

Our impact on local people



Young mum Emma Duncan, from Cramlington, knows first-hand how important Cancer Research UK's life-saving work is. Although just in her thirties, Emma has survived breast cancer three times. She was 29 when she was first diagnosed, after finding a lump in her left breast while she was in the bath.

Breast cancer is more common in older women - 8 out of 10 cases are diagnosed in women aged 50 and over. But a small proportion of women have a particularly strong family history of breast cancer. They have several family members who have developed breast cancer at a young age and this means they have an increased risk of developing the disease themselves.

Emma had genetic tests which revealed she has inherited a faulty copy of the high-risk breast cancer gene BRCA1. Since then, Emma has raised thousands of pounds for Cancer Research UK and wants local people to support the cutting-edge research taking place on their doorstep.

Emma said: "When I found the first lump I just sobbed. Breast cancer runs in my family. My mum died from it when she was 32 and my grandmother lost her life at 42.

But, thanks to research, I'm here today. Cancer Research UK's scientists have led the way in developing effective ways to treat breast cancer. Now, here in the North East, they are working on a new type of drug to treat breast cancer caused by faulty BRCA genes. This work could offer real hope in the future for women like me."

It's cancer. You're bound to have questions...

Visit our CancerHelp UK website www.cancerhelp.org.uk or call our team of specialist nurses on freephone 0808 800 4040 (lines open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm)

Be part of it

There are many different ways that you can support our life-saving work in the North East. If you'd like to join us then please get in touch.

Email newcastlecentre@cancer.org.uk or call our fundraising hotline 08701 60 20 40



Herbie is a cancer researcher at the Newcastle Cancer Centre



Dot is a volunteer in one of our Newcastle shops



Cath is on the committee for the Gateshead Relay for Life



Marylyn is a research nurse at the Freeman Hospital



Lynne is the chair of the Pink Fundraising Committee



Karen is an event participant in our Gateshead Race for Life



Sage is a corporate partner and kindly paid the printing costs of this leaflet.

Together we will beat cancer

Fighting cancer in the North East



World-class cancer research

Every week, more than 260 people in the North East are told they have cancer. But, thanks to **Cancer Research UK**, more people are beating the disease than ever before.

Newcastle is renowned for being an international centre of excellence for cancer research, and each year we spend more than £4 million here on our work. Newcastle is a vital link in our chain of new cancer centres across the UK. By promoting collaboration between scientists, doctors, nurses and funding organisations, the **Newcastle Cancer Centre*** aims to speed up the delivery of new treatments and improve cancer services in the area.



At the heart of the Centre is the **Northern Institute for Cancer Research (NICR)**, which has an outstanding track record in developing and testing new cancer treatments. Work at the Centre will boost this activity, helping to take bright ideas from the lab to patients faster than ever before. Researchers in the Centre have particular expertise in childhood and prostate cancers. But the scientists will also focus on other disease types, including adult leukaemia and lymphoma, ovarian, bladder, stomach and breast cancer.

The Centre also brings together scientists, doctors and nurses based at the **Freeman Hospital, Newcastle General Hospital, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle University Medical School, and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Gateshead.**

* The Centre is jointly funded by Cancer Research UK, Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, and the North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund. Newcastle University and Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are also part of the partnership.

Tailoring treatment



Cancer is a complex disease and individual patients respond differently to treatment. A key focus of the Centre is to develop treatments that are tailored to the genetic fingerprint of a person's cancer, helping to save more lives and reduce side effects.

One example of a treatment like this is a new type of drug called a PARP inhibitor. These drugs work particularly well in cancer patients who have inherited a faulty BRCA gene. PARP inhibitors are still being tested in trials funded by the charity, in Newcastle and elsewhere. They are showing very promising results and could transform the outlook for patients with certain types of breast and ovarian cancer in the North East and beyond.

Cancer Research UK-funded scientists in Newcastle developed the first drug of this kind in the 1990s. The first cancer patient in the world to be given this new type of drug was treated in Newcastle in 2003 in an early clinical trial, led by Professor **Ruth Plummer.**



Also in Newcastle, we are investing in talented scientists who will be the anti-cancer drug designers of tomorrow. Led by international expert Professor **Roger Griffin**, ten gifted scientists are being trained in medicinal chemistry, learning how to develop new drugs to beat cancer.

Helping patients in the North East

Clinical trials are vital for testing new cancer treatments and ways to prevent or detect the disease. Last year, more than 33,000 people entered clinical trials supported by Cancer Research UK in hospitals across the region and around the UK. A number of these are being run at the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre at the Freeman Hospital. People from the North East – including Newcastle, Gateshead, Carlisle, Sunderland, Durham and Middlesbrough – are driving forward progress by taking part in these trials. Research like this will lead to improved cancer treatments that should save many more lives in the future.



Using scans to improve treatments

Being able to track what's happening inside patients is vitally important for doctors so that they can monitor if treatments are working and find ways to improve them.



As part of our 5-year strategy, we are boosting research into imaging techniques. Dr **Ross Maxwell** and his team are leading this pioneering work at the NICR. They are looking for substances in the body that can be picked up by MRI and PET scans, and reveal how a patient's cancer is responding to treatment. They want to use this information to devise simple tests to help doctors choose the best treatment option for their patients. This will also reduce the need for patients to give tissue samples.