



# Pelican Post

PELICAN  
cancer foundation



Improving lives by advancing precision surgery

January 2013

## Welcome

Advancing treatment for bowel cancer remains Pelican's main focus. However, we also work to drive improvements in the diagnosis and treatment of other pelvic area cancers. In this newsletter we are including something on many of these areas of our programme.

Whereas advancing precision surgery continues to be central to our work, as surgery still cures more people than any other cancer intervention, we are also actively involved in promoting the development of precise diagnosis pathways to avoid unnecessary surgery. Results from recent research into advances in prostate cancer diagnosis, for example, are extremely encouraging. So do read on...

*Sarah*

Chief Executive

## Home and Away, Pelican's national and international reach

Pelican is known nationally and internationally for its research programme and delivery of courses for cancer surgeons and specialists. Clinicians from across the world come to Pelican to attend workshops and conferences, and members of Pelican's faculty travel the world to deliver surgery and presentations.

In September 2012 Professor Bill Heald, Pelican trustee and Director of Surgery, was invited to present the major Cancer Commission lecture for the centenary meeting of the American College of Surgeons.

'Fifty Years of Bowel Cancer Surgery – Tales of the Unexpected' received a standing ovation and following the presentation the President of the College wrote to convey the decision of the regents of the College to confer an Honorary Fellowship on Professor Heald in 2013.



Professor Bill Heald

*See inside for the latest on Pelican and:*

*Prostate cancer research*

*Pseudomyxoma*

*Colorectal cancer and the older patient*

*Bladder cancer*

*Colostomy irrigation*

Pelican Cancer Foundation is dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for patients with pelvic (lower bowel, prostate, bladder) and liver cancers (PE-LI-CAN). Pelican is a world leader in pioneering research and education for precision surgery. Surgery cures more patients than any other cancer intervention. With your generous support, Pelican trains surgeons and cancer teams in the latest life-saving, life-enhancing surgical skills and sponsors pioneering clinical research.

*Thank you*

## Pelican Research Fellow



Mr Zia Janjua

In October 2012 we were delighted to welcome Mr Zia Janjua to the post of Research Fellow. Mr Janjua came to Basingstoke from Ireland, where he qualified as a general surgeon, to concentrate on surgery for low rectal cancer - cancer found in the lower part of the bowel.

Mr Janjua has worked on a number of research projects including for 'LOREC', the government programme to improve outcomes and quality of life for low rectal cancer patients, and a study investigating outcomes for patients following MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) directed surgery.

Mr Janjua is now focused on setting up the UK section of a European study. He says, "LARS, or Low Anterior Resection Syndrome study, looks at an easy assessment tool for identifying patients with poor functional results after rectal cancer surgery who may require further attention and will also help inform clinicians in making better treatment decisions in consultation with the patients."



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## Roger Brooke OBE

It was with great sadness in December 2012 that we learnt of the death of Pelican trustee, Roger Brooke OBE.

“Roger was a highly valued member of the board,” says CEO Sarah Crane. “His support was also fundamental to advancing prostate cancer treatment, as he was involved in the early days of the development of using ultrasound to destroy tumours. His input has had a major impact on how men with prostate cancer are treated today.

“Roger will be greatly missed, and our thoughts are with his family at this time.”

## Our supporters

Thank you to all who have recently raised funds for Pelican, including:

**Charlie Holloway**, who held a magnificent British Bash fundraising ball.

**Veronika Cook**, Desi, Helen, Mandy and Andrew created paintings, made and sold photo-frames, preserves and cakes.

**Hatch Warren Surgery** nominated Pelican as their charity of the year, and raised funds through patient donations, dress-down days, raffles, a bake sale and book library.

**The Co-op in Hungerford** sold Pelican Christmas cards.

**The Gary Ronson Players**, grew ‘Movember’ facial fuzz for us.

**Jasper Dalgliesh** generously donated images for three of our 2012 Christmas cards, paintings by his late mother local artist Daphne Abrams.

*Thank you,  
as we can't continue  
our work without you*

## Pelican lends a helping (robot) hand



Demonstrating the robot

In autumn 2012 Pelican organised a trial to assess the use of a hand-held robot in precision surgery.

Robots have been used for laparoscopic or key-hole surgery for some years, but to date have been expensive at around £1.8m, and relatively immobile. The Kymerax, developed by Terumo, and trialled by our team of surgeons (consultant colorectal surgeon Arcot K Venkatasubramaniam, consultant gynaecologist Christian Phillips and consultant urologist Richard Hindley - all pictured) costs £60,000 and has the added advantage of being portable.

The robot enables the surgeon to combine the touch and feel of traditional surgery with the greater accuracy and dexterity provided by the robot. It is more flexible than the human wrist, and the tip moves in multiple directions. The team was able to trial use of the robot in demonstration mode (pictured) and during a gynaecological operation performed by Mr Phillips.

