



BRIGHT
A brighter future for gastro-
intestinal & liver cancer patients



TWO SURREY-BASED CANCER RESEARCH CHARITIES MERGE

Guildford, Surrey: 22 January 2019

In an important development for the research into, and treatment of, all Gastro-Intestinal cancers (GI; this includes cancers of the oesophagus, stomach, pancreas, small and large bowel) and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary cancers (HPB; this includes cancers of the liver, pancreas, gall bladder and bile ducts), the Trustees of BRIGHT (RCN 1064857) and the Trustees of Liver Cancer Surgery Appeal “LCSA” (RCN 1061703) voted unanimously to merge BRIGHT with the LCSA to create a single, enlarged charity - under the banner of BRIGHT.

BRIGHT supports the clinical and research work of cancer specialists at St Luke’s Cancer Centre and the Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) Surgery Unit, (now known as The Southern HPB Unit), both based at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford.

It was the Trustees’ joint view that a combined approach was a better way for the future goals of each charity to be secured. The merger has the approval of the Charity Commission – this was applied for and was granted because of the similar nature of the two charities.

The chair of BRIGHT Dr Alexandra Stewart said: *“We are delighted that the two charities have combined to create a bigger, more powerful organisation capable of fighting these deadly diseases. The synergies available to us in working together are considerable and they will enable a much brighter future for all our patients”.*

Professor Nariman Karanjia, the founder and chair of LCSA stated: *“Together we will be stronger. My fellow Trustees and I look forward to continuing our work under the banner of BRIGHT; I hope that all of our loyal supporters and donors will share my enthusiasm for amalgamating resources in this way.”*

The completion of the merger was celebrated at a GenesisCare–sponsored dinner at the House of Commons in October 2018, which was hosted by Sir Paul Beresford, MP and Patron of BRIGHT. The LCSA will now apply to transfer its assets to BRIGHT and to de-register itself with the Charity Commission.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

History of BRIGHT and LCSA

BRIGHT was formed in 1997 as Dr Topham’s Research Fund and carries out vital research and new treatment options for gastro-intestinal (GI) cancer patients. Dr Alex Stewart Consultant Clinical Oncologist and BRIGHT Trustee introduced the concept of Papillon

Radiotherapy to St Luke's Cancer Centre. BRIGHT has achieved the distinction of helping to fund the provision of a new Papillon radiotherapy machine at the St Luke's Cancer Centre at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, which has to date treated 139 patients. This treatment for certain cancers avoids the need for complex surgery with permanent colostomies, with excellent outcomes in terms of survival and retention of normal bodily functions.

Dr Sharadah Essapen, Consultant Clinical Oncologist and BRIGHT Trustee, has been working with Professor Modjitahedi of Kingston University, on a soon-to-be-completed research project exploring targeted treatments for colorectal cancer patients. For more information about BRIGHT see www.brightcancercare.com.

Dr Tony Dhillon Consultant, Medical Oncologist and BRIGHT Trustee, has been funded to do research into secondary liver cancer by the LCSA.

LCSA was founded in 1997 by Professor Nariman Karanjia with the purpose of acquiring equipment and conducting research into the causes and treatment of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) cancers. The LCSA bought the first set of equipment for complex, pioneering surgery in 1997 and funded equipment for the Regional HPB Unit for Surrey and Sussex, (Southern HPB Unit) which was founded in 2004 at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford. For more information about LCSA see www.liver.org.uk.

Before the LCSA started fundraising to buy the specialist equipment for liver surgery, the survival of patients with liver secondaries from primary bowel cancer (colorectal cancer) was approximately 1% at 5 years. Today with a combination of chemotherapy and good quality liver surgery survival is 50% at 5 years. A third of the patients are cured.

Objective of the Combined Charity

By combining BRIGHT with the LCSA we will continue our efforts to make significant improvements to outcomes from major Gastrointestinal and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary cancers, both in terms of survival and quality of life. We intend to achieve this through both research and through the purchase of the latest equipment

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