



Cure InSight

Cure Parkinson's Autumn 2023 Newsletter

WELCOME

To the autumn edition of our newsletter.

THE LATEST

Read about the progress of our Pipeline Acceleration Programme to support early stage research.

WORLD PARKINSON CONGRESS 2023

Catch up with the happenings at this unique international conference for the Parkinson's community.

TOM ISAACS AWARD WINNER

Read about the researcher who has gone over and above to make a difference to people living with Parkinson's.

EPIC FUNDRAISERS

Find out how dog walkers across the country have been raising funds and awareness for Cure Parkinson's.



OUR VISION

A world free from Parkinson's.

OUR MISSION

We fund and facilitate research that has the potential to cure Parkinson's. We're working with urgency to find new treatments that can slow, stop or reverse the condition.

Cover photo: Supporter Natashia De Silva running the TCS London Marathon earlier this year for Team Cure.

Contents

ABOUT US

Welcome from Helen Matthews, CEO 3

OUR RESEARCH

Getting to a cure faster 4

Making progress: our latest trial results 5

Future proofing the clinical trials pipeline 6

Championing change - the 2023 Tom Isaacs Award winner 7

The Parkinson's community united: World Parkinson Congress 2023 8

Stay informed 9

OUR FUNDRAISING

Your donation could help change the future for people with Parkinson's 10-11

Barcelona or bust 12-13

Celebrate the memory of your loved one 14

Out and about to raise funds for a cure 15

Creative ways to fundraise for a cure 16

Developing momentum... 17

Events calendar 18-19

Look out for QR codes dotted throughout our newsletter. To use them point your phone's camera at the QR code so you can see it on the screen. Tap on the notification that appears to open the link in your web browser and be taken to our website to find out more about our work.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Welcome from Helen Matthews, CEO

Welcome to the autumn edition of Cure InSight and my first as CEO.

This summer has seen the charity host and attend some truly groundbreaking and collaborative events.

The annual meeting of our International Linked Clinical Trials committee took place in June and it was a huge honour for us to be able to host this year's event at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor. This meeting is a key moment in Cure Parkinson's calendar as it determines which potentially disease-modifying drug candidates will be prioritised to move forward into clinical trials.

Following this, World Parkinson Congress (WPC) was held in Barcelona in July. This triennial event invites the international Parkinson's community to come together and the four days of WPC in Barcelona proved to be a memorable experience for everyone involved. Representatives of Cure Parkinson's attended – presenting data, meeting with collaborators, forging new relationships and engaging with the wider Parkinson's community. You can read more about it on page 8.

The summer also saw the publication of our report Change The Future – Preventing a Parkinson's Pandemic. The report presents some startling findings from a survey we commissioned at the start of the year to understand how Parkinson's is perceived by the British public and to bring about an urgent action plan for change. Read more on pages 10 and 11.

Earlier this year we announced the launch of our iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme and we are delighted that this is now making progress with the first project already off the ground. Read more on page 6.



Pictured above: Helen Matthews, CEO Cure Parkinson's.

It's an honour to take up the role of CEO at Cure Parkinson's. This charity has been a huge part of my life since its launch in 2005 and it's been a privilege to be part of this journey. My predecessor Will Cook, led the charity with vision and commitment for the last six years and I'm delighted that Will remains significantly involved, as Counsel (Special Projects) to progress clinical trial funding partnerships – an area of huge importance to Cure Parkinson's work, as well as leading our Development Board.

With your continued support, the support of the staff and through our collaboration with leading scientists and research organisations worldwide, I hope we will continue to break new ground. Our mission is clear and urgent, to find the cure for Parkinson's that is so desperately needed.

Helen Matthews, CEO Cure Parkinson's

Getting to a cure faster

Our goal at Cure Parkinson's is to find treatments that slow or stop Parkinson's progression and to deliver them to people with Parkinson's as quickly as possible.

Cure Parkinson's has pioneered several initiatives to support and accelerate the clinical trial process. One of these is our International Linked Clinical Trials (iLCT) programme, which Cure Parkinson's alongside Van Andel Institute (VAI) has led since 2012. Each year, a panel of more than 20 of the world's leading Parkinson's experts gather to evaluate and rank potentially disease-modifying drugs for Parkinson's.



Pictured above: iLCT co-chair Professor Camille Carroll at this year's iLCT meeting at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor.

The impact of iLCT continues to grow with more than 40 completed or ongoing trials and over 4,700 people with Parkinson's taking part. In 2022, nearly 30% of all potentially disease-modifying therapies for Parkinson's in active clinical trial had been iLCT evaluated.

