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Birmingham

NCRI Cancer Conference

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NCRI Partners re-affirm their commitment to working together through NCRI

Last year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of NCRI and NCRN with a joint publication showcasing some of our achievements.

Now at the start of 2012 we are looking forward to many more years of partnership, with the adoption of a new strategic plan to be published in the Spring.

We know that we have some current challenges resulting from the financial environment and NHS reforms. At the same time, the financial stringency makes it all the more important to coordinate effort among the Partners. Furthermore, we have reached

a position of strength over the last 10 years: more than £500m per annum is being invested in cancer research each year by the government and charity partners in NCRI, and we have well-established infrastructure for all phases on clinical study in the National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) and Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres (ECMCs). There are exciting opportunities ahead, for example with the growth of stratified medicine and the increased amount of data linkage that is becoming possible. We feel confident about moving forward in our second decade.

NPRI funds 19 research awards in Phase 4

The National Prevention Research Initiative (NPRI) is a consortium of UK government departments, research councils and medical charities jointly funding research into non-communicable disease prevention.

NPRI supports high quality research aimed at preventing major chronic diseases and conditions such as certain cancers, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, stroke and dementia. Research focuses on health behaviours relating to diet, tobacco, alcohol use and physical activity.

In the first three rounds, the NPRI funded 55 awards with a total budget of £23.2 million; a further 19 awards have now been made, committing a further



£10m.

This fourth phase is supporting cross-disciplinary research which develops, tests or evaluates public health interventions that can potentially have a major impact on population health. Projects include promoting physical activity in families moving into affordable housing at the Olympic athletes' village,

an intervention to tackle binge drinking among young women, and evaluation of the impact of anti-tobacco mass media campaigns in England and Wales among others.

For more information on the projects and awardees and NPRI please visit www.mrc.ac.uk/npri

New lay members for NCRI Board



We're delighted to welcome two new lay members to the NCRI Board – Ms Shirley Harrison (left) and Dr Angela McCullagh (right).

Shirley's professional career has been in marketing and public relations, both as a practitioner and as an academic. She has written a number

of books and papers on the subject of communication.

Her community activities include the criminal justice field, where she serves as a JP, and health. Following cancer treatment in 2000 she has represented patients on a variety of local, regional and national bodies, largely concerned with cancer education and research.

Shirley says: "I'm delighted to be joining the NCRI Board where I will continue to represent the interests of patients and their carers. After all, without the consent and participation of cancer patients, research would grind to a halt."

Richard Stephens appointed as next NCRI Consumer Liaison Group Chair



Mr Richard Stephens has been appointed to succeed Mr David Ardron as Chair of the NCRI Consumer Liaison Group (CLG). Richard becomes Chair Elect on 1 March and will take up the role fully from 1 June. Richard has been involved in cancer research since the very early days of NCRI. He is a 12-year survivor of Hodgkin's Lymphoma and has first-hand experience of participating in Phase 2, 3 and 4 clinical trials.

He served for 6 years on the NCRI Board Sub-Groups on Clinical Trials and Translational Research and the Lymphoma Clinical Studies Group. In his professional career, Richard has worked in local government, mainly in social housing and education. He is a qualified teacher and a very active school governor.

Richard says: "As a member of the CLG for the past 10 years it's an honour to become Chair. We face some challenging but exciting times in cancer research, and the new challenge of helping to share across the NIHR the benefits of consumer involvement in health research generally. Fortunately the CLG is full of enthusiastic, talented and committed people, and working together we will make sure the next three years are focussed, productive and enjoyable too."

Angela has a background in public service, undertaking analytical studies with the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Health. She then pursued a career in the NHS, in strategic planning, commissioning and public health roles. Subsequently with the Thomas Pocklington Trust, a vision charity, she established a social and public health research and development programme.

She has a continuing broad interest in health and social policy and research, particularly in relation to older people.

Angela says: "I am looking forward to using my professional background and my experience of cancer to support the work of NCRI and cancer research in general."



Pathology leadership brought to NCRI

NCRI's work in encouraging cooperation and coordination of cancer biobanking has been boosted by the appointment of Professor Andy Hall as NCRI Pathology Lead for Cancer Biobanking and Dr Bridget Wilkins as NCRI Pathology Lead for NHS engagement in Biobanking.

They will also provide leadership and professional guidance to assist in implementing the UK Funders' Vision for Human Tissue Resources and NCRI's work in fostering the role of pathology in research, following a Task Force report in 2009.



Andy Hall is a Professor of Experimental Haematology and Director of the Newcastle University Biomedicine Biobank and Northern Institute for Cancer Research. He is the Designated Individual for the Newcastle HTA licence.

Bridget Wilkins is a Consultant Haematopathologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (GSTFT) and King's College London. Bridget is the HTA Person Designate responsible for research activities relating to the GSTFT diagnostic tissue archive and the Chair of the GSTFT Human Tissue Group.



ECMCs receive £35m funding for second quinquennium



The Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (ECMC) Network has been awarded a further £35 million for its next five years of activity.

between ECMCs will be an area of increasing focus, to enable Centres to pool their strengths, increase patient access to novel treatments, and promote faster progress through collaboration.

More information on ECMCs is available on the ECMC website: www.ecmcnetwork.org.uk.

The ECMC Network was created to drive the translation of discoveries from the laboratory into the clinic, through early phase trials and biomarker studies. The funding is provided jointly by Cancer Research UK, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in England, and the Departments of Health of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and allows Centres to cover clinical, laboratory and NHS infrastructure costs.

The international panel of reviewers was impressed by the work of the Centres and reported that other countries are keen to adopt a similar approach. More than 600 early phase cancer studies have been supported at ECMCs since they began in 2007, of which 60% have been in partnership with industry.

Following the review, 18 centres have been awarded ECMC status and funding. In addition, an ECMC Paediatric Network is to be supported by the NIHR. For the first time, two joint ECMCs will be established, to build links between Barts and the London and Brighton, and Edinburgh and Dundee, respectively. Networking



ECMC Network as of 1 April 2012

Analysing cancer research in Europe

NCRI is passing on its expertise in portfolio analysis to research funders in continental Europe.

For 10 years we have been collecting information on all the cancer research projects funded by NCRI Partners. Analysis using a code known as the Common Scientific Outline (CSO) enables us to identify strengths and weaknesses overall and to track trends. Now the EU is funding the development of similar work across Europe, and we will be holding a workshop in the Spring to train research managers in the use of the CSO. Initially 14 organisations will be participating from countries including Germany, France, Netherlands,

Austria, Spain, and Italy. This work is part of a broader programme known as TRANSCAN which promotes coordination and collaboration in translational cancer research. The full network (in which Cancer Research UK is the formal UK representative) extends to 25 partners in 19 countries in the European Research Area (which also includes, for example, Israel and Turkey), so there is scope to achieve a fairly full coverage of European cancer research funding eventually.

Once funders are able to compile and analyse their portfolio data in standard format they become eligible to join the International Cancer Research Partnership

(ICRP) which already includes the UK and all the major cancer research funders in the USA and Canada. NCRI will be facilitating the entry of more European funders into ICRP to enrich the power of international portfolio analysis and move towards a more global picture of cancer research funding.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.transcanfp7.eu/transcan/index.php>.



Feedback on the 2011 NCRI Cancer Conference



The 2011 NCRI Cancer Conference, held last November at the BT Convention Centre in Liverpool, was a great success, attracting around 1700 delegates.

A record number of feedback surveys were completed, showing that 95% of the delegates rated the 2011 Conference 'excellent' or 'good'.

The NCRI would like to say a big thank you to all the delegates, speakers, session hosts, Programme Committee members, sponsors and exhibitors who participated

in the Conference, especially to the NCRI Partners, our principal sponsor, Roche, and our major sponsors, AstraZeneca and Pfizer, whose support made the 2011 Conference possible.

The high-quality sessions covered a vast range of themes in cancer research.

Videos, podcasts and details of award winners, among other Conference highlights, are available at

www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference.



CANCER OUTCOMES CONFERENCE

14th and 15th June 2012
Hilton Birmingham Metropole



See www.ncin.org.uk/conference for more details

Registration and abstract submission now open!
www.ncin.org.uk/conference

Abstract submission deadline: 31st March
Registration deadline: 4th June

Consumers are eligible to apply for a bursary to attend the conference and should email conference@ncin.org.uk

An exhibition will run throughout the conference

For details and exhibitor rates please contact conference@ncin.org.uk

"The conference is growing in stature, content and significance every year"
Professor Sir Mike Richards
National Cancer Director for England



"NCIN is some of the best money invested in cancer"
Ciarán Devane
CEO, Macmillan Cancer Support

2012 NCRI Cancer Conference

This year we are proud to be organising a joint programme with the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) on Tuesday 6 November 2012. The association with the RCR will include a dedicated symposium and parallel session, as well as RCR sessions for oral presentations and posters.

NCRI would welcome approaches from other professional bodies

wishing to develop a relationship with the NCRI Cancer Conference.

If you are interested please email

ncriconference@ncri.org.uk



2012 NCRI Cancer Conference

BT Convention Centre, Liverpool, UK

Save the date
4 - 7 November 2012



Please check the Conference website for further information and updates on additional plenary speakers, parallel sessions and workshops

PLENARY SPEAKERS

- Kenneth Anderson (USA)
- Robert G. Bristow (Canada)
- Eduardo Bruera (USA)
- Judy Garber (USA)
- William Hahn (USA)
- Lee J. Helman (USA)
- Harpal S. Kumar (UK)
- Michael Marmot (UK)
- Joan Massagué (USA)
- Neal Rosen (USA)

ALSO FEATURING SYMPOSIA ON

- Royal College of Radiologists symposium
Hosted by Fergus Macbeth (UK)
- Cancer evolution
Hosted by Gerard Evan (UK)
- Cancer in the developing world
Hosted by Ian Magrath (Belgium)
- The challenges of drug development
Hosted by Susan Galbraith (UK)
- Cancer susceptibility
Hosted by Bruce Ponder (UK)
- Palliative and supportive care
Hosted by Irene Higginson (UK)
- Tumour immunology
Hosted by Adrian Hayday (UK)
- The tumour microenvironment
Hosted by Margaret Frame (UK)

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract submission opens
Monday 2 April

Abstract submission closes
Tuesday 5 June

Registration opens
Friday 1 June

Earlybird registration closes
Tuesday 31 July

www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference