

The newsletter for supporters of the Cancer Vaccine Institute

## Message from the Chairman



Cancer Research UK recently reported that melanoma rates are on course to treble in the next thirty years, making it the fastest growing cancer in the UK. Unless it is caught early there is still no effective treatment. News like this makes it even more important for the CVI to fund vaccine research and it continues to be the main focus of our work.

During 2006 we will be developing vaccines for other tumours such as breast, brain and childhood cancers so that more patients can benefit, as Professor Dalglish outlines in his medical update.

This means we need to raise more funds than ever before! We are overwhelmed and extraordinarily grateful for the support and the enthusiasm that we receive as shown in this newsletter and we very much hope it will continue.

We have a number of initiatives planned as detailed in 'Fundraising News' including a Football World Cup Sweepstake which is fun and easy to organise especially at work. We also hope that some of you will want to join our team to participate in our first ever Overseas Challenge to trek along the Great Wall of China. We are still keen to recruit new Friends – its one of the best ways to support as it means we can confidently plan our research in the future.

Everyone at the CVI continues to be determined to fund cancer vaccine research and help patients like Kathy who describes her experience in this newsletter. With your support, together we can play a part in transforming the future of cancer treatment in the UK and have a major impact on survival rates.

Harry Cotterell – Chairman

## Helen Feather Laboratory opened



From left: Professor Angus Dalglish, Angela Feather and Harry Cotterell (Chairman) celebrate the official opening of the new Helen Feather laboratory

In February Angela Feather joined Professor Dalglish and Harry Cotterell at St. George's Hospital Medical School to cut the ribbon to officially open the recently refurbished Helen Feather laboratory named in memory of her daughter. Angela has supported the Cancer Vaccine Institute from the outset and has already raised over £350,000 through the Helen Feather Memorial Trust [www.helenfeathertrust.co.uk](http://www.helenfeathertrust.co.uk). The laboratory will be used to produce dendritic cells for the vaccines and is kitted out with specialist equipment

to achieve the necessary levels of cleanliness to ensure the cells are not contaminated with bacteria, fungi or viruses from the atmosphere before they are administered to patients. Within the laboratory cells are handled in sterile cupboards and stored in incubators to mature and do not leave the room until they are ready to go into the patient. High quality air filtering, double door entry and positive pressure so that air can flow out but not in, also ensure there is no contamination.

## Spreading the word – CVI's new leaflet

We are delighted to announce the production of our first information leaflet.

It offers a comprehensible overview of what the Cancer Vaccine Institute does and hopes to achieve.

If you would like receive some to give to people that might be interested in our work please get in touch with Emma Appleyard.



## Welcome to our new trustees

We are delighted to welcome on board two new trustees Peter le Conte and Lady Suzetta Rankin. Trustees are responsible for the governance of the charity and ensure that the CVI uses its funds wisely.



Peter le Conte lost his wife Belinda to Melanoma in 2004 after a three and a half year illness. Like many who have witnessed the progress that vaccine treatments are making, Peter is convinced of their long-term role in fighting cancer. Now happily remarried, Peter hopes to help raise awareness of the CVI and currently produces our newsletters and leaflets.

Suzetta Rankin lives in Scotland. Her husband Alick died from cancer in 1999. Watching cancer research from the sidelines over the last six years, she is convinced that vaccines will become the all-important deterrent in fighting this disease – as they have been for so many other diseases in medical history. Professor Dalglish's cancer vaccine programme today gives the world hope for tomorrow.

## Sharing research benefits medical and scientific community

Since our last newsletter in October, Professor Dalglish and his team have achieved four publications. If you would like to read these please visit [www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk) and search for "Pubmed". Once on the website search on Dalglish A. Publication is a term used by the medical and scientific community where the results of research are shared to enable other researchers to benefit from what has been learned so that cancer vaccine research can develop more quickly.

