

SpeakOut

The newsletter of Oracle Cancer Trust



LEADING RESEARCH INTO HEAD AND NECK CANCER

SPRING 2019

Immunotherapies moving forward in the line of treatment

Could there be a future without chemotherapy for some metastatic head and neck cancer patients?

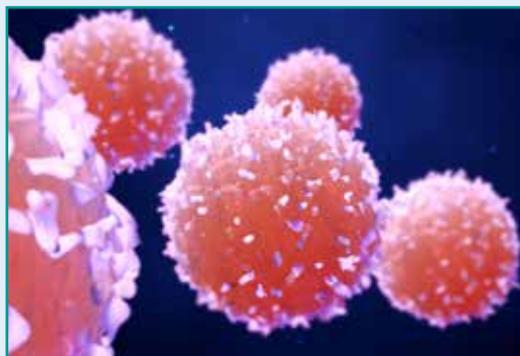
Immunotherapies are revolutionising treatment across a broad range of cancers. Whilst they currently sit as a 'last resort' treatment, their promising potential has led to clinical trials to test if they could be used earlier in the disease.

The benefit of this would not only be to improve outcomes but also to decrease the harmful side effects of chemo and radiotherapy which is more widely used at present.

We wrote about the decision of NICE to approve the immunotherapy nivolumab, in our Winter newsletter last year because of its survival advantage in advanced head and neck cancer patients where standard chemotherapy treatments have failed. Since then, research in this area has continued to progress. A phase III clinical trial, undertaken in the UK by a team at The Institute of Cancer Research and The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, found that treatment with the immunotherapy pembrolizumab, a PD-1 inhibitor like nivolumab, led to patients living longer and a lower rate of side effects than those who received an 'extreme' combination of two chemotherapies and a targeted drug as their first line treatment.

Whilst patients with high levels of the immune marker PD-L1 in their tumours showed the most beneficial response, living around 40% longer, those with lower levels also benefited. Median survival increased whilst serious side effects decreased from 69% to 17% when taking pembrolizumab compared to the triple combination.

These results so far show that patients with recurrent metastatic head and neck



cancer stand to benefit from treatment with pembrolizumab earlier on and, therefore in the future we could see it become the standard first line therapy either in combination with chemotherapy or remarkably, alone, thereby sparing some patients chemotherapy all together.

Prof Kevin Harrington, Professor of biological cancer therapies at The Institute of Cancer Research, London – and Consultant clinical oncologist at The Royal Marsden Foundation Trust, said: "Our study has shown that the immunotherapy pembrolizumab on its own is better than an aggressive triple-whammy of two types of chemotherapy plus a targeted drug as first-line treatment for advanced head and neck cancer.

"We couldn't believe it when we saw the results. None of us expected pembrolizumab on its own to work so well in some of these patients – and it raises the prospect that we could spare some people chemotherapy altogether.

"The study could have major implications for the treatment of advanced head and neck cancers – taking immunotherapy from a last resort to the treatment we turn to first for some patients. The trial is still ongoing, but we expect some patients to go on to live for years longer than they would have done had they received standard chemotherapy."



Project in focus - imaging



4th Annual research reception



LABCA fundraising year ends on a high



Message from our Voluntary CEO, Jamie Newall

Dear Supporters,

As we welcome a new year I'm delighted to report that we are now funding over £2m of research projects, and are now firmly the UK's leading charity dedicated to funding research into head and neck cancer. Oracle's strength is not just our ability to attract top-class scientists but also to fund projects which might have never reached the laboratory. Some of these visionary ideas which Oracle has funded over the years have translated into full-blown clinical trials discovering newer and kinder treatments for patients.

I am also delighted to announce that we have been awarded membership to AMRC, the Association of Medical Research Charities. AMRC is the UK's national membership organisation for health and medical research charities which has over 140 members spending in excess of £1.6bn on funding medical research. Membership to AMRC endorses our commitment to the robust governance we employ at the charity.

Head and neck cancer is now the fastest growing type of cancer but mainstream funding has actually reduced to less than 2%. This means that Oracle's role of funding research is more important than ever. And, with no Government support we are reliant on the generosity of all our supporters - from individuals undertaking challenge events, to corporate support, trusts, foundations, philanthropists - everything counts towards funding these potentially life-changing research projects.

