

SpeakOut

The newsletter of Oracle Cancer Trust

LEADING RESEARCH INTO HEAD AND NECK CANCER

WINTER 2017

“Game-changing” immunotherapy drug Nivolumab approved in the UK

This new decision reverses NICE’s decision in April this year not to offer this life-extending drug to patients with head and neck cancer where standard chemotherapy treatments have failed.

During clinical trials, results published in The New England Journal of Medicine found that nivolumab significantly improved survival in patients with advanced head and neck cancer. More recent results suggest nivolumab almost triples survival rates at 18 months, with 22% of patients taking nivolumab still alive compared with only 8.3% of patients who received chemotherapy.

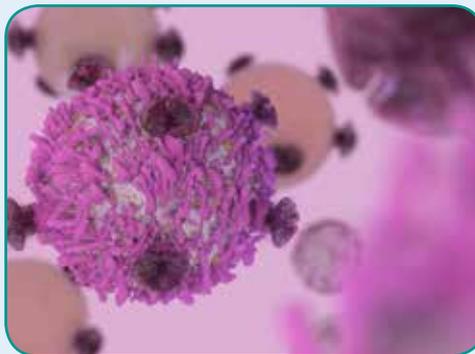
These results have been described as ‘game-changing’ and received significant coverage in national media.

Professor Kevin Harrington, who is one of Oracle’s Honorary Trustees, Professor of Biological Cancer Therapies at The Institute of Cancer Research and Consultant Clinical Oncologist at The Royal Marsden Hospital, led the UK arm of the international clinical trial into nivolumab in patients with advanced head and neck cancer.

During his research the team discovered that Nivolumab was also far kinder for patients than traditional chemotherapies, reducing the number of patients suffering with treatment-related side-effects and helping patients to maintain a better quality of life during and after treatment.

WHAT IS NIVOLUMAB?

Nivolumab is a cancer treatment drug and is also known by its brand name, Opdivo. Nivolumab is already used as a treatment for several other cancers including advanced melanoma, advanced non-small cell lung



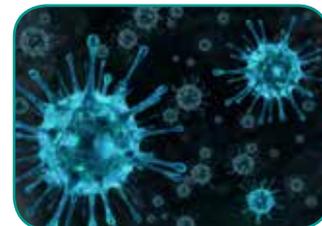
cancer and advanced kidney cancer.

Nivolumab is a type of immunotherapy. This type of treatment harnesses the body’s own immune system to fight cancer. Immunotherapies have created a lot of excitement in the cancer community of late and Oracle is proud to be funding a number of trials looking at the potential of immunotherapies to be used in combination with conventional therapies to treat head and neck cancer.

Specifically, nivolumab targets and blocks a protein called PD-1 on the surface of certain immune cells called T-cells. Blocking PD-1 activates the T-cells to seek out and kill cancer cells.

Says Prof Harrington, “I am delighted that doctors will now be able to offer nivolumab to patients with advanced head and neck cancer.

The disease is extremely debilitating, with no effective treatment options where chemotherapy has failed. Patients who take nivolumab not only get extra time with their loved ones but feel much better during treatment. Immunotherapy is extremely expensive and it is essential that future trials are designed to assess the effectiveness of biomarkers to target treatment, so we only use it in patients who are likely to respond.”



Research Projects Update



Oxford trio successfully complete Royal Parks Half Marathon



Julian Gilbert on his year-long journey to raise funds for Oracle



New short film “The Senses”



Message from our Voluntary CEO, Jamie Newall

Dear Supporters,

Welcome to our Autumn-Winter newsletter. We have had a very busy Summer and Autumn and I would like to start by thanking the Oracle Cancer Trust team and volunteers for all their hard work. The governance demands on charities, regardless of size, are extensive and to manage those demands, run our events, continue to raise funds and deliver the myriad of jobs and requirements so successfully with one full-time, two part-time staff and a small core of volunteers is amazing.

It was fantastic to attend celebration of the joining forces of the Heads Up and Oracle Cancer Trust at Oriel College Oxford recently and welcome the Heads Up supporters into our 'family'. I would like to thank Dr's Stuart Winter and Ketan Shah for joining the Research Committee and becoming Honorary Trustees, James Robertson on joining our Finance and Investments Committee and Ray Derkacz and Leigh-Anne El-Barhdadi for becoming our Voluntary Fundraising Co-ordinators for the Thames Valley region. It was a pleasure to meet so many enthusiastic and dedicated supporters of Heads Up who will now be supporting our joint efforts and we will be keeping you informed of the many annual events run in the region for the charity.

I would also like to thank all those who were able to attend our Annual Research Evening at its new location, the Grange City Hotel in London. The hotel provided a first-class backdrop for over eighty attendees to hear the excellent presentations and discussion areas run by the team of Oracle-funded researchers. It is a very important event for me as charities have a fundamental responsibility to demonstrate to their supporters exactly how their donations are being spent. In addition, it allows Oracle to demonstrate that the early stage research we fund is making a tangible difference to outcomes for head and neck cancer patients.

