

# 2001

A decade of progress through partnership in cancer research

# 2011

## National Cancer Research Institute NEWSLETTER



2011 Issue 1

### Welcome to the first NCRI newsletter of 2011



**At NCRI and NCRN we reach our tenth anniversary this year** and a number of events and publications will celebrate

this during the coming months. Already we have jointly published a calendar which was distributed at the NCRI Cancer Conference last November. It was our first visit to Liverpool after 5 years in Birmingham and was one of our most successful events! Thanks to all of you who participated and I hope you will come back in November this year (further details are on the back of this newsletter).

In April we welcome our new Chair, Dame Janet Husband, who joins a distinguished list

of predecessors – Sir George Radda, Sir Alex Markham, Sir Mike Richards and Sir Kenneth Calman. See inside for Janet's profile.

Although we are in a difficult time financially, medical research has done relatively well in the recent government spending review. Amongst NCRI partners, the Department of Health will be spending more through the National Institute for Health Research and the Medical Research Council's expenditure will be maintained in real terms. With the charity sector also weathering the storm, we expect NCRI to continue to thrive.

Do you have ideas on what NCRI should be doing in its next 10 years? If so, please get in touch with your regular contact or email [info@ncri.org.uk](mailto:info@ncri.org.uk)

### Roger Wilson honoured with CBE

**We are delighted that Roger Wilson has been awarded the CBE for his services to healthcare.**

Roger has been a part of NCRI throughout our 10 years and has been a member of more committees and groups than we have space to mention. He was Chair of the NCRI Consumer Liaison Group during a particularly formative period (2004-2007) and went on to chair the Prevention Research Advisory Board which oversees the National Prevention Research Initiative.

He has also been a member of the Sarcoma Clinical Studies Group and leads the Research Partners element of the Cancer Experiences Collaborative (CECo), as well as playing a leading role in the Department of Health's National Cancer Survivorship Initiative.

In addition to his involvement at NCRI, in 2003

Roger and his wife Sheelagh set up a charity, Sarcoma UK, to help improve awareness for patients and their families about the rare form of connective tissue cancer, which affects less than 1% of all patients diagnosed with cancer. Sarcoma UK now has a full-time staff and is expanding its remit to fund and develop a research programme. For more information, please visit

<http://www.sarcoma-uk.org>.

Roger is a former BBC assistant producer and film maker from Shropshire, who was diagnosed with a soft tissue sarcoma in 1999. After extensive treatment, he enjoyed a 7 year period of remission, though has since had two recurrences and is currently undergoing treatment. We wish him and his family all good wishes for a full recovery.



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[www.ncri.org.uk](http://www.ncri.org.uk)

## New Chair for NCRI



**Professor Dame Janet Husband** is Emeritus Professor of Radiology at the Institute of Cancer Research and, among former posts, she has been President of the Royal College of Radiologists and Medical Director of the Royal Marsden Hospital. Since retiring from full-time clinical practice

in 2007, she has taken up responsibilities in public life and charitable organisations including becoming a member of the Co-operation and Competition Panel for NHS funded services and a Specially Appointed Commissioner to the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the home of the Chelsea Pensioners, where she chairs the Clinical Governance Committee. Dame Janet has published over 300 peer reviewed articles, reviews, books and book chapters, and has received many awards and honours. She brings to NCRI a strong interest in diagnostic imaging and image-guided therapies. Dame Janet says "It is a great privilege to lead the NCRI into its second decade, and together we will build on the enormous achievements which have placed NCRI at the centre of collaborative cancer research in the UK".

Dame Janet succeeds Sir Kenneth Calman who steps down on 31 March after three years. Sir Ken will continue to work with NCRI as Chair of the Steering Group on Survivorship and End of Life Care.

## NCRI publishes report on mesothelioma research



Following a request last year from the Department of Health in England, the NCRI undertook a brief review of the current status of research in mesothelioma and other asbestos-related disease research, including capacity, infrastructure and important research questions.

This review, which was supported by the British Lung Foundation (BLF), was published in late November 2010 to coincide with the announcement of a BLF research funding opportunity to help support new research in asbestos-related disease. This initial funding round has now closed, but for future information please monitor the BLF's research pages:

[http://www.lunguk.org/research\\_and\\_grants](http://www.lunguk.org/research_and_grants) or email Ian Jarrold [research@blf-uk.org](mailto:research@blf-uk.org)

The NCRI report can be downloaded at:

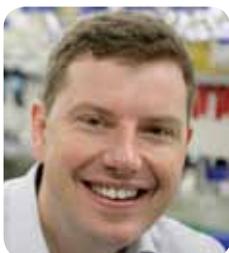
[http://www.ncri.org.uk/includes/Publications/reports/mesothelioma\\_and\\_ards\\_report.pdf](http://www.ncri.org.uk/includes/Publications/reports/mesothelioma_and_ards_report.pdf)

## Mark Stevens joins NCRI Board



**Mr Mark Stevens**, the Chief Executive of Yorkshire Cancer Research (YCR), is joining the Board with effect from March. Mark joined YCR last year after a career in banking and will bring a new perspective to NCRI discussions.

