

Group B Strep Support eNewsletter 17 06 August 2010

Hello and welcome to our latest e-newsletter.

Medical News:

Sensitive Enriched Culture Medium (ECM) testing for GBS carriage in pregnancy – there are now more ways than ever to get hold of the private tests for GBS carriage: you can phone for one, email for one, order one online or even text for one! Check out <http://www.gbss.org.uk/test> for all the options!

US GBS Guidelines – the provisional recommendations for the prevention of group B Strep infection in newborn babies is available from <http://www.cdc.gov/groupbstrep/guidelines/provisional-recs.htm>. The tentative date of the publication of the recommendations is November 2010. We'll keep you posted.

Group B Strep Symposium – We'd like to congratulate the Health Protection Agency on this superb event, attracting first-class speakers from around the world. The symposium, held on 17 June 2010, was aimed at students, laboratory researchers, scientists, clinicians (particularly neonatologists, paediatricians, obstetricians & gynaecologists) and public health specialists and provided the latest updates in the field. See http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733796935. Jane Plumb, GBSS's Chief Executive and joint founder, spoke at the conference - her slides are available http://www.gbss.org.uk/filepool/GBSS_GBS_Symposium_small.ppt

Fundraising News:

Little Chef Charity Day for GBSS: On Sunday, 13 June, Little Chef held an awareness day for GBSS, 10p of every drink sold was donated to GBSS. The day was a great success and raised not only £3,913.20, but also a huge amount of awareness amongst Little Chef customers. Thank you so much to Little Chef and to everyone who popped along to their local Little Chef to support us.

Fundraising events coming up:

Big Fun Run 2010: Thank you to everyone who has completed their Big Fun Run and the very best of luck to all of you that have your run coming up in the next few days, weeks and months. We have been thrilled with the number of entrants on behalf of GBSS - we currently have 62 runners signed up to take part. There is still time for you and your family to sign up for one of the 5k runs: to find the nearest one to you visit <http://www.bigfunrun.com>.

We have a huge pile of flyers advertising the Big Fun Run for GBSS. If you would like some, let us know how many and we'll get them to you. And if you'd like to show your support by wearing a GBSS t-shirt for your run, please order these online at <http://www.gbss.org.uk/shop> for £7.25 each.

The Bethany Grace Memorial Fundraiser – Saturday, 4th September 2010 in Farnham, Surrey:

Bethany was born to proud parents Matt & Becky and big brother Jacob on 22 April 2010. Sadly, after a brave fight, she passed away just 2 days later as a result of a group B Strep infection. Matt and Becky along with cousin Lynette have organised a family fundraiser on Saturday, 4 September at the Alice Holt Woodland Park in Farnham, Surrey. The event - a 5k circuit - is for all ages and abilities so whether you run, walk, push a buggy, or ride a bike, you're welcome. The race starts at 11am. For more information, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=12953584042204> or email Lynette at: bethany5k@hotmail.co.uk.

Crystal Place v Brighton & Hove Albion All Stars Football Match – Sunday, 5 September 2010 near Crawley, West Sussex:

Lucie Dunbar and Simon Funnell are holding a family fun day and all stars football match in memory of their daughter, Ella, who died just before Christmas 2009 age 18 days from GBS infection. It's on Sunday, 5 September at the Three Bridges Football Club, near Crawley in West Sussex. The organisers are planning a fun family day out with Steve Kember's Crystal Palace All Star side against Simon's Brighton & Hove Albions All Star side. In addition to the football, there'll be face painting, a large bouncy castle, a penalty shoot out and a balloon race. Do come along, enjoy the day, and help support the cause – for more information, visit <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=116788178354643>.

Adidas Women's 5k Challenge – Sunday, 5 September 2010 in Hyde Park, London.

This great women-only fun run is a very special day with the party atmosphere and many famous athletes and celebrities taking part for their charities. Last year we had four runners take part on behalf of GBSS and we would love to have some representatives this year. The entry fee is £15 but £5 of this will be given to the charity you choose to run for. Each runner will receive a finisher's medal, t-shirt and goody bag. To take part, please register at www.womenschallenge.co.uk or contact us for an entry form.

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Can an organisation you're involved with help our fundraising? Many organisations give only to charities supported by a member of their staff. If your organisation might give to us, please let us know. If you can tell us who to write to in your organisation and send them an email saying you support GBSS, then we'll do the rest. Please email us at fundraising@gbss.org.uk if you can help.

If you would rather not rake part in an event but would still like to support GBSS fundraising efforts take a look at our fundraisers web pages and sponsor someone today go to:

<http://www.gbss.org.uk/fundraising>.

Awareness Raising:

GBSS Awareness Materials – We are pleased to let you know that our new wristbands and our new charity ribbons are available from our online shop – <http://www.gbss.org.uk/shop>.

Easy2name: Do you have school children? If you need any name labels, bag tags, shoe labels, stickers etc check out www.easy2name.com – it's a great website with a whole variety of different styles, best of all they will donate 20% of their commission to charity (please choose us!) when ordering- their website is simple to use and the products are fantastic.

Giveacar: We've teamed up with Giveacar to offer you a wonderful way to get rid of your unwanted car (and to fundraise for GBSS). Giveacar will pick up any car, regardless of condition, free of charge, and give a donation for the charity of your choice (we're listed under Health Charities). The average donation is £80! Visit <http://www.giveacar.co.uk>

GBSS Newsletter 2010 - We are aiming to have our next newsletter ready to send out to all our members and people for featured just after the end of the summer. If you would like to become a member of GBSS and receive this publication, please contact Celia at csykes@gbss.org.uk.

Do you have a story to tell? Can you tell your GBS story in around 200 words and send it, with a photo, to us? We'd like to include some stories in a range of places – on our website, in our printed newsletter and in funding applications. And, if you can, please say how GBSS has helped you (if we have, of course). This is a powerful way of raising awareness of group B Strep and supporting our work. To help, please email Jane at jplumb@gbss.org.uk (subject: Story to Tell). We won't use your story or quote you without your permission.

Conferences coming up:

Royal College of Midwives & Student Midwives Conference 2010 - 16-17 November 2010 at Manchester Central, entitled "Pioneering the Mother and Baby Pathway" For more information, visit <http://www.rcm.org.uk/college/resources/conference/>. GBSS will be at Stand 51 – if you attend, please come over and say hello (and collect our latest information materials). And, if you'd like to help man the stand, please contact Celia Sykes at csykes@gbss.org.uk or 01444 416176.

Social media:

Please join us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Group-B-Strep-Support-GBSS/102734363097680> or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/GBSSupport>.

That's all for now – we'll be in touch again in a few weeks time. With best wishes from all of us here,

The GBSS Team

If you'd prefer not to receive e-mails such as this from us, please let us know by replying to this email with REMOVE in the subject heading.

How you can help today:

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Make a donation and support our work at <http://www.gbss.org.uk/donate>