



The Ben Walton Trust

Dear Friend and Supporter

Progress Report : December 2009

I am aware that it is now some time since my last report, so want to bring you up to date with what has been happening in the last year or so.

Firstly, we have now developed our website at **www.benwaltontrust.org** so we are able to regularly update this and put on items of interest as well as current projects. So I invite you to visit the site if you have not already done so.

If you would like to support us or receive electronic updates please contact us and leave your details and you will form part of our ongoing electronic database.

It has been an interesting and busy year with progress being made.

Conferences

In November 2008, I contributed to The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow triennial conference, 'Setting Standards, Achieving Excellence,' talking on the subject of 'Mouth Cancer and improving the Patient Journey.' An impressively well organised event, it had international participants and, from the feedback, it seems that an impact was made and useful contacts created.

Projects

In 2009 our pilot project, 'The Experiences of Younger Oral Cancer Patients in Scotland,' was completed. This had been started and funded by The Trust in collaboration with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, the University of Bath and Kings College London. Read the full project on our website. In essence it looked at patients under the age of 45 in the West of Scotland and the Lothians. A huge debt of gratitude is due to the patients that took part, the Clinicians and Clinical Nurse Specialists that accessed the patients. Also to the researchers, project manager and interviewer: many thanks. The findings have been split into two papers, one on Patient Delay, the other on System Delay, by Professor Saman Warnakulasuriya of King's. The first has been accepted for publication in The British Dental Journal in the New Year. It is hoped to place the second in the British Medical Journal.

We are in the process of initiating and funding a module on Oral Cancer and the Younger Patient with BMJ Education, which will start start in 2010. It is intended that it will be eligible for examination for CPD (continuing professional development) by GPs. We also understand that it will be freely accessible via web links to other groups. These modules are generally excellent and they are available on the internet to all BMJ members. Part of the deal is that they will evaluate the module independently prior to publication by peer review, then test it and feed back information on usage. They also have a topical e-mail facility whereby subscribers are reminded on what is of current interest; for instance, Swine Flu and Raynauds Phenomenon have been recent topics.



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Debates

In June 2009 The Lords debated oral cancer. The debate was raised by Baroness Gardner and focussed on most of the critical issues. The debate can be downloaded from our website and we have had interest and useful correspondence with Lady Gardner, Lord Howe and Lady Thornton, the Government Spokesperson for the Department of Health. I am hopeful that this debate will in time prove useful.

New Information

HPV 16, research has now been established that this virus, which is also linked to cervical cancer, appears to have a role to play in certain types of oral cancer. It rather begs the question why young men, as well as young women, are not also vaccinated against the virus. While this has been ruled out on cost grounds, it will be important to monitor the effect on young women of vaccination and what effect this may have in the future on the incidence of oral cancer. Apparently any contact implicated by the virus can take up to 15 years to present.

The Ben Walton Award

This year's winner of The Ben Walton Award is Arshad Siddiqui of NHS Highland for his paper, 'The Role of the PET scan in the Management and Treatment of Head and Neck Cancers, the Aberdeen Experience.' It is anticipated that this will find a publisher.

Fundraising

We now publish on the website current and recent past fundraising events. However I would like to thank the following:

- Iriston House Dental Clinic
- Scotland's Gardens Scheme
- Fettes College
- Sandra Le Marchant
- Dolphinton WRI
- Ken and Gemma Gray
- Royal Bank of Scotland
- James Dwyer
- Clare Farnsworth and the Edinburgh Dental Institute
- Mrs Barbara Engledew
- All our other generous individuals and organisations that contribute year after year.

All allow us to carry on and be involved in our various projects.



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How Can You Help Us?

By raising awareness.

By fundraising. ('Gift Aid,' if you are a UK tax payer, adds 25% to your donation at no cost to you.) You can donate directly by using Justgiving: go to www.justgiving.co.uk/benwaltontrust where all donations are acknowledged and 'gift aid' may be used.

200 Club. We are proposing to set up a 200 club where, for £50 a year, supporters can be entered into a prize draw. Many organisations have found this an effective way of fundraising. For information contact Liz Grant on liz.grant@ntlworld.com or The Trust directly.

As this is being typed in early December, I would like to pass on both my personal thanks and those of The Trustees and wish you all the very best Seasonal Greetings and a bright New Year in 2010.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Walton for and on behalf of The Trustees