This summer, Cure Parkinson's hosted the 2023 iLCT meeting in Windsor. Drug evaluation sessions were combined with updates on clinical trials and pioneering Parkinson's projects. These included a presentation by iLCT co-chair Professor Camille Carroll, who co-leads the Edmund J. Safra Accelerating Clinical Trials in Parkinson's (EJS ACT-PD) project.

EJS ACT-PD aims to revolutionise clinical trials for Parkinson's in the UK by allowing multiple potentially disease-modifying treatments to be tested simultaneously in people with Parkinson's. If agents show signs of efficacy, the EJS ACT-PD platform will allow smooth transition into the next phase of clinical evaluation, helping speed-up the development of potential new treatments. Cure Parkinson's continues to support the EJS ACT-PD team through participation in the working groups pioneering this groundbreaking platform.

Drugs not prioritised by the iLCT committee often still have potential for Parkinson's but are missing the key evidence needed to enable them to be moved into clinical trial. To address this, Cure Parkinson's launched the iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme earlier this year, which commissions research based on the committee's recommendations. Read more about our ongoing pipeline project on page 6.

Cure Parkinson's will continue to look for innovative ways of accelerating clinical trials and supporting research aligned with this goal.

Read more about the International Linked Clinical Trials programme via the QR code below or by visiting our website at cureparkinsons.org.uk/research/ilct



[READ MORE](#)

Making progress: our latest trial results

Cure Parkinson's has many clinical trials underway across different phases of clinical development. This year has seen results reported from two phase 2 trials which we hope will lead to these drugs moving to the next stage of the clinical trial process.



Pictured above: Professor Oliver Bandmann, University of Sheffield.

UDCA study results

In May, Cure Parkinson's was pleased to announce the publication of the results of the phase 2 clinical trial of ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) in Parkinson's. Led by Professor Oliver Bandmann at the University of Sheffield, the 'UP-Study' involved 30 people with Parkinson's and evaluated the safety and tolerability of UDCA.

UDCA is used to treat liver disease; however, there is evidence suggesting it may improve energy production in dopamine nerve cells (or neurons), and promote their survival. UDCA was prioritised by the International Linked Clinical Trials (iLCT) committee in 2015 and the UP-Study launched as a result in 2017. The trial results suggest UDCA was safe and tolerable when taken by participants. Additionally, in the Cure Parkinson's funded sub-study, researchers found some evidence of increased energy production in neurons and improvements to participants' gait (how they walk). Whilst these results are

encouraging, they need to be validated in a larger study before we can determine if UDCA is disease-modifying. Cure Parkinson's continues to support Professor Bandmann with progressing UDCA into further Parkinson's research.

Preliminary lixisenatide study results

The topline results of the LixiPark study supported by Cure Parkinson's were reported at the recent Movement Disorders Society meeting.

This was a phase 2 study conducted across France, which involved 156 people with Parkinson's taking the diabetes drug lixisenatide (or placebo) daily. Cure Parkinson's is pleased with the early results of this trial because they represent the second phase 2 study of this drug class providing a positive result in Parkinson's. We anticipate the publication of the full Lixipark results, as well as the completion of the exenatide phase 3 study in early 2024.

Get involved with research

People with Parkinson's are key to finding a cure. There are many ways to get involved in research, from taking part in a trial or study to completing a survey or sharing your experiences. To find out more please use the QR code below or visit our website at cureparkinsons.org.uk/take-part-in-research



[GET INVOLVED](#)

Future-proofing the clinical trials pipeline

Earlier this year, we launched our International Linked Clinical Trials (iLCT) Pipeline Research Acceleration programme with the aim of progressing early stage research prioritised by our iLCT committee into clinical trials.

We are excited to announce that the first project in our iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme is now underway. Dr Michael Schwarzschild at Mass General Hospital in the US is leading the preclinical early laboratory stage study to evaluate whether three compounds, benfotiamine (a form of vitamin B1), methylcobalamin (a form of vitamin B12), and ibuprofen, show evidence of slowing Parkinson's progression. These drugs are all thought to reduce the build-up of a protein called alpha-synuclein, a known hallmark of Parkinson's, and will be tested to see if they slow Parkinson's progression.

All three drugs were previously evaluated by the iLCT committee but not recommended to go into trial immediately; the funded pipeline project will hopefully provide some of the data that the committee believe is needed before this can happen. We look forward to seeing the results of the first pipeline acceleration project in the autumn of 2024.

Additional preclinical (early laboratory stage) studies

Amongst the new projects in Cure Parkinson's portfolio, three additional preclinical studies were funded this year involving three new principal investigators in three different countries - all examining repurposed drugs for use in Parkinson's.

