

Welcome to the first edition of 'tackle talk' for 2018, designed as a way of keeping support groups across the Federation up to date with National developments and plans. Much of our effort has been on the campaign to "Cycle to the Moon, Save a Dad". More about this below. I am also pleased to say we are getting a lot of publicity for our efforts to raise awareness about prostate cancer and this is encouraging. As usual, on page 3 you will find a summary of our income and expenditure.

A Testing Time

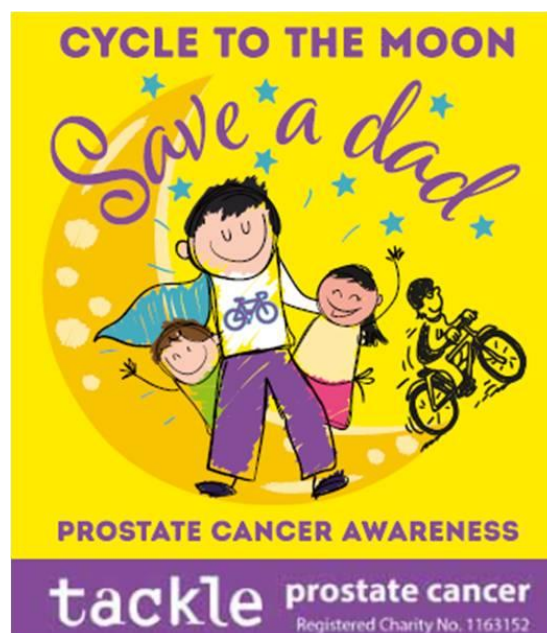
You will all have seen the recent publicity about celebrities and prostate cancer, and the resulting interest in PSA testing. Unfortunately, it's still the case that not all doctors see the importance of PSA testing as we do, so we have to continue trying to spread the message about the importance of getting men tested. You may have seen our articles in The Guardian and The Times recently commenting on this, and you may have heard one or other Trustees on National and local radio. I was asked by the BBC to do some local radio interviews immediately after the news broke about deaths from prostate cancer overtaking those from breast cancer. It ended up being fifteen back-to-back interviews! I know Prostate Cancer UK did something similar. However, it is disappointing to see such authoritative bodies like Cancer Research UK claiming that a single PSA test is causing more harm than good and doesn't save lives. We all know a series of tests is better, and more informed PSA testing is the way forward. If you want to read this CRUK article and post a comment you will find it under the "News" tab on our web site www.tackleprostate.org or [click here](#). We have also updated our position paper on "An Informed Approach to PSA Testing" and you can find this under the "Early Detection Campaign" item on the "What we do" tab on the website or [click here](#).

Campaigning News

The Federation has been active on your behalf fighting for a better deal for men. We were signatories along with nineteen other cancer charities to a letter sent to NHS England and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. This was as part of our role in the Access to Cancer Medicines Coalition patient advocacy group. The letter referred to the move of the European Medicines Agency from London to Amsterdam. We asked for reassurances on two fronts – continuity of the UK influence on regulatory approvals for new drugs and continued access to clinical trials. We have yet to receive an answer to our letter. Secondly, I co-signed a letter with Angela Culhane, CEO of Prostate Cancer UK addressed to NHS England about the reduced availability of bicalutamide in certain parts of the country. We knew of patients for whom restricting access to this important drug was causing real problems. The matter is ongoing. We will continue to campaign on issues on behalf of our members. We are just about to start a NICE consultation on the use of abiraterone for early treatment of high risk metastatic prostate cancer.

Cycle to The Moon, Save a Dad

This is our major initiative for the first half of this year. We have now completed our online part of the preparation for the events and I wrote recently on this to all groups. We will shortly be sending out a pack to each group. We are asking for your commitment to have a discussion at your next meeting about planning and organising an event or events to raise money for the Federation, enabling us to pursue our aim of "Save a Dad" by engaging with the next generation. The Board also agreed **local groups can retain 25% of any money raised**, which should offer an incentive for all to get involved. I would urge you to consider how you can participate in this initiative. In the meantime, if you have any questions you can call free on 0300 365 4080 or email saveadad@tackleprostate.org



Other matters

You can read about our involvement in European meetings, funded by Europa Uomo, where we represent the Federation as a patient advocacy group for the UK. Just go to the "news" tab on our web site.

We had two very successful support group workshops, kindly supported by PCUK, where groups had an opportunity to discuss issues and challenges they face, including attracting new members, fundraising, succession planning and sharing best practice. One topic we covered was the imminent changes to Data Privacy requirements as a result of a European directive. We will be sharing with you shortly a brief on the issues arising for groups, if you have not already considered the matter.

Finally, don't forget our **AGM and Conference** will be at Edgbaston on **Tuesday 12th June**, with the theme "Healthy Mind, Healthy Body". We have some excellent speakers lined up for you. Watch out for more information shortly.

Best wishes for now,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Roger'.

Roger Wotton

Chairman, Tackle Prostate Cancer