Mr Phillips says, “This robot can do things not physically possible with a human wrist and gives you the best of both worlds. The cost and portability are also extremely important and will hopefully mean that patients across the region can benefit from this surgical advancement.”

## The path ahead for prostate cancer – some promising news

Prostate cancer is the most commonly occurring cancer in men in the UK - 35,000 are diagnosed with the disease each year - but receives comparatively little research funding. Pelican, however, has been actively involved in prostate cancer research for a number of years.

Sarah Crane, Pelican CEO, explains, “Pelican is focused on a strategic aim to make prostate diagnosis more accurate and treatment more precise. In particular we are supporting research into and development of the use of MRI (magnetic resource imaging) in both diagnosis and treatment guidance.”

In spring 2012 there was widespread coverage in the national press of the promising results of a trial part-funded by Pelican, where MRI is used to map the lesions which are then targeted using focal therapy, HIFU (high intensity focused ultrasound).

In the last year Pelican has further promoted the use of MRI in prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment through organising a programme of courses for surgeons and radiologists and hosting an international conference in New York for the world’s leading prostate cancer specialists focusing on this use of MRI.

## Pseudomyxoma



Mr Brendan Moran

Basingstoke was the initial and now one of only two centres in the UK to treat *pseudomyxoma peritonei*, a rare type of cancer which usually begins in the appendix and spreads cancerous cells which move around in the abdomen and produce a jelly-like fluid. The surgical techniques are also used for some advanced colon cancers which have spread into the peritoneal cavity.

Pelican supports Basingstoke’s pseudomyxoma multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) through providing meeting room facilities, and in May is running a pathology meeting to standardise the terminology for this rare disease. Mr Brendan Moran, consultant pseudomyxoma surgeon, comments, “We are grateful for Pelican’s help with this important meeting, and continue our work to maintain Basingstoke as a world leader in this field. We have now performed almost 1,000 cases and have extended the techniques for other peritoneal malignancies.”

## Colorectal cancer and the older patient

A number of recent studies have concluded that the healthcare a patient receives may be influenced by age rather than clinical factors. With the number of people in the UK aged 65+ set to rise by 65 percent over the next 25 years, to 16.4 million, this is an issue under current investigation by the NHS.

As the incidence of colorectal cancer increases with age - over 70 percent of diagnoses are in patients 65+ - this issue is also of concern to Pelican. The results of a literature search into colorectal cancer treatment, undertaken by a Basingstoke research fellow, revealed that older patients are more likely to receive palliative or limited surgery, and yet surgery survival rates are comparable regardless of age.

In the summer of 2013 Pelican will host a meeting for colorectal cancer specialists focusing on optimising treatment for colorectal patients 80+. Dr Rob Glynne Jones, oncologist at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, Middlesex, and meeting convener: "Treatment rates for surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy in patients with colorectal cancer all decline for the over-70s, and continue to decline exponentially with increasing age. It is not clear if we are always making the most appropriate management decisions, and I think we need to look at this issue very carefully."



## Pelican and bladder cancer

Bladder cancer is the most frequently occurring cancer in the urinary system. Every year in the UK 10,000-12,000 people are diagnosed with bladder cancer, and 4,000 people will die.

If treated early survival chances are good, but patients require frequent lifelong monitoring as 35 percent of people will experience recurrence. Following an in-house research trial which showed that blue light cystoscopy could reduce the bladder cancer recurrence rate from 35 to just 10 percent, Pelican purchased a blue light cystoscopy unit for Basingstoke, one of the first in the country.

At Pelican we also support bladder cancer research and deliver courses for bladder cancer specialists. Last autumn we ran a course for 20 urologists on surgery for bladder cancer. Convened by Mr Hugh Mostafid, consultant urologist at Basingstoke, and with a faculty coming from a number of different centres, we were delighted with the feedback which ran from "Excellent day", "Extremely useful", to "Brilliant advice from the experts".



Blue light cystoscopy unit

## Pelican turns film set promoting colostomy irrigation

Pelican became a film set for two days when the Colostomy Association (CA) arrived to film two DVDs promoting the use of irrigation in colostomy, or stoma, management. Surgeons aim to avoid leaving a patient with a permanent colostomy as far as



Cameras on camera

possible, but in some cases it's unavoidable. Irrigation offers the patient a means to live without a colostomy bag. Pelican's Professor Bill Heald and CA President explains, "There is widespread fear of 'the bag', as daily life can be disturbed by the random passage of faeces into the bag. Irrigation takes 30-60 minutes and involves washing away the stools once a day, and for many every other day. There's no bag, only a 'rosebud' plug, and most people who persevere can do it and eliminate the fear of an 'embarrassing' accident."

