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WELCOME to the latest news from the Aspergillus Trust. All members who have registered with the trust will receive this newsletter direct to their registered email account. You can change your options at: www.aspergillustrust.org/updatedetails.asp if you no longer wish to receive newsletters your inbox.

New Website

Our new website has been very well received by all.

Dr Paul Cullinan MD FRCP - Royal Brompton Hospital London wrote:

"Looks very good - well done! I will certainly let patients know about it"

AGM and General Meeting

A General Meeting of the Aspergillus Trust will take place on Saturday, 7 October, 2006, at the Education and Research Centre, Wythenshawe Hospital, Southmoor Rd, Manchester, from 12 noon to 1.30 pm.

There will be a break for lunch, following which the AGM of the Aspergillus Trust will be held from 2.00 to 3.30 pm. All members are welcome to attend the lunch and the AGM.

Any member (if you registered with the Trust on this site or received an information pack from us then you are a member) may wish to put his or her name forward for trusteeship and we welcome your support. You must be proposed and seconded by existing trustees and we will be happy to explain what will be entailed in trusteeship to you.

Further details are available from: info@aspergillustrust.org

Online Forums

The online forums are available for all to use. They are where you can talk directly to the trustees and other AT members and catch up with interesting items that other members have 'Seen in the News'. Check out the latest items at:

www.aspergillustrust.org/forums

Annual Report and accounts

The annual report and accounts for the year ending 31st March 2006 are now available to view or download via the 'About the Trust' area of our website at:

www.aspergillustrust.org

Annual Competition for Medical Students

The fifth Aspergillus Trust medical student competition is aimed at helping us devise an appropriate patient information leaflet on the complications of ABPA. This year we are asking students to draft and illustrate a leaflet on:

Bronchiectasis, Pseudomonas, non-TB mycobacteria and other sources of additional respiratory problems for Aspergillus sufferers.

There is a prize of £200 for the winner.

The 2005-6 competition winner, Ali Murad, a 5th year student at Oxford Medical School, has provided us with the basis for our leaflet on Allergic Fungal Sinusitis, which we will be developing later this year. Tom Havard of St Bartholomew's and the Royal London Medical School won second prize. Well done to both, particularly as all entries were of a very high standard. There will be a page on the Aspergillus Trust website giving some useful advice and directions for entrants.

New Patient Information Leaflets

The latest Patient information leaflet is now under way the 'Aspergilloma and CPA' leaflet is now at the draft stage and will be steadily progressed through the various stages including review and editing by our medical professionals before final printing and distribution. Watch this space for further announcements!

Fundraising News

Mike Chapman, a Cornish member, has been doing fantastic work in raising funds and greater awareness about Aspergillus Diseases and the work of the trust. Mikes latest project has been playing at a local music festival. Enclosing a cheque, Mike wrote:

"This money was raised by Ursula Hambly who held a small music festival in her barn in order to raise money for local charities. Unfortunately the wind howled and the rain came down in buckets so we didn't raise as much as we hoped to cover the 3-way charity split. However, £150 was more than I expected in those conditions"

Well done, and a big THANK YOU to all who took part and those who donated on the day!

Section 64 Grant Application

Our hopes of reaching the second-phase of the Section 64 Grant scheme for 2007-2008 were unfortunately dashed at first base due to a simple technicality ...Peter Henriksen our Trustee and advisor on Finance and Management wrote: (extract)

“we have been ruled out of receiving a Sec 64 grant at first base on the simple grounds that our objectives include the word ‘research’ even though the objective refers to sponsoring or promoting research, not funding it; and even though we have not spent a penny on research and the grant application does not ask for funds for research”

It was hugely disappointing but we will continue to explore other avenues and can re-apply next year for 2008-2009. Thanks go to Peter for all his grand efforts on our behalf and we wish him greater success in future endeavours!

Membership and Registration

www.aspergillustrust.org/register.asp

Please take the time to register with the Aspergillus Trust. Doing so helps us to compile data on how widespread the suffering and interest in aspergillus disease is and helps us to campaign and fight on your behalf. No information will be identified with you personally, it will only be used to provide general statistics and your details will not be shared with any other parties. If you experience any difficulties in registering, simply email support@aspergillustrust.org and we'll be happy to help.

Want to help?

There are many ways that you can help the Aspergillus Trust in its work, these include:

Becoming a Member ...join us and pledge your support.

Contribute to our Voluntary Subscription scheme.

Support other members by joining our online community forum

Share your skills and ideas with us to further the aims and objectives of the AT.

Volunteer to help us in organising our regional meetings and distributing information and help to other Aspergillus sufferers in your area.

Invite family and friends to become AT supporters ...many companies for example have 'Dress Down Charity Days' - suggest that they consider nominating the AT as their Charity.

Help with fundraising by taking part in or organising events and raising sponsorship for the trust.

By making a donation.

Fungus Amongus

Have you helped us kill off any of these pesky little critters yet? Come online and play 'Fungus Amongus' and help us rid the world of aspergillus disease forever... Have fun!

On a final note

I hope you like the new layout and ideas for future inclusion in the newsletter. Please contribute to future issues by sending in your articles, recipes etc, ...remember, with your help we can make a difference!

Jim Breen

Recipe Section

Banana Velvet Ice Cream: Submitted by June Henriksen

Buy extra bananas when they are cheap and make this.

200g (7oz) bananas, peeled Cut them into thin slices, place them in a freezer bag and freeze until they are hard.
150ml (5 fl oz) low-fat natural yoghurt.

Use the sharp blade of a food processor. Place the frozen banana pieces and yoghurt in the food processor and pulse gently, switching it on and off for short bursts. At the beginning the machine responds jerkily to the frozen banana, but after a while this makes a rich cream. Makes 4 servings. Each serving is 10g CHO. 60 kcals.

This is from a book called 'Living without Sugar' by Elbie Lebrecht 1989, which I have found good for cooking things for Peter since he became diabetic.

Making a Donation

You can donate simply easily and securely by clicking here: <https://secure.efundraising.org.uk/tailored/donation.asp?charity=72201> ...this is our secure online donation facility operated on behalf of the AT by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). You can choose to pay into the voluntary annual membership scheme, our marathon fundraising appeal or simply make a donation direct to the general fund of the AT.

This facility also enables you to pay by £ Sterling / \$ US Dollars / Euros ...you can also donate by post to:

Aspergillus Trust
PO Box 168
Hexham NE46 9AN
United Kingdom

...cheques should be made payable to the Aspergillus Trust and crossed 'A/C PAYEE'

Your feedback is important

Please take a little time to let us know what you think of our newsletter, website or any other issues that are important to you, our members - **please feel free to let us have your views.**

Articles Wanted

We want you to contribute to future editions of the AT News ...we would welcome topical aspergillus related articles for inclusion in the newsletter. You may also submit short stories, your favourite recipes, poetry, jokes (keep them clean please) ...in fact anything you feel may be of interest to your fellow members.

“Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind”

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

If you have any news, articles, ideas, comments, or information you would like to contribute to future publications of the AT News please get in touch at: news@aspergillustrust.org

Please Note:

Articles will be included entirely at the discretion of the board of Trustees