



About The Enrico Charles Literary Award

The Enrico Charles Literary Award has been brought about as a result of my personal experiences as a mother of an extraordinary child born with the neuro-muscular condition SMA [Spinal Muscular Atrophy] Type 1 otherwise known as Werdnig Hoffman disease. Type 1 is more often referred to as a terminal condition. This rendered him quadriplegic, requiring constant night time ventilator support, with occasional daytime treatment, requiring constant physiotherapy, physical assistance and enteral-feeding via a gastrostomy tube. The doctors told me he would not live to experience his first birthday, but Enrico's extraordinary spirit, humour and affability made me strong and believing.

I travelled the world with him in search of doctors and specialists, and his amazingly bright and loveable personality captured hearts and minds alike, from London to New York and Paris. Regardless of the crises that beset him, he remained so content and cheerful, and this convinced me that his life and death would mean something. I resolved that I would make it my mission to find a way to honour his memory and somehow put my experiences and knowledge to good use and help others.

There are fifty million people with disabilities in Europe and according to World Health Organisation statistics, over six hundred million people with disabilities around the world.

This is now a time when information and perceptions of disability should be changed, and it is essential for all human beings to work together, disabled or otherwise. When my son died, I felt it was my duty to improve awareness of disability around the world.

As anyone who has the misfortune to have, or know someone close with a disability will know, the path to finding the right information about the condition can become as stressful as the problem itself. When I was going through this traumatic time, I felt isolated and alone. All the information that was available to me was so clinical and did not have any meaning to me, or my son, and I could not bring myself to talk to faceless charities or help groups because I could not believe that they would really understand how I was feeling. There was a missing human factor.

While Enrico was still alive I initiated two clinical trials in the UK and began to put together a project for a palliative care hospice in Paris, training nearly 200 health care professionals in a groundbreaking non-invasive respiratory management program developed by Professor John R Bach from the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey (one of the medical professionals who took care of the late Christopher Reeves). After my son's death I redeveloped the plan to put into practice in Dubai. I began to attract interest in my work from globally recognised professors and hospitals as well as other related organisations, and I started to realise that the problem was not, in fact, lack of resources, but lack of information availability to not only patients and their families, but even the healthcare practitioners themselves. What was needed was a driver for the information to be delivered, and this could only be supplied by the media.

Only newspapers, magazines, television and radio have the power to make the difference.

The Enrico Charles Literary Award concept is to improve the missing human factor in mainstream media press coverage about disability, promoting positive understanding and awareness of people with a disability, with success stories as tools of inspiration on their journey to make success of their own lives, as well as improving knowledge of those who are unaware of the issues that people with a disability face.

It is my intention for this award to be taken to every country around the world so that each country can promote inspiring success stories about overcoming disability and leading more fulfilled lives. Being in contact and building relationships with journalists, writers and the media to assist in forming a panel of judges to independently examine literary works submitted for the award is an important element for the awards success which has already begun to attract serious credibility.

With the recognition that disability is now being treated as an important topic both in film and television, this award is starting to be acknowledged as a vital and necessary reward for the work and efforts of writers raising awareness around the world.

However it is important that newspapers and publishers embrace and encompass the aims and objectives that this award intends to promote.



Yours truly,

Charlotte Wingfield (Donna.)



Executive Summary

The first award is intended to be held in 2010, for the most outstanding literary contribution to the promotion of disability awareness to the general public in a positive and inspirational way.

Objectives

- To bring disability to the attention of the world of literature and, hence, the wider world.
- To bring knowledge of people, events and feats of incredible human capability to the attention of the media and the public around the world.
- To encourage social journalists, writers and publishers to see the coverage of disability in a new light, using a contemporary and popular style, such as those used to cover topics of general interest, e.g. celebrity gossip and tabloid stories.
- To achieve high public impact.
- Through the coverage of the submitted work, which may be in the format of a novel or a piece of social journalism, it should be evident that the content and its treatment helps to achieve the overall aim of publicising both the needs and accomplishments of the disabled.

Background and Discussion

While writers from around the world have been publishing articles regarding disability, it is rarely, if ever, considered as a subject with its own merits and thus deserving of recognition.

The sheer number of people who are affected by disability is astounding and the way it is marginalised in some areas of the world today is outdated and must be changed.

Now with the number of NGOs, charities, health organisations, pharmaceutical companies and medical breakthroughs higher than ever before, more money is being spent on health than our society realises.

The fact remains that accessible information about less welcome news is still shockingly low. The media is full of accounts of victims of disability or other distress, for whom adequate levels of information or appropriate care are not available.

The literary challenge is intended to bring to the fore what is already available, to remove the boundaries of exclusion, thus enabling and enhancing a society of proactive and positively informed individuals through the powerful medium of the written word.

