

Focus on cervical screening

THANK YOU for all your positive feedback to our first issue of *Cancer Professional*. In this second issue, we interview Tony O'Brien, chief executive officer of the National Cancer Screening Service (NCSS), who is preparing to expand BreastCheck, cervical cancer screening and to introduce other new screening services. He tells us that from January 2008, the NCSS will take full control and responsibility for processing cervical cancer smear tests.

Still on the subject of cervical cancer we report back from the Paris conference on 'Safeguarding the future of women's health' where 600 people signed a declaration on global cervical cancer; and a conference in Portugal that hears cervical cancer is the biggest cancer killer in the third world.

Dr Eoghan Condon and Prof HP Redmond discuss how surgery can boost growth of metastatic cancer, but that technique and post-operative therapy can improve patient outcome. In particular, they point out that the peri-operative period is a significant time to influence residual tumour growth and the long-term outcome.

Dr Maeve Lowery and Dr John McCaffrey write that multi-disciplinary care can help to achieve better outcomes, particularly now that clinical decision making has become more complex. They also outline the pitfalls and how to avoid them.

Dr Shane Allwright told the 5th St James's Hospital International Cancer Conference that evidence showed barworkers were benefiting from the smoking ban. Dr Allwright is the co-author of the All Ireland Bar Study which focused on barworkers because they were high-risk.

Dr Eva Szabo also addressed the St James's Hospital conference. She told the conference that although chemo-prevention, using therapeutic agents, could prevent the onset of cancer in some people, it was not yet working for everybody who could benefit.

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upfront

Contents

- 5 **News:** Cancer conference focuses on prevention... Bowel cancer campaign makes impact... Cancer consultant receives award... Surgery best option for lung cancer?... Study on black smoke
- 8 **Research news:** No benefit by intensive chemo regime... New surgical technique for tongue cancer... Cells identified in childhood disease relapse... New findings on prostate cancer...
- 9 **Photocall:** Pictures from the recent 5th St James's Hospital International Cancer Conference, Dublin
- 12 **Cover story:** The expanded BreastCheck services are promised to be of gold-standard
- 15 **Cover story:** National cervical screening could cut death rates by up to 80%
- 17 **Cover story:** Cancer screening and vaccination focus on recent women's health conference
- 19 **Surgery:** Eoghan Condon and HP Redmond look at improving post-surgical outcome
- 23 **Shared care:** Quality team care takes careful planning, write Maeve Lowery and John McCaffrey
- 27 **Feature:** Study shows benefit for barworkers after smoking ban. Conor Caffrey reports
- 30 **Prevention:** Chemo-prevention in high-risk individuals could prevent development of cancer

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