It is not uncommon for patients and supporters to mention the need for some consolidation of the plethora of charities involved in raising funds for research into prostate disease.

Hopefully, the newly arranged merger between Prostate UK and the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation will help to reduce sometimes counterproductive rivalry and, more importantly, result in lower overheads as well as greater fundraising capacity. Both existing charities have broadly similar aims, namely to support research into prostate disease. However, Prostate UK has encompassed prostate cancer, benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) and prostatitis, while the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation has focused exclusively on malignant disease. In fact, all three conditions are so intertwined that a more holistic approach, both in fundraising and research, seems to make good sense, particularly since it gives Prostate Action a wider remit than that of The Prostate Cancer Charity.

The existing team from the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation will soon be moving into the offices in Putney owned by Prostate UK, and the new Board of 12 directors will be chaired by Christopher Adams. It is anticipated that the new Prostate Action charity should be able to raise funds well in excess of £2 million per annum and, of course, any assistance that the urological community is able to offer will be much appreciated. Simply mentioning the work of the charity to patients with prostate or other urological problems would be of considerable benefit.

Training and education will remain important parts of the mission of Prostate Action. Sending trainees and established consultants abroad to learn laparoscopic and robotic surgical skills has reaped valuable rewards in the past, and we plan to continue to fund these visits, working in close collaboration with The Urology Foundation, which has just initiated a structured programme of training in robotic surgery. The popular ABC classes in prostate disease run by Prostate UK, which have educated over 1000 GPs and nurse practitioners, are set to continue. Since GPs are now in control of commissioning care for their patients in England, providing them with key information about prostate cancer, BPH and prostatitis is now a priority.

Since the mid 1990s when Prostate UK (formerly Prostate Research Campaign UK) and the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation were set up, much has been achieved, not only by them, but also by The Prostate Cancer Charity. However, much remains to be done to improve the diagnosis and management of all types and stages of prostate disease. We hope that the rationalisation that stems from this merger will help to facilitate this process and increase the resources available to support research and education in these important disease areas.

**CHARITY NEWS**

**Introducing a new charity: Prostate Action**

A new ‘Prostate Action’ charity has been created by the merger of Prostate UK and the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation, to provide a more holistic approach to fundraising and research into prostate disease.

ROGER KIRBY, The Prostate Centre, London

**WEBSITES**

- Prostate UK [http://www.prostateuk.org](http://www.prostateuk.org)
- Prostate Cancer Research Foundation [http://www.thepcrf.org.uk](http://www.thepcrf.org.uk)
- The Prostate Cancer Charity [http://prostate-cancer.org.uk](http://prostate-cancer.org.uk)