

SpeakOut

The newsletter of Oracle Cancer Trust



LEADING RESEARCH INTO HEAD AND NECK CANCER

SUMMER 2015

Using advanced techniques to improve the lives of patients following radiotherapy

Oracle is funding a new study at The Royal Marsden Hospital to reduce the effects of radiation on the swallowing function, which can often be permanently damaged following radiotherapy treatment.



Professor Chris Nutting

Radiotherapy to the throat muscles can cause mild to severe symptoms following treatment but with advances in radiotherapy techniques this new clinical trial seeks to reduce the radiation dose to sections of this group of muscles so that swallowing and dry mouth problems may be reduced or completely avoided. Intensity modulated radiotherapy - known as IMRT, shapes the radiation beams to closely fit the area of the cancer. Patients who undergo radiotherapy of this area are often

suffering from cancer of the oropharynx, the part of the throat directly behind the mouth which helps you speak and swallow. 'Oro' means mouth and 'pharynx' is the throat.

Cancers of this area are common, affecting around 2,500 patients in the UK a year and are increasing rapidly, particularly in the under 50's due largely to the HPV virus, smoking and alcohol consumption.

IMRT is the most widely used radiotherapy technique for head and neck cancers and this new study called Do-IMRT will concentrate on reducing the damage to these delicate structures even further.

Previous studies have shown a reduction from 90% of patients experiencing swallowing problems to less than 20% using revised radiotherapy techniques

Previous studies have taken place in the USA but have not been tested with standard radiotherapy techniques so there is little research data available. This new study will lead to new radiotherapy techniques being delivered to help the lives of patients suffering from head and neck cancers.

This three year study is being led by Professor Christopher Nutting with the radiotherapy planning being performed in collaboration with Professor Uwe Oelfke, Head of Physics at The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), who is also heading Oracle's research project on the MR Linac Accelerator.



Making cancer cells more sensitive to radiotherapy



Fundraising Update



Walk The Test Way and support Oracle



How you can support Oracle

This study aims to reduce swallowing problems for patients who have undergone radiotherapy, often a complication of treatment for head and neck cancer

ORACLE
cancer trust

Making cancer cells more sensitive to radiotherapy

Whilst radiotherapy is an effective treatment for all sorts of cancers, it is also possible for some cancer cells to repair themselves after being targeted with radiation. So, if it were possible to use a drug combination which prevents this 'self-repair' it would mean radiotherapy could lead to 100% cell death.

Oracle Researcher Dr Hind Hafsi is working on a three year project which specifically focuses on enhancing the effects of radiation by using radiotherapy in combination with drugs. These drugs act as anti-cancer agents which turn off the DNA repair mechanism in cancer cells, whilst allowing normal cells to survive.

This form of treatment is called "targeted therapy" and blocks the growth and spread of cancer by interfering with specific molecules that play a key role in cancer cell growth and survival. By using these targeted therapies, cancerous cells are blocked from multiplying, whilst normal cells are left untouched.

Targeted therapies are increasingly being used alongside conventional cancer treatments to improve the outcomes, whilst minimising toxicity to the patient and preserving the senses. Initial results from Dr Hafsi's work with combination drug therapies are yielding some extremely promising results and the second phase of the study will include a small clinical trial.

Dr Hafsi is part of the Targeted Therapy Team at The ICR in London who work under the supervision of Professor Kevin Harrington. The project is funded by The Bender Family Trust.



Oracle researcher Dr Hind Hafsi

"The job of the drug combination is to block the cell cycle and prevent cell proliferation taking place. We expect the next set of tests to show significant tumour shrinkage"

Oral Leukoplakia research project



Professor James McCaul

Consultant Maxillofacial/Head and Neck Surgeon Professor James McCaul is running an Oracle funded study which uses a Lugol's iodine staining technique to identify possible pre-cancerous tissue in the mouth.

