Mesothelioma research and treatment: A national strategy?

There are encouraging words from the Department of Health about how the Government and the health service is tackling the deadly asbestos lung cancer, and how it is planning to prioritise spending in this area. But there is still no firm commitment to addressing the need for a national centre of excellence for asbestos/cancer research by consultant oncologist Dr Jeffrey Steeles at Bart’s Hospital in London, as is argued a strategy is needed to:

- Research and clinical trials, as the current treatment for the disease is unsatisfactory.
- Setting up a mesothelioma centre of nursing, education, research, and information.
- Increased research funding from the MARS.
- Movement of patients/treatment between cancer centres, i.e. allowing different treatment centres to treat patients with mesothelioma.
- Setting up a mesothelioma centre.
- Development of state-of-the-art treatment facilities.
- Provision of sufficient funds for the research.
- Setting up a mesothelioma registers/registries to collect data on the disease.
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Day of Action!

The fund and the BBC together bought a bus to park in London, which was equipped with an outdoor stage and "Day of Action" weekender. The weekender featured a concert, a media campaign, and a series of workshops, seminars, and discussions. The event aimed to raise awareness of mesothelioma and provide support and information to those affected by the disease.

Study day raises awareness AND £500!

A study day for the Mesothelioma Nurses Network, sponsored by Irwin Mitchell and the Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, was held in November. The day was attended by over 100 people and raised £500 for the fund. The day included presentations on the latest research and treatment options, and a panel discussion on the psychological and social aspects of mesothelioma.

Charity Gala raises £820

When Michele Sturgess, another successful solicitor and amputee, learned that her late father Roger (who passed away from mesothelioma) had left her the sum of £58 during his lifetime, she decided to use the money to help others affected by the disease. Michele contacted the fund and arranged to hold a charity gala to raise additional funds. The event was a huge success, with over 100 people in attendance and raising over £820 for the fund.

Why do we need a separate fund for Mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is a rare and aggressive cancer that affects the lining of the lungs, heart, and lining of the abdomen. It is caused by exposure to asbestos, a mineral fiber that was widely used in construction and industry before the dangers of asbestos became widely known. The disease often goes undiagnosed until it is in an advanced stage, and there is currently no cure.

The fund was established to provide support and information to those affected by mesothelioma, as well as to raise awareness of the condition and fund research into new treatments. The fund is independent and not affiliated with any other organization, ensuring that all donations go directly to support those affected by mesothelioma.

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