

DISCS
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2012

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DISCS**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**
Registered Charity Number 1024471**DATE OF DEED**

26th July 1993

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSc/o 3 Sherwood Road
Coulsdon
Surrey CR5 3DJ**PATRONS**Countess Mountbatten of Burma CBE CD JP DL
Dame Beryl Grey CBE DBE
Lord Oxburgh of Liverpool KBE FRS
Mr David Soul**PRESIDENT**

Mr H V Crock AO MD MS FRCS FRACS FRCS Ed (Hon) DSc (Hon Caus Melbourne)

VICE PRESIDENTSMr J A Clemence CBE TD FCA
Mr L L Pike
Mr K G Preston MBA FRICS**TRUSTEES**Professor S P F Hughes MS FRCS FRCS Ed Orth FRCSI FRSA (Chairman)
Mr D J Sharp MD FRCS (Deputy Chairman)
Mr H G Dawson (Hon Secretary)
Mr S B Carter BSc FCA
Ms G A Harris
Mr John Nixon MA(Oxon) ChM FRCS
Mr J S Partington
(Appointed 11 June 2012)
Mrs S E C Pettipher FRSA
Professor R C Schroter PhD DIC FCGI FICHEM FAIMBE CEng**BANKERS**Cater Allen Private Bank
9 Nelson Street
Bradford, BD1 5AN**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**Gilbert Allen & Co.
Churchdown Chambers
Bordyke
Tonbridge, TN9 1NR

DISCS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 5 April 2012.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Details are shown on page 2.

OBJECTIVES, AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

DISCS is the only UK charity solely concerned with transforming the prevention and treatment of back pain by funding research into its fundamental causes.

DISCS' **charitable objectives** are:

To promote and fund medical research into spinal conditions within the UK, and to extract, collate and disseminate, for the benefit of the public, information from data arising from research which is reasonably expected to facilitate the improvement of the diagnosis, treatment and management of such conditions.

The main **activities** undertaken in relation to these objectives are:

- * funding relevant research projects within the UK
- * promoting the results of research to key audiences, including health professionals and the research community
- * raising awareness of the need for further research into back pain.

In March 2009 the Trustees agreed the following strategic aims:

1. To fund basic research into the causes of back pain with a view to reducing its impact on health.
Relevant research will focus on the following factors:
 - * biomedical
 - * biomechanical
 - * environmental
 - * psychosocial
2. To disseminate the findings and implications of this research to key health professional groups and the general public in order to improve prevention and treatment of back pain.
3. To establish and raise awareness of DISCS as the leading funding organisation in the field of back pain research.
4. To develop the organisation and maximise its effectiveness by:
 - * professionalizing its leadership, management, communications and fundraising capacities, and grant-making processes.
 - * establishing an operational base for staff.
 - * increasing funding by stages to reach £1 million per year by the end of year 5 (2013/14).
 - * developing partnerships with the research community and other funding organisations in order to broaden the charity's reach.

DISCS

TRUSTEES' REPORT - CONTINUED

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

DISCS was founded by a Deed of Trust dated 26 July 1993.

Appointment of Trustees

The power of appointing new Trustees, when necessary, rests with the Board of Trustees. When skill gaps are identified, all members are tasked with seeking appropriate candidates to fill the gaps. All new Trustees have to be elected by the full Board and are appointed by a Deed signed by all the Trustees and the New Trustee.

Organisation Structure

All decisions relating to the governance and management of the Charity are taken by the Trustees, who meet at least quarterly to consider progress on furthering the Charity's objectives and to review its financial position.

Risk Management

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems are in place to manage those risks.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in their direction of the Charity's activities. All research projects supported are for the benefit of the public at large.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

A grant of £20,000 was awarded to Doctor Christine Le maitre of Sheffield Hallam University to fund research into the roll of cytokines and chemokines in pathogenesis of lower back pain associated with intervertebral disc pathology.

Professor Alison McGregor withdrew her request for a grant of £20,000 fund her work at Imperial College on " The surgical experience: Does optimising the patient care pathway improve the outcome and patient experience?" that had been approved and shown in the 2011 Financial Statements. This has been written back in the Financial Statements.

The sixth annual Henry V Crock Lecture was held on 28 September 2011 at The Huxley Lecture Theatre , Imperial College, London. The speaker was Professor Jeremy Fairbank, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and Professor of Spinal Surgery at Nuffield Department of Orthopaedic Surgery University of Oxford. The title of his address was "Have Advances in Spinal Surgery made any Difference to the Outcomes?" The lecture was preceded by a scientific programme for young research workers with a prize for the best paper.

