



A place of
possibility

A poem created with the words
of those who work and study at the
Cambridge Stem Cell Institute

Poetry to reflect our experiences

At the Cambridge Stem Cell Institute's annual retreat in 2024, scientist and poet Dr Kirsty Ferguson presented her public engagement project *You, Me & Us*.

Kirsty shared learnings from a series of collaborative poetry workshops which used creative writing to help break down barriers between people with diverse professional and lived experiences of neuroblastoma.

From researchers working in the lab, to patients who have survived, to parents affected and now using their lives to help others, the poems shared and written during the project gave an insight into what it is like to study, treat, live with, and experience this rare childhood cancer.

At the retreat, Kirsty invited colleagues and peers to share lines reflecting on their time at our institute and what makes it a special place to study and work.

Using these lines, Kirsty has created a collaborative poem about life at the Cambridge Stem Cell Institute. A recurring theme of harnessing potential - in our science, people, and impact - is captured in the poem's title 'A place of possibility'.

A place of possibility

Our collaborative poem

A place to create interactions,
Collaborations and champions
Exploring early development,
Uncovering the basis of life,
In a supportive niche.
Discovery, through the colourful lens of science.

A place
Of lifelong learning
Where we discover potential,
Sharing knowledge, together.
A place to grow personally and professionally,
To grow cells and friendships.
A place to have fun.

A refuge,
To feel safe and supported,
To heal,
To develop ideas and careers.
A place rich in expertise, experience and openness,
A community.

A place
That gives hope
To generations to come.
Passionate people pursuing a better future.

A place of possibility.

A place of **possibility**

The Cambridge Stem Cell Institute is on a mission to transform human health through a deep understanding of stem cell biology.

Our research groups at the University of Cambridge bring together diverse skills and biological, clinical and technical knowledge.

Together we are asking many questions about human health; from how cells and development work, to how to improve treatments for people living with disease.

www.stemcells.cam.ac.uk

