

To all our Members and supporters, thank you for your contribution.

There are still over 3,600 cases of meningitis and septicaemia every year in the UK and Ireland. Around 10% of those cases result in death, while many more people are left with serious and life-changing disabilities.

From the Chair of Trustees



Although anyone of any age can get these deadly diseases, the main burden rests with the under-fives. In particular, babies under one in the UK and Ireland are nearly forty times more likely to get meningitis and septicaemia than adults and children aged over one.

With your help MRF is continuing to tackle meningitis and septicaemia on three main fronts – through research, awareness and support.

We are pleased that research we have funded is contributing to the discovery and testing of potential vaccines against Group B meningococcal bacteria (MenB) - the main cause of meningitis and septicaemia in the UK and Ireland. Prospects for a breakthrough have never looked better. But it is unlikely that any vaccine currently in development will entirely eliminate MenB. Also, MenB is not the only type of meningitis and septicaemia found in the UK and Ireland. Other kinds of bacterial meningitis still account for at least five cases a day – much still remains to be done to defeat these devastating diseases on the home front.

Abroad these diseases wreak even more havoc, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where, in epidemic years, tens of thousands of people die.

Consequently, our research programme will increasingly address meningitis and septicaemia as global concerns.

Whether abroad or at home, awareness, and particularly symptoms information, remains vital in the fight against meningitis and septicaemia. MRF is increasingly developing and using internet-based methods as well as printed material to deliver life-saving messages efficiently and effectively to those most at risk.

Members and their needs are at the centre of our work. It is our Members' stories which provide us with the inspiration for our continued fight against these deadly diseases. Our Book of Experience project enables our Members to tell their stories, and presents a unique picture of the way meningitis and septicaemia have affected individuals, families and whole communities. More Members' days, a new research site visit programme, plans for a comprehensive guide on rights and benefits, and regular Members' e-newsletters are all ways that we have responded to our Members' needs during the year.

To all our Members and supporters, thank you for your contribution. Through your support you are making a huge difference in the fight against meningitis and septicaemia. Please continue to support us until we have all reached our ultimate aim – a world free from meningitis and septicaemia.

Beverley Pace

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Working towards a world free from me

■ MenC vaccine: 10th anniversary

- Clusters of cases of meningitis and septicaemia caused widespread concern in the nineties, particularly in universities and colleges. The main cause of these clusters was Group C meningococcal bacteria (MenC). A vaccine against MenC was introduced into the UK and Ireland in the late 1990s. The success of the strategy of using vaccination as a way of tackling meningitis and septicaemia was illustrated when 2008-2009 became the first year when no deaths from MenC in children and young adults aged under 19 were recorded in England. We continue to devote a high proportion of our research spend to vaccines for types of disease not currently



Doctors performing a lumbar puncture on a patient with bacterial meningitis in Malawi

covered and to improvements in existing vaccines both at home and abroad.

■ New research

- We continue to invest heavily in groundbreaking research into the detection, treatment and prevention of meningitis and septicaemia. During the year, four new projects joined our programme. Based at St George's Hospital, London a new study will investigate meningitis in the first three months of life. Imperial College, London is looking into new vaccines against the main cause of meningitis and septicaemia in the UK and Ireland – the meningococcal bacteria. Further afield, Malawi is the setting for a project examining the relationship between HIV infection and Group B streptococcal bacteria, one of the main causes of neonatal meningitis. And in Australia scientists will be investigating ways to improve existing pneumococcal vaccines in a project called, 'Understanding and preventing pneumococcal meningitis'.

■ New vaccines

- We were delighted that a pneumococcal vaccine was introduced into the Irish childhood vaccination schedule in 2008 following its introduction in the UK in 2006. Pneumococcal meningitis is more life-threatening than other major forms of the disease and half of the survivors can be left with permanent disabilities.

- Although rare in the UK and Ireland, Group A meningococcal disease (MenA) is a major killer in Africa. The roll out of a new vaccine over the next few years promises to protect millions of people, including 23 million infants, against meningitis and septicaemia caused by the MenA strain.