The evening also highlighted how truly fortunate we are as a Charity to be supported by a number of individuals and companies who provide us with pro-bono support. The team at Oracle work tirelessly to keep our overheads to a minimum ensuring that as much as possible of the valuable donations we receive are spend on funding research. This would not be possible without that support. Tony Matharu and Grange Hotels Group provided the magnificent location, sponsored the whole Research evening, and I would like to take this further opportunity to thank him. Also present was one of the lawyers from Dorsey LLP who provide all our pro-bono legal support, and again I would like to pass on our gratitude of thanks to the firm. This is an area of particular relevance to me, as my role is a voluntary one, and I could not carry out my duties without the support of the company I work for full-time who agreed to add into my contract time for pro bono work for Oracle Cancer Trust.



Oracle's Voluntary CEO Jamie Newall

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Annual Supporters Research event



The panel of research leaders

We were delighted to welcome over 80 supporters to our Annual Supporters Research Evening which took place at The Grange City Hotel in London. Kindly sponsored by Grange Hotels, Oracle researchers Dr Furrat Amen, Dr Shree Bhide, Dr Simon Robinson and Professor Kevin Harrington all delivered thought-provoking presentations about their vital research projects that, without Oracle's support, simply would not have happened.

Following the short series of presentations, guests enjoyed a buffet and drinks and had an informal opportunity to speak to the team of researchers who discussed their projects in more detail. We look forward to announcing the date and venue for our 2018 event shortly.



"Having had throat and tongue cancers I have a strong commitment to supporting Oracle in their pioneering work, and it is so encouraging to meet the researchers each year and hear how their work has progressed for the benefit of future patients."

Mr D Brennan

"We both found it an inspiring evening and really great to speak with the consultants and researchers, to get a sense of what they are working towards. Also, to hear the inspiring stories from patients and their families and the great pride and connection they get from learning about the research and the teams involved in making it happen."

Mr W Breen

Oracle delivers talk as part of European Awareness Week

Oracle Research Committee Member Dr John Glaholm (pictured below) delivered a talk as part of the European-wide week long "Make Sense Campaign" to construction giant Skanska in September. Head and neck oncologist Dr Glaholm presented his talks to a wide range of employees from construction workers through to Board members.

The talk was arranged by the "Make Sense Campaign" who organise a series of talks and events throughout Europe to raise awareness of head and neck cancer. The Campaign is a unique initiative that was founded by The European Head and Neck Society with the aim of raising awareness of head and neck cancer symptoms and subsequently drive earlier presentation, diagnosis and referral.

Head and neck cancer is the 7th most common cancer globally but 77% of the population don't know what it is



Oracle chosen as Sainsbury's Local Charity Partner



Staff at Sainsbury's Southwark supporting Oracle

Oracle is thrilled to have been chosen as the 2017/8 Local Charity Partner for the Sainsbury's Great Dover Street store, situated a short walk away from Oracle's offices in Southwark, London. Throughout the year, Sainsbury's staff and customers will be supporting Oracle's work through fundraising events, collections and awareness-raising.

The partnership kicked off in August 2017 with a staff bucket collection in aid of the charity closely followed by a September collection by Oracle supporters. Volunteer Katrina Doubleday joined the Sainsbury's team for the day in store to help with the bucket collection.

Sainsbury's also kindly sponsored prizes at the successful September 2017 Oracle Golf Day.

The store staff are busy planning a calendar of exciting activities for Halloween and Christmas to help raise more funds for Oracle's work.

Reception to celebrate new partnership with Heads Up

A special reception was held in the beautiful surroundings of Oriel College, Oxford recently to celebrate the new partnership between Oxford-based Charity, Heads Up and Oracle Cancer Trust. Heads Up supporters as well as volunteers, doctors and clinical support staff from The Blenheim Head and Neck Centre at The Churchill Hospital in Oxford joined some of the team from Oracle Cancer Trust.

Head and neck Surgeon Stuart Winter welcomed the guests to the reception and spoke of his delight at the joining of the two charities. Heads Up has a group of very dedicated fundraisers who organise events from balls and tribute nights to parties and golf days, contributing a significant income to supporting the charities fundraising efforts. This new alliance between Heads Up and Oracle will ensure that the research efforts can be increased with more new projects.



L to R Oncologist Dr Salisbury with Oracle Honorary Trustee and Oncologist Dr Kate Newbold



L to R Consultant Mr Oliver Cassell with Leigh-Anne El-Barhdadi and Stuart Winter



L to R Paul and Oracle Board member Nicola Ridges-Jones with supporter Angie Bryant



Surgeon Dr Stuart Winter welcomes guests to the reception



The Quad at Oriel College, Oxford

New short film focuses on the senses



Leading creative agency, Embolden generously sponsored a short film for Oracle for use at events to raise awareness of head and neck cancer. Called "The Senses", the two-minute film features several Oracle supporters who share their frank experience of living following their diagnosis and treatment for head and neck cancer. We are very grateful to patients Will Wells, Hayley Culverwell and Sir Michael Lockett as well as actress Clare Holman who shares her very personal and extreme sense of loss following the death of her husband, theatre director Howard Davies. We are also indebted to Clare for narrating the short film.

Finally, this piece would not have been possible without the support of Board member, Sir Michael Lockett and the talent at Embolden, a leading creative production agency based in London. The film can be viewed at Oracle's home page oraclecancertrust.org. Please do get in touch if you would like a copy of the film to show at fundraising events.

