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Issue 12

NEWSLETTER

NBCRC Awareness Day – a great success...

'Aggers' and 'Mrs Aggers' share their breast cancer journey



NBCRC Director Stewart Martin with Emma and Jonathan Agnew

A special thank you to Emma and Jonathan Agnew for an open and frank account of their experiences following Emma's breast cancer diagnosis in 2016. The couple talked about how they navigated this uncharted territory together – revealing some of the highs and the lows. The audience very much appreciated hearing not only from the patient but also the partner's perspective.



'Team Emma' share the stage

Breast Reconstruction

Breast surgeon Georgette Oni gave an overview of the options available to women who opt for breast reconstruction following their treatment.

Georgette highlighted the kinds of considerations that are associated with this decision making process, and where surgery fits within the overall treatment plan.



Secondary Breast Cancer

Secondary breast cancer clinical nurse specialists Natasha Ward and Johanna Hunter gave an insight into the services and support available to women diagnosed with a secondary breast cancer. This is where the breast cancer has spread to other parts of the body and is treatable but not curable. The specialist nursing team work closely with patients, consultants, other specialists and services to deliver the best possible patient care.

Lab tours



Visitors took the opportunity to see first hand how breast cancer research is carried out with a tour of our research labs at City Hospital. We will shortly be moving to our new building at University Park. **Please contact us if you would like a tour of our new facilities.**

An insight into NBCRC research activities

Cinzia Allegrucci (left) described how new models can be used to look at breast cancer stem cells. These cells fuel the continued growth of the tumour and so provide a way to study and target the growth and spread of breast cancer.

Dr Andrew Green described the sophisticated processing that is involved in preparing breast cancer tissue for research. Many in the audience were surprised to discover that Nottingham has one of the largest breast cancer tissue banks in the world.



First NBCRC pilot grants announced

Thanks to the amazing fundraising efforts of our supporters NBCRC has recently awarded 3 pilot grants of £10,000. These grants will be used to generate initial research data that will hopefully lead to larger grant awards from other funding organisations. The pilot projects which start immediately and run for 12 months were publically announced at the Research Day.

Personalizing breast cancer therapy by targeting DNA repair mechanisms

Prof Srinivasan Madhusudan



Chemotherapy and radiotherapy work by causing DNA damage in cancer cells, but not all patients respond to therapy. This project aims to increase DNA damage in tumours by blocking the DNA repair mechanism. The project will test if blocking a protein called RPA, or by reducing the amount of this protein, makes breast cancer cells respond better to therapy.



Tissue resident immune cells in breast cancer

Dr Judith Ramage

It has been demonstrated that some cancer patients can make an immune response to their cancer in a similar way to an infection, but in

many patients this doesn't happen. This project will study the immune cells of breast cancer patients to understand how the presence of particular immune cells affects patient survival.

Can we stop the nutrients that cause growth in breast cancer cells being used? **Dr Andrew Green**



Around a quarter of breast cancer patients develop an aggressive form of cancer that does not respond well to available drugs. Current work has found a protein in this type of aggressive cancer which provides nutrients for the cancer cells to grow faster. Although there is a drug which stops this protein working, it has not been tested in this form of cancer. This project aims to confirm whether we can use this drug to stop the protein working and determine whether this stops the cancer cells growing.

KEEP US INFORMED

Are you... Planning, doing, or have already done a fundraising event to support Nottingham Breast Cancer Research Centre? Due to new data protection rules, we are not always aware of your fundraising efforts. If you would like to keep us aware of what you are doing please get in touch: nbcrc@nottingham.ac.uk

FUNDRAISING SUPPORT

For all things fundraising please seek the advice and support of our NBCRC Community Fundraising Manager Dawn Broomfield.

Dawn can be contacted by email: dawn.broomfield@nottingham.ac.uk or on 0115 74 84809

HOW TO GIVE

Every little bit helps. **100% of every penny given goes directly to our research.** If you would like to donate, please visit: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/impactcampaign/projects/breast-cancer-research/breast-cancer-research.aspx>

Do you dare to walk the coals for NBCRC?

Unleash your inner daredevil and walk across hot coals for the Nottingham Breast Cancer Research Centre.

On the night you will receive specialist training after which you will be ready to walk barefoot across 15ft of smouldering hot coals. Bring your friends and family to cheer you on, enjoy our fire-themed entertainers and grab a bite to eat.

FIREWALK 2019



23 November 2019
University Park, Nottingham

Entry £25
Minimum sponsorship £100

For FAQ and to register go to <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/impactcampaign/projects/breast-cancer-research/fundraise-for-us/events/firewalk-2019.aspx>

Any other questions please contact Community Fundraising Manager Dawn Broomfield on 0115 74 84809 dawn.broomfield@nottingham.ac.uk

A **BIG thank you** to all of you who generously give your time and effort to fundraise for NBCRC. This month a special note of thanks to those who ran the Robin Hood half marathon in support of NBCRC, including one of our members, Simon Johnston, who wore our Vest on a Quest at the event. Do let us know what you have been up to!

CONTACT US:

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

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