

## Research Grants

The UK MPS society gave funding to Prof. Wegrzyn, University of Gdansk, Poland for the first three years of his research project “ Development of Gene expression-targeted isoflavone therapy for MPS III (Sanfilippo)”

Prof Wegrzyn found that long-term experiments are required in order to reach conclusions on the efficacy and safety of the use of genistein in the MPS III mouse model and requested funding for further year.

The Irish MPS society has collaborated with MPS societies from Several countries (Austria, Canada, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA) to fund a fourth year of this project. The Irish Society has contributed £2000stg to the project and we will receive a report upon conclusion of the project.

This is the first support we have given to research and since then we have committed substantial funding to a project at the MPS Stem Cell Research Laboratory at the Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital which was established by Drs Rob Wynn, Ed Wraith and Brian Bigger with funding from the UK MPS society and other National MPS and children’s charities. We have now funded a project for two years “Lentiviral mediated hameopoetic stem cell gene therapy for MPS IIA” . Alex Smith (PhD student) is developing a combined stem cell and gene therapy approach for MPS IIIA. This involves improving the delivery of the missing enzyme by modifying stem cells in the bone marrow to produce a large quantity of enzyme to correct the disease.