The Glory of Christmas 2017

Date
Monday 4th December
St John's Smith Square
London SW1

We are delighted that our 12th Annual Glory of Christmas Concert will be taking place at St John's Smith Square, London, on Monday 4th December, at 7.30pm.

Tickets
available now at
www.sjss.org.uk
or call
020 7222 1061

The evening is one of the highlights of the Oracle fundraising and social calendar and is a great opportunity to meet up with old friends, the team of clinicians and support staff from the head and neck unit at The Royal Marsden, London and Churchill Hospital, Oxford as well as our team of funded researchers.

As in previous years we are very fortunate to have glorious music from the Thames Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Keith Marshall as well as the Choir of Christ's College Cambridge whose soaring voices fill the hall at St John's Smith Square to such dramatic effect.

The programme will feature orchestral pieces by Bach as well as the Christmas Concerto by Vivaldi and Christmas music from the Messiah by Handel. Choral pieces include works by Taverner and Rutter.

In addition there will be several popular carols, readings from celebratory speakers plus an address from Oracle's President, Jimmy Mulville and actress Clare Holden.

Following the concert, the team at Oracle would like to welcome you to an informal drinks reception in the Crypt of St John's Smith Square to meet friends new and old.

The evening is enjoyed by many patients, ex-patients as well as family and friends, all of whom come together to celebrate the beginning of the Advent and the Glory of Christmas.

Many of our supporters enjoy an informal pre-concert supper at the Footstool restaurant in the Crypt. Please do book early by calling 020 7222 2779 to reserve your table. For tickets to the concert, please book either by phone on 020 7222 1061 or online at www.sjss.org.uk/events/glory-christmas

We also welcome donations to sponsor nursing and support staff from the hospitals to attend the concert. For a suggested £10 per ticket donation, tickets are gratefully received by support staff to attend the concert. If you would like to support this initiative, please visit oraclecancertrust.org/donate.

Join us in the Crypt
after the concert for
drinks

A range of ticket
prices available
from £10 to £45



Oracle Cancer Trust 8th Charity Golf Day



European Tour Challenge provided the on-course "Beat the Pro" competition

The Indian Summer continued much to the delight of our eighteen teams at Burhill Golf Club in late September where players enjoyed light winds and sunshine throughout the day.

This year players tried their hand on The New Course at Burhill, a challenging PGA-style course that hosts many tournaments and qualifying events throughout the year. Our golfers enjoyed several fun on-course competitions including "Beat the Lady Pro" on the par 3, 18th hole that leads up to the club house. An inflatable "Shark Attack" chipping competition provided plenty of friendly rivalry. Competition was fierce during the day and players kept an eye on the moving leaderboard with the live scoring system.



MC and Auctioneer for the day was the hilarious Aaron James



Ex-Fulham Football Club player John Fraser is on hand for "Heads and Tails"

The individual winner was Alex Collins who collected the coveted Claret Jug with the best team and lucky recipients of the Fortnum and Mason hampers being Team Tradition Troupers.

To view the full gallery, final scoreboard for the day and film please visit oraclecancertrust.org/2017golfdays



Lydia Foulkes takes aim at the Shark Attack hole



Roger Bender negotiates some water on the fairway following overnight rain



Cricketer Alex Collins collects the spoils with best individual score to win the Claret Jug presented by Alison Bender



Overall team winners, "Tradition Troupers" with Alison Bender (far right)



Lydia of sponsors Perfectly Attired bespoke tailoring measuring up the winner of the Golden Ticket, Hugo of JSC Sports

"Shark Attack" 2018 Golf Day, 3rd August - Wiltshire Golf and Country Club

Supporter John Hughes has set the date for his 15th "Shark Attack" charity golf day at The Wiltshire Golf and Country Club, situated near Wootton Bassett, just off the M4 near Swindon on Friday 3rd August 2018.

The day represents fantastic value at just £65 per player which includes 18 holes of golf - or an optional 27 holes if you'd like to play in the morning competition. Lunch and a two course supper is included as well as entertainment with leading comedian Adger Brown. The golf course has a hotel with spa and room rates at just £60 for twin or double occupancy including breakfast. Morning competitions kick off at 9am or if you'd like to play the 18-hole afternoon round, this starts with a 1pm shotgun start. There are several on-course competitions during the day that include "Beat the Senior" and "Feed the Shark".

The par 72 golf course was designed by Peter Allis in 1991, and is strategically designed around the many natural lakes that exist in this area. In fact, water hazards can be found on as many as 13 holes and is a fun but challenging course for golfers of all levels.

If you are interested in taking a team or like to play as an individual, do get in touch at events@oraclecancertrust.org.



Fundraising

Nine cyclists RideLondon for Oracle raising over £6,500



Oracle cheered on cyclists from a spot on Wimbledon Hill in London

On Sunday 30th July, nine cyclists took on the challenge of RideLondon, a 100 mile cycling marathon that follows the iconic route of the London 2012 Olympics. The day started at the Olympic Park in East London before heading through the gruelling climbs of the Surrey Hills and heading back through South West London to the finishing straight riding up The Mall in front of Buckingham Palace.

