Panel debate: Accelerating innovation and advancements in research

The evidence base around early diagnosis has grown significantly over the past decade, and its impact is yielding benefit for patients up and down the country. But the interventions we have evidence for, and those close to the end of the research pipeline, will not be sufficient to achieve the shifts we need to see. It is vital that we accelerate innovation and advancements in research and evidence, and grow the pipeline of impactful interventions, so that fewer patients experience the devastating consequences of late stage disease in the future.
Tuesday 12th February

Panel debate:
Accelerating innovation and advancements in research

Panellists:

**Professor Stan Kaye**

Professor Stan Kaye has been based in London since 2000, at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust Hospital and Institute of Cancer Research, where he was Head of Division of Clinical Studies with responsibility for co-ordinating research across several teams until his retirement from ICR in 2013.

At the Royal Marsden Hospital he was Head of the Drug Development Unit, which grew to become one of the largest Phase I cancer trial units in the world with a staff of over 100 and a portfolio of over 40 trials.

He continues to work at the Royal Marsden Hospital as Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Medical Oncology, and since 2014 has been Research Director for RM Partners, which is a Cancer Alliance covering West London, focussed on delivering improvements in healthcare to a population of over 3 million. A particular focus in the current research programme, is the early diagnosis of cancer, with active projects in lung and colorectal cancer.

Professor Kaye qualified in medicine in London in 1972, and completed his medical and oncology training in London and Australia. His initial laboratory research (leading to an MD in 1980) involved experimental therapy using liposomes. He moved to Glasgow in 1981 and was Head of the Department of Medical Oncology at Glasgow University from 1985-2000. He has published over 400 papers on a range of topics including in particular, early drug development, drug resistance and ovarian cancer.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and of the Academy of Medical Science, and has an honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of London. In 2016 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Cancer Research UK.

**Professor Gareth Evans**

Professor Gareth Evans has established a national and international reputation in clinical and research aspects of cancer genetics, particularly in neurofibromatosis and breast/colorectal cancer. He has published 742 peer-reviewed research publications; 273 as first or senior author. He has published over 120 reviews and chapters and has had a book published by Oxford University Press on familial cancer. He has an ISI web of knowledge H-index of 100 and Google Scholar of 136 having only published his first article in 1990. In the last seven years he has raised over £50 million in grants for multicentre and local studies – approximately £42 million to Manchester.

He is Chief Investigator on two NIHR programme grants (2009–2014–£1.59 million) (2017–2020–£1million) on breast cancer risk prediction and also has an NIHR Research for Patient Benefit grant as Chief Investigator (2011). He has supervised 13 successful doctoral theses and is currently supervising five. He has led a successful bid for a Nationally funded Neurofibromatosis Type 2 service (£7.5 million pa) that started in 2010 and is involved in the national complex Neurofibromatosis Type 1 service. He is overall cancer lead (three themes) and Cancer Prevention Early detection theme lead on the successful all Manchester NIHR Biomedical research centre bid (2017– 2022–£28.5million).

He is lead clinician on the NICE familial breast cancer guideline group and until recently a trustee of Breast Cancer Now and the Neuro Foundation. He is on the editorial board of Journal of the National Cancer Institute and is a board member of the Science Strategy Committee of Breast Cancer Now.
Dr Fiona Walter leads the Primary Care Cancer Research group at the University of Cambridge and has worked as a GP for more than 30 years.

Other current leadership roles include: until December 2018, chair of the NCRI’s Primary Care Clinical Studies Group’s Early Diagnosis sub-group, and membership of other NCRI groups including for Skin Cancer and Screening, Prevention and Early Diagnosis (SPED); membership of Cancer Research UK’s Early Detection Committee and Cambridge Cancer Centre’s Early Detection committee.

Fiona’s work focuses on the cancer pathway to diagnosis and primary care diagnostics, aiming to improve patient safety and cancer outcomes. She co-leads the CanTest Collaborative, Cancer Research UK’s first Catalyst award, aiming to accelerate progress towards improving cancer outcomes by focusing on the transformative implementation in primary care of tests to support early detection of cancer. She is also co-investigator on the new NIHR Policy Research Unit in Cancer Awareness, Screening and Early Diagnosis, led by Professor Stephen Duffy.

She has honorary academic roles at two Australian universities where she contributes to parallel programmes of work on improving outcomes for cancer patients.

Geoffrey Hamilton-Fairley has an entrepreneurial career that started in 1982 when he founded a number of companies in the media and technology sector backed by an institutional investment vehicle (The Abingdon Management Company), which he subsequently ran as CEO. His last venture before Oncimmune was as a founder of cable television, NTL (now Virgin Media). Over the past 14 years Geoffrey has developed and guided Oncimmune from a Nottingham University start-up through to a successful IPO in May 2016, serving as Executive Chairman, CEO and now Vice Chairman. Geoffrey has co-authored numerous publications in the field, both scientific and on related health economics. He co-ordinated with regulatory authorities and senior Key Opinion Leaders worldwide in order to accelerate acceptance of the clinical value of the autoimmune panel technology and was key to establishing a proprietary operation in the US and distribution partnerships worldwide, including China. Geoffrey is also a senior research fellow at the International Prevention Research Institute. His personal commitment to cancer detection can be traced to his father, the first medical oncologist in the United Kingdom.

Dr Fiona Reddington is Head of Population, Prevention and Behavioural Research Funding at Cancer Research UK and oversees the research portfolio in the areas of population research, prevention and early diagnosis.

Fiona obtained her BSc (Pharmacology) at University College Dublin and her PhD (Neurophysiology) from King’s College London (UMDS). From there, she joined the NHS as a project manager and managed a Cancer Centre at University College London.

Management roles at a national cancer network and the NCRI Informatics Initiative followed where Fiona was part of the team to win the inaugural Times Higher Research project of the Year award.