

REPORT ON THE BRITISH PIGEON FANCIERS MEDICAL RESEARCH TEAM AT THE BHW SHOW OF THE YEAR BLACKPOOL 19th 20th JAN. 2019.

The Show of the Year was once again a very busy and successful research exercise with many fanciers and their families attending the event and enjoying the Show.

The members of the Medical Research Team in attendance were :-

Prof. Louise V Wain, University of Leicester genetics expert and British Lung Foundation chair; Dr Mark Spears, Consultant Respiratory Physician at Forth Valley Royal Hospital; Dr Annabel Spears; Dr Charles McSharry, PhD FRCPATH Senior Immunologist at University of Glasgow; Yuan Ji, Immunology PhD Student; Dr Alison Lawson; Dr Philip Lynch; Dr Stephen Bourke, Consultant Respiratory Physician at Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, Kenneth Boyd, Research coordinator, Dr Stuart Dickson; Dr Emma Johnson; Dr Will Henderson, all junior doctors from NHS Forth Valley; Christine Gall, Respiratory Physiologist; Lorraine Kellock, Respiratory Physiologists; Dr Richard Allen; Dr Olivia Leavy; and last but not least Andrew Allan Respiratory Physiologist and equipment expert. As the majority of the doctors and scientists in the team were only able to leave their NHS posts at the end of their working day, they arrived late on the Friday evening at Blackpool in preparation for the busy weekend ahead.



*Some of the BPF Research Team. courtesy Fylde Coast Website :
(<https://visitfyldecoast.info/blogs/beside-the-seaside/pigeon-lung/>)*

We thank the RPRA and BHW SHOW of the YEAR committee for the excellent and spacious location they arranged for us in the Olympia Balcony at the Show. They also ensured all our needs were in place for the creation of a very effective Medical Research facility at the Show.



Prof. Louise V. Wain and Dr P P Lynch

The Research team had an exhilarating, enthusiastic, busy and very successful research exercise over the weekend. They listened intently to the questions and concerns of the pigeon fanciers and were able to provide much information, advice and reassurance to the 179 active pigeon fanciers who went through the Research Process. This was set up in the form of several stations where research activities took place in a sequential fashion :- Consent form procedures, Health questionnaire, Body mass assessments (height and weight), Signing in procedure, Blood sample for pigeon reaction levels and genetic data for the BPF GILD study. State of the art computer linked breathing tests including oscillometry breathing tests. The Research Team continue to be encouraged by the cooperation, enthusiasm and support it receives from the many fanciers attending the Research Stand. We

are extremely grateful for the continued support of the RPRA and the BHW Show of the Year Committee. Ian Evans CE of RPRA and David Trippet Show chairman and their staff as usual ensured all our requirements were in place on the day. We are indebted to Dorothy Hadely and Karen James at the RPRA office and to Kathy Smith at the Blackpool Winter Gardens for their help with our plans



The Research Room on Saturday morning

and preparations over the months prior to the Show. We very much look forward to next year's Show. Thank you one and all.

We were pleased and honoured to receive a cheque for £3,000 for the research from the Show Committee and also to witness the wonderful help the RPRA gives to non pigeon related charities and worthy causes especially in these difficult financial times.

On behalf of the Research Team and the Trustees I thank all British Pigeon Fanciers and their families and wish them all good health and every success in the forthcoming 2019 racing season.

Yours sincerely,

Dr PP Lynch

Chairperson British Pigeon Fanciers Medical Research Trust. (BPFMRT)