The seventh annual "Henry V Crock Lecture" will be given by Sir Keith Porter, Professor of Clinical Traumatology at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham on 26 September 2012 at Imperial College London titled "From Bastion to Birmingham-Messages for Civilian Trauma Practice".

DISCS**TRUSTEES' REPORT - CONTINUED****FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The full results are shown on pages 7 to 9 of this Report and Financial Statements. The total income decreased from £32,458 in the previous year to £17,754. Unrestricted Funds of £24,800 were carried forward into the next financial year.

Reserves Policy

The whole of the unrestricted funds are available for furtherance of the objectives of the Charity including the administration of the the charity for the year ended 5 April 2013.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Charity plans for the future are to actively increase the levels of funding in order to provide PhD studentships over the next five years and also to be able to fund project grants aimed at understanding the mechanisms of back pain. To do this further appeals will be made along with fund raising events.

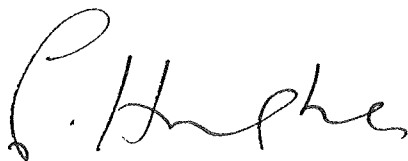
The clear ambition of this Charity is to promote research into the mechanisms and causes of low back pain so that solutions can be found for patients suffering from this condition.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity Law required the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies are in accordance with applicable accounting standards;
- prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and which enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



S P F Hughes
Chairman

Date: 5th September 2012

DISCS

We report on the Financial Statements of DISCS for the year ended 5 April 2012, which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required under of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the Financial Statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the Financial Statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Financial Statements, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the Financial Statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:-

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare Financial Statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met or

(2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Financial Statements to be reached.



Gilbert Allen & Co.

**Chartered Accountants
Churchdown Chambers
Bordyke, Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1NR**

Date: 10/9/12

DISCS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 5 April 2012

	2012	2011
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Interest	128	158
Donations: Charitable Trusts	250	27,200
Gift Aid	4,410	2,700
Other	5,871	1,725
Annual Lecture Sponsorship	5,992	-
Tax Recoverable on Gift Aid Donations	1,103	675
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>17,754</u>	<u>32,458</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Costs of Generating Funds		
Web site	432	325
Charitable Activities		
Grants	20,500	38,000
Grant written back	(20,000)	(11,246)
Annual Lecture	4,502	2,447
Administration/Secretarial	6,083	1,000
General Expenses	531	325
	<u>11,616</u>	<u>30,526</u>
Governance Costs		
Accountancy and Independent Examiner	3,840	2,878
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>15,888</u>	<u>33,729</u>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	1,866	(1,271)
Funds at 6 April 2011 brought forward	22,934	24,205
Funds at 5 April 2012 carried forward	<u>£24,800</u>	<u>£22,934</u>

The notes on page 9 form part of the Financial Statements.

DISCS
BALANCE SHEET
At 5 April 2012

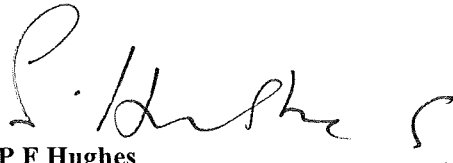
	Note	2012 £	2011 £
DEBTOR		1,103	675
BALANCE AT BANKERS		48,580	46,939
		<u>49,683</u>	<u>47,614</u>
Less LIABILITIES	2	24,883	24,680
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>£24,800</u>	<u>£22,934</u>

Representing:

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>£24,800</u>	<u>£22,934</u>
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The notes on page 9 form part of the Financial Statements.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:


S P F Hughes
Chairman

Date: 5th September 2012

DISCS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 5 April 2012

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) and comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005 issued under the Charities Act 2011.

(b) Incoming resources

Interest is included when receivable. Donations, grants and similar incoming resources are included in the year in which they are receivable.

(c) Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis. Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is agreed by the trustees and conveyed to the recipient. The value of such grants unpaid at the end of the year is accrued.

(d) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted Funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted Funds- these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated Funds- these are funds set aside by the Trustees out of Unrestricted Funds for specific future purposes or projects.

2. LIABILITIES

	2012	2011
	£	£
Accountancy and Independent Examiner's Fees	1,200	1,680
Grants Payable		
Imperial College	-	20,000
Sheffield Hallam University	20,000	
Administration Expenses	583	-
General Expenses	100	-
Annual Lecture Fund	3,000	3,000
	<u>£24,883</u>	<u>£24,680</u>

3. TRUSTEES

No Trustee received any remuneration (2011-£Nil) and no expenses were reimbursed in the year (2011-£Nil).

4. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

There is a contingent liability of £11,995 in respect of an invoice dated 29 April 2012 received from Imperial College which the Trustees are disputing. The invoice is in respect of a research project that the Trustees had supported and were informed by Imperial College in November 2010 had been completed and that no further payments were due.