

## **Psychosocial and quality of life issues in older women with early primary breast cancer**

The majority of breast cancers occur in older women. The elderly population has specific needs which impact on their reaction to diagnosis, decision making process, and quality of life (QOL), due to psychosocial background and physical co-morbidities. Despite having an important health problem now and in the foreseeable future, the population concerned is underserved and under-researched.

There is currently a research programme on various (clinical, biological and psychosocial) aspects of early primary breast cancer in older women, led by Mr KL Cheung, Clinical Associate Professor, Division of Breast Surgery, School of Clinical Sciences. The team includes co-investigators from Schools of Molecular Medical Sciences and Nursing, and from Nottingham University Hospitals (Clinical Oncologist and Specialist Breast Care Nurses from a dedicated clinical team for Primary Breast Cancer in Older Women, based at Nottingham Breast Institute).

Specifically this project will investigate into the psychosocial and QOL issues in this population. Ethics approval has already been obtained to perform comprehensive geriatric assessment and to formulate a more complete understanding of QOL and treatment decision making in older women with early primary breast cancer. One of our collaborators is the Director of Cancer and Ageing Research Program, City of Hope, California.

The successful applicant will be jointly supervised by Mr Cheung and Professor K Cox, Professor in Cancer and Palliative Care, School of Nursing. Applicants should have, or expect to obtain, a first or 2.1 UK honours degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject, with medical, nursing or psychology background who are able to spend a substantial amount of time to conduct research in a clinical environment, with significant contacts with patients, their families, and members of the multi-disciplinary clinical team. Standard vetting procedures, including CRB check, will be required.

For application please email a CV with a covering letter and the names, address, telephone and email contact of two academic referees to Lesley Randall, Secretary to Division of Breast Surgery at Professorial Unit of Surgery, Nottingham University Hospitals City Hospital Campus.

For further information or informal enquiries please e-mail with CV to: [kl.cheung@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:kl.cheung@nottingham.ac.uk).