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The National Federation of Prostate Cancer Support Groups

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TK Maxx Supports Tackle

Wednesday, 24th January 2018

Tackle Chairman Roger Wotton is presented with a cheque from the fashion retailer [TK Maxx](#) in Coventry.

TK Maxx selected Tackle as one of their community charities following the diagnosis of one of their senior managers.

We really appreciate the support.



Ipswich Town Legend Titus Bramble has a PSA Test!

Friday, 1st December 2017

One of our main aims is to encourage early detection of prostate cancer. 1 in 8 men will develop

prostate cancer and for black men that risk is 1 in 4.

Recently, ex-Ipswich Town legend [Titus Bramble](#) had a PSA test to encourage more men in the black community to get themselves tested.

Well done Titus!



National Prostate Cancer Audit Annual Report 2017

Thursday, 30th November 2017

The [National Prostate Cancer Audit](#) (NPCA) is the first national clinical audit of the care that men receive following a diagnosis of prostate cancer. It is designed to collect information about the diagnosis, management and treatment of every patient newly diagnosed with prostate cancer in England and Wales, and their outcomes.

The [2017 Report](#) has just been published. Or you can read an [Executive Summary of the 2017 Report](#).

Roger Wotton, Chairman of Tackle Prostate Cancer commented: "*This is the fourth annual National Prostate Cancer Audit report. Tackle continues to play a part in the process. I am a member of the Clinical Reference Group, representing patients' interests and Professor Heather Payne, who is the Oncological clinical lead, is a member of Tackle's [Clinical Advisory Board](#). Although this version is primarily produced for a clinical audience, a summarised, more general version will be available in the Spring of 2018. Nevertheless, this report is worth reading for the improvements we are seeing in over-treatment and clinical practice. You can also find the data for your own NHS Trust*".

The NPCA is managed as a partnership between a team of clinical, cancer information and audit experts from the British Association of Urological Surgeons, the British Uro-oncology Group, the National Cancer Registration Service and The Royal College of Surgeons' Clinical Effectiveness Unit.

Roger Wotton - Why the Walnut?

Thursday, 23rd November 2017

Roger Wotton, Chairman of Tackle Prostate Cancer, explains why we are using the walnut as a symbol in our new Save a Dad! campaign. [Watch the video now](#).

Tackle are developing the Save a Dad! initiative started by Tackle member [Leighton Hospital Support Group](#) together with a school in Crewe. It is encouraging to see the next generation learning about prostate cancer. Kids talking to dads is another way of raising awareness! We really hope that this could become something that every school in the country would get involved with as it would dovetail well with Tackle's campaign to "[get a score on the board](#)".

Tackle Tribute Testing

Saturday, 28th October 2017

As a result of Jackie Dijon of JPS Promotions contacting our colleagues in the North West, the

tribute acts of Chris Perry (Phil Collins) and Andy Lee (Simply Red) volunteered for a PSA test at Delamere Golf Club. [See their video explaining why they're supporting Tackle.](#)

Along with two of the crew, and courtesy of [Leighton Hospital Prostate Cancer Support Group](#), the guys were keen to show their personal support for Tackle and for all that our groups are doing.

Read about the UK tour ["An Evening with Phil Collins and Simply Red with Chris Perry and Andy Lee"](#) - tribute acts in aid of prostate cancer this year and next year.

[John Coleman](#), our NW co-ordinator and a Tackle trustee is our contact point.

Report on NHS England's Cancer transformation programme published

Wednesday, 18th October 2017

You can read the [progress report from NHS England's Cancer transformation programme here](#).

The report details the investment the NHS is making in cancer transformation, including £130m over the period 2016/18 in new and upgraded radiotherapy equipment and £200m over the next two years to accelerate rapid diagnosis and enhance patients' quality of life.

The report describes progress across the field including:

- Modernisation of radiotherapy equipment throughout the country.
- New models of care introduced to ensure cancer is diagnosed earlier and improve survival.
- Establishment of Cancer Alliances across the country to bring together clinical leaders, healthcare workers, patients and charities for better coordination of care.

[Achieving World-Class Cancer Outcomes – Progress Report 2016-17](#) describes the significant advances the National Cancer Programme has made over the past year as it moves towards the full delivery of the NHS five-year national cancer strategy. The strategy was developed in 2015 by an Independent Cancer Taskforce that was asked to deliver the vision set out in the NHS Five Year Forward View.

