



Marie Curie Cancer Care and Cancer Research UK announce new research collaboration

A new collaboration between two of the UK's largest charities has today (Monday, October 5) been announced. Marie Curie Cancer Care is to invest an additional £1m a year in a new national programme into end of life care research working with expertise from Cancer Research UK.

Marie Curie Cancer Care will launch a new research fund for end of life care research across the UK, with expert advice on research applications, grant funding and the peer review process from Cancer Research UK.

Dr Teresa Tate, Medical Advisor for Marie Curie Cancer Care, who announced the news today at the National Cancer Research Institute Conference in Birmingham, said; "Now is the time to deliver a real boost to innovation, improvement and research into better end of life care in the UK. This is why Marie Curie has made the decision to invest more into palliative care research across the UK, doing our best to address the current under-funding for such crucial work."

"Bringing the expertise of Cancer Research UK on board will ensure all research proposals are thoroughly reviewed and expertly assessed. It's a great example of co-operation between two major charities with different but complementary strengths," she said.

Lilian Clark, Executive Director Science Operations and Funding at Cancer Research UK, said: "We are delighted to help Marie Curie Cancer Care to fund new work in this important area of research."

"Marie Curie has great expertise and knowledge around end of life care and we look forward to helping them develop a coherent and rigorous research programme in this area of acknowledged under-investment. The strengths of both charities will combine to create a unique opportunity to deliver world class research in this field."

Currently around £400m is spent every year in the UK on research into cancer prevention and cure, with less than £20m spent on end of life research.

Marie Curie Cancer Care will issue a call for proposals in early 2010.

ENDS

About the NCRI Cancer Conference

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) Cancer Conference is the UK's major forum for showcasing the best British and international cancer research. The Conference offers unique opportunities for networking and sharing knowledge by bringing together world leading experts from all cancer research disciplines. The fifth annual NCRI Cancer Conference is taking place from the 4-7 October 2009 at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham. For more information visit www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference

About the NCRI

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) was established in April 2001. It is a UK-wide partnership between the government, charity and industry which promotes co-operation in cancer research among the 21 member organisations for the benefit of patients, the public and the scientific community.

For more information visit www.ncri.org.uk

NCRI members are: the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI); Association for International Cancer Research; Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council; Breakthrough Breast Cancer; Breast Cancer Campaign; Cancer Research UK; CHILDREN with LEUKAEMIA, Department of Health; Economic and Social Research Council; Leukaemia Research; Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research; Macmillan Cancer Support; Marie Curie Cancer Care; Medical Research Council; Northern Ireland Health and Social Care (Research & Development Office); Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation; Scottish Government Health Directorates (Chief Scientist Office); Tenovus; Welsh Assembly Government (Wales Office of Research and Development for Health & Social Care); The Wellcome Trust; and Yorkshire Cancer Research.

www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference

NCRI Cancer Conference Press Office
61 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3PX, UK

t: +44 (0)20 7061 8300 | +44 (0)7050 264 059 (out of hours) e: press@ncri.org.uk