

Dear Colleague,

In our first newsletter of the year, NCRI Chair Delyth Morgan gives us a flavour of NCRI's plans in 2017 and we also have an interview with our latest team member Dr Ian Lewis.

Don't forget you can follow us on [Twitter](#) and check the [NCRI website](#) for past newsletters and for updates across all our activities.

We also welcome your feedback and if there's anything you'd like featured in our future newsletters, please get in touch via [info@ncri.org.uk](mailto:info@ncri.org.uk)

Best wishes

The NCRI team

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## NCRI Partners - accelerating cancer research through collaboration

Introduction from NCRI Chair Delyth Morgan



Throughout 2016 I have continued to be impressed with the level of collaboration, knowledge sharing and forward thinking within the NCRI Partnership. I am genuinely excited to be Chair of Trustees in 2017 as the NCRI Partnership develops new and more effective ways of collaborative working to accelerate progress in cancer-related research. We have already got the year off to a good start at our winter meeting of Partners earlier this month, which gave us an opportunity to hear about the progress being made with the NCRI Cancer Research Database (CaRD), Clinical Studies Groups (CSGs), Cancer Clinical Trials Units (CTUs) Group and exciting news about future Conference plans. The meeting also provided an opportunity to welcome Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund who become the 19th Partner. I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the development of our challenging and exciting new strategy that we will launch in April. I am confident it will empower us to succeed despite some tough challenges. Our success will depend on remaining true to our core values, developing our ways of working and ensuring the enabling factors, that are already well established within the NCRI Partnership, continue to support collaborative working and knowledge sharing across the diversity of talent and knowledge which our Partnership represents.

Sharing information to identify gaps in the cancer research portfolio

The NCRI Partnership, established in 2001, thrives on a culture of information sharing and collaboration. It is this open culture and collaborative approach to our work that has led to significant improvements in the coherence of the cancer research portfolio in the UK in recent years.

Each year the NCRI Executive collects funding data from NCRI Partners, and this provides key



information on where cancer research funding is currently focussed. We want to maximise and build on the use of this rich information source (CaRD) and staff within the NCRI Executive are currently building a new database that will be completed in Spring 2017. This will enable us to provide more sophisticated data analysis and visualisation which will ensure that our analysis helps enable cancer research funders to invest strategically.

### Collaborating to accelerate progress in research related to cancer



The NCRI runs a comprehensive programme of collaborative groups and initiatives that help accelerate progress in cancer research and address gaps in the research portfolio. In addition to the NCRI's clinical studies groups that span site specific cancers and several with cross-cutting themes, we are working in a number of areas including cellular and molecular pathology (CM-Path), clinical and translational radiotherapy (CT-Rad) and surgery research. Our newest initiative is in the area of 'living with and beyond cancer'.

Cancer research has driven forward significant improvements in screening, diagnosis and treatments and these successes mean more people are living with and beyond cancer, and this number will continue to rise. One consequence of these advances is that many individuals may develop more complex needs as a result of their cancer, and yet there is a relatively low level of research activity exploring these needs and how best to address them.

Recent scoping work has helped us understand why research activity is low in this area and as a result of this, pump priming activity by several NCRI Partners and other stakeholders has led to an exciting new 18-month initiative we have called 'Living with and beyond cancer'. [A James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership](#) will soon be underway so that people affected by cancer and health care professionals can help shape the research priorities in this area. As part of this, we will invite responses to a survey to gather unanswered questions in the area of living with and beyond cancer research, so watch this space!

Alongside this, the NCRI will support further progress by running a grantsmanship programme to help ensure researchers have opportunities to build and develop their ideas for relevant future funding streams.

### Involving people affected by cancer in NCRI activities

Another key strength of NCRI is its commitment to involving people affected by cancer at all stages of its work. In 2016, 80 consumers contributed to NCRI activities, providing valuable insight to discussions on issues ranging from cancer clinical trials design to the new NCRI strategic plan. During 2017 we will build on this collaborative working by recruiting and training additional new consumer members and we will implement actions to improve our support for them by introducing a new portal on the NCRI website.



### Joined up thinking from cancer research funders

Our Partners all have their own strategies and work in different ways to support cancer research, but as a Partnership, where this adds value, we can accelerate progress through collaborative working. One of the ways we do this is when an issue of common interest arises and the NCRI Partnership can help generate a stronger and unified voice to engender



positive change in the environment within which we work. To support the NCRI Partnership's priority setting, the Partners meet twice each year providing an effective forum for creative debate.

At our most recent meeting of NCRI Partners we enjoyed lively discussions on a range of topics including the need for joined up thinking and action from the cancer research community and healthcare providers, in these uncertain times following the UK's decision to leave the European Union. The recommendations from this meeting will be taken forward by Partners and highlights from the meeting will be published on the NCRI website in early February.

Effective support from the NCRI Executive team

As a trustee, I know just how valuable the NCRI is in providing an effective platform for collaboration within the cancer research community. It would be impossible to achieve our aspirations without the skills and knowledge that the NCRI Executive provides. The small staff team works tirelessly to manage key initiatives, identify critical stakeholders and facilitate and manage hundreds of meetings, workshops and focus groups each year, that together help accelerate progress in cancer-related research.



