

Welcome to the latest edition of the Cancer Community Update from the Liverpool Cancer Research UK Centre. This update is designed to keep you informed of local research news, engagement activities and news from the wider cancer community in Merseyside and Cheshire. Please contact LEADManager Emma Squibb to contribute or comment.
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Merseyside and Cheshire 2012 Year of Action on Cancer

Liverpool Cancer Research UK Centre was delighted to welcome Chair of Liverpool PCT Gideon Ben-Tovim for a visit on 29th February.

2012 is to be a Year of Action on Cancer and Gideon met with two local cancer survivors who are supporting the campaign.



Irene Heard was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2011 following a visit to the iVAN. She explained: *"Having noticed a mole on my back I visited the iVAN to ask for advice. It was then that I was asked about checking my breasts for lumps, having not checked for a while, that night I was shocked to find a lump in my left breast. A few days later I visited the doctor and was referred for tests, it was then I was told the lump was breast cancer. In just a couple of weeks I was checked into Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology where I had the lymph glands and lump removed. Nearly six months on I have now finished all treatment and just need to visit the centre for checkups throughout the year. I hate to think what may have happened if I had not visited the Cancer iVAN that day, by detecting the cancer early I was able to undergo treatment and have the cancer removed before it spread further. I would recommend that anyone who is concerned about a lump should voice their worries and visit their doctor as soon as possible."*

Allan Williams has received treatment for bowel cancer, with secondary cancer in the liver. He says, *"Having undertaken clinical trials throughout my treatment, it is vitally important for people in the region to work together to ensure treatment can be improved to save more lives. Being diagnosed with cancer doesn't have to be a life sentence, due to bowel cancer not having any real symptoms in early stages it is very important for people to get checked out as soon as possible if they have any concerns."*

Heading up the campaign, Gideon Ben-Tovim, Chair of NHS Merseyside, said: *"We are delighted to be launching the Year of Action Against Cancer campaign here at Liverpool Cancer Research UK Centre. With Merseyside and Cheshire's incidence of new cancers and mortality rate being higher than the national average, this year long campaign is an ideal opportunity to highlight all aspects of cancer and raise awareness of the importance of early detection and the significant investments which are being made to services and treatment in the region."* [more](#)

Pictured: Gideon Ben Tovim, Irene Heard and Allan Williams meet Vibha Jaiswal in the labs

Together we will beat cancer

Cancer

news in Mersey-side and Cheshire

North West Cancer Research Fund grant applications are now open, the deadline to submit your application for a research grant is April 1st 2012.

Only the highest quality applications will gain funding so please keep this in mind when preparing yours.

[More](#)



Pyrosequencing Training Course

Pyrosequencing is a widely used technique in cancer research; in particular, in the analysis of genetic and epigenetic changes of cancer cells. This training course, held at Liverpool Cancer Research UK Centre, was organised by Dr Lakis Liloglou, Lecturer at the Department of Molecular & Clinical Cancer Medicine, University of Liverpool, and Biomarkers Group Leader.



Dr Liloglou's group has significant expertise in this methodology. The aim of this course was to share this expertise with biomedical researchers from across the University campus. Thirty-two postgraduate students and post-doctoral researchers from Liverpool University attended the course. The first part covered the chemistry and workflow of the method as well as details on assay design.

After lunch (kindly provided by Qiagen, UK) participants designed their own assays in breakout groups with the assistance of Dr Liloglou and his group. This was the first of a series of methodology workshops planned for this year, which

in addition to the weekly seminars at the Centre, aim to keep our researchers updated in the latest cutting edge knowledge and technology used in cancer research.

Congratulations to Prof John Field who has had his paper, ***Expression of Tumour-derived Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor and its Receptors is associated with outcome in early Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Lung***, published in *Journal of Clinical Oncology* with the EUELC FP5 partners. Prof Field is the PI of the European Early Lung Cancer Project . [More](#)

Congratulations to the staff of Liverpool Cancer Trials Unit on their successful launch event held on 29th February 2012. Professor Ian Greer opened proceedings, followed by an excellent talk about cancer trials from Professor Johnson of Birmingham University.



Events

Race for Life sign up is now open

Southport - Sunday 13 May 10 am Victoria Park
 Wigan—Sunday 25 May 11 am Haigh Hall
 Rhyl—Sunday 10 June 11 am Arena
 Haydock - Sunday 17 June 11 am Racecourse
 Preston—Sunday 17 June 11 am Moor Park
 Aintree—Sunday 24 June 11 am and 2pm Race-course
 Chester—Sunday 24 June 9 am Racecourse
 Warrington—Sunday 1 July 11 am Arley Hall
 Liverpool— Sunday 8 July 11 am Sefton Park
 Knowsley – Wednesday 11 July 7.30pm Knowsley Hall
 Wirral - Sunday 15 July 11am Birkenhead Park

[Enter here](#)

Cancer Research UK Merseyside & Cheshire Events Calendar



= Researcher/ Scientist opportunity

Please contact Cancer Research UK Local Engagement Manager, [Emma Squibb](#) for details of how you can get involved.

