

DAWN GOES TO PERU



Last September Dawn Cameron, whose father is a patient at RICE, took part in the Peru Trek. Dawn raised well over the minimum sponsorship and organised a meal at Yum Yum Thai in Bath to help fund the trip. She told us that she had an amazing time and gave us this photo to prove it! Thanks to everyone who supported Dawn in her efforts. Well done Dawn.

PERU TREK & CHINA CHALLENGE 2007

RICE is working with Skyline, charity event organisers for its overseas challenges in 2007. We are looking for adventurous people to trek in China along part of The Great Wall - one of the wonders of the world or go to Peru and learn more about ancient Peruvian culture. Dates are 27th April - 6th May for Peru and 12th - 21st May for China. Take the RICE challenge and help to fund our important research. Contact RICE for a pack.

A BIG THANK YOU

The Institute would like to thank the following organisations for their recent support:-

Albert Hunt Trust, Bath Weston Townswomen's Guild, Haseltine Lake, Higgs Trust, Kobler Trust, Mogers, Murphy-Neumann, Oakdale Trust, Old Time Sequence Dance, Rainford Trust, Raven Pub, Salford Evening WI, Schroder Charity Trust, Sperring Charity, Stella Symons Charitable Trust, Woolf Charitable Trust, North Bradley, Southwick and Heywood PCC.

Generous Rugby Supporters help RICE

The recent match between Bath Rugby Club and Montpellier was a winner for Bath and for RICE. Supporters dug deep in their pockets and donated over £1700 for RICE. Thank you to them and all our collectors including Bath Area Rag students.

STREET COLLECTIONS (Flag days) 2007

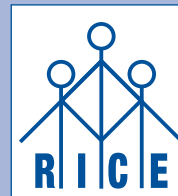
Thank you to everyone who helped collect during 2006 we raised over £2000. We have 8 collections this year. Please could you donate an hour of your time to help us? The dates are:

Midsomer Norton	23rd February
Shepton Mallet	3rd March
Trowbridge	21st April
Tesco Wells	5th May
Frome	12th May
Bath	19th May
Wells	9th June
Bradford on Avon	22nd September

Please telephone 01225 835866 to help us collect.

Bath Half Marathon

We wish all our runners the best of luck on 25th March especially our Director Professor Roy Jones who hung up his running shoes some years ago and has come out of retirement for this event. You can sponsor him and send a donation to RICE using the enclosed form or go to www.rice.org.uk where there is an option to donate on-line. Those taking part include Bath and North East Somerset Council Leader, Paul Crossley, Danny Rainbow, Nigel Hamilton, Sue and Emma Phillips, Graham Burrett and Scott Fulton. GOOD LUCK!



The Research Institute for the Care of the Elderly

No. 23

Newsletter

Spring 2007

A REVIEW OF THE NICE GUIDELINES AND 'NOT SO NICE' GUIDANCE

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has two different roles relevant to people with dementia. The first is to provide 'technological guidance' to NHS funders such as primary care trusts on prescription drugs within the NHS. The second is to produce guidelines on the best management of a particular condition.

In 2001 NICE issued guidance that recommended the drugs Aricept, Exelon and Reminyl should be made available to people with mild and moderate Alzheimer's disease (AD). In 2004 they began to review this and also considered a fourth drug Ebixa used to treat moderately severe to severe AD. They also started to develop a guideline for the management of dementia.

In November, after much criticism, NICE recommended that Aricept, Exelon and Reminyl should only be available within the NHS for people with moderate AD, and based rigidly upon a score between 10 and 20 on the Mini Mental Test (MMSE) that is used routinely to assess people with Alzheimer's disease. The technology committee, with no experience of prescribing these drugs or seeing their benefits, accepted that the drugs were effective in mild Alzheimer's but based its decision

on cost. It also recommended that Ebixa, the only drug available for severe AD should not be available at all.

At the same time it published the much welcomed guidelines on the management of dementia. In contrast to the drug guidance, NICE recognized the important social consequences of dementia and worked with the Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE). Also, unlike the drug guidance, the guideline was developed by experts on dementia including our Director, Professor Jones, as well as patients and carers. The guideline group opposed the guidance committee's recommendations urging it to reconsider but under NICE rules the drug guidance must be included unchanged within the management guidelines.

Sadly the NICE guidance is wrong, based on economic models and the information that is inappropriate, and out of date, and denies many thousands of vulnerable people with dementia and their family's four effective treatments. As a result one of the drug companies and the Alzheimer's Society have taken the unprecedented decision to challenge NICE as part of a judicial review. Watch this space...

Take the RICE Memory Week Challenge

Thanks to support from Bath-based solicitors Mogers, Memory Week 2007 is 5 -11th March. This event, suitable for all ages, is important because it raises awareness and vital funds for our work.



Taking part is easy, and good fun too – test your skills against colleagues, family and friends. First decide if you want to do all three memory challenges; they include a list of words, images and a multiple-choice quiz. Then depending on which you choose, each person looks at the words and/or images and then lists all they can remember. The quiz tests your general knowledge. The person in each group with the highest score will receive the "Memory Master" certificate.

