

## Welcome

Welcome to the Summer 2011 edition of **Network**, the newsletter designed to keep colleagues delivering the NHS Breast Screening Programme up to date with news and progress from within the screening community. We have had a fantastic response from you so far, but please do keep us posted with your latest developments by emailing [press.office@nhscancerscreening.co.uk](mailto:press.office@nhscancerscreening.co.uk) or give us a call on **020 7400 4499**. We'd love to hear from you!

**We'd especially like to hear about** any activities you're running that are aimed at engaging with BME/hard-to-reach groups. Sharing innovative ideas will help deliver best practice and a better service for these key populations.

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## Cornwall Breast Screening Unit receives a Royal Visit

Following its conversion to digital mammography, Cornwall Breast Screening Unit was treated to a visit from a special guest on Wednesday 4 May when HRH Princess Alexandra called in.

During her visit to the Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro, the Princess was shown the latest advances in breast screening at the Mermaid Centre, the screening unit that she originally opened in 1998.

The staff said they were thrilled for HRH Princess Alexandra to have visited them again and to be able to show her the advances that have taken place since the Mermaid Centre was originally opened which include the purchase of two new mobile units and installation of three static screening units, along with building alterations to the Mermaid Centre. The £2 million project enabled the breast screening service to become the first in the South West Peninsula to move to fully digital imaging technology.

Dr Donna Christensen, Director of the Cornwall Breast Screening Programme, said "It was a real joy to welcome HRH Princess Alexandra to the screening unit once again. She was really interested in the progress we have made since she came to open the Mermaid Centre in 1998 and delighted to see the advances in technology which are improving diagnosis of breast cancer and benefiting so many women."



*Outside the Cornwall Mobile Breast Screening Unit*

## Breast Screening Programme detects nearly six thousand invasive cancer cases too small to find by hand

Figures released by the NHS Information Centre show that the proportion of eligible women being regularly screened remains constant at more than three quarters of women (76.9 per cent), which is similar to previous years. Over the past 10 years, due to demographic changes and the recent age extension to the Programme, the total number of women being screened has gone up by more than 35 per cent to 1.79 million, meaning the Programme is maintaining its high standards.

Chief executive of The NHS Information Centre Tim Straughan said: "Our figures show that nearly six thousand women screened last year had invasive breast cancers detected that were too small to have been found by hand. This highlights the vital impact of the NHS Breast Screening Programme in detecting breast cancers that are so small they measure less than 15mm and could have otherwise gone unnoticed."

Julietta Patnick CBE, Director of the NHS Cancer Screening Programmes, commented: "These statistics show that the proportion of eligible women being regularly screened remains constant at more than three quarters of women (76.9 per cent), which is similar to previous years. This is particularly pleasing given that over the past 10 years, demographic changes and the recent age extension of the Programme mean that the number of women being screened has gone up by

more than 35 percent. Despite the increase, the Programme is maintaining its high standards. The number of smaller cancers (15mm or less) detected remains steady as well. These are generally too small to be felt by hand alone, so screening is the most effective way to detect them. When found, these smaller cancers are generally earlier in their development and are more likely to respond to treatment, meaning that treatment is more likely to be effective."

A full copy of the report, which includes regional level data is available at [www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/brstscreen0910](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/brstscreen0910)

- In 2009/10 the Programme in England detected 5,913 invasive cancers that were less than 15 millimetres.
- These accounted for just over two-fifths (41.6 per cent) of all 14,229 cancers detected by the programme in 2009/10 among women aged 45 and over.
- The percentage of small invasive cancers, as well as the total number of cancers detected, was slightly higher than last year. In 2008/9, 41.3 per cent (5,850) of the 14,166 cancers detected were invasive and less than 15 millimetres.

## New Breast Screening Recall Cards for the over 70s

The NHS Breast Screening Programme has published a new card for older women who are not automatically invited for screening. At the moment, this is intended for women over 70 but those aged up to 73 will receive it as the age extension rolls out across the country.

To order the cards please contact the Department of Health publication order line:

**Telephone: 0300 123 1002**

**Textphone: 0300 123 1003**

**or visit [www.orderline.dh.gov.uk](http://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk)**

### Come back and see us!

We won't send you screening invitations any more. But you are still entitled to breast screening every three years. use the details overleaf to book an appointment.

