



Dear friends

Welcome to the first issue of UCARE News.

This newsletter is dedicated to providing supporters with regular updates about UCARE's achievements and projects. We would also like to share your fundraising news. Please do send us your stories and photos, so that we can use them in our newsletter and on our website, www.ucare-oxford.org.uk.

The past 12 months have been a challenging and rewarding time, during which your support has helped to establish UCARE and develop a successful range of projects.

Recent highlights include UCARE's official launch in April, which involved a successful funds- and awareness-raising event at Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire. See page 2 for news of the launch.

In May, we allocated UCARE's first grants for cancer research. One of our key objectives has been to raise money to fund a dedicated urological cancer researcher. Thanks to your generous donations, I am delighted to announce that UCARE has achieved this goal. We have allocated funding for a senior scientist to join Dr Val Macaulay's research team at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine: see our cover story opposite and also 'Project News' on page 3.

Our challenge now is to build on the achievements of UCARE's first year in order to continue to support vital urological cancer research in Oxford. There are many ways in which you can support UCARE and you will find information about how to get involved on the back cover of this issue (page 4).

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for helping to make UCARE's first year so successful. We look forward to working together with you over the coming months to help find new ways to fight cancer.

Best wishes

Ian Kirkham
Chair, Board of Trustees

PS Keep an eye on our website, www.ucare-oxford.org.uk, for all UCARE's latest fundraising and project news.

UCARE grants £60,000 to fight cancer



“We're thrilled and inspired by the generous support UCARE has received during its first year.”

Catherine House, Fundraiser

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, UCARE has been able to approve grants totalling £60,000 for urological cancer research.

Our priority has been to support researchers in Oxford who are working to improve the treatment available to people with prostate, kidney, bladder and testicular cancers.

UCARE's largest grant supports the work of Dr Val Macaulay and her research team, who are developing clinical trials for an exciting new anti-cancer treatment.

In addition to these grants UCARE has already provided over £5,500 to improve research facilities and to help support the work of specialist cancer nurses at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

Fundraiser Catherine House says: "Supporters have helped to raise money in all sorts of ways including taking part in sponsored events, organising their clubs to raise money and donating items for auction at our public launch. We're thrilled and inspired by the generous support UCARE has received during its first year."

Projects receiving UCARE grants are carefully assessed by an independent Scientific Advisory Committee to ensure they meet UCARE's objectives. UCARE raises money to:

- Support cancer research.
- Fund the development of new treatments.
- Provide equipment and improve research facilities.
- Help people understand urological cancer.

You can find more details about UCARE's first round of grants – and how you can help support our vital projects – on page 3.

UCARE launch raises awareness and £££

UCARE's official launch was celebrated in style by raising money and awareness at a special Gala Dinner at Blenheim Palace on 17 April.

UCARE trustee David Cranston opened the event by explaining why UCARE was established. With over 55,000 new cases of urological cancers being diagnosed each year, there is an urgent need to develop new ways of fighting them. But a lack of funding hinders vital research – hence the need for UCARE.

One of UCARE's objectives is to help raise awareness, and to provide information for patients and the general public. BBC Radio Oxford and Fox FM used the launch to focus public attention on the growing prevalence of urological cancers and the work being done in Oxford to combat them.

Andy Ripley, former England and British Lions rugby player, described his own battle with prostate cancer, and stressed there is still a long way to go in raising people's awareness about urological cancers. Guest speaker Martin Bayfield (pictured bottom right), also a former British Lions and England international rugby player, entertained diners with tales from his past.

Compèred by BBC Antiques Roadshow's Clive Stewart-Lockhart, our auction helped to raise more than £20,000, thanks to the generosity of guests and sponsors. Everest donated an additional £32,000, which was presented on the night by our Chair, Ian Kirkham.

Special thanks to our event sponsors: Dijon Designs for the wonderful graphic display; Henmans LLP for the beautiful flower arrangements; John Breckon for sponsoring the Boulevard Swing Jazz Band; TCS Biosciences for sponsoring our use of Blenheim Palace's Orangery.

“ Raising money can be fun – and this was certainly the case at UCARE's Gala Dinner. A big thank you to all involved. What a night! ”

Ian Kirkham, Chair



News in brief

Cheers!

Regulars and visitors at the Queen's Head in Hazlemere have raised over £2,000 to support UCARE. Volunteer Fundraiser Daphne Harvey, the driving force behind the pub's golf events, sponsored challenges and raffles, says: "I lost my husband because of cancer, and know how important it is to receive the best possible care and treatment. I'm grateful for all the support my husband received and wanted to do something that would help other people with cancer."

Spreading the message

Community Volunteer Clive Stone's main motivations are to raise awareness of UCARE within Oxfordshire, to support local fundraising and to encourage other supporters to get involved. He explains: "I offered to help UCARE after my operation for kidney cancer. I was impressed that local doctors, nurses and patients were raising funds to develop much-needed research into urological cancers, and I wanted to get involved. My volunteering has helped me to remain positive."

Groups lead the way

The Rotary Club of Oxford has provided funding to improve research facilities at the High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) Unit, Oxford Urology Department. Stanford in the Vale Bowling Club has helped to buy a computer for the Regional Testicular Cancer Service. Princes Risborough's 41 Club and Bicester's Ashton Club have sponsored essential information and support for cancer patients.

Can you help?

Would you like to make a donation or help UCARE fundraise to fight cancer? Find out how you can help by turning to page 4 or visiting www.ucare-oxford.org.uk.



Runaway success

Rob McCormick completed the Paris Marathon and raised £745 to support UCARE's projects. Bryn Jones ran the Bath Half Marathon to help raise money to buy a computer for the Regional Testicular Cancer Service.