One of the riders taking part for Oracle was Honorary Trustee Prof Kevin Harrington. Prof Harrington, who sped past the finish point in an impressive 6 hours and 38 seconds, said 'I am delighted and am very proud to have done this for Oracle.' Professor Harrington's riding partner was Oncologist and Oracle Researcher Dr Shree Bhide.



Riders take on the last climb towards Wimbledon Village before the downhill stretch through South-West London



Prof Harrington at the finish point in front of Buckingham Palace

Prof Harrington and Dr Bhide spent many months training for the big day. We were delighted that Plastics Registrar, Dr Nick Rabey from Oxford and Gareth from corporate supporters Carswell Gould joined the Oracle cycling team with a group of friends.

We were delighted that the team raised over £6,700 between them. If you'd be interested in taking one of Oracle's nine RideLondon places to ride in 2018 then get in touch with Emma at emma@oraclecancertrust.org or give us a call.



Gareth Miller (left), of PR firm Carswell Gould with cycling friends

Riding in memory of my late father, Ron



On 1 April 2017 I lost my beloved dad, Ron to an aggressive form of throat cancer. On 1 October 2017, poignantly six months after he died, I took part in the Palace to Palace bike ride - a 45 mile ride from Buckingham Palace to Windsor Castle. Joining me were four wonderful friends.

My dad was such an amazing father and I miss him every day. He was also a keen cyclist and I know he will be proud of my adventure in his memory.

The training part was hard! We spent hours cycling around West Berkshire and South Oxfordshire hills in preparation for the big day in October.



On the day of the ride we started at 0845 and crossed the finish line in Windsor just over five hours later. Our team stayed together until the finish line where we were cheered by our families. We all crossed the line with smiles on our faces and for me a little tear in my eye remembering my dear father. He would have loved this challenge.

I wanted to raise money for the Oracle Cancer Trust as both Professor Harrington and Professor Nutting treated my dad.

Fiona Acworth



Fundraising

Supporter Derek Miller raises over £6,000 at Summer Party



Rock and blues band "The Hillmans"

Over 90 family and friends joined supporter and former patient Derek Miller at his Summer Party at Sands Martin Golf Club in Berkshire, with tickets selling out in record time. Guests enjoyed a three course supper, and danced the night away to live music by rock and blues act "The Hillmans" and to DJ Nick Breakspear playing his set list of dance floor fillers.

'Everything was just perfect – well apart from the band. They were excellent!'



Guests Sandra and Keith hit the dancefloor



Organiser Derek and friend Doris perfectly match in pink!

However it was down to business for the live and silent auctions, the main focus of raising funds for the evening. Some fantastic lots were donated for the live auction including a holiday in Cyprus, glider flights, classic racetrack days, pamper days and a breakfast on the gallops. Master Auctioneer Mark Head started off the bidding which resulted in some hot competition.

The silent auction was also a huge success. The event raised over £6,000 on the evening, surpassing all expectations.



Master Auctioneer Mark Head gets down to business



Colin West with Val Putt and friends

'The venue was gorgeous, the band brilliant as was the food. I was so glad to know why the event was happening and to meet Derek'

Says Derek "The event took over my life for the best part of a year. It seemed that every day there were logistical details to deal with - perhaps not surprising being somewhat of a novice in organising a charity fundraising event. I now have a house to refurbish that has been 'on hold' for the past year!"



A fun game of "Kings and Queens" raised a further £400 on the night

70's tribute BeeGees night a groovy success



Fundraiser John Hughes with the BeeGees Tribute Act

Over 120 supporters donned their finest 70's outfits to dance the night away to a popular 70's BeeGees Tribute act recently at The Wiltshire Golf and Country Club.

This was John's third fundraising event this year having organised a successful Abba tribute night as well as the popular Golf Day and has already raised over £8,000 this year.

The event was another hugely successful event organised by former patient and supporter John Hughes whose "Shark Attack" fundraising activities have raised over £150,000 over the past ten years directly supporting head and neck cancer research.

John has organised another tribute evening on the 17th March 2018 at The Wiltshire Golf and Country Club when Elvis will be in the house. Tickets are £30 per person and include a carvery supper. For those wishing to stay over, The Wiltshire Golf and Country Club have double rooms for £60 per room per night including breakfast.

Please visit www.sharkattackcharitygolf.com for further details or email John Hughes at info@sharkattackcharitygolf.com.

Fundraising

Oxford team run the Royal Parks Half Marathon

by Leigh-Anne El-Barhdadi, Voluntary Fundraising Co-ordinator, Thames Valley



'On Sunday 8th October, Mr Oliver Cassell, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Mr Stuart Winter, Consultant ENT Surgeon and I, from the Blenheim Head and Neck unit at the Churchill Hospital ran the Royal Parks Half Marathon in London in support of Oracle.

Given our very hectic work commitments we all trained as much as we could before the event and felt as ready as we could be for the day ahead.

We departed Oxford watching the sun rise to greet a crisp, sunny Autumn day on our way to the starting point at Hyde Park for the 13 mile race.



We were all completely overwhelmed by the amount of runners on the day when we arrived at Hyde Park to join 16,000 other runners. Suddenly, the enormity of what we were about to undertake took hold.

We all started at a different pace, however it was incredible that, given the amount of runners, we were passing each other on-route, and were able to cheer each other on and check on each other's progress.



