

BACKGROUND TO THE BIKE RIDE

Pancreatic & Liver Cancer Research Charity Bike Ride Leicester to Hunstanton (Starting near Market Harborough)

Saturday 20th June 2015

Pancreatic cancer is a devastating disease that affects up to 8,000 people each year in the UK. It is very difficult to treat at any stage but sadly due to the fact that it generally presents when quite advanced the majority of patients cannot be cured. Liver cancer affects up to 18,000 people each year with most of the cases being spread from bowel cancer.

The department of hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery (HPB) at Leicester General Hospital regularly conducts research into the causes and treatments of these cancers. Research is very costly and rarely funded by the NHS and although the government and large granting bodies do support some of the work this is almost exclusively for the higher profile, politically favoured cancers such as lung, breast, bowel and prostate. Organising studies and analysing samples to help us learn and understand the processes involved in the development and resistance of cancers is very expensive and as a consequence we need to find ways of raising money to ensure that this vital work can continue.

In 2013 one of our patients decided to 'give something back' to his surgeon and explained to his nurse specialist that he and his family were planning a charity bike ride from Leicester to Skegness to raise money for pancreatic cancer research at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. Upon hearing this, the nurse decided to take up the challenge herself and accompany the patient. Word rapidly spread and the group quickly grew to include his surgeon, patients, doctors, nurses, managers, family and friends. Over the past two years and with two charity bike rides under our belt we have raised over £60,000 which has been used to support research into pancreatic and now liver cancer in our HPB unit in Leicester which we hope will benefit patients everywhere.

Due to the success of the bike rides and popular demand on Saturday 20th June 2015 the team have decided to take on the challenge once again and raise more money to support our research and this year the challenge is to ride to sunny Hunstanton.

Cris Pollard

13th April 2015