



ALTA Newsletter

July 2003

Reminder

ALTA ANNUAL CELEBRATION SUNDAY OCT.12th

If you have not yet received an invitation, please ask Roy, Joyce or John, in Clinic 5 on a Thursday morning, or ring Bob Hayzen 01763 247096. Over 70 people have already booked their place at what promises to be a really super day. We are expecting a number of Addenbrooke's staff to join us for the buffet lunch.

NEWS UPDATE

Our new website is up and running thanks to Jonathan Tierney

www.alta.org.uk

Any comments, contributions or suggestions will be welcomed. If you have access to the internet this site will also link you to all sorts of useful information sources. e.g. The Addenbrooke's Hospital site, UK Transplant site.

PATIENT RESEARCH

You may remember that ALTA, together with the staff at Addenbrooke's, have planned some research aimed at providing information that will help staff improve the already excellent care and treatment of liver transplant patients. In addition we have also commissioned research which looks at the family's experience and role in supporting the recipient. New patients who have been placed on the waiting list to receive a liver transplant will be asked if they are willing to take part. This research will be anonymous and confidential.

PATIENT BOOKLET

A new patient booklet is being produced by ward C9 and your committee is currently reviewing a draft and will be providing suggestions. The new booklet will be ready later this year.

BOOK OF POEMS

One of our members, Pramila Ahuja has produced a book of poems based on her experience. All sales of the poems will produce funds for ALTA and so far we have received £65. Thank you Pramila. Copies of the book will be available at our annual celebration.

ALTA SUPPORT ADDENBROOKE'S TEAM BUILDING EVENT

Luc Delriviere, one of the transplant surgeons, organized a team building event for members of the liver transplant team. ALTA was very happy to provide financial support for this venture and Luc will be telling us about it at the annual celebration.

CHARITABLE STATUS

Progress is being made toward registering ALTA as a charity and it is hoped that this will be completed in time for our annual meeting.

NEWS FROM OTHER WEB-SITES

The UK has seen the largest rise in organ transplants in six years. The organization UK Transplant visited the Glastonbury Festival to encourage people to donate organs.

21% of Scots have signed the organ donors register.

You can now become an organ donor by dialing 0845 60 60 400

9 out of 10 people in the UK support organ donation but only 1 in 6 have actually signed the register !

BRITISH ORGAN DONOR SOCIETY

On Sunday September 21st at Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire, BODY will be holding their Thanksgiving service for organ donor families. Transplant recipients are also invited to attend the service. It is possible to donate a tree in remembrance of a loved one and this would be planted in a special avenue at Wimpole Hall. For more details contact Anne or Roy Pitman 01223 871871

ALTA ANNUAL CELEBRATION & MEETING

As you will know from the invitation, this is being held on Sunday October 12th at 11.30am in the Frank Lee Centre at Addenbrooke's Hospital. At this meeting we elect our committee and officers. Bob Hayzen, our Chairman for the last three years will be standing down this year and the committee will be proposing that John Williams, the current Treasurer, be elected as Chairman. They will also be proposing Roy Pitman as Treasurer. Proposals for these positions can also be made by ALTA members, so if you wish to nominate anyone please let me know at least a fortnight before the annual meeting. This also applies to membership of the committee. This year Anne Pitman and Jenny Aspland will be standing down, so there are vacancies. It is an exciting time for ALTA and the committee needs people with skills and enthusiasm to continue the excellent progress that we have made during the last few years. If you need more information about the role of a committee member, or wish to discuss just what is involved, please feel free to ring Bob Hayzen 01763 247096.

AND FINALLY !

A visitor to a hospital saw two doctors rummaging around in the flower beds. He asked them what they were doing. They replied "We are about to do a heart transplant on a tax inspector so we are looking for a suitable stone "

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER