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This conference, hosted by NCIN and UK Association of Cancer Registries in June, asked whether the goal of delivering the best cancer information service in the world by 2012 will be achieved.

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#### NCRI Cancer Conference 2012

The detailed conference programme is now available on the Conference website.

#### Consumer Liaison Group offers researchers a 'Dragon's Den'-style experience

'The hosting of the autumn CLG meeting at the conference this year has provided a great opportunity for us to share our skills with researchers'

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### NCRI launches third Strategic Plan



Our third strategic plan builds on more than a decade of successful partnership. Now that government and charity funders spend over £500m per year on cancer research, it is more important than ever to be working together to ensure that maximum value is achieved from this investment.

In our early years we successfully stimulated new research on a diverse range of topics including prostate cancer, prevention through lifestyle changes, and supportive and palliative care. Our current programme includes radiotherapy, early diagnosis and inequalities in cancer outcome. In our new strategic plan we will continue to develop this programme as well as set ourselves new objectives that relate to our core business.

The plan can be downloaded from our website [www.ncri.org.uk](http://www.ncri.org.uk).

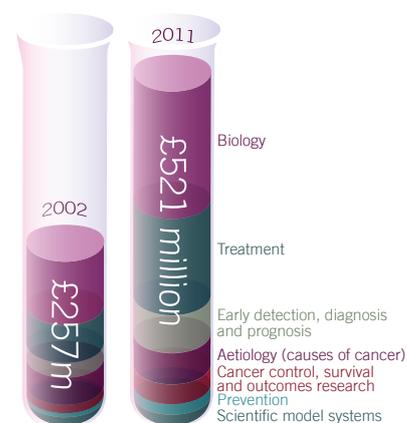
### 10 years of data on cancer research funding

The NCRI Cancer Research Database (CaRD) now holds ten consecutive years of research funding data from NCRI Partners and we have seen investment in cancer research more than double from £257m in 2002 to £521m in 2011.

In 2011, approximately 40% of NCRI Partner spend was in biological research - this percentage has remained relatively constant over the last ten years. Other research categories have shown an increase in the share of research spend, such as the treatment of cancer and diagnosis and detection.

The breakdown of research funding that is relevant to all cancer types has also remained stable at around 60%. Of the 40% site-specific funding, research into lung, brain, oesophageal and pancreatic cancers have all shown increases in percentage spend over the last decade.

We are performing a more detailed analysis of the information collected over the last 10 years



and this will be published in early 2013. In the meantime the aggregated financial information for the last decade, including research type and disease site information is available on the NCRI website. For more information contact [info@ncri.org.uk](mailto:info@ncri.org.uk).

## New e-learning tools launched

### Understanding Cancer e-learning programme

**A comprehensive new *Understanding Cancer* e-learning programme has recently been launched to support people who don't have a clinical background.**

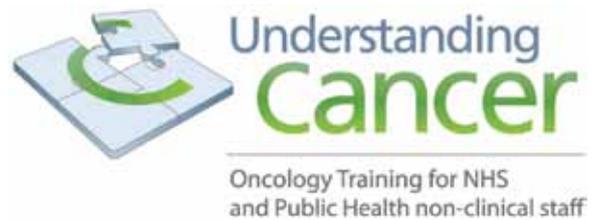
The 18 modules are divided into three main sections:

- Cancer Surveillance within the NHS
- Medical Terminology, Diagnostic Tests and Treatments relating to Cancer
- Tumours by Cancer Site

The modules were developed by East Midlands Cancer Network and reviewed by clinical experts in their field and the course is approved by the Institute of Healthcare Management. The project is funded by the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) with representatives

from the National Cancer Action Team, United Kingdom Association of Cancer Registries, Cancer Networks and National Cancer Multi-disciplinary Team Co-ordinators Forum.

For further information and to access Understanding Cancer visit the NCIN website: [www.ncin.org.uk](http://www.ncin.org.uk).



### Navigating the use of data and patient confidentiality in research

**This new module is designed for researchers, data managers and others. It provides the tools needed to navigate the duty of confidence, data protection legislation and other rules governing access to health data, with confidence.**

The module uses real life examples to consolidate learning in what is a very complex and confusing field.

It has been developed by the MRC Regulatory Support Centre with input from regulators and investigators; and joins their growing portfolio of e-learning modules, which are available to everyone.

*"easy to navigate... a really useful tool which I'll be pushing to our researchers"*

Imperial College  
London



*"tremendous job with a dauntingly large and difficult subject"*

Health Research  
Authority

Find it at: [www.mrc.ac.uk/regulatorysupportcentre](http://www.mrc.ac.uk/regulatorysupportcentre)

## Cancer Outcomes Conference 2012 - delivering the best information service in the world?

**Announcing the formation of the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) in 2007, Professor Sir Mike Richards, National Cancer Director for England, set the challenge to deliver 'the best cancer information service in the world by 2012'.**

This year the Cancer Outcomes Conference hosted by NCIN and UK Association of Cancer Registries asked whether this goal will be achieved. An audience of over 500 delegates heard that a programme to migrate all eight English cancer registries onto a single processing system is well under way, and that in April 2013, NCIN and the English cancer registries will become part of Public Health England. The opportunities and challenges arising from these changes were explored at the conference, along with the needs of the new NHS commissioning system and the possibilities provided for researchers to access a wider range NHS data than in the past. Between sessions, the exhibition hall provided a chance to browse over 100 posters and see demonstrations of

new interactive information tools.

In closing the conference, Sir Mike reviewed how cancer information has improved in the past decade, showing both the vast progress, and what is still left to be done. While it might be too soon to declare the system the best in the world it is certainly heading in the right direction.



