Due to the UK’s ageing population and articles in the media about care provision for older people, geriatric medicine has seen its profile grow in recent years.

The University Department of Geriatric Medicine was founded in 1964 at Stobhill Hospital and has recently been the recipient of two major grants from the Age Related Diseases and Health Trust and the DWT Cargill Funds. Currently, Professors Stott and Langhorne provide clinical sessions in geriatric medicine, as an integral part of the NHS Department of Geriatric Medicine based at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Teaching mainly focuses on 4th and 5th year MBChB students on block clinical attachments.

Their main areas of research include the following:

- The care of disabled elderly people including optimising rehabilitation to minimise and prevent disability after stroke.
- Systematic reviews including the interpretation and implementation of research findings into clinical practice (focusing particularly on rehabilitation after stroke and other disabling conditions in older age).
- Prediction and prevention of disability and cognitive decline (including dementia) in elderly people.

Research currently taking place at the University of Glasgow into geriatric medicine is world-class and collaborations include working with geriatrics and gerontology in Holland, public health and pharmacology in Cork, Ireland, and nutrition in older age in Sydney, Australia.

In addition they have a wide network of collaborating units in the UK, including specialist stroke care and geriatric medicine, biostatistics, the professions allied to medicine, bioengineering, laboratory sciences, and health economics.

Between them Professors Stott and Langhorne have published over 240 peer review publications and their research has been highly influential in improving clinical practice including contributing to evidence-based clinical guidelines.

Professor Stott and his team have established a website summarising best practice in healthcare and rehabilitation for frail older people. The focus is on common health problems in old age and different models of care for older people. The £10,000 grant from the Age Related Diseases and Health Trust has been able to support refining of the website and input of new relevant data and Professor Stott hopes that this resource could now develop further into a highly useful tool to support evidence based healthcare and rehabilitation of older people.

Paul Springer from the Trust commented “The Age Related Diseases and Health Trust has been formed to support vital new research, best existing medical practice, and quality of life improvements regarding age related conditions. In addition to raising funds we seek to promote communication between professionals in this field. Professor Stott and his team address all these objectives on the highest level.”

DWT Cargill Fund is a long established charitable trust which has supported the Department over the years. It has recently very generously agreed to help fund Professor Stott’s work with a grant of £15,000 per annum for three years. This will support two projects in the department, one which looks at screening for dementia post-stroke and the other looking at causes of cognitive decline and disability in later life.

Professor Stott said “this is a welcome boost to the department and we are very grateful to these trusts. These grants will help support our vital research into maintaining health and improving quality of life in old age.”

Support for the Beatson Pebble Appeal comes through many different activities and for many different reasons.

Sandy Halliday, a keen hill walker and Munro bagger, has decided to support the Appeal by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in September 2010 with his wife Margaret and close friend Sandy Leonard. Sandy tells us his reasons for choosing the Beatson Pebble Appeal as his charity and how he intends to prepare for the huge task ahead of him. “To carry out such a trek without raising funds for a charity seems futile. With three family members recovering from cancer including a niece who was treated at the Beatson, what better charity to support than The Beatson Pebble Appeal?”

Sandy had already climbed the highest mountain in Europe, Mount Blanc at 15,132ft and was looking for a way to celebrate his 60th with a further challenge.

He decided what better way to celebrate than to climb one of the seven summits, Kilimanjaro at 19,340ft! Having worked in Africa for six years and flown over Kilimanjaro numerous times he had always longed to climb this mountain.

Sandy says “to get ready we plan to climb Munros at least once a month and increase the frequency nearer September and include mountains with long walk-ins and ridge walks to build up our walking time to at least 12-14 hours in one day. This worked well for Mont Blanc”.

We wish the three of them the best of luck and will be reporting on their progress in a forthcoming newsletter. Take a look at the Beatson pages inside to read about who else is climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and to find out how you can take part in your own challenge.

Sixty-summit
Introduction from the Chairman

This issue of the Medical Fund newsletter illustrates the tremendous support that the Beatson Pebble Appeal and Medical Fund have been receiving from different quarters. Fundraising activities are as strong as ever with absurdist, sponsored runs and overseas challenges all under way. Later in the year there will be the Think Pink Ball, zip slide and Kilmarnock Challenge to look forward to.