In the UK, Professor Heather Mortiboys at the University of Sheffield is investigating two anti-gout medications and in the US, Dr James Surmeier at Northwestern University is evaluating the blood pressure medicine, isradipine. Both projects are investigating whether these drugs

can improve energy production in nerve cells (neurons) therefore improving neuron survival and slowing the progression of Parkinson's. Dr Lorraine Kalia at the University Health Network in Canada, is assessing whether the antibiotic, rifabutin, could help reduce the build-up of alpha-synuclein protein in dopamine neurons to help them survive.

All three projects are now underway and we look forward to receiving the first progress reports in the coming months.

We also anticipate the results from other pre-clinical research projects this year. These results will inform us as to whether certain potential treatments may be suitable and ready to be tested in clinical trials involving people with Parkinson's. These include a project led by Dr Dilan Athauda at University College London (UCL) comparing different and newer type 2 diabetes drugs, and another led by Dr Joseph Mazzulli at Northwestern University in the US investigating an iLCT evaluated drug called lonafarnib.

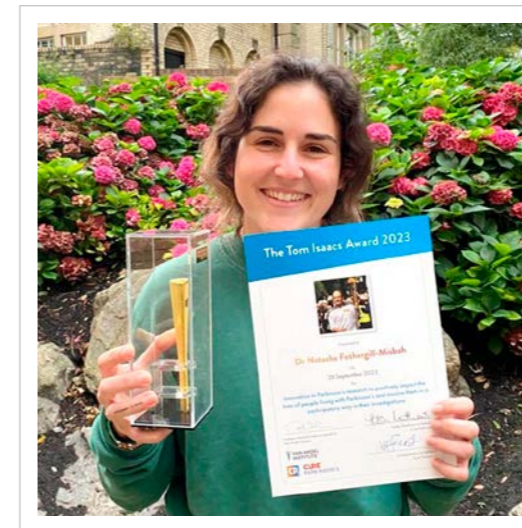
To keep up-to-date with all our research news sign up to receive regular e-newsletter updates using the QR code below or by visiting our website at cureparkinsons.org.uk



KEEP UP TO DATE

Championing change - the 2023 Tom Isaacs Award winner

Cure Parkinson's and Van Andel Institute (VAI) are delighted to announce Dr Natasha Fothergill-Misbah, Research Associate at Newcastle University, as the winner of the 2023 Tom Isaacs Award.



Pictured above: Dr Natasha Fothergill-Misbah, winner of the Tom Isaacs Award 2023.

This year's award was presented to Dr Natasha Fothergill-Misbah in Newcastle as part of the annual Grand Challenges in Parkinson's Disease symposium and parallel Rallying to the Challenge patient meeting held in Grand Rapids, Michigan in September.

Dr Misbah's research focuses on Parkinson's in sub-Saharan Africa, and she has dedicated her career to improving the lives of people living with the condition in these regions. She is currently a Research Associate on the NIHR (National Institute of Health Research) global group Transforming Parkinson's Care in Africa, which works across seven African countries to improve the diagnosis, treatment and care of Parkinson's. In 2018 she established a support group for people living with Parkinson's in Mombasa, Kenya which still runs today, and has published papers on stigma and the lived experience of Parkinson's in the country. Dr Misbah is working with the WHO to improve access to affordable

medications for people with Parkinson's across the globe, and she contributed to the recent technical brief which outlined a public health approach to Parkinson's and the crucial need for action. She also recently produced a film on life with Parkinson's in Kenya, and co-chairs the PD Avengers wellness group, where she helps to facilitate the establishment of new support groups around the world.

Dr Misbah is a shining example of the very essence of the Tom Isaacs Award, which was set up in memory of Cure Parkinson's late co-founder and President, to recognise a researcher who has significantly impacted the lives of people living with Parkinson's and has involved people with Parkinson's in a participatory way in their work. Dr Misbah's work centres around giving voice to a community previously underrepresented in academic research and understanding their stories.

// We are thrilled to present the Tom Isaacs Award for 2023 to Natasha. She has made a significant difference to the lives of people living with Parkinson's particularly through her work in Africa. We hope that by presenting Natasha with this award, we can celebrate her passion and commitment to the Parkinson's community and spotlight the way she is helping to address the inequalities people with Parkinson's face globally. This award is hugely deserved.

Helen Matthews, CEO Cure Parkinson's

The Parkinson's community united: World Parkinson Congress 2023

In June, members of the team travelled to Barcelona to represent Cure Parkinson's at World Parkinson Congress (WPC).

More than 2,000 people from 60 countries attended this year's event which takes place every three years. WPC is unique in that it brings together researchers, clinicians, funders and importantly people living with Parkinson's from the international community, to share their knowledge and experiences.



A team from Cure Parkinson's attended – presenting data, meeting the wider Parkinson's community and forging new relationships. We had 10 poster presentations, displaying data on a range of topics including patient engagement, women-related considerations in Parkinson's, and the EJS ACT-PD multi-arm, multi-stage (MAMS) clinical trial platform.

