



Dear all,

Welcome to our first newsletter, which enables me to update you on the ways in which we have adapted to Coronavirus (COVID-19) and explain where we are up to with the project.

Firstly, I hope you and your friends and family are keeping well during these unprecedented times.

Participant Recruitment at Clatterbridge

On the 17th March, 2020 we learnt that recruitment into non-interventional studies at Clatterbridge Hospital were to be suspended. At this point we were very close to being open to recruitment so it was a blow, albeit an understandable and expected one.

As of 24th July, we have been given the greenlight for recruitment to begin and have therefore been able to send all the recruitment materials to the team at CCC who will be recruiting patients on site.

Gynae-Narratives On-Line

During the period of non-recruitment, we were successful in securing additional funding for an on-line project that will run alongside the gynae narratives main study.

This on-line project will collect narratives from people who have finished treatment and also from partners and carers of people who have had treatment for gynaecological cancer.

We hope this will provide supplementary material to support the main study and will also address some of the issues we discussed in our first steering group meeting about the longer-term effects of treatment and carer experiences. Moving on-line will also enable us to continue should any further breaks in recruitment for the main project be needed.

This on-line project has been given approval by the Lancaster University Faculty of Health and Medicine Research Ethics Committee, rather than an NHS committee and therefore all recruitment will be through existing contacts and word of mouth, rather than in clinic / hospital recruitment.

More details about the on-line project can be found at the end of the newsletter. Please do feel free to share the details with others who may be interested.

New Logo

As you will see from the top of the newsletter, we have a new logo. The logo was designed by Jon Geddes (from Lancaster University digital design) and Hilary.

The logo represents collaboration, inclusivity and growth, bringing together the colours of Lancaster University, Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and the NHS.

Staff News

Mette Kragh-Furbo started her maternity leave on 16th March and baby Sylvester was born on Mother's

Day, 22nd March. They are all well and managing as a new family of four during lock down.

To cover Mette's maternity leave, Hilary Stewart has increased her hours and is working as the main researcher on the project until the end of this calendar year.

Unfortunately, due to the suspension of research during the early stages of the pandemic, Hilary was placed on furlough for two months of the project but re-joined us on 1st July ready to get started with recruitment into the main project and the on-line project.

After the summer, Danny Hutton will be starting a new role as the Programme Manager for the North West Radiotherapy Operational Delivery Network. Danny will still keep a role in the project but we would like to wish him well with his new position.

Next Steering Group Meeting

We are planning to keep to the original date for our next steering group meeting. This will be

Wednesday 4th November 2020 - PM

Due to current uncertainties and to accommodate any potential disruption, this meeting will be held online with details of timings to be sent nearer the date.

By this date we hope to have had some initial responses to both the main project and the on-line call for narratives. We are looking at ways to make this as interesting and collaborative as possible, offering steering group members the opportunity to feed into the project and contribute.

Call for Blog Items

We are keen to include a wide range of materials on our blog. These can be short 'thought pieces', reviews or commentaries or longer essay type posts.

If you would like to contribute to the blog, please let Hilary know on h.stewart4@lancaster.ac.uk

With the very best wishes,

Lisa, Vicky, Hilary and all on the Gynae Narratives project.



Gynae Cancer Narratives On-Line: A study that explores patients' experiences of radiotherapy treatment for gynaecological cancer and the experiences of carers/significant others.

We are a research team from Lancaster University looking to better understand how radiotherapy affects social, sexual and personal lives.

If you have ever received radiotherapy for gynaecological cancer/supported someone who has received radiotherapy of gynae cancer, and would be interested in sharing your experience, we would like to hear from you. The project aims:

- to increase understanding of how radiotherapy impacts on the sense of sexual self and on social and personal lives, and
- to improve patient experiences of living with the social and personal impacts of radiotherapy.

Participation will take place virtually, either online or by telephone.

Details of our project can be found by searching *gynae narratives online* or on our website:

<http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/gynae-cancer-narratives/gynae-narratives-on-line/>

If you would like more information or think you might be interested in taking part, please contact:

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