

# Wessex Medical Research

*Funding research to fight disease*



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The newsletter of WESSEX MEDICAL TRUST

Autumn 2013

## Child Brain Injury Research—a RESULT!

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As a result of the generosity of so many local people, the appeal which we launched in the autumn of 2012 has reached (and even slightly exceeded) its target. We are therefore delighted to confirm that Mr Aminul Ahmed and Mr Diederik Bulters have now been awarded grants totalling £33,950 to enable them to undertake their proposed research into Child Brain Injury. This is a really exciting development and a very satisfying result. The research has already started and we will be looking forward to publishing regular progress reports from them.

Whilst there are so many people we need to thank for helping us achieve this excellent outcome, special mention must go to Laura-Jo Smith and Glyn White. After three attempts which had to be cancelled owing to adverse

weather, Laura-Jo finally succeed in making her sky dive on May 18th, nearly

two months after the originally scheduled date. Together with her fellow-skydiver and fundraiser, Matt Grinnol, Laura-Jo managed to raise over £1,500 for the project. Back on 'dry land', Glyn White, a local policeman, raised an amazing total of over £3,500, first by participating in this year's London Marathon and then by organising a 'Rock'n'Pop' evening in a Southampton nightclub: this was in addition to several public collections and sales of cakes and chutney. A real star!

There were of course many others who contributed either financially or by hard work—or both—and we would not wish to exclude anyone from our thanks.



*Laura-Jo comes into land after her sky dive*



*Glyn White out collecting*

## Gosport and Lee Quiz

Gosport and Lee Volunteer Group held a very successful Quiz Evening at St Mary's Parish Centre. Some 55 people attended and the competition was fierce! However, the outcome was an extremely satisfying contribution of over £500 to our funds. As well as our supporters and volunteers, we must also thank members of the 5th Gosport Sea Scout group who provided valuable assistance at the event.



A very welcome development during the last few months has been a new arrangement with Rosetrees Trust. This London-based philanthropic trust specialises in supporting medical research and has agreed to contribute 50% of the cost of a PhD studentship valued at a total of £80,000 over four years. Following a formal application round in July, a total of 16 applications from potential supervisors was ranked and the preferred applications sent for external peer review. As a result, the grant has been awarded to Dr Sandrine Willaime-Morawek (*pictured*) who is now actively recruiting a suitable student to start research in October 2013 with a project entitled "*How does poor maternal diet affect foetal neural stem cell activity leading to adult behavioural disease?*". We very much hope that the success of this initial project will lead to further mutually beneficial joint ventures with Rosetrees Trust.



## Farewell to Brian



After nearly seven very successful years at the helm, Brian Court has decided to step down as Chairman of the New Forest Volunteer Group. During his period of office, the Group has staged some spectacularly successful events, including two concerts in Romsey Abbey given by the London Welsh Male Voice Choir which raised some £6,500 and £7,300 respectively. We are sorry to see Brian go but we extend our heartfelt thanks for a job well done and send our best wishes for the future both to him and to his very supportive wife Elaine.

- ◇ Would you like to experience the thrill and satisfaction of running in the **LONDON MARATHON**?
- ◇ Would you be able to undertake to raise at least **£2,000** in sponsorship for medical research?

If the answer to both questions is “yes”, then we may be able to help by giving you one of our Golden Bonds which guarantees you a place in the 2014 event taking place on Sunday 13 April.

**Contact Wendy Burchall** for details: 07792 586243 or [wendy.burchall@wedmed.org.uk](mailto:wendy.burchall@wedmed.org.uk)

## Dates for your Diary

### 2013

October	Quiz Night <i>Guernsey</i>
October 17	Speaker Supper <i>New Forest</i> <i>Speaker: Dr Matthew Rose-Zerilli—cancer sciences</i>
October 20	Quiz Night <i>Romsey</i>
October 24	Volunteers' Evening
November 21	Speaker Luncheon <i>Gosport &amp; Lee</i> <i>Speaker: Dr Nicholas Evans—orthopaedics and osteoporosis</i>

### 2014

January 26	Curry Night <i>Romsey</i>
January	Quiz Night <i>New Forest</i>
April 5	Concert <i>Gosport &amp; Lee</i> <i>St Mary's Alverstoke</i>
April 13	London Marathon
June	Sunset Supper <i>New Forest</i>
June 7	Dinner Dance <i>Romsey</i>

***Please check the website for additional activities  
and give us your active support wherever you can.***

## Christmas cards

**W**E are not circulating a separate hard copy leaflet for our range of Christmas Cards this year. However, this is available on our website [www.wesmed.org.uk](http://www.wesmed.org.uk). Look under the “Information” tab and click on “Latest News”. Alternatively, please call Wendy Burchall on 07792 586243 and she will be pleased to send you a leaflet. Also, if you are in the Winchester area between 14 October and mid-December, you might like to call into the Christmas Card fair at the Guildhall Winchester where our cards will be on sale.





For some time now, we have been promoting the idea of recycling used mobile phones and printer cartridges for the benefit of WMR. This is an ongoing appeal so please dig around and see what you can find. You can either send them direct to recycle4charity (go to their website as above for freepost instructions—but remember to tell them it's for the benefit of Wessex Medical Research and give our reference number (C16805) or call the office for a freepost envelope.

*We are proud to be a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities*



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## Innovation Grants 2013

Once again, the quality of the applications was extremely high and the Trustees were pleased to award the following five Innovation Grants. The successful applicants, together with their projects (and the customary 'plain English' translation) are as follows. Congratulations to them all.

**Dr Rahul Tare**  
*Faculty of Medicine*

"Application of a novel perfusion bioreactor with integrated ultrasound standing wave trap (USWT) for augmentation of cartilage bioengineering "

*Application of ultrasound in combination with conventional tissue engineering strategies for the generation of cartilage grafts that are similar to natural cartilage and have the potential to repair cartilage defects in early Osteoarthritis.*

**Dr Shmma Quraishie**  
*Centre for Biological Sciences*

"Understanding how microtubule stabilisation can be used for treating Alzheimer's disease "

*Can restoring the transport system in sick brain cells be used to treat Alzheimer's disease?*

**Dr Cheryl Hawkes**  
*Faculty of Medicine*

"Effect of pre- and postnatal high fat exposure on the deposition and clearance of  $\beta$ -amyloid; implications for the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease "

*Determining whether the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease is linked to maternal diet during pregnancy.*

**Dr Emre Sayan**  
*Faculty of Medicine*

"Investigating the role of SIP1 as a key biomarker of recurrence and chemoresistance in colorectal cancer "

*Characterization of links between resistance in chemotherapy and recurrence in colon cancer.*

**Dr Michela Raponi**  
*Faculty of Medicine*

"An innovative therapeutic approach to reduce tumour enriched oncoproteins "

*A new way of attacking cancer that does not harm healthy tissue.*

*and finally...*

A taste of what you missed by not attending the Rock'n'Pop evening in support of the Child Brain Injury appeal !

