



Do you love art? We are holding a patient and relatives art course in Newcastle where you will work with a local artist and a variety of media over ten sessions to create your own artwork for future display. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Julie Murphy at [Julie.Murphy@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Julie.Murphy@ncl.ac.uk) or telephone 0191 2083009. This course is available to everyone interested and to people of all ages and abilities. Group sessions will be organised at mutually convenient times, but unfortunately transport, etc cannot be provided.

## Patient information day 2015

This year's Mitochondrial Patient Information Day took place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at the Centre for Life Newcastle. It was held in collaboration with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. The programme included interactive sessions in relation to diet and exercise, research updates and Mitochondrial donation, as well as patient and guest speakers. Copies of the 2015 patient information day DVDs are available, and can be requested from Sister Catherine Feeney by calling her on: (0191) 2821740.



Professor Turnbull and Dr Russell discussing new pharmacological treatments for patients with Mitochondrial disease at the 2015 patient information day

All patient information day talks are available on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/user/mitoresearchgroup](http://www.youtube.com/user/mitoresearchgroup)



As you are no doubt aware, the Wellcome Trust Centre for Mitochondrial Research, has been developing new IVF techniques which may potentially prevent women affected by mitochondrial DNA disease passing the condition on to their future children.

Thanks to your help, hard work and support on the 3rd of February the House of Commons (above) voted 382 to 128 – a majority of 254 – to allow mitochondrial donation.

Following on from this vote, on the 24th of February, the House of Lords (Lord Walton of Detchant speaking at the debate in the House of Lords shown to the right) voted by 280 to 48 – a majority of 232 – also to allow mitochondrial donation.



As a result, Jane Ellison (above right), Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department of Health) passed mitochondrial donation into law at 5pm on the 4th of March 2015.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority are putting together the licensing requirements and once these are in place, the Wellcome Trust Centre for Mitochondrial Research will begin the pro-

cess of applying for a licence to offer this treatment to patients.

We are continuing to develop new treatments for all patients with mitochondrial disease and appreciate your support.

Professor Turnbull's talk on Mitochondrial donation can be found on YouTube (details overleaf).

## Researcher runs the Marathon des Sables

Well done to Dr Kate Swist-Szulik from the Centre who ran the Marathon des Sables, the toughest footrace on earth through the Sahara desert. During her time in the Sahara, Kate was so moved by the plight of the children, she is raising funds to provide equipment and training for a paediatric intensive care unit in Morocco.



### Useful contacts

**Newcastle upon Tyne**  
Specialist Nurse Tel: 0191 2821740  
Address: The Medical School, Newcastle University, NE2 4HH  
**London**  
Specialist Nurse Tel: 0203 4488009  
Address: 8-11 Queens Square, London, WC1N 3BG

### Websites

The Rare Mitochondrial Disease Service for Adults and Children: <http://www.newcastle-mitochondria.com>  
Muscular Dystrophy Campaign [www.muscular-dystrophy.org](http://www.muscular-dystrophy.org)  
Treat NMD [www.treatnmd.eu](http://www.treatnmd.eu)  
CLIMB [www.climb.org.uk](http://www.climb.org.uk)  
We Move [www.wemove.org](http://www.wemove.org)  
The Lily Foundation [www.thelilyfoundation.org.uk](http://www.thelilyfoundation.org.uk)  
The Ryan Stanford Appeal [www.ryanstanfordappeal.org.uk](http://www.ryanstanfordappeal.org.uk)