In wide use in the US, lack of information for patients and of experienced trainers among nursing staff is holding back more widespread use of the technique in the UK. The first of the CA DVDs is designed to encourage patients to find out more and the second is aimed at nurses themselves, encouraging them to train in the technique.

CA's Jane Wood, PR and Communications Manager, says, "Around 65,000 people in the UK have a permanent colostomy. The aim of making the films is to promote more widespread use of irrigation. The response has been very enthusiastic - we even had a waiting list of pre-orders! We are extremely grateful to Pelican for allowing us to use their facilities for the filming and for Professor Heald's help, expertise and input into the films."

Pelican was delighted to help with the project and help the further promotion of the use of irrigation. Basingstoke's Sister Ann Leppington-Clarke, and former Pelican trustee, was pioneering in her efforts to offer irrigation training to everybody who underwent surgery and Pelican provided the funds to dedicate a private stoma room in Sister Leppington-Clarke's memory.

The CA's DVDs are available from the Colostomy Association's General Manager, Sue Hale, on 01189 391537.



## Pelican's Travelling Souk Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who came to the Travelling Souk Christmas Fair last November. It was a great success and raised over £4,500. A huge thank you, also, to our sponsors, Barclays, AXA Wealth, RW Armstrong, Sony, and Harwoods Jaguar and Land Rover Basingstoke.

**PELICAN**  
cancer foundation

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## Forthcoming Events

### Film and Supper Night - Wednesday 20 March 2013

Celebrate *National Ravioli Day* with an Italian themed supper at The Ark Blue Café Bar followed by the 2000 film *Up at the Villa*. Set in 1930s Italy the film is based on the novella by W Somerset Maugham, and a tale of love, betrayal and murder starring Kristin Scott Thomas and Sean Penn. Tickets are £25 per person, with proceeds to fund the purchase of a new screen for cancer patient treatment team meetings.



### Annual Charity Golf Day - Wednesday 15 May 2013

The spectacular Donnington Valley Golf Club is again the venue for our annual Charity Golf Day, to be held this year on Wednesday 15 May. Teams of four (shotgun start) are invited to play for the Pelican Silver Cup and other prizes, with breakfast and lunch at the Donnington Valley Hotel included in the entry price of £390 per team. The Golf Day is a fun event and always well supported. So make up your team now!



### Rotary Club Spring Walk - Sunday 19 May 2013

Enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Hampshire countryside and support Pelican at the same time, as 90 percent of your sponsorship will come to us! Choose from three circular routes (ranging from 4 to 9 miles) and celebrate with a BBQ at the end of the walk, and which is included in the entry fee of £6 (adult), £3 (11-18 year-olds - under 11s free). For more information or to register, visit the Rotary Club of Basingstoke's website, [www.rotary-ribi.org](http://www.rotary-ribi.org).



### Pelican Film Society - first Monday in the month

The Pelican Film Society screens recent, art-house and classic films on the first Monday of the month (not August), 7.30pm. Annual membership is £40 for 11 films (pro rata subscription available) and guest fee £5 per film. The Ark's licensed Blue Café Bar serves a pre-film themed two-course set supper for £11.50 per head.



**For more information...** about any of the above see our website [pelicancancer.org/how-you-can-help](http://pelicancancer.org/how-you-can-help), or you can telephone 01256 314 746 or email [admin@pelicancancer.org](mailto:admin@pelicancancer.org).

*The Pelican website also has many of the stories featured in this newsletter in greater detail*

## Intern opportunity at Pelican

We have an exciting Intern opportunity for a student envisaging a career in either the health or charities sector.

The Intern role will involve work on our database of cancer clinicians and specialists plus activities tailored for medical or charity sector focus.

Candidates should be in their A-level year or beyond and have experience of using PC software. Full training for the role will be given.

The role is based in the Pelican office at Basingstoke, local travel and lunch costs will be reimbursed, and with specific hours to be discussed to mutually suit.

For further information, contact Peter Robson on 01256 314 646, or email [p.robson@pelicancancer.org](mailto:p.robson@pelicancancer.org).

## Legacies

Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most valuable ways in which you can support Pelican - plus legacies to charities have the financial benefit of being exempt from inheritance tax.

If you do not have a Will, The Law Society ([www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)) can provide a list of local solicitors, and if you do have a Will, please do consider making a bequest to Pelican when you next update its details - or you can simply add in a legacy to Pelican using a simple Codicil.

Our website has more information about how to leave a legacy to Pelican, including a downloadable leaflet. Or you can call and speak to Peter Robson on 01256 314 746 or email [legacies@pelicancancer.org](mailto:legacies@pelicancancer.org).

**Please help us continue our fight against cancer and consider making a legacy gift to Pelican.**