



Press Release – 9 December 2013

Oliver Memorial Award Winners 2013 – African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust

The Oliver Memorial Award for 2013 has been given to Ms Beverley De-Gale and Mr Orin Lewis, the joint founders of the African-Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT).

Beverley and Orin formed the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT) to promote blood, bone marrow and organ donation from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups following the leukaemia diagnosis of their son Daniel in 1993. Since founding the Trust in 1996, they have raised the number of Black and Mixed Race people on the UK Bone Marrow register from 550 to 50,000 potential donors.

Dr Lorna Williamson, the Chair of The Royal College of Pathologist's Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee which judges the nominees for the award said: "The awareness that Beverley and Orin have managed to achieve through the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust amongst Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities to promote the need for blood, bone marrow and organ donation has undoubtedly saved lives. All the committee members felt that they were very worthy winners."

Beverley and Orin said: "The aim of ACLT is to raise awareness and engage with the black, mixed race, Asian and ethnic minority communities on the subject matter of donation which has previously and in some cases still remain a taboo subject for so many. The ultimate high is when we host donor drives and see various communities registering as donors and when matching bone marrow donors are found. It's all done because of our son Daniel and is a wonderful way for us all to appreciate what a special young man he was."

Lynda Hamlyn, Chief Executive of NHS Blood and Transplant who supported Beverley and Orin's nomination said: "Since the formation of the charity Beverley and Orin have held regular donor drives, appeals, events and shared information within the Black Asian and Minority Ethnic community to promote the need for blood, bone marrow and organ donation. They have also worked tirelessly to ensure that the memory of their son is not forgotten and that other young people are inspired by his battle to become donors themselves."

The award was presented at the British Blood Transfusion Society annual conference, which was held in October in Birmingham.

The Oliver Memorial Fund was established in 1944 following the death of Percy Lane Oliver who won international recognition for creating, as a member of the Camberwell Division of the Red Cross, the world's first voluntary blood donor service in 1921. The Award has been given since 1948 to: "uphold the principle of voluntary blood donation; give public recognition to both professional and lay people who have made an outstanding contribution to the Science, Practice or Administration of Blood Transfusion; and ensure that the name and work of Percy Lane Oliver is recorded in medical history."

The administration of the award has been held by The Royal College of Pathologists since 2001 to ensure its future. The College now appraise and choose the recipients of the Award who receive an inscribed plaque and cheque. To date there have been over one hundred recipients, including many famous names in the field of blood transfusion. Records of Oliver's work are deposited in the



Royal Archives, the International Red Cross in Geneva, the British Red Cross Society, and the Wellcome Trust, besides many university and public libraries.

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/redgold/innovators/bio_oliver.html

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For further information/photos please contact The Royal College of Pathologists' Press and Communications Department on 020 7451 6752. Mobile; 0757 834 9018 or email:

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Notes for editors

- The Royal College of Pathologists covers all aspects of laboratory medicine; microbiology, immunology, haematology, clinical biochemistry, genetics and histopathology. It has over 10,000 members who are senior staff in hospital laboratories, universities and industry, worldwide. www.rcpath.org
- The Royal College of Pathologists is a professional membership organisation committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and to promoting excellence in the practice of pathology. The College represents 19 pathology specialties. Forensic pathologists represent less than 1% of the fellowship of the College.
- The College is a registered charity and is not a Trade Union. It does not negotiate the terms of employment of its members.
- African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust - <http://www.aclt.org>