## Research Update From Professor Dalglish

*The main focus of our work continues to be the development of vaccines for malignant melanoma (skin cancer), now the fastest growing cancer in the UK. It is increasingly apparent that vaccines can also be used in combination with conventional treatments such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy to boost their effectiveness and reduce side-effects, an idea we are keen to investigate further.*

Based on our recent studies and other international research we are now in a position to start trials to develop vaccines for other tumours.

### Dendritic cell vaccine for malignant melanoma:

Over the last two years we have treated over thirty melanoma patients with aggressive stage IV disease, often who have failed chemotherapy. The positive finding from this study so far is that approximately half of patients develop stable disease and that this is associated with increased performance status. This is very similar to the results of colleagues in Europe and America. We aim to continue with this trial and to work on improving the significance and durability of responses to dendritic cell vaccines for melanoma. At least three ways of enhancing the response to this type of therapy have been indicated by basic research. The first is to give the dendritic cells an extra signal and several candidates are being tested for this, the second is to remove the regulatory T-cells which damp down the immune response to the cancer vaccine and the third is to expand and make more effective the killer T-cells that are induced by the vaccine. In addition to improvements in therapeutic protocol we aim to select a subgroup of patients who will benefit significantly from this treatment or to apply a combination therapy based on the biology of their disease.

### Cell based vaccine for malignant melanoma:

Over the last two years we have



Professor Angus Dalglish Bsc (Hons)  
MD FRACPath FRACP FRCP FMedSci

completed two large randomised studies using a cell based vaccine for melanoma, which unfortunately did not show a statistically significant difference between the vaccine arm and the control (BCG) arm alone. It was not that the vaccine arm did worse than expected but rather that the BCG arm, which is often used as a standard control, showed more activity than expected. We believe that this reflects a non-specific activation of immune responses and that in future more relevant controls may lead to clearer results. It is hoped that analyses of the bloods taken on this trial will allow a subset of patients, who clearly do benefit from the vaccine, to be identified. It should be noted that the results would be comparable to that expected for Herceptin, were it to be given to

all breast cancer patients, including those for whom the treatment is not clinically indicated. Therefore clarity in selection of patients and controls is clearly needed with regards this particular vaccine. From the patient's point of view, although the large randomised melanoma study just failed to meet its significant survival advantage, the most important aspect was that patients did better than expected and had a very good quality of life. Moreover, had this study not been running they would all have had Interferon, which has still not made a difference to survival in any formulation but has guaranteed depressive side effects for the years that it is given. We have recently geared up to commence two other major randomised vaccine projects in collaboration with European colleagues.

### Prostate cancer vaccine:

The facilities of the CVI have allowed us to initiate studies on a prostate cancer vaccine which is now being developed by Onyvax, a small biotech company that has successfully completed phase II studies. It has significant activity in patients who failed endocrine treatment and randomised studies are being scheduled to commence early 2006.

### Childhood cancers:

At the request of the Royal Marsden, we have been asked to apply this treatment to childhood cancers, such as neuroblastoma and osteosarcoma, as well as brain tumours. We have collaborated with John Anderson from Great Ormond

Street and put in a formal grant to the CRUK to apply this therapy to childhood cancers. Consequently we may be able to treat over half the patients in the UK who develop these tumours. We have treated three patients in a pilot study on an 'informed consent' basis and the second patient treated had a dramatic response to metastatic disease which was maintained for over a year.

### Breast cancer:

We have also been asked to supply a protocol for a dendritic cell vaccine for breast cancer treatment. There are many women with breast cancer who undergo two or three rounds of chemotherapy and still have residual disease that progresses very slowly. Our colleagues in Breast Oncology feel this group of patients are ideal for dendritic cell treatment and we have written a protocol which will be submitted to the Breast Cancer Campaign for co-funding with the CVI.

### Brain cancer:

Brain tumours have a high rate of relapse after chemo- and radiotherapy. Evidence from Europe and the USA suggests that dendritic cell vaccines can be therapeutic in such cases. It is our aim to collaborate with European colleagues, using the knowledge gained from our previous research, in a clinical trial to formalise this data.

