

NEWS UP-DATE

October 2007

Our annual Christmas dinner has been arranged for Monday 3rd December and will be held at the Rimswell Hotel Stockton.

All money along with your choice of menu to be paid by Tuesday 6th November to June Reid.

MENU

Starters:-
Potato & Leek Soup
Thai Fish Cakes with Lemon Dip
Eggs Mayonnaise

Main Course:-
Roast Turkey Dinner
Sole Au Gratin
Steak and Ale pie
Vegetable Shepherd's Pie with Cheese Topped Mash.
All main courses are served with seasonal vegetables.

Dessert:-
Christmas Pudding
Fresh Fruit Salad
Chocolate Truffle Tort

2 Courses £11.00

3 Courses £13.00

We have a variety of Christmas Cards for sale from previous years, which we are now selling for 15p each. They will be available at the Drop-In and Alma Centre for all those interested.

If you came across an article in the past, which you were interested in while reading your monthly Bulletin and mislaid it, remember, all these Bulletins are available to download from our web site at: www.stocktonmsgroup.org.uk.

You can also help raise funds for the group by going through our web site to shop on-line. What easier way is there to raise cash?

www.buy.at/stocktonmsgroup

The real face of multiple sclerosis

Faye Roe's face and that of her husband Matthew have been seen by millions across Britain.

Despite the fact that Faye seldom goes out, her face can be seen staring out from billboards and tube carriages in Edinburgh, Cardiff, Manchester, London and Belfast as well as in a number of magazines.

In the advertisements, part of series in an awareness campaign by the MS Society, the young mother of two can be seen explaining about the effects of the neurological condition Multiple Sclerosis (MS) on sex.

"Sex brings on a major attack of the shakes. "It's embarrassing and off-putting for both of us, but we can laugh about it now," are the words beneath her image.

Raising awareness

The words are not her own, but reflect some of the serious problems that many people with the same condition as Faye experience.

"My husband and I have a very healthy relationship, but I did the advert because a lot of people who suffer from those problems would not want to put their face on the campaign, because they are embarrassed. "This is the biggest advert and the most controversial advert. "For me it is showing that I am not embarrassed. I should not be embarrassed of having MS through no fault of my own. I just wanted to raise awareness. "Because I don't go out much nobody has recognised me from the poster, but people have asked my mum and friends if it is me. "I am proud of the campaign and taking part," she said.

And the former Miss Great Britain finalist and model, aged 22 and from Gloucester, says if more people understand the condition it will make life easier for people like her.

Faye admits though that despite fronting the campaign, she spends most of her time at home, with her husband and 18-month old twins Oakleigh and Leo, because she is embarrassed about some of the ways her MS affects her.

"We do not really go out much because I don't like the looks I get from people. If I am in a wheelchair, I don't get one look, but if I am walking with a stick people literally look down and point at me and I find it really hard. "When I get stressed out my body goes stiff so my walking looks even more strange. "So I want to make people more aware of the illness and have empathy rather than sitting and staring. "I really want people to be aware of the everyday struggles, the physical and emotional pain that people with MS go through. "I want people to stop being rude when they see someone like me staggering around and not to assume that I am drunk."

'Unpredictable and cruel'

Since she was diagnosed two years ago Faye has had two major relapses, one of which left her unable to walk and partially paralysed. Although she is now recovered from these, she is aware the future is uncertain.

Faye, who has regular Beta Interferon injections to ease and reduce her relapses, says she has periods of depression, pain, and fatigue. "I am doing quite well at the moment, but it is quite hard to live with it is so unpredictable and cruel. "It does not just affect you it affects all your family and friends."

There are more than 85,000 people with MS in the UK and 50 new diagnoses a week, with two to three times more women affected than men. There is no cure and few effective treatments.

Simon Gillespie of the Multiple Sclerosis Society said their "Putting the pieces together" campaign aimed to heighten awareness with its hard hitting adverts.

"People with MS are more likely to see their relationships fail, to lose their jobs, or find themselves isolated as their symptoms push friends away." He said they had decided that the best way to illustrate the campaign was to feature real people with MS themselves. "There's no point using models and artificial language when you are dealing with such a devastating condition," he said.

The other adverts include baker Dan Inward, whose employers have helped him adapt his job to his condition, and competitive hammer thrower Janet Smith, who still competes and trains, despite her MS.

Over the years the MS Society interviewed its members who said that the key concerns for people under 40 were relationships, work and socialising. They also hope the campaign, their first in a decade, will raise their own profile and that of the condition. Future adverts will look at family life and the role of carers.