It is hoped that this award will help by acknowledging the writers and journalists who already understand this need and consequently, spread awareness within the publishing world of a subject which it has been considered impossible to address.

'Life entails risk and to try to create an environment without risk ultimately devalues the person with the disability by suggesting that he or she is not capable of coping except in the most restrictive and supported environment' ...Treishmann



Q & As

How will the award be administered?

The award will be an 11kg Bronze Marble Sculpture in the image of a sleeping child, a Financial Prize for the second and third positions awarded by the founder.

Who will judge the award?

The judge and panellists will gradually be drawn from the international literary, media, business and health communities. In 2010 The Award is included in the Winchester Literary Festival in the UK .

What will be the application procedure?

Application procedure details will be available during the Spring of 2010, ready for the award to take place in July 2010. The submissions must show evidence of having had an impact via sales or distribution that the articles or book (later it is intended that film and television will be included) has had a significant impact to the general public.

How will works be submitted?

The works must be published books or articles, submitted in RSS format once the application process is underway.

Sponsorship Endorsement

As the award is new, sponsorship may initially challenge concepts of contributing; however, as nearly everyone has in some way had an experience with disability, the following is a small example of how international sponsorship is actively helping out the cause for disability awareness.

Sponsors of other literary awards and festivals are as follows:

Man Group Plc is the main sponsor of the Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival. The group is the largest quoted hedge fund in the world.

Trust is a large insurance company and has over \$350 million in charitable funds under administration in Australia with a dedicated philanthropy service partnering with at least 10 major organisations.

International Nepali Literary Society has trustees, officers and committees all over the world, from Russia to North America, with experts in nearly every field from Legal to Media, Theatre to Education.

The majority of hospitals throughout the world are backed and run by insurance firms.

National and private medical practice is backed by pharmaceutical companies.

Many doctors today and other medical practitioners actively seek to have their work published.

UNESCO helps to promote many awards; some are just small financial allowances.

From Monaco to New York, the support of disability is promoted and backed by celebrities and personalities. Some are fighting small and large causes using their names to influence the masses.

Finally, the **Nobel Peace Prize** is the biggest example of the celebration of humanitarian endeavours. The benefits from marketing and sponsorship of the Prize are significant.

This is not just an award: it is about the efforts of writers and journalists being able to communicate with hundreds of thousands of people who still remain without advice or assistance. These people could be living next door remaining anonymous.

Newspapers, books, magazines and articles circulate not just in bookstores, but in supermarkets, churches, waiting rooms, train stations and airports and communicate to people who are just transient passers-by. Wherever we go, we have the possibility of spreading important information, but only if such information can be delivered.

If you wish to be associated with the award, or assist in helping promote inspirational success stories to be heard around the world please feel free to get in touch. It is seriously hoped that this award will be able to grow in the literary and media worlds to be taken seriously and to have a long lasting effect helping others.



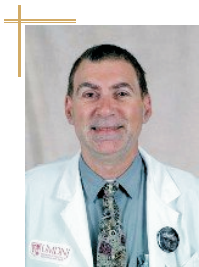
Personal Professional Endorsements



My name is Fadi EL Halabi, I am from Lebanon, I am a TV anchor for a social talk show on Future-News TV as well as counsellor for couples and adults. I met the Founder through global networking. She knew that I am advocating for the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of life, and, ever since, we have had communication about our mutual interest, in how we can promote a positive image of people with disabilities, to create both a positive change in individuals lives, and the wider community.

I have to say that Charlotte was able to communicate her passion in a unique way and I am sure that her noble mission will reach our hearts and minds because she is an authentic extraordinary person, and her great experience will be a role model very inspiring.

Fadi El Halabi
T.V Anchor on Future-News TV.
Counselor for adults and couples.
President of the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network-Middle East Region (EDAN-ME)



I have known the Founder since she first brought her child to see me for my expertise in the respiratory management of children with a rare condition called SMA - Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 1 (Werdnig-Hoffman's disease). Subsequently, her child died but Charlotte and I stayed in touch with the purpose of spreading the knowledge that might spare other children with similar clinical status to suffer the same fate. She has diligently and at her own cost devoted her time to finding the best way in which to carry this out to the best effect. I have seen her research the global situation facing not only charities but societies; I have witnessed her attempt to develop a remarkable and unique hospice and training centre in Dubai along with other recognized Doctors who also have stood by and admired her perseverance. Now with this award and with the gradual support from the global media and publishing organisations writers, journalists and the film world she will be able to deliver the critical and necessary information needed by those going through experiences of life change that disability wreaks upon families. This information, it is hoped will be empowering.

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