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Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

The Right Royal Baby Stars - Order Form

Commemorate your child's birth at the Royal Hospital for Women with a star on the Baby Wall

Minimum contribution of \$50 each star (one star per child)

First Name Middle Name Surname

Date of Birth Girl/Boy Gold or Silver Star

Please complete the above details and payment section and post to RHW Foundation

Unravelling the mystery behind a very painful and often misdiagnosed disease



Jasmine Glover



A/Prof Jason Abbott

Endometriosis is a chronic condition where the inside lining of the uterus grows on the outside, causing severe pain and infertility. It's a very common disease, affecting nearly 10% of all women, with symptoms so severe it's estimated to cost more in lost productivity than asthma or diabetes.

While treatments for endometriosis vary, symptoms can recur. Treatments range from medications to release hormones (via the oral contraceptive pill or an inter-uterine system) or relieve pain in the short term, to surgery. And although surgery removes lesions, reduces pain and improves fertility, it is still quite invasive and better solutions are needed.

But thankfully, this disease is being increasingly understood and recognised, especially with the help of the Royal's Assoc Professor Jason Abbott who is at the forefront of our hospital's gynaecology and research.

As genetics are thought to play an important role in this disease, managing symptoms is critical and Jason and his team are at the forefront of endometriosis management. They are evaluating solutions such as world expert surgical management and treating pelvic pain that can occur with endometriosis, using pelvic floor physiotherapy and treatments such as Botox for muscle spasm to reduce pelvic pain.

Excitingly they also are conducting a 10-year review of fertility outcomes for women with severe disease, travelling to France to present their research findings at the World Endometriosis Congress.

Jasmine Glover is one person who knows too well the pain and suffering of endometriosis, and how continued research is vital. Now aged 35, Jasmine's endometriosis remained undetected for over three years, after being told that her severe abdominal pain and bloating was everything from a cyst, to appendicitis to a tight muscle! It was only after contacting Assoc Professor Abbott that the right diagnosis was made. Following two surgeries, the last in 2009, many months of physiotherapy at The Royal and our holistic approach to healing, Jasmine is finally pain free.

With her energy returned, Jasmine is now an avid fundraiser for endometriosis research, working closely with the Royal's Foundation. Her aim is to raise awareness among women of its symptoms and avoid misdiagnosis, and to raise vital funds to keep the research going. In fact, you may have seen Jasmine pounding the pavement with her friends and colleagues in this year's City to Surf to further her cause!

Thanks to Jason and his team, the future for endometriosis management is looking brighter. We now have our sights set on developing a screening test to detect genetic predisposition to the disease, and with continuing fundraising efforts like Jasmine's, we might just get there!