Alasdair Coles, a neurologist at the Department of Neurology, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, said it was important to raise the profile of multiple sclerosis.

"Did you know that, if you see a young disabled adult, it is most likely that they have multiple sclerosis? "But despite it being so common, most people only have the vaguest notion of what the disease is."

Daily Telegraph 28 September 2007

Stem cell injection trials raise hope of cure for MS

A BRITISH hospital is carrying out the first trials of a procedure that could cure multiple sclerosis victims.

Tens of thousands of patients with MS could benefit from the revolutionary treatment if the tests taking place at the Frenchay hospital, near Bristol, are successful.

The procedure involves patients being injected with stem cells taken from their own bone marrow, in the hope that they will travel to damaged parts of the brain and repair them.

It could take months or years for the treatment to begin to undo the damage caused by the incurable disease, which affects the central nervous system, and it is not known for sure that it will work.

But researchers are confident the stem cell therapy will be a major breakthrough for the 85,000 people in Britain who suffer from MS, many of whom are left wheelchair-bound and paralysed.

Neil Scolding, professor of clinical neurosciences for North Bristol NHS Trust, who is leading the trial, said: "We believe that bone marrow cells have the capability to repair precisely the type of damage that we see in the brain and spinal cord in MS.

"So by giving patients very large numbers of their own bone marrow cells we hope that this will help stabilise the disease and bring about some repair."

The trial, which started *six* months ago, is one of the first to use patients' own bone marrow stem cells to treat their MS.

It involves six people with aged between 30 and 60, having a pint of bone marrow extracted from their pelvises.

The processed material, containing stem cells, is then injected on the same day into the patients' arms.

Over a period of months, the patients will be monitored closely and given regular brain scans to see what impact the treatment has had on them.

Previous studies have shown that stem cells are able to develop into other cell types, travel through the bloodstream to the brain and are actively taken up by damaged areas.

The Frenchay trial avoids the ethical controversy that surrounds many stem cell studies because it does not use human embryos.

Although the first patients in the trial underwent the stem cell therapy six months ago, Prof Scolding said it was still too early to tell whether there had been any benefits. It is not yet known whether the MS sufferers will need more than one injection of stem cells.

Liz AJlison, an MS patient taking part in the trial, told the BBC: "I'm hoping there will be some improvement."

Christine Jones, the chief executive of the MS Trust, said: "We're delighted that this new trial is going ahead and there will be an awful lot of people with MS watching it very closely."

MS sufferers have previously been offered stem cell therapy in Holland. But those tests have proved controversial because they are expensive and because the cells are taken from babies' umbilical cords. This raises the risk that they will be rejected by the patient receiving them.

Daily Express 10 October 2007

New hope of help for MS plight

A breakthrough in the treatment of multiple sclerosis could be on the horizon after scientists discovered how to reverse damage caused by the disease.

They have managed to re-grow vital tissue which is lost when the illness takes hold. Although the treatment has only been carried out on mice, it is hoped that one day it will also work for humans.

Multiple sclerosis affects more than 85,000 Britons and is usually diagnosed when patients are still young. The disease causes the body to attack itself and break down a protective sheath covering the nerves.

This sheath, called myelin, allows messages to travel from the brain. Now a team from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, have used a human antibody to re-grow it in mice.

www.davalinternational.com 9 October 2007

Daval International Limited now has links with a number of key clinical and scientific researchers worldwide, with a growing level of interest being shown in the setting up of randomised double-blind, placebo controlled clinical trials of AIMS PRO. A European leader in the study and treatment of a common neurological condition has recently submitted a trial protocol for consideration by an Institutional Ethics Committee and the Competent Authority.

Approval by the latter has now been received and the protocol is about to be scrutinised by the former.

If ethics approval is achieved then announcements for recruitment of patients will be made by disease charity groups. In addition, updated trials information will be regularly posted on this web site.

DISCLAIMER

The articles in this Bulletin are meant for the sole purpose of information only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the committee

MS Society responds to remyelination research

The MS Society has welcomed news that US researchers at the Mayo Clinic have managed to trigger remyelination in an experimental model of multiple sclerosis (MS). This early stage research may lead to better MS treatment strategies if it can be replicated in humans.

Dr Laura Bell of the MS Society said: "Myelin repair is an exciting avenue of research that holds a lot of promise as an MS treatment, which is why we have invested more than £3million into it at our research centres in Cambridge and Edinburgh. This is an exciting study but it is early days – we'll be keen to see how it works in people with MS."

