

# Foundation NEWS

The newsletter for members of The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust • May 2006



## Is screening the way forward for the Royal Marsden?

**T**he early detection of cancer is key to improving survival rates.

Professor Janet Husband, Consultant Radiologist, presented the most recent facts and figures on national and international practice and the role of screening at the last Membership Council.

### National programmes

Professor Husband said there are national programmes for screening breast and cervical cancers.

She explained it is estimated that breast cancer screening for women aged between 50 and 70 years old helps reduce mortality nationwide by about 20 to 30 per cent.

### Guidance

The Royal Marsden follows National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance for screening women with a history of breast cancer, including people under 50 years old.

Bowel cancer screening using Faecal Occult Blood Testing (FOBT) is planned to be phased in, in the UK for men and women aged 60 to 69 this year.

### Predicted

FOBT randomised controlled trials have previously predicted that screening for colorectal cancer could save 2,500 lives a year in the UK.

### Advantage

Professor Husband said: "The advantage of early cancer detection is that not only does it increase the chances of survival but it also promotes a seamless patient pathway for patient care.

"It can also help us build up a database for research.

"The disadvantage of wide-spread screening programmes is that it is expensive to establish and resource.

"The Trust is still trying to establish its role in screening and where it can add value."



*Professor Janet Husband, Consultant Radiologist*

Professor Husband stated that the Royal Marsden could extend genetic advice and testing for high risk groups in the future or propose risk reduction surgery for prevention.

The development of services in early diagnosis would add value.

### Excellent

The new Rapid Diagnostic and Assessment Centre (RDAC) in Chelsea will provide an excellent facility for the development of targeted genetic screening. Professor Husband explained the RDAC will enable patients with suspected breast, prostate and skin cancers to receive an early diagnosis.

This will then offer the Royal Marsden the chance to

implement a treatment plan at the earliest opportunity.

Professor Husband said: "The RDAC will help transform the way we treat and care for patients.

"It will provide prompt and accurate diagnosis under one roof." ■

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# A bright future for radiotherapy



**W**ork on the construction of state-of-the-art radiotherapy treatment facilities on the Sutton site is well under way.

An area, equivalent to the size of five Olympic swimming pools, has been excavated to accommodate an underground extension adjacent to the existing department.

At its peak, up to 70 lorries took chalk from the site each day and 50 lorries brought concrete for the foundations.

Over 19,000 cubic metres of chalk was removed from the site.

Though the work has caused some disruption, Radiotherapy Services Manager Jan Balycky praised staff, building contractors and local residents.

### Impressed

Jan said: "I'm very impressed with how we're coping despite the day to day difficulties we experience with our treatment unit capacity reduced by 20 per cent during the replacement and development programme. We have still managed to meet all of the radiotherapy waiting times targets in 2005/06.

"All the radiotherapy staff have been extraordinarily flexible during the building work. And we've had fantastic co-operation from Facilities

and Mansell, the contractors.

"I would like to thank local residents for their support and apologise for any inconvenience the project has caused."

The building project involves expanding the department to accommodate more Linear Accelerators.

### Completion

On completion the new department will have seven of

the machines. This will expand access to some of the most technically advanced radiotherapy treatment available. The new suite will be finished and partly in use by July 2007 and will be fully clinical by the end of that year.

On top of this, the service, is also celebrating ten years of ISO 9001-2000 quality accreditation. ■



Senior Radiographers Sarah Bothwell and Catherine Best



## The Royal Marsden tops Saga's Good Hospital Guide

**T**he Royal Marsden Hospital has been voted England's best hospital for treatment of the over 50s in a survey commissioned by Saga Magazine. The Trust was awarded seven credits out of ten and topped the list of 26 hospitals in England that achieved five credits or more.

Scores were awarded according to the following key factors:

- Quality of care in each hospital – number of

doctors and nurses and mortality ratios

- Patient experience – including cleanliness and confidence in the doctors
- Infection control – incidence of MRSA
- Access to services – including inpatient and outpatient waiting times.

Cally Palmer, Chief Executive of The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We really are absolutely delighted and thrilled to have won. All our staff consider it a privilege to provide a service for people

at a difficult and vulnerable time in their lives."

