

# Scotland Against Cancer Conference 2009



Glasgow Royal Concert Hall  
Friday 20th March 2009

Organised by Cancer Research UK and supported by the Cross Party Group on Cancer in the Scottish Parliament, Scotland Against Cancer is a unique event in the Scottish cancer conference calendar.

Now in its seventh year, Scotland Against Cancer attracts high-level political support and involvement of stakeholders across the cancer community, including politicians from all parties, policy makers, clinicians, charities, patients and researchers. The conference is addressed by Ministers and leading figures in the cancer field, making it an important forum for politicians and other stakeholders to discuss cancer policy and services and to make recommendations for future action.

This year, the conference will focus on the publication of *Better Cancer Care: An Action Plan*, reflect on the successes and developments we have seen over the past twelve months, and address some of the challenges for the future.

Scotland Against Cancer affords delegates the opportunity to hear from others working in cancer prevention, treatment, care and research, but crucially, to feed in their own experience and expertise through the discussion groups.

I do hope you will join us for Scotland Against Cancer 2009 and help make this year's conference the most successful and influential to date.

Harpal S. Kumar  
Chief Executive  
Cancer Research UK

*Together we will beat cancer*

# Scotland Against Cancer Conference 2009

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

Friday 20th March 2009

## **Agenda (may be subject to change)**

- 09:00 Registration and refreshments
- 09:30 Introduction  
*Malcolm Chisholm MSP, Co-convenor, Cross Party Group on Cancer*
- 09:40 Health Secretary Address and questions  
*Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing*
- 10:20 Keynote Address  
*Professor John Frank, Director, Scottish Collaboration for Public Health Research and Policy*
- 10:50 Refreshment break
- 11:15 Discussion Groups (choice of eight Discussion Groups)

### **Topic 1: Health messages – turning knowledge into action**

Most of us know what lifestyle changes we should make to reduce our risk of cancer and many other conditions. Messages about healthy eating, physical activity, giving up smoking, moderate alcohol consumption and sun awareness are communicated to the public by Government and many other health organisations. What needs to be done to ensure people can turn these messages into actions and really improve their health and wellbeing?

### **Topic 2: Appraising treatments**

The debate about how cancer treatments are appraised for use on the NHS continues to dominate the media. Issues such as top-ups and exceptional prescribing prompt high profile campaigns, and with the development of more targeted and expensive treatments, this looks set to stay on the political agenda for some time to come. What should Government be doing to address the issue?

### **Topic 3: Living with and beyond cancer**

One of our biggest challenges is how we support those living with and beyond cancer. This growing population, often with complex medical, social, emotional and financial issues to deal with, may benefit from new models of self management, but what more needs to be done? How can we encourage the various agencies involved to work together better?

### **Topic 4: Diagnosing cancer earlier**

Improvements have been made to waiting times for treatment, but many patients still have a long delay between the onset of symptoms and referral for investigation. This can be due to a reluctance to present to a GP, or delays in GPs recognising symptoms or referring patients on. We know that this delay can often prove detrimental to a patient's prognosis. What can we do to improve this situation?



### Topic 5: Reducing cancer inequalities

Huge inequalities still exist in Scotland in terms of cancer incidence and survival, and access to treatment, care and support services, with people in lower socio-economic groups, ethnic minorities and those with physical or mental disabilities often worst affected. How can we work successfully with these groups to reduce inequalities and make sure that treatment and care is provided equitably to all?

### Topic 6: Appropriate care

Those with less common cancers, and groups such as children and young people often require specialist treatment and care, but this isn't always available. While there have been commitments to improving this situation, the necessary services are often costly and may only be relevant to a small number of people. How can we ensure that the needs of these patients are best catered for?

### Topic 7: Measuring quality and improving outcomes

Treatment and care should always be of the highest possible quality and we need quality measures and indicators to tell us if this is the case. While waiting times have been high profile, other areas, such as the patient experience, are only now coming to the fore. We also need to know whether we are improving patient outcomes. What should we be measuring, and how should we go about it?

### Topic 8: Innovation and improvement

We all want to see better and more effective treatments available that will give cancer patients better outcomes and fewer side effects. Investment in research is crucial in order to develop new and improved treatments. What needs to happen to better support cancer research in Scotland and to ensure that the improvements delivered are then made available for patients?

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Discussion Groups  
(choice of eight Discussion Groups, repeated from morning)

14:45 Refreshment break

15:10 Panel Discussion and Questions  
The panel will include experts from across the cancer field who will take questions from the floor and discuss issues raised during previous sessions.

16:10 Closing Remarks  
*Nanette Milne MSP, Co-convenor, Cross Party Group on Cancer*

16:30 Close of conference



# Scotland Against Cancer Conference 2009

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

Friday 20th March 2009

## **Steering Group:**

Breast Cancer Care Scotland  
Macmillan Cancer Support  
Myeloma UK  
Scottish Cancer Foundation

## **The secretariat to the Cross Party Group on Cancer in the Scottish Parliament is provided by:**

Vicky Crichton  
Public Affairs Officer (Scotland)  
Cancer Research UK  
Thorn House  
5 Rose Street  
Edinburgh, EH2 2PR

**Tel:** 0131 243 2641

**Email:** [vicky.crichton@cancer.org.uk](mailto:vicky.crichton@cancer.org.uk)



## **Conference Secretariat:**

Uta Böger-Brown and Carol Cumming  
BioMedEx Conference and Exhibition Management Services  
22 Allan Road, Killearn by Glasgow G63 9QE

**Tel:** 01360 551 082      **Fax:** 01360 551 083

**Email:** [scotlandagainstcancer@biomedex.co.uk](mailto:scotlandagainstcancer@biomedex.co.uk)

**Web:** [www.scotlandagainstcancer.org.uk](http://www.scotlandagainstcancer.org.uk)

**To register online or for further conference information please visit:**

**[www.scotlandagainstcancer.org.uk](http://www.scotlandagainstcancer.org.uk)**