

June 2013

INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE AT DR FALK PHARMA/CORE AWARDS

Could Tamoxifen be a potential treatment for Primary Biliary Cirrhosis and can certain fish oils really alter the progress of bowel cancer? And how a revolutionary bone marrow transplant treatment is giving children with incurable inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) a new lease of life.

These are just a few of the exciting topics and hypotheses thrown up by the research work of the Dr Falk Pharma UK/Core Awards winners, who will receive their presentations in Glasgow on Thursday June 25th at the British Society of Gastroenterology Conference.

The Dr Falk/Core Awards, now in their seventh year, are dedicated to encouraging research and promoting patient care in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology. They comprise six £1,000 bursaries for medical students taking a full-time science degree in an area relevant to gastroenterology and hepatology, two £2,200 bursaries to newly qualified doctors who are undertaking relevant research, and a £1,000 essay prize for a medical student dissertation.

This year, as always, the standard of entry is extremely high with some of Britain's top medical students and young doctors seizing the opportunity to bring their research to a wider and expert audience.

Professor Jean E Crabtree, Core Trustee says: 'The Dr Falk/Core awards recognise young clinical researchers and medical students who bring new knowledge and insight to the field of gastroenterology and hepatology. The Dr. Falk/Core awards provide support and encouragement to the recipients as they begin their medical careers. Core are delighted to work with Dr. Falk Pharma UK Ltd to promote gastroenterology and hepatology research'

'The Dr Falk/CORE Awards gave me my first experience of writing a grant application towards a specific budget, which encouraged me to focus,' explains Dr Jake Mann, winner of a £2,200 bursary. 'The award will allow me to develop my cellular and molecular techniques in the lab and enable me to use what I have learnt in my future career in clinical-academic gastroenterology.'

2013 also sees a new award category of two £500 educational grants for nurses who have demonstrated commitment to and improved services of IBD patients. Both winners provided clear evidence of the dedication prevalent in this specialist field.

Great Ormond Street nurse Sibongile Chadokufa is working to collate and transpose information about the experiences of children who have had bone marrow transplants for cancer treatment and make it relevant for the first cohort of IBD youngsters who are undergoing the procedure.

'My award will help towards producing patient information for parents which is easily understood and relevant,' says Ms Chadokufa. 'I am extremely grateful to Dr Falk and Core for giving me the opportunity to help this very vulnerable cohort of patients and their families.'

Medical Director of Dr Falk Pharma, Dr Riadh Jazrawi says of the winners:

'If the dedication and talent of the Dr Falk Pharma/Core Award winners are anything to go by, then the future of gastroenterology and hepatology medicine is in safe hands indeed.'

Ends

Diary Notes

The Dr Falk Pharma/Core Awards will be presented at the Gala Theatre, SECC, Glasgow on Tuesday June 25th at 3.55pm. Most of the award winners will be available for interview from 4.10pm.

For press accreditation to the Awards ceremony or to interview the winners at the Awards Ceremony or beforehand please contact:

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Notes:

Dr Falk Pharma has been supporting education and innovation in gastroenterology and hepatology across Europe for over 50 years. During this time the company has organised more than 200 events including scientific congresses, symposia and workshops as well as presenting international awards and bursaries. www.drfalk.co.uk

CORE is the only national charity that supports research into all conditions that affect the gut, liver and pancreas. Through strong connections with the British Society of Gastroenterology and membership of the Association of Medical Research Charities they are able to support a diverse portfolio of research work that is of the highest quality. www.corecharity.org.uk