

New NCRN Director Announced!

We are delighted to announce that Dr David Cameron, from Western General Hospital and the University of Edinburgh, has accepted the offer of appointment as the NCRN Director and is expecting to take up the role in September.

David is well known within the cancer research community from his involvement with the breast cancer research portfolio. He is a member of the Breast Cancer CSG as well as many adjuvant trial steering groups including UK TACT, TEAM, TANGO, AZURE and the international HERA trial. He is also PI on the TACT2 trial and co-PI on the Will Weekly Win taxol trial. Others will have worked with David in his roles as SE Scotland SCR network clinical lead, Clinical Lead for Re-

search, or member of the NCRN Operational Steering Group.

David is therefore extremely well qualified to lead NCRN into its next phase and will bring his commitment and great experience in collaborative research into the organisation.

His transition of clinical activities from Edinburgh to Leeds will be a gradual one but he will be participating in all major NCRN activities by the autumn and will be involved in the other key personnel decisions of the next several months. The Coordinating Centre team, and Max Parmar, Bob Haward and Rick Kaplan as Associate Directors, look forward with enthusiasm to his arrival.

Overview & Update:

onCore UK

onCore UK is a new organisation created to serve as a national biospecimen and information resource for research towards new interventions against cancer. It has been set up to function as an independent, not-for-profit custodian of donated samples and it has been jointly funded by the Department of Health, Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK.

Objectives

Of key importance is that onCore UK is a service organisation, not a research unit, and that it will provide an honest brokering service between the donors and the researchers without having a vested interest in the samples itself. A prime concern of the organisation is to uphold the donor's altruistic intentions behind their generous donations, and to facilitate the journey of the donated sample from the donors, via the healthcare setting, to researchers. However, this benevolence needs to be coupled with willingness on the part of the healthcare and research communities to collect and to share these donated samples, even if this does not always benefit them directly.



onCore

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Attention all Research Network Managers!

Many thanks to the Research Networks who have submitted their Annual Reports.

The network visits by the Coordinating Centre began on 4 July with visits to Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland, and Derby/Burton. Rick Kaplan intends to visit all networks, in most cases will be accompanied by another member of the Coordinating Centre and a Research Network Manager from another network. Most visits will take place in July, August and September. Peter Harrison is working with networks to schedule the remaining visits. If you have any queries about the visits please feel free to contact Peter (p.harrison@ncrn.org.uk) or any other member of the NCRN CC team.

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UKCRN Launches New Learning Management System

June 2006 saw the launch of the new Learning Management System (LMS) by the UKCRN Training and Education team. The LMS enables users to book onto UKCRN generic and topic-specific training courses electronically via the internet. It also provides users with tools to monitor their own learning records, including the ability to produce reports about training courses they have attended or completed online. Managers are also able to view a report on the training activity of their staff.



The LMS has streamlined the booking process at the UKCRN CC, allowing the T&E team to view current course availability and manage course information more effectively. An additional key benefit is the ability of the LMS to host online learning.

The LMS includes full details of the courses on offer and can be accessed via the T&E pages of the UKCRN website at www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/training.html. Further information is available from Nicki Latham, UKCRN T&E Lead (n.latham@ukcrn.org.uk).

Oncore uk ... continued from page 1

Since donations are given by patients without assumptions of personal benefit, it is vital that this ethos be maintained and that samples are shared amongst researchers, respecting the donor's original intention and allowing the benefits of research to be recognised.

"It's their disease, their tissue, it's their treatment and, through taxation or charitable donations, it's their money. The donors are the cornerstone of this organisation."

**Dr. Brian Clark,
onCore UK CEO**

Latest Developments

The team at onCore UK have accomplished several key goals towards becoming an operational national bio-repository. The first successfully completed challenge was the relocation of the onCore UK office in central London to Borehamwood (a

short walk from Elstree Studios where Big Brother is filmed!). This new location is convenient and accommodating for the expanding team.

Two new positions within the management team have been filled: Anne Carter has commenced work as the Head of Quality and Standards and Tracy Parker as the Head of Service Development. Anne will be focused on regulatory compliance and the creation and collation of SOPs and best-practice benchmarks. Tracy will be working to raise the awareness of stakeholders about the plans and future benefits of onCore's services, foster a notion of collaboration and reinforce a culture of sharing.

Mahendra Navarange, Head of Informatics and IT, has also added two new key members to his team - a Senior Database Architect and a Senior Software Developer to assist in the creation of a biobank information management system (BIMS). The BIMS programme has been divided into three stages: Project Nevis, Project Snowdon and Project Scaffell. Project Nevis, completed in March, 2006, captured the requirements for the system. Project Snowdon, which will be launched shortly, will cover the development of IT applications and systems to support operations. Finally,

Project Scaffell will migrate the applications and systems into the operations environment within a secure data centre.

