

## Local research raises £1,000 for rare skin disease research with Etape Loch Ness ride



Dr Neil Rajan, 39, has completed the Etape Loch Ness cycle challenge in aid of rare skin disease research – raising £1,000. The Newcastle-based researcher finished the 66 mile ride on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April around Scotland’s iconic Loch Ness, starting and ending in the highland capital of Inverness.

*‘The reason I’m taking part in this event is to put something back into the British Skin Foundation’s research funding pot,’* explained Dr Rajan before the challenge, after receiving BSF funding for a rare skin disease project that affects families in the North East of England.

The skin condition, called CYLD cutaneous syndrome results in large skin tumours called cylindromas that grow on the face and scalp. 1 in 4 affected patients eventually undergo complete scalp removal.

Dr Rajan, a consultant dermatologist at the RVI, leads a Dermatogenetics research group at Newcastle University based at the Institute of Genetic Medicine, Newcastle. The aim of the project is to understand a certain aspect of how the skin tumours grow and if specific signals in the tumour can be blocked with new drugs.

Upon completion Dr Rajan said, *“Thank you everyone for the tremendous support so far. It was a great cycling around Loch Ness with the ‘King of the Mountain stage’ punctuated by a Scottish piper playing bagpipes at the very top! As you can see from the photo, I even finished the challenge smiling! All the funds raised go to the BSF, so if anyone hasn’t had a chance yet please consider donating.”*

**Show your support for Dr Rajan by donating here:**  
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Neil-RareDiseaseResearch>

[To find out about CYLD cutaneous syndrome and how Dr Rajan and his colleges are trying to beat it, see page 5 of this article, “Surgery-sparing science: Moving away from the cutting edge.”](#)

### About the BSF

The **British Skin Foundation** is the only UK charity dedicated to raising funds for skin disease and skin cancer research. Our unwavering commitment to funding quality research means we won’t stop until we’ve found cures for common skin problems like eczema and acne through to potential killers like malignant melanoma. To date we’ve raised £15 million to fund research projects since 1996.

For further information please contact: [lisa@britishskinfoundation.org.uk](mailto:lisa@britishskinfoundation.org.uk) or call 020 7391 6347

### Find us online here:

[www.britishskinfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishskinfoundation.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/leadingthefightagainstskindisease](https://www.facebook.com/leadingthefightagainstskindisease)  
[www.twitter.com/bsfcharity](https://www.twitter.com/bsfcharity)

[www.ittakesseven.org.uk](http://www.ittakesseven.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/ittakes7](https://www.facebook.com/ittakes7)  
[www.twitter.com/ittakes7](https://www.twitter.com/ittakes7)