

Sept/Oct 2021  
Issue 23

# NEWSLETTER

## October – Breast Cancer Awareness month

### NBCRC Breast Cancer Awareness event

Wed 13 Oct 5.30-7pm, online seminar

Although there is a gradual return to 'in-person' meetings our annual awareness event will once again be delivered online, as a webinar. The date for your diaries is Wed 13 Oct.

A short update on the progress of NBCRC funded research projects by Prof. Stewart Martin (Director, NBCRC) will be followed by a series of patient talks. We have 4 breast cancer patients who have bravely come forward to talk about their breast cancer experience. These talks not only raise awareness of the disease and the need for continued research into new and improved treatments, they are also tremendously motivating for all those working in breast cancer research - providing insight into how this disease impacts on the lives of patients and their families.

Please register for the event here:

[https://bit.ly/breast\\_cancer\\_awareness\\_webinar](https://bit.ly/breast_cancer_awareness_webinar)

### Our speakers:

**Claire Williams** – Claire was diagnosed with breast cancer in her late forties. She has her own business and is a wife, mum and step-mum.

**Louisa Holman** - Louisa was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer last year at the age of 34. She is working to advocate for other young patients who may need additional support in the face of such a devastating diagnosis.

**Katie Barson** – Katie was diagnosed with grade 3, stage 2b triple negative breast cancer last year, at the age of 32 after an extensive search for the cause of her change in health.

**Rebecca Hunt** – Rebecca, mum of 2, was only 26 when she was diagnosed with primary breast cancer in 2014, shortly after having her daughter. She was diagnosed with secondary breast cancer in March 2019.

## Autumn 2021: Rise of the Fundraisers

After over a year where community fundraising events had to move completely to the virtual space, we are really pleased that in person events are now starting to take place again - and we have a number of active fundraisers taking part in the next few months!

**Liz Shilling**, our main NBCRC London Marathon runner, has been doing some amazing work, including holding a special fundraising day (think cakes, Pimms and prosecco!) at the end of August.

Cheering stations may not be allowed this year, but we can still support them all the way! You can read more about their stories and help them to reach their fundraising targets at the following Just Giving pages.

[Liz Shilling - London Marathon](#)

[Clover Attewell - London Marathon](#)

[Pat Parrott - Virtual London Marathon](#)

[Chris Bell - Chris & family stepping out to beat breast cancer](#)

[Gavin Skevington - Everest Base Camp Trek](#)

Friends **Sarah Nice** and **Claire Tomlinson** are walking 13 miles, on Saturday September 11th 2021, IN A BRA! to raise money for NBCRC. Check out their story and find out how you can support them at <https://www.facebook.com/bosombudproject>

## Thompson Educational Trust supports 3 PhD projects

NBCRC are extremely grateful to the Trust for their donation which will be used to support the following 3 breast cancer PhD projects. Congratulations to the successful applicants.

Student	Project title
Mashael Algethami	Generating CRISPR knock-out models of MRE11 deficient breast cancer cell lines
Anna Aboalmaaly	Hypoxia induced epigenetic memory makes breast cancers more aggressive
Behnaz Saidy	DARPP-32 phosphorylation status modulation in breast cancer

## Feeling inspired?

NBCRC operates entirely on donations to support vital breast cancer research. We have now funded 9 pilot grants (3 per year). These are entirely novel breast cancer research projects carried out over a 6-12 month period. Projects are listed on our website and more information will be added here as it becomes available e.g. publications, future grant applications etc. The next breakthrough in treating this disease may come from one of these projects.

### With your help we would love to do more!

So, if you feel inspired, are looking for an individual challenge, or planning to join forces with friends/colleagues to raise money for breast cancer we would love to hear from you – and also say a big thank you! Please contact us at [nbcrc@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:nbcrc@nottingham.ac.uk)

## What do NBCRC members do all day?

Our members include academics, research scientists, clinicians, radiologists, nurses and surgeons. Some are employed by the University of Nottingham, others by Nottingham University Hospitals Trust, but beyond these roles they are also part of NBCRC, building connections and collaborations with others working in the field of breast cancer research, and sharing knowledge and expertise.

'Breast cancer research' can be a bit of a mystery to those of us not directly involved. Over the next 12 months, via a series of newsletter articles, we will try to shine a light on how breast cancer research happens, asking several of our members with different roles to talk about their day to day activities. This month we hear from Dr Andy Green.

### A day in the life, Andy Green Deputy Director, NBCRC

After a long 16 months of working from home due to the pandemic, I have now started to make my daily commute from near Loughborough to the university campus where the Biodiscovery Institute, and my office, is situated.



My first task of the day has been to read and provide comments on a draft research article that has been written by a collaborator in the Netherlands, whom we've worked with for over 6 years.

This research article is a piece of academic writing that provides analysis, interpretation, and argument based on the research that we've been working. The main subject of this research is how we can use the structure of breast cancers and the surrounding tissue to give information on patient survival.

The article will eventually be submitted to a scientific journal, which reports novel research progressing science knowledge, often after several revisions by those involved. Journals are ranked based on the number of global readers, so some journals they are more prestigious than others. The editors of the journal will send the article to other scientists and clinicians who work in the same area for their opinion on the article. This review process can take anywhere between 1 to 6 months and has been longer during the pandemic. If the reviewers think it is a good article showing novel research then the editor will accept it for publication in the journal. Sometimes, the reviewers might suggest alterations to the article, such as more experiments or analysis, before it is accepted or they may recommend to the editor to not publish the work. If it is accepted, the journal will publish the article within 1 month. If it is rejected, the authors are able to submit to another journal.

This year to date, I have authored 16 articles on a range of different breast cancer studies within the Nottingham Breast Cancer Research Centre (NBCRC) and with our collaborators. Hopefully the article above will be accepted and published before the end of the year.

My second task was to meet with a new PhD student, Busra Erkan, who needed some help on how to conduct some analysis using breast cancer research data. She is interested in learning the role of certain nutrients in the body which are needed by cancers to grow. Many previous large studies on breast cancer looking at the genome are available for free in a bid to help progress research. Busra will use this data to understand how the supply of these nutrients affect patient survival and will then start to explore their specific roles using breast cancer cells in the laboratory.

I also attended a weekly online meeting with the NBCRC Director, Prof Stewart Martin, and NBCRC Administrator, Carol Pairaudeau. The discussion included planning for breast cancer awareness month in October. The rest of my day consisted of replying to emails on various subjects including the planning for the new university term and organising teaching timetables.

## NBCRC Public Seminar programme

In our public seminar programme we are planning to hold talks that look at different breast cancer types and how this affects the treatment path and the choice of treatments available.

It would be great to know what other topics you would like to hear about, or what questions you have? Do let us know and we can take this into account when planning the programme. Don't forget to follow us on social media to get notified of upcoming events.

### HOW TO GIVE

Every little bit helps with **100% of all money donated going directly to our research.**

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:

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