Also in attendance were two inspirational people with Parkinson's who made their own way to the congress, whilst raising vital funds and awareness of the condition. Alison Anderson cycled over 990 miles from Brighton to Barcelona whilst Neil Russell ran the 970 mile distance from London to the congress. Read more about Alison and Neil's story on pages 12-13.

Another highlight of WPC was a performance by Cure Parkinson's patron Paul Mayhew-Archer, best known as the co-writer of The Vicar of Dibley, and more recently the co-author of the Parkinson's podcast Movers & Shakers. Since being diagnosed with Parkinson's, Paul has turned to his comedy skills as a means of dealing with the condition. His performance at the WPC meeting was so popular that the organisers had to find a larger room to provide more space for the audience!

Paul was also joined at the congress by two of his fellow Movers & Shakers podcasters, Rory Cellan-Jones and Gillian Lacey-Solymar who recorded a special edition of their podcast live from the event.

Pictured left: The Cure Parkinson's team at the congress (top), an open discussion about patient involvement at WPC's Clinical Trials Village (middle) and Research Manager Rosie Fuest presenting her two posters (bottom).

Stay informed

We host and collaborate on a number of events to help you stay up-to-date with the latest progress in Parkinson's research.



Autumn Research Update Meeting

Re-watch presentations from Professor Oliver Bandmann on the topic of 'UDCA: the discovery and assessment of this promising drug for Parkinson's' and Georgia Mills, UCL giving an update on the EJS ACT-PD multi-arm, multi-stage (MAMS) clinical trial platform for improving Parkinson's clinical trials. Visit our website at cureparkinsons.org.uk/research-update-meeting-nov-23



Webinar: World Parkinson Congress (WPC) 2023 Highlights

University of Edinburgh's Professor Tilo Kunath is joined by special guests as they explore and present their takeaways from this year's World Parkinson Congress. Rewatch on our website at cureparkinsons.org.uk/wpc-2023-highlights



Rallying to the Challenge

Recordings of this year's meetings and discussions around the theme of: "What do we mean by "pathophysiological mechanisms to therapeutics?" are available to re-watch on our website at cureparkinsons.org.uk/rallying-2023

Movers & Shakers podcast

Catch up on the Movers & Shakers podcast series as a group of six friends living with Parkinson's – some or all of whom you may recognise – gather to share the challenges and positives of their Parkinson's experience through informative, open and often hilarious conversations. Find out more on our website at cureparkinsons.org.uk/movers-and-shakers-podcast



Your donation will help change the future for people with Parkinson's

In early 2023 Cure Parkinson's commissioned a research survey and report with the aim of understanding how well the world's fastest growing neurological condition is understood by the British public. The results shine a light on misconceptions, low awareness and poor understanding of Parkinson's.

The report is called 'Change the Future – preventing a Parkinson's pandemic' because acting now is vital. In a 2018 paper, The Emerging Evidence of the Parkinson Pandemic, authors noted that Parkinson's exhibited many characteristics of a pandemic. Its trajectory is rising sharply in response to changes in aging, industrialisation and other factors, and its prevalence is growing in every major region of the world. No one is immune.

When we find a cure we will change the future for the 145,000 people living with Parkinson's in the UK, and we will change the future for the millions of people around the world predicted to develop the condition.

5 Key findings from the report

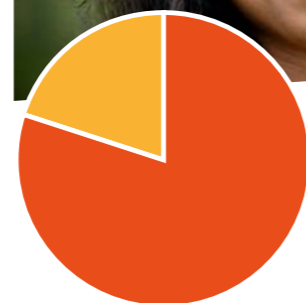
1. BRITS ARE BLIND TO THE DANGER

51% of UK adults believe the world's fastest growing neurological condition is Alzheimer's, with a further 23% saying they don't know which is the fastest growing. Fewer than 17% are aware of the impending Parkinson's pandemic.



1 in 3
UK adults know
someone living with
Parkinson's

2. MAJORITY STILL WRONGLY SEE PARKINSON'S AS AN OLD PERSON'S DISEASE



80%
of UK adults see
Parkinson's as a
disease for the over 60s

3. SILENT SYMPTOMS GO UNNOTICED BY THE MAJORITY

69%
of the population
identify shaking
as a symptom of
Parkinson's

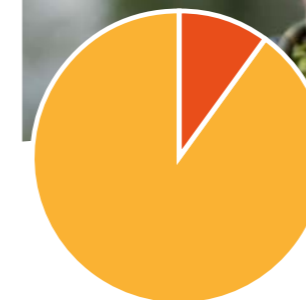


Over half the population can only recognise two symptoms of Parkinson's: shaking (69%) and problems with balance (52%). There are over 40 other symptoms which the majority of the public are unaware of, for example reduced sense of smell, constipation, depression, fatigue and a reduction in handwriting size can all be indicators of Parkinson's.

