

Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund

You've topped £10 million for research!

This year you helped us reach a remarkable milestone: funding committed to supporting research has topped £10 million! To say we are hugely grateful for your support is such an understatement – it's an amazing achievement and is a testament to the incredible hard work and dedication of supporters all over the UK and Ireland.

The £10 million figure includes 52 pioneering research projects to date and the PCRF Tissue Bank – the first of its kind in the world. We often say that we're a small charity with huge ambition and the Tissue Bank is no better proof of that!

You've funded projects to understand pancreatic cancer better that will pave the way for new treatments and projects that have discovered potential new drug targets. You've enabled researchers to test exciting new immunotherapy approaches and to develop

a 'liquid biopsy' to help personalise new treatments to individual patients. One new treatment has reached clinical trials and you've enabled a potential world first early diagnostic test from urine.

2018 sees seven exciting new projects start (see p2). Worth over £1 million, they include new imaging techniques for early detection and a pilot clinical study that we hope will help bring a new treatment to the UK that's not currently available here.

Cannabinoid extends survival of mice with pancreatic cancer

Research supported by PCRF reports that mice with pancreatic cancer survived almost twice as long if a constituent of medicinal cannabis was added to their chemotherapy treatment.

Cannabis plants contain over 100 active chemicals called cannabinoids. The study tested the impact of one of these, cannabidiol (CBD), when combined with the chemotherapy drug gemcitabine.

The study showed that CBD blocks the activity of a protein produced by a gene known as



Professor Marco Falasca

Collaboration is key

On top of all the other news in this issue, it's great to be able to tell you about two exciting collaborations we've undertaken this year. To enable an important research project that was above our maximum grant amount to take place, we've teamed up with the charity Worldwide Cancer Research to co-fund the project led by Dr Angus Cameron at Barts Cancer Institute (see p2).

We've also supported the launch of a new community group in Northern Ireland, NIPanC, with our charity colleagues at Pancreatic Cancer Action. NIPanC formalises a long-standing collaboration between supporters of both charities in Northern Ireland and we have no doubt it will provide invaluable support for families affected by pancreatic cancer, as well as raising awareness of the disease and the urgent need for more research funding. You can read more about NIPanC and its Patron – an actor born in Hollywood, County Down, but who's now a film star in Hollywood, USA – on p2.

Maggie Blanks, PCRF Founder

"Your continued support is making progress possible on so many fronts. Thank you!"

New PCRF-funded research projects starting in 2018



Professor Peter Friend
University of Oxford

Prof Friend will conduct a pilot study treating 20 pancreatic cancer patients with high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) to kill cancer cells and help manage pain. HIFU is not available in the UK, so the study will help determine whether a larger clinical trial should be considered.



Dr Claire Wells
King's College London

Building on previous PCRF-funded research, Dr Wells will test two different drugs developed to block the activity of a protein called PAK4, which is believed to help pancreatic cancer to spread to other tissues.



Dr Angus Cameron
Barts Cancer Institute, Queen Mary University of London

In a project co-funded with Worldwide Cancer Research, Dr Cameron aims to prevent healthy pancreas cells from helping cancer to grow and become resistant to treatment. In doing so, he hopes to be able to predict whether immunotherapy treatments that work with other cancers can help with pancreatic cancer.



Dr Bart Cornelissen
University of Oxford,
Dr Cornelissen will test his new imaging techniques which could be used with hospital PET scanners to detect the presence

and position of pancreatic cancer tumours earlier and faster. He will also test if this technique can determine whether chemotherapy treatment is working.



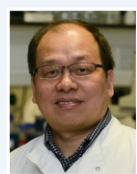
Professor John Marshall
Barts Cancer Institute, Queen Mary University of London,

Prof Marshall hopes to demonstrate a new, effective way of preventing pancreatic cancer from growing by blocking a particular molecule that sits on the cell surface of many types of pancreatic cancer.



Dr Mairéad McNamara
University of Manchester / The Christie NHS Foundation Trust

Some early stage pancreatic tumours have genetic mutations similar to others that are treatable with drugs. Dr McNamara will examine samples from patients with later stage disease to see if this similarity is present. This will inform which patients might benefit from trials of new drugs to target these mutations.



Professor Yaohe Wang
Barts Cancer Institute, Queen Mary University of London

Prof Wang has created a library of immune cells which find and attack cancer cells that show certain genetic 'markers'. This could lead to a

NEW PATRON: CARIAD LLOYD

We're pleased and proud to announce that actress, comedian and writer, Cariad Lloyd, has joined Jo Hansford MBE as a patron of PCRF. Cariad's father died of pancreatic cancer when she was a teenager and she has been fundraising for PCRF in her spare time, including an appearance on BBC1's Pointless Celebrities where she reached the final, alongside her friend, the comedian Helen Lederer.