■ National Institute of Clinical Excellence

- The Foundation is taking a leading role in the consultation process on preparing guidelines for the management of feverish illness in children. Fever in children can be a potential indicator of meningitis and septicaemia.



Just a few of the 100 Scottish Members who attended a Members' evening at the Scottish Parliament

■ Campaigning

- From parliamentary presentations, questions and motions to widespread media campaigns, 2008-2009 was a year when we worked hard

Who we are

Board of Trustees

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Professor Harold Lambert (retired June 2008)

Linda MacHugh

Margaret O' Brien

David Pick

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University of Bristol

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FRCPC**

Head of Department of Infection, Institute of
Child Health, University College London

meningitis and septicaemia



MPs show their support for MRF outside the Houses of Parliament

to keep meningitis and septicaemia at the forefront of the minds of politicians and the public. With thousands of cases every year and hundreds of deaths, MRF campaigned against complacency in the fight against meningitis and septicaemia.



Pupils from St Gregory's school in Bath were the first to receive symptoms by text

■ SMS

■ During the year we became the first provider of the symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia by text message. The messaging service targeted

teenagers, young adults, and parents and carers of babies and toddlers, those most at risk from meningitis and septicaemia and those with the highest usage of mobile technology.



Hazel Kee with her daughter Melanie, who shared their story for the Book of Experience

■ Book of Experience

■ The introduction of our online Book of Experience enabled MRF members to share their stories, building a unique picture of the way that meningitis and septicaemia have affected individuals, families and communities, while providing a source of mutual support for those affected by the diseases.

■ Knowsley Safari Park proved to be the ideal venue for our Members' Day which attracted families from throughout the UK and Ireland.

MRF facts and figures April 2008 – March 2009

- Twenty-two live research projects at the year-end
- Current research commitments of approximately £2,000,000
- The largest research programme of any meningitis charity
- Two million leaflets, booklets, symptoms cards and posters distributed free of charge to health professionals and the general public
- Health professional information for:
 - Ambulance personnel
 - General practice (updated during the year)
 - Triage nurses
 - Doctors in training
 - Paediatricians
 - Intensive care personnel
 - Community practitioners
- Targeted symptoms information for:
 - Parents and carers of babies
 - Parents and carers of toddlers
 - Young adults
- 372,391 unique visitors to our website
- Interpretation service in 120 languages
- Information on site in 22 languages
- Over 6,000 calls to our helpline
- 37 home visits to Members undertaken by MRF staff
- 140 trained volunteer telephone befrienders
- 14,208 Members of MRF with personal experience of meningitis and septicaemia

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Professor Neil Williams BSc PhD

Head, Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, University of Bristol

Fundraising

In achieving an on target income of £2.37 million during the year we are indebted to:

Our fabulous members and other supporters including:

Michael Adamson, Pauline and Tony Bell for their ongoing support in memory of Lisa; all at The Bristol



Golf Club; Arthur Burgess for his incredible efforts for the New York Marathon; Catherine Castellanos; Jenny and Alija Dzafic in memory of Jasmina; Maureen and James Ellson in memory of David; Helen Garner and all at the Golden Lion in memory of James Davies; Stephen Greene and the Master Painters and Decorators Association; Betty Hayes in memory of Desmond; Dr Hilary Jones for his display of knowledge on Who Wants To Be A Millionaire; Simon and Gilly King and friends and family in memory of Hannah; Brian and Claire McPolin in memory of Ashlene; Judi and Richard Mills and their family and friends in memory of Harry; Mr G Morrison; Soibhan O'Donovan in memory of Ronan; Michael Pattie; Ian and Irene Wardrop; Sir Ian and Lady Helen Wood.

