

## A hub for 21st century medicine

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Alumni, donors, staff and students were joined by Sir Doug Ellis, former Aston Villa Chairman, at the opening of the new £2 million Medical School Foyer and Barnes Library. The innovative refurbishment has catapulted the original 1939 facility into the 21st Century, benefitting generations of future medical students.

Attendees were given a unique opportunity to see the new facilities and meet with students who are already making use of this exemplary space during the formal opened by lead donor Sir Doug Ellis OBE during the event on Monday 5 March.

Sir Doug said: *"I have been involved in many charitable projects over the years, but the University of Birmingham has a special place in my heart. In fact, I owe my life to the research and the staff here. Along with all the others who gave, I am delighted to be able financially to support this wonderful project."*

The Vice Chancellor, Professor David Eastwood, said: *"The first donation to a major project always requires commitment to the cause, a determination to set the example, and often bravery. Tonight, Sir Doug, we celebrate and thank you for helping to make this refurbishment possible. To honour your generosity and to mark this occasion, we are delighted to name the Learning Hub in your name."*

Thanks to the generosity of the project's donors, the ground floor of the Barnes Library has now been transformed into an innovative hub for all student services, with dedicated student welfare support services and confidential meeting rooms. In addition there are flexible study areas with WiFi access, space for informal and formal group working and the latest IT and audiovisual facilities.

Sir Doug and his contribution to the Birmingham Medical School were featured in the Birmingham Mail. You can read the article [here](http://www.birminghammail.net/news/birmingham-news/2012/03/08/former-aston-villa-chairman-sir-doug-ellis-says-birmingham-researchers-saved-his-life-97319-30484525/) (<http://www.birminghammail.net/news/birmingham-news/2012/03/08/former-aston-villa-chairman-sir-doug-ellis-says-birmingham-researchers-saved-his-life-97319-30484525/>).

You can also view footage of the original 1934 ground breaking event for the Medical School [here](http://www.britishpathe.com/video/birmingham-hospitals-centre/query/birmingham+medical) (<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/birmingham-hospitals-centre/query/birmingham+medical>).



Professor Lawrence Young, Sir Doug Ellis and Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood at the opening of the Doug Ellis Learning Hub