4. EDUCATION LACKING FOR FASTEST GROWING NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE

There is a consistent narrative throughout our research which shows how little people know about the disease. Nearly four out of ten people (39%) don't know if Parkinson's is fatal. Though Parkinson's is not treated as fatal by the majority of the medical profession, it does make people more vulnerable to other conditions.

5. MAJORITY BELIEVES GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DOING MORE



45%
believe the government
should be doing more to
fund the search for a cure

The annual cost of healthcare for the 145,000 people living with Parkinson's in the UK is over £728 million. Over time the costs will increase, highlighting the importance of finding treatments which will slow disease progression and ultimately, cure it.

To read the full report use the QR code below or head to our website at cureparkinsons.org.uk/change-the-future



READ THE REPORT

DONATE NOW TO CHANGE THE FUTURE

Cure Parkinson's work is only made possible with your support - our donors and fundraisers. Since 2005 Cure Parkinson's has directly funded, or helped facilitate funding for over £100 million of research projects. Together we can change the future. Donate online using the QR code below or by visiting cureparkinsons.org.uk/ctf-donate



Text **YESTOCURE** followed by your donation amount to **70480**, for example:

To donate £10 text **YESTOCURE 10**

To donate £20 text **YESTOCURE 20**

Texts will incur the cost of your donation plus a charge at your standard network message rate; please ask bill payer's permission first. For full details please visit cureparkinsons.org.uk/about-us/our-policies.

Barcelona or bust

Fundraisers Alison Anderson and Neil Russell took some challenging routes to get to this year's World Parkinson Congress (WPC) in Barcelona. Alison took on the mammoth distance of just under 1,000 miles on her bike, while Neil completed the challenge in his running shoes! All to raise much needed funds for Parkinson's research.

Alison was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2015, and since then has taken on some incredible fundraising challenges for us. This year she joined 19 others cycling from Brighton to Barcelona for WPC. We spoke with Alison after she had completed the 994 mile bike ride...



Pictured above: Alison Anderson arriving at the finish line at WPC (top) and Alison and team mates en route during their cycle challenge (bottom).

How did you feel about taking on this massive cycling challenge from Brighton to Barcelona?

Incredibly excited. We'd talked about it for three years, planned it over two and trained for one, so there was a real sense of excitement amongst the team.

It was a tough challenge, how much training did you have to do to prepare?

Many of us were doing 100km cycles to get used to long days in the saddle. It seemed that every spare minute was spent on a bike and when we weren't cycling, we were talking about cycling!

You've been an incredible Cure Parkinson's supporter over the years. Why have you decided to raise funds for us again?

I was never in any doubt that Cure Parkinson's would be my charity of choice. I know the money raised goes directly to funding research which has the potential to slow, stop or reverse Parkinson's. The thought of this gives huge hope to so many of us living with the condition and helps keep me positive about the future despite the challenges of living with Parkinson's.

Some of Alison's cycling fundraising challenges include a 500km cycle ride from Vietnam to Cambodia in 2017, the iconic Land's End to John O'Groats route in 2018, and Raid Alpine – a 770km climb through the Alps in 2022, all in aid of Cure Parkinson's! A keen cyclist and always up for the challenge, Alison even added an extra 225km to this year's fundraiser by cycling from Cheltenham to Brighton as a warm up.

Meanwhile Neil, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2018, set off on his 970 mile run from London to Barcelona in May – arriving just before WPC began on 4 July. We caught up with Neil following a well-deserved holiday.

How are you feeling after your epic run?

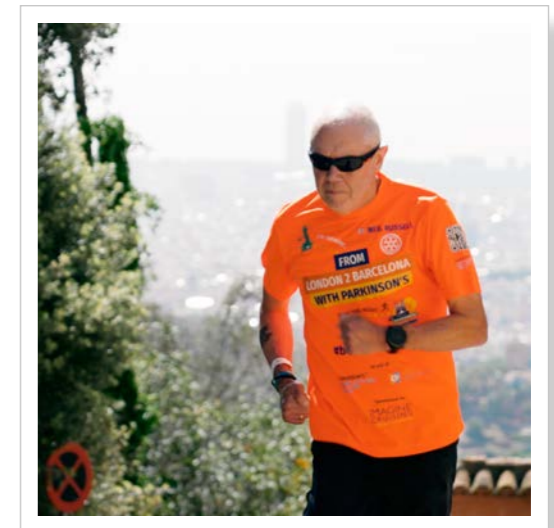
Physically I feel good, I'm already back running between three and five miles a day. I still haven't got my head around the enormity of what I've done – when we drove home, the laborious never ending mile after mile, hour after hour of driving concurred that it was a very, very long way and I, Neil Russell, ran it.