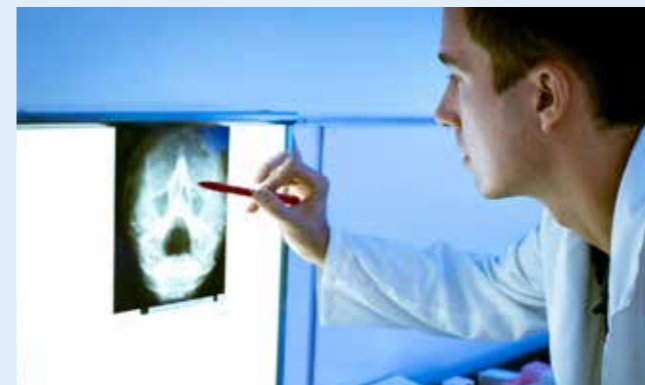
Lugol's Iodine was invented by French physician Jean Lugol in 1827 and has been used for everything from cleaning cuts to purifying water. One of its more interesting features is an ability to stain healthy cells - those capable of storing glycogen to a brown colour, while leaving cancerous, or pre-cancerous cells a paler hue. These pre-cancerous or cancerous areas can present as white patches, known as Leukoplakia, but are very difficult to define accurately.

The importance of this discovery is that surgeons operating on mouth and throat cancers currently have no reliable way of knowing how much tissue to remove. Pre-cancerous cells may be left behind or perfectly healthy ones cut out.

Says Professor McCaul

"We can now see the pre-cancerous cells and remove them completely, leaving behind all the normal tissue. We hope this will prevent cancer developing for our patients while causing the least possible side effects. We aim to stop cancer before it develops but maintain vital mouth and throat senses and function."

This trial could lead to the current inaccurate margin around the cancer being reduced to 2mm, leading to a new era in personalised treatment for patients with pre-cancerous cells



There are 30 different types of head and neck cancer and one of the least common of this group of cancers is sinus cancer. This type of cancer is still very rare and has less than 500 cases in the UK affecting the nasal cavity and sinuses. Symptoms can include nosebleeds, constant blocked nose usually affecting one side, as well as loss of sense of smell and vision.

Sinus cancer affects more men than women, and can be caused by environmental factors as well as smoking and the HPV virus.

.....
 Patient Giulia Cowap shares her story about her battle to get diagnosed with sinus cancer and the radical, life-changing surgery that followed:



"For over a year I had trailed back and forth to the GP with a persistently watering eye only to be told on each occasion it was an allergy or hay fever. Despite my concerns that I surely wouldn't just be having hay fever in one eye and requests for referral

I was given more eye drops and assured it was just an allergy. When my symptoms increased to include a blocked nose and continual congestion I was still assured it was hay fever despite the hay fever season being over. I was told that more people than ever were experiencing hay fever that year and the season was prolonged. I was given more eye drops and a nasal spray. Two months later the symptoms had worsened and I returned to the GP and demanded a referral and said I feared this was something sinister. I mentioned I was worried it might be a tumour. I was assured that it was an allergy but they would make a referral to an eye clinic.

Weeks later a letter arrived requesting me to make an appointment on line. The first appointment I secured was a telephone appointment six weeks away. Before that time came my symptoms worsened and I went to the optician complaining of double vision. He examined the eye and informed me that my sight was fine but something was impacting upon the diagonal muscle causing the eye to glide out and I should go to my doctor. Once home I researched what could be doing this. It was apparent with the other symptoms I had that I had a large and late stage tumour.

I instantly made a GP appointment, outlined my symptoms and stressed my concerns. I was told it was more likely to be an infection. I begged and pleaded to be put in a hospital but was told this could not happen. I was most persistent and a second doctor was called to explain to me just why I couldn't go to a hospital. At this point I was distraught and desperate and suggested that having ignored my pleas at least my four sons would have ammunition to pull a medical negligence case when their mother was dead. Inappropriate and emotive I admit but it worked. I was admitted that day to an acute referral ward. I had all the usual tests including CT scans and x-ray. A mass had been found. I still had to fight and stand my ground to speed up the process and secured a biopsy that week. The histology came back on New Years Eve and I received a diagnosis of cancer. It was too extensive for treatment there and I was referred to The Christie Hospital in Manchester.

Following an appointment in early January 2015 the bottom fell out of my world. I faced a 16 hour operation that would include the removal of my eye, brain surgery, and various grafts. In the month leading up to the surgery I found there to be no support and the only respite I found came in the form of Reiki. Overall my tenacity and push for referral and the superb expertise of my surgical team has brought a happy ending so far. Surgical results produced clear margins. I now have check up appointments but no further treatment required. I have rebuilt my life and do everything I vowed I would never do again. I have planned my return to work, started training to give Reiki to others and aim to campaign for head and neck cancer. My dear aunt also suffered from missed diagnosis and sadly lost her battle with mouth cancer in 2000. I consider myself to be extremely lucky. I lost my sense of smell, my face and my eye but I also lost cancer and gained life.