As ever I am grateful to the small team who work so hard behind the scenes supporting the charity. I'm delighted to welcome Teresa Forgione, our new head of fundraising who joined Oracle in the late Summer of 2018. Teresa has a wealth of experience in fundraising having worked for both large and small charities and will be focusing on setting up a long-term sustainable fundraising and income strategy for the Charity. We also welcome a new member to the team, Alice Robertson as medical communications and research officer. This is a new role for Oracle and Alice will be focusing on managing the research application process as well as the ever-growing portfolio of research projects and translating some of our exciting work to supporters.

Finally, with the forthcoming redevelopment of the office space in Southwark, we have moved over the Christmas period to extremely cost-effective offices based in Fulham, South-West London which is a more convenient location for the small team.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during 2018 and wish everyone a very happy and peaceful 2019.



Jamie Newall
CEO (Voluntary)
jamie@oraclecancertrust.org



Oracle's Voluntary CEO Jamie Newall

We have moved!

Please note our new contact details are:

10, Parsons Green House
27 Parsons Green Lane
Fulham
London
SW6 4HH

New telephone number: 020 3875 8991
info@oraclecancertrust.org
www.oraclecancertrust.org



New technique hopes to discover who can benefit the most from immunotherapy by predicting the response in individual patients

Non-invasive imaging tool to predict the effectiveness of immunotherapies allowing tailored treatment

Whilst immunotherapies are showing so much potential in the treatment of head and neck cancer, with promising results like those from the recent phase III pembrolizumab trial we wrote about in our cover story, it's also clear that there are certain patients who stand to benefit more than others.



Researchers funded by Oracle Cancer Trust are currently investigating a way to establish which patients will reliably respond to this, and other immunotherapy based treatments, and therefore who can benefit the most.

PhD student, Julia Hoebart who works in the division of radiotherapy and imaging at the Institute of Cancer Research is developing a new imaging technique that measures the presence of key molecules in individual patients and aims to use this information to help choose a treatment that is most effective for that patient. Specifically, this technique can be used to measure immune system markers PD-1/PD-L1, involved in switching on and off the body's immune response to attack cancer cells.

Nivolumab and pembrolizumab are both a type of immunotherapy that target and block PD-1, enhancing the immune systems attack against cancer cells. However, cancer patients have differing levels of this target within their tumour which can affect their likelihood to respond to the treatment, therefore we need a way to measure this. Many attempts have been made to measure levels of this immune target within tumour biopsies but with limited success so far.

Julia is working under the supervision of Dr Gabriela Kramer-Marek and Prof. Kevin Harrington to investigate whether an imaging technique called Positron Emission Tomography (PET) could be used to measure immune markers, in particular PD-1/PD-L1, not only within tumours but also in context of the whole body and use this information to

Current challenges

- Tissue must be taken from the tumour which involves invasive biopsies
- A biopsy specimen is not necessarily representative of the whole tumour; levels of immune markers can differ throughout a tumour so only testing one section can mean results are misleading
- Little is known about the immune markers beyond the tumour as a biopsy gives no information on their levels in the rest of the body.

predict response and tailor treatment for individual patients depending on their results. In this way they hope to develop a test that is a more informative, robust and non-invasive alternative to using a biopsy specimen to study immune markers in patients.



PhD student Julia Hoebart with funded colleague Dr Florian Raes in the laboratory at The ICR in Sutton

Additionally, Julia is looking into how immune markers throughout the body will respond to other immunotherapy approaches such as treatment with viruses that infect and kill cancer cells.

So far Julia has demonstrated that the immune marker PD-L1 can be visualised using a PET scan. She is now making sure the images produced are consistently measuring the levels of immune markers so that the technique can then be used to investigate the dynamics of immune markers in response to treatment with different types of immunotherapy treatments in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma models.

Over time, the hope is to unravel the potential of this technique, called immunoPET, to help guide treatment choices, including the potential of new combinations of immunotherapy-based approaches such as oncolytic viruses and immune checkpoint inhibitors alongside standard of care therapies including radiotherapy and chemotherapy so that patients receive a treatment regimen that they are most likely to get the best response from.

Oracle raises over £70k at prestigious awards dinner



The awards are a glittering night at The Grosvenor House in London with over 800 guests attending

Oracle were chosen as beneficiary charity for the 18th Asian Achievers Awards in September last year. The evening attracts over 800 leading figures from the world of business, sport and showbusiness to celebrate the achievements of the Asian Community.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of supporters, Oracle was donated a number of live auction lots for the evening, the star lot being a tour drum signed by drummer Charlie Watts from rock legends The Rolling Stones. Charlie has successfully fought throat cancer and generously donated the drum that was recently used on tour.

Taking care of business was Lord Archer, a veteran of live auctions, who in the thousands of live charity auctions he has run, had never come across such a rare item as the signed Rolling Stones drum. Bidding was brisk on all lots and in addition to pledges on the night, over £70,000 was raised to support Oracle's pioneering research programmes.

Head and neck cancer is the number one cause of cancer in India and awareness is very poor. Says Cecil Soans of organisers Asian Business Publications, "We always choose smaller charities as our official charity of the year. Oracle's cause is one particularly relevant to the Asian community given its shocking levels of incidence."

Prof Vin Paleri made a short presentation about his new robotic surgery project which Oracle is funding at The Royal Marsden Hospital followed by a short patient case study film.

We are incredibly grateful to individuals and businesses who donated prizes including Cox and King's Travel, Elewana Sky Safari Kenya, Grange Hotels, Prestige Cars and Couriers, Hat Trick Productions and Charlie Watts.

And finally, the evening would not have been possible without the hard work from the team of volunteers (pictured below) who helped on the night with the fundraising effort.



Survivors Robert Walton MBE and Shahid Allibhai



L to R Professor Vin Paleri with Dr Sarah Hussain and Shahid Allibhai



Oracle's Chairman Peter Rhys Evans helping with the set up



The star live auction lot, a tour drum signed by The Rolling Stones



David Brown, CEO of Prestige Cars and Couriers with Jamie Newall



Teresa Forgione, Oracle's new head of fundraising addresses the audience



The stunning ballroom at The Grosvenor House Hotel in London

Full house for the 13th Glory of Christmas Concert in December



Over 500 friends and supporters packed the stunning concert venue of St John's Smith Square in London for our 13th Annual Christmas Concert.

Oracle's Patron, acclaimed author Sir Michael Morpurgo, delighted the audience with a solo carol from the National Theatre production of War Horse. In 2017 Michael faced a cancer battle of his own, undergoing treatment for cancer of the larynx and feared losing his voice. Calling himself a "bathtub singer" Michael enjoys singing daily and delighted the audience with his carol, "Lamb in the Manger", accompanied by former theatre production cast members Ben Davis and Claire Connolly.



The audience were once again treated to the beautiful voices of Christ's College, Cambridge and the Thames Chamber Orchestra, under the musical direction of Keith Marshall. Music for the evening included pieces by Bach, Handel and Rutter as well as seasonal carols and a WW1 reading from The Wipers Times read by oncologist Dr John Glaholm.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters that supported our "sponsor a nurse" ticket appeal, we were delighted that over 60 nursing and support staff from hospitals in London and Oxford attended the concert.



Save the date for our 14th Annual concert which will be held on Monday 2nd December 2019 at St John's, Smith Square in London.



The Oracle team



Mrs Frances Rhys Evans with Lady Claire and Sir Michael Morpurgo



Mrs Sue Nursey and Miss Jill de Villiers



Prof Chris Nutting with Sir Michael Lockett



Oracle's Chairman and Founder Peter Rhys Evans with Mr Robert Walton MBE



Oncologist and Oracle Research Committee member Dr John Glaholm reads a WW1 piece



Sir Michael Morpurgo with the staff team from The Churchill Hospital, Oxford

4th Annual Research Reception

Over 60 guests joined the whole team from Oracle for our fourth annual research reception, showcasing our funded head and neck research programmes. This year we dedicated the event to one of Oracle's great supporters, philanthropist Sir Adrian Swire, who recently passed away.

