

SPIDER'S APPEAL: CONTRIBUTION TO SKIN CANCER RESEARCH IN THE CANCER – RESEARCH UK SKIN TUMOUR LABORATORY AT BART'S AND THE LONDON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY, QUEEN MARY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the UK. The CR-UK Skin Tumour Laboratory is based in the Institute of Cell and Molecular Medicine and Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry in London's East End. Our research into skin cancer has 3 main aims: to understand the causes and factors influencing the development of skin cancers, to investigate new treatments and to establish strategies for preventing skin cancers. We rely heavily on funding from CR-UK, the major cancer charity in the UK. CR-UK itself depends entirely on voluntary contributions from the general public. For this reason, we are always very pleased to meet with CR-UK fundraisers, and so we were delighted to welcome Barry Atkinson representing Spider's Appeal to our centre on 26th September last year.

Barry was accompanied by two colleagues from CR-UK central office. As well as having a tour of our Institute – a brand new building with state-of-the-art laboratories which houses many other research groups as well as our own – he also met with our head of department, Professor Irene Leigh, and with Dr Charlotte Proby and myself. We are all consultant dermatologists running clinical and laboratory research programmes in skin cancer. We were able to explain the research we are currently undertaking and to show Barry the ways in which Spider's Appeal fundraising efforts were directly benefiting cancer research. Barry explained to us exactly how the impressive sum of £20,000 was raised through the shooting community's efforts in the 2003/4 shooting season at over 131 shoots. The generosity of Spider's Appeal certainly highlight it's mission "To help protect the countryside and your health" and we are honoured that Spider's appeal should have chosen skin cancer research as the beneficiary of it's first year of fundraising.

We wish Spider's appeal every success in the future and are enormously grateful to the shooting community for their efforts on behalf of skin cancer research.

Catherine Harwood,
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