



Dear friends

Welcome to the ninth issue of *UCARE News*.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games make 2012 a year of celebration.

UCARE is also celebrating our reaching a significant milestone. Five years ago we registered as a new charity. In those five years we have set and achieved ambitious targets and have moved into new partnerships and new areas of fundraising.

With every new enterprise our focus and our highest priority has remained the same: to fund the best possible research into urological cancers and to raise public awareness.

Your support helps us to make significant progress in reaching these goals. For this, we thank you.



We are delighted to announce a link with Everest Limited, one of the country's

leading home improvement businesses. The link between Everest and UCARE is new, strong and particularly important to us. The company has chosen UCARE as their charity of the year.

Thank you, Everest. We look forward to a year of working together. Your support is invaluable.

Julian Briant, Chair, Board of Trustees

## HIFU in the headlines

Recent headlines linking HIFU technology with a new and promising treatment for prostate cancer has prompted many recent enquiries to UCARE. HIFU is a non-invasive treatment which uses sound waves to target individual cancer sites. Clinical trials indicate that HIFU treatment could provide an alternative to traditional treatment and would significantly reduce side effects of such treatments.



Since its inception, UCARE has recognised and supported research into the use of HIFU technology for the treatment of kidney cancers and related conditions. Between 2008 and 2011 UCARE made grants for HIFU research. A new High Intensity Focussed Ultrasound device was officially opened in the new Cancer

Centre at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford on Wednesday 9th November 2011 by officials from the HAIFU Technology Company in China, Dame Fiona Caldicott and Consultant Urological Surgeon (and UCARE Trustee) David Cranston.

Once again, our supporters can be proud that our Oxford-based charity is committed to funding research to explore new techniques, the impact of which will resonate nationally and internationally. The pleasure of giving to a locally based charity is one which many UCARE supporters know. Friends or family may have been treated at Oxford Hospitals. You may have met patients, clinicians or researchers at UCARE events – you feel a personal link between your donation, UCARE's work and the wellbeing of people you know. There is, however, another level of satisfaction to be enjoyed by supporting UCARE. Oxford is an internationally recognised centre of excellence, not least in the field of medical research. Here, in Oxford, cancer scientists, doctors and surgeons with strong track records undertake research which has international significance and the capacity to affect the wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of people you will never meet.

We believe it makes sense to build on existing research in Oxford and to fund new research because we can make a difference not just locally but nationally and internationally. Talk about us to your friends and family who live in other parts of the country or, indeed, other parts of the world. Send them our newsletter. Tell them about our projects. If you – or they – want to contribute to improvements in the treatment of urological cancer patients wherever they may be, remember that though our base is in Oxford, our reach is far beyond it.

## What a difference 60 years can make



### The Queen's Diamond Jubilee encourages us all to look back at the last 60 years, at the changes in our personal and professional lives.

Sixty years ago we had no systemic treatment for cancer; chemotherapy, for example, has only been introduced in the last 60 years. Today, thanks to research giving us an understanding of what causes cancer, we have seen significant developments in prevention, diagnostic capability, treatment and cure.

**Prevention:** In the early 1950s Sir Richard Doll established for the first time the link between smoking and lung cancer. In 1952, the Queen came to the throne on the death of her father: King George VI died from a stroke which, though unlinked to earlier surgery for lung cancer, was also related to smoking. The significance of Sir Richard Doll's work has grown. In the urological field, we know that smoking increases the incidence of transition cell cancer of the bladder and kidney. We know too of other preventable causes of cancer – certain dyes used in the rubber and printing industries, asbestos used in construction, for example. And we all now know that our individual choices on lifestyle and diet can decrease the likelihood of our developing cancer.

**Diagnosis and treatment:** The widespread use of CT, MRI, Ultrasound and PRT scans have significantly increased diagnostic capability and the possibility of early intervention.

**Improvements in anaesthesia:** The advent of laparoscopic (keyhole) and robotic surgery have made incisions smaller and recovery times faster. In kidney surgery, the development of partial nephrectomy – the removal of smaller tumours with a portion of the kidney while preserving the remainder – has kept many patients free of dialysis, while at the same time curing them of cancer.

**Survival rates for most cancers have dramatically improved, while other cancers have, in fact become curable.** Bob Champion's win in the 1981 Grand National raised awareness of significant advances in drug therapy. Diagnosed in 1979 with testicular cancer and given only months to live, his treatment has been one of the many success stories in modern chemotherapy. Champion's win on Aldaniti, a horse recently recovered from chronic leg problems, moved the nation and raised awareness of advances in modern chemotherapy. Today, death from testicular cancer is rare, even if the disease has metastasised to other organs.

## UCARE research grants for 2012



**Dr Jenette Williams**

### Genetics of Papillary Kidney Cancer

Kidney cancer affects 1-2% of the UK

population during their lifetime. However, little is known about the genetic changes involved in the development of papillary kidney cancer, the second most common and often most aggressive subtype. UCARE are supporting The Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics in their search for these abnormalities.



**Dr Val Macaulay**

### Sensitivity to IGF-1R inhibition in human prostate cancer

This project focuses on a protein called IGFR, which is present at high levels in prostate cancers, and which helps the cancers to grow and spread. IGFR blocking drugs are being tested clinically; some tumours shrink dramatically, but others show no response. Through the funding provided by UCARE we are finding out what makes tumours sensitive to IGFR blockers, and how best to combine these new IGFR drugs with other cancer treatments.



