



WHY ARE STANDARDS OF CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH LIVER DISEASE STILL SO POOR?

Professor Roger Williams has been asked to head up a new *Lancet Commission* to investigate the high mortality and poor quality of life experienced by patients living with liver disease in the UK. Alcohol, obesity and viral hepatitis are the 3 main causes of the rising rates of liver disease and with hospital admissions for alcohol-related disease in the UK projected to increase to 2million a year by 2020 there is a desperate need to improve provision for patients. With 61% of adults and 33% of children now classed as obese, the impact of Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease is also causing increasing alarm: NAFLD is found in 67% of overweight individuals and 94% of those who are obese. Professor Williams believes there is an urgent need for coherent and effective recommendations for dealing with these lifestyle issues, with the emphasis on preventative measures, early diagnosis and better integration of primary and secondary care. The Commission is due to report its findings in November 2014.



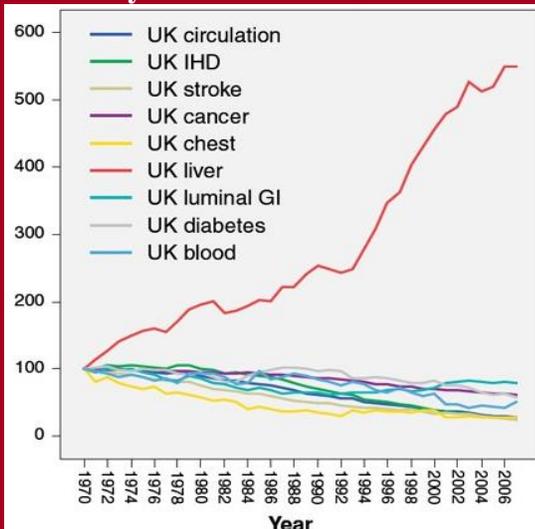
Professor Roger Williams receiving the AASLD Distinguished Achievement Award at the annual meeting in Washington

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Professor Roger Williams has been honoured with the Distinguished Achievement Award of the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD). *"The Americans very rarely give their top award outside the US", he says, "and I'll be on the list as the first Brit to get it, so that is a great honour and it's a tribute to what we've done in hepatology in the UK over the years"*.

We think this is a good opportunity to celebrate some of the major improvements in outcomes for liver disease patients that have been brought about by research.

- ✓ Liver transplant survival at 5yrs now 70%
- ✓ Acute liver failure survival increased from 30% to 60%
- ✓ Primary liver cancer survival with early diagnosis now 50% at 5yrs
- ✓ Chronic Hepatitis C cure rates up from 50% to 85%

UK under 65yrs death rates between 1970-2006





Limit the overtime this Christmas

The liver is a remarkable organ having over 500 different roles within the body. It processes fats and proteins, it stores glycogen, it makes proteins that are essential for blood clotting. It also helps the body get rid of waste products and toxins and it plays a key role in fighting infections. As well as being one of the most hard-working organs in the body, the liver is unique amongst the tissues of the body in its capacity for regeneration. However, when we play hard our liver must work even harder, so please give it a present this Christmas and drink sensibly.

The Foundation supports drinkaware.co.uk

Charity funded research in the UK

The Association of Medical Research Charities reported this week that its 122 member charities fund over one third of all publicly funded medical research in the UK. AMRC member charities have consistently spent more than £1bn on research in each of the past 5yrs – and that has been possible in large part due to the public who make medical research their No.1 charitable cause. *Thank you.*

Watch our scientists describe their work and how we are tackling liver disease:

<http://bit.ly/1hxVcMB> or follow the link on our home page



Visit our website at: www.liver-research.org.uk or join us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/F4LiverResearch. You can also find us on JustGiving & on Twitter@F4LiverResearch

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If you would like to receive further newsletters by email please send an email to us at: n.day@researchinliver.org.uk simply typing 'email newsletter' in the tagline and we will do the rest



Winnie Smith, seen here celebrating with her cleaning colleagues, was an early liver transplant patient in the late 1960s. She lived 4yrs 4months post-transplant.

1 in 10 people will have a problem with their liver at some point in their life



Please consider making a donation in support of liver research this Christmas

**Donate online at:
www.liver-research.org.uk**

