

**BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH CAMPAIGN**



**NICE OR NASTY?**

A matter of days before Lord Darzi's draft NHS Constitution was published, BTRC founder Wendy Fulcher was debating some of the issues at the **Cheltenham Science Festival** - considered one of the best events of its kind in the world. Sponsored by the **British Pharmacological Society**, Wendy was on the podium, debating the prickly subject of how funds are distributed by **NICE** (the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) with none other than its Chairman, Sir Michael Rawlins. Wendy put forward the case for brain tumours, which - like most other "orphan drugs" - get a raw deal in the distribution stakes.



In a good-natured but lively discussion, ably moderated by former BBC producer, Malcolm Love, Sir Michael came under heavy fire from Wendy - and the audience - for NICE's lack of timeliness and transparency in appraising new drugs which leave British brain tumour patients lagging months if not years behind the rest of the developed world. Whilst no-one doubts that NICE has an unenviable task in deciding how to balance increasing demand with a finite "pot", a resounding plea was made to review the entire NHS funding stream and give brain tumour patients a better deal. It is gratifying to see that the draft Constitution recognises the need to end the "Postcode Lottery" and expedite appraisal of new drugs, working more closely with professionals and drug companies.

**AMBER BALL NETS £40,000**

The 5th BTRC Amber Ball was held at London's prestigious **Banqueting House**, thanks to generous sponsorship from Historic Royal Palaces and caterers Payne and Gunter. The former royal palace, famous for its magnificent Rubens ceiling, proved a wonderful setting for the ball which was attended by a host of celebrities including opera star **Lesley Garrett**, Holby City's **Robert Powell**, and many other personalities from TV and radio - not forgetting "King of the Jungle" **Christopher Biggins**, who hosted the auction. BTRC Clinical director, **Kevin O'Neill**, Consultant Neurosurgeon and Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at Imperial College NHS Trust spoke eloquently about the importance of supporting BTRC-funded research projects into the causes of malignant brain tumours especially since they "cause the greatest reduction in expected lifespan of any form of cancer". Over 360 guests, many from the hospitality industry and the medical professions, raised over £40,000 for BTRC on the night.



Lesley Garrett meets "James Bond"

**BTRC research project to be published**

As a trainee neurosurgeon, **Bob Homapour** decided to take a break to undertake research on brain tumours. He joined the BTRC research team at **Charing Cross Hospital** in 2007 on a PhD programme. Bob's project involves analysing brain cancer molecules to identify which ones can be targeted with chemotherapy and to improve patient survival by being able to diagnosis brain tumours earlier and follow up patients more effectively. Although in its early stages, the project has shown innovations in the microdialysis sampling technique by using intra-operative imaging technology. These results have been presented at an **Imperial College** research forum (Young Scientist Day) and have recently been submitted for publication in the journal of the **European Association of Neurological Surgeons** (EANS). This project complements another BTRC-funded PhD project run by **Dr Karolina Janczar**, which has discovered the presence of steroidogenic activity in glioma (one of the most common and fatal types of brain tumour). These surprising findings may explain why certain tumours do not respond to current chemotherapy treatments, and were presented at the recent meeting of the **American Association for Cancer Research** in San Diego.

*"This is the century of the brain"*

# MAGIC MOMENTS



Our supporters have been excelling themselves in the fundraising stakes, aided and abetted by the likes of magician **George Kinder** (left) who "magicked" donations out of guests at the Amber Ball, then came along to help at Charlotte Heath's ball at **Glorious Goodwood Racecourse** in memory of Catriona Nurse, a much loved local teacher. 220 guests drank the bar dry and raised an amazing **£20,000!** A final gift to top the night...a goody bag filled with wallpaper paste, what more could a ball girl want! Alastair Shiell's 12-mile **walk around Exeter**



**Green Circle** with Tamara and Molly the dog (right) in sweltering weather conditions raised about **£6,000** which will go towards funding a PhD research project into gliomas. **Marathon runners** in **Paris** (Phil Hatcher and Stephen Combes) and **Sheffield** (Matthew Martindale and Nico) raised over **£3,000** between them this year. Meanwhile, forthcoming fundraising activities range from the madly energetic, such as Rhona Gilmour who is entering **Balerno Ladies Triathlon** in October to the frankly mad - Miranda Murphy's **sponsored skydive** at the end of June at Headcorn airfield and Anna Lampard's **tandem parachute jump** at Redlands Airfield in Wiltshire on 31st August.

## The story so far....

Southgate Church May Day Fair	May 2008	£495
Glorious Goodwood Ball - Charlotte Heath	April 2008	£20,000
Sheffield half marathon - Matthew Martindale	April 2008	£1,660
Amalur Foundation donation	April 2008	£5,500
Catherine Cocking's Sponsored Slim	April 2008	£100
Paris Marathon - Phil Hatcher	April 2008	£700
Paris Marathon - Stephen Combes	April 2008	£1000
Amber Ball at Banqueting House	March 2008	£40,000
Christmas Card sales	December 2007	£587
SITE Christmas Lunch	December 2007	£500
Jim Dingwall's Elloughton 10k Road Race	September 2007	£145
Wildwood Golf Club Clothes Sale & Raffle	August 2007	£415
Ramsey Annual 1940's Weekend	August 2007	£400
Picnic in Battersea Park	August 2007	£420
PSCAL Summer Party Raffle	July 2007	£285

**Combined with past events and individual donations, the total raised so far is in excess of £360,000**



The **United Brain Tumour Campaign**, of which BTRC is a founder member, has formalised its campaign by registering as a charity, and has launched a £7 million appeal, targeted at large organisations and influential individuals. The campaign focuses on the woeful under-funding of brain tumour research compared with other cancers, and the desperate need for the balance to be redressed. Without detracting from BTRC's objectives, these funds will be awarded to a group of brain tumour research centres of excellence around the UK, each specialising in a particular field of research.

[www.braintumourresearch.org](http://www.braintumourresearch.org)

## 40'S NOSTALGIA

Every August, **Ramsey** in Cambridgeshire takes a trip back in time as it returns to the 1940s to remember the sights and sounds of this historic era. On the 16th and 17th of August, Ramsey will celebrate all things



Forties and has kindly promised to support BTRC as one of their charities again. The highlight is Saturday's 1940s dance, held in one of **RAF Upwood's** old aircraft hangars, where you can dance the night away to an authentic big band sound. The daytime will see a procession of vintage vehicles, living history displays, stalls, Forties fashion shows and other special events and shops will put on a 1940s window display.

## Brain Tumour Research Campaign

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BTRC acts in association with  
Way Ahead  
Reg. Charity No. 295895

## VOLUNTEERS

We urgently need people who can give a little of their time to help promote our cause.

Please contact  
[wendy@wayahead-btrc.org](mailto:wendy@wayahead-btrc.org)  
020 8601 2402

If you would like to support any of our fundraisers, we'll put you in direct touch with them - or better still, why not start a project of your own?

To assist your efforts, log onto [www.justgiving.com/btrc](http://www.justgiving.com/btrc) and create your own fundraising page.

Create a fundraising page with **justgiving**

## OTHER WAYS TO HELP

By adopting BTRC as one of your preferred charities

Take the time to understand & spread the word about this devastating disease and the need for research

Raise money - consider donating part of takings from any local fundraising events to BTRC

Consider Payroll Giving (Give as you earn) - are you willing to pledge a monthly amount ?

**We promise that 100% of funds raised go to the Projects & all administration costs are absorbed by trustees & volunteers.**