

University of Nottingham

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Jan/Feb 2023 Issue 30

# **NEWSLETTER**

## To all our supporters and followers

#### **Oakmere Commanders**

Many thanks to Oakmere Commanders Ladies Golf Club who selected NBCRC as their Charity of the Year, raising an amazing £1700! We are most grateful to members of the club for continuing to support the work and research that we do.



#### **Wollaton Park Inner Wheel**

Many thanks to Wollaton Park Inner Wheel who have also chosen Nottingham Breast Cancer Research Centre as their charity for the year. We look forward to being able to thank you in person in the near future.

### Boobie Ball – grand total £22K Read more

## Opportunity to join Team NBCRC for an incredible run around Nottingham! 24 Sept 2023

The Robin Hood Half Marathon is one of the longest established and most popular city centre road events in the UK. It is a single lap, traffic-free course, starting and finishing in Victoria Embankment, and a picturesque route takes you along Victoria Embankment, River Trent, past Nottingham Castle, Robin Hood statue, The Park and Wollaton Park. Whether you're a solo runner or are looking to take part as a team (to encourage/compete with each other!), we would love you to take part and fundraise for us. We want you to look and feel part of Team NBCRC, so along with lots of great fundraising advice and support you'll get an NBCRC running vest to wear on the day. We can also help you find advice on training to make sure you're ready for your big run.

You can register through the official site, then get in touch <a href="mailto:supportus@nottingham.ac.uk">supportus@nottingham.ac.uk</a> to let us know you'd like to fundraise for NBCRC - we can help you get started on your journey!

#### **NUMFC**

### **Nottingham University Medics Football Clubs**

continue to support and raise awareness of NBCRC and the Ladies team have a range of events and activities planned for the next few months.

The next event is **Thursday 16**<sup>th</sup> **Feb**, when the open mic night in Mooch, the students union bar in Portland building will be dedicated to raising awareness of Nottingham Breast Cancer Research Centre. 8pm!

## Art exhibition sparks more creativity

Fantastic to hear that social media coverage of our art exhibition *Breast Cancer & Me* inspired one artist and breast cancer patient to create a new piece of art work arising from her own experience, each day throughout breast cancer awareness month.

And if you didn't get chance to see the NBCRC exhibition at Lakeside Arts during October you can still view all the work online at <a href="https://www.bcawarenessart.uk">www.bcawarenessart.uk</a>

#### Do let us know...

If you have raised money for us then we would really like to hear your story, feature you in our newsletter and publicly say a big Thank You for supporting NBCRC.

## Where does your money go?

Perhaps you have you raised money for us and would like to see where we conduct the research that you help fund, or maybe you are thinking of fundraising for us and want to hear more about what we do – either way you are very welcome to visit our research facilities, meet some of our researchers and have a tour of the labs. We are able to offer small group talks & tours and currently have the following dates/times available. Places available on each tour are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis.

Tour dates:

Tues March 28<sup>th</sup> 5.30-6.30pm Wed April 19<sup>th</sup> 5.30-6.30pm

Email Carol at <a href="mailto:nbcrc@nottingham.ac.uk">nbcrc@nottingham.ac.uk</a> to reserve your place.



#### Pilot Grant research presented at global event

Congratulations to **Mashael Algethami** who received a Basic Science Scholar Award to support attendance at the **2022 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium** (the biggest breast cancer research conference in the world), which was held on Dec 6-10, in San Antonio, Texas. Mashael presented a poster entitled "Unravelling the clinicopathological and functional significance of Replication Protein A (RPA) heterotrimeric complex in sporadic breast cancers" - research undertaken as part of an NBCRC Pilot Grant project lead by Prof. Srinivasan Madhusudan (both are pictured below)



## Thompson Educational Trust supports early career researchers

It's fantastic to be able to support and train the next generation of breast cancer clinicians and researchers.

Megan Wilde was one of three early career breast cancer researchers to benefit from an NBCRC award in 2022, made possible by the generous support of the Thompson Educational Trust. Megan is part of a research group that is focussed on triple negative breast cancer, an aggressive type of cancer which primarily affects young, premenopausal women. The group are evaluating a number of small peptides to see if they can be used to deliver anti-cancer agents directly to triple negative breast cancer cells, without affecting healthy tissue. The most promising peptides will go forward for further study with a long-term aim to develop a novel therapy to improve patient survival.

#### NBCRC members – Save the date - 15 May

Please could all NBCRC members make a note of the proposed date for our annual Research Day **Monday 15 May**. Further information and call for abstracts will follow soon. We hope to see you all there and to new research collaborations being initiated.

## Latest updates from NBCRC pilot grants completing in 2022

**Dr Vicky James** - researchers have uncovered new ways that cells in tumours communicate with each other, to create an environment that supports their growth and ability to resist chemotherapy.

**Dr Cinzia Allegrucci** – a model, mimicking a pre-metastatic state, has been used to identify specific genes involved in breast cancer cells becoming dormant and resistant to treatment. The NBCRC award has allowed further funding to be secured to study the function of these genes to determine if they can be used as predictors of disease relapse.

**Dr James Dixon** – expertise in cell delivery mechanisms has been combined with knowledge of the acidic tumour microenvironment to investigate new mechanisms for targeted drug delivery. Targeted delivery reduces effects on normal tissues, minimising negative side-effects for patients. Applications are now be made for external funding.

**Dr Jennifer Ashworth** – a method from wound healing research has been used to identify breast cancer cells with the highest risk of escaping the initial primary tumour. Understanding the characteristics of these aggressive cancer cells will help to identify ways of treating these cells before metastasis occurs.

Our NBCRC scientists and clinicians are internationally recognised for their expertise. In addition to conducting their novel research and treating breast cancer patients they also sit on a number of national and international advisory boards, help run clinical trials, and regularly present their research at international conferences to share their results and encourage new collaborations. They regularly publish their data in the best research journals, helping to maximise the impact of their work. Come to one of our lab tours to hear more!

#### **HOW TO GIVE**

We very much appreciate the efforts of all our supporters and fundraisers.

If you would like to support breast cancer research, here in Nottingham, you can make a single gift or set up a regular donation amount at:

https://bit.ly/NBCRCDonation

CONTACT US: nbcrc@nottingham.ac.uk

www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/nbcrc 0115 7485158



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