

The VSI gives another \$100,000.00 for Visual Snow Research

Thanks to another donation from the US-based, non-profit Visual Snow Initiative (VSI), Dr. Peter Goadsby and his team continue their efforts to seek answers for Visual Snow.

Many young people are affected by the hallmark symptom of constant and dynamic “snow” in their entire field of vision. One minute you see the world clearly and in an instant, without warning, a life is changed forever. It can be a 24/7 battle because it never goes away with the eyes opened or closed. Others are born with the condition, and many don't realize how abnormal their vision really is. A new dilemma can occur for those seeking a diagnosis or treatment. Eye tests almost always come back normal because Visual Snow is not an eye disorder but a brain malfunction. Because Visual Snow manifests itself in the eyes, it often leaves both patients and physicians in limbo, uncertain of where to go next for a diagnosis. This also makes it difficult to estimate how many people are affected.

While the cause is unknown, Visual Snow is believed to be a neurological problem whereby the brain incorrectly processes visual information. Migraines, floaters, auras and other neurological symptoms are also associated with the Syndrome, which can significantly diminish the quality of life for those affected.

Dr. Goadsby says, “Without this support, our work would grind to a halt. Visual snow is highly disabling and yet vastly under-studied. We are working towards understanding the brain problem and thus the target for treatment. The VSI gift makes this possible and we are very grateful to all who contributed”.

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Dr. Peter Goadsby and his colleagues have been leading the global effort into this Syndrome. King's College research into Visual Snow will include evidence of the neurological basis which includes the specific brain regions responsible. They seek to understand the different way the visual snow brain functions and how this can be interrogated to develop treatment.

Sierra Domb, Founder of the Visual Snow Initiative said, "We are proud to present King's College with a second donation of \$100,000.00. The Visual Snow Initiative has a worldwide team of researchers, physicians and neuroscientists collaborating and has set up a global fund for ongoing research."

The inaugural Visual Snow Conference was held in San Francisco in May 2018 bringing global awareness for those dealing with the Syndrome. "It has been less than a year since I first met Dr. Goadsby. The VSI with Peter's help has made tremendous progress. We were contacted by thousands of people in 35 countries," says Ms. Domb, conference founder. "We then created the Visual Snow Initiative to Collaborate, Educate and Cure."

The King's College researchers are recruiting participants and are asking interested people with the following symptoms to email Dr. Goadsby's team at: vs-research@kcl.ac.uk.

- Constant flickering of small dots across your entire visual field
- Afterimages
- Floaters
- Flashing lights
- Light sensitivity
- Difficulty seeing at night

For detailed information or to make a donation please visit:

www.visualsnowinitiative.org

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Back row (L-R): Jan Hoffmann, Paula Gilbert, Stephen Fletcher, Karthik Nagaraj, Phil Holland, Alison Worth, Olivier Brock, Diana Wei
Front row (L-R): Chonlawan Saengjaroentham, Marta Villa, Francesca Pulledda, Peter Goadsby, David Moreno, Lauren Strother, Ishita Mehta, Fiona Greenwood