2005 News & Events

IBTA on display in Paris -

The IBTA mounted an exhibition booth at the European Cancer Conference ECCO 13 and the preceding Patients’ Programme, held in Paris during 29 October - 3 November 2005. Altogether 80 contacts were made with conference participants from 24 different countries, many of whom were pleasantly surprised to learn about the formation of the IBTA and were prepared to be contacted further about the promotion of support services in their country.

IBTA Chair visits brain tumour groups in Canada and the USA en route to France.

In a busy schedule IBTA Chair Denis Strangman from Australia undertook 15 flights in 18 days while travelling to and from Paris to join Kathy Oliver in staffing the IBTA exhibition booth. Denis took the opportunity to meet with contacts in Chicago, Toronto, San Francisco and London, and to give a presentation about the IBTA to company representatives in Indianapolis. Two days before he arrived back in Australia Denis’ house was hit during a violent electrical storm which took out his computer, printer, electrical wiring, antenna, TV, VCR and telephones. Denis believes it was providential that he was 12,000 miles away sitting in Heathrow airport, London, when the lightning struck. The damage was covered by insurance.
Deputation to see New Zealand Minister of Health

On Monday 4 July 2005 in Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, IBTA Chair Denis Strangman was granted an appointment to meet with the NZ Minister of Health Hon Annette King MP and the Medical Director of PHARMAC, the government's pharmaceutical management agency. Denis was accompanied by Dave Bowman, who has a glioblastoma, Dave's father John who is a retired police inspector, and Amy Brittenden who also has a glioblastoma. (Unfortunately, Amy lost her battle with her glioblastoma brain tumour on Saturday 26 November 2005 and Dave passed away on Thursday, 22 June 2006). The group argued for the subsidised availability of temozolomide in New Zealand for the treatment of both newly-diagnosed and recurrent glioblastoma cases. The Minister promised to try and speed up the regulatory approval processes.

Brain Tumour UK and Samantha Dickson Research Trust Conference

On 19 July 2005 IBTA secretary Kathy Oliver gave a presentation to the Brain Tumour UK and Samantha Dickson Research Trust Conference at the University of Nottingham, UK. Kathy told the gathering: "We in the United Kingdom are most fortunate in having a number of well-established brain tumour support, advocacy and information groups. Through my work with the IBTA, I've found that there are countries around the globe which have no such groups and where brain tumour patients are told to: "Just go home." There is nothing whatsoever to give them in the way of emotional or practical support."
Click here to access a summary of IBTA's submission as a "stakeholder" to the draft guidance for people with brain and central nervous system tumours prepared by the UK National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Click here to access the IBTA's comments, which convey a perspective based on brain tumours, on a founding text developed by EURORDIS, the European Organisation for Rare Diseases.

Notes: IBTA is aware that in the United States "tumour" is spelled "tumor" and will use that spelling for printed materials directed to that region. It was also the intention of the founding meeting that we seek to represent all tumours of the central nervous system. As is the practice in the scientific literature and clinical use, we use the words "brain tumour", not "brain cancer".