

Oxford charity health website now supports more than 100 health conditions

An Oxford-based charity health website now provides support for over 100 health conditions. healthtalk.org and partners at the University of Oxford will celebrate adding the 100th section to website, about skin conditions in young people, at an event in Oxford chaired by Jon Snow of Channel 4 news on April 3rd.

healthtalk.org now provides support for young people suffering with acne, alopecia, psoriasis, eczema as well as 96 other health-related issues, including various cancers, stroke, depression and domestic violence.

Speaking at the celebration event on April 3rd is Tess McPherson, Consultant Dermatologist, whose mother, the late Oxford GP Dr Ann McPherson, co-founded the charity in 2001. Tess supported University of Oxford Researcher Abi McNiven in carrying out research interviews all over the country and creating the skin conditions resource.

She said "One common theme my patients express is feeling different and alone with their issues. Healthtalk.org offers access to other patients' experiences 24/7 and has already shown power to provide high quality medical information and support to patients for many health conditions."

"I am personally very excited to be professionally involved in healthtalk.org as this charity was set up originally by my mum who was a local GP in Oxford. I am particularly pleased that the skin conditions resources are the 100th sections on the website and honoured to be able to be part of this celebration."

ENDS

The celebration event takes place on April 3rd 2017 at the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Tess McPherson & Abigail McNiven are available for interview. For further details and a place at the event, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/young-people-skin-conditions-on-healthtalkorg-100-health-issues-covered-tickets-32406744445> or contact info@healthtalk.org.

About healthtalk.org

healthtalk.org provides free, reliable information about health issues, by sharing people's real-life experiences. More than 5 million people visit the website each year to watch other people sharing their stories about cancer, autism, motor-neurone disease, pregnancy, drugs, depression and much more.

healthtalk.org comes from a unique partnership between a charity called DIPEX and the Health Experiences Research Group (HERG) at the University of Oxford's Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences. The website is managed by the charity and the research that appears on the site is produced by the HERG team.

healthtalk.org was created in 2001 by well-known Oxford GP Dr Ann McPherson CBE and Dr Andrew Herxheimer after their own experiences of illness. Ann had been diagnosed with breast cancer and, although she knew about the medical side, could not find anyone to talk to about what it was really like to have the disease. This, and Andrew's experience of knee replacement surgery, prompted them to come up with the innovative idea of a patient experience website.