### Guidance

"We know that a patient's well-being is as much about personal care and support and quality of environment as it is about medical treatment.

"Many of our patients continue to return to us for checks, investigations or treatment and this means we can build a continuing relationship with them and their families.

"We try very hard to meet everyone's individual

needs, and the support and feedback from patients helps us to provide the very highest quality of care." ■



# Election Fever

**T**he Foundation Trust Office has been busy planning for the forthcoming elections.

## Invited

Patient members in East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey and South West London have been invited to stand in the elections this month.

The nomination period opened on 3 May and will close on 19 May.

## Membership

While electing Councillors for the two vacancies, the Foundation Office is also planning to increase existing membership in East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey.

Membership Support Manager Sarah Peters said: "The election is a good

opportunity for our members in the two areas to become more involved by representing others at the Membership Council.

"We will be sending the names of the candidates to members on 22 May.

"The candidates' names will also be available on our website.

"We hope people will take the time to vote for the candidate they would most like to represent them at Membership Council meetings."

The voting will open on 5 June and close on 21 June.

## Displayed

The results will be posted to members as well as being displayed on the hospital's website on 22 June.

[www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk](http://www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk) ■

# FEEDBACK FROM QUESTIONNAIRE

**T**he Foundation Trust Office has arranged a members' surgery prior to the Membership Council meeting this week.

Members, who requested to meet their Councillor in the membership questionnaire, have been invited to come in and discuss any issues or concerns. Membership Support Manager Sarah Peters explained the surgery was arranged as a direct response from the feedback received from the membership questionnaire.

Sarah said: "A number of people requested the opportunity to speak to a Councillor and we wanted to offer them the chance to do this.

"We are arranging a formal open day later in the

year which will give all our members the chance to meet their Councillor."

The findings of the questionnaire, which was attached to the last edition of *Foundation News*, have been collated by the Foundation Office and will be formally presented by Sarah at the meeting on 10 May.

The questionnaire asked members a range of questions concerning *Foundation News*, the best channel of communication and how often members would like to meet their Councillor.

Sarah said: "I would like to thank everyone who sent back their questionnaires and congratulate lucky Angela Velden who won a bottle of champagne in the prize draw." ■



## YOUR COUNCILLORS

**O**ur members are a key part of the Royal Marsden, influencing how the Trust is run and its future development. Members have the opportunity to support, contribute and influence the development of The Royal Marsden Hospital as a leading cancer centre in research, treatment and education. Elected Councillors represent the views of members at the Membership Council.

### Your Councillors

#### Patients

##### *Paediatric and Adolescent*

James Miller: [likoni20@hotmail.com](mailto:likoni20@hotmail.com)

##### *South West London*

Anita Gray, Richard Penn, Donald Watson  
Vacancy

##### *East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey*

Dr James Laxton: [laxtonchemistry@btinternet.com](mailto:laxtonchemistry@btinternet.com)  
Vacancy

##### *Greater London*

Susan Nyfield, Helen Rowlands

##### *Elsewhere in England*

Sally Mason, Sue Robinson

#### Carers

Balbir Chowdhary: [balbirchowdhary@aol.com](mailto:balbirchowdhary@aol.com),  
Professor Ton Coolen, Ronald Rustin

#### Public

Sheila Ann Newsum – *Kensington and Chelsea*  
Anthony Hazeldine – *Sutton and Merton*  
Robert Shearer – *Elsewhere in England*

#### Staff

##### *Doctor*

Professor Ian Smith: [ian.smith@rmh.nhs.uk](mailto:ian.smith@rmh.nhs.uk)

##### *Nurse*

Shelley Dolan: [shelley.dolan@rmh.nhs.uk](mailto:shelley.dolan@rmh.nhs.uk)

##### *Other clinical professional*

Richard Keane: [richard.keane@rmh.nhs.uk](mailto:richard.keane@rmh.nhs.uk)

##### *Non-clinical*

Peter Kirkham: [peter.kirkham@rmh.nhs.uk](mailto:peter.kirkham@rmh.nhs.uk)