We were delighted that our Vice-President and event sponsor Tony Matharu opened the evening and welcomed guests to the event. The audience heard a series short presentations from our team of research leaders including Prof. Vin Paleri and Prof. Kevin Harrington and researchers Dr Lucie Gunn and Dr Adrian Biddle. Twelve Oracle-funded funded PhD students attended the evening and shared their projects in more detail with guests. We are once again indebted to the support of Grange Hotels who generously sponsored the evening for Oracle.

If you didn't make the evening, you can watch the presentations on Oracle's YouTube channel by visiting: <https://buff.ly/2D3nrDI>



Meet Teresa and Alice - our newest team members at Oracle



Oracle's new Head of Fundraising
Teresa Forgiione

Our new Head of Fundraising, Teresa Forgiione has joined Oracle on a part-time basis. Teresa most recently worked for Parkinson's UK as Head of Major Gifts and brings a wealth of fundraising experience to Oracle.

Says Teresa, "I have been working with charities to help them build relationships with people who can help them achieve their goals for over 20 years. My career to date has been varied, with both large household names to smaller, niche causes, working with all kinds of incredible supporters. From giving school talks, supporting intrepid runners, skydivers and energetic fundraisers of all sorts, through to the world of high value giving, I love getting to spend time with the people who join forces to make great things happen. Enthusiasm is contagious and I have been privileged to work with extremely generous business leaders, families and trusts and foundations. As a result, I now specialise in building the mutually rewarding, long-term partnerships that help charities increase their impact and create a lasting legacy for donors and I look forward to meeting supporters who help Oracle Cancer Trust achieve such great things in the field of research into head and neck cancer.



Alice Robertson, Medical
Communications and Research Officer

We would also like to welcome Alice Robertson (left) who has joined Oracle to manage the growing portfolio of head and neck cancer research projects and manage the scientific communications aspect of Oracle's work. Alice has a degree in Biomedical Science from King's College and has previously worked in pharmaceutical and healthcare research.

Says Alice, "I am delighted to be joining Oracle at such an exciting time for the charity and to have this opportunity to utilise the knowledge from my degree to communicate the important breakthroughs from Oracle's funded research programmes and manage the strict governance surrounding the research."

LABC Fundraising Year draws to a close at Grand Finals



Finalists from around the UK attended the grand finals

After a nationwide series of awards evenings, charity head shaves, skydives and cycling challenges, the LABC fundraising year came to a conclusion at a glittering awards night in London recently.

After a series of 15 regional awards evenings held throughout the country celebrating excellence in domestic and commercial construction, over 900 guests headed to the LABC Grand Finals in London.

Outgoing President Chris Griffith-Jones took to the stage for the final time and reflected on a year that surpassed all his expectations. The final fundraising result during Chris' Presidential year was an incredible £62,600, the most ever raised during a fundraising year.

Chris chose Oracle as his charity of the year following the tragic death of his sister and father from head and neck cancer in just two years. Says Chris, "When I heard about Oracle and it's pioneering research work, it seemed that someone had designed a charity for me. The devastation of losing two close family members to head and neck cancer affected us deeply as a family and sadly my mother also passed away soon after."

"I was overwhelmed by the final amount raised during my year as President of LABC. I always had a figure in my mind of £60,000 and am delighted that we not only reached that target but exceeded it! It has certainly raised the bar for future years and I can't thank the team at LABC enough for their hard work and of course Oracle for all their support throughout the year. The amount raised can now fund two years of research."

"I would also like to thank colleagues who participated in events throughout the UK at regional offices supporting my fundraising campaign for Oracle."



President Chris Griffith-Jones takes to the stage for the final time in London



LABC team took on a cycling challenge



Fundraising initiatives during the year included a charity head shave



A silent auction with experiences and memorabilia boosted fundraising



Dr Sarah Hussain with husband Shahid Allibhai and Sarah Bender from Oracle at the Grand Finals in London

Oracle awarded membership to AMRC

Oracle is delighted to announce that it has been accepted as a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, a UK-based organisation that represents over 140 member charities who collectively spend over £1.6bn a year on research in the UK.

AMRC set strict criteria for member charities which include a published research strategy, conflicts of interest policy for research funding and robust peer review processes which are regularly reviewed and audited.

