

Happy New Year! We truly hope you've enjoyed the festive season; we've certainly had our fill of turkey! 2016 has been another great year for us at nsif, earlier in March an update on Darek Fidyka's progress featured on BBC news and the search for the next two patients was launched. As usual we have had great support from our nsif champions – without whom the next stage of the research would not be possible.

We've rounded up some of the highlights from the final quarter of 2016 below...



Visit to University College London (UCL)

In October, we visited the research team at UCL for an update on the nsif funded project taking place there. The research being carried out at UCL's Institute of Neurology forms the all-important foundation for the application on human patients in Poland. While there we heard presentations from Professor Geoffrey Raisman, Professor Ying Li and Dr Daqing Li and were later shown around the laboratories by other members of the team. We were very excited to learn about the new techniques the team hope to develop which will be used with the next two patients.

[Read the blog](#)



Festive fundraising

On 29th November, we hosted our first Christmas event A Not So Silent Night at St Andrew Holborn. The carol concert was attended by over 150 people who came down to ring in the festive season with us. Highlights from the event include some moving Christmas favourites by the incredible Walton Voices, an amusing rendition of '12 Days of Christmas' by Jeffrey Archer, and some delicious canapés by Baxter Storey. The evening was a great success and we raised over £5,500 on the night. A big thank you to everyone who supported the event, including sponsors Beavis Morgan and Baxter Storey, and our fabulous readers.

[Check out the blog and photos](#)

We also hosted our second Online Christmas Auction in association with Givergy. This year we had some brilliant lots from trips to Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and China with the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group to a day at Cheltenham Races for 10 people. We are thrilled to say that after just over two weeks fierce bidding we raised almost £15,000! A huge thank you to everyone who took part especially our extremely generous winners.



Supporter Spotlight

As always there have been a number of nsif champions over the last few months who have all helped us to get ever closer to our goal of finding a cure for spinal cord injury.

This time we want to shine a light on Angela & John Pye. The couple are long-time supporters of nsif and first became involved with the charity after their son suffered a spinal injury by contracting a virus on his spinal cord. In November the Pye's hosted their second video horse racing event- a favourite of those local to Hull and East Riding. Just under 200 people attended the evening which consisted of dinner, horse racing and an exciting raffle. The event was a great success with over £5,200 being raised for nsif on the night alone and further income from matched funding. Huge congratulations to Angela and John and thank you to all who attended and made the night a success!

Want to get involved in 2017? Look out for our events calendar out in a few weeks!