NIPanC launches

A new community group to promote better outcomes for pancreatic cancer patients in Northern Ireland has launched with the support of both PCRF and Pancreatic Cancer Action (PCA). Supporters of both charities have been collaborating for several years and NIPanC formalises this partnership to support patients and their families, promote awareness among medical professionals and provide funds for research.

Locally-born actor Jamie Dornan, who lost his mother to pancreatic cancer in 1998, is the patron of NIPanC, alongside his father, Professor James Dornan, as President.



Kerry Irvine (L) and Susan Cooke (R)

PCRF's Chief Executive, Maggie Blanks, said: "It's fantastic to see the wonderful collaboration between supporters of PCRF and PCA developing into NIPanC. I'd especially like to acknowledge our supporter Susan Cooke and



Jamie Dornan (R) with sister, Sophie, & father, James.

PCA supporter Kerry Irvine for their hard work and dedication over the years. We're extremely proud of their achievements and have no doubt that NIPanC will go from strength to strength."

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Supporters Conference

Our Supporters Conference in London welcomed over 150 supporters, many of whom were attending for the first time. Delegates had the

opportunity to chat to researchers, as well as hearing presentations about the progress of their exciting projects. As ever, delegates kept the researchers on their toes with their particularly insightful questions! We took the opportunity once again to invite delegates to donate blood,

saliva and/or urine for the PCRF Tissue Bank as healthy 'control' samples. These are a valuable resource for researchers, alongside samples donated by pancreatic cancer patients. The next conference will be in November 2019 – we'd love to see you there!



Why I support PCRF

Supporter Will Chiles talks about his involvement with the charity

Christmas 2014. Our two boys (18 & 22) were living the dream in New Zealand and my wife, Claire, just didn't feel quite right. She'd lost her appetite and had backache.

Early January. See the doctor: "Sounds digestion-related." Tests planned. Wait. Pain remains. See another doctor. February passes.

March. Claire had gallstones in her youth - let's get it checked. Join NHS queue. Doctors say "Go to A&E if the pain gets worse." We go to A&E - we can't live like this. Go private for diagnosis: "Remove the gallbladder" - but NHS wait is 18 months. Tears of pain and frustration. Morphine prescribed.

06 April. Prepped for private operation, but surgeon says "There's a shadow on the MRI". Op cancelled. Biopsy. The world's got serious now.

17 April. Throwing tablets back up. Back to A&E. Admitted.

20 April. Pancreatic cancer confirmed. Devastated, but we'll fight! Morphine now on a driver. Can't start chemo - blood count's too high. Stent inserted, but doesn't help. Claire's tired, losing more weight.

22 May. Claire's home but is vague and slow. She seems lost.

23 May. Claire needs hospital treatment. She walks out of the house and into the car. It



would be for the last time. Oncology Ward. She sleeps. We talk to her, hoping. Can't accept it. The boys are now on first flight home.

25 May. Exactly 5 weeks from diagnosis, Claire passes away aged 50. A petite, non-smoking vegetarian who everyone adored. The boys are given the news in Heathrow Terminal 2 the next day.

So why support PCRF? Obvious really. No one should go through what Claire went through. It's a savage disease. We want research for earlier diagnosis and a cure, to give others a chance.

We've raised £10,000 for PCRF with quiz nights, Christmas events, auctions, raffles, 10k runs, and head and beard shaves. The fundraising will continue indefinitely. We wear the PCRF wrist bands too, so people see. We wore them yesterday, wore them today and we'll wear them tomorrow.

Hardy Way for Harry

On 18 April 2018, **Margaret Marande**, 81, from Fontmell Magna in Dorset, set out on the Hardy Way - the long distance path she founded twenty years ago, as a tribute to her late partner, Harry Holberry. The 220-mile walk passes through stunning scenery across Dorset and Wiltshire and takes in places that Thomas Hardy describes in his novels and poems.



Despite the sheer physical challenge and extremes of British weather - including 25 degree heat and flash flooding - Margaret finished on schedule, arriving at Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre on 08 May.

Margaret raised over £3,000 for PCRF as well as funds for the Visitors Centre and the Shaftesbury Westminster Memorial Hospital.



