



The Blond
McIndoe Research
Foundation

Newsletters

Autumn 2009/10

Registered Charity No.

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www.blondmcindoe.com

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The Joan Taylor Laboratory

Miss Joan Taylor worked for Neville Blond back in the 1960s when he was very involved with Sir Archibald McIndoe and others in the setting up of the East Grinstead Medical Research Trust, the previous name of our charity. Unfortunately, none of us had the opportunity to meet Joan or even to know of her interest in the work that we do, but that did not stop her from leaving a legacy to the Blond McIndoe Research Foundation in her will when she died last year.



*Pure altruism
is giving
without regard
to reward or
the benefits
of recognition
and need.*

Top: Guinea Pig William Foxley (left) and Simon Weston, Patron (right) watch Dame Vera Lynn cutting the tape to open the Joan Taylor Laboratory.

Below: Chief Executive Jackie Pinney with Simon Weston.

(continued overleaf)

The Joan Taylor Laboratory

(continued from front page)

Although Joan did not seek recognition in life, her executors did want her bequest to be used in a way that would be a lasting tribute to her and the perfect opportunity arose with the refurbishment of one of our old laboratories at East Grinstead. I think she would be pleased to know that the original fittings had been in constant use since 1961 and that she was able to contribute to bringing the laboratory up to modern standards.



Dame Vera interviewed by BBC reporter

Vera for the outstanding contribution that she made to boosting the morale of our troops during WWII and Simon Weston for the personal sacrifice that he made during the Falklands conflict.

A huge thank you to both of them for their support which certainly made our day very special indeed.

Sadly, our troops are still engaged in war zones with hundreds of young men and women returning from Afghanistan with life threatening and life changing injuries. It is absolutely essential that we continue the work pioneered so many years ago by Sir Archibald McIndoe. There are many ways in which you could help us to do this and some suggestions are printed at the back of this newsletter. No donation is too small – it will be gratefully received, very carefully used, and will make a difference to the life of someone seriously injured.



A floral bouquet for Dame Vera



Some of the Guinea Pigs

Giving takes many forms and giving time to a charity can be as important as giving money. We are well aware of this at Blond McIndoe with the exceptional contribution made by our volunteer work force.

Altruism was very evident on the day that we opened the Joan Taylor Laboratory with the ribbon being cut by Dame Vera Lynn DBE, ably assisted by Simon Weston OBE. These two very special people gave their time to help to raise awareness of our work. Both are war veterans in their own way. Dame

HAVING RETIRED from Brighton and Sussex Medical School as Chair of Human Anatomy and Director of Research in September, 2008, I was tempted to take on, part time, the role of Director of Research at the Blond McIndoe Research Foundation (BMRF) as from January 2009.

This new role has been an exciting one, with my remit being to drive new research projects forward and obtain funding for the important research being undertaken at BMRF. The unique juxtaposition of BMRF with the Queen Victoria Hospital (QVH), East Grinstead, has made my work since I joined BMRF particularly rewarding. Bringing the two entities together allows translational research to be undertaken. This means that research that we undertake in the laboratories at BMRF can be 'translated' into the clinic, through close collaboration with the surgeons and other clinicians at QVH, to the benefit of patients. This relationship between research and clinic is of paramount importance as translational research attracts grant funding from many of the large funding bodies in the UK and beyond.

That this is the correct strategy for us at BSMS was highlighted when, together with Mrs Jacquie Pinney, Chief Executive at BMRF, we were invited along to the House of Commons to an evening to celebrate medical research. At this event, BMRF was selected from many other organisations there, to present a poster of our work which raised a great deal of interest. Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council (MRC) was present at the event

A Message from the Director of Research



Prof Di Lawrence-Watt at the House of Commons

and we invited him down to BMRF to talk about future funding of our research through the MRC. Sir Leszek and his team came to visit us in August and we are currently engaged in writing a synopsis of our research for the MRC with a view to their funding this work.