In 2017 the team will continue to improve its ways of working, enhancing its communications and identifying new and better ways to facilitate the work of the NCRI Partnership. 2017 will bring many opportunities and challenges for us, and I believe that collaborative working is more important than ever to address these and accelerate progress in cancer-related research. We look forward to working with you all in 2017!

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## 60 Second Interview with Dr Ian Lewis



Dr Ian Lewis has recently joined the NCRI as Head of Clinical Research Groups as a maternity cover. In our latest 60 second interview, Ian tells us about his background and what he has enjoyed working on so far at the NCRI.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview

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## Updates across NCRI activities

Future of Surgery Workshop 5 - register now

Workshop 5: "Surgery for metastatic disease"

21 March 2017

We welcome surgical consultants, trainees, patients, methodologists, trial unit staff and funders to the fifth and final Future of Surgery workshop, which will recommend surgical research priorities on topics including resection of metastatic disease and management of the primary tumour in the presence of metastatic disease.

» [Click here for further information and to register](#)

NCRI welcomes new consumers to Clinical Studies Groups

We're pleased to announce the recruitment of two new consumers to our Clinical Studies Groups. Lesley Stephen has joined the Breast CSG and Jim Elliot has joined the Supportive and Palliative Care CSG and will sit on the CSGs for three years.

To find out more about patient and carer representation on the NCRI CSGs email us at [consumers@ncri.org.uk](mailto:consumers@ncri.org.uk)

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## Partner and research news

Tissue Directory registration now a condition of REC favourable opinion

The UK Ethics Committee Authority (UKECA) have now made registration in the UKCRC Tissue Directory a condition of the Research Ethics Committee (REC) favorable opinion for research tissue banks (RTB).

The UKECA are keen to maximise the re-use of samples and so will now expect Research Tissue Banks to register their collections on the UKCRC Tissue Directory. Registration will also be a condition of the five-year renewal of the ethical opinion

For more information visit: <https://www.biobankinguk.org/directory-registration-favorable-terms/>

CRUK International Symposium on Oesophageal Cancer 2017

The Symposium is a unique opportunity to unite basic biologists, translational scientists and clinicians working on both adenocarcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. It will bring together researchers from within and outside the field of oesophageal cancer, across all career stages. Taking place over two days in Cambridge, you'll have the chance to hear from the experts about the discoveries and developments that are shaping the field with plenty of opportunities to network.

For further information visit: [http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/funding-for-researchers/research-events-and-conferences/international-oesophageal-cancer-symposium-2017?utm\\_campaign=SRF\\_RBC\\_ResearchUpdate\\_January\\_TITLE&utm\\_source=ccmp&utm\\_medium=email&cid=52111&mid=127184897](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/funding-for-researchers/research-events-and-conferences/international-oesophageal-cancer-symposium-2017?utm_campaign=SRF_RBC_ResearchUpdate_January_TITLE&utm_source=ccmp&utm_medium=email&cid=52111&mid=127184897)

The unique value of immunology in cancer research

Using funding from the CRUK Cancer Immunology Project Award, Dr Sarah Teichmann and Dr Jacqui Shields have teamed up to make the most of their complementary skills in immunology and cancer research to help solve the complex challenge of how cancer cells can evade the immune system. The next deadline for the Cancer Immunology Project Award is 9 May 2017.

For more information visit: <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/funding-for-researchers/research-features/2016-12-15-creating-a-genomic-map-of-the-immune-response>

## Publications, Reports and Resources

### Future of Surgery Workshop 3 Report

The NCRI Future of Surgery workshops were set up to encourage surgical cancer research in the UK, and the five workshops are partnered by the Royal College of Surgeons. The third workshop of the series was held on 23 November 2016. It was led by Ms Lynda Wyld of Sheffield University and Co-chaired by Professor Riccardo Audisio (European Society for Surgical Oncology). Delegates from various disciplines discussed how to select patients for surgery. The discussions centred on three key issues: the practical aspects of obtaining data for research on selection; the critical importance of patient selection for older patients; and the patient focused aspects of selection.

To read the full report visit: <http://www.ncri.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Future-of-Surgery-Workshop-3-Report-FINAL.pdf>

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## Events and opportunities

### World Cancer Day

4th February 2017

[More information](#)

### 6th annual SPECT/CT symposium: Current status and future directions

Thu 9–Fri 10 February

The Royal Society of Medicine, London

[More information](#)

### Pancreatic Cancer UK - Inspiring Innovation Summit 2017

Wed 15 February

The Royal College of GP's, 30 Euston Square, London

[More information](#)

### Cancer Survivorship Summit: Improving outcomes for people living with and beyond cancer

Monday 20 February 2017

De Vere West One Conference Centre, London

[More information](#)

### Current early diagnosis research conference

Thu 23–Fri 24 February

London

[More information](#)

### 'There is A Light' play based on the Brightlight Teenage and Young adult patient study

An original performance inspired by the findings of BRIGHTLIGHT, the first major study of its kind, There is a Light presents young patients' perspectives on specialist cancer care in England

Weds 8-Friday 10 March

Manchester

[More Information](#)

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