



# Brainwaves NI

INFORMATION • SUPPORT

For Children and Adults with Brain Tumours,  
their Families and Carers



**Brain Tumour  
Research**

Funding the fight

## PRESS RELEASE, April 2009

### CHARITIES 'PUT THEIR HEADS TOGETHER' TO RAISE LIFESAVING FUNDS FOR BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH

Today local charity, Brainwaves NI formed part of a national brain tumour campaign launched at the House of Commons.

"Brain tumour research" is a group of 14 brain tumour charities 'putting their heads together' to raise awareness and increase funding for vital research. Figures released by Brain Tumour Research show that the number of children dying from a brain tumour in 2007 was 33% higher than in 2001; child deaths from leukaemia were 39% lower than in 2001 (1). More children and people under the age of 40 die from a brain tumour in the UK than any other form of cancer. Brain tumours have overtaken leukaemia as the leading cause of cancer death in children. 65% more women die from a brain tumour than from cervical cancer (2).

Despite these statistics, brain tumour research is seriously under-funded and has not received the same attention as other cancers. Thanks to the extraordinary work of Leukaemia Research and other charities, higher profile cancers generate more than 20 times the funding of brain cancer (3). Brain tumours receive less than 1% of the national spend on cancer research in the UK.

'Brain Tumour Research' is supported by brain tumour patients Martin Kemp and Russell Watson and Shelia Hancock, whose grandson Jack survived a brain tumour. Golfing legends Nick Faldo, Tony Jacklin and John O'Leary are also backing the campaign. Other celebrity supporters include Tim Henman, Sarah Beeny and Nicholas Owen.

Professor Geoff Pilkington, Professor of Cellular and Molecular Neuro-oncology, University of Portsmouth said:

**"I have worked in this area for over 35 years and sadly progress in research into brain tumours has been very slow. Brain tumour research is notoriously poorly funded and often viewed very much as a poor relation to other cancers.**

**Unfortunately it appears to be getting worse. Yet a quarter of all cancers end up in the brain. This is urgent. There desperately needs to be an injection of money to put the building blocks in place so we can save lives."**

**ENDS**

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