For further information on any of our research projects please visit [www.cancervaccine.org.uk](http://www.cancervaccine.org.uk)

## Kathy Allen describes her combined surgery and vaccine treatment



I was first diagnosed with malignant melanoma in 1991 at the age of 27. The tumour was removed and after two years I was given the all clear. Ten years later I had a brain secondary which was successfully removed but eighteen months later tumours were found in my abdomen, lung and legs and I was declared terminally ill. I was prescribed chemotherapy but on questioning I discovered that it would not help. I was still young, had a husband and three children so I decided to get a second opinion. Terminal cancer was again confirmed. My oncologist suggested the cancer vaccine Mycobacterium trial and I am eternally grateful to him for this.

I went to Professor Dalglish in

January 2003 with twelve abdominal tumours as well as less significant ones in my leg and lung. Surgery followed to remove the tumours to increase the success of the vaccine. Shortly afterwards I had my first dose. The support from Professor Dalglish and his team was excellent. In between visits I had IL2 injections which I gave to myself at home to give myself maximum freedom. The effects were very mild. I would feel a bit run down every couple of weeks for a few days but it didn't affect my lifestyle. I just made sure to rest a bit more.

Over time, with clear scans and operations to remove the leg and lung tumours, the injections reduced and I was declared pretty healthy and tumour free. My life was good and

my family and I were recovering from our traumatic experiences. However, in 2004 two tumours appeared in my abdomen I was surprised and disappointed. The tumours were removed and now a year and a half later I am again tumour free.

I believe it is because of the cancer vaccine trial combined with the surgery that I am alive and well. I also strongly believe that a holistic approach is needed to support medicine. To be happy, well nourished and at peace makes an excellent environment for any treatment. In this way the vaccine is wonderful - it keeps you well and has the huge bonus of also being able to make you feel well.

# Thank you ... with a little help from our friends

The CVI wouldn't exist without your support. On behalf of everyone at the CVI we'd like to take the opportunity to say an enormous thank you to:

- Our forty **Friends** who donate in the best way possible. Giving regularly means that we can plan for the future safe in the knowledge that funding is secured.
- All those who donated to our **5th Birthday Appeal**
- All those who have donated in **memory** of a loved one
- We are grateful for the **legacies** we have received from Thomas Neate, David Fine and Richard Durlacher totalling £19,500

**To all those who have tirelessly fundraised on our behalf:**

- Donna Kinghorn organised another Karoke competition raising £2003.10
- Johnny and Tessa Goodhart and friends organised a Backgammon Tournament raising £6668.59 in memory of Mark Aldous.
- Dr Colin Brown has already raised £2059.73 from his incredible shrinking man sponsored slim – he has lost 92lb and plans to continue fundraising and slimming this year
- Stoke Brunswick school raised £5,030.38 in memory of their late teacher Heather Leszczynski
- Mrs Bland raised £285.25 from a sale in memory of Mark Aldous
- Mrs Miller-Ingham for donations in memory of David and Bernice Fine from the Bridge Club
- Mr A N C Bengough's Sweepstake raised £33
- Mrs Disley raised £1,354.45 through her annual Christmas sale
- Susan Hart continues to make and sell her hand crafted cards and has



Stoke Brunswick school raised over £5,000



Backgammon Tournament organised by Johnny and Tessa Goodhart and friends

- raised over £9,000. She plans to reach her target of £10,000 this year
  - Sue Payne £125.42 raised through her "stand" at Hampton Court
- To our sporting and challenging enthusiasts:**
- Melton Mowbray Rugby Club held the annual 'Tom Neal Memorial Trophy' in memory of Tom and raised £315
  - Mrs Grimsey's son has raised £533 from his sponsored climb
  - Andrew Douglas Miller raised an

- incredible £7,740 through his participation in the Great North Run in memory of his close friend Mark Aldous
- Catherine Enderby took part in the London Triathlon raising £1,060
- Mr Laing raised £130 from a tandem sky dive
- Mrs Plant and her five year old together raised £550 from their 10km, 5km and 2km runs
- Sponsorship has already started trickling in for Mary (Maz) Hurst, Emily Farquhar and Iona (Jimmy)



