# E-Newsletter – December 2022

## Appeal update

Thank you to everyone that donated towards The Big Give Christmas Challenge this year. You raised an amazing £52,700! These funds will go straight towards our mission to drive forward medical research that aims to find treatments for all.

Remember, our appeal is still ongoing ([RetinaUK.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising-overview/appeal/](https://retinauk.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising-overview/appeal/)). We are aiming to raise £80,000 to fund ground-breaking medical research that searches for treatments and therapies for everyone living with inherited sight loss. As a charity, we cannot do this without the help of our wonderful supporters, like you. This year’s Big Give came at a great time to make a huge impact towards our overall target, but we’ve still got some way to go. Can you help fund the future of treatments available to those living with inherited sight loss?

For more information on the types of research we will be funding, please look at our current project that Linda Lako heads up ([RetinaUK.org.uk/research/research-we-fund/innovation-fund-projects/](https://retinauk.org.uk/research/research-we-fund/innovation-fund-projects/)). It uses one gene as a springboard for many more. This gives great hope for the future of research and what can be achieved for our whole community.

Donate today to help now, and for future generations to come ([RetinaUK.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising-overview/appeal/](https://retinauk.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising-overview/appeal/))

## Information event: Oxfordshire (online)

TONIGHT: Tuesday 6 December, 7.00pm - 9.00pm

There is still time to register for our virtual information event this evening. Whilst the event is in part tailored to the Oxfordshire area, a lot of information will be of interest to anybody with an interest in learning more about IRDs.

Our Keynote speaker will be Mr Kanmin Xue. Mr Xue is a Consultant Vitreo-retinal Surgeon at the John Radcliffe Hospital and Wellcome Trust clinician scientist fellow at the University of Oxford where he leads the Retinal Disease and Repair Group.

Register now for our Oxfordshire information event ([RetinaUK.org.uk/information-support/oxfordshire/](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/oxfordshire/))

## Webinar: Maximising your income

Social Security support for people living with sight loss

Thursday 8 December, 7.00pm - 8.00pm

This webinar aims to equip you with knowledge of social security eligibility, highlighting the key benefits for people living with sight loss, top tips when completing your applications and details of what you can do if you do not receive the correct benefit award. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session.

Our speaker is Dominic Milne, Legal Rights Officer at RNIB.

Register now for our 'Maximising your income' webinar ([RetinaUK.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-events/webinar-benefits/](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-events/webinar-benefits/))

## National Peer Support Group Meeting (online)

Next meeting: Thursday 5 January 2023 – 7:00pm – 8:00pm

The National Peer Support Group provides a welcoming, safe and friendly opportunity for people to meet up from across the UK to share experiences, tips and information.

Our speakers for this meeting will be Jill Corso, Operations Manager for Vision of Adventure (<https://visionofadventure.org/>) along with our Retina UK Manchester peer support group facilitator, Rachael Foley who will share her experiences and the benefits of participating in an activity based holiday for the visually impaired.

Vision of Adventure are a charity based in the Lake District which offers outdoor activities to visually impaired adults. Activities include rock climbing, caving, tandem cycling, canoeing and triathlon.

Register now for the National Peer Support Group ([RetinaUK.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-local-peer-support-groups/national/](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-local-peer-support-groups/national/))

## XLRP study participants needed

Retina UK has been asked by a healthcare market research agency, working on behalf of a pharmaceutical company, to share an opportunity for men with X-linked RP to take part in interviews about living with this condition. This would involve talking to a researcher about your experiences with X-linked RP; these interviews would ideally take place at your home, but the interviewers would be happy to meet briefly online beforehand to introduce themselves, and if necessary the main interview can also take place online. You would be paid for your time. More information is available at: RetinaUK.org.uk/research-news/xlrp-study-participants-needed/ ([RetinaUK.org.uk/research-news/xlrp-study-participants-needed/](https://retinauk.org.uk/research-news/xlrp-study-participants-needed/)).

Call our Helpline 0300 111 4000 or email [helpline@RetinaUK.org.uk](mailto:helpline@RetinaUK.org.uk) Monday to Friday 9.30am - 9.30pm