Collection of Samples

Initially, onCore's primary source of donated samples will come from the NCRN's cancer research networks, recognising that the type of patients willing to participate in clinical trials will be more amenable to donating samples and information about their illness for research purposes. Cancer research networks will be invited to bid to become part of onCore UK's biosample donation networks. Successful networks will need to sign up to onCore UK's targets and standards for sample collection and, in return, they will receive ring-fenced funding from onCore UK to create the field-based resources they need to support sample and data acquisition.

Confederation of Cancer Biobanks

onCore UK also recognises that there are many other cancer bio-banks in the UK that accrue samples in specific centres, and through the NCRI onCore UK hopes to encourage other such banks to agree to common principles and practices and to form a confederation that can collectively serve the varied needs of the cancer research community. It is hoped that such a confederation will allow members to work together to avoid competition or duplication and to ensure a coordinated approach. The first step towards this goal was taken at a meeting on 29 June 2006 with representatives from NCRI, Wales Cancer Bank, Leukaemia Research Fund and Dundee Cancer Bank. The group discussed how to harmonise standards of collection, storage and distribution of tissues, and their united move towards increased future collaboration.

Find out more about onCore UK at www.oncoreuk.org

*The editorial team would like to thank Tracy Parker,
Head of Service Development for onCore UK,
for contributing this article.*

STAFF AND OTHER NEWS

Outcomes of Recent CSG Chair Appointments

The NCRI Clinical Studies Group Secretariat has announced that Professor David Weller and Professor Henry McQuay have been reappointed as Chair of the Primary Care CSDG and Palliative Care CSG respectively. Dr Susan Short has been appointed as the new Chair of the Brain Tumour CSG, Dr Paul Lorigan the new Chair of the Melanoma CSG and Dr Don Milligan as Chair of the Haematology Oncology CSG. We are confident these new Chairs will be successful in continuing the achievements of Professors Brada, Gore and Burnett.

Mr Derek Stewart awarded OBE

The Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2006 included well-deserved recognition for Mr Derek Stewart, Chairman of Gedling PCT, for his outstanding contribution to health and cancer services.

Amongst his many other roles, Derek Stewart was Chair of the NCRI Consumer Liaison Group until 2004, having been in that role since the Group was formed. His influence during the formative period of the CLG's life has been an important part of its success, establishing a style that has taken cancer patient advocacy on to a true partnership approach with professional groups.

NCRN CC Principle Fellow Vacancy Advertised

The post of Principal Fellow - Clinical Trials is now being advertised (job ref. 224008). The closing date for applications is 26 June 2006. For more information visit www.leeds.ac.uk and click on Jobs, or contact Peter Harrison at the NCRN CC (p.harrison@ncrn.org.uk) for an application pack.

News from Research Network Managers

Fiona Halstead (Yorkshire Cancer Research Network Manager) will be on maternity leave from the first week in August. Carol Sleigh will be covering her post (carol.sleigh@leedsth.nhs.uk).

Pauline Boyle (Greater Midlands Cancer Research Network Manager) will be on maternity leave from September. Her post will be covered by Linda Higgins (linda.higgins@rwh-tr.nhs.uk).

Congratulations to Joanne Shill (Dorset Cancer Research Network Manager) who recently got married and is now Mrs Joanne Simon (joanne.simon@ferndown.nhs.uk).

Finally, we were delighted to hear that Jane Hanson (Cancer Research Network Manager for Sussex) gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on 3 June. The new arrival has been named Lucy, and both mother and baby are doing well.

UPDATE: Portfolio and Accrual System

In our last issue, we provided details about the new Portfolio Database. This new system has additional fields which need to be completed before any changes or corrections can go live on the website. It is therefore important that all Study Coordinators for NCRN studies login to the system to check the existing information and provide the outstanding information. If you are a Study/Trial Coordinator and you have not received guidance on how to login, please email webmaster@ukcrn.org.uk as soon as possible.

The accrual data up to the end of March 06 has now been verified and the "old" NCRN database locked.

We are working to rectify some inaccuracies that have arisen through the migration of data from the old system to the new one. If you discover any apparent errors or technical problems, please email webmaster@ukcrn.org.uk.



Sudoku

Another **medium** puzzle for you this month; we don't want to work you too hard!

	8	5	2		1		6	9
		2		7			8	
		7	6			2		4
	9	4		2				
				5		4	1	
6		1			2	3		
	2			6		8		
8	7		5		4	6	2	

The rules of Sudoku are simple. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the spaces. Every row, column and 3x3 square must contain one of each digit.

For the solution, go to www.websudoku.com and select Medium Puzzle 6,709,930,293.

