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Welcome to the first NCRI newsletter of 2013

The partnership fostered by NCRI continues to thrive and 2012 was marked by many collaborative achievements.

We launched our third strategic plan, defining our objectives through to 2017; we published a report on surgical cancer research, discussing the barriers surgeons face in research, and opportunities for action; and we launched the UK end of life care Research Interest Group (UKeolcRIG) to increase the profile of end of life care research. We look forward to 2013 being equally successful.

In April we welcome our new NCRI Chair, Dr Harpal Kumar (CEO, Cancer Research UK; see below for more about Harpal), who succeeds Dame Janet Husband who steps down on 31 March after two years of leading the partnership. We are hugely grateful to Janet who has, among other things, guided us through the preparation of the new Strategic Plan, helped us to streamline Board business whilst increasing the number of Partners' meetings from once to twice per year and has brokered a new relationship with the Royal College of Radiologists centred around the annual NCRI Cancer Conference. Dame Janet is still involved in a number of NCRI projects and will remain an independent Board member for a further year.

A further change from April is that the NCRI Clinical Studies Groups (CSGs) Secretariat will be merged with the main NCRI Secretariat, forming a single integrated team reporting to the NCRI Board. Previously CSGs had reported to the NIHR Cancer Research Network

An introduction to Harpal Kumar, NCRI's new Chair from 1 April



Harpal speaking at the 2012 NCRI Cancer Conference

Since 2007 Harpal Kumar has been the CEO of Cancer Research UK. Among former posts Harpal has worked in pharmaceutical strategy and held the position of CEO at Cancer Research Technology Limited (CRT, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cancer Research UK that undertakes technology transfer and early drug discovery activities). He has a Masters in Chemical



Some of NCRI's collaborative achievements in 2012

Coordinating Centre, directed by Prof Matt Seymour in Leeds. The new arrangement will better reflect the role of NCRI Partners in supporting the CSGs and help to encourage closer working between CSGs and other NCRI initiatives. Matt Seymour will continue to provide clinical leadership to the work of the CSGs.

Jane Cope
Director, NCRI

Engineering from the University of Cambridge, an MBA as a Baker Scholar from Harvard Business School and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Manchester.

Harpal's leadership experience and passion for cancer research will be a great asset to the NCRI. On taking up the role of Chair, he commented that "The NCRI is a great forum in which to foster collaborations between research funders, to make sure we are all working together to benefit patients and the public. As a current member of the NCRI Board, I look forward to stepping up to the role of Chair and supporting the partnership in its work to enhance the coordination of cancer research across the UK."

The NCRI is a member of the International Cancer Research Partnership (ICRP), an alliance of cancer research organisations working together towards global collaboration and strategic coordination of research.

The ICRP consists of over 50 individual organisations from Australia, Canada, France, Japan, The Netherlands and the USA, with the NCRI representing 21 UK cancer funders. Each year ICRP members submit updates on their cancer research activities, providing a valuable resource for global cancer research analysis.

The inaugural report covering international research investment between 2005 and 2008 has now been published. Here we provide some top-line figures — a whole host more can be found in the full report, which is available to download at www.icrpartnership.org/publications.cfm



Top-line figures from the ICRP report

- In 2008 almost \$5 billion was spent on cancer research across 21,000 individual projects within ICRP
- The UK contribution to this was the second largest after the National Institutes of Health (USA)
- Breast cancer research receives the most funding internationally, compared with other disease sites

Meetings round-up: radiotherapy

CTRad's fifth proposals guidance meeting

The NCRI Clinical and Translational Radiotherapy Research Working Group (CTRad) hosted its fifth proposals guidance meeting at the 2012 NCRI Cancer Conference in Liverpool.

This was the first opportunity for new and ongoing members to meet, following the recent recruitment round earlier in 2012.

In addition to providing expert advice and feedback on submitted proposals, the meeting provided a forum for information exchange. Attendees heard about the Radiotherapy Trials Quality Assurance (RTTQA) team's work in advancing innovative techniques and protocols and an overview of the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre Network (ECMC) Combinations Alliance initiative, including details of some compounds that could be accessed for research in combination with radiotherapy. CTRad consumer members also presented their work on the desirable elements for a good lay summary in radiotherapy — one that uses simple and clear language to effectively convey the gist of a protocol (top level pointers are included in the box on the right). The full list can be downloaded from the CTRad website under 'Research support' www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad/res/lay/. The next CTRad proposals guidance meeting will be held on 10 June 2013 in London, and the call for proposals deadline will be in early April. For instructions on how to submit a proposal, important dates and other upcoming events see www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad

How to write a good lay summary

At text level:

- Use headings
- Four paragraphs only
 1. Context
 2. What the trial does
 3. Added detail, as appropriate
 4. Impact and outcome
- White space between paragraphs

At sentence level:

- Short sentences – max 15/20 words; avoid long, complex sentences
- Phrase positively

At word level:

- Active, not passive
- No jargon; avoid technical language
- Only use acronyms after the full term has been used once
- Analogies are good



CTRad consumer members who developed the lay summary advice
Back row, left to right: Helen Bulbeck, Hilary Stobart, Richard Stephens.
Front row: Lesley Roberts, Alf Oliver.

