



CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS – JANUARY 2010

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this the festive season will have come and gone. Some of you may look back at 2009 with some misgivings and the anticipation that 2010 can only bring a happier year. Others may wonder if the New Year could ever bring as many joys as the last twelve months. It depends on your particular circumstances. We are all different. Some are born optimists while others... However, I am happy to share that the vast majority of men I have spoken to in our own Dorset branch fall into the optimistic category and I am certain that this attitude contributes significantly to a higher survival rate! So what does 2010 hold for prostate cancer sufferers?

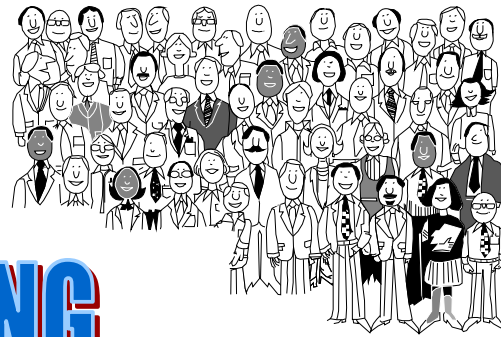
I take a daily newspaper – one that I used to regard as a reliable source of accurate news containing articles on every subject under the sun from all parts of the world and from all sections of society - news that would be edifying and informative; debates, discussions and critical articles from correspondents who based their opinions on facts rather than sheer speculation. I also looked for the positive things in life – now I have to search for them. Sadly, over the years this newspaper (now a tabloid) frequently prints photographs of “celebrities” on the front page and the promise of “new revelations” inside. Even major television news bulletins increasingly insert what amounts to commercials for some celebrity who has come off drugs, recorded a new album or married for the nth. time. There's no better guarantee for a story to be given prime time than for it to be connected with murder, rape, drunkenness, drugs, infidelity, terrorism, genocide and swine ‘flu (month after panicky month). What's happened to all the positive news?

Well, it's there – all the time – being made by people who have no claim to fame. The researchers working year after year to find a cure for HIV; a cure for all cancers; the rescue services who work until they drop helping their fellow men; the salvation army; the voluntary aid workers who drop everything to fly to a disaster zone. The list is lengthy and the needs, continuous. But how much reporting space does it occupy in a newspaper? Well, pick up your newspaper; work out the percentage of positive v negative news and judge for yourselves.

But to return to my first paragraph, the good news for prostate cancer sufferers is that British researchers have now mapped the genetic code of two cancers (lung and skin) which will enable future therapies to target only those cells which are cancerous thereby eliminating side effects caused by targeting the whole body. Furthermore (and perhaps more significantly) US researchers have found an antibody (F77) that hunts down prostate cancer cells in mice and can destroy the killer disease even in an advanced stage without targeting normal tissue such as the colon, kidney, pancreas, lung, skin or bladder. Now that's worth hunting through the newspaper! A cure could be just a few steps away. I'll drink to that. A Happy New Year to you all!

Jim

NOTICE OF DORSET PCaSO MEETING



THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PCaSO PROSTATE CANCER NETWORK
7.30 p.m. WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27TH 2010
ST. MARK'S NEW CHURCH HALL
WALLISDOWN ROAD, TALBOT VILLAGE, BOURNEMOUTH, BH10 4HY

ALISON LOWNDES – URO-ONCOLOGY NURSE SPECIALIST
DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL, DORCHESTER

SUBJECT : ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION

This will be the second occasion that Alison has accepted an invitation to speak at one of our meetings, and we can look forward to another interesting, educational and entertaining talk.

Alison is travelling to India in November where she will be undertaking a sponsored walk on behalf of Prostate Cancer. This meeting will be a great opportunity for us to show our support for this wonderful effort.

FUTURE PUBLIC MEETING DATES FOR YOUR 2010 DIARY

March 24th AGM plus speaker Mr Kevin Turner, Consultant Urological Surgeon, Royal Bournemouth Hospital

May 26th July 28th September 29th November 24th
- all on WEDNESDAY EVENING at 7.30 p.m. in ST. MARK'S CHURCH HALL

OUR LOCAL COMMITTEE

Chairman	JIM DAVIS
Treasurer	BARRY TAYLOR
Secretary	vacant
Membership Sec.	CLIVE DUDDRIDGE
Member	BRIAN DEACON
Member	TONY BESSANT
Member	vacant

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