



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

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news release

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DNA DELIVERS. 50 years of Progress told through the eyes of the patients and their Doctors

The Genetic Interest Group (GIG), a registered charity and national alliance of patient organisations, is delighted to announce the publication of the information booklet "DNA Delivers" to commemorate this significant milestone in genetics.

A group of eight patients and seven medical professionals share their thoughts with GIG on the impact that the discovery of DNA, and the subsequent discoveries that have stemmed from it, has made to their lives and the lives of their families. The patients' diagnoses have been spread over a period of many years and the differences in their experiences provide an illumination of how practices of care and treatment have changed over the years. Medical professionals give the view from the other side of the fence helping explain how their increasing knowledge has benefited the lives of their patients and the families of their patients and so whilst allowing us to reflect on past experiences and also look towards the future and the developments that are on the horizon.

James Watson (co-author of that famous letter to Nature some 50 years ago) has kindly contributed the foreword to this publication in which he notes that "Fifty years ago we knew little or nothing about the biology of these conditions, and families could do little but watch them take their toll on those affected but now research is advancing our knowledge so rapidly that, for more and more genetic diseases, there is the prospect of effective prevention, treatment and a cure being developed".

Dr. Adrian Bomford commented "Organisations such as the Genetic Interest Group have a role to play in educating the public and the health carers" and by participating in this publication Adrian Bomford has helped GIG to do this.

The booklet is aimed at people with no specific knowledge or training in science or genetics and is available on request from the GIG offices and will shortly be available to download from the GIG website www.gig.org.uk

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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 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)