

Circulation Foundation Year Report 2014

2014 had been a year of change and progress for the Circulation Foundation. It has also been my fourth and final year as chairman and a good time to take stock.

Four years ago we had low recognition, poor focus and minimal effectiveness. We now have a clear brand, focus and mission with strong support of our goals from our membership.

In 2010 we had one full time researcher in place. Now we have ten. They have been awarded some £570 000 in monies in the form of Circulation Foundation awards and have gone on to win a further £2.4 million of grants from larger organisations based on work initially funded by us. This transformation of £570k into a total of nearly £3 million worth of high quality vascular research is a fantastic return on our investment and shows what exceptional value is achieved by supporting the CF. Four years ago we set about fostering a renaissance of vascular research in the UK. We can now claim with some justification to have made significant progress towards this goal.

We have implemented all the recommendations of the external review and made substantial headway in improving our financial position. There are 6 major work-streams underway all with the aim of increasing our sustainable base income making us less reliant on legacies and sporadic donations.

The response to the membership consultation exercise was enthusiastic. Vascular Society members are broadly supportive of our aims and aspirations. On some issues strong opinions were robustly expressed, sometimes of polar opposite views. The survey results will be published in full so everyone can see how their suggestions and comments compare to those made by others. The CF committee and Council are grateful to all those who took the time to respond to the consultation exercise and we will spend a great deal of time and effort analysing the results and learning from them.

Over the last 4 years we have printed and distributed over 120000 patient information leaflets. These are very popular and are due an update and upgrade, a major undertaking, and I am very grateful to Professor Gerry Stansby for all his help and work with this on-going project.

We are in the process of recruiting the next chairperson to take the Circulation Foundation through its next stage of development. We have widened the net to include non-surgeons on the basis that we do not lack vascular expertise but we would benefit from senior experience in fundraising, charitable governance and networking, hence the decision to recruit from outside.

I wish the next chair well and am profoundly grateful for all the help and support I've received from Council and committee colleagues over the past four years to bring the Circulation Foundation into a good position to look forward and grow into a bigger charity to start to rival other health charities in recognition and effectiveness.

The Vascular Society
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PE

T: 0207 869 6936
E: office@vascularsociety.org.uk
www.vascularsociety.org.uk

Ian Franklin

November 2014

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