

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 Local Engagement and Development Manager Emma Squibb to contribute or comment.

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MP Visit

The Centre hosted a visit for local politicians on Friday 20th April. In attendance were Luciana Berger (Labour Wavertree—pictured), Louise Ellman (Labour Riverside), John Pugh (Liberal Democrat Southport) and Jacqueline Foster (Conservative MEP for the North West).

The group discussed the region's cancer incidence and mortality figures with Professor Neoptolemos, and heard from CRUK's Layla Thienier about the campaign for Plain Packaging for tobacco products (see back page).



UK Young Scientist of the Year award for Liverpool Teenager

Kirtana Vallabhaneni, 17, from West Kirby has won the UK Young Scientist of the Year Award in recognition of a Summer project carried out in [Eithne Costello's](#) lab at Liverpool Cancer Research UK Centre. She was awarded the prize at the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham. Kirtana intends to study Medicine at UCL. [More](#)



Local cancer survivor urges women to sign up for Race for Life

25 year old Ruth Collington was diagnosed with oral cancer when a mouth ulcer failed to heal. She underwent an 11 hour operation at Aintree followed by a course of Radiotherapy. Now 18 months since diagnosis, Ruth is urging local women to sign up to raise funds for research. [more](#)



Walking we are united

On 30th April Paul Hodgkinson embarked on a walk that will take him around all 92 football clubs in the English football league to raise money and awareness for the RNIB and for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. Staff from Liverpool Cancer Research UK Centre started Paul off at

Anfield, where he will return at the end of his 2250 mile journey.

Sponsor Paul [here](#)



Cancer news

The Lily Centre, a breast cancer charity and support group in Kirkdale, has welcomed a £2,000 donation made by the Freemasons. Colin Svenson, who organised the donation said: "We donate every year to local charities. The charity was recommended to us and we were very impressed. It was a pleasure to see where the money went."

News from Southport

The £1.3m refurbishment and extension to a cancer treatment centre for patients across north Sefton and West Lancashire is under way. Representatives of the two charities who gave £500,000 each towards the cost of the work officially got started in a ceremony at Southport and Formby District General Hospital.



Marina Dalglish, from the Marina Dalglish Appeal, and Fred McClenaghan, from West Lancashire Community Hospice Association cut the first sod on the work watched by Trust chairman Sir Ron Watson CBE, Chief Executive Jonathan Parry, hospital staff and supporters, including Marina's husband, Liverpool FC manager Kenny. The refurbishment will see the centre, known as the medical day unit, significantly expanded in size internally as well as having a semi-circular lounge extension added.

News from Clatterbridge

From 1st April 'Clatterbridge your cancer centre' has changed its name to **The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity**. Following formal consultation the hospital officially changed its name to **The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust**, after it was evident that people thought the word 'oncology' in the current name was confusing.



The name may have changed but the charity's aims remain the same, *To continue to raise money to provide the very best care, support vital research, treat our patients with world class equipment and provide life-changing support services that would otherwise be unavailable.*

Recycling

The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity has recently launched a new recycling initiative to help raise money for Clatterbridge cancer patients across the region. From mobile phones and printer toners to jewellery, coins and cars, your unwanted items will be recycled and a donation made to the charity and at no cost to you. Call 0151 482 7948 to request our freepost envelopes and start making a difference today.

Britain v Cancer

The Jordan Desert Trek

Fancy spending your days trekking through mountain and desert terrain and your nights sleeping under the stars? The Jordan Desert Trek will see you trekking for five days starting at the Dead Sea and finishing in the red rock city of Petra. If you think you're up for the challenge and are free 15 - 22 November ring on 0151 482 7948.

Supporters' Reception

The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity has raised a life-changing £1.2million in the last 12 months. To thank supporters, without whom this amazing achievement wouldn't have been possible, a free Supporters' Reception will be held in Liverpool City Centre on Thursday 24 May. For more information call 0151 482 7948.

Local Engagement



LFC Visit

[Dr. Steve Royle](#) welcomed participants from Liverpool FC's Men's Health Course for a lab tour on **23rd March**. The group heard from LEAD Manager Emma Squibb about some of the history of cancer research and then viewed HeLa cells in the laboratory.

Men in North Liverpool have a life expectancy some 15 years less than men in other parts of the City. The LFC Action for Health Course works with local men to help them improve their lifestyles.

The Centre has been delivering the course's cancer awareness sessions since 2010 and have a full programme of events for 2012.

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.

May 2012

1-3—Cancer Awareness Roadshow at Williamson Square

08—Guest Speaker Prof Alfred Goldberg Functions of the Proteasome from Protein Degredation to Cancer

13— Race for Life Southport

14— Centre Annual Meeting

20—Race for Life Wigan

22-24 Cancer Awareness Roadshow at Asda Smithdown Road

24—Lab Tour for Tesco

25—Ainsdale Supporters Fundraising Concert

The Centre's Donations Station Total has now reached **£23,380**.

Why not have a Spring Clean?
Our local shops need your donations.

