



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

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## **news release**

For immediate release: 27th July 2004

### **UK's first website for genetic disorders gets a facelift.**

The UK's first website to offer comprehensive information on genetic disorders has today 27th July 2004 been re-launched with a new design and format by The Genetic Interest Group (GIG), a registered charity and national alliance of patient organisations. The site, at [www.gig.org.uk](http://www.gig.org.uk) is the first comprehensive website to provide a unique source of information for a range of people, from patients and families right through to policy makers, health care professionals and teachers.

The site has been transformed with its new design and added features. It is easily accessible and incorporates an expanded interactive zone. To accompany the video testimonies by GIG members, who are the families, children and individuals affected by genetic disorders, there will also be educational games covering aspects of basic genetics appearing over the coming months, thanks to secured funding.

The site contains all the latest policy and project documents that GIG have produced, as well as information on all our 130 member groups, including website links.

The Genetic Interest Group was established in 1989 and aims to promote an awareness and understanding of genetic disorders to the public and also to government and industry. GIG is a voluntarily funded organisation which works tirelessly in providing a voice for patients and families with genetic disorders through policy papers, lectures, seminars and debate..

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## **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 130 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)