We would like to thank Giulia for sharing her story with our readers.

The Fred Ridges Foundation Finale Ball

Oracle supporter Nicola Ridges-Jones has raised an incredible £100,000 over the past ten years for Oracle in memory of her late father, Fredrick Ridges-Jones who passed away after a two year battle with throat cancer.

The "FRF Finale Ball" was held at Botley Grange Hotel in Southampton and over 150 people attended the gala event enjoying live entertainment, auction, a raffle and "funky" photo booth. The event hit Nicola's target of £20,000 enabling her to reach her goal of £100,000.

"The gala dinner was a hugely enjoyable event, and a fantastic way to help raise money for such a deserving cause. With Oracle's help my father went on to live another two years, and I cannot put into words how grateful I am to the charity for giving our family that extra time together"

Nicola has no plans to retire yet from fundraising for Oracle. Already an active voluntary member of Oracle's Management Team and Events Committee, Nicola is busy planning another successful "Walk the Test Way" (featured opposite) which raised over £7,000 for Oracle in 2014.

Nicola's fundraising efforts have contributed to funding a new PhD research project at The ICR which has been named in memory of her late father, Fred.



Oracle Supporter Barrie Dawson, who was told by doctors over fifteen years ago that his condition was terminal before life-saving surgery under the care of Peter Rhys Evans



Oracle Patron Princess Alexandra invited Peter Rhys Evans to the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May. Accompanying Peter, was Nicola Ridges-Jones in recognition of her wonderful fundraising efforts

Golf Day Fundraiser

18 teams of golfers enjoyed a glorious Summer's day for our sixth annual Golf Day at Burhill Golf Club in June. This year we were joined by former World Snooker Champion Dennis Taylor, who played a round of golf before entertaining the teams over lunch with stories about his life on the snooker circuit, including the infamous World final against Steve Davis.

Our regular host and MC Roger Dakin kept everyone in stitches with his roster of gags throughout the afternoon before opening the live auction which resulted in some frenzied bidding, raising over £9,000. We are extremely grateful to individuals who kindly donated auction items for the event and to MS-X for sponsoring the individual prizes.

Many of our golfers who support our annual event all agree it's their best golfing day out, so if you would like to join us at next years golf day we have once again booked Burhill on 23rd June 2016. If you would like further details or to reserve a fourball team please email: events@oraclecancertrust.org



Oracle Chairman, Peter Rhys Evans managed to find several bunkers



Winner of Nearest the Pin Competition John Fraser with Dennis Taylor



Dennis Taylor entertains



"Dawsons Dynamos" at the 1st tee

Annual Research Supporter Event September 22nd 5.30-7.30pm

Oracle would like to invite all supporters to attend a free event to hear from the Oracle team and our team of researchers at The Institute of Cancer Research about some of the current research projects that are yielding extremely promising results. Many of the research projects also form part of clinical drug trials with the Head and Neck Unit at The Royal Marsden Hospital.

Being held at The Institute of Cancer Research on the Fulham Road in Chelsea, London, the event will focus on current projects and give guests a chance to talk to the research teams as well as hear from the Oracle team of Peter Rhys Evans and Professors Kevin Harrington and Chris Nutting.

Entry is complimentary by RSVP only. Refreshments and a light buffet will be available at the event. If you wish to attend, please register online www.oraclecancertrust.org/events, email us events@oraclecancertrust.org or call on 020 7922 7924.

Numbers are strictly limited for the event so please apply early.



Oracle Researcher Victoria Roulstone at The ICR Laboratory



Over 100 walkers joined Oracle in 2014's walk, raising over £7,000

Walk the Test Way in Hampshire and raise funds for Oracle on Sunday 11th October

REGISTER NOW ONLINE

Join the whole team from Oracle and help us reach our target of 100 walkers for this great day out where you have five distances to choose from - from 26 miles through to 5 miles. You can run, or walk (dogs welcome too!) the course which starts at St. Mary Bourne and ends at Romsey. The route is fully marshalled and patrolled with rest stops along the way. Registration is £11 and includes free transport from Romsey to your chosen start point.

Register now online at www.walkthetestway.org

Glory of Christmas Concert Monday 7th December 2015

Christmas might be the last thing on everyone's minds right now, but we are busy planning our 10th Glory of Christmas Music Concert at St John's Smith Square in London on Monday 7th December.

Put the date in your diary and join us for this wonderful evening of music and readings to start the festive season.