## CTRad welcomes new Chair



**Professor Tim Illidge of the University of Manchester** has succeeded Professor Tim Maughan as Chair of the NCRI Clinical and Translational Radiotherapy Research Working Group (CTRad). **Dr Neil Burnet of the University of Cambridge has been appointed the new Deputy Chair.**

One of the ways in which CTRad is generating momentum is through trial development meetings, which are already feeding through to success in trial funding. The latest of these meetings was held at the NCRI Cancer Conference in November 2010, and it was here that Tim Maughan handed the baton to Tim Illidge.



More recently CTRad collaborated with the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres and the LH Gray Trust to deliver a successful one-day meeting at the LH Gray

Conference in February. The theme was developing early phase trials with drug-radiation combinations, which took a practical look at the challenges and opportunities, in order to open up further collaboration between academic centres and industry. With internationally renowned speakers and substantial industry representation, the talks generated a lot



of discussion. Afternoon parallel workshops on trial design and imaging in drug-radiotherapy trials provided the perfect environment for small-group discussion and delegates were enthusiastic about the potential for collaboration, which was the aim of this meeting.

CTRad continues its work in 2011 on supporting local research capabilities and working with professional bodies to review career pathways and incentives for clinical oncologists, medical physicists and radiologists to engage in research. The group is also actively engaging with pharmaceutical companies and radiotherapy equipment manufacturers to stimulate wider research collaborations.



For further information on the CTRad initiative, please visit: <http://www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad> or email [carolyn.chan@ncri.org.uk](mailto:carolyn.chan@ncri.org.uk)

## NCRI Partners working together in end of life care

Marie Curie  
Cancer Care



Marie Curie Cancer Care has committed to spend up to £1 million per year over three years to support high quality palliative care

**research projects.** The programme aims to improve end of life care for patients with cancer or other advanced progressive life-threatening conditions in the last months and days of life. They are being assisted by Cancer Research UK in organising calls for proposals and peer review.

The second call has recently been announced with a deadline for full applications of Friday 8 April 2011. The programme is open to scientists, clinicians and healthcare workers at UK universities, medical schools, hospitals and some research institutions. Guidelines and application forms are available from:



<http://science.cancerresearchuk.org/funding/find-grant/all-funding-schemes/marie-curie-cancer-care-research-programme/>  
Applications are considered in the following areas:

- Exploring variation in care at the end of life - research with the potential to enable a better understanding of the way in which the experience of care at the end of life varies across the UK.
- Measuring outcomes of care at the end of life - research on the development and evaluation of patient and carer centred outcome assessments using qualitative, quantitative and mixed method approaches.
- Controlling symptoms in the last year of life - proposals for well designed, ethical, prospective, empirical studies, using comparative methods such as randomised controlled trials or other high quality observational and/or quasi experimental designs.

For further information, please contact:

Dr Sabine Best [sabine.best@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:sabine.best@mariecurie.org.uk)

Dr Hannah Whiteman [mariecurie@cancer.org.uk](mailto:mariecurie@cancer.org.uk)

## NCRI Supportive and Palliative Care Collaboratives

**The COMPASS and CECo Collaboratives are coming to the end of their five years of funding which was provided by six NCRI partners: Cancer Research UK, Department of Health, Economic and Social Research Council, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Medical Research Council.** Their successes will be on display at separate conferences during April, details of which are below.

Since 2006, a substantial amount of new research has been initiated across a range of disciplines and institutions in the UK. This enhanced capacity is expected to sustain further research and successful grant-raising in the years to come.



The final **COMPASS Research Collaborative Annual Scientific Meeting will take place at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh on 14-15 April 2011.** A number of international speakers including **Professors Kurt Kroenke, Amy Abernethy, Alex Jadad and Xavier Gomez-Batiste** feature in this year's programme, and the meeting will also host the official launch of the new BMJ Supportive and Palliative Care journal <http://blogs.bmj.com/spcare/>.

