



THE HEALING FOUNDATION NEWS WINTER/SPRING 2009

£2 million for Cleft Research

Substantial donation gives green light to the Healing Foundation UK Centre for Cleft Research

The Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT), the UK awarding body associated with hairdressing and beauty therapy, has generously donated £2 million to the Healing Foundation in support of a major programme of research into the genetic and clinical aspects of treating cleft lip and palate. VTCT has previously supported The Healing Foundation UK Centre for Burns Research with a gift of £1 million.

This 10 year research investment, worth up to £5 million, will explore the genetic, clinical and broader therapeutic issues of cleft lip and palate. With a major 'Cleft Gene Bank' and a substantial 'Clinical Research Programme' envisaged, the programme will be the largest of its kind anywhere in

Europe. This initiative, which is the third major research centre developed and managed by the Healing Foundation, will be established at a leading University, in partnership with an NHS Clinical Cleft Unit. The application process will begin in the first quarter of 2009.

Cleft Lip and palate (CLP) is a condition affecting 1 in every 600 to 700 children born in the UK. Commenting on the donation, Professor Sir John Temple, the Healing Foundation Research Council Chairman, said "CLP is a distressing and sadly common birth defect. VTCT has shown their faith in the Foundation and commitment to the cause once again. This work will offer real hope for children and their families throughout the world."

Healing Foundation Facilities in Swansea Now Open



Newly built operating theatre adjacent to the Centre.



The Healing Foundation UK Centre for Burns Research at Morrison Hospital, Swansea.

The Healing Foundation UK Centre for Burns Research at Morrison Hospital, Swansea was 'handed over' to the Healing Foundation on October 27th 2008. Worth more than £5.3m, the state of the art clinical research facility represents the hospital's contribution to this £17m initiative which will also have an academic base at Cardiff University and includes the involvement of Swansea University. It is the UK's first and only major academic research centre dedicated to multidisciplinary research across the entire range of burn care. Professor Nick Topley assumed the role of Centre Director on September 1st for three years and will have overall operational responsibility. The VTCT Professor of Burn Injury Study will be in place by the end of next year and will lead research into the body's immunological response to burns to better understand how the life-threatening inflammation and infection problems that follow major burns can be overcome.

Healing Foundation Research Fellows

Erh-Hsuin Lim



The Healing Foundation, in association with the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery is pleased to support Erh-Hsuin's fellowship, investigating the production of optimal cartilage 'tissue scaffold' for plastic and reconstructive surgery. Cancer, trauma, degenerative disease and congenital craniofacial abnormalities can result in large cartilage tissue loss and significant disfigurement requiring reconstructive surgery. Current treatments include the use of tissue from the individual's body or prosthetic replacements but

there can be problems with these methods such as limited availability, infection, donor site morbidity and psychosocial disability. The aim of cartilage tissue regeneration is to replace the diseased tissue with new living tissue which is adapted to the individual needs of the patient. The intended outcome of this project could benefit patients with visible disfigurements as a result of cancer, trauma and congenital anomalies. Erh-Hsuin's period of funded research started in May 2008 at Imperial College, London and will last for one year.

Fabrice Rogge



Fabrice's research began in February 2008 at University College, London and the Royal Free Hospital and is funded by the Healing Foundation, in partnership with the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons. Fabrice is researching the engineering of skeletal muscle tissue to replace lost muscle function. The creation of new muscle is very appealing as newly built muscle could be 'tailored' to its intended site and function, resulting in better and more predictable results. It also means that other, healthy muscle may not need to

be sacrificed. It will also help patients with conditions such as facial palsy where the facial appearance is altered by the weakness of muscle tone causing drooping of facial features. Fabrice's research will last for one year.

Kishan Sokhi



Dr Kishan Sokhi was awarded the Healing Foundation/Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh two-year Research Fellowship in February 2008. Kishan is researching the use of tissue engineering of growth plates to treat limb deformity. Disfiguring childhood limb deformities are often the result of the dysfunction of the growth plate, specialised cartilage which lies either end of long bones and which determines the future length and shape of the mature bone. If tissue engineered growth plates produce lengthways growth sufficient for bone

elongation, they may be transplanted into limbs to correct bone deformity. The development of these tissue-engineering techniques would contribute a vital first step in the future management of limb deformity resulting in a paradigm shift in the treatments of children with growth disorders.

Research Fellows Update

Sam Bella, Healing Foundation Research Fellow in Aesthetic Surgery (supported by BAAPS), is studying the genetic link in keloid scarring, one of the rarest and most disfiguring types of scarring in humans. Earlier in the year, Sam presented his work at the Sudanese Association of Surgeons conference in Khartoum, Sudan. More recently, he presented at the prestigious 1st European Congress of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons in Madrid representing the UK in the category of 'Best in Europe in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery'. Sam began his research in February 2007 and has received a one year extension to his funding to enable him to complete a PhD.