Online booking will be available from 1st September for the concert at www.oraclecancertrust.org/events



SAVE THE DATE

The Rock Inn collects for Oracle



Paul and Jennifer Taylor of The Rock Inn

Collection boxes are a great way to collect donations from friends, colleagues, suppliers and customers. It's easy to say that every penny counts, but never is it more relevant than when it comes to collection boxes. Paul and Jennifer Taylor from the Rock Inn, Blackwell, Gwent tell us their story:

"Last Christmas, Jennifer and I were invited, by a very close and long standing friend of ours, to attend the 'Glory of Christmas' concert. That friend, Derek Young, was a patient of Peter Rhys Evans and he was one of the guest speakers at the event.

The whole evening moved us so much that we wanted to find a way to help raise funds for Oracle Cancer Trust. By inviting our customers to donate, we are making a small but nevertheless meaningful contribution to raising funds which, hopefully, will make a difference."

Brotherly love...with a little help from my friends Tracey Joynson walks the West Highland Way

Friends and family of Ian Joynson raised almost £900 in his memory by walking 96 miles in seven days along the West Highland Way from Milngavie to Fort William in Scotland. Ian was diagnosed with a very rare form of cancer in the sinus cavity after a routine trip to the dentist to investigate toothache. Following radical surgery during which he lost an eye, and despite further treatment, Ian sadly passed away in May 2014. His sister Tracey said:

"Ian fought so hard to stay with us and as it is 12 months since he died I wanted to do something positive around this sad anniversary. While public awareness of head and neck cancers may not be as high as for other cancers, they can be very visible and traumatic for both the patient and their carers. I wanted to help raise funds to support the work of Oracle Cancer Trust to help avoid such traumas for other families."



Ian Joynson

Muddy Runner Marian!

Marian McKay bravely endured a 5km mud endurance run raising over £650. Marian was treated at Glasgow Southern General Hospital and chose to raise funds for Oracle after reading a magazine article about the lack of awareness and research for head and neck cancers. Says Marian, "Supporting vital research will help more patients undergoing treatment in the long term and I am proud to support Oracle Cancer Trust."



Photos courtesy of Alistair Horton

Nike 10k Run

Many congratulations to Katy McCaul who completed a the Nike 10k run in Victoria Park, London on 21st June and raised over £700 for Oracle Cancer Trust.

Katy's father, Consultant Maxillofacial Surgeon Professor James McCaul is currently being funded by Oracle for a research project, featured on page two of this issue.

Well done Katy! We are all very proud of you.



Upping the Andes riders hit their £80k fundraising target

The courageous, determined and indefatigable Upping the Andes team has made it to their final destination in Colombia. At 4.31pm on the 9th of June after 155 days battling mountains, deserts, cold, heat, illness, mechanical failures, exhaustion and sometimes each other, they made it to Faro Punta Gallinas, marking the northern most tip of South America. The final 8-day stage of the expedition saw the lads pushing themselves to the limit, often cycling over 150km a day in order to finish six days ahead of their already punishing schedule.

"As we came down out of the Andes for the last time, it had felt like the battle was won. However, the days were long, the roads were flat, and the sweltering heat was exhausting. What we thought would be a relatively easy sprint to the end evolved into anything but. Testament to how our perspectives have changed the distance covered in our so called 'sprint finish' alone was still equal to a "John O'Groats to Lands End" - so very much a challenge in itself. As we drew closer and closer the days seemed to slow with the hours becoming as stagnant as the air around us, and the kilometres stretching out in front of us like a never ending piece of string."

After cycling the equivalent of five times the distance between Lands End and John O' Groats, the lads and their trusty steeds had conquered the Andes and in doing so, had raised in excess of £80,000 for their chosen charities. Guthrie Fenton has raised £20,000 to date for The Mark Donegan Fellowship that directly supports Oracle Cancer Trust. The other riders chosen charities were Cancer Research UK, Help for Heroes Headley Court and The Charlie Waller Memorial Trust.

We would like to join in with all their many friends and families in congratulating Archie, Guthrie, Toby and Tom on their extraordinary achievement. Their fortitude, courage and determination is without question and we are extremely proud to be associated with such an outstanding group of young men.

Top photo, left to right : Guthrie Fenton, Thomas Lawson, Toby MacKean and Archie Innes



Birthday celebration raises over £3,000 for Oracle



Celebrating a birthday is a great event and supporting your favourite charity on such an occasion is just one way by which you can help.

