



Join in the Great Bake & Beat Blood Cancer

Now is your chance to take part in the new Great Bake for The Lions International Blood Research Appeal (LIBRA) and raise funds that will save lives at the same time. Any bake event that you arrange will benefit King's College Hospital's Haematology Department and its patients.

Following the success of our Great Spring Bake over the last few years we have decided to run the campaign year-round. Many groups and individuals have supported the bake, organising spring events. Now we hope that the revamped Great Bake will provide limitless opportunities for those who wish to raise funds for our current Tree of Life Appeal, with a target of £100,000.

LIBRA Trustee Michael Adams said: "The Great Bake will run throughout the year so there are no limits when it comes to holding a fundraising event. Great Bake events can be themed

around Easter, St George's Day, the Royal Weddings, Halloween, Guy Fawkes Night, Christmas and so much more.

"We hope that supporters will be inspired to organise a range of fun events, of all sizes. From coffee mornings and bake sales, through to summer garden parties. Events can be held at any time of year and in a location to suit the organiser."

All funds raised through The Great Bake will go to our Tree of Life Appeal, which will power research into blood cancer treatments at King's.

Please visit www.libralionscharity.org to download a fundraising pack. Or email info@libralionscharity.org to request further information.

Don't forget to share your recipes and promote your event at www.facebook.com/LibraCharity



Farzin Farzaneh, Professor of Molecular Medicine at King's College Hospital recently presented on the new treatments being created for blood cancer patients, with the support of LIBRA.

He explained: "While chemotherapy is successful at inducing remission of acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), the disease has a high probability of relapse. We need to continue working towards preventing relapse and to keep patients in remission for longer.

"The good news - our development of a new immune gene therapy for Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), the first of its kind in the world, is progressing very well. We recently gave our first patient, who at such an advanced stage in disease progression had a predicted survival time of only a few months, three doses and by the third injection her immune system responded. She is now in remission and we continue to monitor her progress.

"This vaccine capitalises on the window of opportunity provided by the chemotherapy induced remission to make the immune system fight the AML and thus achieve a deeper and longer lasting remission. The next step for us is to study the effect of this vaccine in larger

numbers of patients to assess its safety and to better understand its mechanism action. This information should help with the development of similar treatments for other leukaemias.

"Another major project for us is to create a treatment for patients with B-cell malignancies including leukaemia and lymphoma. In studies led by Dr Reuben Benjamin in Haematology at King's College Hospital, immune cells from the patient or a healthy donor are genetically modified to make these immune cells recognise malignant cells so that they can destroy them.

"A particular form of this treatment has recently been licensed in the USA and is expected to be licensed in Europe. However, this treatment costs over £500,000 to treat one patient.

"We need to continue working towards preventing relapse and to keep AML patients in remission for longer."

Farzin Farzaneh, Professor of Molecular Medicine

"Therefore, we are looking to develop a more cost-effective form of this treatment. This work involves taking cells from healthy donors and then use them to treat multiple patients, hence the likelihood of substantial reduction in costs.

"Also, two new studies have been approved in the last few months. As part of this we will soon start testing another autologous AML cell vaccine for a new subset of acute myeloid leukaemias with the specific aim of delaying and eventually preventing the recurrence of the AML in patients who go into remission with standard chemotherapy but cannot be offered a haematopoietic stem cell transplant for instance due to absence of suitable donors."

LIBRA CELEBRATES HONOUR

We are pleased to announce that LIBRA Chairman, Lion Andrew Lodge recently received a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award (MJF) from Lions Clubs International in recognition of his ongoing voluntary work for the charity.

Lions Clubs world-wide recognise outstanding individuals by bestowing on them the MJF award that is named by the founder of Lions Clubs International, Melvin Jones.

Andrew received the award at a Lions Centennial Convention held in Uckfield in February. The convention brought together many Lions, LIBRA Trustees and representatives of other Lions humanitarian projects. It was also attended by Professor Farzin Farzaneh who received a cheque donation of £1,200 from Bexley and Sidcup Lions Club. The funds were raised through the Club's annual Bollywood night in aid of LIBRA.

Did you know....

LIBRA was founded by Lions Club members in the South East in 1976 and today it is still a major Lions project.

We receive a great deal of support from the Lions Clubs across the UK and from the public. Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service organisation and LIBRA is very proud to be a part of it.

The MJF award was presented to Andrew by Lion Jackie Robinson, pictured top right, who



is District Governor for Lions Clubs across the South East and LIBRA Minutes Secretary.

Photographed below from left are Lions; Graham Illsley, Barbara Whitehead, Professor Farzin Farzaneh, Pritam Dhanjal, Karamjit Matharu, LIBRA Chairman Andrew Lodge, and LIBRA Trustee Geoff Jeal.





Tree Of Life

Help Us Raise £100,000 & Save More Lives

We urgently need support for our 'Tree of Life' campaign, funding the development of ground breaking new treatments for blood cancer patients at King's.

£100,000 will cover the cost of four items of specialist equipment, needed for clinical studies into Acute Myeloid Leukaemia, Lymphoblastic Leukaemia, Myeloma and other life limiting blood conditions.

There are so many ways in which you can raise funds according to Trustee Glyn Upjohn who said: "The opportunities to help LIBRA are open to people of all ages with all kinds of interests. Our supporters include individuals, King's patients and their families, businesses, charitable groups and Lions Clubs.

"Through our event partners Skyline, you can take part in exciting challenges such as overseas treks, skydives, cycle events and more.



@LIBRACHarity



LibraCharity

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During the spring and summer months we often receive funds raised through sponsored walks and runs, tea parties and cocktail evenings, beauty parties, race nights and Go-Karting events.

"If you are feeling bold, you might even consider having a sponsored head shave! One of our supporters raised thousands of pounds in sponsorship by arranging just that and she collected funds in the weeks leading up to the big day.

"Raising funds for LIBRA is all about having fun and supporting a worthy cause at the same time. All funds will make a valuable difference to King's Haematology Department and its patients. Every penny counts, and we appreciate the amazing support we receive from across the UK. Together we can make a difference - we can help to save more lives."

www.libralionscharity.org

*Supporting King's Since 1976
Charity Number 276685*