



***Working to benefit all people
affected by genetic disorders***

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news release

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DNA 50 ANNIVERSARY STATEMENT FROM THE GENETIC INTEREST GROUP

Modern genetic research is holding out the prospect of substantial progress in the fight against serious, chronic and ultimately fatal diseases that affect so many individuals and families throughout the UK. Just fifty years ago no-one could have imagined that progress would be so rapid. In April 1953 when Watson and Crick wrote their famous letter to Nature it was a scientific breakthrough that led to the Nobel Prize. The real benefits of this discovery have been for the patients and families who, as a result have been able to get better help advice and support from the NHS. Now, for some at least, there is the prospect of affective treatment and hopefully cures for some of these diseases.

Welsh medical research, and the development of world class genetic medical services by the NHS in Wales working with patients and the groups that support them has contributed significantly to the advances we see today.

In the half century, thanks to our ability to decipher DNA, we have come a long way in understanding what goes wrong in our biology. The challenge for the next fifty years is to take steps to prevent or cure the diseases that result. The Genetic Interest Group the national alliance of support groups for families with all genetic disorders, the academic and clinical community, the NHS in Wales, and Colleagues from industry and commerce are working together to ensure that Welsh ingenuity and creativity play their proper part in making this happen sooner rather than later

Alastair Kent

Director

Ends

For more information please contact

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Notes to Editors

- The Genetic Interest Group (GIG) is a national alliance of organisations with a membership of over 120 charities that support children, families and individuals affected by genetic disorders.
- Our primary goal is to promote awareness and understanding of genetic disorders so that high quality services for people affected by genetic conditions are developed and made available to all who need them.
- Individually, many genetic conditions are rare and as such it is difficult to raise their profile and the needs of those affected by them. GIG provides a common platform from which effective programmes to raise awareness, inform the media and influence government, industry and the NHS can be launched
- As an organisation focusing on issues of policy and practice GIG keeps an active watch on developments in the UK and Europe that will influence the effective transfer of knowledge and understanding into products and services for families that are supported by our member groups.
- In a potentially controversial field like genetics GIG provides a strong voice advocating the benefits of scientific progress in understanding the contribution being made now and that will be made in the years to come for improving health and combating many currently incurable diseases.

Registered Office:

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A Registered Charity (Number 803424)