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'INSPIRED' : The Monthly Newsletter from INSPIRE - August 2023 Edition



INSPIRE Trustee and Patron Mrs Gillian Matthews MBE: I am sad to report that a much loved and respected supporter of INSPIRE, Gillian Matthews, passed away on 7th August. Gill was a young mother of four children, including twin boys aged three, when she broke her back (complete T5) falling from her horse 'Sunsketch' at the Larkhill Point to Point in 1965.

After six months' rehabilitation at Stoke Mandeville, she went on to represent UK in four Paralympic Games and in 1988 became the Paralympic World Champion Table Tennis player in Brisbane. Gill served as a Dorset JP and Magistrate from 1978 – 2006 and was made an MBE in 2004 for her Services to Charity. Having served as a Trustee of the INSPIRE Foundation for eight years, she agreed to become a Patron in 2013.



Mr Charles Ranaboldo, a new Trustee for INSPIRE: I am delighted to announce that Charles Ranaboldo has agreed to become a Trustee at INSPIRE. Charles is a renowned surgeon with nearly 30 years' experience of caring for patients with Spinal Injuries. He is also a patient, who is now 16 months into recovery from Spinal Injury and Tetraplegia. Charles has a depth of knowledge in Medical Governance and Management, with 12 years as UK Medical Director of British arm of Global Healthcare Company, which has circa 35 hospitals and 3000 doctors working in them; he also has a background in Medical Informatics.

INSPIRE Research Projects: It is our projects that make INSPIRE a unique charity, in that we are not looking for the cure for Spinal Cord Injury (SCI). Instead, the 8 projects we support financially all aim to fulfil INSPIRE's Objective, 'Researching independence, quality of life and dignity after spinal cord injury' and I thought it would be interesting for you to see what they consist of:

1. SPINAL PAIN. Understanding causes and solutions of SCI Pain

Research Team. PI: Dr John Riddell, Dr Joziem Goense, Dr Guillaume Rousselet, Dr Aleksandra Vuckovic, Prof Bernard Conway, Dr Margaret Purcell, Mr Matthew Fraser.

Locations: University of Glasgow, Queen Elizabeth University Teaching Hospital, Glasgow

Total project costs: **£184,510**

2. NEUROMOD II. Neuromodulation to control bladder over-activity following Spinal Cord Injury with the Development and long term assessment of wearable devices

Research Team. PI: Dr Lynsey Duffell, Dr Sarah Knight, Dr Anne Vanhoestenbergh, Dr Sean Doherty

Locations: University College London, LSCIC RNOH Stanmore, NEUROKINEX Crawley, Sussex

Total project costs: **£201,719**

3. BOWMAN. Abdominal Functional Electrical Stimulation (ABFES) for Bowel Management

Research Team. PI: Dr Tamsyn Street, Dr Rupert Earl*, Dr Chalil Vinod, Ms Mel Williams, Dr Sean Doherty* Dr Paul Strike, Dr Samir Vyas. (* SCI Patient Perspective Advisors)

Locations: Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust

Total project costs: **£163,806**

4. iCYCLE II. Recovery of function through cycling therapy with virtual reality biofeedback in chronic SCI

Research Team. PI: Prof Nick Donaldson, Dr Lynsey Duffell, Prof Jane Burridge, Mr Maurizio Belci

Locations: Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore & Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

INSPIRE project costs: **£118,892**

5. PAIN PREDICT. ECG predictors of central neuropathic pain in subacute SCI

Research Team. PI: Dr Aleksandra Vuckovic, Dr Mariel Purcell

Locations: University of Glasgow & Queen Elizabeth National Spinal Injuries Unit

Total project costs: **£190,988**

6. TRUNK FUNCTION. Functional activity of upper extremities for improved trunk function For SCI

Research Team. PI: Dr Shin-Yi Chiou, Dr Paul Strutton, Mr JR Chowdhury, Prof Deborah Falla, Dr Eduardo M-Valdes. INSPIRE Foundation PhD Scholarship 2020: Joeri F.L. van Helden (Netherlands)

Locations: University of Birmingham. Costs shared with University of Birmingham

INSPIRE project costs: **£98,745**

7. BIONIC BLADDER. Evolving the Bionic Bladder: towards complete electrical control of continence and micturition'.

Lead Researcher: Dr Benjamin Metcalfe.

Locations: University of Bath and Oxford University, Royal Veterinary College.

INSPIRE project costs **£213,146**

8. REHAB RHYTHM. Repetitive Movements with Nerve Stimulation 'Strengthening Residual Pathways'

Lead Researcher: Prof Stuart Baker

Locations: Newcastle University and Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata, India

INSPIRE project costs **£239,610**

Thus, you can see we work with a large and varied number of outstanding research organisations and universities across the whole of the UK to make sure we get the best and most talented scientists supporting our vital work. This is why, in my role as Director, I need to keep banging on about raising more and more money, so we can do more and more for all those with SCI!!

AGM and Autumn Supper Diary Date: Please put **Thursday 23rd November** in your diaries. The AGM will start at 6pm, the Autumn Supper at 7:30pm. Both events are taking place in the prestigious Guildhall on Salisbury's Market Square.



Remember, you are always very welcome to meet Pippa, Susie and me:

1. Come to the INSPIRE office opposite the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre, Salisbury District Hospital for a tea or coffee and a chat;
2. Call me on 07563232219 or 01722 425098 to fix a time and date;