



## Support for the Great Cystic Orient Fibrosis Express- COFE

Only a month ago I met Walter and have been totally inspired, by his ability to undertake and understate, tasks so difficult that a fit adult without CF, would find daunting. His plan to ride a bicycle from Paris to Istanbul to raise awareness and funds for Cystic Fibrosis will start in July of this year.

While there is reasonable awareness of CF in developed countries like Australia, USA and Western European countries, even here in Tasmania which has the second highest incidence of this condition in the world (after Ireland) diagnosis is still sometimes delayed for many weeks and months which causes pain and needless suffering to the child and parents.

Because Cystic Fibrosis affects the ability to digest food, in developing countries, due to lack of awareness many children die in infancy without CF being diagnosed as a cause for their failure to thrive, when a simple supplement of digestive enzymes would see a miraculous improvement in health for the child.

In recent years there have been very exciting developments in terms of genetic research which hold real promise in controlling the condition and providing a permanent fix. Funds are needed to press on with this line of research, as it also holds out hope for cures of other genetic conditions.

To gain maximum impact from Walter's epic journey the expedition requires sponsors, who will in turn gain good exposure as there will be media opportunities in every major town and country and a film of the journey is also planned. An enthusiastic group of supporters will accompany Walter. The physical effort will be his alone, and he will be on his bike for maybe 90 days.

I very much commend this enterprise to potential sponsors, it will be an inspiration to all young people, with and without CF and especially to parents and family of young children with CF, as it will give them hope that their child can also achieve what Walter has done already and is aiming to do in 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dace Shugg'.



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