L to R Stuart Winter, Leigh-Anne El-Barhdadi and Oliver Cassell successfully complete the 13-mile run

The Royal Parks were beautiful in the Autumn sunshine and golden leaves and I certainly felt very privileged to be running through them, and along the streets of London past Buckingham Palace. The route was lined with enthusiastic supporters, at times 10 deep, cheering us on and kept us motivated when fatigue set in. Our names were printed on our running shirts. The enthusiastic crowd cheered us on, and having so many people call my name made me smile and made us all feel very special. It was just such a great atmosphere.

On the run we passed Morris Dancers, dinosaurs and so many other supporters running for their own causes - we had singers, cheer leaders, large charity groups, choirs, steels bands and musicians lining the route, as well as many, many friends and family and well-wishers that applauded our efforts as we passed them. The event had a carnival feel to it and kept us going even when at the last few miles when our legs were starting to feel the effects.

Contemplating the day's events on the Oxford Tube home, we all felt a huge sense of achievement.

I think we all secretly enjoyed the training in retrospect, even though it was hard at times to find the time to take it on, but as we all arrived into work and asked how each other's training was going, we felt motivated into doing more – I certainly did not want to let the team down and the many supporters who have kindly donated. It has also provided endless opportunities to banter with each other, and I for one feel so happy that I was able to take part and compete in this special event with my colleagues.

Thank you Oracle for enabling us to do this – it really was very special and lots of fun.'



Would you like to join Stuart, Leigh-Anne and Oliver in 2018 to run the Royal Parks Half Marathon?

Having enjoyed the experience so much in 2017 they have committed to running again for Oracle in this iconic event. If you are interested, please do get in touch with us at events@oraclecancertrust.org. We have a limited number of places available for the 2018 run.

Fundraising

Oracle teams raise over £2,600 Walking the Test Way



On Sunday 8th October, a team of 14 supporters and dogs strapped on their walking boots to walk Romsey's scenic Test Way route, raising over £2,600 for Oracle.

Also taking part was Oracle Trustee and repeat walker Nicola Ridges-Jones (pictured top left with her team, "Twisted Arm") who started fundraising for Oracle following the death of her father to throat cancer in 2004. Nicola has now raised over £100,000 for Oracle in her father's memory - a staggering amount! Says Nicola, "With Oracle's help, my father went to live another two years and I cannot put into words how grateful I am for the charity's pioneering research that gave our family that extra time together."



Also walking was supporter Anne O'Reardon (pictured left) whose late husband Steve sadly passed away from throat cancer in 2015.

Oracle's Head of Fundraising, Emma Colliver, who met the walkers at the finish line on the day said 'Oracle is hugely grateful for the efforts of our team of walkers who have raised over £2,000 in aid of Oracle's cancer research projects and to the Rotary Club for their ongoing support. A special thank you to supporter Martyn Offer for providing the well earned tasty snacks at the finish line.'



Oracle benefits from Moonlight Musical Concert

On Saturday 14th October, the London Moonlight Symphony Orchestra held a stunning orchestral concert in support of Oracle in the beautiful surroundings of St Peter's Church in London's Notting Hill. Over 100 members of the audience were treated to a classical programme which included crowd favourites from Verdi, Offenbach and Mozart.

Guests were treated to orchestral ensemble pieces, a French Horn concerto and the soaring melodies of soprano Isolda de Costa Soares, who is also Director of the Orchestra and who had coordinated the Orchestra's support of Oracle at the event. Over £260 was raised for Oracle from a bucket collection on the night. Thanks to the Orchestra for their support of Oracle's research.

Other fundraising news



Golf Club Captain Nick Temple has been busy organising fundraising events at Blacknest Golf and Country Club in Alton, Hampshire in support of Oracle. Nick's latest event was a charity race night at the club that was attended by over 55 guests and raised over £1200. Nick's daughter Kimberley was treated for head and neck cancer in her twenties and has since made a full recovery.

In late June, long-term Oracle supporter and volunteer Katrina Doubleday (pictured right) held a quiz night in her local village hall in aid of Oracle. The event raised a fantastic £450 for the charity. A huge thank you from the whole team at Oracle to Katrina for her continued support of our work.



Thanks to the team at Brandenburg Choral Festival of London who raised £65 for Oracle with a bucket collection at their September concert by The Cantabrigians at Grange City Hotel.

Thanks to supporter Ash Scully for opting to take on the Leeds 10k run for Oracle this summer. Sadly Ash wasn't able to take part in his challenge on the day but he still managed to raise an impressive £440 for the charity. Thank you Ash!

Congratulations to supporter Sally Irving and friend Kate who completed not one but two running events in aid of Oracle's research. The pair warmed up doing the Great North Run in September before taking on the Great Cumbrian Run on 1st October, raising over £300 for Oracle's research work.

Become an Oracle Friend



Oracle is proud to be launching its new “Oracle Friends” initiative to celebrate supporters who choose to make a regular donation to the charity.

By making a regular donation, you are helping Oracle to plan its research projects into the future and giving the charity a firm foundation on which to build.

For some supporters, organising a fundraising event or a major gift can feel daunting or even impossible. Or some supporters may not have the time to commit to organising an event.

