



newsletter

Committee Member Updates - Training for Smoking Cessation Workforce - Race for Life - March 2009 PRC Funding Decisions - NCIN Annual Conference

Committee Update

The Population Research Committee (formerly the Population & Behavioural Sciences Committee), had its first meeting in March. The meeting was chaired by Professor Philip Hannaford and the Deputy Chair was Professor Harry de Koning. A list of the grants funded at the meeting can be found on the next page.



Dr Ros Eeles and Professor David Jones stepped down from the Committee in March. We would like to thank them for their immense contribution to the Committee.

Sadly we will be saying goodbye to our Research Manager Karen Kerr. Karen has been at Cancer Research UK for over 2 years and is now moving to Imperial College. We would like to thank Karen for her hard work and wish her luck in her new job.

Training for Smoking Cessation Workforce

In October 2008, the Department of Health launched a procurement process to find an organisation to set up an NHS centre for Smoking Cessation & Training (NCST) and to develop evidence based training systems for the stop smoking workforce. The aim is to optimise the quality of behavioural support for smoking cessation in England. The UK is the only country in the world that has a network of free stop smoking services.

A consortium run by UCL has been chosen to lead on the project. Quit and NHS Leeds are also involved, as well as other contributors to the smoking cessation community. Dr Andy McEwen from the Cancer Research UK Health Behaviour Research Centre, has been appointed as the Director. Professor Robert West is a Co-Director who will have special responsibility for research. Professor Susan Michie is a Co-Director with special responsibility for assessment, training and evaluation.

The grant will be administered by UCL Psychology with the Centre for Outcome Research & Effectiveness (CORE) as a major subcontractor.



NCIN Annual Conference - 25th June 2009

National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham

The NCIN Annual Conference 2009 will celebrate the first anniversary of the NCIN. In addition to showcasing work undertaken by the NCIN and its partners, the conference will provide a unique opportunity for sharing experience, requirements and solutions. The conference will have a particular focus on improving clinical outcomes for patients. Themes will include: Cancer - UK & International comparisons, Exploiting linkage of primary, secondary and follow-up data, Survivorship, Transforming data collection & management to inform outcomes, Outcomes data for patients & the public. To register visit http://www.ncin.org.uk/index_files/Conference.htm

Race for Life & Run for Moore

Race for Life began in 1994. So far four million women have taken part, raising over £240 million in sponsorship. Since Race for Life began, death rates have fallen:

Ovarian cancer has decreased by 10%

Cervical cancer has decreased by more than 40%

Lung cancer is down by almost 1/5

Bowel cancer has fallen by more than 1/3

Breast cancer is down by almost 1/3, almost 2/3 of women diagnosed with breast cancer today are now likely to survive for at least 20 years



The event takes place between May and July at various locations across the country. All participants run, walk or jog around the 5k course. This year at some locations participants can now complete a 10k course. To take part in Race for Life please visit www.raceforlife.org.

The men can also help raise money for Cancer Research UK. The event is called Run for Moore, which was established in 2006. 36,500 people each year are diagnosed with bowel cancer. Over 8000 men have taken part, raising over £670,000 for bowel cancer. The run takes place on Sunday 5th July at Blackheath, after the women have completed their Race for Life event. Again all participants run, walk or jog around the 5k course. For more information on Run for Moore and how you can take part, please visit www.cancerresearchuk.org/runformoore.

Population Research Committee Funding Decisions

The following applications were recommended for funding:

Programme Grant Funding

Professor Tim Bishop, University of Leeds

Programme Title: Genetic Epidemiology of Cancer

Project Grant Funding

Dr Angela Cox, University of Sheffield

Project Title: Fine-mapping of the caspase-8 gene with respect to breast cancer susceptibility

Dr Simon Gayther, University College London

Project Title: Evaluating the Efficacy of Drug Treatments for Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Using Three-Dimensional Cell Biology Models of the Disease

Professor Richard Martin, University of Bristol

Project Title: Evaluating population-based screening for localised prostate cancer in the United Kingdom: the CAP (Comparison Arm for ProtecT) study

Dr Paul Pharoah, Strangeways Research Laboratory

Project Title: The Golestan Cohort Study follow-up: An investigation of environmental and genetic risk factors for esophageal cancer in north-east Iran

Small Grant Funding

Dr Peter Murchie, University of Aberdeen

Title: Comparison of cancer diagnostic delay in three European countries: a feasibility Study

Dr Santiago Rodriguez, University of Bristol

Title: Genetic basis of low PSA levels in the general population and implications for prostate cancer screening and diagnosis: a pilot nested within the ProtecT study