

# Breakspear Hospital Trust

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Press Release  
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October 1st 2004

## **New Hope for Allergy Sufferers**

### **Breakspear Hospital Trust and University of Manchester Work Together on Revolutionary Allergy Approach and Treatment**

Breakspear Hospital Trust, a national charity dedicated to the research and treatment of environmental and allergic illness, has teamed up with the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) on a project designed to show the link between neural mechanisms and allergy. It is hoped that this will result in a breakthrough in the understanding of how allergy occurs and can be alleviated resulting in a simple, safe and effective treatment.

Dr Jean Monro, one of the world's leading allergy specialists and medical advisor to the Breakspear Hospital Trust says,

"I have been treating patients with allergy and sensitivity for over 30 years using a technique called provocation/neutralisation. This was originally developed in the 1960s in the USA and involves skin testing using serially weaker solutions of suspected antigens [foreign provocative agents] until a dilution is arrived at which produces no reaction; this dilution is then used by the patient to neutralise any adverse response to a particular substance. Many thousands of people around the world have benefited from this type of intervention. However, despite being extremely safe, it still does not have universal acceptance because the science on which it is based has been under-researched.

Dr Jaleel Miyan at UMIST and I have concluded, by completely different routes, that allergic responses result from signals from one of the body's nerve fibres, called C fibres, to the brain. This challenges conventional immunological theory. We will further test this hypothesis and set out to prove that such heightened responses can

be neutralised by blocking the C fibre signals. There is already technology which can block the signals and the principle involved is similar to that in provocation/neutralisation. We have decided that we should collaborate in preparing and presenting the scientific proof which is needed".

The project is expected to take up to 3 years to complete and will include patient trials using electronic instrumentation which has been developed by UMIST and in particular by Dr Tony Matthews, who will be seconded to Breakspear Hospital Trust for the duration of the project.

**Notes to Editors:**

**More information about Breakspear Hospital is available on the website:**  
[www.breakspearmedical.com](http://www.breakspearmedical.com)

**Information about the Breakspear Hospital Trust is available on the website:**

[www.breakspearhospitaltrust.org.uk](http://www.breakspearhospitaltrust.org.uk)

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Dr Jean Monro, Medical Director of Breakspear Hospital and Medical Advisor to Breakspear Hospital Trust, is available for interview. To find out more about the charity or to interview a member of Breakspear Hospital Trust, please contact:

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