**Dr Richard Bryant**

### Improved in vitro models of prostate cancer therapy resistance

Tumour heterogeneity [being dissimilar or having different characteristics and qualities] within individual prostate cancers is well recognised but poorly understood. Understanding factors promoting tumour heterogeneity may improve treatment options for men with advanced prostate cancer who otherwise have therapeutically resistant end-stage disease. The over-riding aim of this research funded by UCARE is to develop potential new treatment options for the many men with advanced prostate cancer.

## Voices of UCARE

On March 28 2012, at a drinks reception at Henmans, supporters of UCARE met members of the public to spread the word about the charity's aims. Feedback from the event has been uniformly positive: people new to UCARE were clearly interested to talk to doctors, researchers, patients and their families.

No matter how well presented, a leaflet cannot compete with the impact of meeting people and hearing their stories. For this reason, we are introducing a new series of articles to the newsletter – *Voices of UCARE* – where supporters explain what UCARE means to them, in their own words.



### In April this year, Andrew Taylor ran in the Milton Keynes Marathon.

*"I was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 1996, aged 32. My daughter was 2 at the time, and my wife was pregnant with my son. We were a young family, and it was devastating news. However, in 1999 I underwent a life-saving operation at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford to remove my bladder. I received amazing treatment and care from Mr David Cranston and all of the staff there. I have always wanted to do something to express my gratitude."*

### Helen and Robert Brind will be taking part in the Great South Run in October 2012 in support of UCARE:



*"I decided to help raise money for UCARE after my Mum beat kidney cancer. Thinking of it as a generic disease we did not appreciate how different cancers received different funding and how her particular one needed more support. Whilst only a small amount in the grand scheme of things myself and my husband decided that we wanted to do something to help... So the 10 mile 2012 BUPA South Run it is and we'll get fitter ourselves too!"*

We would welcome your comments on this, our first in the series – and perhaps we could include your story in future issues?

## Dragon Boat Racing update



**Come along and join us for a fun day out in Marlow 10th June – one boat is already filled!**

Team OXIC, a group who work with Dr Ester Hammond on oxygen regulated signalling in cancer have taken on a dragon boat. The team's

preliminary data, suggests that radiation-induced killing can be increased in renal carcinoma cells (RCCs) by addition of an agent that induces autophagic cell death.

Come and cheer them on, and don't forget to visit the UCARE stand. Call 01865 767777 or email [ucare@ucare-oxford.org.uk](mailto:ucare@ucare-oxford.org.uk) for more information.

\*The minimum age is 8 years and participants under 18 need to be with a responsible adult who are required to countersign a declaration.



“UCARE provides an opportunity to give to cancer research in a more personal way, while at the same time knowing that the research carried out in Oxford will be of benefit to people around the world.”

David Cranston, UCARE trustee

**Relatively small and inexpensive pieces of equipment facilitate vital research and laboratory work...**

**£10** could buy a pair of safety specs

**£100** could pay for a single channel pipette

**£250** could buy a magnetic hot-plate/stirrer

UCARE is grateful for your support. Any donation is used to support our charitable object of Urology Research and Education. However, if you would like to support specific research, or discuss an individual project, please let us know.

**I would like my donation to be used to support:**

- Kidney cancer research
- Bladder cancer research
- Testicular cancer research
- Prostate cancer research
- General research

**Please fill in donation details overleaf...**





Please donate today

I would like to support the fight against cancer

Research is often complicated, time-consuming and expensive but it provides hope for patients and their families, and leads to more effective ways of treating and preventing cancer. Please help by giving what you can.

I would like to give a donation to UCARE of:

£10 £100 £250

My choice £

Please make cheques payable to UCARE

I would like to give a monthly donation to help UCARE plan for the future:

£10 £25

My choice £

(Before you send your completed slip to us, please ask your bank or building society to set up your monthly standing order gift and give them our banking details: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME10 4JQ, Account Number 00017501, Sort Code 40-52-40. To help us keep accurate records, please give your full name as the reference.)

Title:
Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Phone (optional):
Email:

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I am a UK taxpayer and I want UCARE to reclaim the tax I have already paid on my gift(s) from 6 April 2007 until further notice.

Sum12

Please tick the box if you prefer not to receive updates about our work. We will not share your details with other organisations.

Thank you



www.ucare-oxford.org.uk

UCARE (Oxford) is a registered charity, number 1120887.

Please return this form to: UCARE, HIFU Unit, Churchill Hospital, Oxford, OX3 7LJ

There has never been a better excuse to hold an event and raise funds for Urology Cancer Research and Education

Whether you are celebrating the Queen's Jubilee or the Olympics\*, 2012 is the year to party!

Why not gather your friends and family together for a:

- Barbecue, Tea Party, Picnic, Garden Party and Plant Sale, Street Party, Kings and Queens themed party

Or you could join the Jubilee Big Lunch - see www.thebiglunch.com for more details.

Just remember to keep it safe - to find out more about organising a street party go to http://oxstreets.org.uk/ or email info@oxstreets.org.uk.

For UCARE collection boxes or information on fundraising 'dos and don'ts' please contact us on 01865 767777 or ucare@ucare-oxford.org.uk

Above all, have fun!

\*Please note that there are branding restrictions for use of the Olympic logo and name: check www.london2012.com/about-us/our-brand/using-the-brand/index.html for details.

James Hope



UCARE at the Olympics

As Olympic fever starts to grip the country, remember the special connection between UCARE and the Games - Simon Burnett, our patron will be swimming for Team GB, but he's also swimming for UCARE.

Simon has been a passionate supporter of the charity since 2009. Do let him know you're supporting him. You can leave a message for him on our facebook page or find him on our twitter page (@UCAREOxford)

UCARE (Urology Cancer Research and Education) is an independent, Oxford-based charity committed to improving the treatment and care of urological cancer patients, through research and education.



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