Over the last few years, BMRF has focussed its research efforts on wound repair and regeneration of skin following trauma and burn injury. Encouraged by our renewed involvement with surgeons and clinicians at QVH, and the interest the MRC have taken in our research establishment, we have extended our portfolio of research for the future to include not only work on skin but also the regeneration of soft tissue that lies deep to the skin. The clinical need for the development of new approaches to soft tissue regeneration is great. Severe loss of underlying soft tissue such as



(centre) Chief Executive Jacquie Pinney at the House of Commons

fat and muscle occurs in numerous important patient groups, and includes injuries resulting from military trauma, road traffic accidents, surgical tumour resection and reconstruction following thermal injury. Current approaches to soft tissue reconstruction include the use of tissue flaps and synthetic materials to recreate tissue bulk. However, many of the materials and techniques which are currently available have significant limitations including poor functional performance, unacceptable aesthetic outcome and high treatment cost. Additionally, current approaches for the reconstruction of tissues beneath the skin are generally limited to surgical intervention and there has been little real progress in the development of advanced therapies for reconstructing such tissue. Therefore, there continues to be a real clinical need to continue to address these short-comings and improve the clinical regeneration of soft tissue following its loss.

Through our partnership with QVH, and in consultation with the MRC and other grant awarding bodies, we are currently setting up a multidisciplinary team to develop novel approaches and refine existing techniques for the regeneration of soft tissue. Our aim is to bring together specialists in the field of regenerative medicine who have made significant advances in the translation of cell therapies and the use of biomaterials to the clinic. By combining the extensive experience available at BMRF in the translation of cell therapies to clinic and the surgical expertise at QVH with established academic groups in the fields of biomedical materials such as Imperial College London, and the University of Brighton we aim to advance the treatment of cutaneous and soft tissue defects by the development of new cell, material and tissue engineered approaches.

This is, therefore, an exhilarating time for us at BMRF with the development of new projects and the interest being showed by major grant awarding bodies in our work. In addition to several grant applications currently being written we are also preparing 7 scientific papers for publication which have arisen from the very positive results we have obtained from our research efforts over the last 8 months. 2009 has been a very positive and productive year for us at BMRF and we are very much looking forward to 2010 being even more productive.

Prof Di Lawrence-Watt

If you would prefer to receive communications from us by email in future, please let us know on admin@blondmcindoe.com. I promise that you will not suddenly find your inbox full of junk mail from Blond McIndoe. It will just be whatever we usually send by post but it will be cheaper for us and will save a few more trees. If we don't hear we will continue to send by mail in the usual way. *Jacquie Pinney, Chief Executive.*



*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter;
– silvered wings*

*Sunward I've climbed, and joined the
tumbling mirth*

*Of sun-split clouds
– and done a hundred things*

*You have not dreamed of
– wheeled and soared and swung*

*High in the sunlit silence, hovering there
I've chased the shouting wind along,
and flung*

*My eager craft through footless halls of air
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue*

*I've topped the wind-swept heights
with easy grace*

Where never lark, nor even eagle flew –

And, while with silent lifting mind, I've trod

The high untrespassed sanctity of space

*Put out my hand and touched the face of
God*

Written by Pilot Officer Magee
shortly before he was killed

Merican Travel Fellowship Award 2009

THE ANNUAL National West Midlands Plastic Surgery meeting “Douglas Murray Prize 2009” was held at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham on 31st October 2009.

The pioneering work of Blond McIndoe Research Foundation in the field of “Microcarrier beads for Keratinocyte culture” was presented by Mohamed Eldardiri (Blond McIndoe Research Fellow).

The work and the presentation attracted the award of the “Merican Travel Fellowship 2009” in recognition of the importance and the value of the research done at Blond McIndoe Research Foundation in the field of skin cell culture for treatment of skin loss and burn contractures in children.

The travel fellowship allows Dr Eldardiri to travel to a centre of excellence in wound healing research in the United States of America for a period of 3 to 4 weeks next year. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about advanced research in the field of wound healing, and will hopefully contribute to more progress and success within the research undertaken at Blond McIndoe Research Foundation.

The award also reflects on the position of Blond McIndoe Research Foundation as a powerful contributor to the field of wound healing and tissue engineering research in the United Kingdom.

Scars physical and mental

AS A CHILD I lived in Middlesex. During the early hours of 28 July 1942 two incendiary bombs from enemy aircraft came through the roof of my parents house. One came into the bathroom and the other into the bedroom where my sister, aged six, and I, aged three, were sleeping.