Joe Hardwicke, Healing Foundation/Wales Office of Research and Development (WORD) Fellow is investigating cellular responses in impaired wound healing. Joe has recently had his paper published in the respected "Journal of Controlled Release" and by "The Surgeon". Joe has also had his funding extended for another year in order to complete a PhD.

Darryl Dunn, Healing Foundation/Michael Brough Research Fellow, is now concluding his work, researching new methods to predict the spread of malignant melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer. Darryl's research has so far resulted in two first author publications with a further two in preparation.

Healing Foundation Centre at the University of Manchester: Update

The Healing Foundation team is already beginning to make a significant contribution to the understanding of wound healing, with investigators using a variety of model systems including, frogs, mice and fruit flies to explore their unique ability to regenerate lost limbs and heal wounds without scars. The Healing Foundation Centre is attracting scientists of exceptional calibre; Dr Tom Millard (pictured below) joined the team in 2008 as the third group leader. He is focusing on defining how epithelial cells repair wounds in the *Drosophila* (fruit fly) model. Ms Yaoyao Chen has been joined by three PhD students from the University of Beijing; Ms Yanan Zhao, Ms Jing Jing Li (kindly funded by The George Davies Charitable Trust) and Mr Siwei Zhang began their studies in October, funded by the Healing Foundation. Dr Roberto Paredes, whose research focuses on how blood vessels regenerate in the wounded frog embryo and who was previously funded by the Wellcome Trust, is now also supported by a Healing Foundation award. Within the next five years, the Centre will host between 6 to 8 groups working with the common goal of improving our understanding of wound healing and tissue regeneration, using a variety of model organisms.



Executive Appeal Team Expands

The Healing Foundation is delighted to announce that the newly knighted Sir Stuart Rose, Executive Chairman and Chief Executive of Marks and Spencer has made further additions to his Executive Appeal Team. Joining him in fundraising for the Foundation are; Sir Martin Sorrell, Founder and Chief Executive of one of the world's largest advertising companies, WPP; Mr Jeremy Darroch, Chief Executive of BSkyB Ltd; Mr Andrew Grant, Founder of Tulchan Communications and Mr David Ross, Co-founder of the Carphone Warehouse.



Sir Stuart Rose, Appeal Chairman



Sir Martin Sorrell



Jeremy Darroch

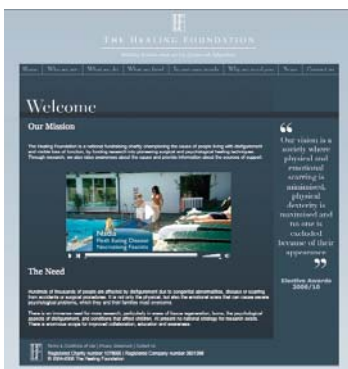


Andrew Grant

Final Report for Media Project Released Soon

The final report for the Healing Foundation project, 'Media coverage and audience reception of people with disfigurement or visible loss of function,' will be published in February 2009. The research, carried out by Dr Tammy Boyce and Dr Clare Wardle at Cardiff University and funded by the Healing Foundation and the Wales Office of Research and Development (WORD), examines the role of television in representing disfigurement and considers how representations might be improved. In particular, the study examines how television representations of disfigurement are produced (how programme making decisions are made), the nature of those representations and the response to those representations of people both with, and without, a personal experience of disfigurement.

The report will provide an important, empirically driven starting point for a more productive dialogue with programme makers about ways of representing disfigurement more positively.



New Website Launched

The Healing Foundation website is being relaunched this winter with a new look and even more information about our broad

programme of research. The main website will, in due course, be linked to The Healing Foundation Centre at the University of Manchester and The Healing Foundation UK Centre for Burns Research. Other projects and fellowships will also be featured on the website with details on their individual research projects. To find out more, visit www.thehealingfoundation.org.

