



WE ALL MATTER

A monthly bulletin brought to you by OcuMel UK

Issue 13 : February 2019

Welcome to the latest edition of We All Matter. Below you will find a round-up of the latest news in the world of OcuMel UK, we hope you find it informative.

Melanoma Patient Meeting

Jo Gumbs will be attending the 3 day Melanoma Patient Meeting from Friday 22 March, you can view the program for the meeting and the topics that will be covered [here](#) . Jo will provide an update the next EBulletin

Membership

As a small charity our membership is incredibly important, the larger we are the louder our voice can become.

You can help us increase in size by inviting family members or friends you feel may be interested in joining, and helping us to represent those affected by ocular melanoma. Please share this [link](#) to our membership form.

Dates for your Diary

Our annual awareness campaign "*iPatchFor*" will run from 10th - 17th May. Please email sonya@omuk.info to pre-order your sponsor pack.

This year's **Patient Conference** will be held on the 5th & 6th July. More information regarding location, program etc., to follow.

SCR Worksop Charity of the Year



Thank you to the Wincanton Team at B&Q's Worksop Distribution Centre who presented us with a cheque for £15,000 as their chosen Charity of the Year for!! The money was raised over the course of 2018 through various fundraising activities and all the proceeds raised will go towards the employment of our first specialist Nurse.

Challenge Events



As part of our IPatchFor campaign, OcuMel UK are calling upon volunteers to take part in our charity trek up Mount Snowdon in North Wales on Saturday 11th May 2019.

This will be an amazing family friendly challenge involving completing a 9-mile round hike in one of the most beautiful parts of the UK, whilst raising money for a those affected by ocular melanoma.

More information and to book your place for this challenge can be found [here](#) any questions please do not hesitate to contact sonya@omuk.info.

Sahara Desert 100k Challenge

We are in absolute awe of Catherine Hutchinson's incredible achievement in her recent fundraising challenge of trekking 100k of the Sahara Desert at the beginning of this month. Catherine has managed to raise a staggering £30,410.81 .. we cannot begin to put into words how truly blown away by this we are!!!

We have seen an incredible increase in our members proactively raising awareness and fundraising for us, both independently and through organised events. Whether you choose to contact your local opticians to introduce us and leave information leaflets, take part in one of our national awareness campaigns, take part in a sporting challenge or place static collection tins in your local area – everyone's support is immensely appreciated and collectively will make a huge difference to our work.

If you have a fundraising event coming up that you would like to share, are looking for ideas or would like to see what others are doing and offer your support, please head over to our [Awareness & Fundraising Group](#) on Facebook.

Upcoming Fundraising Events

On 17th March *Robert Gray* will be running in the Stafford Half Marathon. If you would like to support Robert you can find his fundraising page [here](#)

Sophie Brown a self confessed chocoholic has taken on the challenge of giving up chocolate for 1 whole month!! You can help Sophie stay on track and offer her lots of encouragement by visiting her page [here](#)

On 30th March *Charli Edwards* will host her Charity Ball in aid of OcuMel UK at the Village Hotel in Farnborough. We wish Charli and all those who helped her organise this event a successful and fun evening.

Helpline - 0300 790 0512

If there is anything concerning you, or there is something you want to talk about, including Stage IV treatments, please do contact Jo via the helpline or on jo@ocumeluk.org.

Donations

A point raised at our recent AGM was the interest from our membership to make a monthly or regular donation. If this is something you would like to set up please either use our [donation form](#) or alternatively, you can set up a regular donation via [Virgin Money Giving](#)

Blogs

[A Ripple Effect](#) by Jo Gumbs

[OM - A whole new meaning of the word](#) by Joanne Morgan

Do you write a blog you would like us to mention? Please let Nicolette know on supporter.care@ocumeluk.org

Staying Updated

Our social media pages, e-bulletins and newsletters are in place to keep you all updated and provide you with opportunities for support and/ or signposting.

As well as keeping you updated, we have recently learnt that the number of OcuMel UK members and social media followers have a real impact on our position when applying for any future sponsorship and funding. The impact of GDPR has also led to a dip in these numbers across the board.

To strengthen our position for any future applications we are asking everyone to 'subscribe', 'follow' and 'like' everything!

[Join us a member here](#)

Like and follow us on Facebook:

[OcuMel UK's main page](#)

Support groups:

[OcuMel UK Patient Support](#)

[OcuMel UK Family Support](#)

[OcuMel UK Awareness & Fundraising Group](#)

Follow us on [Twitter](#)