

## **Scottish Association for Cleft Lip & Palate (SCALP) - SCO32668**

### **Major project funded by SCALP**

A major application to help with a slight shortfall in funding available was a request for SCALP to support the EUROcleftNet application to the European Science Foundation (ESF) for a major research project. Six countries have prioritised this network in their funding plans over the next 4 years and the total funding pledged is around 560k Euros. Being a cleft lip and palate charity, SCALP is an eligible contributor and gives a rationale for SCALP contributing to the support of this network. The minimum amount of funding pledged to this project is 4k Euros per year over the next 4 years which began in 2011.

The potential benefits to SCALP are:

(a) this application will bring Scottish researchers and SCALP research priorities to the heart of European Cleft research

(b) our partners in the Craniofacial Society (CFSGBI) and European Cleft Organisation (ECO) are supportive and contributing to this initiative.

(c) The WHO have finally, in their May 2010 World Health Assembly approved birth defects as a priority area, and are very keen to support this EUROcleftNet initiative (see WHO letter of support).

(d) This also opens up avenues of communication with a range of other pan-European funding bodies such as the EU Framework programme, Eurocat, International Clearing House for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research (ICBDSR), DG Sanco, EFCNI (European Foundation for Care of the Newborn Infant - [www.ecfni.org](http://www.ecfni.org) <<http://www.ecfni.org>>).

(e) In addition to all of the above there will be a direct benefit as SCALP researchers will be funded to attend Network meetings to discuss future research initiatives.

### **Visting Fellowship Funding**

SCALP now has the ability to provide a SCALP Visiting Fellowship Funding. This allows for applications for funding to visit Scottish research centres with the aim of developing Research Fellowship applications to perform CLP research at any Scottish Centre. The available funds will support travel and accommodation costs for visits of between 1-4 weeks to appropriate Scottish research or clinical centres. A condition of the funding is the submission of a high quality CLP research fellowship proposal which if successful will contribute to CLP research in Scotland. Applications can be for Scotland based research fellowship projects or outgoing fellowships based at globally recognised centres of CLP research excellence with a return phase bringing relevant CLP research expertise to Scottish Centres.

### **Other projects funded by SCALP**

Over the past five years we have funded two Specialist Speech and Language Therapists to undertake their Certificate in Postgraduate in Cleft Studies at Sheffield University.

Funding has been provided to allow health care professionals within the cleft teams in Scotland to attend cleft related conferences in the UK and abroad to further their education and also to present papers.