I am pleased to say that our Beatson Pebble Appeal funds have now reached £5.8 million. In addition to which we have received a marvellous £1.1 million bequest towards public health and two major gifts to genomics medicine. I feel sure you will enjoy reading this issue of the Medical Fund newsletter.

Michael Donald
Chairman

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Cycle Glasgow in its 7th year

Hundreds of people will be gearing up this summer for the seventh annual Cycle Glasgow event to raise money for The Paul O’Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre in Glasgow.

The event will be held this year on Sunday 19th August and is a great family day out for all age groups and abilities. The route, which is 13 or 26 miles, starts and finishes at Kelvingrove Park by Kelvin Grove Park by Clydebank along the Kelvin Way and returning via the cycle path on the Forth and Clyde Canal.

To date, the event has raised more than £300,000 which was integral in providing new facilities and equipment to run the centre.

Clyde Canal.

Going electronic

The Development team are conscious about trying to reduce the amount of printed literature that we produce so we’re finding new, electronic ways of interacting with our donors. Our Beatson Pebble Appeal e-newsletter was launched last year and is sent to over 800 donors. It gives a bi-annual update on some of the more inventive ways our supporters are raising money for the Appeal, including parachute jumps, choir singing, sponsored slim and curry night! If you’d like to receive the e-newsletter then drop Laura Crouchman an email on the details below.

The Beatson Pebble Appeal and Friends of the Paul O’Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre are also now on Facebook and Twitter! Why don’t you become a fan or a follower and keep up to date with campaign news and hear about our latest events? Search for us on Twitter and Facebook to join us.

The Beatson Pebble Appeal has also had an increase in the number of online donations. From March 2008 to February 2009 we received 21 donations totalling £3,036. Compared with the period from March 2009 to 1 March 2010 this increases to £23,399 and 80 donors which is great news.

Our biggest online donation was for a very generous £10,000 and will fund a laboratory bay in the new Centre. To donate online visit www.beatsonpebbleappeal.org and click on ‘donate’

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The Square Glasgow, G12 8QQ
www.gla.ac.uk/givingtoglasgow/medicalfund

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In Focus - Public Health and General Practice

The University section of general practice and primary care is small, but aims to support primary care development in the west of Scotland and beyond, via an integrated programme of undergraduate teaching.

William John Patterson and his wife Sarah left £1.1 million to medical education and research in the department of Public Health. William Patterson was born in Glasgow on 8th May 1929 and graduated from the University with an MBCS in 1951. He had lived in the West of Scotland all his life and was a previous donor to the University’s medical campaigns.

Jill Pell, Head of Public Health commented “we are extremely grateful to Dr and Mrs Patterson for this bequest. This will totally transform the department. Our aims are to endow a fellowship to support public health fellows who wish to undertake a PhD or MD in public health and to establish a flagship project that can be used to acknowledge this donation.”

This may well be a collaboration with other university departments focusing on healthy ageing”. We will update you on how this bequest has been helping the department in a future newsletter.

A bequest of any size will help continue the vital research and education that is taking place at the University. If you would like to speak to us about leaving a legacy in your will then please contact Sarah Richardson on 0141 330 8574 or s.richardson@admin.gla.ac.uk

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A vision of Translational Research

The artist’s impression of the Beatson Translational Research Centre has just been released.

(see to the right)

In drafting the design, architects RMJM have considered the University’s aspiration: “Successful delivery of a world class translational research centre that will attract the best translational research scientists world-wide… a place that promotes intellectual and physical wellbeing, and stimulates positive advancement of research boundaries”

The Beatson TRC will be located at the University’s Garscube Estate. Work will commence on site in the autumn of 2010 with construction starting in January 2011.

The building will be complete by the summer of 2012.

For further information visit www.beatsonpebbleappeal.org
Think Pink Update

Think Pink are thrilled to announce the launch of their brand new website designed by DB. The website provides details of forthcoming events, merchandise for sale and much more! Take a look at www.thinkpinkscotland.org

Organisers of the Right at Home Exhibition at the SECC generously provided a stall for Think Pink from the 5th - 7th of March. It was a fantastic event and gave the ladies an opportunity to boost sales of the Think Pink recipe book.

More than 6,000 books have been sold to date and the book was recently nominated for a UK design award! Finally, many thanks to the volunteers who give up their free time to help collect at Braehead. It always proves very successful, with more than £1,000 collected last time!

