

Fact Sheet No. 1

The Face Trust

The Face Trust is a charity that has been set up to fund continuing research and surgical treatment for people with severe facial injuries. Our Patron is **Simon Weston OBE** and the Chairman of the executive board is plastic and reconstructive surgeon, **Mr Peter Butler**, who is also the leader of the UK Facial Transplantation Team.

More than 400,000 men, women and children in the British Isles alone have a facial disfigurement and 250,000 are severely disfigured. Until now, surgical reconstruction has only been possible using the patient's own skin and tissue. Techniques for the reconstruction of badly injured faces have improved considerably since pioneering work carried out during the Second World War but, even now, the results are still functionally and cosmetically poor.

Facial Transplantation is proposed as the next step forward in facial reconstruction. In November 2005, the first partial face transplant was successfully carried out in France. Shortly afterwards a team in China carried out a similar operation. Several other surgical teams around the world have announced that they also wish to carry out transplants.

All members of the UK Facial Transplantation team have given their time free and funded research and while the Royal Free Hospital has been generous in its support, the team now has to raise at least £20,000 to fund each operation, patient after care and continuing research.

Continued

The Face Trust has been formed to raise money to pay for such operations and other innovative treatments of facial injuries. All of our research and learning has been and will continue to be shared for the benefit of people facing serious facial injury worldwide.

For More Press Information, please contact

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