Under the **microscope**

2011-2012 Annual Review

Meningitis Research Foundation

Working together for a world free from meningitis and septicaemia

> In a matter of hours, my fit, healthy, at least-two-pieces-of-fruit-a-day, gym-going husband had been taken away from me by a disease I did not even know existed in adults.

Karen Felimond

The problem

Meningitis and septicaemia – the blood poisoning form of the disease – **can kill and disable in hours**. No other diseases can affect people as quickly.

Anyone of any age, anywhere in the world can contract the diseases, but babies, young children and young adults are most at risk.

In the UK and Ireland we estimate that there are **3,600 cases of meningitis and septicaemia a year.**

Throughout the world, **meningitis and septicaemia kill an estimated 1,000 people a day**.

One in ten people who get meningitis and septicaemia will die, many more will be left with life-long after effects as severe as amputations, deafness and brain damage.

"The empty space on the bed where my legs once were is still emotionally painful."

Kathleen Hawkins

Our solutions

We believe that scientific research will lead to our vision of a world free from meningitis and septicaemia.

We believe that safe, effective and licensed vaccines to combat meningitis and septicaemia should be made available to as wide a range of at risk groups as possible.

We fund **research** into the prevention, detection and treatment of the diseases.

We promote **education and awareness** of the diseases amongst health professionals and the public.

We provide **support** to people who have been affected by meningitis and septicaemia.

Our vision of a world free from meningitis and septicaemia can only be realised with your support.

Research

This year we were awarded the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) Best Practice certificate which confirms your financial support contributes to a programme where research procedures conform to the highest standards.

With your help we

- Supported the creation of the world's first library of the genetic blueprint of meningococcal bacteria which will be invaluable for the evaluation and implementation of new vaccines.
- Funded a national study into meningitis in newborn babies.
- Launched the UK's first major study into the diagnosis and effects of viral meningitis.
- Hosted an international conference which brought together the world's leading experts on meningitis and septicaemia to share cutting-edge thinking about the prevention, detection and treatment of the diseases at our internationally renowned conference.
- Funded research which revealed a potential new meningococcal Group B vaccine candidate.
- Provided funding for a new test which could rapidly speed up the diagnosis of meningitis and septicaemia.

Statistically speaking

17 research projects are currently being funded

137 research projects funded to a value of £16.5m/€21m since the charity was formed

www.meningitis.org/research

Awareness, education & campaigns

Until there are vaccines for all forms of meningitis and septicaemia available throughout the world, we need to continue to raise awareness of the diseases and their symptoms. Early diagnosis and rapid treatment provide the best chance of a good recovery.

With your help we

- Launched our Counting the Cost campaign calling on the UK Government to include a meningococcal Group B vaccine as soon as possible in the childhood immunisation programme. We also asked the government to change its criteria for assessing the value of vaccination for meningitis and septicaemia to include full medical costs of the disease.
- Took our Meningitis Matters aimed at educating UK MPs about meningitis and septicaemia to Westminster. Thirty-three members met their MPs, and a reception encouraged MPs and Lords to sign an Early Day Motion in support of our aims.
- Raised awareness during Meningitis Awareness Week, with over 100 members telling their stories to the media. We also worked with every university, sixth form college and doctor's surgery in the UK and Ireland to convey the symptoms message.

www.meningitis.org/awareness-education

Statistically speaking

1,264,702 visitors to www.meningitis.org

1,341,913 leaflets, booklets, symptoms cards and posters distributed free of charge

16,700 signed our Counting the Cost petition

"The first night without him was awful. We slept in Sam's bed, just because we wanted to be near him."

Rachel Clarke

Support & membership

Supporting those affected is a key part of our work. That's because vaccines, however effective they become, will still be too late for the tens of thousands of people who have already been affected by meningitis and septicaemia.

Statistically speaking

7,600 calls taken on our Freefone helpline

15,500 members of the Foundation all of whom have experience of meningitis and septicaemia

145 trained members of our Mentoring and Befriending Foundation approved Telephone Befriending Service

With your help we

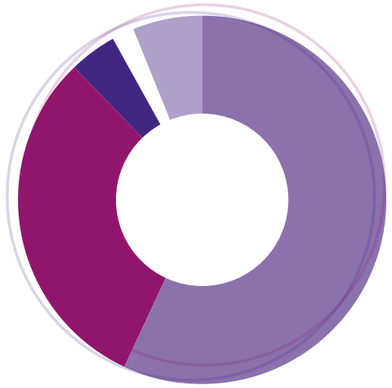
- Published our Impact of Meningitis report showing that too many individuals and families are not getting the support they need after meningitis and septicaemia.
- Appointed community ambassadors from our membership to represent us on a regional level – fundraising and spreading awareness.
- Launched our Disability Rights and Benefits website to inform families about the financial and practical support they may be entitled to.

www.meningitis.org/helping-you

Income and expenditure

During 2011/2012 we spent £2,307,580

- 25% Research grants
- 27% Information and public awareness
- 10% Support for people affected
- 8% Charity governance
- 30% Cost of raising funds



During 2011/2012 income was £2,096,442

- 57% Voluntary donations
- 31% Fundraising events
- 4% Grants received
- 2% Investments
- 6% Legacies

"We are especially grateful for the loyal and continued support of the charity's many thousands of donors.

Our thanks go to our generous members without whose donations and tireless fundraising activity the charity's work could not happen."

Beverley Pace, Chair of the Trustees

"It means the world to me to be representing the Foundation in this way. Without the support from MRF and personally being involved in fundraising in honour of my sister, I honestly believe I would not have coped so well with our loss."

Community Ambassador, Leoni Gabell

Copies of the 2011/2012 annual report and accounts, drawn up following the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 – Accounting and Reporting by Charities, are available on request from the Foundation's registered office in Bristol.

You can support our work towards a world free from meningitis and septicaemia by visiting **www.meningitis.org/helping-us/ways-to-give/donate-online** or by getting in touch.

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