As MS progresses, myelin repair processes fail and full function is never regained. The MS Society Cambridge Centre for Myelin Repair and Translational Research Centre in Edinburgh are both working to see if remyelination can be used to develop effective MS treatments. Professor Franklin, Director of the MS Society Cambridge Centre for Myelin Repair said: "This is a very exciting work from the Mayo group. Clearly more research is needed to know how effectively this approach will translate in human therapy but there is every reason to be optimistic."

This kind of laboratory research needs to be translated into a treatment and extensively tested in humans in clinical trials to make sure that the method is both safe and effective.

Early research into a treatment for progressive MS

Scientists in Scotland may be on the way to discovering the cause of long term disability in people with multiple sclerosis (MS).

New research carried out at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, led by Professor Chris Linington, showed that some people with MS have specific antibodies (a type of immune molecule) which attack nerve fibres.

The newly identified antibodies recognise and attack a protein called neurofascin-186 which makes up part of the nerve fibre. Higher levels of these antibodies were discovered in a small study of people with MS who have a particularly degenerative type of MS.

Researchers are now planning a larger study and if further research showed the antibody to be responsible, it may be possible to remove these antibodies from the blood of people with MS to slow disease progression.

Professor Linington said 'I am particularly encouraged because there are already treatments available for other antibody mediated conditions. These type of therapies could be very rapidly translated and applied to MS if we confirm our findings'

Millions of nerve fibres are responsible for transmitting messages from our brain to the rest of our body and these nerves are covered in a protective coating called myelin which wraps in bundles around nerve fibres. The gaps which exist between these bundles are very important to allow transmission of nerve impulses along nerve fibres. The neurofascin antibodies can attack the nerve fibres between these gaps in the myelin

In a rat model of MS the attacking antibodies interrupted nerve impulse transmission and worsened disease symptoms by damaging nerve fibres.

Dr Laura Bell, research communications officer at the MS Society, said: 'Nerve fibre loss is thought to be the primary cause of long term disability in MS though little is known about what causes that loss. This early research provides potential insight into the process and I look forward to seeing the results of the next stage of the study.'

YOUR JOKES

Making a baby

The Smiths were unable to conceive children and decided to use a surrogate father to start their family. On the day the proxy father was to arrive, Mr. Smith kissed his wife goodbye and said, "Well, I'm off now; the man should be here soon."

Half an hour later, just by chance, a door-to-door baby photographer happened to ring the doorbell, hoping to make a sale. Good morning, Ma'am", he said, "I've come to..

"Oh, no need to explain," Mrs. Smith cut in, embarrassed, "I've been expecting you."

"Have you really?" said the photographer. "Well, that's good.

Did you know babies are my specialty?"

"Well that's what my husband and I had hoped. Please come in and have a seat"

After a moment she asked, blushing, "Well, where do we start?"

"Leave everything to me. I usually try two in the bathtub, one on the couch, and perhaps a couple on the bed. And sometimes the living room floor is fun. You can really spread out there."

"Bathtub, living room floor? No wonder it didn't work out for Harry and me!"

"Well, Ma'am, none of us can guarantee a good one every time. But if we try several different positions and I shoot from six or seven angles, I'm sure you'll be pleased with the results."

"My, that's a lot!" gasped Mrs. Smith.

"Ma'am, in my line of work a man has to take his time. I'd love to be in and out in five minutes, but I'm sure you'd be disappointed with that."

"Don't I know it," said Mrs. Smith quietly.

The photographer opened his briefcase and pulled out a portfolio of his baby pictures.

"This was done on the top of a bus," he said. "Oh my God!" Mrs. Smith exclaimed, grasping at her throat.

"And these twins turned out exceptionally well - when you consider their mother was so difficult to work with."

"She was difficult?" asked Mrs. Smith. "Yes, I'm afraid so I finally had to take her to the park to get the job done right. People were crowding around four and five deep to get a good look."

"Four and five deep?" said Mrs. Smith, her eyes wide with amazement.

"Yes", the photographer replied. "And for more than three hours, too. The mother was constantly squealing and yelling - I could hardly concentrate, and then darkness approached I had to rush my shots.

Finally, when the squirrels began nibbling on my equipment, I just had to pack it all in."

Mrs. Smith leaned forward. "Do you mean they actually chewed on your, uh, equipment?"