Oracle's membership to AMRC allows the charity to access a greater range of major grant-funding bodies with universities, government and funding bodies treating AMRC membership as an indicator of quality research funding.

To learn more about AMRC visit www.amrc.org.uk



Supporter fundraising

Cyclists take on stormy conditions raising over £5,500



Emma Colliver with Professor Kevin Harrington completing his second RideLondon for Oracle

On Sunday 29th July, our nine-strong team of cyclists took on the popular 100-mile RideLondon cycling challenge in aid of Oracle. Sadly the unseasonably warm summer was not in evidence on the day with the nine riders contending with gale force winds and driving rain.

Our nine cyclists included chef George from “Taste of George”, riding to raise funds and awareness for a cancer that can often affect taste and swallowing function; brother and sister Mark and Jane, taking on their first long-distance cycling event; keen gym-goers father and daughter team Reginald and Ruth Brooker; Oxford University Hospitals riders Jeremy and Martin backed up by Wonder Woman Clare, and Oracle funded researcher and Honorary Trustee Professor Kevin Harrington, who was taking on the challenge for the charity for a second year running.

In all, the Oracle team raised over £5,300 – a truly wonderful result and more than enough to fund the tuition of one of Oracle’s PhD student scientists for an entire year.

If you’re interested in taking one of Oracle’s nine charity places for the 2019 RideLondon-Surrey 100 mile cycle, then get in touch at events@oraclecancertrust.org to find out more or to secure your place today. The ride in 2019 takes place on Sunday 4th August and starts at the Olympic Park in London.



Chef George from “Taste of George”



Jon celebrates his recovery with a party for friends and family



“A year and a half ago I attended a charity black tie ball. It was a great evening and I was having such a great time I ended up buying the band in the charity auction! I had no idea what I was going to do with a singer, electric and bass guitarist and a drummer? I started organising a party but in July I had to unexpectedly cancel all plans.

“I was diagnosed with cancer and needed to have a very involved operation to remove a tumour in my neck, my tonsils, a large number of lymph nodes and a reconstruction with a major pectoral flap. I was treated by Dr Furrat Amen who had recently completed some important research funded by Oracle.

“After recovering from the operation at Addenbrookes Hospital I underwent a very intensive six-week treatment programme of radio and chemo-therapy. During my recovery my thoughts kept returning to the live auction prize. I put my thoughts into action and decided to organise a special event to gather all my friends and family together and say a big thanks for all the help and support over the last ten months.

“In lieu of gifts I asked all guests to make a donation to Oracle and was delighted that over £2,500 was raised to help support future research work for head and neck cancer.” *Jon Pinder*



Jon Pinder with his wife Zoe



Supporter Fundraising

Old friends run the Cologne Marathon for Oracle



Lifelong friends Edward Price and Tom Otty chose the historic German City of Cologne to tackle their first marathon. Tom chose to run for Oracle following his grandfather's recurring battle with head and neck cancer. Ed and Tom have raised just short of £2,000 including a donation from Tom's employer.

Says Ed, "We chose to run for Oracle as cancer is something that has affected both of our families over the years, and, given Tom's Grandad's health, Oracle was the perfect choice for us. The race itself was the biggest range of emotions I've ever experienced in a short space of time, but crossing the line was just pure relief to have finished. The pain was made worthwhile knowing we had done it for such an incredible cause and hopefully the money we raised can have some impact in the work Oracle does."

Ruth runs for her husband Paul

"When my husband Paul was diagnosed with throat cancer in April 2018, the bottom fell out of our world. Intensive radiotherapy and chemotherapy followed, and he is now recovering. We hope that we can live a long and happy life together with our two daughters."

"Before Paul's diagnosis we had never heard of tonsil cancer, but now we realise how common it is, along with other head and neck cancers. As I had just started running when Paul was diagnosed, I decided to carry on and give myself something to focus on. Running kept me going and I decided to fundraise for Oracle, running the Rugby Half Marathon. The day of the run was sunny and cool, perfect running weather, and I really enjoyed the whole experience! I was so proud to be running for Oracle and so grateful for all the support I received, raising £750 in sponsor money to help this great charity continue their work and help people like Paul." *Ruth Shippey*



Katrina gets quizzing in support of Oracle



"I held another fundraising quiz night in June in our local village of Slip End. 12 teams joined us including last year's quiz champions and this year competition was intense as ever. My partner Phil is the inspiration for my fundraising and was in the winning team, "Bloody Clueless." It was another wonderful evening with a great atmosphere but I'm looking forward to the break before organising another night later this year.