Roberta Greenhalgh, a former patient of Peter Rhys Evans, decided to do just that by asking friends and family to donate to Oracle Cancer Trust in lieu of gifts. "Sixty is a milestone birthday and for me it was all the more important having successfully completed radiotherapy treatment for cancer of the larynx in 2014. I first heard about Oracle Cancer Trust through Peter Rhys Evans when his wonderful team took me under their wing to organise my treatment plan. I realised that due to lack of publicity, I knew very little about head and neck cancers. Hearing that research in this area is dreadfully underfunded, my birthday seemed the perfect opportunity to raise funds.

I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of family and friends and we raised over £3,200. It was a wonderful happy party and perfect in every way. There is nothing material that is of any significance when faced with a cancer diagnosis and to be healthy again and able to celebrate my 60th is the best birthday present I could possibly be given. It gives me enormous pleasure to be able to give something back and help fund the vital research needed."

Oracle's Endowment Fund is launched - a charity sector first for Oracle

Oracle is launching its Endowment Fund in July and, for the very first time in the UK charity sector, this endowment fund will be based on loans, rather than gifts, from Oracle's benefactors. With the support of a founder group of eight Trustees and supporters, each providing a loan amount of over £25,000, Oracle is able to place an amount of capital of over £400,000 with Sarasin & Partners, a leading Investment Fund Manager in the charity sector, to be invested in two of their charity Common Investment Funds.

Each lender within the Founder Group has made an interest-free, five year loan to the charity and Oracle is able to draw 4% of the fund each year to meet part of its research costs. Oracle will report to the lenders each year on the progress of the research that is being enabled by the endowment fund as well as the performance of the Sarasin managed portfolio

At the end of the five year term of the loan – or earlier, if the lender requires an early repayment – the lender will receive back the then value of his loan, or will have the option to renew the loan, or to convert it into an outright gift.

What is the benefit for Oracle?

Research projects are carried out over a number of years and Oracle needs to commit itself to funding those costs from day one. The loans, and the potential of the endowment fund, will progressively enable Oracle to match its financial commitments with the predictable return generated by the endowment fund.

What is the benefit for Oracle supporters?

Some of our supporters have access to funds which they would like to use to fund important research but they are unwilling or unable to donate the money outright. The Endowment Loan provides supporters with a means of financially supporting Oracle's projects, following their progress over the life of the loan and receiving loan capital back at the end of the period.

Why is this an important development for Oracle and the charity sector?

We believe that this loan based endowment initiative will appeal to a wider group of supporters who will enjoy the flexibility of the scheme. The lenders have the power to call for early repayment, to renew the loan at the end of the first five years, or to convert it into a gift.

We also strongly believe that charities, in general, need to be more disciplined and accountable in the way that they utilise donations, and more responsive to their supporters in terms of reporting back on the use they are making of supporters' funding.

How can you help us?

Oracle needs your support to grow its Fund. Could you consider joining the Founder Group of lenders and providing a loan to Oracle? We want to reach our first target of £1m by the end of May next year and therefore face the challenge to more than double our current commitments during the course of the year.

Investor Bob Howes explains why he invested in the Oracle Endowment Fund

"I will always be grateful to Professor Kevin Harrington and all of his colleagues at The Royal Marsden Hospital for the treatment I received which has given me a quality of life that would have been only dreamt of thirty years ago. If my resources can help to fund research that can drive the continuing progress of the treatment of head and neck cancer in the years ahead, I am delighted to do what I can.



Bob Howes

This new endowment fund being set up by Oracle enables me to provide essential financial support to the charity without my having to make the immediately irrevocable commitment of an outright gift. I can track the performance of the research projects as well as the investment fund, and am looking forward to being more engaged in the work of the charity and empowered in its performance. Well done to the Trustees at Oracle for launching this important first-time initiative!"

For more information please contact Anthony Sykes anthony@oraclecancertrust.org or call us on 020 7922 7924.

Nigel Lloyd-Jones

In November 2014, Nigel Lloyd-Jones was diagnosed with head and neck cancer. This is his story:



Nigel and Sheena Lloyd-Jones

For Nigel Lloyd-Jones and his wife Sheena receiving the news that "you have cancer" was particularly shocking as, prior to the diagnosis, Nigel had been fit and well with a busy career. The lump on his neck had been inspected by his GP several times and when finally removed, was described by the medical team as, "looking benign".

