

Pan London research and development

RM Partners, in collaboration with its Cancer Vanguard partner, UCLH Cancer Collaborative and the South East London Accountable Cancer Network, is delivering on a research strategy across 10 million people, aligning to the main aims and focuses of the Cancer Vanguard.

The goal is to accelerate the delivery of the key outcomes from the national cancer strategy: Achieving World Class Cancer Outcomes (July 2015).

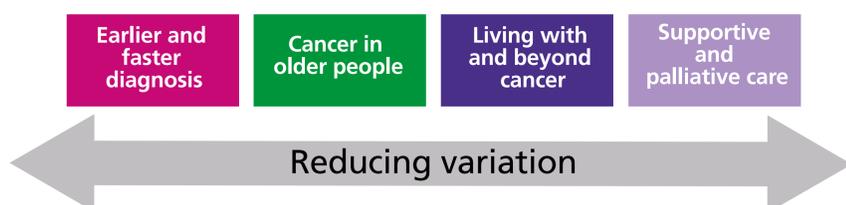
These include:

- Improving survival through early diagnosis and detection
- Reducing variation and improving access to high quality care
- Focusing on older people with cancer
- Optimising the management of patients surviving cancer during and after their treatment
- Improving access to expert palliative and end of life care

Where new models of care are being proposed, there are major opportunities for research questions to be asked in parallel, thus providing evidence which will help to inform the evaluation of these models.

Approach

The R&D Directorate comprises an R&D Director, Professor Stan Kaye, and an R&D Manager, Dr Michelle Chen. A Research Board provides governance and oversight of the research strategy, with representation from scientific experts, academics, and funders across London. A pan London research strategy has been agreed upon with five workstreams which map onto the Cancer Vanguard's overall objective.



Researchers with expertise in each of the areas have formed collaborative work groups. These groups will then identify where research carried out at scale can contribute to improvements in patient experience and outcomes. An annual collaborative fellowship programme has been launched, with equal contributions from each of the London-based Cancer Alliances, to fund clinical and allied health professionals to undertake projects in each of the research workstreams.

Achievements to date

RM Partners has been working with stakeholders from across the three London-based Cancer Alliances to establish a number of working groups in each of the priority workstreams.

- A successful early diagnosis research workshop was held last year, where opportunities for research were identified to be carried out alongside new models of care.
- Research groups specifically addressing early detection of lung cancer and colorectal cancer have been established, and trials will be underway in 2018, examining population enrichment strategies for cancer screening.
- The R&D Directorate launched the latest call of funding from SBRI Healthcare alongside the AHSN, which aims to bring new technologies into the NHS, which had a focus on earlier and faster detection of cancer.
- A review paper has been published examining outcomes in older women diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer, which will lead to a multicentre clinical trial assessing the feasibility of a geriatric assessment tool in older women diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2018.
- The living with and beyond cancer research group has begun patient recruitment at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre into the clinical trial, CanGUIDE, a web-based patient decision making tool to support Goals of Care. This is a collaboration with Greater Manchester Vanguard Innovation, who is sponsoring and funding this study.
- The TCC Sing with Us study completed recruitment of 400 patients living with and beyond cancer across a number of Trusts within RM Partners, which examined the effect of choir singing on psychological and immune responses of cancer patients, staff and carers. Results are expected to be reported later in the year.
- Six fellowship awards were funded this year through the pan-London research fellowship scheme, which is supported by each of the three London-based Cancer Alliances and the Biomedical Research Centres (BRC) at Imperial College London and at The Royal Marsden Hospital and the Institute of Cancer Research.



Long term goals

The long term goal of a pan-London research strategy is to define future best practice by utilising all relevant expertise across London. Where new models of care and guidelines are being developed, adoption of evidence-based techniques and innovation are being considered. Research carried out at the scale of London provides potential to identify contrasts in outcomes and variations by socioeconomic, demographic and genetic factors. The Cancer Alliances governance framework allows for the spread of innovation to be taken up at every opportunity and wide dissemination of research evidence to be scaled up further across all Cancer Alliances nationally.

For more information

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