"I was delighted that we raised over £750 which included a fundraising raffle. Phil and myself are like many Oracle supporters and are incredibly grateful for the research that is carried out to support head and neck cancer patients." *Katrina Doubleday*

Jules runs Robin Hood Half Marathon



"As a cancer survivor myself I chose to raise funds for Oracle Cancer Trust as, despite head and neck being the sixth most common cancer it is hugely underfunded. As long as this terrible disease of cancer exists, we all need to do our bit to defeat it.

"Running the half-marathon was a amazing experience and an achievement I had thought was impossible until this year. Although I ran with a pulled tendon, I managed to run the whole way. I was delighted with my fundraising effort too, raising over £500!" *Jules Lishman*



Supporter Fundraising

Karen skydives on her 60th birthday for Oracle



“On the 10th August 2018 at 6am I opened one eye and through the gap in the curtains saw a bright blue sky and sunshine and thought ok.... it’s on! From a tiny idea reality finally dawned that I would be doing a 10,000 ft tandem skydive. I had lots of support from friends and family when I decided to take the plunge, literally, for my 60th birthday. I wanted to raise money for my skydive to support Oracle in memory of my sister-in-law Betty who died of cancer only a few months earlier. The first part of the jump was really hard as it’s a real onslaught on all your senses but when the parachute released it was beautiful to see the green landscape. We landed safely thanks to the expertise of my instructor, Chris.

“I was thrilled to have raised over £800 and to have supported Oracle Cancer Trust and their vital work.” *Karen*

NatWest Dragon Boat Challenge

As part of NatWest Bank’s “Do good, feel good” campaign, supporter James Selkirk assembled a team and took part in the Natwest Markets Dragon Boat Challenge which took place in the Docklands in the East End of London in June this year. James was in charge of his crew raising over £3,000.

Says James, “The NatWest Markets Finance team enjoyed supporting Oracle at the NatWest Markets Dragon Boat race. Dressed as “Where’s Wally” characters; we certainly lived up to our name. We missed out on the final races by some way but it was a fun and exciting way to be able to raise money for such a good cause!”



Giles finishes his three sporting challenges with “Swim Serpentine”



“In January 2016 I was diagnosed with cancer of the head and neck. I had such amazing support from family and friends who I owe a lot to, but the treatment, the facilities, the amazing doctors and nurses saw me through. I don’t think I would still be here today if it wasn’t for them and I am very grateful to all of them.

“In 2018, I took on three physical challenges - with the third and final physical challenge being Swim Serpentine in September. I was delighted to raise just under £1,000 for Oracle Cancer Trust. It is my way of saying a huge thank you to all the wonderful staff that helped me during my treatment and recovery.” *Giles Cuthbert*

Peter walks London’s Bridges with friends raising over £2,750



Peter King (centre) with staff from The Churchill Hospital, Oxford

“It feels a long time ago when I was diagnosed with cancer of the throat in December 2013, Undergoing chemo-radiotherapy treatment was incredibly tough, but I came through it with the support of family, friends, my employer Salon Success, and the wonderful team at The Churchill Hospital Oxford.

“In September, with the help of friends, we walked 25kms over 16 bridges taking in some of London’s landmarks along the way. I was overwhelmed with the support I received, beating my fundraising target to support Oracle’s pioneering research work into head and neck cancer.” *Peter King*



The team of walkers with a very happy dog enjoy the 25km walk along the Thames in London

Reception welcomes new Patron

A special evening reception was held at a private home in London to welcome Oracle's new Patron Sir Michael Morpurgo to staff, trustees, fundraisers and volunteers of Oracle Cancer Trust.



Michael spoke movingly about his treatment for cancer of the larynx and his delight at being Oracle's new Patron following the retirement of HRH Princess Alexandra.



