



onCore UK

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PUBLIC STATEMENT

13 September 2010

onCore UK was established in 2005 as an independent charity funded by the Department of Health, Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK. It has worked closely with its funders, the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), National Cancer Research Network (NCRN), and others so that an integrated approach to translational research in cancer in the UK can be established.

Since its foundation onCore UK has contributed significantly towards this goal by the promotion of biobanking in the research community, the NHS and among cancer patients as well as helping to foster the role of pathology in research. Among its important achievements it has: set standards through the publication of a document on biobanking 'guiding principles'; been instrumental in setting up the NCRI Confederation of Cancer Biobanks (CCB); promoted an understanding of the regulatory and governance issues associated with biobanking; worked to ensure that a mechanism is available for ethical review of research biobanks; fostered the involvement of patients in the biobanking process; promoted quality management in biobanking; organised a number of well received educational workshops and conferences on these topics; and participated in international opinion leading groups considering these issues.

In view of these achievements and in the light of other developments, the funders of onCore UK believe that the work currently conducted by onCore UK should now be delivered in a different way. They remain keen to see key workstreams continue to be developed in the future. These workstreams include:

- Maintenance and further development of the online biosample directories / portal
- Growth and development of the Confederation of Cancer Biobanks (CCB)
- Development and operation of a biobank accreditation scheme
- Fostering best practice and harmonisation.
- Professional leadership, representation and communication.

As a consequence, the Board of Trustees and staff of onCore UK are now planning for these workstreams to be continued by other organisations under the NCRI umbrella. It is anticipated that details of these future plans will be published later in 2010.

The Trustees and staff of onCore UK wish to thank all those who have contributed to the work and success of the charity to date. It is hoped that they will wish to continue to support onCore UK's legacy through the future continuation of its work by other organisations.

Professor Colin C Bird CBE
Chairman

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05370380.
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onCore UK: Serving as an action
team that informs, coordinates and
develops cancer biobanking to enable
research towards the discovery and
development of new
interventions against cancer