We are proud to have been part of the clinical research in this country, and movement to enable so many cancer patients to have access to high quality trials. Research is vital for patients to have access to high quality treatments that will improve outcomes for cancer patients. In this time:• The annual cancer research spend by NCRI’s government and charity partners has increased by over £500 million in 2010• NCRN has achieved a four-fold increase in recruitment of cancer patients into research studies across the UK• The annual NCRI Cancer Conference has become the UK’s premier cancer research meeting• NCRN and NCRI have pioneered the growth of patient and public involvement in cancer research

NCRN and NCRI have been working together for a decade to enhance cancer research in the UK and improve outcomes for cancer patients. In this time:

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Find out more inside...
Improving patient care through research

The NCRN has a proven track record and world class reputation for increasing participation in clinical research.

Prior to NCRN’s creation, for every 100 patients diagnosed with cancer, around 4 patients entered research studies.

This has risen year on year and by 2010 at least 17 out of every 100 patients took part in NCRN supported studies (17%).

For collaborations, the most notable reported in the USA is under 3%.

For comparison, the most recent figure reported in the UK with some of the greatest increases seen in District General Hospitals is 8.7%.

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Find out more inside...
Understanding the cancer research landscape

NCRI catalyses and analyses cancer research funding from its charity and government members – reviewing and categorising around 3,000 research awards in the portfolio each year.

This analysis is used by the members to inform their own funding strategies and to work together to tackle areas of need or respond to new opportunities.

Working together to establish initiatives to address key areas of need

Involving patients and carers in planning cancer research

NCRI and NCIN recognizes the valuable contribution to the significance and relevance of research made by people directly affected by cancer, either through being researchers themselves or through engagement with research, recruited, funded and supported for a growing continuity of such volunteers. Activities include:
- Input into design of new research and development of the portfolio
- Input into practical (delivery of research)
-ising and governance of cancer research
- Contributing to natural strategy and direction
- Use the profile of UK patient and public involvement internationally

A key to use my own experience of bone cancer to influence the direction and shape of future research into younger and young adults diagnosed with cancer

Hannah Millington
Member of the NCRI Teenage and Young Adult Consumer Group

Funding for research on specific cancers

About 40% of the portfolio consists of research targeted at one or more particular types of cancer. The diagram shows the percentage of this site-specific research which focused on each of the commonest cancer in 2002 and 2010.

For some cancer sites, funding has improved over and above the growth in the portfolio as a whole. Other cancers remain poorly resourced, but this is not necessarily because of lack of interest or need. We believe that there may be some undiagnosed cancers of the lung, stomach and pancreas, all of which have relatively poor outcomes and are under funded.

Prevention research was targeted for special attention

In 2002 only 2.4% of the cancer research portfolio addressed prevention research. NCRI members joined forces with other funders to form the National Prevention Research Initiative (NPRI) in 2004. This has contributed to an increase in annual spend on prevention research from £6.3m in 2002 to £17.1m in 2010, raising annual spend on prevention research from £6.3m in 2002 to £17.1m in 2010, raising average spend in the portfolio from £6.3m in 2002 to £17.1m in 2010, raising average spend in the portfolio from £6.3m in 2002 to £17.1m in 2010.

PET Research Network

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging allows doctors to see more than just a picture of a tumour – PET scans also reveal how active the cancer cells are. The NCRI PET Research Network has awarded grants totalling £23m to date for research aimed at reducing people’s risk of developing major chronic, non-communicable diseases by informing that health behaviour. The recently announced fourth grant round will be supported by a further £10m pledged by 16 funders concerned with cancer and other diseases.

NCIN

Established in 2008, the National Cancer Intelligence Network is a UK-wide initiative, working to drive improvements in standards of cancer care and clinical outcomes by improving and using the information from all stages in the patient journey – for analysis, publication and research. NCIN is leading on access to NCIN data for investigator-led research. www.ncin.org.uk

Survivorship after cancer and End of Life Care

The NCRI Supportive and Palliative Care Collaborations (COPASS and COPCD) have built research capacity and leveraged substantially more research funding than the original investment of £2m by NCRI members.

To help make this progress sustainable, the NCRI Grantmanship Gateway provides practical help and advice on how to get funding. Since 2001, Clinical Studies Groups in Palliative Care, Primary Care, Psychosocial Oncology and Complementary Therapies have entered over 150 trials into the NCRI portfolio, which under a third of which were actively recruiting in April 2011.

Collaborations with the pharmaceutical industry

NCIN has significantly increased the adoption of commercial trials into their portfolio and is developing novel types of partnership with industry to identify new ideas for trials. Pharmaceutical companies also participate in many NCRI activities, and are valued sponsors of the NCRI Conference.

Clinical and Translational Radiotherapy Research Working Group (CTRad)

More than 80 UK researchers belong to the CTRad working group, which is developing practice-changing research in radiotherapy and encouraging the use of more advanced techniques. The number of patients enrolled in radiotherapy trials in the UK has grown up by 23% since CTRad began, and the group has been working with the government, industry, NCIN and charities to open up new opportunities for research.

www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad

www.ncri-pet.org.uk
Understanding the cancer research landscape

NCRI collaborates and analyses cancer research funding from its charity and government members – reviewing and categorising around 3,000 research awards in the portfolio each year. The analysis is used by the members to inform their own funding strategies and to work together to tackle areas of need or respond to new opportunities.