Running to Barcelona is an incredible achievement. What were the challenges and highlights along the way?

The low point was getting out of bed every morning at 3am with every muscle in my back and legs aching like crazy. I would be so stiff I couldn't dress myself as the thought of running 28 miles faced me. Highlights included the stunning morning sunrises! Also the fantastic welcome from the staff of the Hilton and World Parkinson Congress. It was very emotional and totally unexpected as I ran the last few meters.

Speaking of the Congress, did you enjoy attending WPC in Barcelona?

I found WPC fascinating. The highlight was meeting the Parkinson's community from all over the world. Without wanting to sound crass, it was like the first time the Parkinson's family has all come together!



Pictured above: Neil Russell during his running challenge.

Cure Parkinson's is incredibly grateful to Alison and Neil for taking on these epic challenges in support of our research. Neil has since been nominated for a Pride of Britain Award and we are delighted that his amazing efforts for the Parkinson's community have been recognised.

If you're feeling inspired by these incredible fundraisers and want to organise your own fundraising event or take part in a challenge for us, please email the events team at events@cureparkinsons.org.uk or head to our website using the QR code below.



FUNDRAISE FOR US

Celebrate the memory of your loved one

Cure Parkinson's trustee Lyndsey Isaacs remembers her late husband Tom, who co-founded Cure Parkinson's.

In 2005 my husband Tom Isaacs, Sir Richard Nichols, Air Vice Marshal Michael Dicken and Sir David Jones set out to find a cure, focusing on research projects with the potential to slow, stop or reverse the progression of Parkinson's.



Pictured above: Lyndsey and Tom Isaacs with their dog Chewie.

// Together, we will conquer Parkinson's!

Tom Isaacs, late President & Co-founder of Cure Parkinson's

Today the charity, and I, continue to celebrate Tom's life by holding an annual golf day to raise much needed funds and making an annual scientific award in his name. Several wonderful people made "in memoriam" donations after Tom passed away.

In memory donations honour your loved one's memory, fund pioneering research towards a cure and ensure the causes they care about continue to be supported.

WAYS TO DONATE

Much loved

Create a tribute to your loved one - muchloved.com/CreateMemorial

JustGiving

Set up a page in memory - justgiving.com/cureparkinsons

Online

Use our quick and secure online form to donate in memory - cureparkinsons.org.uk/in-memory-donation

By phone

Call us to donate or for more information: +44 (0)20 7487 3892

By post

Please send cheques (payable to Cure Parkinson's) to: Cure Parkinson's, 120 New Cavendish Street, London W1W 6XX

Please ensure to include the name of the person that you are making a donation in memory of, along with your contact details, so that we can acknowledge your kind donation.

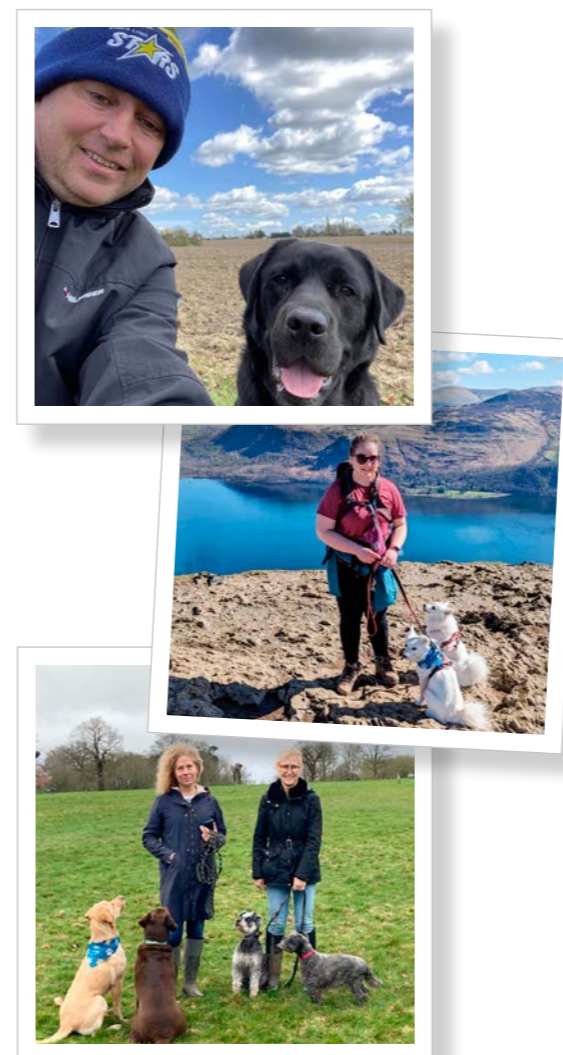
Thank you.