As a result of the injuries we received we were taken to the small local hospital. We were told later that Vaseline was applied to our burns. The following day we were taken to a larger hospital and put under anesthetic so that the burns could be cleaned. From there we were transferred to Harefield Hospital. On arrival there my mother said she was severely reprimanded for not bringing our slippers. These had been destroyed in the house fire and replacements were not readily available, even if one had the money and necessary clothing coupons. My sister and I spent nearly two months at Harefield Hospital, where my parents, using a tandem bicycle, visited us every Sunday.

My sister had a burn to her head that has left her with a bald patch about two and a half inches round. Her right ear was burned leaving three small holes. She also had a burn on her right shoulder that has left her with a scar about three inches in diameter.

I had burns to my left arm and hand, that are now hardly noticeable, and burns to my scalp causing disfigurement. I learned from my mother that she was told nothing could be done with the burns to my scalp and that I would have to live with it.

I cannot remember when I realized that I would have to bear the consequences of this scarring for the rest of my life.

During my schooldays this scarring caused me many problems – name calling, unkind remarks, not being able to go out in the sun, being very self-conscious when swimming or showering in front of others. Most of my childhood I preferred to remain indoors rather than playing out with others.

From my personal experiences I feel it is important to support this research. If physical scarring becomes less obvious, hopefully mental scarring will also cause fewer problems.

As an adult I have also been put in embarrassing situations and been subjected to hurtful remarks. These have been over the lack of styling of my hair that, to cover the scar, I have worn in the same way since 1942.

I am fortunate as when I was sixteen I met Brian, whom I later married. He has been a pillar of strength and has always been there to restore my confidence.

I learnt about the Blond McIndoe Research Foundation from the television. From my personal experiences I feel it is important to support this research. If physical scarring becomes less obvious, hopefully mental scarring will also cause fewer problems.

Doreen Viney



The damaged area ...



... covered by hair

JEWELLERY RECYCLING SCHEME

Turn your unwanted items into a donation for the Foundation

ENCLOSED with this newsletter, you will find an envelope which could help Blond McIndoe to raise money. All you have to do is to sort out all your unwanted, gold, silver, costume jewellery and watches towards this recycling appeal. Damaged, broken and incomplete items will help; so all the odd earrings and broken chains are a great start!

Why not also ask your friends and family to participate. If you need any additional envelopes, please call and we will happily mail them out to you.

Why recycle? Recycling reduces the demand for raw materials. This means less mining and quarrying, which destroy the natural environment and wildlife habitats and can cause environmental and health problems for local people. Recycling is one way in which our community can lessen their usage of resources and help protect the environment. Everything you give is turned into cash for our charity, recycled and put to good use.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MOBILE PHONE RECYCLING

Don't throw away those old phones when you get the new one for Christmas, we will be able to make money from them, even if they are broken.



Giving online
justgiving
fundraising made easy

MANY OF YOU HAVE ASKED for a facility to make donations or pay for goods "on line" and we have, therefore, joined 'justgiving' in order to provide a safe payment method for our donors. Just log on to: www.justgiving.com and follow the links. If you have any problems, please let us know.

WAITROSE COMMUNITY MATTERS



THE FOUNDATION was delighted to be involved in the Waitrose Community Matters scheme at our local branch and the money raised enabled us to buy some very special flasks for our new Integra Cellspin. This highly specialised equipment is very expensive to buy but is essential for our work.

The Integra Cellspin is a cell culture system which comprises four glass flasks which contain a stirring pendulum operated by a magnet. The gentle stirring mechanism within the flasks encourages the growth of cell suspensions and promotes the adherence of cells to delivery systems such as microcarrier beads. The Cellspin has a programmable control unit which enables the speed, duration, number of cycles and running time to be adjusted to optimise cell proliferation and adherence. These parameters can all be programmed and stored for future use.

The picture shows Karen Hearn, Personnel Manager, Waitrose and Hannah Moreton, Assistant Personnel Manager, Waitrose presenting the cheque to Dr Justin Sharpe, Head of Research, Blond McIndoe and Rod Holdridge, Volunteer Fundraiser, Blond McIndoe.

