

# outlook

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR CANCER VACCINES & IMMUNOTHERAPY (ICVI)

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**Sir Harry Cotterell Bt OBE**  
Chair of Trustees

## WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN 2022 ISSUE OF OUTLOOK

In 2017 we produced our first ever “trials special” edition of Outlook. Five years on we are delighted to report some excellent progress in this area which we felt warranted a similarly focused newsletter.

In June this year Dr Alberto Fusi’s work of the last few years came to fruition with the publication of an important trial, detailed in this issue, which treated patients with Stage 4 melanoma. One of the patients on that trial, Simon Oliver, talks about why he decided to support our charity during and after his treatment and Professor Dalglish explains the trial process and their importance.

My fellow trustees and I were very moved to hear that Angela Feather, one of our most loyal and longstanding supporters, recently decided to launch an appeal in memory of her beloved daughter Helen twenty years after her death. We are always very mindful that inevitably there is often great sadness and loss behind many of our supporters’ stories. This makes us even more appreciative of every donation made. More details of Angela’s appeal can be seen in our fundraising section and we are most grateful that many of you have already supported her via social media.

We are delighted to enclose our Wine Club information and of course our latest Christmas card flyer. We hope that you will like the larger choice of cards this year. Please do try to order early as we always sell out very quickly.

**HIGH 5 APPEAL**

A very big thank you from Angela Feather to everyone who has already donated to her appeal which we sent out to those of you on our email list in June.

Many of you will know that Angela has fundraised tirelessly for many years via the charity set up in memory of her beloved daughter Helen. Please see her message below:

*"20 years ago Helen, our beautiful, full of life daughter, sister and friend lost her enormous battle against cancer which began aged just 25. (www.helenfeather-trust.co.uk).*

*"With one in two of us likely to get cancer in their lifetime it is so important that new drugs and treatment are found. Professor Dalglish was researching immunotherapy 20 years ago when others doubted its success and today it is a major treatment.*

*"The Professor has now found anti-cancer mechanisms in an inexpensive drug called LDN which has had great results across several cancers without toxicity. LDN makes the cancer cells more sensitive to chemotherapy allowing the patient to reduce their chemo dose meaning reduced toxicity.*

*"However for this drug to be available to everyone, a very costly trial has to be done.*

*"On this special anniversary and in memory of my daughter, I am trying to raise the money for a trial so that this drug can be available to everyone who needs it.*

*"I would be so grateful if you can help me do this. To donate £5 text HIGH5 to 70970, or an amount of your choice at www.justgiving.com/campaign/Helenfeather"*



We would love our supporters to share the simple "Text HIGH5 to 70970" message via email or social media. If anyone could share or tweet the appeal please email marie@icvi.org.uk and we can send suggested text for you. Thank you.

**ICVI WINE CLUB**

This great venture, brainchild of longstanding ICVI supporter George Bouwens, has raised over £1200 for the Lucy Sands Tribute Fund so far. Huge thanks to all of you who have joined so far.

Over the past year over 500 bottles of wine have been enjoyed by our wine club members with every sip benefiting the ICVI. The delicious mixed cases are



prepared by Corney & Barrow wine merchants and delivered on a quarterly basis although one-off cases can also be bought.

Joining the club will mean you receive a case of 12 bottles of delicious wine each quarter (starting November) at £165 a quarter. Corney and Barrow Wine Merchants have

agreed to give the ICVI a generous share of the profits from each case meaning that you can enjoy the wine, whilst knowing that you have donated to our charity. You can sign up for just one case for this Christmas or you can join the club for the foreseeable future. Obviously you can opt out at any time. Please email abi@icvi.org.uk for further details. The deadline for Christmas is 24 November.

**LUCY'S WALK**

Lucy DeVille, former secretary to our Trustee board and supporter of the charity since its inception turned 70 recently. To say she decided to celebrate by challenging herself is a bit of an understatement! Lucy lives on the Isle of Wight and decided to run 70 miles in 7 days around the Isle of Wight Coastal Path and raised an impressive £1,222 in sponsorship. Lucy said, "It was a wonderful, unforgettable, tough experience, the beautiful hills and sea helped a little! At the end of the week I was extremely tired but all the niggling aches and pains had gone and I

had a strange rather dangerous wish to carry on for weeks and weeks!

"Apparently I now have to plan for another for my 80th, but maybe in kilometres."

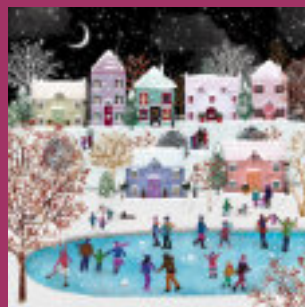
Happy birthday Lucy and a huge thank you for everything you have done from all of us at the ICVI.