Andrew Douglas Miller raised over £7,500 in memory of his close friend Mark Aldous

Laing's challenge to cycle from Lake Geneva over the Alps to the Mediterranean sea to support the CVI and Hope HIV. For more details visit [www.cyclingmaddness.co.uk](http://www.cyclingmaddness.co.uk)

**To the Companies and Charitable Trusts** who have generously donated:

- Citrina Foundation
- Billmeir Trust
- Constance Paterson Trust
- Amberstone Trust
- The E M MacAndrew Trust
- The Schroeder Foundation
- Findel plc
- Thomson Financial
- Givaudan UK Ltd
- GKN Freight Services Limited
- Resolution plc

## How do we use your contributions?

We are approaching the end of our financial year in April 2006. The pie charts illustrate where our income came from and how it was spent.

**Income**



Charitable trusts/company donations	74%
Supporter fundraising	12%
In memory donations	6%
Individual donations	5%
Friends scheme	2%
Legacies	1%
Total	100%

**Costs**



Research team salaries	48%
Consumables	29%
Equipment and maintenance	2%
Other charitable costs	2%
Management, admin and fundraising costs	19%
Total	100%

## Fundraising News



### Contact us

If you would like further information about the CVI's work or about fundraising or donating please visit [www.cancervaccine.org.uk](http://www.cancervaccine.org.uk) or contact: Emma Appleyard, Fundraising Director on 0845 602 0662, [emma@cancervaccine.org.uk](mailto:emma@cancervaccine.org.uk)

Please send me information on:

- World Cup Sweepstake
- China Trek
- Christmas Cards
- Legacy Factsheet
- Hydro Active Women's Challenge
- Joining or setting up a fundraising group
- Take me off your mailing list

FREEPOST RLFX-KUKJ-RCZZ  
Cancer Vaccine Institute  
Rock Cottage  
Honey Lane  
Selborne  
ALTON  
GU34 3BZ

No stamp is necessary, but using one will save us money.

## FOOTBALL WORLD CUP 2006 - CVI SWEEPSTAKE

The Fifa World Cup 2006 kicks off in Germany on Friday 9th June. Teams from thirty-two countries will be battling it out to claim the title. **Here's your chance to join in the football fever, have some fun and support the CVI.** Taking part couldn't be easier. A pack is available which includes everything you need to organise a sweepstake at work or amongst your family, friends and neighbours. All you have to do is get up to 32 friends or work colleagues to pick a team out of a hat and contribute to the kitty for the privilege. At the end of the tournament on 9th July your sweepstake champion can claim half of the kitty and forward the rest to the CVI to fight cancer with vaccines. For a CVI Sweepstake pack contact Emma or visit [www.cancervaccine.org.uk](http://www.cancervaccine.org.uk)



The Cancer Vaccine Institute needs to raise at least £600,000 each year to fund its pioneering research work. That's £68 every hour. We can only do this with the support of people like you.

## CVI'S FIRST CHRISTMAS CARDS

The CVI is producing Christmas cards for the first time. We really hope you will support us and buy some. Ordering details will follow in our October newsletter but if you would like to register your interest now so that we can remind you nearer the time please get in touch - it will also help us to plan and order more efficiently!

## LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS

We now have forty CVI Friends - who together raise over £5,000 each year. We are really keen to build up this group as giving regularly in this way really does allow us to plan our research work more effectively since we know that funding is secured. Joining is from as little as £5 a month and in return we can offer a regular newsletter, priority booking for events, invitation to research updates, a chance to meet Professor Dalgleish and his team and a copy of our Annual Report. To find out more please contact Emma.