Lyndsey Isaacs, Trustee, Cure Parkinson's

Out and about to raise funds for a cure

This spring and summer lots of you took up our challenge to get outside with your friends, family and dogs to raise funds and awareness for Cure Parkinson's.

Our April Dog Walking Challenge was our first Facebook fundraiser and we were thrilled when over 170 supporters took up the challenge of walking an astonishing total of 17,000km between them all. Incredibly, they raised over £30,000 and much-needed awareness for Cure Parkinson's. Look out for our next dog walking challenge in April 2024!



Pictured above: Fundraisers Martin Haylett, Natalie Jarvis and Claire Coulson with their poochs taking part in the challenge.

Mel Mawer organised a superb summer community fete in her village of Nidderdale, raising over £4,000. Nidderdale is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in North Yorkshire and Mel's delightful event brought her neighbourhood together to enjoy the fundraising fun; for those feeling more energetic a 10k trail run through the Dales was an adventure in itself, then facepainting for the little fundraisers in the village brought further enjoyment, while traditional Morris dancing and delicious food stalls ensured everyone got a taste of the summer festivity!

If you are inspired and want to host your own event for Cure Parkinson's, we'd love to welcome you to Team Cure! Use the QR code below to visit our website for some ideas or email our team at events@cureparkinsons.org.uk



FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Nominations now open for our 2023 Fundraiser of the Year Award!

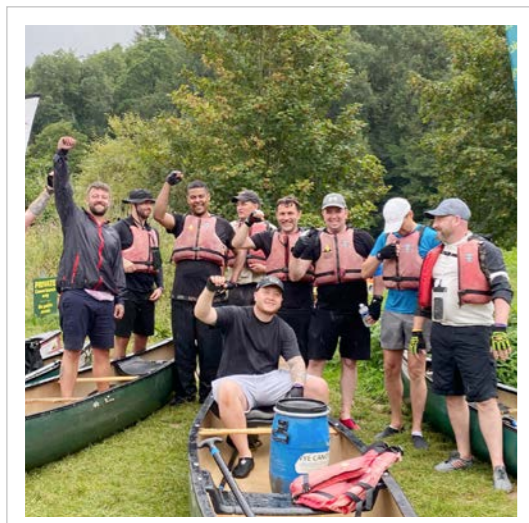
Each year, Cure Parkinson's celebrates our 'Fundraiser of the Year' recognising that special person who has gone the extra mile to raise funds and awareness for Parkinson's. Our fundraisers are nominated by their friends and family and the winner is chosen by a judging panel in January.

If you know someone who deserves to win, nominate them now by visiting our website at cureparkinsons.org.uk/nominate

Creative ways to fundraise for a Cure

If you're looking for some fundraising inspiration for your workplace, check out how these two companies found new ways to fundraise for a cure this summer.

Drawers N Doors is a kitchen and bedroom showroom based in Flitwick, Bedfordshire. This August, they took their fundraising challenge to the water. After promoting their challenge in their showroom, the Drawers N Doors team canoed 105km in just 48 hours down the River Wye in Wales. The team paddled hard for two days but had a lot of fun and ended up raising nearly £2,000 for our research.



Pictured above: The team at Drawers N Doors after their fundraising canoe challenge (top) and Karla Cassar from Northern Trust during the team's fundraising cycle (bottom).

Northern Trust, a financial services firm in London, put their own twist on a cycling challenge. Using the Peloton bikes from their office's gym, they held a 24 hour, 1000 mile cycling challenge. Three riders, with the help of a rotating list of volunteers, cycled the day away from the atrium of their office building. The event was a huge success; the riders ended up cycling 1,114 miles in total and had volunteers helping throughout the whole 24 hours, even throughout the night.

// My father was diagnosed with Parkinson's five years ago so I became very aware of the impact of the disease and the importance of research towards finding a cure. I chose to cycle for Cure Parkinson's as it is one of the leading research organisations making great progress in this field and I look forward to working with Cure Parkinson's more in the future!

Karla Cassar, Vice President and Client Service Delivery Manager, Northern Trust

Taking on a fundraising challenge with work colleagues can be a great team building activity and fantastic fun!

Want to create a new fundraising event for your company but don't know where to start? Email our Corporate Partnerships Officer Kelly for some ideas - kelly@cureparkinsons.org.uk

Developing momentum...

Cure Parkinson's Development Board was set up last year. Each member brings their own special skill set, which they use to help raise funds for research and to promote the work of Cure Parkinson's to new audiences. They have already raised over £500,000 and that's just the beginning.