As well as hearing about some of the latest supportive and palliative care research being carried out overseas, there will be presentations highlighting the three key COMPASS work strands: assessment, interventions and implementation. A number of workshops will explore topics and themes ranging from running randomised controlled trials in supportive care, to how to get your paper published.

User Involvement (UI) will also feature highly, with a panel session entitled 'Celebrating UI in research' led by **Professor David Cameron**, and chaired by **Mr Peter Rainey**

(UI representative, COMPASS Advisory Group) which will include the presentation of the User Involvement Award to the researcher who has best demonstrated user engagement, innovation and impact.

The full programme for the meeting, plus information about registration and accommodation can be found on the COMPASS website:

<http://www.compasscollaborative.com/asmEdinburgh2011>

**The Cancer Experiences Collaborative (CECo) Conference,** will take place



on **5-6 April 2011 at the Radisson Blu Manchester Airport Hotel, Manchester, UK.** This event is relevant to supportive and palliative care clinicians, managers and policy makers, service users, voluntary sector organisations and academics and researchers.

The programme includes three keynote speakers: **Professor Sir Mike Richards**, *National Clinical Director for Cancer and End of Life, Department of Health*, **Professor Jessica Corner**, *Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Southampton* and **Dr Kathleen Foley**, *Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York.*

There will be 'Meet the Expert' and plenary sessions from each of the CECo themes plus research partner sessions and poster presentations. There will be an "Any Questions" style session on Tuesday 5 April.

Information on conference delegate rates and accommodation can be found on the CECo website: <http://www.ceco.org.uk/resourcedocs/ceco-final-a4.pdf>

Alternatively, please contact

Anne-Marie McDonnell, CECo Administrator  
[A.McDonnell@soton.ac.uk](mailto:A.McDonnell@soton.ac.uk) tel: 023 8059 7881

## 2011 NCIN and UKACR Conference "Liberating Information, Improving Outcomes" London Hilton Metropole, 15-17 June 2011



This conference will showcase how information and analysis from the National Cancer Intelligence Network and the UK's cancer registries

are contributing to the Coalition Government's aim of delivering health outcomes that are among the best in the world.

As well as the latest results from research and analyses using cancer registration and linked healthcare information, this conference provides an opportunity to hear about how this information is being used to improve outcomes for cancer patients and how cancer registries are working to improve both the range and quality of information available.

Keynote speakers will include: **John Baron MP**, *Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer*, **Ciarán Devane**, *CEO of Macmillan Cancer Support*, **Harpal Kumar**, *CEO of Cancer Research UK*, **Sir Mike Richards**, *National Cancer Director for England*.

Registration and abstract submission are now open. Visit [www.ncin.org.uk/conference](http://www.ncin.org.uk/conference) for more details of the conference, to register, or to submit an abstract. The deadline for abstract submissions is 31 March 2011.

Consumers are eligible to apply for a bursary to attend the conference and should email [conference@ncin.org.uk](mailto:conference@ncin.org.uk) for more details. Full cost information can be found on our website.

There will be an exhibition open throughout the Conference and the NCIN and UKACR welcome conference exhibitors who wish to raise awareness of their organisation. There is no charge for exhibition space, but two representatives will be required to register for the conference. Potential exhibitors should contact **Marie Moss** at [marie@eventprouk.com](mailto:marie@eventprouk.com). The deadline for registration to exhibit is 31 March 2011.



### Biobanking coordination

Following the decision to integrate the coordination of biobanking into the NCRI Secretariat, onCore UK is being formally closed as an independent charity, and the two remaining staff, Anne Carter and Caroline Magee have joined the NCRI Secretariat. They will continue

the running of the Confederation of Cancer Biobanks (CCB) and other activities. The former Chief Executive of onCoreUK, Dr Brian Clark, has taken up a new position to establish a biobank in Qatar and we wish him well in his new role.

### BT Convention Centre, Liverpool, UK



cancer conference  
**ncri**  
national cancer research institute



### 7th NCRI Cancer Conference

6 - 9 November 2011

Abstract submission opens  
Monday 21 March

Abstract submission closes  
Friday 13 May

Registration opens  
Wednesday 1 June

Please check the Conference website for the full 2011 Conference Programme and to sign up to the Conference newsletter

[www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference](http://www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference)

### Contact the NCRI Secretariat

A full list of the team and contact information can be found at:

<http://www.ncri.org.uk/default.asp?s=0&p=6>

Email: [info@ncri.org.uk](mailto:info@ncri.org.uk) Tel: 020 3469 8460

[www.ncri.org.uk](http://www.ncri.org.uk)