New Healing Foundation Awards

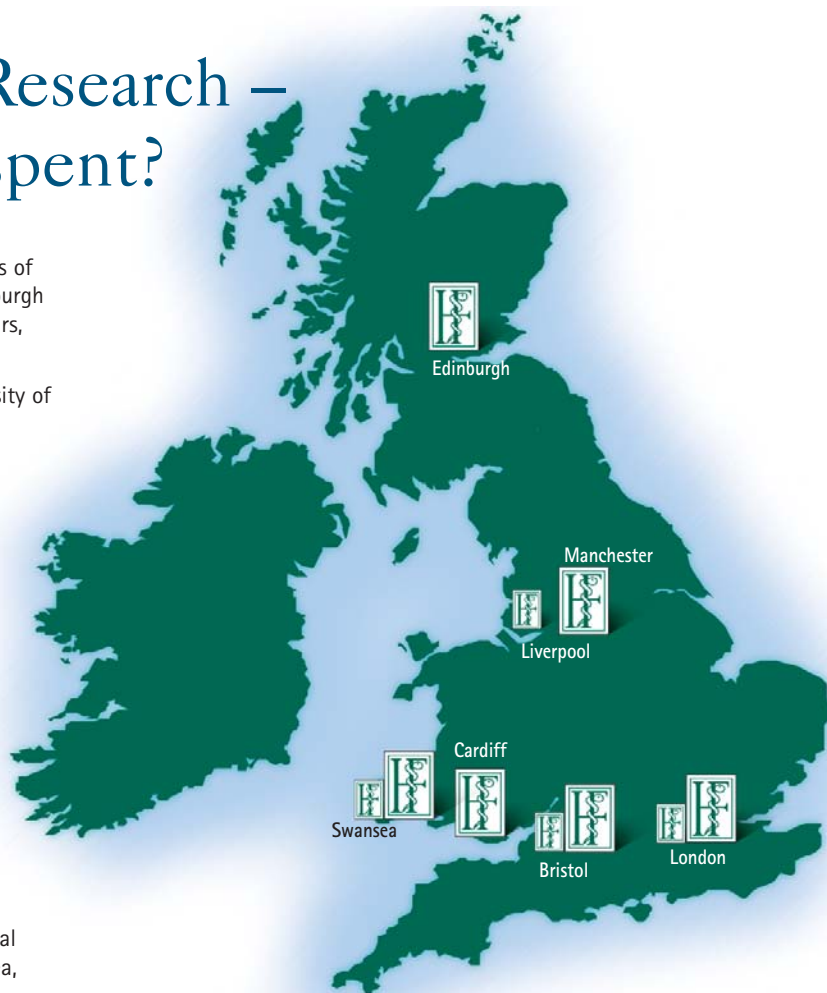
The Healing Foundation, in partnership with Principal Members; British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS), British Society for Surgery of the Hand (BSSH), British Burn Association (BBA), and Craniofacial Society of Great Britain and Ireland (CFSGB&I) is offering students and medical students the chance of a funded 'elective' period in the UK or Ireland to participate in research.

The awards, each worth up to £1,200 towards personal expenses, will allow students to broaden their perception and experience in their chosen area of research. Various awards are available and are applicable to medical students, nursing students, therapy students and others associated with allied health professional studies. Further details and an application pack can be downloaded from the Healing Foundation website.



Healing Foundation Research – Where is the money spent?

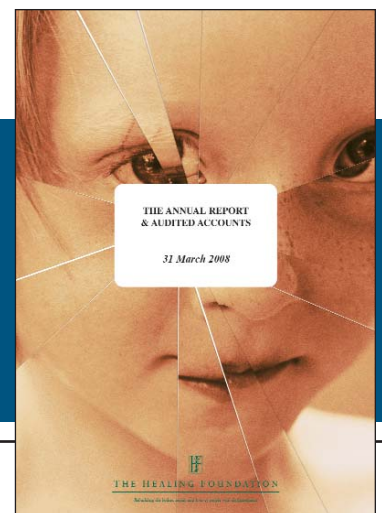
- Edinburgh** Healing Foundation/Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Clinical Research Fellowship, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, up to £50,000 pa for two years, ends in September 2010.
- Manchester** The Healing Foundation Centre at the University of Manchester, £5,000,000 over 25 years.
- Manchester** The Healing Foundation Surgical Research Fellowship in Aesthetic Surgery, in partnership with BAAPS and supported by ICAP, University of Manchester, up to £50,000 pa for three years, ends February 2010.
- Liverpool** The Healing Foundation/CFSGB&I, Medical Student Elective Award 2008, School of Dentistry, University of Liverpool, £1,200.
- Swansea** The Healing Foundation/CFSGB&I, Medical Student Elective Award 2008, School of Medicine, University of Wales, Swansea, £1,200.
- Cardiff/Swansea** The Healing Foundation UK Centre for Burns Research, Cardiff University, Morriston Hospital Swansea and the School of Medicine, Swansea, £5,000,000 over 20 years.
- Cardiff** The Healing Foundation/Wales Office of Research and Development Surgical Research Fellowship in Wound Healing, Cardiff University, up to £50,000 pa for three years, ends June 2009.
- Bristol** The Healing Foundation Psychological Project, Centre for Appearance Research, University of the West of England, three and a half years, £500,000 total spend, ends April 2009.
- Bristol** The Healing Foundation/BAPRAS, Medical Student Elective Award 2008, University of Bristol, £1,200.
- London** The Healing Foundation/CFSGB&I, Medical Student Elective Award 2008, Department of Language and Communication Science, City University, London, £1,200.



- London** The Healing Foundation/BSSH Surgical Research Fellowship, Kennedy Institute for Rheumatology, Imperial College, London, up to £50,000 for two years, ends October 2009.
- London** The Healing Foundation/BAPRAS Surgical Research Fellowship, Department of Materials and Institute of Biomedical Engineering, Imperial College, up to £50,000 over one year.
- London** The Healing Foundation/BAPRAS Research Project Award, Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering Centre, University College London, up to £50,000 for one year, ends January 2010.

Healing Foundation Annual Report 2007/08

Available from the Healing Foundation Office or
downloadable from www.thehealingfoundation.org



THE HEALING FOUNDATION

Rebuilding the bodies, minds and lives of people with disfigurements

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