

## Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 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.

### Editor:

Professor Julietta Patnick CBE  
Director of NHS Cancer Screening Programmes  
Fulwood House  
5 Old Fulwood Road  
Sheffield, S10 3TH

### Editorial Team:

NHS Breast Screening Programme  
Press Office  
70 Gray's Inn Road  
London, WC1X 8AT  
Tel: 020 7400 4499  
Fax: 020 7400 4481  
Email: [press.office@nhscancerscreening.co.uk](mailto:press.office@nhscancerscreening.co.uk)

## New independent review into breast screening

On 25 October 2011, the National Cancer Director, Professor Sir Mike Richards announced an independent review of the evidence underpinning the NHS Breast Screening Programme, which he will carry out in partnership with Harpal Kumar, the Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK. It will analyse all the relevant research, including randomised control trials and observational studies relevant to breast screening. The review is to be reported to experts, including the Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer Screening, and then published in 2012.

“ Our advice has not changed – we urge all women to go for breast screening when invited. The best available evidence shows that screening saves lives by detecting cancers earlier than they would otherwise have been.

“Our screening programme has always been regularly scrutinised and evaluated. We know that some scientists differ in their views towards screening so in order to find consensus we have asked the National Cancer Director Professor Sir Mike Richards, to review the evidence in partnership with Harpal Kumar, Chief Executive of at Cancer Research UK.

“We will look at the findings of the review. ”

**Department of Health spokesperson**

In the meantime, guidance has not changed on breast screening. The best available evidence shows that screening saves lives by detecting cancers earlier which can make treatment more effective. Our screening programme has always been regularly scrutinised and evaluated but we know that some scientists differ in their views towards screening. The overall aim of the review is

to develop an up-to-date assessment of both the benefits and harms associated with breast screening programmes.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) evaluated the evidence on breast cancer screening in March 2002. IARC concluded that trials have provided sufficient evidence for the screening of women between 50 and 69 years, and that the reduction in mortality from breast cancer among women who chose to participate in screening programmes was estimated to be about 35 per cent.<sup>[1]</sup> In 2006, the independent Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer Screening estimated that screening saved 1,400 lives per year in England.<sup>[2]</sup>

It is important to note that breast screening will not be stopped as a result of this review. Early detection still offers women the best possible chance in the fight against breast cancer. The major differences in opinion surround the levels of over-diagnosis and the information given to women to allow them to make an informed choice on whether or not to be screened. Based on the results of the review, the information may need to be changed, and the Department of Health is putting in place an academic team to develop and evaluate all our cancer screening materials.

[1] IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention – Volume 7: Breast Cancer Screening (2002)

[2] Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer Screening, *Screening for Breast Cancer in England: Past and Future* (2006)

“ Breakthrough Breast Cancer believes that breast screening is vital as it can detect breast cancer at the earliest possible stages when no other symptoms are obvious. The current debate over the pros and cons of screening may be very confusing for women and so we welcome this review. We hope it will mean women are reassured that all the evidence has been considered and the information they receive is accurate and balanced.”

**Chris Askew**  
Chief Executive Breakthrough Breast Cancer



# Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year!

from all at the NHS  
Breast Screening Programme



## Breast Cancer Support Group launched for Asian women



*The event was attended  
by clinicians and  
interested women*

The UK's first Asian Women's Breast Cancer Support Group has been launched in Manchester by the Genesis Breast Cancer Prevention Appeal in conjunction

with the University Hospital of South Manchester. The charity set up the group to encourage early diagnosis within Greater Manchester's Asian communities. It aims to provide a safe environment for Asian women to talk about their experiences of breast cancer, and to improve cross-cultural communication between Asian women and clinicians.

The support group was created following last year's Asian Women's Breast Awareness Conference, which was also arranged by Genesis. Research carried out by Genesis and presented at the conference analysed the reasons for low uptake in ethnic groups. It found that many Asian women not only ignored invitations for routine mammograms but were also afraid to come forward when they had symptoms.

Some were also worried that having a mammogram meant taking their clothes off in public.

The support group, which includes doctors, nurses and Asian women was launched by Professor Anil Jain, Consultant Radiologist at University Hospital South Manchester, and Lester Barr, Consultant Surgeon and Chairman of the Genesis Breast Cancer Prevention Appeal. They said: "This event has been a long time coming. Genesis has worked tirelessly to uncover the reasons why breast screening uptake across Asian communities is so poor. Thanks to our studies and last year's conference, we now have the answers and the tools with which to combat it. We hope this support group will help to promote breast screening among the UK's Asian community, improve their breast cancer awareness and help change cultural attitudes towards breast cancer. Above all, by improving this situation, we hope to save lives."