Running for research

Congratulations to our PCRF Virgin London Marathon competitors who all finished safely despite sweltering temperatures. The event saw PCRF's youngest and oldest ever runners take part: Dan Forster, 19, ran in memory of his grandad Bernie, and John White, 71, ran in tribute to a friend recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

John (below) said: "I must have done 500 'high fives' with the crowds along the way -



John White (photo by Michele Harvey)

they really give you a lift. I've run marathons faster in the past, but the heat was brutal this year. At one point I was overtaken by a man running dressed as a tree!"

Special thanks to **Claudio Zappetti (32)** running his first ever marathon in tribute to his father who died in 2009. The event fell on his father's birthday, so it was a particularly poignant day.



Claudio Zappetti

Raising the roof

The **London Welsh Male Voice Choir** (below) gave an outstanding performance at Holy Trinity Church in Oswestry, raising over £3,400 split between PCRF in memory of Peter Davies and Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of John David Jones. The packed church rewarded the Choir and their guest artists with a standing ovation. Concert organiser, Haydn Jones said: "It was a wonderful tribute to my father, John and to our friend, Peter."



Teen and tiny heroes



With poise beyond her years, **Ella Ponponne (14)** from Harlow in Essex 'braved the shave' in front of her school friends, in honour of her granddad Jon Harvey, who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer. Not only did Ella raise over £2,000 for PCRF, she also donated her hair to make wigs for children with cancer. Ella, we're very proud of you, thank you so much.

Huge thanks to young superstars **Amber Rowland (9)** and **Edward Dudley (3)** who completed the 10km South Downs Walk with their families, fundraising in memory of Robin Dalwood, who died in January 2018.

Amber wants to tackle the 60km walk next year, although her mum Andy says Amber hasn't grasped the actual distance involved! Edward defied all expectations and walked the whole way without being carried, bravely pushing through the pain of a nasty injury (a thorn in his finger).



Colleagues rally for Rudi

Jewellery designer Francesca Glos and colleagues from Harriet Kelsall Bespoke Jewellery in Hertfordshire, completed a 55-mile fundraising bike ride to Cambridge and back.

The event was in memory of Francesca's father, Rudi, who died in 2009 and the 12-strong team raised a fabulous total of over £2,000.

Francesca, from Bedford, said: "When we hit the 50-mile mark, the wind was against us, but looking up and seeing the determination of everyone in their red PCRF T-shirts was so motivating!"



Christmas carol cheer in Winchester

A talented band of carol singers – and suitably attired Mabel the dog – brought smiles to the faces of Christmas shoppers in Winchester, and raised over £500 for PCRF. Carols against Cancer is organised

by Nick Edmonds, who also passed on the wonderful news that his mum, Chris, is celebrating two years of being clear of pancreatic cancer after her surgery in 2015.



I'd like to donate to PCRF

We value all donations to fund vital research

Please complete this form on both sides in block capitals and return to:

Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund
P. O. Box 47432, London N21 1XP

Please make cheques payable to Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Keeping in contact via email helps us to keep costs down.

Brrr-illiant work, Nikki!

PCRF-funded researcher, Dr Nikki Paul, works at Glasgow's Beatson Institute, investigating ways to prevent pancreatic cancer cells from spreading. But back home in Newcastle over Christmas, Nikki teamed up with her dad, Ken, to brave the freezing cold North



Sea for the traditional Boxing Day Dip at Seaburn beach in Sunderland – and in fancy dress too! The father and daughter “Elf and Safety” team raised over £550.



Big Breakfast cooks up £6,500

A ‘Big Breakfast’ fundraiser held at Christ Church Hall in Castlerock, near Coleraine, Northern Ireland, raised an incredible £6,500 for PCRF.

The event was in memory of Desmond Conn who died in 2017 and was organised by Desmond's wife, Evelyn, and daughters Emma and Louise. The church hall was bursting at the seams and some 50 volunteers helped everything to run smoothly.

Evelyn said: “It was so lovely to have the support of so many friends and family from the local community - and other friends travelled from as far away as Donegal. It was a wonderful testament to Desmond who travelled



Evelyn Conn (centre), daughters Louise (L) and Emma (R)

far and wide himself supporting numerous charity breakfasts. He would have loved the atmosphere in the hall and the banter!”

She added: “The generosity of people has exceeded our wildest expectations. The money raised provides us with some consolation in knowing that it will help to further the vital research that can give future pancreatic cancer patients a better chance.”

Photos courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle

Organising a fundraiser?

Do let us know if you're organising an event, no matter how large or small. From coffee mornings and bake sales to sports events and charity balls, we're keen to help make your fundraiser a success! We can provide branded items, including balloons, banners, bunting, collecting tins and T-shirts!

I would like to make a donation to PCRF and enclose a cheque for

£

(payable to Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund).

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☐ Yes, I am a UK taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid my donation.

