

IMMUNOLOGY NEWS

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Immunology Goes Public

March saw the third National Week of Science, Engineering and Technology, set97, and lots of Immunologists telling school students and the general public about their work.

At the Newcastle Breathe-Easy, organised by Sam Hamilton and held at Eldon Square Leisure Centre, passers-by were introduced to the Immunology going on in their lungs. The Transplant Support Network and the British Lung Foundation were on hand to offer information and advice about lung disease and people could find out how healthy their lungs were using a spirometer. On the Thursday Anne Cunningham chaired an evening of talks by John Kirby, Chris Baldwin, Paul Corris and local GP and lung transplant recipient, Carolyn Fraser.



You don't say, pet... Sam introduces Newcastle residents to their lungs

Following the opening of the *Immunology Works* exhibition in June 1996, the Jenner Museum were keen to get involved with *set97*. The Society and the Museum collaborated to stage a two-day sixth form conference, based in the Sasakawa Conference Centre in the Museum grounds and making use of the exhibition to introduce Immunology to the delegates, most of whom had not studied Immunology before.

The theme chosen for the conference was transplantation. Following an introduction to Edward Jenner from Ian Bailey and an introduction to Immunology from Jim Rimmer, the delegates heard about genetics from Jerry Lanchbury, transplant surgery from Paul Lear and

immunosuppression from Kathryn Wood. In the evening, following the conference dinner, the students heard first hand what transplantation is all about from kidney recipient Susan Frade.

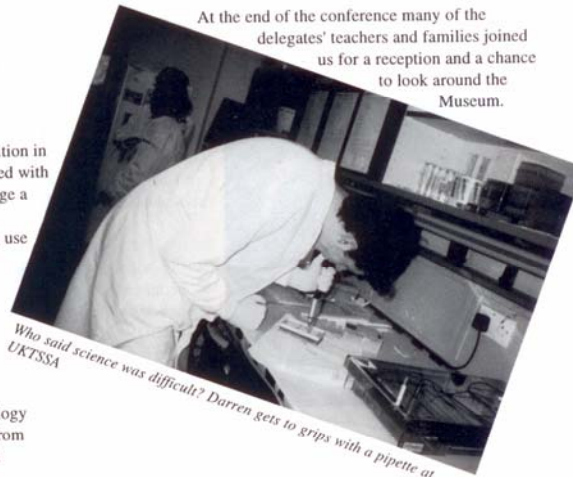


Jim Rimmer holds forth at the Jenner Museum

On the morning of the second day we were the guests of the UK Transplant Support Service Authority, where the delegates took over the lab to extract DNA from blood and were shown how to work out a tissue type. Terry Ray and his team laid on an excellent morning which was the highlight of the conference for many of the delegates.

Back at the Jenner Museum the delegates looked to the future to consider xenotransplantation. John Wallwork explained the science behind the development of Imutran's transgenic pigs. Finally Chris Rudge introduced the topic of medical ethics to give us an excellent starting point from which to discuss the ethics of xenotransplantation.

At the end of the conference many of the delegates' teachers and families joined us for a reception and a chance to look around the Museum.



Who said science was difficult? Darren gets to grips with a pipette at UKTSSA

We hope that the links forged with 11 schools throughout Avon and Gloucestershire will encourage them to make use of the excellent facilities at the Jenner Museum. The response from the delegates was overwhelmingly positive and we hope to stage a conference at the Jenner Museum annually - in fact many of this year's delegates asked if they could come again!



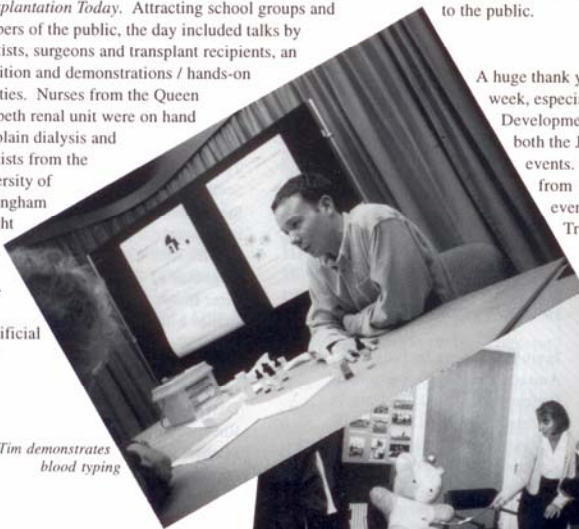
Delegates check out Immunology Works at the Jenner Museum

The Museum and the Society would like to thank UKTSSA and the Magnox Power Station for their sponsorship of the conference.

At the end of the week transplantation was again the theme of an event held at Aston University. The Society collaborated with Beverley Cornforth, the Regional Transplant Educationalist for the West Midlands, to stage a day long event called *Transplantation Today*. Attracting school groups and members of the public, the day included talks by scientists, surgeons and transplant recipients, an exhibition and demonstrations / hands-on activities. Nurses from the Queen Elizabeth renal unit were on hand to explain dialysis and scientists from the University of Birmingham brought along their prototype bioartificial liver.

Transplantation Today was so well received that Beverley now plans to take it on the road, visiting venues throughout the West Midlands - in fact she has four bookings already! The Society will continue to work with her to introduce Immunology to the public.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in *set* week, especially to Jim Rimmer, our tireless Education Development Secretary, who played a pivotal role in both the Jenner Museum and Aston University events. Next year's event, *set98*, will take place from 13 to 22 March - if you have an idea for an event and would like to get involved Kirstie at Triangle House would love to hear from you.



Tim demonstrates blood typing



Ted undergoes peritoneal dialysis