*Genesis*  
breast cancer prevention appeal

# National Cancer Intelligence Network publishes 'All Breast Cancer Report'



The second *All Breast Cancer Report* published this year finds that survival rates of screen detected breast cancer are equal irrespective of social background.

The report looks at how the impact of treatment and route of diagnosis, (whether through screening or referral from a GP because of symptoms), affects women's chances of surviving breast cancer and how this varies with levels of deprivation. The findings show that poorer women from deprived areas were less likely to survive breast cancer than their affluent counterparts as their tumours were diagnosed at a later stage.

For women presenting with symptoms of breast cancer, the report found a 15 per cent difference between the most (68 per cent) and least (83 per cent) deprived in those women who survive for more than five years. But there was very little difference in survival between the most and least deprived women who were diagnosed through screening.

Gill Lawrence, Director of the West Midlands Cancer Intelligence Unit and report author, said:

"These figures show that even though a greater number of affluent women develop breast cancer every year, poorer women are more likely to die from the disease. Not going for screening and delays in going to the doctor mean that less affluent women are being diagnosed with later stage cancers which need more invasive surgery and are far less likely to be treated with breast conserving surgery.

But, if these women attend screening, are breast aware and go to their doctor as soon as they notice anything unusual for them such as a lump or changes to the nipple like a rash or dimpling there's no reason why poorer women shouldn't have the same chance of survival as more affluent women."

Professor Julietta Patnick, Director of the NHS Cancer Screening Programmes comments: "The statistics published add to the extensive and growing body of evidence that strongly suggests breast screening provides better outcomes for women diagnosed with breast cancer. The figures show that screening helps reduce the negative effects of health inequality that have historically meant

poor women are likely to die earlier from breast cancer than the more affluent. It is estimated that the NHS Breast Screening Programme saves 1,400 lives each year in England. Whether from an impoverished or wealthy background, screening improves a woman's chances of surviving breast cancer through identifying tumours earlier, making treatment more effective. By bringing forward diagnosis, screening helps us find those cancers that would otherwise not be caught until later in life, by which time they could be fatal."

The full report can be found here: [www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/breastscreen/research-second-all-breast-cancer-report.html](http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/breastscreen/research-second-all-breast-cancer-report.html)



## Downing Street turns pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month



*Downing St has seen several colours in its time but never pink - until now*

Downing Street supported Breast Cancer Campaign during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month, by giving one of the country's most iconic buildings a makeover.

" I'm delighted we are able help raise awareness of breast cancer, a disease that affects thousands of women every year, as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Tackling cancer is a priority for this Government and we want to raise survival rates to be among the best in Europe. Early detection can massively increase the chances of survival which is why fantastic campaigns like this are so important. I hope seeing 10 Downing Street go pink will inspire other people to get involved. "

**David Cameron**  
Prime Minister

" We are delighted to be working with Downing Street to promote breast cancer awareness and think pink is definitely a colour it can carry off. Great progress has been made in survival rates thanks to advances in research, but we must continue to work together in order to beat breast cancer. "

**Baroness Delyth Morgan**  
Chief Executive of Breast Cancer Campaign

# News from the breast screening units...

## Goodbye to Barbara Eckersley, Greater Manchester Breast Screening Programme

September saw the retirement of Barbara Eckersley from the Nightingale Centre in Manchester. She leaves after over 20 years in breast screening, eleven of which have been spent as Superintendent at the Nightingale Centre.

Barbara trained as a radiographer in Belfast and soon joined the radiographic staff at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport where she became Deputy Superintendent. In 1989, at the start of NHS Breast Screening Programme, she moved to the Nightingale Centre and worked as a screening mammographer. In the mid 1990s, Barbara became the Regional QA Radiographer at a time when the role and duties were being developed. She was one of the first radiographers in the UK to be trained as an advanced practitioner and attended the first film reading course at Salford University where she won the prize for the most outstanding student.

In 1999 she was appointed as Superintendent Radiographer and played a key role in developing plans for the new Nightingale Centre, which opened in 2007. Barbara's work assessing and purchasing new digital equipment ensured a smooth transition to the new fully digital department. Recognised as an expert in the field, she was invited to speak about digital integration at meetings across the UK, and also oversaw the development of a fully digital screening service for Greater Manchester.

Barbara was instrumental in organising the roll out of full age extension in the area, as well as a large out-of hours study in collaboration with Bristol. For many years she served on the QA Radiographers' committee (the 'Big 18') and the National Training Committee.



*Barbara Eckersley,  
Superintendent of the  
Nightingale Centre*

Dr Mary Wilson, Director of the Greater Manchester Breast Screening Programme, paid tribute: "Barbara will be a familiar figure to so many staff across the UK who regularly contacted her for her unfailingly professional advice, always given in a most calm and constructive manner and with a great deal of humour and good will. She will be much missed by her colleagues and friends."



*The radiography team  
at the North London  
Breast Screening Service*

Congratulations to the radiography team at the North London Breast Screening Service who have been awarded Radiography Team of the Year for London by the Society of Radiographers.

## Award for the North London Breast Screening Service

The North London Breast Screening Service is one of the largest breast screening services in England and was the first London service to become fully digital in 2009.

The prestigious awards ceremony was held at the House of Commons on 8 November and honoured professionals who have demonstrated clinical excellence and best practice in diagnostic and therapeutic radiography. The awards were presented by Chief Health Professions Officer Jacqui Lunday.

Rashma Kumrai, Acting Superintendent Radiographer, was delighted at winning and said: "I am really proud that our

team has been recognised for their hard work and services. It will definitely give us the incentive to strive for further improvements."

**“** This team has displayed commitment to excellence in developing services and to placing patients at the centre of all activities. **”**

**Sue Johnson**  
President of the Society  
and College of Radiographers



# In Parliament

## Health & Social Care Bill returns to Parliament

In September, the Health & Social Care Bill re-entered the House of Lords. Despite opposition from some corners of the House, peers voted down a number of bids to delay the Bill at its first and second readings.

The Committee stage saw a great deal of discussion by Peers over the proposed transfer of responsibility for the NHS from the Secretary of State for Health to an unelected NHS Commissioning Board. After a series of

amendments were disregarded, negotiations continue to take place, which if prolonged, would provide a significant challenge to Andrew Lansley's plans for the Bill to attain Royal Assent before the New Year.

## Ed Miliband appoints new Shadow Health Team



In October 2011, Ed Miliband MP, Leader of the Opposition, announced his new frontbench team following an autumn reshuffle. Among a number of key ministerial appointments, Andy Burnham MP made a return to the health brief after John Healey MP decided to step down from the Shadow Cabinet for personal reasons. In a letter to Ed Miliband, Mr Healey said he had "relished the last year as Shadow Health Secretary" but felt that it was "time for me to put my family first".

Andy Burnham MP served in the Cabinet under Gordon Brown from 2007 to 2010 as Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Culture Secretary and Health Secretary. He was a candidate in the 2010 Labour leadership election, coming fourth out of the five candidates, and was subsequently appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Education. Since his move to Shadow

Health Secretary in October, he has launched a major national campaign calling on the Government to "Drop the Bill".

### The new Shadow Health Team also includes:

**Liz Kendall MP**, Shadow Minister for Care and older people

**Diane Abbott MP**, Shadow Minister for Public Health

**Andrew Gwynne MP**, Shadow Minister of State for Health with responsibility for legislation, NHS financial performance and NHS performance

**Jamie Reed MP**, Shadow Minister of State for Health, with responsibility for medicines, pharmacy and industry

## And finally...

The results of the breast screening age extension pilot study have now been published.

The 2007 Cancer Reform Strategy recommended the extension of breast screening to include women aged between 47 and 73 years old, guaranteeing that all women will be screened at least once before the age of 50, and then receive eight further invitations. This will eventually mean offering screening to 400,000 more women each year.

Following the announcement, the NHS Breast Screening Programme set up five pilot sites in Guildford, Bolton, King's

College London, Coventry and Manchester to investigate the practicalities of inviting women routinely from 47–73, rather than from 50–70 which later proceeded into a full randomised control trial, involving more than 70 units.

Speaking about the trial, Sarah Sellars, Assistant Director of the NHS Cancer Screening Programmes, said:

**"We are very pleased indeed with the results of the age extension pilot study. The study found that the pilot sites coped well with the extra workload and no major problems of feasibility or acceptability of randomisation were discovered."**

This pilot study has informed the randomised phasing-in of the age extension across the whole of England and full roll-out to women aged 47–49 and 71–73 is now expected to be completed after 2016.

**The full report can be found here:**  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21852703>

# Forthcoming events / training dates / diary

## Nottingham Breast Education Centre

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

- **Breast Biopsy Update Study Day:** 26 January 2012
- **Non Operative Breast Pathology Update Course:** 18 and 19 April 2012

For further information, please contact Stephanie Bury or visit:

<http://www.nottinghambreastinstitute.nhs.uk>

Email: [nibecenquiries@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:nibecenquiries@nuh.nhs.uk)

Tel: 0115 969 1689

## Jarvis National Breast Screening Training Centre

Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1LJ

- **RAM014 'Interpretation & Reporting in Mammography':** 16 January 2012 – this is a double module, worth 30 postgraduate credits, covering both theory and clinical skills.
- **RAM025 'Ultrasound of the Breast':** 12 March 2012 – this is a double module, worth 30 postgraduate credits, covering both theory and clinical skills.
- **RAM003 'Advanced Principles & Practice of Breast Interventional Techniques':** 26 March 2012 – this is a double module, worth 30 postgraduate credits, covering both theory and clinical skills.
- **RAM007 'Clinical Breast Examination & Client Communication'** – 14 May 2012 – this is a double module, worth 30 postgraduate credits, covering both theory and clinical skills.

All of the above are multi-disciplinary and cater for Breast Clinicians, surgeons, specialist registrars, Advanced Practice Radiographers and Breast Care Nurses. (Applicants should be employed and have regular access to the related clinics or practice). Students need to be registered with the university at least 8 weeks in advance of the delivery date, so inquiries or applications should be made much earlier in the calendar.

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. This is a 2 year programme, consisting of 8 double modules.

- **6 February 2012 – Delivery of 'Development of Mammography Competences'.**

- **16 April 2012 – Delivery of 'Introduction to the Workplace'**
- **11 June 2012 – Delivery of 'Application of Mammography Practice'.**
- **10 September 2012 – Delivery of two modules entitled:-** 'Foundation to Clinical Skills Supporting Assessment Techniques' and 'Foundation to Clinical Skills in Mammography'.
- **17 September 2012 – Delivery of three modules entitled:-** 'Promotion of Health Awareness & Multi-disciplinary Interaction', 'Performance of Specialist Views Supporting Triple Assessment' and 'Management of Challenging Situations'.

For further details, 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

- **Breast Tomosynthesis Study Day:** 23 February 2012 – this study day is for radiologists/advanced practitioners who are interested in gaining knowledge and experience in the reading and interpretation of this new and exciting field of breast imaging – King's was the first centre in the UK to trial and implement the use of tomosynthesis. As a result they have more than 1000 cases from which to draw expertise.

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

## St. George's National Breast Education Centre

The Rose Centre, St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust, Blackshaw Road, London, SW17 0QT

- **2-Day Multi Disciplinary Study Day at St. George's Hospital:** 16 and 17 January 2012 – this 2-day study day is aimed at senior trainees and junior Consultants in Breast Imaging, Surgery and Pathology and would also be of interest to Advanced Practitioners who are undertaking clinical work. An experienced multi-disciplinary faculty will cover all aspects of current management of breast disease from benign disease through early to advanced breast cancer. Places are limited to allow delegates to participate in case based discussion between

formal lectures. This day provides a useful overview for clinical staff from all disciplines involved in the management of patients with breast disease.

- **Peer Review Assessor Training at St George's Hospital:** 8 March 2012 – this day is run in conjunction with CHKS (formerly King's Fund Organisational audit). It is aimed at Breast Screening staff of any discipline who have recently become members of the QA team or are planning to join their QA team and undertake Quality Assurance visits. The faculty includes experienced Quality Assurance Peer Review Assessors. The day will cover the organization of Breast Screening Quality Assurance as well as giving an insight into the principles of peer reviewing. There will be sessions including practical exercises in preparation; evidence gathering and evaluation; interview techniques; constructive feedback and report structuring and writing. This day will be of considerable value for those undertaking QA visits.
- **Professional Practice in Mammography (PgC):** 23 April 2012 at St George's Hospital (For Radiographers specialising in Mammography) – This is a newly developed course that has progressed from the 'Certificate of Competence' in Mammography. The course lasts for one year and aims to facilitate the professional development of the student to enable them to gain the experience and expertise necessary to become an effective, competent, independent mammography practitioner within the multidisciplinary breast care team in which they are a member.
- **Problem based Master Class in Breast MRI at St. George's Hospital:** Spring 2012 – this day is aimed at experienced Breast Imagers. A prestigious faculty will cover developments and techniques in MRI. The number of places is limited to allow lectures to be interspersed with interactive sessions where delegates can review and discuss clinical cases with the faculty at dedicated workstations. This day gives an excellent over-view of Breast MRI.

For further information please contact Sharon Montaque or visit

[www.stgbec.org.uk](http://www.stgbec.org.uk)

Email: [sharon.montaque@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:sharon.montaque@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

Tel: 0208 725 1534