Wales Cancer Research Centre

John Chester
Director, WCRC
Summary

- Where WCRC has come from
- Its ambitions for the future
- Benefits/opportunities this further investment will provide
Wales Cancer Research Centre
Canolfan Ymchwil Canser Cymru
Where WCRC has come from
Its ambitions for the future

• **Our vision:** The Wales Cancer Research Centre will perform and support cancer research of the highest quality, across the translational spectrum, focussing on important areas of clinical need, for the short- and long-term benefit of patients and the public.

• It will be a comprehensive cancer research centre with strong academic and NHS clinical leadership and a multi-disciplinary Senior Management Team. It will be led from Cardiff but have an all-Wales brief, involving key other research-excellent groups in South West Wales (Swansea) and North Wales (Bangor).

• **“Grease and glue”**
  • Provide infrastructure, add value & facilitate growth via further research income
  • An integrative, unifying force
Our Principles

• Broad, integrated, inclusive
  • Excellence as a minimum requirement
  • Building on current strengths; developing (selected) new ones

• Open & transparent

• Good communication
  • Internal and external

• Make the most of the budget
  • Large sum, but only a fraction of total cancer research income
Welsh HEI’s

Director

Theme Lead +PPI x2

Theme Lead +PPI x2

Theme Lead +PPI x2

Theme Lead +PPI x2

Pre-clinical ➔ Translational ➔ Clinical ➔ Community

Cardiff & Vale ABMU
Aneurin Bevan

Cardiff University
Bangor University
Wales University

Operations Manager

+PPI

+PPI

+PPI

+PPI

DCG, MEDIC, CU/C&V

Velindre Cancer Centre

DCG, MEDIC, CU/VCC

Velindre Cancer Centre

DCG, MEDIC, CU/VCC
Patients and Public

Pre-Clinical

Clinical

Translational

Community
39 posts; 30 FTEs; 7 NHS and HEI organisations

John Chester
DCG, MEDIC, CU/VCC

Libby Batt (interim)

Julian Sampson
DCG, MEDIC, CU/C&V

Malcolm Mason
DCG, MEDIC, CU/VCC

Peter Barrett-Lee
Velindre Cancer Centre

Anthony Byrne
Velindre Cancer Centre

Pre-clinical

Prof. Duncan Baird
DCG, MEDIC, Cardiff Uni

Prof. Awen Gallimore
DII, MEDIC, Cardiff Uni.

Prof. Alan Clarke
BIOSI, Cardiff Uni.

Dr. Andrew Westwell
PHRMY, Cardiff Uni.

Translational

Dr. Richard Adams
DCG, MEDIC, CU/VCC

and
Dr. Rachel Butler
UHW, Cardiff & Vale

Clinical

Dr. John Staffurth
DCG, MEDIC, Cardiff Uni

Velindre Cancer Centre

Dr. Rob Jones
DCG, MEDIC, CU/VCC

Dr. Steve Knapper
DCG, MEDIC, CU/C&V

Community

Prof. David Ford
Swansea University

Prof. Annmarie Nelson
MCPCRC, CU; Swansea
Dr. Simon Noble
DCG, CU/Aneurin Bevan
with
Dr. Kate Brain (MEDIC)
Prof. Richard Neal
(Bangor)
A translational pipeline
Of 1889 lung cancers, 35% had at least one abnormality, only 0.65% had more than one. KRAS was most often mutated (26%), followed by EGFR (8.3%), ALK rearrangement (1.9%) and BRAF (1%).
Pre-clinical  Translational  Clinical  Routine practice

**Journal of Clinical Oncology**  Original Report


Eligible patients with locally advanced disease

Randomly assigned (N = 1,205)

Allocated to ADT alone (n = 602)

Allocated to ADT + RT (n = 603)

Early assessment

Full assessment

Clofarabine

LDAC + GO

LDAC + ATO

LDAC + Tipifarnib

Sapacitabine

Vosaroxin

LDAC + Vosaroxin

LDAC + AC-220

LDAC + Ganetespib

CR ↑ Survival similar

Still ongoing

Induction of Apc deficiency

3x IP injections of Tamsulifen (80m)

SPECT imaging

IHC Autoradiography

Cancerous cell death

Suppressing tumourigenesis
Benefits/opportunities this further investment will provide

• ‘Leverage’ of further research funding
• High-impact publications
• Enhanced reputation for NHS Wales and Welsh HEIs
• Improved health and wealth of Wales
• Benefit for cancer patients, their families and carers, and for the population
  • Improved prevention, diagnosis, control & cure
  • Patient-centred, personalised cancer care
A whole that is greater than the sum of its parts

WCRC as “glue”
Benefits/opportunities (continued)

• Something not done before in Wales (or elsewhere?)

• Integrating a large, multi-professional team
  • 70 clinical & non-clinical researchers; 6 PPI reps

• Ability to determine shape of cancer research in Wales
  • A ‘voice’ for cancer research

• Effective transfer into routine clinical practice
  • Today’s research; tomorrow’s care
Success

- Product
- Plan
- People
- Money
- Luck

Prof. Sir Chris Evans
Dates for your diary (invitations)

• 21st October 2015
  • WCRC Launch Event/1st annual Wales Cancer Research Conference
    • SWALEC Stadium, Cardiff

• 24th October 2015
  • Cardiff Cancer Research Open Day
    • (open to public; clinicians esp. welcome)
    • Hadyn Ellis Building, Maindy Road, Cardiff
Thank you

ChesterJD@cardiff.ac.uk
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