I want to Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, until I notify you otherwise. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

☐ Tick the box if you would like us to send you a receipt.

If you'd like to set up a regular donation, please email us at admin@pcrf.org.uk or phone 020 8360 1119

Alternatively, you can donate with a credit or debit card by phoning us at 020 8360 1119 or via the website.

☐ Tick this box if you would like to receive future newsletters

We don't pass your details on to any other organisations.

Registered Charity No. 1155322

Amazon shoppers help fund research

When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price of your eligible purchases. When first visiting smile.amazon.co.uk simply select Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund as your chosen charity then you can support us every time you shop!

smile.amazon.co.uk

PCRF merchandise

You can support PCRF and raise awareness with our range of merchandise – including T-shirts, pin badges and wristbands. See our online shop for more details.



Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund

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020 8360 1119

www.pcrf.org.uk | info@pcrf.org.uk



www.facebook.com/PancreaticCancerResearchFund



[@PanCanResearch](https://twitter.com/PanCanResearch)

There are many organised activities that you can get involved in to raise money for PCRF. You could take part in:

Runs for Research



Hampton Court Palace Half Marathon 17 March 2019

Greater Manchester Marathon 7 April 2019

Brighton Marathon 14 April 2019

Gt. Ireland Run 5k/10k April 2019

Gt. Stirling Run - Marathon/Half Marathon April 28 2019

Belfast City Marathon 5 May 2019

Gt. Birmingham 10k May 2019

Hackney Half Marathon 19 May 2019

Gt Manchester Run 10k/Half Marathon 19 May 2019

Vitality London 10,000 27 May 2019

British 10k London Run July 2019

Gt. North Run September 2019

Belfast City Half Marathon September 2019

Bournemouth Festival Marathon/Half Marathon/10k/Juniors October 2019

Cardiff Half Marathon October 2019

Gt. South Run October 2019

Royal Parks Half Marathon October 2019

Gt. Birmingham Run Half Marathon October 2019

Big Fun Run 5k runs for all the family. 18 locations. July – Oct 2019

Tandem Skydive



An unforgettable experience. Raise a minimum sponsorship of £395 (£450 in Scotland and Northern Ireland) and you jump for free!

For information on these events, check our website, email info@pcrf.org.uk or ring 020 8360 1119.

If you've got your own place in an event, you can still fundraise for us. Contact us for a fundraising pack.

Swimming



Gt. North Swim, Windermere 7-9 June 2019

Gt. East Swim, Alton Water June 2019

Gt. Scottish Swim Loch Lomond August 2019

Cycling



Nightrider London 8-9 June 2019

Nightrider Glasgow 22-23 June 2019

Nightrider Bristol 6-7 July 2019

Nightrider Liverpool 13-14 July 2019

Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 4 August 2019

FANCY A BIGGER CHALLENGE?

Nepal trek • Great Wall of China trek
The Inca Trail • London to Paris cycle
See our website for more details.

Chris Douglas and his sister, Louise, from Dundee raised over £1300 in an 8-day adventure, trekking the Great Wall of China to honour their dad who died in 2017.

Says Chris: "It was a lot tougher than we expected – literally up mountains and down valleys for 42km, with uneven steps forcing you to really concentrate! We crossed crumbling parts of the wall that were only a few feet wide with huge drops either side. Looking down and seeing treetops so far below was terrifying!"

"It was the most stunning, scary and exhilarating experience, and the sense of

Walking



Isle of Wight Challenge 4–5 May 2019.

Walk, jog or run it. 25k, 50k or 100k

London2Brighton Challenge 25-26 May 2019. Walk, jog or run it. 25k, 50k or 100k.

Jurassic Coast Challenge 8-9 June 2019.

Walk, jog or run it. 25k, 50k or 100k.

Chiltern Challenge 15-16 June 2019. Walk, jog or run it. 25k, 50k or 100k.

Trekfest – The Beacons, South Wales 6 July 2019. 25k or 50k.

Cotswold Way Challenge 29-30 June 2019. Walk, jog or run it. 25k, 50k or 100k.

Peak District Challenge 13-14 July 2019. Walk, jog or run it. 25k, 50k or 100k.

South Coast Challenge 31 August-1 September 2019. Walk, jog or run it. 25k, 50k or 100k.

Trekfest – The Peaks September 2019. 25k or 50k.

Thames Path Challenge 7-8 September 2019. Walk, jog or run it. 100k, 50k or 25k.



personal achievement was immense. Dad would have been really proud of us. We made so many friends in our expedition! We're all planning to go to Cambodia together in 2019 where Louise and I will do another challenge for PCRF. We can't wait!"