# E-Newsletter - May 2021

## Spring Appeal 2021

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to our Spring Appeal so far.

If you haven't already done so, please consider making a donation to Retina UK today, to fund pioneering research that will lead to the treatments of tomorrow. Every contribution will make a difference.

You can find out more about the appeal by visiting our website: <https://retinauk.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising-overview/spring-appeal-2021>.

Donate now: <https://retinauk.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising-overview/spring-appeal-2021/#donate>.

If you prefer to make your donation by phone, please call Deborah on 07841 004564.

## Optogenetics

The BBC covered a story on Monday 24 May about optogenetics partially restoring the sight of a man living with retinitis pigmentosa (RP) in France: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-57226572>.

We have written a short article to address some of the questions which you may have. Read the Retina UK article about Optogenetics <https://retinauk.org.uk/general-news/optogenetics/>.

## Retina UK on Radio 4

Our Chief Executive, Tina Houlihan, will be appearing on BBC Radio 4 In Touch (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qxww>) next

Tuesday, 1 June at 8.40pm. She'll be joined by Retina UK helpline volunteers Martin and Bhavini who are both living with RP to talk to presenter, Peter White, about genetics.

The interview includes information about our new website Unlock Genetics (<https://retinauk.org.uk/unlock/unlock-genetics/>) which aims to address the lack of awareness about the importance of genetic testing in the inherited sight loss community.

## Shining a Light on Genetic Eye Conditions

People living with genetic disorders and their families are at the heart of research at the Institute of Genetics and Cancer. Join their online event to find out about their research into genetic eye disease and engage with clinical geneticists, ophthalmic clinicians, researchers from the MRC Human Genetics Unit, a patient living with RP and members of the Retina UK team.

Jamie MacDonald, that ‘funny blind guy’ who regularly appears on stage, TV and radio, is compering their event. Jamie started to lose his sight in his mid-teens due to retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and his blindness flavours his comedy, but doesn’t define it.

The event will take place on Tuesday 15 June between 6.00pm and 8.00pm. It is free to attend. Register via Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/institute-of-genetics-and-cancer-shining-a-light-on-genetic-eye-disease-tickets-111821352676>).

## Join Team Retina UK

### Walk

From coastal paths and lakeside views to virtual challenges for your neighbourhood – we’ve got a whole host of ways that you can take steps for Retina UK. Find out more: [www.RetinaUK.org.uk/walk](http://www.RetinaUK.org.uk/walk).

### Run

Reach for your trainers and run for Retina UK. Whether you’re after a place in the Virgin Money London Marathon or a 5k closer to home, we have places in races all across the UK. Find out more: [www.RetinaUK.org.uk/run](http://www.RetinaUK.org.uk/run).

### Jump

Strapped to your expert instructor, jump from an aircraft at 10,000ft, freefalling at speeds of up to 120mph! At 5,000ft your parachute opens & the high-octane thrill becomes more relaxed as you slowly descend for landing. Find out more: [www.RetinaUK.org.uk/skydive](http://www.RetinaUK.org.uk/skydive).

## Dates for your diary

Following on from the success of our Annual Conference we are delighted to advise that we are planning to deliver Information and Support events in the second half of this year. The dates and locations are as follows:

* Retina UK Information Day, London

Saturday 25 September

* Retina UK Information Day, Cardiff

Wednesday 13 October

More information will be available soon on the events page of our website (<https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-events/>).

Call our Helpline 0300 111 4000 or email [helpline@RetinaUK.org.uk](mailto:helpline@RetinaUK.org.uk)

Monday to Friday 9.30am - 9.30pm