Priestley College Annual Visit

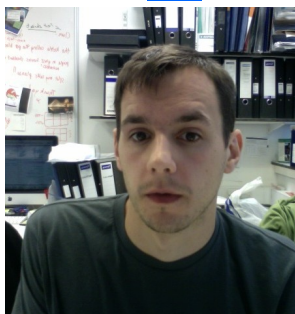
Students from Priestley College Warrington came for their annual visit to the Centre on 22nd March. This year the groups went to visit researchers in haematology, ocular oncology and physiology. Many thanks to [Joe Slupsky](#), [Daimark Bennett](#) and [Sarah Lake](#) and their colleagues.

The students also heard from Senior Research Nurse [Lorraine Turner](#) and Survivor/ Fundraiser Bernie Singleton. The students also presented CRUK with a cheque for £422.19, which the College had raised with various events last year.

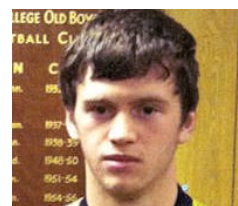


Local People

Ewan MacDonald (Prof Clague's Lab) will be taking part in the Great North Swim—swimming a mile across Lake Windemere on 22 June. Ewan will be raising funds for Cancer Research UK. Sponsor Ewan [here](#)



Liverpool University Business Studies student, **Bradley Griffin**, is attempting to break a world record by playing six-a-side touch rugby for a total of 30 hours in a bid to raise money for a local cancer charity. Bradley and his fellow players are hoping to raise £1,000 for Clatterbridge Cancer Centre before they attempt the challenge on Monday 14 May and have already completed a gruelling 12-hour night time training session. [More](#)



Human Cell Shut-down Debate Resolved

Research findings, published in the journal *PNAS*, may contribute to future studies on how scientists could manipulate this shut-down process to ensure that viruses and other pathogens do not enter the cells of the body and cause harm.

[Steve Royle](#), explains: "We know that cells in the body do not have the ability to multi-task during cell division. It can only focus on the job of dividing and not on other important tasks such as uptake of nutrients. If we think of the cell membrane like a dock at a port and the receptors as a boat delivering cargo, we have shown that the boat, or receptor, is present but the dock, or membrane, does not allow it to unload or go any further. Viruses and pathogens use the same route into cells as nutrients, so the next stage of this work is to identify the trigger for this shut-down process, so that we understand whether this on/off switch can be manipulated to prevent harmful infections passing through the cell membrane. This is a long way in the future, but this work puts us closer to understanding how the cells in the body work." <https://news.liv.ac.uk/2012/04/13/human-cell-shut-down-debate-resolved/>

Congratulations to Professor Andy Pettitt *et al* who have had their paper, [Alemtuzumab in Combination With Methylprednisolone Is a Highly Effective Induction Regimen for Patients With Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Deletion of TP53: Final Results of the National Cancer Research Institute CLL206 Trial](#) published in Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Bladder Cancer patients given low doses of chemotherapy combined with radiotherapy were nearly 50 per cent less likely to relapse with the most lethal form of the disease compared to patients given radiotherapy alone, a major trial funded by Cancer Research UK shows. The results are published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) today. Professor Nicholas James worked with co-author [Dr Syed Hussain](#) from the University of Liverpool to set up and run the BC2001 trial, as well as early phase trials that served as the foundation for this study.



Centre staff extend their best wishes to Professor Chris Foster, who retired at the end of April 2012.

Together we will beat cancer

Get Involved

It's that time again..when tens of thousands of women across Merseyside and Cheshire run walk or jog 5k to raise funds for future research. The Centre will be supporting local Race for Life events again this year. You can help us make the season a success by volunteering to come along to one of the following major events:

- Aintree Racecourse—24 June 11am and 2pm
- Sefton Park—8 July 11 am
- Knowsley—11 July 7.30 pm
- Wirral—15 July 11 am

Volunteer [here](#)

The answer is plain

Monday 16 April saw the launch of a public consultation over the issue of plain packaging for cigarettes and tobacco products. Plain packaging is a really important step in protecting young people from tobacco marketing. Now that advertising tobacco is illegal, the tobacco industry is relying more and more on stylish tobacco packs to recruit new smokers. With eight out of ten smokers starting by the age of 19, plain packs will take us one step closer to a future where people don't start smoking in the first place.

Plain packs won't stop everyone from smoking, but they will give millions of kids one less reason to start.

Dr Harpal Kumar, Cancer Research UK's chief executive, said: "Now the consultation on tobacco packaging has been launched, we welcome the opportunity for our supporters and researchers to [show their support](#) for reducing the appeal of cigarettes. Tobacco is a uniquely dangerous product so any action that helps reduce smoking rates is vital. Research shows children are drawn to brands with appealing packaging. The cigarette pack is simply a seductive marketing tool that attracts young people into a habit that kills half of all long term smokers. Put simply this silent salesman promises pleasure but delivers death. Our latest figures show that lung cancer rates are continuing to rise in women - a devastating legacy from smoking habits decades ago. Cancer Research UK urges everyone to make their voices heard and sign up to our campaign to bring in plain packaging for tobacco products. Preventing children from starting is vital, and while plain packs won't stop everyone from starting, they will give millions of children one less reason to start."

What do kids think about cigarette packaging?... A Wonderland of Happiness....watch the [video](#)

Now—[SIGN THE PETITION](#)

Contribute

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