Help support research into Alzheimer's disease. Please take the RICE Challenge and encourage your family and friends to take part as well. Challenge packs are available at www.rice.org.uk or Tel 01225 835866

Talks

We are regularly contacted to give talks about our work to local groups/organisations. If you would like us to talk to your group this year please contact us: - 01225 835866

The Research Institute for the Care of the Elderly

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Word Finding Study



Louise Pryer, our new research psychologist is looking for people with Alzheimer's disease to help her with a new study.

Word finding difficulties are a major and frustrating aspect of Alzheimer's disease. Previous work has shown that a type of therapy called Errorless Learning can help patients

re-learn the names of objects or people. Recent research has shown significant improvements after ten sessions of two types of therapy, Errorless and Errorful learning.

In Louise's study, participants will initially undergo two to three sessions to establish words which they have difficulty naming. The therapy sessions then consist of two sessions a week for five weeks (each session is a minimum of an hour).

Testing can take place at RICE or at home, please contact Louise on 01225 835866 for more information.

Medical professionals attend RICE conference in Bath.

RICE recently hosted its second annual conference in collaboration with consultants from the Older People's Services Department at the Royal United Hospital (RUH). 60 medical professionals attended the event to learn more about improving health care for older people, particularly for those with memory problems, dementia or at risk from falls.

Professor Roy Jones, Director of RICE chaired the conference and welcomed delegates from across the south of England and Wales. His co-chair was Dr Chris Dyer, Consultant in Elderly Medicine at the RUH.

Invited speakers included internationally renowned Professor Philip Scheltens, Professor of Cognitive Neurology and Director of the Alzheimer Centre at the Vrije Universiteit Medical Centre in Amsterdam and Professor John Hodges, Professor of Behavioural Neurology at the University of Cambridge.

Professor Jones discussed the implications of the recent NICE ruling regarding drug treatments for people with Alzheimer's disease. Other topics included the management of pain in people with Parkinson's disease, drugs in routine use that may sometimes make memory worse, and measuring the quality of life for a person with dementia.

The annual conference is an important event in the RICE calendar because it gives medical professionals the opportunity to hear and discuss current research findings.

Mayor Takes Memory Challenge

In January we were pleased to welcome the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Bath Councillor Carol Paradise. She came to see for herself the work that we do and to help us launch 'Memory Week Challenge' 2007.



The Mayor chatting to Friends Co-ordinator Brenda Clayton



RICE welcomes Nicolle

We are pleased to introduce our new research nurse who joined us in January.

Originally from Perth, Western Australia Nicolle Appleton trained at the University of the West of England and has a degree in adult nursing.

Before she joined us she worked on an older people's ward at the Royal United Hospital. Nicole tells us that she has a keen interest in research particularly nutrition and enjoys working with older people. Look out for her next time you visit us.



Join the RICE 300 Club today!

We still need members, so if you haven't already joined please do – your membership helps to fund our research. Existing members who joined a year ago need to renew their membership. Members pay £12 a year to be entered in a monthly draw; the more members, the more money we can give out in prizes and more to fund our work. All you need to do is:-

- Use the donation form to make an annual standing order of £12
- Or
- Send us a cheque made payable to RICE for £12 and put 300 Club on the back

The next draw will be at the end of February.

The Friends of RICE

The annual 'Memory Trail' raised over £1,753. Well done and thank you to all the participants and sponsors of this happy annual event. We would also like to thank James Methuen Campbell, owner of Corsham Court, the Bath Spa Hotel for the prize for the most raised, Cascade Drinks for providing water and to Richard Squires who planned the walk.

The Friends raised £409.10 at the Charity Fayre in the Guildhall just before Christmas and two of the prize-winners were RICE supporters, winning the first prize of £75 and the Christmas Hamper.

Last year we sold Christmas cards in Sloane Square, London as well as in Bath, Frome and Wells and we expect increased income from these sales. Volunteers are needed to help in these shops in December 2007. Please contact the Friends.

Legacies

Last year we received legacy gifts of over £58,000 from people who included RICE in their will. Sometimes these people have relatives who have benefited from our work and although it is too late to thank these people we do appreciate their kind thoughts and are very grateful. If you are thinking about adding a gift to RICE in your will and would like to discuss this please contact RICE Fundraiser Tricia Mugridge. All enquiries are treated in strictest confidence.

In Memoriam Gifts In Lieu Of Flowers

We are extremely grateful to have received gifts from the family and friends of patients and others who have died this year. Please accept our condolences and our thanks for these gifts in memory. They make a difference to RICE and help fund our research into Alzheimer's disease and related conditions.



Debbie Howcroft with her Masters Degree Certificate

NEED SOME LEGAL ADVICE?

FOR DETAILS ABOUT SOLICITORS FOR THE ELDERLY CALL IN OR TELEPHONE RICE ON 01225 835866 FOR SOLICITORS IN YOUR AREA