

All change at the Gut Trust

Summer staff changes

The Gut Trust, the national charity for irritable bowel syndrome, announced three staff changes today.

Debbie Rawlings has been promoted to Office Manager. Recognising her commitment and ability, the Chair of the charity's staffing committee, Sue Hewitt, said, "We are very lucky to have someone of Debbie's calibre working with us, and we are delighted that she has accepted our offer to take up this important role".

Penny Nunn has left The Gut Trust to pursue new challenges. The Chair of the Board of Trustees, Jonathan Blanchard Smith, said, "Penny nurtured the charity from its earliest days in an office no bigger than a broom cupboard to our current bright and airy premises. Penny's knowledge and expertise in IBS has brought great benefit to our members and has significantly raised public awareness of this common illness". The Trustees recognised her hard work for people with IBS, and wished her well for the future.

Sara Selmes has moved to a Yorkshire-wide health education post. Her work on PQASSO, the Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations, has meant that in two years, the charity has already substantially reached PQASSO level 2 (out of three levels). The Trustees thanked Sara for her work in improving the systems and management of the charity.

ENDS

Notes to editors

The Gut Trust

The Gut Trust is the only charity in the UK dedicated to supporting people with IBS, providing emotional and practical support. It works with bodies such as the National Health Service, the Department for Work and Pensions and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, as well as university research teams and the private sector, in order to challenge the taboos about bowel illnesses while providing advice that people need and understand.

It works for its members in many ways by providing:

- A dedicated full time membership officer
- Self-help groups in 14 locations across the UK

- A free telephone advice line staffed by specialist nurses providing support and advice
- Access to befrienders
- Access to the Trust's unique, comprehensive Self Management Programme
- Fact sheets and a regular journal, Gut Reaction
- An extensive website
- An email discussion forum
- A Can't wait card

The Gut Trust played a major role in advising the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence in drawing up national guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of IBS in primary care (GP) settings. The Trust is also active in a project on 'Improving Management in Gastroenterology', funded by the Health Foundation.

In addition, the Trust has its own campaign 'Can't Wait, Won't Wait', concerning easy access to public toilets, so important to the lives of people with IBS. The Gut Trust Helpline is on 0114 272 3253 from 6 to 9 pm on weekdays and 10 to 12 noon on Saturday mornings.

For more information, see www.theguttrust.org, or write to The Gut Trust, Unit 5, 53 Mowbray Street, Sheffield, S3 8EN. You can also email the Trust at info@theguttrust.org

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