Jacqueline Coffield, Gillian Carr, Kirsteen Lechenby, Louise O'Neill and Alana Gillies are a group of girls who have all been training hard in preparation for the 10k Run For Fun event this month at the University’s Garscube Complex.

Jacqueline has very little time, however, behind wanting to do this run. She says “It is an unfortunate fact that every single person that reads this will have been touched by cancer. My Mum was diagnosed with bowel cancer last year. After a course of chemotherapy, radium treatment and recent surgery my family and I are in the very fortunate position of being able to look towards a happy ending as everything at this stage is looking extremely positive, although we are aware that the road to recovery has really just begun.

Getting here would not have been possible if not for the dedication and determination of the surgeons, doctors and nurses we have encountered along the way and who have not only performed in their capacity as medical professionals but have provided emotional support and encouragement to all of us. To be able to provide this standard of treatment costs money which is the motivation behind our decision to do this. All five of us have lost relatives/friends to cancer and really wanted to do something to help.”

The girls have been providing us with regular updates on Facebook about how their training is going, how competitive they are getting and sharing tips with fellow runners! We will give you an update on their fundraising totals and race times in our autumn newsletter.

www.beatsonpebbleappeal.org

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon Praises Achievement

Nicola Sturgeon has praised the efforts of University of Glasgow staff who have raised £5.8 million for the Beatson Pebble Appeal in their bid to raise £10 million to help build the Beatson Translational Research Centre (TRC).

As many of you will know, the Beatson TRC will be the first laboratory in Scotland dedicated to turning scientific discoveries into treatments for cancer patients.

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon, who visited the Beatson Institute recently, congratulated campaigners saying: “Raising £5.8 million in just over two years is a remarkable achievement, and I congratulate everyone who has contributed or worked to fundraising so far. The Beatson Translational Research Centre will be a world-class facility, transforming scientific advances in the lab into real benefits for patients.

This total brings us ever closer to this shared goal for science and, above all, patients.

Professor Sir Michael Bond, Campaign Chairman of the Beatson Pebble Appeal, thanked all those who have so far raised money for the facility.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked hard to raise money for the appeal. Without the public’s generosity, hard work and enthusiasm we would not be here today. However we must keep going if we are going to reach our target of £10 million. I’d urge the public to please remember that every donation assists our appeal and no matter how small it is, you will really be playing your part in helping the fight against cancer.”

Challenge Events 2010

If you are looking for a challenge in 2010 why not choose an overseas challenge for Beatson Pebble Appeal?

Challenge: Mount Kilimanjaro

When: 6 - 17 November 2010

Registration Fee: £350

Sponsorship Required: £4000

Two groups of active Beatson Pebble Appeal supporters have taken on the colossal challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to raise essential funds for the campaign.

Kilimanjaro is the tallest freestanding mountain in the world and the highest mountain in Africa standing at 5,895m above sea level.

Only 50% of people who attempt this mighty challenge make it to the top.

Candice Driver, David Watt and Craig Blatter have all been busy over the past couple of months raising sponsorship for their forthcoming venture through race nights, charity tea tastings, sponsored chest waxing and fun runs.

They join Sandy Halliday, his wife Margaret and good friend Sandy Leonard (featured on the front cover) who are hiking up the Machame route to the summit at Uhuru Peak.

To register or for further information contact Claire Laidlaw of the details below.

Why not join these six intrepid adventurers by taking part in one of our 2010/2011 challenges? They will include an Arctic winter adventure, a cycle along the coast of South Africa and a trek in Peru.

Legal Aid

Lawyers in the west of Scotland are supporting the Beatson Pebble Appeal. The initiative arose from a lunch, hosted and organised by a retired lawyer and the chairman of the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Andrew Robertson.

Andrew personally invited 14 of his colleagues from the legal world to the event where Professor Barry Gusterson described why the Beatson Translational Research Centre is so important to the future of cancer research and cancer care in Scotland and beyond.

Professor Sir Michael Bond then informed the group about the fundraising campaign the Beatson Pebble Appeal and the plans to reach the £10 million target. The event proved extremely successful. One result has been that another retired lawyer, Andrew Primrose, Chairman of the University of Glasgow Trust, has contacted many solicitors in practice in the area to ask them to help with the promotion of the Appeal in their offices.

“The response has been 100% positive” Andrew reported.

To find out more about Jacqueline and her friends visit her justgiving page: www.justgiving.com/Jacqueline-Coffield

www.beatsonpebbleappeal.org
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