Lady Penelope Newall with Lady Clare Morpurgo

A keen singer, Michael is once again enjoying his favourite daily pastime and delighted guests with a solo performance from the acclaimed theatre adaptation of his book, War Horse with an impromptu choral singalong with guests.

Tribute to Sir Adrian Swire 1932-2018

Sir Adrian Swire was one of the UK's leading philanthropists, donating over £1m a year to support charitable causes and the Swire Group donating over £6m a year.



Thanks to Sir Adrian's support over many years, Oracle has funded several pioneering projects looking at reducing the side-effects of radiotherapy for head and neck cancer as well as establishing a dedicated thyroid research unit.

A current funded Fellowship headed by Prof. Chris Nutting is focusing on preserving the senses of swallowing and taste following radiotherapy.

Oracle are truly indebted to Sir Adrian for his generosity over the years which helped establish Oracle as the UK's leading head and neck cancer research charity.

Tribute to Paul Barton



The team at Oracle were sorry to hear of the passing of Paul Barton on 29th July this year.

Paul was a laryngectomy patient who became a volunteer member of Heads Up prior to the charity joining forces with Oracle Cancer Trust.

Paul worked for many years on the Heads Up advisory board and was a great support to the charity. His knowledge and skills in finance were invaluable to members of the Board, keeping the team well advised on the financial status of the charity. Apart from his business skills Paul brought a wonderful sense of humour to the group. He enjoyed travelling, especially cruising, and it was always entertaining to hear of his latest venture. He will be sorely missed by the whole team.

Tribute to Mohan Mahtani

The team wish to extend their condolences to the family of Mohan Mahtani following his passing in late 2018.

Mohan and his wife Shirly were passionate supporters of our work and undertook several fundraising events for the charity including a tea party for family and friends.



Heads2gether support groups

Oracle volunteer Ray Derkacz (pictured) has been busy setting up a regular series of regional support groups with regular meetings in Reading, Swindon, Oxford, Nottingham with London launching soon.



Formed in 2006, Heads2gether is a head and neck cancer support group which started out as a membership organisation, but evolved into a support group that provides a telephone helpline as well as meetings to help patients and carers at any point of their head and neck cancer journey. Ray is supported by volunteer Pete Brady.

Groups are an informal opportunity for patients, carers and family members to discuss and share their experiences of head and neck cancer with others and help them through the crucial post-treatment recovery period. Support group and telephone helpline volunteers are Macmillan trained and are also available for one-to-one support.

Ray is keen to expand the network of support groups throughout the UK and would be happy to discuss setting up new groups with any volunteers that may be interested. To learn more visit www.heads2gether.net or contact Ray at ray@oraclegancercancertrust.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 its valuable work funding pioneering research projects.

If you have a fundraising idea, do get in touch with teresa@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 very keen 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 can offer you bespoke fundraising support, volunteering opportunities and event invitations. We will work with your organisation to offer dedicated support throughout any partnership activity and keep you up to date with the charity's pioneering research work so that you can understand the impact of your fundraising.

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

Take on a challenge in 2019

We have secured places at some of the UK's most popular fundraising challenge events. If you're interested in becoming an Oracle Challenger please email us at events@oraclecancertrust.org

Monday 27th May 2019 - Vitality London 10k

Take in some of London's best landmarks on this run around the capital city. Starting and finishing at Buckingham Palace, join over 35,000 runners for this iconic run.

Sunday 4th August 2019 - Prudential Ride100 Cycle Challenge

Starting at the Olympic Park in East London this route follows the Olympic cycling challenge through London and the Surrey Hills before finishing up The Mall by Buckingham Palace.

Sunday 13th October 2019 - Royal Parks Half Marathon, London

This run takes in four of London's Royal Parks at their Autumnal best and is a firm favourite with Oracle runners every year.

Sunday 13th October 2019 - Oxford Half Marathon

We are delighted to have secured places at this popular half-marathon which takes in the stunning sights of Oxford's historic colleges. This is sure to be a popular event so do apply early!



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Telephone: 020 3875 8991 info@oraclecancertrust.org
Registered charity 1142037
Leading research into head and neck cancer