Celebrating survivorship: artist donates painting to NCRI

Anyone who attended the 2011 NCRI Cancer Conference is sure to remember the impressive art exhibition that was on display there, courtesy of the Breast Cancer LIFE travelling exhibition. In December 2012, the artist and breast cancer survivor Harriet Barber donated a painting from this exhibition to the NCRI and the occasion was marked by an unveiling celebration at the NCRI Secretariat office in the Angel Building, London.



The self-portrait was painted shortly after Harriet's mastectomy in 2008 and marks the beginning of her Breast Cancer LIFE collection; a series of life-drawings by Harriet featuring women who have undergone treatment for breast cancer. The collection shows breast cancer survivors' inner strength and beauty.

More information on Harriet and the Breast Cancer LIFE collection can be found at www.harrietbarber.com

Left picture: the donated painting at the Breast Cancer LIFE travelling exhibition, NCRI Cancer Conference 2011.

Right picture: NCRI Chair, Dame Janet Husband (left) and the artist, Harriet Barber, standing alongside the donated painting at the NCRI Secretariat office

Meetings round-up: end of life care (EOLC)

EOLC masterclass at the NCRI Cancer Conference

Following the NCRI Cancer Conference 2012, the NCRI and MORECare team hosted a masterclass on the challenges and best practice for research in palliative and EOLC.

The event attracted over 60 delegates, including researchers and consumers, and delegates praised the informative and engaging nature of the sessions. Speakers included Prof Eduardo Bruera (MD Anderson Cancer Centre, USA), Prof Carl-Johan Fürst (Karolinska Institute, Sweden) and Prof Irene Higginson (Cicely Saunders Institute, UK). Prof Higginson took the opportunity to present some of the recommendations from the soon-to-be-published MORECare statement: Guidance on how to develop and evaluate interventions in palliative and EOLC. Presentations from the Masterclass can be found at bit.ly/MORECare



Prof Higginson presented some of the recommendations from the soon-to-be-published MORECare statement

What is MORECare?

The MORECare project aims to identify, appraise and synthesise 'best practice' methods for the evaluation of palliative care and EOLC. It is a collaboration between Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London; University of Manchester; University of Aberdeen and University of Edinburgh. For more information on MORECare visit www.csi.kcl.ac.uk/our-research.html



The National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative (NAEDI) research conference

17 April 2013

Cancer Research UK is pleased to host the 2013 NAEDI Research Conference at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Research Institute on Wednesday 17 April 2013.

Delegates are invited to register for what promises to be a stimulating event, showcasing some of the latest research from the field of early diagnosis and awareness. Speakers will present on topics from across the NAEDI research landscape, with sessions focusing on screening uptake, help-seeking behaviour, data linkage and health economics. A key aim of the conference is to encourage communication and cross-speciality dialogue between researchers working in the early diagnosis and awareness field.

More information about the 2013 NAEDI Research Conference can be found at bit.ly/NAEDIconference



The NCRI Cancer Conference: 2012 resources and a preview of 2013

3–6 November 2013

Resources from the 2012 Conference are now available

View videos, listen to podcasts and browse through abstracts and speaker presentations covering hot topics such as breast cancer screening, targeted treatment approaches to Myc, Ras, and p53 and personalised genomic approaches in prostate cancer therapy. The 2012 Conference saw more than 160 speakers presenting the latest evidence in their field to close to 2000 delegates. Feedback on the conference was extremely positive and the 2012 Conference Chair described it as an 'established meeting'. Resources are available at:

www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference/

Looking ahead to 2013, the next NCRI Cancer Conference is set to build on this success. The 2013 programme will once again

combine high-level science, cutting-edge clinical practice and invaluable patient perspectives. 2013 Conference Chair Prof. Gerard Evan (University of Cambridge) and the Planning Committee are now putting the final touches to the programme. The Conference promises to showcase the best in international and UK cancer research; mark it in your diaries and be sure to join your peers on 3–6 November in Liverpool.

Get ready to submit your research and encourage your colleagues to do so too — **abstract submission opens on 2 April.**



Keeping up with cancer data: Cancer Outcomes Conference

12–14 June 2013

Now in its sixth year, the Cancer Outcomes Conference is the primary platform for patients, clinicians, researchers and the cancer registration community to explore how exploiting routine data and data linkage are inspiring and driving innovative research, clinical audit, service evaluation and analysis.

From 1 April 2013, the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) will be hosted by Public Health England alongside the new National Cancer Registration Service. With these rapid developments in disease registration changing the delivery of intelligence and cancer data, there is potential to integrate health and social care data to help join up services, inform decision making and deliver more integrated care for people with cancer.

The Cancer Outcomes Conference 2013 will provide an exciting opportunity to explore and understand this new landscape and engage with the experts that are leading this transition. Key speakers include Duncan Selbie (CEO, Public Health England), Prof. Sir Mike Richards (Director for Domain One, NHS Commissioning Board), Dr Jem Rashbass (National Director for Disease Registration, Public Health England), Ciarán Devane (CEO, Macmillan Cancer Support) and Dr Harpal Kumar (CEO, Cancer Research UK). The conference programme will also touch upon the power of data linkage in observational studies, clinical trials, biobanking and DNA mapping for patients with cancer, as announced by the Prime Minister in December 2012.

All of this will be delivered through a mix of keynote speakers, oral presentations, targeted workshops (patient-led, analytical and registration), poster sessions and an exhibition.

For more information on the Conference and to register, visit www.ncin.org.uk/conference