

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 24 June, 2015

BARONESS DELYTH MORGAN APPOINTED AS CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Baroness Delyth Morgan has been appointed as Chair of the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI).

She will take up the role this week, taking over from Harpal Kumar, chief executive of Cancer Research UK.

The NCRI is a UK-wide partnership between cancer research funders, which promotes collaboration in the field. Its member organisations work together to maximise the value and benefits of cancer research for patients and the public.

Delyth is the chief executive of Breast Cancer Now and sits as a cross bench peer in the House of Lords. She previously held the CEO role at both Breast Cancer Campaign and Breakthrough Breast Cancer, before which she worked at Shelter, Workplace Nurseries Campaign and Asthma UK.

Harpal Kumar said: "It's been enormously rewarding to be NCRI Chair and to see it continue as the linchpin of collaborative cancer research in the UK. Cancer is a complex disease and it's fantastic that we've such a vibrant and diverse community working to beat it. But coordination and collaboration are key. And that's where the NCRI comes in, to enable collaborative initiatives that address specific areas of need and build on opportunity. It's also well known for its annual Conference in Liverpool which brings the research community together to make connections and share progress."

"I'm delighted that Delyth will take over as Chair. Her vision and experience will be invaluable in continuing and developing the work of the NCRI."

Baroness Delyth Morgan said: "It's an honour to take on this important position. I'm passionate about partnership working - we can achieve so much more working together than we can apart.

"I'll continue to build the crucial collaborative relationships that make the NCRI so special - among charities, governments, industry, patients and the wider research community. By combining our skills and knowledge we can bring the benefits of research to patients and the public faster, furthering our understanding of the causes of cancer, finding new cures, kinder and more effective treatments and developing better strategies for prevention, early diagnosis and care."

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For media enquiries please contact Laura Dibb/Emma Rigby on 0203 469 8051/3318 or, out-of-hours, the duty press officer on 07050 264 059.

About the NCRI

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) was established in 2001. It is a UK-wide partnership between cancer research funders which promotes collaboration in cancer research.

NCRI members are: Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council; Breast Cancer Now; Cancer Research UK; CHILDREN with CANCER UK, Department of Health; Economic and Social Research Council; Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research; Macmillan Cancer Support; Marie Curie; Medical Research Council; Northern Ireland Health and Social Care (Research & Development Office); Prostate Cancer UK; Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation; Scottish Government Health Directorates (Chief Scientist Office); Tenovus Cancer Care; Welsh Assembly Government (Health and Care Research Wales); The Wellcome Trust; and Worldwide Cancer Research (formerly AICR)

For more information visit www.ncri.org.uk

About the NCRI Cancer Conference

- The NCRI Cancer Conference is the UK's major forum for showcasing the best British and international cancer research.
- The Conference offers unique opportunities for networking and sharing knowledge by bringing together world-leading experts from all cancer research disciplines.
- The NCRI Cancer Conference is taking place from 1–4 November 2015 at the BT Convention Centre in Liverpool.
- For more information visit conference.ncri.org.uk

About Breast Cancer Now:

- Breast Cancer Now is the UK's largest breast cancer charity.
- Breast Cancer Now's ambition is that by 2050 everyone who develops breast cancer will live. The charity is determined to stop women dying from the disease, working in a new, collaborative way and bringing together all those affected by the disease to fund research, share knowledge and find answers.
- Breast Cancer Now's world-class research is focused entirely on breast cancer. The charity supports nearly 450 of the world's brightest researchers at more than 20 locations across the UK and Ireland. Together, they're working to discover how to prevent breast cancer, how to detect it earlier and how to treat it effectively at every stage so we can stop the disease taking lives.
- Breast cancer is still the most common cancer in the UK. Nearly 700,000 people living in the UK have experienced a diagnosis and one in eight women will face it in their lifetime. This year alone, more than 50,000 women will be told they have the disease.
- The UK still has one of the lowest breast cancer survival rates in Western Europe and this year alone nearly 12,000 women will lose their lives. It's time to act.
- Breast Cancer Now launched in June 2015, created by the merger of leading research charities Breast Cancer Campaign and Breakthrough Breast Cancer.
- For more information on Breast Cancer Now's work, visit breastcancer.org or follow us on Twitter or on Facebook.

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