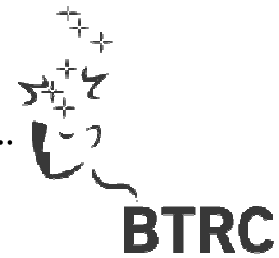


# BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

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23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2010

## BTRC REPRESENTATIVES MEET THE COMMONS SPEAKER AND SECRETARY OF STATE

Wendy Fulcher, Founder of Charing Cross hospital-based charity, Brain Tumour Research Campaign (BTRC) and fellow trustees: Kevin O'Neill (neuro-surgeon), Federico Roncaroli (neuro-pathologist) and Alexandra Drummond (brain tumour patient) met John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons who hosted a reception for Brain Tumour Research on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Wendy, Kevin, Federico and Alexandra were among 120 guests who included a cross party group of MPs, brain tumour patients and their families, celebrities, scientists, neuro-surgeons, clinicians and charity representatives.

In his welcome **John Bercow** said: "We need greater recognition of this disease and greater allocation of funding – currently it receives around 0.7% of cancer research funding and that isn't good enough, there is a long way to go."

**Ed Balls**, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families was also there. In his speech he said: "It is hard to imagine what it might be like to be diagnosed with a brain tumour. Many of the charities here today have been started by the families of children who have been diagnosed – it is inspiring to see something so positive be created from such difficult circumstances.

"I congratulate all the charities on their excellent work to fundraise for research to help prevent and treat brain tumours. I will be speaking to the Health Secretary, Andy Burnham, to represent the thoughts and feelings of this community."

Speaking on behalf of Brain Tumour Research **Wendy Fulcher**, Chair of the Umbrella Group and founder of the Charing Cross based charity Brain Tumour Research Campaign (BTRC) said:

'This was a unique occasion for us to let MPs in particular know about Brain Tumour Research. Those patients and families who have lost a loved one to a brain tumour want to see:

- More resources being allocated to vital research. Brain tumours, one of the most aggressive cancers, lose out compared to other cancers. For example, the National Cancer Research Institute spends less than two per cent of its research budget on brain tumours.
- A commitment by Government to help establish a working group to review how UK research funding is allocated across the different disease types.

'Over the last 30 years we have seen some real progress in preventing breast cancer, leukaemia and other cancers. Now we want to see similar progress in the prevention of brain tumours. 'Until people are affected either personally or through a relative or friend not everyone realises brain tumours can affect anybody. 'It's easy to bandy statistics but I wonder how many people realise that:

- 16,000 people each year are diagnosed with a brain tumour in the UK
- Brain tumours kill more children and people under 40 than leukaemia or any other cancer
- 20% of all cancers now spread to the brain
- Brain tumour research receives less than 1% (0.7%) of national cancer research spending in the UK

The Speaker's reception was an occasion when those present had the chance to elicit MPs' support to get the Government more closely involved on this crucial issue.'

### BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

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