Development Board member John Caulcutt CBE, is leveraging his extensive knowledge and experience gained over years of passionately pursuing music and being deeply involved in the music industry. Additionally, he is tapping into his networks within the sailing community to actively contribute to fundraising efforts for Cure Parkinson's.

The Towers Party is hosted annually by John at his home on the Isle of Wight on the last night of the Taittinger Solent Yacht Club regatta. In 2022, Cure Parkinson's was a beneficiary of this event for the first time, and we are delighted to have been chosen again this year.



The 2022 event was a huge success raising over £40,000 for Cure Parkinson's and this year, which marked the 55th anniversary of the event, was no different.

Despite 70mph winds and torrential rain, the sailing community showed how resilient and determined they can be. They turned out in droves with 1,400 people attending, to enjoy five live bands and three bars. It was definitely a night to remember.

This year, John also joined forces with Strictly Come Dancing theme co-composer and Procol Harum organist Josh Phillips, producer Paul Mitchell, and legendary music manager Ian Grant to create 'Think Loud', a new, original song to raise awareness and funds for Cure Parkinson's. They secured performances from Leo Sayer, John Illsley (Dire Straits), Marcella Detroit (Shakespeare's Sister), Stuart Elliott (Cockney Rebel, Kate Bush), and backing from a full gospel choir (The Jordan family gospel group). In their words: "The song aims to inspire and empower people living with Parkinson's, whilst also raising awareness of the condition that affects some 10 million people worldwide and the urgent need for a cure."



LISTEN TO THINK LOUD

The music never stops for John as he prepares for another concert in December taking place at G Live in Guildford. Cure Parkinson's is extremely excited to be involved in this event, with a host of music legends rumoured to be in the lineup. Proceeds from the G Live event will be split, with half of all proceeds going to Cure Parkinson's. The event will take place on 4 December and tickets will be available very soon.

If you want to find out more about the Development Board's work please contact Madison by telephone on +44 (0)20 3917 8844 or via email madison@cureparkinsons.org.uk

Events calendar

Join us at one of our many events taking place over the next six months from autumn 2023 to spring 2024.

RESEARCH EVENTS

Autumn Research Update Meeting
Royal Society of Medicine, London
1 November 2023

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Legends at Rugby: A Double Centenary Celebration in aid of Cure Parkinson's
The Close, Rugby School, Warwickshire
18 November 2023

FACEBOOK CHALLENGE EVENT

April Dog Walking Challenge
Taking place throughout April 2024

RUNNING EVENTS

Barcelona Marathon
10 March 2024

Hampton Court Palace Half Marathon
24 March 2024

Paris Marathon
7 April 2024

Hackney Half Marathon
19 May 2024

Edinburgh Half Marathon
26 May 2024

ALL YEAR ROUND CHALLENGES

£1,000 Challenge
Choose your own activity anywhere in the world!

Inflatable 5k
Taking place across the UK throughout 2024

Kiltwalk
Taking place in Glasgow, Edinburgh or Aberdeen on various dates throughout 2024

The Ultra Challenge Series
Choose from a range of stunning UK locations taking place on various dates throughout 2024

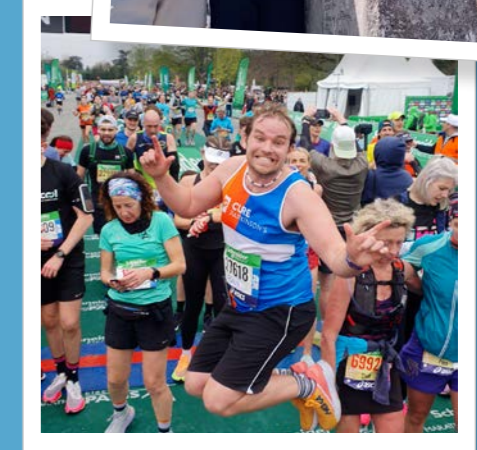
Tough Mudder
Taking place across the UK throughout 2024

Overseas Challenges
Adventure treks around the globe taking place throughout 2024

Scan the QR code below or visit our website at cureparkinsons.org.uk/events to join an event.



JOIN AN EVENT



Look out for details of our Christmas fundraising appeal – coming soon!



CURE
PARKINSON'S

Join the conversation

We'd love to tell you about what we're up to, and the most cost-effective way of doing this is by email. We promise that we will not fill your inbox with endless emails. You can change how you choose to hear from us at any time by visiting cureparkinsons.org.uk/your-permissions

You can also join us online on



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ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL RESEARCH CHARITIES



Cure Parkinson's is the operating name of The Cure Parkinson's Trust. The Cure Parkinson's Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1111816) and Scotland (SCO44368) and a company limited by guarantee - company number 05539974 (England and Wales).