as fit and healthy as ever.

"My cancer experience has been incredibly straightforward and I realise that I am lucky. One of my best friends and my lovely mother-in-law were diagnosed with cancer the same week as me. She unfortunately died within a month and my friend within a year.

One of the reasons my treatment was so effective was my early diagnosis and intervention.

*I was honoured and delighted to become the eponym for a research grant established by **Penguins Against Cancer**, and note that the first award supported research into early diagnosis.*

I was doubly delighted to learn that one did not have to be dead to become an eponym!

I shall do my best to keep fit and maintain a positive attitude to life and recovery as I truly believe this has helped both before and after surgery."



The Red Trouser Day (RTD) and Penguins Against Cancer (PAC) jointly funded - Simon Bunting Colorectal Cancer Research Award providing £10,000 to support research into Colorectal Cancer, with preference being given to research supporting earlier diagnosis and prevention.



Pat Gush Vice President PAC