

# Vasculitis Charity Announces Sponsorship of British Society for Rheumatology Webinars

Submitted by: Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation

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Vasculitis charity the Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation

(<http://www.thelaurencurrietwilightfoundation.org>) has announced that it will be joining forces with the British Society for Rheumatology (<http://www.rheumatology.org.uk>) for the second time, producing a series of webinars (<http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/events/webinars.aspx>) from 17 February to 23 March 2016.

The webinars will target consultant rheumatologists, trainee doctors and health professionals and will educate them on how to diagnose vasculitis, an extremely rare autoimmune disease. It will focus on more specialised areas than the first set of webinars, such as the use of ultrasound in assessing specific variants.

The Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation was set up by Grant and Adrienne Currie following the tragic death of their 15-year old daughter and only child Lauren in 2010. Lauren had suffered from Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (formerly known as Wegener's Granulomatosis), a variant of the auto-immune disease vasculitis.

Lauren's condition was only diagnosed in the final hours of her life and her parents realised that, with earlier diagnosis, her life could have been saved.

Because vasculitis is uncommon and early diagnosis is an important factor in the effectiveness of medical care, public awareness of the condition is one of the charity's main objectives.

Grant Currie, co-founder of the charity, said, "While awareness of vasculitis within the medical community has increased in recent years, education is still one of our main objectives as the disease is a rare one. Our belief is that these webinars will save lives by teaching medical professionals to spot the warning signs of vasculitis.

"We are delighted to be working alongside a leading medical organisation like the British Society for Rheumatology and its esteemed experts."

The webinars follow in the success of a previous series in 2014. The upcoming set will focus on more specialised areas (<http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/events/webinars.aspx>):

6.00PM, Wednesday 17 February: Learning how to scan – practical tips and technique, with Prof. Wolfgang Schmidt

6.00PM, Wednesday 2 March: The main TABUL results, with Prof. Raashid Luqmani

6.00PM, Wednesday 23 March: Practical implementation of a fast trach service for GCA, incorporating the results of TABUL, with Prof. Bhaskar Dasgupta

The Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation is funding the events and producing the live and recorded webinar events. It has also set up a vasculitis webinar channel (<http://www.vasculitis.tv>) for doctor guidance which provides details on upcoming and past events.

Vasculitis refers to an inflammation of the blood vessels. It is an uncommon illness and different variations can affect people of different ages.

The Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation aims to raise the international profile of vasculitis, and is one of only two vasculitis-specific charities operating in the UK. It is keen to collaborate with other relevant charities, including those in the US.

The Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation has produced a video explaining the condition, which can be found here (<https://vimeo.com/55595845>).

Links:

<http://www.thelaurencurrietwilightfoundation.org>

<https://vimeo.com/55595845>

<http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/events/webinars.aspx>

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Images of previous fundraising events are available on request.

We would be delighted to arrange interviews with Grant Currie.

Media information provided by Famous Publicity. For more information please contact George Murdoch at 01737 822 682 or [george@famouspublicity.com](mailto:george@famouspublicity.com) or Tina Fotherby at 07703 409 622 or [tina@famouspublicity.com](mailto:tina@famouspublicity.com).

What is the background to The Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation?

Lauren was only 15 when she tragically and prematurely lost her battle with vasculitis five years ago on October 23 2010 at Crosshouse Hospital. Lauren died from Wegener's granulomatosis – a form of vasculitis which had remained undiagnosed until the final hours of her life. Lauren's lungs had been fatally damaged by vasculitis, which resulted in internal bleeding and contributed to her death.

The charity was founded within a couple of days of Lauren's death by her parents, Grant and Adrienne. The charity was named in Lauren's memory as a tribute to their daughter's inspirational character and features 'Twilight' in the title in recognition of the love she had for the Twilight books and the films. The charity was set up to help and support anyone affected by vasculitis, to raise awareness of the disease throughout the United Kingdom and to fund dedicated research that seeks to identify and improve treatments.

Lauren's charity was formerly registered in Scotland in December 2010 with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Charity Registration Number SC041934.