



THE FREEMASONS'  
GRAND CHARITY

## CASE STUDY

# International Spinal Research Trust

### £25,000 to the International Spinal Research Trust

In 2010, The Freemasons' Grand Charity gave £25,000 to the International Spinal Research Trust. The charity, which funds groundbreaking projects at scientific and medical institutions around the world, received the donation for work on a potential new treatment for paralysis.

The research, at the Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair, aims to overcome the barrier of scar tissue, produced after injury, which stops nerves from regrowing and restoring function. The project involves research on the enzyme chondroitinase, to enable nerve regrowth. The project is being led by Dr E Muir at Cambridge University.

Research funded by the International Spinal Research Trust is getting very close to repairing damaged spinal cord – something long thought impossible. This would make a huge difference to the 40,000 people already paralysed and the three new people who join this number every day.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity made a previous generous grant of £20,000 in 2007, towards an earlier stage of this research, the results of which were positive. There is now an urgent need to develop a specialised 'human' form. This would use the patient's own cells to overcome problems of rejection and also develop a version which is safe, stable and importantly - active for the requisite period of time when applied to damaged spinal cord. Chondroitinase has immense potential - not only does it remove one of the biggest barriers to nerve regrowth, it also encourages undamaged nerves to recover and make new connections. Additionally, where chondroitinase therapy has been used in combination with targeted exercise programmes, functional recovery has been significantly better than expected.



Daniel



Caroline



Penny

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For more information on International Spinal Research Trust please visit:  
[www.spinal-research.org](http://www.spinal-research.org)



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