NETWORKED WAS COMPILED BY THE NCRN COORDINATING CENTRE, LEEDS
Contributions are welcome: l.pittendreigh@ncrn.org.uk

Calendar

July 2006

- **Research Methodology, Terminology & Practice**
4 July 2006, Leeds
UKCRN Training & Education
www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/training.html
- **Ethical Issues and Documentation**
4 July (speakers) & 5 July (training workshop) 2006, Egham
Hosted by ABPI. Each day can be booked separately or together.
Email Stacey at scosshall@abpi.org.uk
- **NCRI National Upper GI Trials Meeting** 6 July 2006, London
Email ulla.ventham@cancer.org.uk
- **UICC World Cancer Congress**
8-12 July 2006, Washington
'Bridging the Gap: Transforming Knowledge into Action'
www.worldcancercongress.org
- **Audit Preparation**
13 July 2006, Leicester
UKCRN Training & Education
www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/training.html
- **Cancer Centre Seminar Series**
3.30pm, 14 July 2006, Leeds
Presentations at SJUH by Dr V Aggelis, Dr G Velikovca and Dr A Merrick. Email l.pittendreigh@ncrn.org.uk for details.
- **Research & Clinical Trials in Cancer Care Study Day**
17 July 2006, London
www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk/RMH/healthcare/trainingeducation/studydays.htm

Aug 2006

No events listed

Sep 2006

- **Project Management Forum**
7 Sep 2006, Marlow
Further details will be posted at
www.instituteofclinicalresearch.org
- **Cancer Centre Seminar Series**
8 Sep 2006 (starts 3.30pm), Leeds
Presentations at SJUH by Mr P Affleck, Dr T Harvey and Dr C Taylor. Email l.pittendreigh@ncrn.org.uk for details.

- **Cancer Clinical Research: Research Methods** 11-12 Sep, 16-17 Oct & 20-21 Nov 2006, London
Six-day course run by The Royal Marsden Hospital www.royalmarsden.org.uk/RMH/healthcare/trainingeducation/studydays.htm
- **5th Annual Palliative Care Conference** 12 Sep 2006, London
<https://secure.healthcare-events.co.uk/conferences/confdisplay.asp?id=549>
- **ACRP European Conference & Exhibition** (Association of Clinical Research Professionals)
14-15 Sep 2006, Brussels
www.acrpeurope.org
- **Data and its Management in Clinical Research** 13-14 Sep, 18-19 Oct & 22-23 Nov 2006, London
Six-day course run by The Royal Marsden Hospital www.royalmarsden.org.uk/RMH/healthcare/trainingeducation/studydays.htm
- **5th Breast Cancer Meeting at Nottingham** 14-15 September 2006
Email wendy.bartlam@nuh.nhs.uk

- **ICR GCP & Ethics Forums**
19 Sep 2006, Marlow
www.instituteofclinicalresearch.org/id60your_careerZtrainingZdiscussion.asp
- **GCP & the EU Directive for New Staff** 21 Sep 2006, Leeds
UKCRN Training & Education
www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/training.html
- **6th Annual Conference of Clinical Information Systems and Electronic Records**
29 Sep 2006, London
Includes updates on the NPfIT.
<https://secure.healthcare-events.co.uk/conferences/confdisplay.asp?id=542>
- **31st European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress**
29 Sep-3 Oct 2006, Istanbul
www.esmo.org

Oct 2006

- **ACDM-ICR Joint Conference**
2 Oct 2006, London
www.instituteofclinicalresearch.org/id68Conferences_ACDM_Conference.asp

- **GCP & the EU Directive for Pharmacy Staff**
4 Oct 2006, Sheffield
UKCRN Training & Education
www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/training.html
- **BODMA Central Regional/Training Meeting** 4 Oct 2006, Leicester
From CRF to eRDC: Paper vs Electronic Data Capture www.bodma.com
- **Critical Appraisal Skills**
6 Oct 2006, London
UKCRN Training & Education
www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/training.html



NCRI Cancer Conference
8-11 Oct 2006
ICC, Birmingham

Online registration now open!
(Earlybird deadline: 31 July 2006)
www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference/

- **GCP and the EU Directive: Paediatric Principles**
9 Oct 2006, London
UKCRN Training & Education
www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/training.html
- **ICR Yorkshire Forum**
12 Oct 2006, Leeds
www.instituteofclinicalresearch.org/id401trainingZdiscussionZyorkshire.asp
- **Cancer Centre Seminar Series**
3.30pm, 13 Oct 2006, Leeds
Presentations at SJUH by Dr V Viprey, Miss C Conway and Mr S Duffy. Email l.pittendreigh@ncrn.org.uk for details.
- **Tumour Site & Trial Specific Workshops– Upper GI**
17 Oct 2006, Leeds
UKCRN Training & Education
www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/training.html
- **Audit Preparation**
25 Oct 2006, London
UKCRN Training & Education
www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/training.html
- **ICR Northwest Forum**
30 Oct 2006, Manchester
www.instituteofclinicalresearch.org/id423trainingZdiscussionZnorthwest.asp