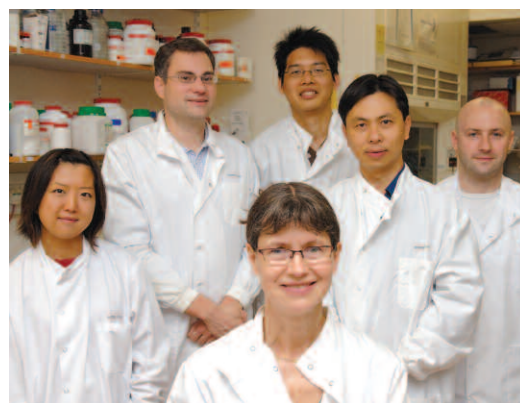
UCARE's first cancer researcher

The first cancer researcher to be sponsored by UCARE will join Dr Val Macaulay's laboratory at the internationally renowned Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine.

The UCARE-funded researcher will start work at a crucial time for Dr Macaulay's team. The team studies the function of a cellular protein that is vital to the survival of cancer cells in the prostate, bladder and kidney. In response to these and other research findings, several major pharmaceutical companies have created drugs to inhibit the protein's 'cancer creating' function.

Dr Macaulay's team is now commencing clinical trials to test the efficacy of these drugs. The research project is designed to develop a treatment for prostate, kidney and bladder cancers that have not responded to traditional surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments.

You can help... With the support of our donors, UCARE aims to continue to support this vital research project by making another grant to Dr Macaulay's team next year.



“ I was so delighted when I heard that UCARE would fund a senior scientist for my research team. This post is of critical importance as we use the scientific research in the lab to develop new drugs to improve the treatment options for patients. ”

Dr Val Macaulay, Senior Clinical Research Fellow and Honorary Consultant in Medical Oncology, Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford

Promoting innovation



One of UCARE's aims is to promote innovative ways of treating cancer. We support the Oxford Urology Department, which is developing the use of High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) as a treatment for kidney cancers and related conditions. UCARE has provided a grant to enable the HIFU Research Unit to purchase research equipment and improve its facilities.

UCARE goes Nuts

UCARE has provided funding to help set up TV Nuts, an interactive, web-based support group for men with testicular cancer living in the Thames Valley. Research conducted by Gemma Crane, Clinical Nurse Specialist at Churchill Hospital, showed that patients with testicular cancer need more information and support, and that young men prefer to turn to the internet.

Funding for research nurse

Churchill Hospital had an urgent need for a dedicated urological cancer research nurse to work on research projects and clinical trials. Thanks to our donors' generosity, UCARE has been able to provide a grant to pay for a part-time research nurse at the Hospital. The nurse will assist research doctors with data collection and facilitate the collection of tissue samples for laboratory research. The nurse will also support patients who take part in the clinical trials for new anti-cancer treatments.

You can help... Efficient data management is essential for effective research, which in turn leads to improved patient treatment and care. One of our new goals is to fund a urological data manager to work on clinical research trials.

Do you want to know more about urological cancers?

If you want more information about prostate, kidney, bladder and testicular cancers you can visit www.oxfordcancerinfo.org.uk. UCARE supports the work of the Oxford Cancer Information website because it provides up-to-date information and is run by patients and professionals.

How you can help

“Urological cancers represent nearly 20% of all cancers diagnosed in the UK each year. We have set ourselves ambitious fundraising goals because the need is urgent to find new treatments for urological cancers. Your support is vital.”

Ian Kirkham, Chair

Kilimanjaro Challenge

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for teams of friends or colleagues to be challenged by taking part in an exhilarating fundraising event in Tanzania in February 2009. Your objective: to reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, while raising money to fight cancer. Physically exhausting and mentally demanding, UCARE's Kilimanjaro Challenge will test your team to the max. Take part if you dare! Contact Michael Heal, UCARE's Fundraising Consultant, on 0775 1571936, or at michael.heal@btconnect.com.



Stella Bogdanic

Regular givers

Giving your donation in monthly, quarterly or annual instalments helps UCARE to plan for the future and develop our projects. If you would like to make a regular gift, our bank details are on our website (www.ucare-oxford.org.uk) or ask us to send you a Donation Form.

Make a donation

Your donation will support doctors and scientists in Oxford who are working to improve the way urological cancer is diagnosed and treated. You can make a donation quickly and easily by visiting our website (www.ucare-oxford.org.uk) or by posting a cheque to UCARE. You are welcome to contact Catherine House for an informal chat about donating to UCARE (phone 01865 848640).

Run, ski, knit

Taking part in a sponsored activity gives you a chance to challenge yourself and have fun while raising money to help UCARE fight cancer. Whether you choose to run a marathon or knit the world's longest scarf, your sponsorship money will make a real difference.

A lasting legacy

By remembering UCARE with a gift in your Will, you make a lasting contribution to the fight against urological cancers. Please contact Catherine House on 01865 848640 if you wish to discuss your legacy gift. (We cannot provide legal advice so please talk to your solicitor when making or changing your Will.)

Group support

Would your club, group or association like to support the fight against urological cancer by organising a fundraising activity? Contact Catherine House on 01865 848640 to discuss your ideas and find out how you can support UCARE's projects.

Corporate partners and sponsors

Our sponsors and partners benefit by raising their profile among their target audiences, and their staff and customers contribute to the fight against cancer. Current opportunities include sponsoring UCARE's publicity material and the Kilimanjaro Challenge. Call Michael Heal, UCARE's Fundraising Consultant, on 0775 1571936 to discuss how your business can get involved.

UCARE (Urology Cancer Research and Education) is an independent, Oxford-based charity committed to improving the treatment and care of urological cancer patients, through research and education.



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