Setting up a regular donation to Oracle by direct debit you will automatically become an Oracle Friend and join a group of supporters that are committed to funding our pioneering research into head and neck cancer. Becoming an Oracle friend has some great benefits that include invitations to special events and behind-the-scenes lab tours.

From the illustration below, if we get just 38 new donors giving a varying amount each month the charity could fund an additional PhD research student. Oracle claims the Gift Aid for all donations which increases the value of your donation by 25%.

Becoming an Oracle Friend is simple

Join the Oracle Friends community by setting up a direct debit to the charity. You can download a Direct Debit form on our website at www.oraclecancertrust.org/friends, call us on 020 7922 7924 or email us at info@oraclecancertrust.org. You can choose to donate monthly, quarterly, every six months or annually.

Number of new donors		You pay per month	We reclaim Gift Aid which increases your gift by 25%	Total value of your donation per month	Your total annual contribution
	1	£400	£100	£500	£6,000
	2	£200	£50	£250	£3,000
	10	£80	£20	£100	£1,200
	25	£32 or £1/day	£8	£40	£480

Total donations per year = £36,000

Enough to fund a PhD research project for one year

oraclecancertrust.org/friends

Patient story



Earlier this year financial adviser Julian Gilbert of Harpenden faced the fight of his life when he was diagnosed with throat cancer. Here he shares his story and why he chose to raise funds for Oracle.

In the Summer of 2016, I felt like I was the fittest I had even been. I rode through The Alps, lost weight and felt physically on top of the world. However in December last year I noticed an uncomfortable “tickle” in my throat. I put it down to the busy social period leading up to Christmas, but the symptoms wouldn’t disappear and from time to time I was struggling to swallow.

I booked an appointment with the GP and was initially reviewed by the practice nurse who noticed that one of my tonsils was red and swollen, but painless. The nurse was baffled and asked the doctor to take a look. He prescribed antibiotics for two weeks and told me to return if my symptoms hadn’t cleared up.

On New Year’s Eve, I noticed blood in my saliva and was admitted to Luton and Dunstable Hospital. Following scans, biopsies and tests, my life completely changed. For what I thought would just be an infection, I was diagnosed with throat cancer. I hadn’t seen it coming at all.

It was heartbreaking telling my wife and young children about my illness and breaking the news to them was one of the hardest conversations I’ve ever had to have. I felt my whole life had been thrown into complete and utter turmoil. As a business owner my livelihood was in jeopardy too. It was a very stressful and emotional time.

My cancer treatment started in February 2017 at UCLH in London. My treatment consisted of six weeks of radiotherapy. I was nil by mouth; I couldn’t sleep at night.

“I wasn’t able to eat or drink for seven weeks and I’m still not eating normally now six months later. I wouldn’t wish the treatment on my worst enemy. Head and neck cancer is tough - physically, mentally and emotionally.”

I was extremely fortunate that my cancer was diagnosed at an early stage. This meant that my prognosis was good and that, even though the treatment was more invasive than I’d expected, I was optimistic that my life would carry on.

On 30th June 2017, I was told I was cancer-free.

Why Oracle?

My doctor told me that if I’d had the same cancer 20 years ago, the radiotherapy would have been very unfocussed compared to what I had received today. For example I would have had all my teeth removed. Some of the drugs that helped me have only come on the market in the last five years.

I wanted to specifically support a head and neck cancer charity following my own experience of throat cancer. I wanted to help future patients to have a more comfortable experience and to give something back after the wonderful treatment I had received.

A specialist dietitian helping me during my treatment recommended I look at Oracle Cancer Trust and some of the pioneering work they do in cancer research. When I looked on Oracle’s website, the films I watched about other people’s experiences of head and neck cancer recorded exactly what I had been through.



Setting off from Harpenden for my first challenge event with 17 friends heading to University College Hospital London in October

After meeting Emma and Sarah from Oracle, they reassured me that the governance of the charity was second to none, giving complete transparency about where my fundraising would be directed. We also discussed the opportunity to restrict the fundraising for a specific head and neck cancer research project.

During my recovery I garnered the support of a circle of friends and colleagues and set up my own events committee to raise funds for Oracle’s work, through a “Julian’s Journey” fundraising campaign.

I was truly humbled by the help of friends and family who supported me during my treatment and recovery and are now helping me on my journey to improve prospects for future head and neck cancer patients.

We’ve already completed a bike ride and successful quiz night, raising nearly £30,000 and have more events in the pipeline. The support I’ve also received from Oracle has been fantastic.

Julian's Journey Fundraising Calendar

Sunday 15th October 2017

Julian's Journey Bike Ride

On Sunday 15th October, I rounded up 17 of my cycling friends to ride a 100km from Harpenden to London, stopping off at the hospitals where I was treated including Mount Vernon Hospital in North London.



Fitness fan Ammon Piepgrass rides the 100km in a black tie on his trusty Brompton Bike

Along the way we rode along canals and cycle paths to our final destination of University College Hospital London where I was treated. It was an amazing feeling posing at UCLH. I had a lot of tough times there so returning, cancer free, having cycled 100kms with 17 of my best friends and family was very emotional. The feeling was only surpassed by the hugs from my children at the finish.



Our ride took in the scenic canals on a beautiful Autumn day

I was delighted to have raised over £11,000 from my ride which I matched with a donation from my business, Wealth Matters to reach a total for the day of over £22,000.