Biopsy results, however, revealed a squamous cell carcinoma with no evidence of a primary cancer. The initial treatment recommendation was for a radical neck dissection, and continuing treatment. Having discovered that a second opinion was a patient's right and, with the support of his immediate family, Nigel was referred to Head and Neck Unit at The Royal Marsden Hospital where he met Professor Chris Nutting who recommended a course of radiotherapy.

The Royal Marsden was the first choice. His mother, has a long relationship with 'The Friends of The Royal Marsden' charity and both his father and brother-in-law were treated there.

With 30 treatments scheduled over a six week period, it wasn't until the 17th treatment when the side effects of the radiotherapy started. Not only did Nigel lose his sense of taste but swallowing and eating became increasingly difficult. In addition he was becoming very tired and losing weight.

Sheena picks up the story:

"During Nigel's radiotherapy, no one at the hospital could tell us quite how tough the side effects would be and how we, as a family, were expected to cope. As a result of contacting Oracle Cancer Trust we spoke to an ex-patient Bob Howes and his wife Jenny who were incredibly supportive and helpful."

With the constant reassurance of The RMH Nutritionists and The Royal Marsden Cancer Cookbook, Sheena explored many dietary options. "Sometimes I had to prepare three different dishes for one meal, just to find something that Nigel could eat."



On Christmas Eve, the treatment ended and the next three months of recovery proved intensely challenging and dominated every waking moment. However, positive signs were on the way. During a routine check-up Nigel was able to eat a sandwich (minus the crusts) which had been prepared specially by a volunteer in the 'Friends Café'.

Six months on Nigel is making great progress and scans show that he is clear. Professor Nutting is confident that Nigel will, over time, make a full recovery. Nigel concludes, "I can so understand that after a cancer diagnosis a patient could go into a state of shock and passively accept whatever is recommended. For Sheena and me, taking ownership of my condition, drawing on my family experience, reaching out to get other opinions along with the outstanding support of Professor Nutting and his team was incredibly helpful in bringing me to the positive place where I am today."

If you have a story you would like to share with us please do get in touch

Remembering your loved ones with a gift: Steve O'Reardon 1952-2015



Friends and family of Steve O'Reardon have donated over £3,500 to Oracle Cancer Trust in his memory after he sadly passed away in March this year. As a patient of both Peter Rhys Evans and Professor Kevin Harrington, it was Steve's wish to ask for donations to be made to Oracle in support of their work and raise awareness of head and neck cancer. His family plan to continue fund raising in the future in honour of his memory.

In 2013 Steve was living and working in Cape Town, South Africa with his wife Anne. As General Manager for an oil Company he was setting up an exciting offshore exploration project and enjoying as he put it "the best job of my career". One morning in July he woke up with a swelling on the right side of his face. He went immediately to his GP and then to various consultants and after repeated tests was assured that it was not cancer. By November, however, an open biopsy revealed that

it was indeed cancer and he returned immediately to London to the care of Peter Rhys Evans and Professor Kevin Harrington at The Royal Marsden Hospital.

Major surgery was followed by radiation treatment and everyone was hopeful that this would be an end of it but a baseline scan in May revealed that the disease had spread to his lungs. Chemotherapy and hormone treatment failed to stop the cancer and Steve died in March this year, aged 62.

Despite his spectacularly bad luck Steve endured his 16 months of illness with awe-inspiring bravery, grace and dignity. He was always upbeat and optimistic that the doctors or a miracle would keep him going for a significant time. His cheerfulness and determination to live whatever time he had to the full meant that there was a constant stream of friends and family visiting from near and far until a few days before he died.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, Steve had lived most of his adult life outside the USA. Over the course of his work and travels he amassed many lifelong friends from all over the world and at his funeral many travelled from as far away as America, Canada, Paris, Aberdeen, Ireland, South Africa, Ivory Coast, Gabon and Tokyo.

A terrific husband, father and friend he had an infectious zest for life and a gift for making others feel good about themselves. As well as his family and friends he loved his home, good food, good wine, barbecuing, throwing parties, holidays, rock music and watching his beloved Spurs play football. When times were good he brought joy, fun and laughter and when times became incredibly bad he showed his family and friends how to face up to adversity with heroic courage. To use the glass half empty/half full metaphor, Steve's glass was full to the point it overflowed into the glasses of those around him. He will be missed.

We are very grateful to Mrs Anne O'Reardon for writing this tribute to her late husband.