If you would like to volunteer to help Blond McIndoe, please contact Jacque Pinney at:

The Blond McIndoe Centre,
Queen Victoria Hospital,
Holtye Road,
East Grinstead,
West Sussex,
RH19 3DZ
Tel: 01342 414295

admin@blondmcindoe.com
www.blondmcindoe.com

HOW YOU CAN HELP

THERE ARE NOW **two new easy ways for you to help raise funds for Blond McIndoe Research Foundation!**

1) Shop Online and Raise Funds

Easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores including Marks & Spencer, Argos, Next, Debenhams, John Lewis, Toys R Us, HMV and over 2000 others. Just use the links on the 'easyfundraising' site whenever you shop online and, at no extra cost to you, we will receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It really is that simple!

It's completely FREE to register and you won't pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the 'easyfundraising' site. In fact you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers offer discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to 'easyfundraising'.

If you shop online anyway then why not raise valuable extra funds for us by using this fantastic scheme. All you need to do is visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/bmrf> and when you register, select Blond McIndoe Research Foundation as the organization you wish to support.

2) Search the Web and Raise Funds

You can also raise funds when you search with 'easysearch' instead of Google or any other search engine, you will raise funds for us with every search you make! Just like 'easyfundraising' it is completely free to use and if you make just 10 searches a day, you could raise £20 a year – or more – for us, just by switching to 'easysearch'.

What is more, 'easysearch' is a 'super' search engine that combines the strengths of several search providers together – Yahoo!, Bing, Ask.com and many more, 'easysearch' tracks down the most relevant and accurate results from across the Web, which means you will find what you are looking for quickly and easily every time – all in one 'easy' search.

Check out our unique easysearch page at <http://bmrf.easysearch.org.uk> and use it every time you search the Web.

Making a Donation

If you would like to give regularly to the Foundation, it is worth creating a Standing Order that would be paid out automatically from your bank, monthly, bi-monthly, or annually, whatever you specify. All you need to do is to find out the paying-in details of the Charity (Account Number and Bank Sort Code) and fill in the Standing Order Form

at your bank. Alternatively, you can complete the Standing Order Form enclosed with this Newsletter and return it to us and we will do the rest for you. If you bank on-line, creating a Standing Order is even easier.

Making a 'One Off' Donation

You can send off a cheque or postal-order to the Blond McIndoe Research Foundation accompanied by the form at the back of this Newsletter and if you complete the 'Gift Aid Form' we can claim the tax back at no extra cost to you.

You can take your donation to a bank and pay-in over the counter and we can supply the paying-in form at your request.

Donate On-Line through 'Just Giving'

And again, the details are on page 8 of this newsletter

Contributing on-line cuts the cost of administration and means that more of your money goes to our essential research work.

Presents that will Make a Difference

Instead of scratching your head trying to buy for people this Christmas, who already have most everything they need, why not consider making a donation in that persons name. The Charity would be delighted to send them a personal acknowledgement of thanks.



Making a donation

Please complete the following in block capitals

Full name

Address

Postcode

Tel

Email

If donating by cheque

Please make cheques payable to **Blond McIndoe Research Foundation** and send them with this form to: The Blond McIndoe Centre, Queen Victoria Hospital, Holtye Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3DZ.

Please tick if you require a receipt.

giftaid it

Using Gift Aid means that for every £1 you give, we get an extra **25p** from the Inland Revenue and it doesn't cost you a thing. So if you want your donation to go further just sign the box below and make sure you have completed your name, address and postcode details above.

DECLARATION

Please sign here if you would like us to claim Gift Aid on your donation

Signature Date / /

I want all donations I've made in the last 6 financial periods and all donations in the future to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise. (To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year).

Please notify the charity if you:

1. Want to cancel this declaration.
2. Change your name or home address.
3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Please send this completed form, with your cheque if appropriate, to:



The Blond McIndoe
Research Foundation

The Blond McIndoe Centre, Queen Victoria Hospital, Holtye Road,
East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3DZ Tel: 01342 414295

Email: admin@blondmcindoe.com

www.blondmcindoe.com

Registered charity no. 1106240

To make a donation via BACS please call or email the office for our bank details.