



Agents for Change - 1/2 Million Reasons for Progress with ME

For Immediate Release

UK 21st February 2015

UK Charity Invest in ME (nr 114035) today announces that its biomedical research fund for ME has now passed **£1/2 MILLION** – raised over the last four years by ME patients, their families and friends.

Whilst UK scientific research into ME has been starved of funding for a generation by the official funding bodies responsible for allocating public funds the charity's supporters have used positive and inspired campaigning to change the path of research in the UK and Europe.

This crowdfunding has allowed the charity to initiate possibly the two most important research projects for ME in the UK – a gut microbiota study in the Norwich Research Park with IFR/UEA and a project leading to a clinical trial of the rituximab drug in cooperation with UCL.

2015 will see Invest in ME enter its tenth year as a charity – a year which brings together our tenth international biomedical research conference, our fifth international biomedical research colloquium and a solid foundation of biomedical research being created in Europe.

Five years ago Invest in ME created a proposal for a Centre of Excellence for translational biomedical ME research. The centre would provide clinical assessment, diagnosis and treatment for patients and training and information for healthcare staff and work collaboratively with international researchers.

With comparatively few resources the charity (all volunteers) and its supporters have established a foundation which could provide a real basis for future development and which will lead to better understanding and treatments for this physical illness.

The model we have is, with enough support, able to continue and expand and augment and achieve a real breakthrough in ME research in UK and Europe and the world.

Let's Do It for ME is a patient-driven campaign to raise awareness and vital funds for the centre of excellence. The campaign was set up in 2011 and is run by ME patients who have the same objectives as the charity - high quality biomedical research resulting in a better understanding of the pathogenesis of ME as well as in the development of appropriate treatments. The campaign has supporters from all over the world and it has forced change through imaginative ideas, selfless efforts, dedication and positivity - a *Can Do* approach to a disease where so many have suffered unnecessarily for too long.

It is the Let's Do It for ME spirit - empowerment of patients and their families for action, a Can Do approach and positive campaigning and fundraising.



1/2 Million Reasons for ME PROGRESS

Together we are trying to improve the future for people with ME and their families and after reaching a milestone of **£1/2 MILLION** we are ready to reach our next target of £1 MILLION.

Our thanks go to the patients and their carers and friends and relatives who have campaigned for change and forced action to be taken and please join us in reaching our next target.

With enough support we can change things forever.

One small charity, one BIG Cause, one band of supporters – progress - change

“Things do not have to be the way they are – we can change things.” – *Dr Ian Gibson*

Let's Do Change. Let's Do It For ME.

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References:

<http://ldifme.org/>

<http://www.investinme.org/research.htm>

<http://www.investinme.org/IIME-Newslet-1306-06%20liME%20Foundation%20Project.htm>

<http://www.ukrituximabtrial.org/>