## LADIES ONLY

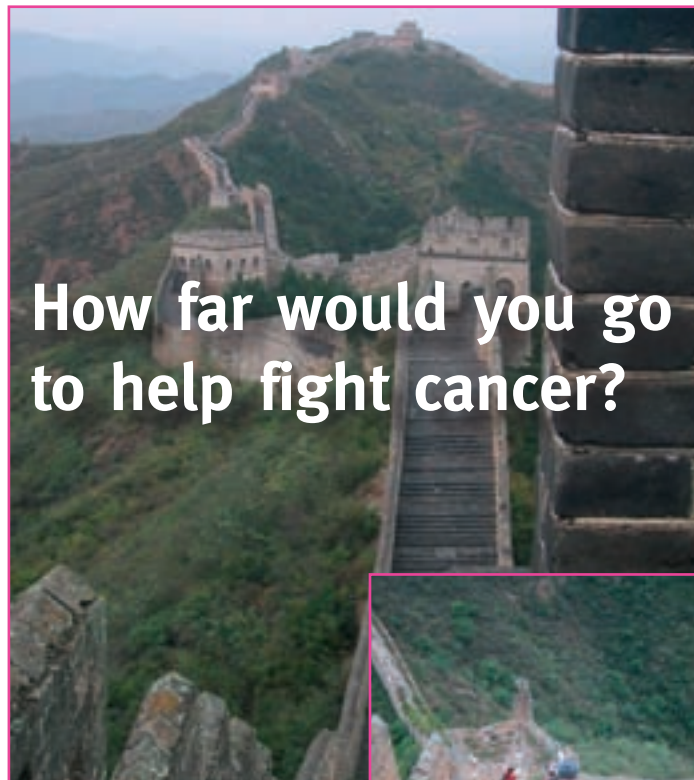
This year's incredibly popular Hydro Active Women's Challenge takes place on 3rd September in London (Hyde Park), Liverpool and Birmingham. It is one of the UK's largest participation fun runs and is strictly for girls only. The CVI will be entering a team and is hoping you would like to come and join us to run, jog or walk the 5k. Entry will start shortly and places run out quickly so please contact Emma as soon as possible.

## LEAVE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

We were so grateful to receive three legacies this year from Thomas Neate, David Fine and Richard Durlacher. Although they all sadly lost their fight with cancer the contributions they have made could help other patients in the future to win theirs. Leaving a Gift in your Will is one of the best ways that you can support us as it allows us to plan our research in the future. For our legacy fact sheet please contact Emma.

## The CVI Great Wall of China Trek 17-26 April 2007

In aid of the Cancer Vaccine Institute and the Eve Appeal



# How far would you go to help fight cancer?

The Cancer Vaccine Institute and the Eve Appeal (Ovarian cancer research) are organising their first ever dedicated Overseas Adventure specifically for our supporters - to trek along the Great Wall of China. Come and join our small team to experience an adventure of a lifetime and trek along one of the eight wonders of the World.

Starting on 17th April 2007 our 10 day trip will take us to some of the most spectacular and remotest sections of the wall and some of the most physically challenging to test your strength and stamina! The route is steeped in history and you'll be rewarded with spectacular scenery, stay in unspoilt villages, make new friends and experience a unique opportunity to discover the beauty, culture and ancient traditions of China that you will never forget. What is more every step you take will be helping to transform the future of cancer treatment and diagnosis in the UK. A minimum sponsorship of £2,700 would be required to cover all costs as well as a donation to the two cancer research charities. If you think you or anyone else you know might be interested in joining the CVI team please contact Emma as soon as possible for a registration pack or visit [www.cancervaccine.org.uk](http://www.cancervaccine.org.uk)

## SOUTH LONDON FUNDRAISING GROUP

The South London Fundraising Group met for the first time in January at St George's Hospital. Professor Dalgleish kindly gave a tour of the labs and an update on his research. The group brings together people who are interested in collectively raising funds for the CVI. They are working on ideas for appropriate events and gathering celebrity items for an on-line auction. Please do get in touch if you would like to join them or find out more. Alternatively, we are keen to set up similar groups around the country. If you are interested in setting one up please get in touch. We are happy to help in any way that we can and can even contact other potential CVI supporters in your area.