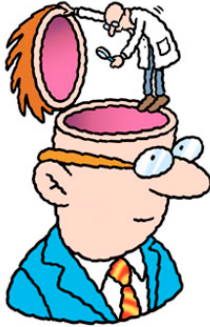


Good Gifts Catalogue

3004: Get a Brain Cell



Good Givers are providing vital investment for research into Parkinson's Disease. Parkinson's affects about one in every 500 people, and there are about 120,000 patients in Britain, with 10,000 people newly diagnosed with the condition each year. Current treatment tends to be drug-based, but an exciting area for research is gene based.

Parkinson's occurs due to the death of nerve cells in a specific part of the brain that controls movement. This results in a decrease in the levels of the chemical dopamine. The drug treatments currently available for Parkinson's aim to increase the level of dopamine within the brain. In most newly diagnosed patients, considerable improvements can be achieved by careful introduction of drugs at a relatively early stage. However, there is currently no way to halt the progression of Parkinson's.

A new project that the Parkinson's Disease society wishes to undertake aims to identify specific genes that may play a role in trying to prevent the death of dopamine-producing nerve cells within the brain. A greater understanding of these genetic changes will point towards proteins that can be used as targets for developing drugs that can protect dopamine neurons, effectively halting the progression of the condition.

This is of course a significant goal, giving those diagnosed with Parkinson's the hope of effectively controlling the disease. Funding from the Good Gifts catalogue is providing a vital contribution towards achieving this. Thank you!