

NCRI NEWSLETTER **Conference edition**

Welcome to the Conference edition of the NCRI newsletter

And welcome to the 2013 NCRI Cancer Conference.

If you're here with us in Liverpool over the next few days there are plenty of exciting sessions to attend – read about just a few of this year's highlights here. If you're not able to join us in person, then you can still catch some of the highlights; just visit our Conference website (<http://conference.ncri.org.uk>) to learn more about the multidisciplinary scientific research being presented.



You can follow the latest conversations from the Conference @NCRI #NCRI2013

This year we're offering a £100 Wisepress book voucher for the best tweet about the Conference by a participant. The winner will be announced on Wednesday 6 November.

As well as Conference highlights, we have a round-up of news from our collaborative initiatives and the UK cancer research community; read on for more.

60-second interview with the new NCRI Director, Dr Karen Kennedy



For the past four years Karen has been Head of Strategic Relations at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute. Since joining NCRI in October, Karen has been working with outgoing Director, Dr Jane Cope, and is now set to take hold of the NCRI reins when Jane retires after the Conference.

How/why did you get into science?

I think that I was always interested in science and nature and curious about how things worked but it was Mr Herrett's and Mr Waugh's Chemistry lessons and Mr Frith's Physics classes at secondary school that inspired me towards an education and career in science.

What have you been working on most recently?

In my last role I spent time recently working with international partners to begin to develop plans for a global alliance that would facilitate the responsible sharing of genomic and clinical data with the goal of enabling rapid progress in biomedicine.

What are you looking forward to most about your new role at NCRI?

I'm passionate about research and I'm really excited about the opportunity to play a part in ensuring that the benefits of research are fully realised for cancer patients and the public at large.

What does 'partnership' mean to you?

I believe that partnership is key to everything in life – together we can achieve so much more!

What does a good day at work look like for you?

A good day at work would involve a sense of achievement as a team or individually. No delays on the trains would make it even better!

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I enjoy spending time with family and friends; singing – I'm a member of a community choir; and sport – mostly tennis and golf. I used to also list running as an interest but I've unfortunately had to admit that's more of an aspiration than reality.

If you could choose one piece of art (film/play/book/music) that you love, what would it be and why?

Could I have one of each please? Film: Caddyshack. Play: Taming of the Shrew. Music: Cantique de Jean Racine (Gabriel Fauré). Book: The Blind Assassin (Margaret Atwood). They all evoke different emotions and remind me of different times in my life.

Where would your dream holiday be?

It's hard to choose – I have a list of places that I'd eventually like to visit. If I had to pick one it would probably be a trip to New Zealand touring around in a motorhome.

What inspires you in life?

It's quite difficult to articulate. On a personal level it's making a positive difference. In others I'm inspired by people who go the extra mile, and courage and kindness.

Also inside this issue...

Read about the new collaborative **partnership for radiotherapy-drug combinations**; the **Marie Curie Cancer Care partnership for palliative and end of life care research**; how you can help **NIHR's BRIGHTLIGHT study** recruit more young people. [All on page 2](#)

More NCRI highlights including special features for this year's **NCRI Cancer Conference**; a **surgeon's guide to research funding** from NCRI; **CCB workshop**; **our new website**. [All on page 3](#)

Summary of the latest **NCRI publications**; **Get ahead for 2014 – save the date**. [Page 4](#)

A new collaborative partnership for radiotherapy-drug combinations

With the wealth of new systemic therapies entering the clinic, and the opportunities to use these in combination with radiotherapy to improve treatment outcomes, interaction with the pharmaceutical industry has always been a priority for the NCRI Clinical and Translational Radiotherapy Research Working Group (CTRad). The CTRad Executive Group feels that the UK community is uniquely placed to be able to deliver these challenging studies, with networking opportunities through the NCRI Clinical Studies Groups (CSGs) and the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres (ECMCs).



As preclinical work is expensive, specific money for this type of research will be needed. CTRad's vision is to invite different laboratories to contribute some time and resources as a network, to demonstrate it is possible to get foundation data rapidly for proof-of-concept projects that would otherwise not go ahead; this has the potential to encourage more funding of radiotherapy-drug combination studies. Cancer Research UK (CR-UK) supports this vision, and their Drug Development Office (DDO) will work with CTRad to develop a radiotherapy-drug combinations consortium; a DDO project manager has been appointed to support the collaborative partnership.

