

**Media opportunity
Wednesday 2nd August
10.00am – 10.30am**

2006: A Czech Odyssey show off their
customised VW Jetta

Car park, St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1 7EH



Issued Monday 31st July

Czech Wreck Challenge to raise funds for radiotherapy services at St Thomas' Hospital

Dr Simon Hughes a cancer research fellow and Dejan Nikolovski, clinical information manager in cancer services at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust will be hoping their clapped out VW Jetta has Chitty Chitty Bang Bang powers as they embark on a four day drive from Calais to the Czech Republic on 1 September.

The foolhardy venture is part of the first ever 'Czech Wreck Challenge' which involves teams driving a car costing no more than £100 from Calais to Prague in only four days, to raise money for a good cause.

The St Thomas' Hospital team, called *2006: A Czech Odyssey*, also includes Peter Momirovski and Nathan Woodbridge. They are raising money to help purchase a piece of equipment which will improve the accuracy of radiotherapy treatment for patients with lung cancer, oesophageal cancer and some patients with lymphoma. The funds will be processed by Guy's and St Thomas' Charity which manages all donations on behalf of the Trust.

Dr Shahreen Ahmad a lung cancer consultant at the Trust said: "The equipment will be of real benefit to patients being treated for cancer around the upper body. We're grateful for all donations to the cause."

The Czech Wreck Challenge route takes in six countries – France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic and involves tackling a challenging pass across the Swiss Alps.

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Each of the team is taking on the persona of a well known doctor for the challenge – Dr Doctor Seuss - The Cat In The Hat, Dr Quincy, Dr Strangelove and Dr Feelgood and these names together with the flags of each of the participants' countries have adorn each of the doors together with blazing flames spray painted up each side. To sponsor the team please visit www.gsttcharity.org.uk/donations/czechwreck.html.

Ends/

Notes to News Editors:

1. For more information and to confirm your attendance at the media opportunity please contact Kate Dawson, Head of Communications at Guy's and St Thomas' Charity on Tel: 020 7188 1218 or out of hours mobile: 0772 2119 1570 or email: kate.dawson@gsttcharity.org.uk.
2. Guy's and St Thomas' Charity is the largest NHS-related Charity in the UK. It provides funding to support health services in Lambeth and Southwark and to benefit the wider NHS. For more information please visit the Charity's website at www.gsttcharity.org.uk
3. The equipment which the team are raising funds for is called an Extended Wing Board or 'lung board'. It helps keep patients still during their radiotherapy treatment to improve the accuracy of treatment and can also help reduce side effects by reducing the amount of unaffected tissue which must be targeted. The Department needs three extended wing boards, costing £3,000 each.
4. Guy's and St Thomas' provides ¾ million patient contacts in acute and specialist hospital services every year. As one of the biggest NHS Trusts in the UK, it employs over 9,000 staff. The Trust also works in partnership with the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Biomedical Sciences of King's College London and other Higher Education Institutes to deliver high quality education and research. Website: www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk. For further information please contact Tanya Nikolovska in the communications department on Tel: 020 7188 1557.

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