## Breast Cancer sufferers on model behaviour for London Fashion Show

Breast cancer charity, Breast Cancer Care, is preparing for its 14th annual Fashion Show in London later this year. The charity's flagship fashion event will feature aspirational models with inspirational stories as all those stepping out onto the catwalk have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

This year's show takes place on 6 October at Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane and celebrates the strength and courage of women who have had or who are living with breast cancer. They are taking to the catwalk to celebrate life after diagnosis while at the same time raising money for the charity.

The models will be joined on the catwalk by Trisha Goddard (of the Trisha show) for extra celebrity sparkle! Fashion show choreographer, Lesley Goring and Hilary Alexander, fashion director at the Telegraph, have also offered their services to make sure the big day is genuinely special.



# Cancer incidence statistics published

New UK statistics showing the most recent cancer incidence rates available for the UK have been collated and published by Cancer Research UK. These show that around 309,500 people were diagnosed with cancer in the UK in 2008; this equates to around 504 cases for every 100,000 people. Between 1979 and 2008, incidence rates for cancer in Great Britain increased by 26 per cent

with a 13 per cent increase in men and a 34 per cent increase in women. However, in the last decade incidence rates have remained fairly constant.

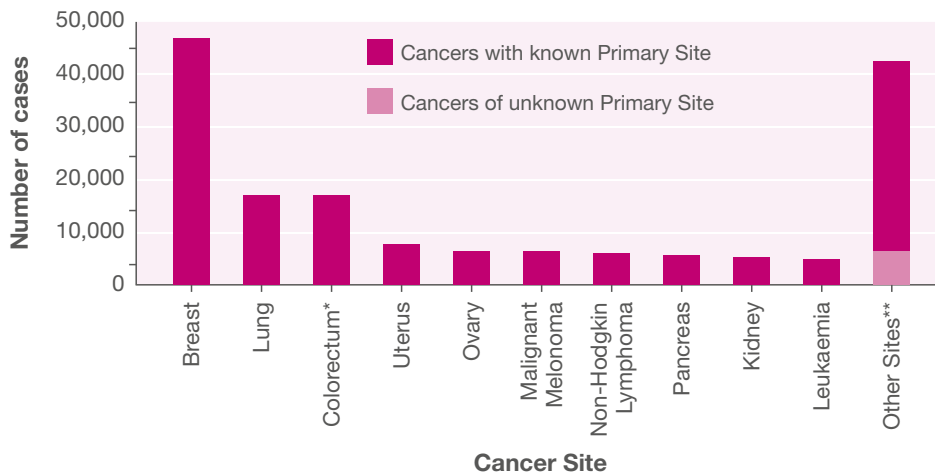
The ten most commonly diagnosed cancers in females in the UK in 2008 are shown below.

Breast cancer, with an age-standardised rate of 124 per 100,000 women, is by far

the most commonly diagnosed cancer in females, accounting for almost one-third (31 per cent) of all female cases.

For further details, see the CRUK website at: <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats>

Cancer Research UK (2011) CancerStats report – Incidence 2008 UK, Cancer Research UK



Cancer Research UK, <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/incidence/commoncancers/>, May 2011

\* Colorectum including anus (C18-C21)  
\*\* 4% of all female cases are registered without specification of the primary site

## Cancer charities meet breast screening experts

In January 2011 the NHS Breast Screening Programme held a half-day meeting at Bart's Hospital in London with representatives from a number of leading cancer charities. This session was an opportunity for the charities to hear from breast screening experts about recent developments in screening and the evidence on which the Programme is based.

Professor Julietta Patnick CBE, Director of the NHS Cancer Screening Programmes, introduced the meeting with a brief overview of the Programme, explaining the history and process of breast screening in England. She was then joined by Professor Dame Valerie Beral, FRS, Director of the Epidemiology Unit at Oxford University, who talked about the current ages for screening, and the pilot age extension schemes. Sarah Sellars, Assistant Director of the Breast Screening Programme, discussed the progress of the digital mammography

roll-out in England, and answered questions about obstacles and delays. She then advised the charities of ways in which they could help.

Professor Stephen Duffy, Professor of Cancer Screening at the Wolfson Institute at the Queen Mary University of London, gave a presentation on the harms versus benefits debate. He considered the evidence and came down firmly on the side of screening, pointing out that for every overdiagnosed case, two lives were saved.

Professor Duffy then moved on to discuss family history and screening, and presented the findings of his FH01 study. These showed that women who were younger than 50 and at medium or greater familial risk of breast cancer would benefit from yearly mammograms. Next, Sarah Sellars explained how the NHSBSP currently conducted higher risk surveillance, and gave examples from the three demonstration sites.

There was plenty of opportunity for open discussion throughout the meeting and it was a useful way for the charities to have their screening-related questions answered. Commenting on

the day, Professor Julietta Patnick said: "This meeting provided an opportunity to update the charities on the way the Screening Programme has developed, while also answering their questions and discussing their activities. Moreover, it was a way for us to thank them for their hard work in helping women make choices about screening, and of encouraging them to continue to raise awareness of the Programme".



**Cancer Screening Programmes**



## Significant improvement in survival from screen-detected breast cancer

New figures released for women diagnosed with breast cancer detected through the NHS Breast Screening Programme show significant improvements in survival. The new report, by the NHSBSP in collaboration with the Association of Breast Surgery (ABS), shows big improvements in 5-year survival for women with cancers that are the most advanced when discovered. Five year survival has improved by 19 per cent between 1992/93 and 2002/03 (from 59 per cent to 78 per cent) for cancers in the poorest prognostic group (large, high grade and with disease spread to the lymph nodes).

The full report can be found on the NHS Cancer Screening website:  
<http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/breastscreen/publications/baso2009-2010.pdf>

**Professor Julietta Patnick commented:**

“ Since the Programme began, the NHSBSP has been an effective part of the UK's efforts to reduce the death toll from breast cancer. We welcome these statistics which show that around one in three breast cancers diagnosed in England is screen-detected and this proportion has been steadily increasing. We know that screen-detected cancer leads to improved chances of survival and so it's great for women that more cancers are being detected by screening. Indeed the extension of the NHSBSP to include women aged 47–73, which is currently being rolled out across England, will further increase the proportion of cancers that will be screen-detected. ”

**Dr Gill Lawrence, Director of the West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit which co-ordinates the audit commented:**

“ It is very pleasing to see the excellent long-term survival rates for women with invasive breast cancers detected through the UK NHSBSP. The steady increase in the number of women who have their breast cancers detected through the UK NHSBSP, means that more women than ever can expect to survive for 15 years or more because their cancers have been diagnosed at a very early stage. It is also gratifying to see the marked improvement in 5-year survival for women diagnosed with later stage disease. This is almost certainly due to the development and use of new therapies, which are bringing huge benefits to all women with breast cancer. ”

## CRUK figures find one woman in eight will get breast cancer

New figures published by Cancer Research UK (CRUK) have found that the lifetime risk of getting breast cancer has risen from one woman in nine to one in eight. Breast cancer rates in the UK have increased by 3.5 per cent in 10 years with 47,700 women of all ages diagnosed with the disease in 2008 compared with 42,400 in 1999.

The biggest rise in rates was in women aged between 50 and 69 where cases increased by more than six per cent in the same 10 year period. Rates among younger women aged 25 to 49 dropped slightly by 0.5 per cent. In 2008 around 22,900 women aged between 50 and 69 were diagnosed with breast cancer – almost half

(48 per cent) of the total number of cases. Around 15,700 cancers (33 per cent) were diagnosed in women over 70 and 9,100 (19 per cent) in women aged 25-49.

Sara Hiom, CRUK's director of health information said: “Almost two out of every three women with breast cancer now survive their disease beyond 20 years. And more than three-quarters of women diagnosed with breast cancer survive for at least 10 years or more.” More information can be found on the CRUK website:

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/types/breast/>





# In Parliament

## In Parliament – “Natural Break” in progress of Health Bill

In early April 2011, the Secretary of State for Health made an emergency statement to the House of Commons on the Government’s plans for the NHS. Following months of criticism of the Health and Social Care Bill, Andrew Lansley proposed a natural break in the progression of the legislation, which would allow the Coalition to “pause, listen and engage with all those who want the NHS to succeed.”