Further information will be available on the CTRad website (www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad) as the project gets underway in November.

The Palliative and end of life care Priority Setting Partnership (PeolcPSP) with the James Lind Alliance



Determining evidence uncertainties in palliative and end of life care identified by patients, current and bereaved carers, clinicians and health and social care practitioners

Marie Curie Cancer Care has initiated a partnership of funding bodies and other interested organisations to determine research priorities by consulting the 'end users' of palliative and end of life care research.

The Palliative and end of life care Priority Setting Partnership (PeolcPSP) will be independently facilitated by the James Lind Alliance, a not for profit initiative, now funded by NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre, that has worked in a number of areas to make the user voice heard in setting research priorities.

The partnership is co-funded by Marie Curie Cancer Care, Chief Scientist Office, National Institute for Health Research, National Institute for Social Care and Health Research, and the Motor Neurone Disease Association, as well as Macmillan Cancer Support, Economic and Social Research Council, Cancer Research UK, Department of Health, Medical Research Council and HSC Public Health Agency.

The first step will be a survey to patients, current and bereaved carers, clinicians and health and social care practitioners to ask for any 'evidence uncertainties' in palliative and end of life care for adults. More information and a list of participating organisations can be found at: www.palliativecarepsp.org.uk

Interested organisations and individuals are invited to get in touch: PeolcPSP@mariecurie.org.uk

BRIGHTLIGHT: Can you help the team reach the lost tribe?

BRIGHTLIGHT is a National Institute for Health Research study examining specialist cancer care for young people aged 13–24 years. BRIGHTLIGHT will define teenage and young adult cancer specialist care and determine if it is related to improved health outcomes. So far the BRIGHTLIGHT team have recruited an impressive 422 young people – making BRIGHTLIGHT the largest cohort of 13–24 year olds with cancer in the world. However, this is just one-third of the anticipated accrual. The main reason for lower than expected accrual is that young people are not being approached by their healthcare team to be told about the study: A problem for as many as one in four.

Young people taking part in BRIGHTLIGHT complete five surveys over 3 years. The BRIGHTLIGHT Young Persons Advisory Panel (YAPPERS) don't see this as a burden; they say that young people should be offered the choice to participate as BRIGHTLIGHT is important to ensure that future services are organised to allow as many young people as possible to return to as healthy a life as possible after cancer.



The BRIGHTLIGHT team and the YAPPERS talk about recruitment

Help recruit more young people

BRIGHTLIGHT will be open to recruitment until April 2014 and patients aged 13–24 years are eligible up to four months from diagnosis. If you are a healthcare professional, or you know a young person who may be an eligible patient, then contact the BRIGHTLIGHT team (brightlight@uclh.nhs.uk). Your views about recruitment strategies, or any perceived challenges you have encountered would also be welcome.

View all patient and healthcare professional documents at: www.brightlightstudy.com

Special features for this year's NCRI Cancer Conference

Art meets science in a new exhibition

Eighteen of the Medical Research Council's Biomedical Pictures of the Day (BPoDs) have been re-imagined by a graphic artist, especially for the NCRI Cancer Conference. The intriguing images are located on the ground floor of the convention centre.

Networking opportunities for students and post-docs

Are you a student or post-doc? Colleagues from Liverpool have generously volunteered to guide you through town and make sure you connect with each other, while discovering the local scene. Tables have been reserved in affordable restaurants around Liverpool. You can sign up for either event at the Conference registration desk.

Working together in surgery, Monday 4 November

A tailored one-day programme for surgeons, oncologists and scientists. Hear about innovative approaches from partnerships between these groups and take the opportunity to form new partnerships to enhance your own research.

Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) track, Tuesday 5 November

Once again, the Conference will feature a full track planned jointly with the RCR. This year's focus is on the latest developments in radiotherapy for breast cancer.

A surgeon's guide to research funding from NCRI

Are you a surgeon who'd like to get involved in research, but isn't sure where to start?

Perhaps you're already doing research but would like to know what funding exists for the next step in your career?

