

Circulation Foundation Report

Chair: Mr Ian Franklin

When we set about repositioning the Circulation Foundation we aspired to nurture a renaissance of vascular research in the UK. Three years later that goal is slowly becoming a reality. Under the guidance of Professor Shervanthi Homer Vanniasinkam the Research Committee has helped make sure the Circulation Foundation funds are awarded to trainee surgeons and young consultants doing the highest quality work. We have awarded over half a million pounds over the last two years and the Circulation Foundation awards have become very prestigious with strong competition for each one.

The awards are designed to support vascular surgeons at critical stages in their careers: during the higher degree (the Surgeon Scientist Award), during the period of clinical training after completion of the MD/MS (the George Davies Visionary Award) and during the first five years of consultant appointment (the President's Early Career Award). The CF is the only British charity dedicated to supporting young vascular surgeons as well as funding the highest quality research into vascular disease.

The research we fund is multifaceted. Some projects are laboratory based investigating basic mechanisms of vascular disease. Others are entirely clinical such as the President's Early Career award this year won by Rob Hinchliffe to study diabetic foot disease and prevention of foot ulceration.

As well as our commitment to fund research and support young vascular surgeons we also play an important role providing information and support to patients and those affected by vascular disease. Over 100 000 patient information leaflets have been distributed. The website is visited more than ever before. You can follow us on Twitter. Please visit our Facebook page, the more likes we attract the more attention and awareness we achieve.

Heartfelt thanks go out to all those who made such efforts to raise funds for us in 2013. Vascular Disease Awareness Week 2013 was our most successful ever with over 130 events organised around the country. In addition we had golf days, parachute jumps, marathons, cycling trips, walks and triathlons all to raise money for our vascular community. Saying "thank you" to all those who made all this effort seems inadequate, but we are hugely grateful to you and will make sure the money you raised is wisely and effectively spent. Details of many of these events are in the annual report, in our newsletters and online.

We are also most grateful to the increasing numbers of Rouleaux Club members who have taken out regular standing orders to support the Circulation Foundation. Such expressions of support from within the vascular community make it much easier for us to approach philanthropists for donations.

For Vascular Disease Week 2014 we've dropped the word awareness to reflect a more serious intent to raise much needed funds. We are asking you all to organise events which involve getting people moving to reduce their vascular risk and raise funds at the same time, we have chosen the themes of walking, dancing and golf to provide a wide range of options. Our goal is 100 events around the country, with 25 participants, each raising £20 each. We have a comprehensive fundraising guide, with details on how to organise your event, resources and how to maximise your donations. All information and our "Event in a Box" will be available at the Circulation Foundation stand in the trade fair.

The theme of Vascular Disease Week will be avoiding unnecessary amputations with events already being planned including a joint meeting of the Circulation Foundation, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Vascular Disease and Diabetes UK scheduled for the Palace of Westminster Terrace on Wednesday 19th March 2014.

I end with a specific request. A high proportion of our income has historically come from remarkably generous legacies. We have produced high quality brochures and leaflets describing what we do and outlining how make donations or how to pledge a legacy. The best time to approach individuals on such matters is after successful surgery. Please keep a stock of our brochures in your clinics and give them to patients on discharge, and suggest that if they are pleased with their vascular treatment they might like to consider supporting us in some way.