

Supporting The Euan MacDonald Centre

at  THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Your fundraising efforts will directly support our researchers and, most importantly, patients.



www.euanmacdonaldcentre.com



In 2003 University of Edinburgh graduate Euan MacDonald noticed a loss of power in his left thumb when buying a new bike. He later developed a twitch in the muscles of his left arm.

A series of tests followed and shortly after his 29th birthday Euan was diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND). Despite being given a devastating prognosis of surviving anything between six months and a few years, Euan remained positive.

Within a year of diagnosis he married his girlfriend Liz, and their first son Finlay was born in 2004, followed by Alec a year later. Euan gave up his job in the financial sector in London and returned to his hometown of Edinburgh with his family.

Since his diagnosis Euan has devoted all his energies to his young family and promoting MND research. In 2006, Euan and his father Donald became interested in the diverse group of MND researchers at the University of Edinburgh. The pair made a far-sighted and substantial donation that led to the establishment of the Euan MacDonald Centre for MND Research.

More recently, Euan has established the unique website Euan's Guide, which uniquely provides accessibility reviews for venues nationwide.

What is MND?

MND is a debilitating disease that generally strikes at random in middle age. It leads to muscle weakness and ultimately paralysis, and is usually fatal within a few years. There are approximately 300 people living with MND in Scotland at any given time and there are currently no effective treatments.

The Centre

The Euan MacDonald Centre at the University of Edinburgh is a multi-disciplinary group of around 30 researchers across Scotland that forms part of a worldwide effort to find a cure for neurodegenerative diseases. The mission of the Centre is to make a difference to the lives of patients with MND through laboratory and clinical research.

Key projects include the synthesis of bespoke voices for patients who have lost their own; the Scottish MND Register; improved cognitive assessment; and advances in modelling the disease 'in a dish' using human stem cells. The focus of the Centre is on integrating improved patient care with developing new approaches to slow, stop and, ultimately, reverse this devastating disease.

Fundraising 2013

The life expectancy for patients living with motor neurone disease is three to four years - currently there is no cure. The money raised through the activities highlighted below will directly help our researchers better understand the causes of this debilitating condition and hopefully help them slow down or even stop this devastating disease.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has raised awareness and income by taking part in fundraising events. In 2013 community style fundraising generated almost £50,000 in aid of the Euan MacDonald Centre. Supporters include:

Ailsa and Graham Thompson organised a Fashion Show at Matalan which raised £1,700 and a race night which raised an additional £195.

The Barclay Family and Ballater Charitable Chiels organised another brilliant Texas Scramble in June raising £20,000 for the Centre. To date this annual golfing tournament has raised well over £100,000 in memory of Sandy Barclay.



Carole and Mickey Cowen raised over £3,500 when they celebrated 50 years of marriage in June. Instead of gifts they asked guests to donate to the Euan MacDonald Centre.

Christian Aaselund, Christian O'Meara, Lance Kyle, Marc Austin and Matthew Moore cycled 200 miles in a day from Seattle to Portland. This stateside challenge raised over \$5,500 for the Centre.

Euan MacDonald Centre Staff took part in the Edinburgh Marathon Festival and organised a fundraising ceilidh in May; together these two events raised over £7,000.

Claire Kelly raised almost £200 by completing the Loch Ness Marathon in September.

Hugh Kerr took part in the Ironman Lanzarote raising over £1,000 in memory of his friend Helen O'Hare. Hugh endured a 2.6 mile swim in the sea, a 112 cycle ride and marathon all in one day.

John and Magnus Frame raised over £1,000 when they hot footed it across our 20' firewalk in November.

XFest is a ten hour musical festival involving 25 acts in three arenas; organiser **Malcolm Tudhope** nominated the Centre as a featured charity which resulted in a £495 donation.

Mariota Dunning owner and therapist at m massage, Edinburgh, offered free massages in exchange for a donation to the Euan MacDonald Centre; Mariota has raised £500 to date.

Ryan McKenna raised almost £3,000 in memory of his good friend Robert Paulley by completing the Great Scottish Run half marathon.

Tim Campbell raised almost £7,000 when he took part in the iconic swim across the Hellespont strait (from Europe to Asia) in August.



For more information on how you can become involved please visit

www.ed.ac.uk/alumni/services/givingback/fundraising

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