Finishing at UCLH was an emotional moment for me

Saturday 11th November 2017:

Julian's Journey Quiz Night

We filled Harpenden Scout Hut with over 150 friends and family for a fun quiz night hosted quiz masters Stu and Paul. It was a huge amount of fun and following the supper and quiz we hosted an auction. The final total for the night raised was over £5,000.



Sharing my story friends and family about my emotional journey over the past year at the quiz night



Presenting flowers to my wonderful wife and rock, Katya

Future events planned:

December 2017:

The Harpenden Round Table group will be fundraising for Oracle at their Christmas Santa and 2018 Carnival events. Julian's wife Katya will be also crafting and selling her own Christmas decorations and dolls in aid of the Julian's Journey campaign.

April 2018:

Four of Julian's Journey Committee members will be taking on the Brighton Marathon.

You can make a donation to the Julian's Journey Campaign online at www.virginmoneygiving.com/julians-journey or by making an online or offline donation to the charity and highlighting it as a Julian's Journey donation. Oracle is incredibly grateful to Julian and his family and friends for choosing to support our charity's work.

If you are interested in funding a Named Fellowship at Oracle, please get in touch with Emma at emma@oraclecancertrust.org

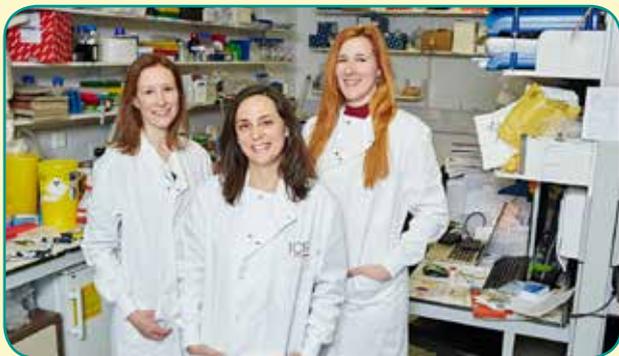
Oracle is proud to be currently funding 12 pioneering head and neck cancer research projects

These cover projects in radiotherapy, immunotherapies, combination therapies and cancer biomarkers

Projects are undertaken by PhD students, postdoctoral research fellows, scientific officers and clinicians based at the UK's leading scientific research institutions in London, Oxford and Cambridge. Here's your snapshot update on just a few of the projects.

Training the Immune System to tackle Thyroid Cancer

Post-doctoral Research Fellow Kate Bergerhoff, Scientific Officer Eva Crespo-Rodriguez and Group Leader Dr Malin Pedersen (pictured below) from The Institute of Cancer Research are currently looking at how we can combine immunotherapies with other therapies to treat aggressive thyroid cancer.



Thyroid cancer is now the fastest growing type of cancer in both men and women in the UK.

Immunotherapies are offering the potential for a shift in the way we treat cancers, training the body's own immune system to target and remember cancer cells, offering the real possibility for long-term remission.

The trio has been testing a number of novel combination therapies in mouse models, targeting a specific mutation associated with ~60% of thyroid cancers called a BRAFV600E mutation. Promisingly, the combination of a BRAFV600E inhibitor and a type of immunotherapy called an anti-PD-L1 antibody resulted in the destruction of thyroid tumours and significant increase in survival in mice treated with the combination therapy compared to those which weren't. This project an exciting platform for the group to test new treatments for thyroid cancer to be translated into potential clinical trials at The Royal Marsden Hospital.

Oracle's Research Committee

- Oracle accepts applications from all UK-based research institutions. Applications are vetted and applicants present in person to the Research Committee. If they are successful then the application is reviewed by the Finance Committee with final approval given by the Board of Trustees
- As well as reviewing new applications the committee scrutinise all existing projects annually to ensure that each project continues to fulfill its objectives and continues to satisfy the Committee that the project is on track
- The Committee is made up of highly skilled cancer clinicians and professional business "lay persons"
- The Committee is independently audited by a team of peer reviewers to ensure that Oracle's research funding criteria is robustly maintained

Why do tongue cancers spread, while others don't?

Dr Furrat Amen is a Consultant ENT, Head and Neck and Thyroid Surgeon at Peterborough City Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

Dr Amen has been looking at how we can predict which patients with tongue cancer may see their cancer spread.

Currently it is very difficult for surgeons to predict which patients would benefit from having radical surgery, such as a neck dissection, to ensure their cancer does not recur, and for which patients this physically-altering surgery would not be necessary. Current statistics show that 96% of patients whose cancer does not spread survive 5 years after treatment, compared to only 44% of those whose cancer spreads.

Dr Amen collected over 10,000 pathology samples from patients who underwent surgery over a five-year period from hospitals throughout the South-East of England. Dr Amen carried out this trial in his own time with Oracle funding the analysis of the specimens.

Dr Furrat Amen's work has helped to identify characteristics of tumours which make them more likely to spread. Dr Amen has also identified antibodies which can predict whether a tumour spreads to the neck and has correlated the presence of some antibodies with survival.

It is hoped that this groundbreaking work could help to stratify patients into groups who may need more or less aggressive treatment for their tongue cancer.