For those who were not able to attend, the conference presentations are available from the NCIN website ([www.ncin.org.uk](http://www.ncin.org.uk))

## CTRad continues to gather momentum



The first half of 2012 has been busy for the NCRI Clinical and Translational Radiotherapy Research Working Group (CTRad) with the organisation

of several educational workshops across the UK.

The meetings have fostered new collaborations and helped radiotherapy researchers build their trial proposal development skills. The topics covered included current and future biomarkers for inclusion in radiotherapy trials, tackling the tumour microenvironment, hypoxia and signal transduction in radiotherapy and techniques for

developing good clinical trial proposals.

The latest proposal guidance meeting, a concept that has evolved to become part of CTRad's core business, received a number of strong ideas and heard from new presenters. By creating an informal setting and being able to bring a colleague or mentor, CTRad is aiming to make this an increasingly accessible and inclusive forum for young investigators to gain skills and exposure in developing their own proposal ideas. The next meeting will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 7 November 2012, directly after the NCRI Cancer Conference in Liverpool, so radiotherapy researchers should start generating their next proposal ideas now. The deadline for submission of proposal ideas for this meeting will be mid-September, and more details will appear on the CTRad website [www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad](http://www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad)

## NCRI launches the UK end of life care Research Interest Group

The end of May 2012 saw the inaugural meeting of the UK end of life care Research Interest Group (UK eolcRIG). Following on from two previous meetings of research funders with an interest in the area the meeting was an opportunity to launch the group more formally and discuss how best to increase the profile of research in this area.

Chaired by Professor Sir Kenneth Calman the group brings together lay members and representatives from research funding organisations and others with an interest in end of life care research. The membership reaches beyond that of the NCRI Partnership and includes the British Heart Foundation, Alzheimer's Society and Age UK.

The eolcRIG will publish a statement of intent and a full list of members

and associate members later this year and a website with more information on the group and its priorities will follow. In the meantime if you



would like to find out more about the UK eolcRIG please contact Dr Karen Groot at [karen.groot@ncri.org.uk](mailto:karen.groot@ncri.org.uk).

## David Ardron sums up his time as NCRI CLG Chair



"On 1st June 2012, my tenure as Chair of the NCRI Consumer Liaison Group came to an end.

It has been a whirlwind trip around the world of cancer research, and in my four years in office I have been involved

with wonderful people from many fields, including academia, charity,

the medical profession, government, and industry. It has been very encouraging to see the growth of lay involvement in research at all levels, but especially local ones. The new locality groups are beginning to influence the work that happens nationally, and increasingly internationally. It is important that the patient and carer voices are heard at all of these stages, and that research is fine-tuned by lay people to help ensure better outcomes. I look forward to future NCRI and NCIN conferences, and will continue my work in Barnsley and the North Trent Network.

I would like to wish our new CLG Chair, Richard Stephens, all the very best for the future, and to thank him and all the other lay members of the research community for the time and effort they expend on their work. Keep making the links!"

David Ardron

Chair, NCRI CLG 2008-12

The detailed programme for the 2012 NCRI Cancer Conference is now available on the Conference website [www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference](http://www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference)

The programme combines high-quality plenary talks, symposia, parallel sessions, commercial and educational workshops, and the Clinical Trials Showcase, which will present some of the latest trial results. This year's 11 plenary speakers include Dr Kenneth Anderson, a world leader in multiple myeloma, and Dr Harpal Kumar and Sir Michael Marmot, discussing the independent breast cancer screening review.

Tuesday 6 November includes a programme developed in collaboration with the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR). The day will appeal to clinical and medical oncologists in particular and includes dedicated oral and poster sessions and an RCR training session.

Register by Tuesday 31 July to secure your place at the Conference and benefit from earlybird discounts.

## KEY DATES

### REGISTRATION

Earlybird rate ends: **Tuesday 31 July**  
Online registration closes: **Sunday 30 September**

### LATE-BREAKING ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Opens: **Wednesday 1 August**  
Closes: **Tuesday 28 August**

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

## Consumer Liaison Group offers researchers a "Dragons' Den"-style experience

At this year's NCRI Cancer Conference researchers have the chance to pitch their research projects to small panels of consumers involved in research.

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) is now a key requirement in the approval of many research studies, but often researchers are unfamiliar with the process of involving patients/carers.

"The hosting of the autumn Consumer Liaison Group meeting at the conference this year has provided a great opportunity for us to share our skills with researchers," commented Richard Stephens, CLG Chair. "From input into the study concept and design to drafting patient information sheets – the CLG members are adept and experienced at identifying potential



issues from a patient perspective, and at resolving problems or suggesting other options."

Kate Law from Cancer Research UK will be speaking at the meeting, to outline what funders are looking for in terms of PPI or consumer contributions to research proposals.

"We want to provide a CLG meeting that is of direct relevance and practical use to us and to researchers in improving the quality of research studies, and in helping good ideas to get funded," Richard concluded. "We've called it "Dragons' Den", but we have very friendly and helpful dragons!"

If you are a researcher with a proposal you would like to test on consumers, or if you have a particular issue needing some expert PPI input, contact [ppi@ncrn.org.uk](mailto:ppi@ncrn.org.uk).



cancer conference  
**ncri**  
national cancer research institute

## 8th NCRI Cancer Conference

4-7 November 2012  
BT Convention Centre, Liverpool, UK

The NCRI Cancer Conference is the leading international cancer research meeting in the UK and delivers a pioneering programme showcasing high-quality data and a multi-disciplinary approach to cancer research from basic research to prevention, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship.

### 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)**

### FEATURING SYMPOSIA ON

**The 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)**