“ In the past 9 months the Tory-led Government has failed to listen, ignoring 6,000 consultation responses and rejecting over 100 Labour amendments to the Bill. This exercise has the hallmarks of an expensive PR stunt. ”

Eager to refute allegations of a u-turn, the official Downing Street line remained supportive of the Health Secretary’s policy:

**“The Government is utterly committed to the NHS and its principles. We are also committed to modernising the NHS. Progress on the ground continues to be impressive - the speculation is ill informed and filled with inaccuracies.”**

Unsurprisingly, the Labour party was quick to capitalise on the apparent backpedalling. John Healey MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Health, called for Cameron to fundamentally re-write his “dangerous” NHS plans. In response to Lansley’s statement, he said: “In the past 9 months the Tory-led Government has failed to listen, ignoring 6,000 consultation responses and rejecting over 100 Labour amendments to the Bill. This exercise has the hallmarks of an expensive PR stunt.”

The Government subsequently set up a series of events as part of their listening exercise, which included centrally organised and local forums. In June, the NHS Future Forum (a group of 45) reported back to the Government on its findings and Andrew Lansley announced that changes would be made to the Bill based on the recommendations from this forum. In June, the House agreed to recommit certain clauses and schedules to the Public Bill Committee. The Committee took written and oral evidence and considered the bill clause by clause throughout July. It is expected that the Bill will have its report and third reading stage on the 6 and 7 September.



*Coalition leaders embark on NHS listening exercise*



*Andrew Lansley MP, Secretary of State for Health*

# Forthcoming events / training dates / diary

## **Nottingham Breast Education Centre**

Blamey Education Centre, Breast Institute, City Hospital Campus, Hucknall Road, Nottingham, NG5 1PB

- **Mentoring Study Day for Radiographers:**  
22nd September 2011
- **Assistant Practitioners Study Day:**  
6th October 2011
- **Breast Care Nurse Study Day:**  
20th October 2011

For further information, please contact Stephanie Bury or visit:

[http:// www.nottinghambreastinstitute.nhs.uk](http://www.nottinghambreastinstitute.nhs.uk)

Email: [nibecenquiries@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:nibecenquiries@nuh.nhs.uk)  
Tel: 0115 969 1689

## **Kingston University/St Georges University of London**

Faculty of Health & Social Care Sciences, School of Radiography, Penhryn Rd, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2EE

The FdSc in Breast Imaging will commence in April 2012. For some applicants, it may now be possible to offer clinical competency in Routine Screening after 1 year on completion of the Ug Cert. Competency in all areas of assessment mammography will be assessed and conferred following the two year programme and completion of the FdSc.

Delivered in conjunction with St Georges and The Jarvis National Breast Screening Training & Education Centres. College of Radiographers approved and accredited.

For more information and details of further modules please contact Judi Curtis:

Email: [judi.curtis@sgul.kingston.ac.uk](mailto:judi.curtis@sgul.kingston.ac.uk)  
Tel: 020 8417 2504

## **Jarvis National Breast Screening Training Centre**

Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1LJ

- **Clinical Breast Examination & Client Communication:**  
11th October 2011 – This is a double module, worth 30 postgraduate credits, covering both theory and clinical skills.

In addition, the training centre offers the two year Foundation Degree in Breast Imaging, validated by St Georges, University of London, for employed Assistant Practitioners:

- **Foundation to Clinical Skills Supporting Assessment Techniques and Foundation to Clinical Skills in Mammography:**  
5th September 2011
- **Promotion of Health Awareness & Multi-disciplinary Interaction, Performance of Specialist Views Supporting Triple Assessment and Management of Challenging Situations:**  
19th September 2011

For further information, please contact Angela Jones:

Email: [angela.jones@surreypct.nhs.uk](mailto:angela.jones@surreypct.nhs.uk)  
Tel: 01483 783 260

## **King's College Hospital Breast Screening Training Centre**

South East London National Breast Screening Training Centre, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, SE5 9RS

- **Mammography Image Interpretation in partnership with London South Bank University:**  
12th – 16th September 2011

Postgraduate Award in Breast Imaging in partnership with London South Bank University:

- **Theory Module:**  
10 – 14th October 2011  
Theory Practice: Five day course may be undertaken before or after the theory unit
- **Clinical Breast Examination and Communication Skills in partnership with London South Bank University:**  
31st October – 2nd November 2011

NEW 3 day course for practitioners working within the breast unit who wish to develop specific knowledge base and skills set in clinical breast examinations and respond to the communication needs of the patient.

For further information, please contact Training Co-ordinator Makeda Bent:  
Tel: 0203 299 3870