



## ***Colitis and Crohn's Week***

***14th – 22nd June 2008***

### **NACC Focuses on Families**

The leading Colitis and Crohn's Disease patient support charity, NACC, is focusing on families during 2008 and hopes to increase awareness of the support available for families affected by these life-long and sometimes life-threatening inflammatory bowel diseases during NACC Colitis and Crohn's Week (14 – 22<sup>nd</sup> June).

With approx 9,000 new cases diagnosed annually, many of them young people and many severely isolated and anxious as a result of their debilitating symptoms of pain, fatigue and diarrhoea, many patients and their families experience problems accessing information.

Designed to help the family adjust to life with Colitis and Crohn's and support successful coping strategies, NACC has launched the Family Information Pack offering information for parents on Caring for Children and Young People who have inflammatory bowel disease. (The pack is available through hospitals.) NACC has also introduced advice booklets for health professionals, parents and teenagers to help optimise the sometimes difficult transition that young people make when their care changes to adult services. NACC volunteers are also providing a new confidential helpline service called Parent to Parent aimed at supporting worried parents and Smilie's Network gives opportunities for families to get together.

Additionally over the next few weeks, the 70 UK-wide NACC Groups, NACC members and their families will be raising awareness of these conditions through a series of national events taking place during NACC Colitis and Crohn's Week. These include the NACC walks for Colitis and Crohn's in the centres of York and London and along the sea-front in Swansea.

For details of the local NACC Group activities contact:

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**National Association for Colitis & Crohn's Disease**

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Between 150,000 and 200,000 people in the UK have Colitis and Crohn's Disease. NACC provides a real life-line in the form of a valuable information resource and support network at national and local level. These serious medical conditions are often hidden and rarely discussed, so increasing understanding of the conditions and their impact on patients and their families is the key objective for NACC's annual Colitis and Crohn's Week.

More information on:

- Local NACC activities – contact the NACC Group on the number given earlier.
- The Parent to Parent Service – call the NACC Information Team on 0845 130 2233
- Information for parents of children who have Colitis or Crohn's Disease – visit the NACC website at [www.nacc.org.uk/parentonline](http://www.nacc.org.uk/parentonline).
- NACC's full range of information and support – visit the NACC website [www.nacc.org.uk](http://www.nacc.org.uk)

For further media information and assistance:

- Background press materials – visit [www.nacc.org.uk/content/media.asp](http://www.nacc.org.uk/content/media.asp)
- Media case studies – telephone the local NACC Group at the number given above or the national NACC Press Office on 01252 790 507

***NACC – Improving life for people affected by Colitis and Crohn's Disease***