



Saturday, 25th March 2017 – Review Day

We left the UK on Saturday, 11th March to travel to Las Palmas and visit the ‘Hospital Universitario de Gran Canaria Dr Negrín’ Professor Pedro C Lara and his team.

Head & Neck Cancer Centres Visited in 12 days

Hospital Universitario de Gran Canaria Dr Negrín

Barranco de la Ballena, s/n, 35010 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Las Palmas, Spain

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre

<https://www.mskcc.org/locations/memorial-hospital>

Massachusetts General Hospital ‘Department of Speech, Language and Swallowing Disorders’

<http://www.massgeneral.org/speech/>

Lowell General Hospital ‘Cancer Centre’

<https://www.lowellgeneral.org/care-and-services/cancer-center/cancer-center>

Quote of the trip, I truly believe that all the above centres have this vision in one form or another.

“Passion in wanting to drive patient care through the eyes of not only a quality medical team but that of the main focus ... ‘the patient’. We believe in *Patients First* in everything we do. That takes a team to accomplish. I am proud to work with the Best Team. I learn something new every day from someone I cross paths with. I look forward to continuing to support quality care and focus on Head and Neck Cancer, growing a *patient support group* for past, present and future patients here in the Lowell and the surrounding area.” Claudia Antolini, Operation Director



MY BLOG #HnCTour2017

My Blog talks more about each visit, follow the link below to read more.

Blog Link: <http://www.theswallows.org.uk/more/blog-chris-hits-road/>

I met with the following people all with a passion and drive to ensure past, present and future patients are at the centre of ‘Patient First’.

Patients : 8
Current & Survivors

Health Professionals : 26
Range from Pharmacists, Oncologists, Nurses, Radiation Oncologist, Nutrition, Speech & Language Therapist, Professors, Doctors, Surgeons, Receptionists,

Others : 7
Valet Parking, Receptionists, Catering Assistants, Dunkin Donut Helper



Fund Raising

Also during the trip, we have raised funds to help drive Head & Neck Cancer support within the Cancer Centres.

Spain : 700 Euros
USA : 1,900 Dollars

Each Cancer Centre participant was given the offer of receiving a fee for their contribution and they could either retain for personal use or donate towards the development of Head & Neck Cancer Patient Support within their centre.

Everyone donated the money back to the centre as they believe in H&N Patient Support’.

Thank You

I must use this section to formally thank people who have collaborated to make this fantastic venture happen.

My Sponsors who funded the Tour, they are not wanting to be listed because this was about Education, Awareness and Support and not Publicity, shows companies do great things and it is not always about a monetary return on investment sometimes the greater reward is doing something that can ‘Make a Difference for the Patient/Survivor’

SAMfilms from Blackpool, UK who have followed me throughout this #HnCTour2017 and been by my side everyday capturing some great film footage.



SAMfilms crew led by Roger (Film Director) and Chris (Cameraman and Screen setting) last but not least the youngest member Matt on Sound. Each of them have a skill and when they come together WOW what a team. Can’t wait to see the final films (*good luck on the editing as every interview was phenomenal*).

Some days we were up at 7am and filming by 8,30am and not finishing till after 6pm. On one day, we started at 10am and finished at 5pm filming some 9 interviews plus filming a mock up HnC Clinic. The whole team worked really hard and without them we could not have captured so much film footage that over the coming months and years will help so many people.

Picture above is the team setting up an interview scene and below is Roger working hard researching!



Translator

In Spain, we needed a translator and **Arantxa Iriarte** joined the team and helped with the communication difficulty and was such an important member while in Spain and now her hard work starts as the film footage needs to be transcribed to English so the Film Team can create the film for Spain.

Arantxa has become a friend and such an important member of the #HnCTour2017 Team and I look forward to talking to her, the Customer Service Team when back in the UK.

Medical Advisors

I was so lucky that the two main sponsors sent out their Medical Advisors ensuring we captured the correct content and the right questions were asked and when Health Professionals spoke at a high level myself and the film crew understood the answers.

Many thanks to Henno Welgemoed (Spain) & Claire Burke (USA).

Again, Henno & Claire became a valuable member of the #HnCTour2017 Team and without them we would have struggled to talk at the same level as the high-profile health professionals we met.

Mrs Organiser (mum)



SAMfilms and myself was so happy to have Sharon Thomas-Jones in the team as she ensured the tight film time table schedule was not forgotten, we were where we needed to be at the right times, drove the rental car in the US with no issues, booked transport when needed, had medication for bad heads when needed, made us all eat three good meals and drink lots of water throughout the day, acted as an advisor and communicator in the Cancer Centres.

Sharon kept us four guys in order and became a friend to us all, we were all sad when she left us a day early.

#HnCTour2017 Trip Planner

Katie Clayton was the person who took my Journey Tour Plan and booked all the Flights, Train, Hotel, Car Hire, and WOW what a fantastic job Katie done.

The trip came with many challenges but Katie made it all happen and with what seemed to be such ease.

Katie, you are a star and well done in getting over all the logistical challenges and making it all run so smoothly, not even a Snow Blizard stopped us as when we arrived in the US Katie had arranged for the Sun to come out.



The Biggest Thank You

Must go to all the Patients, Survivors and Cancer Centres who allowed us to enter their domain and interrupt their busy day.

Everyone we met made the team and myself so welcomed and went out of their way to help us capture film footage we needed to create a minimum of two potential Head & Neck Films.

When you meet inspirational people, it makes me feel so honoured to be a Cancer Survivor and on this unbelievable 'Patients Journey'.

"Cancer is a long and hard journey, but you don't have to walk the road alone. You will meet many good people who are there to help and guide you on the road. They will find you when you are least expecting it!"

Chris Curtis, cancer survivor

The Films

The films are due to be Premiered at the Head & Neck Conference in Madrid, Spain in June and will be on Social Media by Friday, 16th June 2017 so get this in your Diary.



Pictures from the #HnCTour2017 follow the link:

<http://www.theswallows.org.uk/more/blog-chris-hits-road/>