March 2012

22 Priestley College Visit
 23 LFC Men's Health Lab Tour

In March we will be making a promotional DVD for the Centre. Please get in touch with Emma if you would like to volunteer.

Dinner is served...

Come Dine @ Mine, Saturday 24 March

It's official, staying in is the new going out so take part in Clatterbridge your cancer centre's Come Dine @ Mine evening and organise a delicious dinner party for you and your friends. You provide the dinner, Clatterbridge your cancer centre provides the party pack and your diner's donations will raise funds to provide the best possible care and support for Clatterbridge cancer patients across the region.



Compare your party with other diners on the night by posting your photo on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ClatterbridgeOfficial), the best photo, as voted by our followers, will win a fabulous meal for two with a bottle of wine at Ellie's Bistro in Greasby.

Contact the charity on 0151 482 7948 to register for Come Dine @ Mine and receive your party pack, including a party guide with a delicious recipe from the 2010 Masterchef The Professionals winner Claire Lara, invites, place cards and menu cards.

Wirral Coastal Walk

27 May 2011

Join Team Clatterbridge at this year's Wirral Coastal Walk. Organised by the Rotary Club of North Wirral, the Wirral Coastal Walk is a 15 mile sponsored walk from Seacombe to Thurston, taking in one of the most scenic coastlines in Britain. Hundreds of walkers make it a fantastic, colourful and friendly event - once you've been a part of this event, you'll want to do it again year after year! For more info and to join the team call 0151 482 7948.



Other news

Nominate your colleagues for the Cancer Research UK Prizes

2012 Cancer Research UK Prizes – nominations open

Nominations for the 2012 Cancer Research UK Prizes are now open, and we would like to invite you to participate by **nominating your colleagues**. These prestigious awards are an excellent opportunity to gain international recognition for the achievements made by cancer researchers at your institution or elsewhere in the UK. The Prizes are awarded in three categories:

- Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Research
- Future Leaders in Cancer Research
- Translational Cancer Research

Winners are selected by an international panel of cancer experts, and the awards are presented at the annual NCRI Cancer Conference. At last November's conference, **Professor Chris Marshall FRS** was presented with the 2011 Prize for **Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Research**, and gave the opening plenary lecture of the conference. The 2011 **Future Leaders in Cancer Research Prize** was awarded to **Professor Thomas Brunner** at the Gray Institute for Radiation Oncology and Biology in Oxford, and **Dr Sarah Martin** at the Barts Cancer Institute in London. A team of researchers in Manchester won the 2011 Prize for **Translational Cancer Research** in recognition of their pioneering biomarker research. The team was led by **Professor Carline Dive** and comprised **Professor Malcolm Ranson**, **Dr Fiona Blackhall** and **Professor Andrew Hughes**.

The deadline for nominations is **11th April 2012**. More information on the Prizes and nomination process can be found in the attached flyer and at www.cancerresearchuk.org/researchprizes. For any queries please contact prizes@cancer.org.uk.



Resources for the bowel cancer campaign. Find out how we can support you.

The national bowel cancer symptoms campaign is live until the 31st March. A range of Be Clear on Cancer resources for bowel cancer have been developed centrally by the Department of Health, Cancer Research UK and Bowel Cancer UK to support local healthcare professionals and NHS teams.

[Click here for more details](#) and resources

Together we will beat cancer

Local People

Thanks, and hats off again to the incredible Bernie Bucket, who has just returned from Tenerife where she held another fundraising event for Cancer Research UK, raising a fabulous 3052.90 Euros.

The event went so well Bernie is already planning another for next year, which will take place on 22 Feb 2013.



Sunbed City

Liverpool has one of the highest concentrations of sunbed outlets in England. Liverpool youngsters who use sunbeds were recently offered skin tests as part of the City's battle to reduce cancer rates. Liverpool was targeted by Cancer Research UK as part of its "R UV ugly?" campaign because of the high number of tanning salons.

The campaign aimed to raise awareness about the skin damage, premature ageing and health dangers of using sunbeds. Staff at Sk:n Liverpool, in Bold Street, offered free skin scans, normally costing £25.

Chris Lunn, SunSmart campaign manager at Cancer Research UK, said: *"We are worried people in Liverpool might be putting their health at risk by visiting tanning salons to achieve a tan. Often the consequences are not seen for years so we want to help give people a sneak preview of what their future face looks like and, if they must have a tan, encourage them to switch to a safer alternative by using fake tan. We want people in Liverpool to come and have a skin scan and see for themselves the effects which using sunbeds can have on your skin."*

Sunbeds have officially been classed as "carcinogenic" by the World Health Organisation. They increase the chances of developing skin cancer, including the most serious form – malignant melanoma.

In the North West, malignant melanoma rates have tripled among 15 to 34-year-olds since the mid-1980s and more than two people in that age group are now diagnosed with the disease each week. A Cancer Research UK survey released last month showed more than half of 18 to 34-year-olds believed that tanned skin has become more fashionable.

Contribute

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