



Cancer and Society

in the 21st century



Patient and public involvement update

DECEMBER 2016



Dear PPI panel members,

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2016. The research team would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and New Year and to thank you for all of your input to the project this year. We're really looking forward to continuing to work with you all in 2017! Here's a round-up of what's been going on this month...



Emily visited the Wellcome Trust labs

Emily had the privilege of being invited to the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility to watch a researcher extract DNA from blood samples. This was fascinating, though definitely not for the faint-hearted!

The DNA extraction began with 14 blood samples. Emily was lucky enough to see the entire process, from the breakdown of the cells within the blood, to the removal of proteins, and finally to the appearance of the elusive DNA.

Generally, DNA is not perceptible to the eye, but during the process of extraction the DNA appeared gradually as the sample was mixed with ethanol, and began to bundle together.

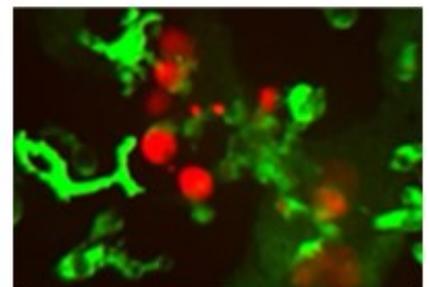
The DNA that was extracted will be sequenced, using one of the very special genome sequencing machines (pictured below) housed at the WTCRF.



The blood samples they'd been working with had been collected for a study on mental health, but the genetics lab also housed samples for research studies on colorectal cancer, and ovarian cancer. It was a wonderful experience to see the science at work, and to learn more about genomics research and techniques.

In the news

Those of you from the Scottish panel who came on the tour of the Cancer Research UK labs in August may remember being told about the research they were doing there with zebrafish. The zebrafish have been in the news recently as this research has led to an important new discovery about brain tumours. You can [read about it here](#).



The Leeds team need your help with a leaflet!

The Leeds team have been busy interviewing former patients and health professionals. Now, we would like to focus on recruiting patients who have had first-hand experience of targeted cancer screening and testing. We want to recruit patients who have been on clinical trials or new drug treatments.

We haven't had a great response so far to our call for research participants. So, we've had another go at the poster and it is in a separate attachment sent with this newsletter. We've said more about what kind of experiences we're interested in hearing about and have also added the name of targeted therapies.

Please could you have a look over the attachment and give us your thoughts on:

- 1) Is this call accessible and clear to a wide audience?**
- 2) Should anything else be added to attract more attention from patients?**
- 3) Is adding drug names a good idea? Have we added the right (i.e. well-known) ones?**
(There were so many of them, so we've picked one from each cancer!)

Thank you to those who have already responded to an earlier email on this. Please send any additional comments to Choon Key and Julia on CAS21c@leeds.ac.uk.

Research on communication about genomics

You may be interested in this opportunity to watch six short videos about genomics and provide some feedback about how useful you found them, as part of research into ways to make genomics easier to understand: <https://genetube.org/>

We watched them and had mixed views, but would love to hear your thoughts, so if you have time to send us an email telling us what you think then please do!

Keep in touch

Don't forget to check out our website at www.cancerandsociety.ac.uk.

The website has more information about the research team and some blogs about what we've been doing so far.

Let us know if there's anything else you'd like to see on the website or in these newsletters by emailing cas21c@ed.ac.uk or cas21c@leeds.ac.uk.

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