

Tom Isaacs, Co-Founder, The Cure Parkinson's Trust

Tom Isaacs was diagnosed with Parkinson's at the young age of 27 and since then has done everything he can to raise funds, heighten awareness and find a cure for the condition which is perceived by many as a condition affecting the elderly alone. Having completed his highly successful 1,250 mile sponsored walk in 1999, Tom left his job as Director of a London property company in April 2002 to undertake his Coastin' challenge. By April 2003, Tom had walked 4,500 miles around the British coastline, climbed the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales and run the Flora London Marathon, raising over £350,000. In 2004 he was runner-up in the GMTV/Daily Mirror Fundraiser of the Year Award and in 2005 he was elected Charity Personality of the Year. A year later he co-founded The Cure Parkinson's Trust, an organisation of which he is President and which has invested over £5 million into ground breaking research in the quest for a cure for Parkinson's. Tom was a Board Member of the European Parkinson's Disease Association from 2005 until 2010. He also represents the interests of people with Parkinson's on DeNDRoN (the Dementias and Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network). Tom acted as the patient representative on the Steering and Organisational Committee for the World Parkinson Congress 2010 and 2013. Tom is also a co-Founder of Parkinson's Movement, a globally active group of Parkinson's advocates intent on giving a voice to the patient community and a leading contributor to the SENSE-PARK project - a European funded initiative to establish a more personalised, objective measuring device for people with Parkinson's and those who treat them. In 2012 Tom was awarded the prestigious, Dr Rana International Parkinson's Community Service Award. He was also one of the torchbearers in the run up to the 2012 Olympic Games. Tom has written a book "Shake Well Before Use" about his walk and his experiences with Parkinson's which he conveys with passion, optimism and humour. He speaks regularly about his condition and the ability of people with Parkinson's to inject urgency into progressing the delivery of new therapies to the clinic.