Funding for research on specific cancers

About 40% of the portfolio consists of research targeted at one or more particular types of cancer. The diagram shows the percentage of the site-specific research which focussed on each of the commonest cancers in 2002 and in 2010. For some cancer sites, funding has improved over and above inflation; growth in funding has been particularly strong for patients with lung, oesophagus and pancreas, all of which have relatively poor outcomes by improving and using the information generated, doctors can be helped to make better decisions for analysis, publication and research. NCRI is leading on access to NCIN data for investigator-led research.

NCIN

Established in 2008, the National Cancer Intelligence Network is a UK-wide initiative, working to drive improvements in standards of cancer care and clinical outcomes by improving and using the information generated from centres with a focus on understanding the highest proportion of the funds. Lung cancer, however, breast cancer has continued to receive the highest proportion of the funds.

Working together to establish initiatives to address key areas of need

Involving patients and carers in planning cancer research

NCRI and NCIN recognizes the valuable contribution that the safety and relevance of research made by people directly affected by cancer, either through self-help groups or patient and public involvement initiatives, can make. Activities include:

- Input into design of research and development of the portfolio
- Input into practical (delivery of research)
- Practising proposals of cancer research
- Contributing to national strategy and direction
- The use of the site-specific research which focussed on each of the commonest cancers in 2002 and in 2010.

PET Research Network

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging allows doctors to see more than just a picture of a tumour – PET scans also reveal how active the cancer cells are. Over the last few years, PET scanning has become widely available in hospitals across the UK. The PET Research Network is a multi-disciplinary group of PET researchers set up to help researchers deal with the challenges of performing trials using PET. The network is led by the PET Research Network members and NCRN.

Collaborations with the pharmaceutical industry

NCRI has significantly increased the adoption of commercial trials into their portfolio and is developing novel types of partnerships with industry to identify new ideas for trials. Pharmaceutical companies also participate in many NCRI activities, and are valued sponsors of the NCRI Cancer Conferences.

Survivalship after cancer and End of Life Care

The NCRI Supportive and Palliative Care Collaborations (COMPASS and CEGO) have built research capacity by and engaged substantially more researchers than the original investment of £2m by NCRN members. To help make this progress sustainable, the NCRI Partnership Gateway provides practical help and advice on how to get funding. Since 2001, Clinical Studies Groups in Palliative Care, Primary Care, Psychosocial Oncology and Complementary Therapies have entered over 150 new research projects into the NCRI portfolio, and have received £10m of additional research funding. Research collaboration with industry is a key component of the NCRI program, with over £23m to date for research aimed at reducing people’s risk of developing major chronic, non-communicable diseases by influencing their health behaviour. The recently announced fourth grant round will be supported by a further £10m pledged by 16 industry, NCRN and charities to open up new opportunities for NCIN data for investigator-led research.

Clinical and Translational Radiotherapy Research Working Group (CTRad)

More than 800 UK researchers belong to the CTRad working group, which is developing practice-changing research in radiotherapy and encouraging the use of more advanced techniques. The number of patients enrolled in radiotherapy trials in the UK has grown up by 31% since CTRad began, and the group has been working with the government, industry, NCRI and charities to open up new opportunities for research.

www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad

www.ncri-pet.org.uk

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The NCRN has helped to deliver more than 1,100 clinical research studies, including 180 commercial trials. It has a trained workforce of over 700 individuals who work on over 500 open studies. More than 250,000 people have taken part in NCRN studies.

NCRI Clinical Studies Groups

23 NCRI Clinical Studies (Development) Groups (CSGs) and their 90+ subgroups develop new clinical studies and oversee ongoing studies in their areas of responsibility.

The NCRN manages and supports the CSGs on behalf of the NCRI.

The NCRN has achieved a four-fold increase in recruitment of cancer patients into research studies across the UK.

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Find out more inside…

Celebrating a decade of progress through partnership in cancer research

The NCRN is part of the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network in England. They provide researchers with the practical support they need to make clinical studies happen in the NHS. They aim to improve the coordination, quality and speed of delivery of cancer research for the benefit of everyone involved.

National Cancer Research Network (NCRN)

Launched in 2005, the NCRI Cancer Conference is the premier cancer research meeting in the UK.

• Attracts up to 2,000 delegates each year from all areas of cancer research including academia, charities, government bodies, NHS, industry and patients and carers.
• Pioneers in its involvement of patients and the public.
• Embraces the full spectrum of cancer research – from basic and translational science through to diagnosis, therapy, survivorship and prevention research.
• Brings top class scientists from around the world to a meeting in the UK every year.

www.ncrni.org.uk/ncriconference

The networking opportunities at the NCRI Conference are great – young researchers get to meet established experts and many new collaborations are kicked off by interactions at the conference.

Prof Sir Alex Mantle Lister Institute of Molecular Medicine

National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI)

The NCRI is a UK-wide partnership between government, charity and industry which promotes co-operation in cancer research among the 22 member organisations for the benefit of patients, the public and the scientific community. NCRI focuses on the more challenging areas of research where partners can achieve greater progress by working together. www.ncrri.org.uk

The annual NCRI Cancer Conference has become the UK’s premier cancer research meeting.

www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference

Innovation and Weisberg were brilliant. It was great to have speakers of that calibre. Conference delegate

Launched in 2005, the NCRI Cancer Conference is the premier cancer research meeting in the UK.