We have collated current funding opportunities from Partners and other surgery research funders in one simple, easy to navigate document. Opportunities for surgeons at

all career stages to do lab- and clinic-based research are included, with each opportunity linked to the research funder's website for more information. Also included are hints and tips from research funders and surgeons about how to maximise your chances of success. You can download the document from our website www.ncri.org.uk or come along to the **surgery workshop on 4 November at 14.30** to find out more.

NCRI's Confederation of Cancer Biobanks at the Conference

The NCRI's Confederation of Cancer Biobanks (CCB) is hosting two workshop events in Liverpool alongside this year's Conference. On **Monday 4 November** the workshop '**A researcher's guide to accessing high quality biosamples**' will take place from 14.30–16.00. This will provide guidance for researchers on all aspects of setting up a study that uses tissue, including securing funding, where to find biosamples, how to access them and ensuring they are fit for purpose. Tips on getting the most out of a relationship with a biobank will also be covered. See the Conference programme for more details.

On the afternoon of **Wednesday 6 November** the CCB is also holding a satellite event entitled '**Ensuring success in sample collection for clinical trials**'. This is part of our member-hosted



workshop series and is being held in association with UK Chronic Lymphocyte Leukaemia Trials Biobank and the Liverpool Good Clinical Laboratory Practice Biobank. Many of the challenges linked to sample collection during clinical trials will be reviewed including navigating through regulatory requirements, standardisation of pathology and quality issues, future-proofing tissue collection to handle new technologies and extending the use of samples beyond the trial. It is aimed at clinical trial investigators and staff as well as tissue bank managers and technicians.

This takes place immediately after the close of the NCRI Cancer Conference and is free to Conference delegates – although advance registration is required. Please visit the NCRI exhibition stand for more information or see www.ncri.org.uk/ccb/upcomingevents.html

NCRI have a new website

Our new website contains all the information you need to find out about us; how NCRI operates, how we are connected to other organisations and our strategy. You can also read about our past, present and future activities, and access our

key resources. Easily downloadable publications and events will also help you keep up-to-date with the Partnership.

Visit www.ncri.org.uk

New publications from the NCRI

We have some new publications out at this year's Conference:

- results of the NCRI Cancer Research Database 10-year analysis, showing trends in cancer research funding by our data-submitting Partners
- the first ever NCRI Clinical Studies Groups (CSG) prospectus, summarising the important work of the CSGs and their vision for future work

- results of an NCRI analysis of research funding by Cancer52 members of rarer cancers.

Visit the NCRI stand in the Exhibition Hall to find out more and pick up a copy of these and other reports. Electronic copies will soon be on the NCRI website (www.ncri.org.uk), so check back soon to download your copy.

Meeting for NCRI Clinical Studies Groups surgeons, 29 April 2014

NCRI will be running a working meeting for NCRI Clinical Studies Groups (CSG) surgeons on 29 April 2014 at the Harrogate International Conference Centre. This will precede the International Surgical Congress of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI), to be held at the same venue from 30 April to 2 May 2014. Further details will be available on the NCRI website in due course.



ASGBI
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland



2014 NCRI Cancer Conference



2014

2 – 5 November 2014
BT Convention Centre,
Liverpool, UK

Join us at the 10th NCRI Cancer Conference, the largest cancer research meeting in the UK. If you're here in Liverpool for this year's Conference, then you can register on-site and be entered in to a prize draw to win a free participant place.

For more information visit conference.ncri.org.uk

Register
onsite today to
enter a prize draw

NCRI Clinical Studies Groups (CSGs)



2013/14

**NCRI Clinical
Studies Group (CSG)
Annual Trial Meetings**

NCRI Clinical Studies Group Annual Trials Meetings are aimed at everyone involved in clinical research, including: Clinicians, research nurses, patient representatives and data managers.

For more information contact the NCRI CSG Secretariat:
ncricsg@ncri.org.uk

Upcoming CSG Annual Trial Meetings:

26 November 2013 – Upper GI CSG

12 December 2013 – Gynaecological CSG

20 January 2014 – Urological CSG

6 March 2014 – Breast CSG

10 March 2014 – Colorectal CSG

Summer 2014 – Haematological Oncology CSG

Summer 2014 – Children's Cancer and Leukaemia CSG

Autumn 2014 – Lymphoma CSG

Commercial enquiries about NCRI?

Contact: laure-anne.garnier@ncri.org.uk