

Registered Charity
No 274839

Wessex Medical Research

Funding research to fight disease



The newsletter of WESSEX MEDICAL TRUST

Spring 2015

VISIT US AT THE NEW FOREST SHOW!

As the result of an introduction by WMR Patron Pamela Kimber, we have been given a charity stand at this year's New Forest Show which takes place at New Park Brockenhurst on 28, 29 and 30 July. We will be erecting a small marquee and have invited several of the medical research departments at Southampton to come along and demonstrate their activities. There should be something of interest for everyone ranging from the Stem Cell Mountain (*see picture*), which always goes down well with the children, to an interactive presentation by clinical dermatologists on the dangers of too much exposure to the sun. And don't miss the 'blow-up' colon which is being brought to us by members of the surgery team! A wide variety of researchers is due to be on hand each day to explain their work and why the activity of Wessex Medical Research is vital to kick-starting so many early careers. We do hope you will come along and visit us on at least one of the Show days.



Professor Richard Oreffo, Professor of Musculoskeletal Science and a past beneficiary of WMR funding, demonstrates the Stem Cell Mountain at an earlier exhibition.

This time last year, we were pleased to announce that we had been nominated as the Charity of the Year by the Hedge End branch of Marks & Spencer. All too-quickly, that year ended in March but we were delighted to welcome to our Volunteers' Evening in April three representatives from that store, led by store manager Julia Palmer-Bennett, who presented us with a cheque for the magnificent sum of £11,357.81. A truly great achievement by members of their staff and our grateful thanks go out to them.



*We are proud to be
a member of the
Association of
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amrc
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PhD Studentships 2015

As the result of joint venture arrangements with a number of other grant-giving charities, we have been able to award the following three PhD studentships of £80,000 each. The successful supervisors are now in the process of recruiting their students to commence their research courses in October 2015.

Professor Anne Bruton

Professor of Respiratory Rehabilitation

Faculty of Health Sciences

*PhD Studentship jointly funded with **British Lung Foundation***

“Breathing pattern recording and analysis: a potential new biomarker for respiratory disease.”

To establish the usefulness of breathing patterns as a marker for lung health.



Dr Simon Crabb

Associate Professor in Medical Oncology

Faculty of Medicine

*PhD Studentship jointly funded with **The Urology Foundation***

“Investigating interactions between vacuolar ATPase proton pumps and androgen receptor signalling in prostate cancer”

To investigate the biology of prostate cancer with the aim of finding new targets for therapy.

Dr Emily Swindle

Lecturer in Pharmacology

Faculty of Medicine

*PhD Studentship jointly funded with **Rosetrees Trust***

“Development of a human tissue based model of the airway using cell sheet engineering.”

To develop models of the human airway that can be used to develop new treatments for respiratory infections such as the common cold.



Cervical Cancer Appeal—support

Our appeal to raise at least £30,000 to support research into Cervical Cancer by Dr Edd James and Dr Laura Bourne is progressing well and, with amounts already received or promised, we are confident of reaching our target by the end of 2015. Two very successful events provided more funds:

- On 16 May **Romsey Volunteer Group's** “Music in the Garden”, featuring Dr Nick Evans (this time as an accomplished concert pianist) raised some £1,220.
- The ever-popular evening at “The House in the Woods” organised by the **New Forest Volunteer Group** on 28 May (at which Nick Evans also played) produced a net £1,100.

Nick was the recipient of an Innovation Grant in 2012 and in 2014 was the successful applicant as supervisor for a PhD studentship.

We are also delighted that, in support of this Appeal, Southampton Soroptimists have nominated us as their Charity of the Year.

Finally, John Lewis have kindly nominated us as the beneficiary of all the proceeds at the **Longstock Water Gardens, Leckford** near Stockbridge SO20 6EH on **SUNDAY 2nd AUGUST 2015**.
So do join us—and tell your friends!!