### Nominated Councillors

Professor Keith Wilson – Institute of Cancer Research

Charlotte Joll – South West London Cancer Network

Liz Jones – West London Cancer Network

Councillor Iain Hanham – London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Andrew Seddon – Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust

Dominic Conlin – Croydon Primary Care Trust

Andrew Kenworthy – Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust

To be confirmed – East Elmbridge and Surrey Primary Care Trust

Angel Galpine – Cancer Research UK

If no contact details are shown or you are not on email then please contact your Councillor through the Foundation Trust Office (details on the back page). When emailing your Councillor please put 'Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust' in the subject box. ■

# New website launched

**T**he Royal Marsden's new-look website promises to be a valuable and powerful new communication tool for patients, health professionals, staff and members.

Over the past year, the site has been completely

redesigned and modernised to reflect the Trust's image as a world class cancer centre.

According to Web Editor, Abigail Sawyer, the redesign improves the user's experience, makes information easier to access and raises the hospital's profile.

The new website will be vital for providing patients with information about what to expect when receiving treatment at the Royal Marsden and information about different types of cancer and treatments.

Abigail said: "Our primary users are patients and so the main thrust of the project has been to meet their needs in terms of information provision.

"Coming into hospital can be an intimidating experience, so being able to find out a huge range of information on the website, including everything from hospital facilities to visiting hours, is extremely reassuring."

## Information

Members can use the website to access information on their elected Councillor.

Healthcare professionals can browse information on patient referrals, training and educational opportunities, research projects being undertaken at the hospital, and apply for jobs.

[www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk](http://www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk) ■



## Dates for your diary

### Spring Meeting

The Membership Council is due to meet at 11am to 1pm, on Wednesday 10 May, in the Refectory, Education and Conference Centre, at the Chelsea site.

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is due to be held at 4.30pm, on Wednesday 13 September in Sutton, room to be confirmed.

### Final 2006 Meeting

The final Membership Council for 2006 is due to take place at 11am to 1pm, on 22 November, in the Refectory, Education and Conference Centre, at the Chelsea site. ■

## Reaping the rewards of Foundation Trust status

**T**wo years after becoming one of the first wave of hospitals in the UK to be awarded NHS Foundation Trust status, the Royal Marsden is reaping the rewards.

Director of Finance Alan Goldsman has announced the Trust delivered a Development Reserve of £2m in the last financial year 2005/06.

### State-of-the-art

The £2m capital has allowed the Trust to invest in long term projects such as the Picture Archiving & Communications System (PACS) installation, a state-of-the-art computer system which revolutionises the way x-rays and scans are stored and viewed at the Royal Marsden.

Alan said: "We have saved money by using cost effective ways to deliver services. We have done really well to meet our targets and have committed £1.7m to install PACS and £300,000 to revenue schemes."

The Patient Navigator role is one of the revenue schemes. The role tracks and monitors patients by chasing all clinical information such as CT scans from other Trusts and ensure patients receive a faster referral to the Royal Marsden.

The NHS Cancer Plan has set a 62-day target for patients to receive their first treatment for all cancers following an urgent GP referral.

The 62-day target is challenging as it involves working with other hospitals to ensure patients urgently referred by their GP are fast-tracked through their diagnostic tests in other hospitals.

Alan said: "The development reserve we achieved in 2004/05 helped us invest in a new modular theatre for Chelsea.

"Foundation Trust status has enabled us to manage our finances so we can create a development reserve and make some long term financial commitments." ■

## New Divisional Medical Director at the Royal Marsden

**T**he Royal Marsden has appointed Dr Michael King as its new Divisional Medical Director for Clinical Services, following the end of Dr Diana Tait's term of office.

Dr King said he was "absolutely delighted" with his

appointment, and said he "looks forward to working closely with the Trust to develop the highest quality patient care and cancer research facilities."

Dr King has been Lead Radiologist at the Royal Marsden for the past six years,

after being appointed a Consultant Radiologist at the hospital in 1979. During his time as Lead Radiologist, Dr King led the initiative to develop a Picture Archiving & Communications System (PACS) at the hospital. ■

## Keep in touch

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