UK Top 10 living with and beyond cancer research priorities

There were 2.5 million people living with cancer in the U.K in 2015 and by 2030 this number will increase to an estimate of 4 million. The Top 10 most important research questions to help these people live better with and beyond cancer (LWBC) have been identified by thousands of cancer patients, carers and front-line healthcare professionals across the U.K. This is the first time that clear research priorities have been identified in this area.

Now we are calling on the research community and funders to address the most impactful research questions that will help people live better with and beyond cancer. Turn over to read what they are, and help us spread the word!

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1. What are the best models for delivering long-term cancer care including screening, diagnosing and managing long-term side effects and late-effects of cancer and its treatment (e.g. primary and secondary care, voluntary organisations, self-management, carer involvement, use of digital technology, etc)?

2. How can patients and carers be appropriately informed of cancer diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, long-term side-effects and late effects of treatments, and how does this affect their treatment choices?

3. How can care be better co-ordinated for people living with and beyond cancer who have complex needs (with more than one health problem or receiving care from more than one specialty)?

4. What causes fatigue in people living with and beyond cancer and what are the best ways to manage it?

5. What are the short-term and long-term psychological impacts of cancer and its treatment and what are the most effective ways of supporting the psychological wellbeing of all people living with and beyond cancer, their carers and families?

6. How can the short-term, long-term and late effects of cancer treatments be (a) prevented, and/or (b) best treated/managed?

7. What are the biological bases of side-effects of cancer treatment and how can a better understanding lead to improved ways to manage side-effects?

8. What are the best ways to manage persistent pain caused by cancer or cancer treatments?

9. What specific lifestyle changes (e.g. diet, exercise and stress reduction) help with recovery from treatment, restore health and improve quality of life?

10. How can we predict which people living with and beyond cancer will experience long-term side-effects (side-effects which last for years after treatment) and which people will experience late effects (side-effects which do not appear until years after treatment)?

*Priorities relate to adults living with and beyond cancer