MemoryGiving

Memory Giving is a new online funeral donations service making it easy for people to donate in memory of a loved one. Funeral directors such as Michael Miller & Partners who cared for Steven, can create a collection page for any UK charity such as Oracle Cancer Trust, who then benefit from also receiving Gift Aid which can add 25p to every £1 donated.

It is used by funeral firms throughout the UK and has been particularly well received for its simplicity and ease of use.

www.memorygiving.com



Donating to Oracle - how every penny counts

A small regular donation is a great way to support Oracle Cancer Trust. Many of our donors choose to pay by standing order or through online giving, or support our fundraising events. Here's what they say:

"Having been lucky enough to be looked after by both Peter Rhys Evans and Kevin Harrington when I was diagnosed with cancer in late 2008, I wanted to do something constructive to help improve treatments and survival rates for future patients. Oracle Cancer Trust is funding some very sophisticated and promising new research so making a contribution towards that is a perfect way to say thank you and to help more patients in the future make a full recovery."



Caroline Bogh-Henrikssen



Carole Kent-Robinson

"My family and I are honoured to support the Oracle Trust with a small regular donation towards their valuable work, helping lots of people like me get through a difficult cancer treatment with professionalism and above all kindness and care. The work they are doing for future generations is amazing - how lucky we are to have such bright, caring help forging a better way forward for us all."

"My wife Nadine and I have been supporters of Oracle Cancer Trust since Peter Rhys Evans and his marvellous team at The Royal Marsden Hospital saved my life on at least two occasions between 1998 and 2000. We are very aware that the Charity relies heavily on donations to provide for its ground breaking research and we are delighted to be able to support it by donating and attending fundraising events whenever possible."



Peter Johnson



A painting by Alexis
Alexis donated to
Oracle

"In 1999, my partner passed away from cancer and ever since, I have been a supporter of Oracle Cancer Trust. While all cancers are terrible there is something particularly debilitating about head and neck cancer. The work that Oracle does is amazing and I am proud to be able to support them with my regular donations. For me, the following sums up the hope which Oracle gives to head and neck cancer sufferers:

"Ocean and star each are you, broken your wings and yet you fly"

WAYS TO SUPPORT ORACLE'S PIONEERING RESEARCH

SUPPORT

FUNDRAISING

Celebrate and donate. Asking your friends and family to donate in celebration of your special day or occasion is a great way to support our work. Not every occasion has to be celebration. Coffee mornings, tea parties and bake-ins are all great ways of raising money.

CHARITY CHALLENGES

Over the past few years, fundraisers have taken on a variety of challenges including walking, running, cycling, swimming, and skydiving all to raise money for Oracle. Inspiring, gruelling, arduous and often emotional, these journeys help raise funds and our profile amongst a wide reaching audience.

LEGACY GIVING

Legacies are a vital part of our funding. Your legacy can help us to support early stage research breakthroughs and treatment, future plans and the development of a specialist head and neck unit as well as breakthroughs in treatment.

ORACLE ENDOWMENT PLAN

As featured on page 8 of this newsletter, the endowment plan supports Oracle's research with a fixed income.

HOW TO DONATE

ONLINE via CAF BANK

Donating directly via Charity Bank CAF is the most cost efficient way of sending funds to us. All you need to do is complete the online form and the rest is done automatically. www.cafonline.org

PAYROLL GIVING

Payroll giving is easy to set up. There's no direct debit, no gift aid, and just one form to complete. Payroll giving will let your payroll department, and us, know that you want to start giving and within 4-6 weeks it will start.

VIRGIN MONEY GIVING & JUST GIVING

Virgin Money giving is one of the few online websites which does not make a profit on your donations. To donate, visit the Oracle Cancer Trust webpage on uk.virginmoneygiving.com or www.justgiving.com

SHOPPING ONLINE

Did you know that you can shop online and raise funds at the same? Easyfundraising has joined forces with thousands of well know retailers who in turn have agreed to pay a small commission towards the charity of your choice, at no extra cost to you. See www.easyfundraising.org for more information.

TEXT ORCT15 TO DONATE £5 to 70070

Have you visited our website recently? We have some new patient case studies as well as information on forthcoming events, patient videos and updates from the Oracle funded team of researchers.

FIND US ONLINE: oraclecancertrust.org

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Email: info@oraclecancertrust.org

Registered charity 1142037
Leading Research into Head and Neck Cancer