"It's true, Ma'am, yes.. Well, if you're ready, I'll set-up my tripod and we can get to work right away."

"Tripod?"

"Oh yes, Ma'am. I need to use a tripod to rest my Canon on. It's much too big to be held in the hand very long."

Mrs Smith fainted!

CUSSING

A 6 year-old and 4 year-old are upstairs in their bedroom. "You know what?" says the 6 year-old. "I think it's about time we started cussing".

The 4 year-old nods his head in approval. The 6 year-old continues, "When we go downstairs for breakfast, I'm gonna say something with 'hell' and you say something with 'ass'".

The 4 year-old agrees with enthusiasm.

When their mother walks into the kitchen and asks the 6 year-old what he wants for breakfast, he replies, "Aw hell Mom, I guess I'll have some Cheerios."

WHACK!

He flies out of his chair, tumbles across the kitchen floor, gets up, and runs upstairs crying his eyes out with his mother in hot pursuit, slapping his rear with every step. She locks him in his room and shouts, "You can stay in there until I let you out."

She then comes back downstairs, Looks at the 4 year-old and asks with a stern voice, "And what do YOU want for breakfast, young man?"

He looks at his mum and replies "Well you can bet your Ass it won't be Cheerio's."

The Irishman

An Irishman walks into a bar in Dublin, orders three pints of Guinness and sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn.

When he finished all three, he comes back to the bar and orders three more.

The bartender says to him, "You know, a pint goes flat after I draw it; it would taste better if you bought one at a time."

The Irishman replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in America, the other in Australia, and I'm here in Dublin. When we all left home, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days we all drank together."

The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there.

The Irishman becomes a regular in the bar and always drinks the same way: he orders three pints and drinks the three pints by taking drinks from each of them in turn.

One day, he comes in and orders two pints. All the other regulars in the bar notice and fall silent.

When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your great loss."

The Irishman looks confused for a moment, then a light dawns in his eye and he laughs. "Oh, no," he says, "Everyone is fine. It's me..."

"...I've quit drinking!"

TWO ELDERLEY GENTS

Two very elderly friends, Daniel and Gary, met in the park every day to feed the pigeons, watch the squirrels and discuss world problems. One day Gary didn't show up. Daniel didn't think much about it, figured maybe he had a cold or some such.

But after Gary hadn't shown up for a week or so, Daniel, really got worried. However, the only time they ever got together anymore (they used to play a lot of golf together) was at the park, and Daniel, couldn't remember where Gary lived, so he was unable to find out what had happened to him. A month passed and Daniel, figured old Gary had gone to his heavenly reward, but one day Daniel approached the park and, lo and behold, there sat Gary!

Daniel, was very excited and happy to see him and told him so! Then he said, "For crying out loud Gary, what happened to you? Gary, replied, "I have been in jail."

"Jail???", cried Daniel!! "What in the world for???"

"Well," Gary said, "You know Sue, that cute little blonde waitress at the coffee shop where we sometimes get coffee?" "Yeah" said Daniel, "I remember her. What about her?"

"Well one day last month she got mad at me and to get even, she charged me with rape. I was so proud of what everyone would think an old fart like me could still do, that when I got into court, I pled 'Guilty'.

The judge then took a good look at me and gave me 30 days for perjury."

MEMBERS COMPETITION

A £5 prize will be given to the member whose entry has the most correct answers. Even if you do no answer all the questions, send in those you have answered – you could still win!

USING ONE OF THE INITIAL LETTERS FROM EACH ANSWER WILL GIVE YOU THE NAME OF A FAMOUS LAKE

- 1/ Of the sister ships The Titanic, The Olympic and The Britannic which was the only one not to sink?
- 2/ Upon splitting up with her partner which actress said, "At least I can wear high heels again"?
- 3/ Costing 10/- in 1968 what was first introduced, and currently costs £135.50?
- 4/ What is the main ingredient of Guacamole?
- 5/ Where was Oscar Wilde imprisoned?
- 6/ On which circuit does the San Marino Grand Prix motor race take place?
- 7/ Which herb is used to flavour the sauce in pizzas?

Name:

Address:

Send Completed Forms To:
Mr D Henderson
74 Windermere Road
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 4LY

All entries to be received by the next social. The winner will be drawn from entries received with the highest number of correct answers.

Answers too last quiz:

- 1/ Eboracum 2/ Libra 3/ White City 4/ Indian 5/ Condor 6/ Kings Cross 7/ Huey 8/ Apples 9/ Rommel 10/ Topper