As well as the work on new models and clinical pathways, the 2017 progress report also details action on standards and metrics. Five pilot sites are now testing a new faster diagnosis standard that will ultimately ensure patients receive a cancer diagnosis or an "all clear" verdict within 28 days.

A new quality of life metric – the first anywhere in the world – is currently being tested in multiple sites around England. Its purpose is to measure long-term outcomes for patients once treatment has been completed.

Cally Palmer, the NHS National Cancer Director, said:

"Cancer survival rates have never been higher than they are today and patients are reporting a very good experience of cancer care.

"I am confident the NHS can deliver the recommendations of the Cancer Taskforce and I am certain these recommendations will improve survival rates even further, enhance quality-of-life for cancer patients and ultimately provide the very best cancer services to patients everywhere."

Advanced Prostate Cancer Q&A on Video

Tuesday, 1st August 2017

If you've got some questions that need answering about advanced prostate cancer, try these two online videos:

[Advanced Prostate Cancer - Video 1](#)

[Advanced Prostate Cancer - Video 2](#)

Management of Patients with Advanced Prostate Cancer

Saturday, 22nd July 2017

The European Association of Urology, via publisher Elsevier B.V., has reported on The Advanced Prostate Cancer Consensus Conference APCCC 2017

BACKGROUND: In advanced prostate cancer (APC), successful drug development as well as advances in imaging and molecular characterisation have resulted in multiple areas where there is

lack of evidence or low level of evidence. The Advanced Prostate Cancer Consensus Conference (APCCC) 2017 addressed some of these topics.

OBJECTIVE: To present the report of APCCC 2017.

DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS: Ten important areas of controversy in APC management were identified: high-risk localised and locally advanced prostate cancer; "oligometastatic" prostate cancer; castration-naïve and castration-resistant prostate cancer; the role of imaging in APC; osteoclast-targeted therapy; molecular characterisation of blood and tissue; genetic counselling/testing; side effects of systemic treatment(s); global access to prostate cancer drugs. A panel of 60 international prostate cancer experts developed the program and the consensus questions.

OUTCOME MEASUREMENTS AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS: The panel voted publicly but anonymously on 150 predefined questions, which have been developed following a modified Delphi process.

RESULTS AND LIMITATIONS: Voting is based on panellist opinion, and thus is not based on a standard literature review or meta-analysis. The outcomes of the voting had varying degrees of support, as reflected in the wording of this article, as well as in the detailed voting results recorded in Supplementary data.

CONCLUSIONS: The presented expert voting results can be used for support in areas of management of men with APC where there is no high-level evidence, but individualised treatment decisions should as always be based on all of the data available, including disease extent and location, prior therapies regardless of type, host factors including comorbidities, as well as patient preferences, current and emerging evidence, and logistical and economic constraints. Inclusion of men with APC in clinical trials should be strongly encouraged. Importantly, APCCC 2017 again identified important areas in need of trials specifically designed to address them.

PATIENT SUMMARY: The second Advanced Prostate Cancer Consensus Conference APCCC 2017 did provide a forum for discussion and debates on current treatment options for men with advanced prostate cancer. The aim of the conference is to bring the expertise of world experts to care givers around the world who see less patients with prostate cancer. The conference concluded with a discussion and voting of the expert panel on predefined consensus questions, targeting areas of primary clinical relevance. The results of these expert opinion votes are embedded in the clinical context of current treatment of men with advanced prostate cancer and provide a practical guide to clinicians to assist in the discussions with men with prostate cancer as part of a shared and multidisciplinary decision-making process.

To read the report in full, click [here](#).

New Diagnostic Blood Test will help target drugs for men with advanced prostate cancer

Tuesday, 9th May 2017

Tackle Trustee Hugh Gunn was interviewed on ITV this week about a new Diagnostic Blood Test which costs less than £50 and can predict whether patients with advanced prostate cancer are likely to respond to certain drugs and whether they might be better served by alternative therapy.

The blood test identified a particular gene which is resistant to the drug. This test could save the NHS thousands of pounds.

Watch Hugh's interview [here](#).

Prostate cancer screening reconsideration by the USPSTF in the USA

Friday, 5th May 2017

In 2012 the influential United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) decreed that there was no value in PSA testing for prostate cancer as the "harms" of screening outweighed the "benefits" in terms of lives saved. This put the USPSTF at loggerheads with most expert American urological opinion but nevertheless resulted in a fall in PSA screening. The USPSTF was heavily criticised for having no prostate cancer specialists on its panel and also for failing to identify black African Americans and men with a family history of prostate cancer as being in special risk categories that require a proactive, informed approach to screening.

Since 2012 the proportion of American men presenting with advanced prostate cancer has risen and as more and more screening trials and advances in clinical practice are reported, the USPSTF's position has become increasingly isolated.

It is therefore of considerable relief to hear that the USPSTF has drafted [recommendations](#) that

support “discussion-backed decisions for men aged 55-69 based on clinician-patient discussion” that allow patients to make an informed decision based on up to date trial evidence and advances in clinical practice that have significantly reduced the risks of “over-diagnosis” and “over-treatment”.

It is to be hoped that the UK’s National Screening Committee will similarly move to a more positive stance on screening.

Tackle joins with APPGC to raise awareness of the importance of improving local one-year survival rates

Friday, 28th April 2017

Tackle were pleased to be involved with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer (APPGC) which has written to all CCGs in England to highlight the important role they have in improving one-year survival rates, and to offer support in helping to achieve this. [Read the letter.](#)

We fully support John Baron MP, Chairman of the APPGC who said: “If we are going to improve cancer survival rates, we must improve early diagnosis. By writing to CCGs we hope to further raise awareness of this issue, and encourage them to drive forward improvements so that thousands more people are able to survive cancer.

“We have also written to offer our support as we are conscious that CCGs do not have responsibility for broad national issues, such as the workforce. The APPGC’s summer Parliamentary reception, which recognises the 20 CCGs which have most improved their one-year figures, presents a further opportunity to engage.”

Vital Funding for Drugs - Share the Petition!

Wednesday, 15th March 2017

Tackle Prostate Cancer is one of 19 cancer charities working together to campaign and lobby for better treatment and access to drugs. As a coalition, we are trying to have NHS England and NICE reconsider their plan to cap drug treatment costs. One of the actions we have taken is to try and get as many people as possible to sign a petition to stop this proposal. The petition has been developed by Prostate Cancer UK on behalf of all our charities.

We urgently need your help, to persuade NHS England and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to reconsider plans that threaten to have a devastating impact on men fighting prostate cancer in the future.

What we know

The plans would mean NHS England can indefinitely delay access to any new treatment which doesn’t fit under its proposed cost cap. This means that breakthrough treatments for advanced prostate cancer such as [enzalutamide](#) and [abiraterone](#) may have been delayed for years, arrived in the NHS too late for the thousands of men whose lives they have extended, or never have arrived at all. We are seriously concerned for the treatments of the future, which is why we need you to [sign our petition](#).

Help us fight for change

Although we recognise the significant financial challenges facing the current system, this is not the solution. NHS England and NICE need to hear this is unacceptable for patients and come up with a proposal that makes sure patients get the drugs and treatments they need, when they need them.

LINK TO THE PETITION: <https://www.change.org/p/nhs-engand-don-t-delay-funding-for-vital-drugs-and-treatments>

Accentuate the Positive!

Thursday, 26th January 2017

New research suggests that keeping a positive mental attitude is important in surviving cancer. The study shows that people who are anxious or depressed are far more likely to die from the disease.

As Tackle trustee Hugh Gunn commented: "I could not agree more! How else could I have turned a prognosis of 18 months into 11 years".

Read the full story [here](#) and stay positive!

Putting the Patient Perspective

A key part of our campaigning is to put the patient perspective.



Keith Cass, Tackle Trustee, has been doing that recently. He was a member of the independent panel reviewing how local health boards in Wales carry out Individual Patient Funding Requests (IPFR). Keith provided the patient perspective. You can read and download the full report [here](#).

Keith's important contribution was recognised in a letter of thanks from Vaughan Gething AM, the Welsh Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport which you can read [here](#).

BBC Radio 4 Inside Health Programme on Prostate Cancer

Thursday, 5th January 2017

For anybody that missed this show, you can catch it up [here](#).

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