Research Update

Using Imaging to understand how head and neck tumours respond to drugs

Researcher Elise Lepicard (pictured below) started an Oracle-funded PhD at The Institute of Cancer Research in February 2016 under the supervision of Dr Simon Robinson.



Elise is using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to study the way head and neck tumours respond to drugs which can modify the oxygen environment of tumours.

It is known that the more oxygen available to a tumour, the more effective radiotherapy is at killing the tumour cells. This makes increasing the oxygen supply to tumours with little oxygen- also known as hypoxic tumours- an area of interest in cancer research.

During the past 21 months, Elise has developed and used a new type of MRI called Oxygen-Enhanced MRI and successfully tested it pre-clinically on three different head and neck cancer models to help reveal differences in the degree and distribution of oxygen across these three tumour types.

This preliminary work will lead to studies in living organisms that will evaluate the ability of OE-MRI to predict head and neck cancer tumour response to radiotherapy.

Elise is also investigating the potential of OE-MRI to detect the effects of a drug called Atovaquone in patients. Atovaquone increases the level of oxygen in a tumour; it is therefore hoped that Atovaquone will help to improve the effectiveness of radiotherapy for patients prescribed with the drug.

Oracle would like to thank the following funders who are generously supporting Elise's work; The Hospital Saturday Fund; Sir Samuel Scott of Yews Trust; The Worshipful Company of Grocers; The Mason LePage Charitable Trust; The Oakdale Trust; The Aubrey Orchard-Lisle Charitable Trust; and The Steel Charitable Trust.

Discovering new treatments for Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma

Researcher Alexandra Rose (pictured) started an Oracle-funded PhD at The Institute of Cancer Research in October 2016 under the supervision of Dr Amanda Swain and Oracle Honorary Trustee Professor Kevin Harrington.

Alexandra is working to determine whether existing targeted therapies may be effective in treating Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma (ACC) of the salivary glands.

ACC is a cancer of the salivary glands. There is currently no curative or palliative treatment for the disease and research has been hindered historically due to a lack of validated pre-clinical models.



Due to the failure of conventional drugs, research is now focused on targeted therapies with the aim of identifying the specific molecular drivers of ACC by comparing ACC tumour and normal tissue.

Oracle is proud to be funding this first-of-its-kind project into a cancer type about which little research has previously been undertaken.

Alexandra has spent the last year genetically characterising tumours taken from ACC patients and using her models to investigate three things: (1) to identify potential therapeutic targets for ACC; (2) to develop a method for culturing 3D ACC tumours outside of the body; (3) to identify the factors which promote spread of these tumours to the lungs and perineural space, behaviour typical of these tumours.

Alexandra's work is showing promising results. In particular she has shown experimentally that brain and lung organ-specific factors promote the selective growth of ACC in these directions, helping to uncover the mechanisms of why ACC spreads in the way it does.

If you would be interested in providing funding for Alexandra's pioneering ACC project then please get in touch with Emma at emma@oraclecancertrust.org.

Fundraise

From taking part in cycle rides and marathons to hosting quiz nights or bake sales, there are lots of fun ways to raise money with friends, family and work colleagues to support our work. Oracle receives no government funding and relies on the generosity of fundraisers to continue our valuable work funding pioneering research projects.

If you have a fundraising idea, do get in touch with us at fundraising@oraclecancertrust.org or visit our website where you can download our fundraising guide as well as other useful tips and resources at oraclecancertrust.org/fundraise

Donate

Online

You can now make a one-off donation or set up a regular donation directly via our website at oraclecancertrust.org/donate

Regular Giving - Become an Oracle Friend

By becoming a regular donor you can help ensure that Oracle's research programmes get the funding they need to make advances in finding newer and kinder treatments for head and neck cancer. A direct debit form can be downloaded via Oracle's website at oraclecancertrust.org/friends

Become a Corporate Partner

Oracle is looking to create mutually beneficial partnerships with companies who would like to support our pioneering cancer research work, a cause about which everyone can feel passionate. Pledge to fundraise for the charity and in return we would look to offer you bespoke fundraising support, volunteering opportunities and events invitations. We will work with your organisation to offer dedicated support throughout any partnership activity and to keep you up to date with the charity's pioneering research work so that you can understand the impact of your fundraising.

Contact Emma at emma@oraclecancertrust.org for more information or visit oraclecancertrust.org/fundraise/become-a-corporate-partner

Challenge yourself in 2018

The Virgin London Marathon, 22nd April 2018

We have been offered a charity running place at the highly-sought after Virgin London Marathon. If you are keen to run for Oracle Cancer Trust, please do get in touch. If you are interested please get in touch, you will need to complete a short form to be considered for the place.

Prudential RideLondon 100, 29th July 2018

Ride the iconic route that London's 2012 Olympians cycled. The race starts from the Olympic Park and takes in the sights of the City of London before heading to the beautiful Surrey Hills for some testing climbs. The ride then heads through South West London before finishing up The Mall by Buckingham Palace. We have nine places available.

Royal Parks Half-Marathon, 7th October 2018

Join some of the clinical team from Oxford for this Autumnal half-marathon that takes in three of London's Royal Parks. Roads are closed for the event

For further information please email us at events@oraclecancertrust.org



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Registered charity 1142037

Leading research into head and neck cancer

