



Vasculitis UK is the national patient support charity for people suffering from all forms of vasculitis disease. Our aims are to provide information and advice on all aspects of vasculitis from diagnosis and treatment to coping with the problems associated with living with vasculitis as a chronic, sometimes debilitating illness.

We endeavour to raise awareness of the disease amongst the public and the medical professionals and to inform and educate about this group of varied rare diseases. To this end, with support from Genetic Alliance UK, the DoH and medical professionals from within the Rare Disease Vasculitis Group, Vasculitis UK published the comprehensive "Routemap for Vasculitis".

We have also recently launched a new website www.vasculitis.org.uk which is focussed around the content of the Routemap. The website is also intended as a platform for disseminating trustworthy approved information about vasculitis from various other sources, such as the Rare Disease Vasculitis Group, for the benefit of both patients and professionals.

Vasculitis UK provides a voice for vasculitis patients at national level. Through links with the Rare Disease Group, last summer we were able to play an active role in the consultation on the "Strategy for Rare Diseases".

Vasculitis UK sponsors clinical research for patient benefit. This year, we are very proud and pleased to be working with the Rare Disease Vasculitis Group in encouraging the formation and development of the integrated Vasculitis Registry and giving it financial support for at least the initial five years. We consider that this will rapidly become an invaluable resource for those carrying out vasculitis research and will ultimately result in great benefits for patients in terms of greater understanding, improved diagnosis and better management of vasculitis disease.

John Mills (chairman – Vasculitis UK) January 2013