Many charitable trusts including:

Aberbrothock Skea Charitable Trust; Billingsgate Christian Mission's Charitable Trust; The John Coates Charitable Trust; the Community Fund for Northern Ireland; The Coutts Charitable Trust; The Eveson Charitable Trust; Donald Forrester Trust; Hugh Fraser Foundation; Florian

Charitable Trust; The Hilda and Johnny Gibb Charitable Trust; The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust; Haymills Charitable Trust; The Albert Hunt Trust; The Imlay Foundation; The Lambert Charitable Trust; Lloyds TSB Foundation in N Ireland; Henry Lumley Charitable Trust; D D McPhail Charitable Settlement; The Moulton Charitable Foundation; Madeline Mabey Trust; Oak Foundation Ltd; The Peacock Charitable Trust; People in Need Republic of Ireland; Rosetrees Trust; Miss SE Robinson Charitable Trust; Sir Samuel Scott of Yews Trust; Sovereign Healthcare Charitable Trust and The Constance Travis Charitable Trust.

Major corporate supporters:

Airbus; Apache North Sea Ltd; Aberdeen Asset Management Plc; Aberdeen Journals Ltd; Allied Bakeries; Autosign Graphics; Bank of Scotland Corporate; Blackhorse; Boots the chemist (who ran their eighth awareness campaign with the charity in the Republic of Ireland); BP; Craig Group; Dunnes Stores; DHL; First Group; GlaxoSmithKline; HBOS; KBR; Maplewood Developments Ltd; Marks and Spencer plc; Monaleen and New Ross Credit Unions; Next plc; Northern Trust; Novartis Vaccines; Pepsico; Permanent TSB; Pritchitt Foods; Science Photo Library; Shell UK Limited; Signature Pubs; Stewart Milne Homes; Strategic Team Group; Tesco; Tyco Electronics; Ulster Bank; Unilever Foods; Wood Group; Wyeth Vaccines and Xilinx.

Grant making bodies:

Project grants came from the Department of Health in England; NHS Fife; Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety in Northern Ireland and the Irish Health Research Board.

Financial summary

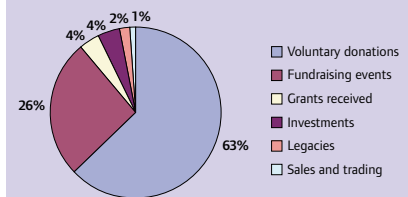
We make all your contributions count in the fight against meningitis and septicaemia.

The charity's income in 2008/09 was £2.37 million and expenditure was £2.37 million. The charts show how the money was raised and spent in this year and the previous year.

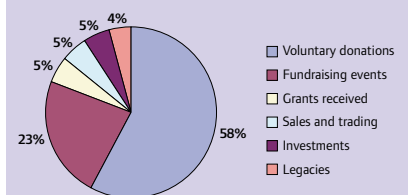
The trustees thank all those who contributed to this excellent performance.

Copies of the 2008/09 annual report and accounts, drawn up following the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 - Accounting and Reporting by Charities, are available on request from MRF's registered office in Bristol.

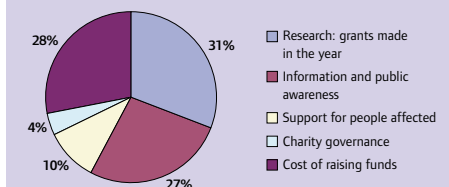
How the money was raised 2008/2009



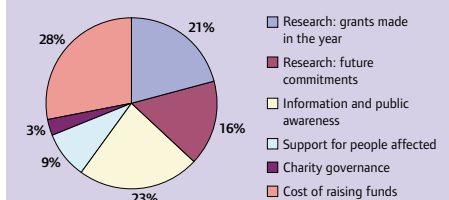
How the money was raised 2007/2008



How the money was allocated 2008/2009



How the money was allocated 2007/2008



Freefone 24 hour helpline

080 8800 3344 (United Kingdom)

1800 41 33 44 (Republic of Ireland)

www.meningitis.org



Offices: Belfast Bristol Dublin Edinburgh.

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