Text **CANCER10** to **70191** to donate **£10**    Text **CANCER20** to **70191** to donate **£20**    Text **HIGH5** to **70970** to donate **£5**

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

We really hope you like the Christmas cards we have chosen this year. We have expanded the range a little as we always seem to sell out. You can also buy them from the shop on our website [www.icvi.org.uk/shop](http://www.icvi.org.uk/shop)



**PUTT-ING ON SOME FUNDRAISING**

We were delighted to hear from long time supporter Caroline Bouwens who has been elected ladies' captain at Tidworth Golf Club. Caroline has used the opportunity to raise money for the Lucy Sands Tribute Fund during her tenure. Caroline has raised over £2,000 so far from raffles and donations. Caroline said, "I am delighted that Jackie Agate, one of our popular members, has decided to raise funds for the ICVI during a skydiving challenge that she won in a silent auction. Jackie is scheduled to "drop" from 14000 feet onto Netheravon Airfield in Wiltshire on Sat-

urday 24th September. "Daredevil" Jackie is overcoming her nerves in full knowledge that the funds she raises will be going to a worthwhile and excellent cause. We all wish her the very best of luck"

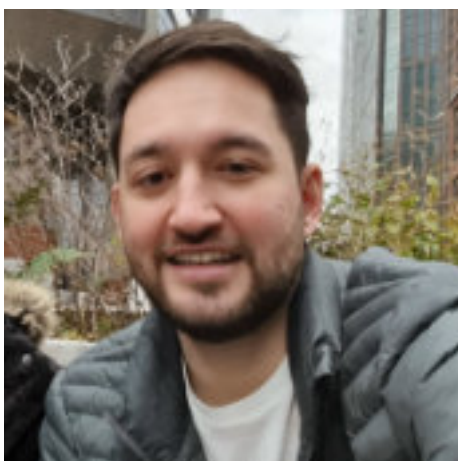
Huge thanks to Caroline and Jackie for their support. If you'd like to sponsor brave Jackie please go to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jacqueline-Agate](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jacqueline-Agate)



**SAMI'S MARATHON**

As mentioned in previous newsletters, Sami has taken over our social media accounts and organised the Reddit question/answer sessions. Sami is also running the London Marathon for us in October this year in memory of his father. His participation was delayed due to Covid so Sami has been doing a lot of training over the last three years!

If you would like to sponsor Sami please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sami-mason>



**Newsletter Donations**

We are always delighted to hear from those who enjoy reading our newsletters and who send donations as a result. Thanks to everyone who responded to our Spring newsletter which resulted in donations of £2,327 towards our research.

**Emails**

Would you like to receive your newsletter by email instead of post? We can also send you emails with fundraising and research updates if you wish. We promise not to bombard you! Please email [abi@icvi.org.uk](mailto:abi@icvi.org.uk) if this is of interest.

## OVARIAN CANCER TRIAL UPDATE

After many delays, we finally started our ICVI clinical study on ovarian cancer earlier this year. This study is a collaboration between St George's University of London and University College London's clinical trials unit aimed at answering fundamental questions relating to the anti-tumour immune response in ovarian cancer patients.

Cancer immunotherapy is revolutionising the treatment of cancer for some patients. However, many patients do not respond to cancer immunotherapy. For ovarian cancer, immunotherapy is largely ineffective and currently unlicensed. A major reason underpinning the failure of immunotherapy trials for ovarian cancer involves our poor understanding of the immune system of ovarian cancer patients. We do not know enough about the inflammatory and immunological environment in ovarian cancer patients. Nor do we know enough about the function of patients T-cells, which are the immune cells responsible for killing ovarian tumour cells. Since T-cells are largely responsible for the efficacy of cancer immunotherapy an understanding of how their function is com-

promised in ovarian cancer patients and the identification of 'markers' allowing us to identify and predict T-cell function in these patients, will provide vital insight regarding which patients are most likely to benefit from immunotherapy and how to improve the immune responses of people who are currently less likely to benefit.

In order to answer these questions, we're working with UCL's clinical trials unit to assess the immune system and inflammatory responses of ovarian cancer patients and associate these with patient outcomes. We have completed the optimisation of the experimental procedures and assays used in this project and have begun to use these assays to acquire data using ovarian cancer cell lines where we're testing candidate immune modulatory agents alongside chemotherapy for their ability to kill ovarian tumour cells in culture. The next stage is to acquire and test samples from ovarian cancer patients. We shall provide a progress report in due course and a final report upon the conclusion of the project.

**ICVI FUNDED TRIAL MAKES AN IMPACT AT ASCO 2022**

The results of an important clinical trial supported by the Institute for Cancer Vaccines and Immunotherapy (ICVI) were presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s Annual Meeting in Chicago on Monday 6 June 2022.

The Phase 2 trial treated stage 4 (advanced) melanoma patients with two immunotherapy drugs, combining a standard approved immunotherapy drug called nivolumab with a new drug called IMM-101 which the ICVI have been researching and reporting on for several years. Our research has previously shown that IMM-101 is associated with a much better survival than previous treatments. It had been noted in the clinic that patients who relapsed or progressed had complete responses to nivolumab. This trial set out to see if there was indeed a

real synergy between the two.

Nivolumab is a standard treatment with a response rate of about 40% and associated with significant severe side effects in about half of treated patients.

The trial concluded that combining nivolumab with IMM-101 was very effective in patients with advanced melanoma, with a significantly higher response rate of 73%.

What is even more clinically important is that a very small number of patients experienced the significant toxicity normally associated with nivolumab.

Principal Investigator Dr Alberto Fusi who is funded by the ICVI said “IMM-101 in combination with nivolumab is well tolerated and shows encouraging antitumour activity based on actual overall response rate in treatment-naïve patients with advanced melanoma. This promising early data for these patients needs to be confirmed in larger studies”.

Principal of the ICVI Professor Angus Dalglish said, “This trial has confirmed that not only is the combination of nivolumab and IMM-101 much more effective than either agent alone but the side effects of the standard treatment appear to be more tolerable with the addition of IMM-101. The severe, and in many cases unacceptable, toxicity seen with other combinations used makes the strongest case for this combination in the majority of patients. A lot of them are not fit



Simon Oliver raised over £135,000 for the charity during and since his treatment

enough to tolerate the current combination immunotherapies, particularly as many of the problems caused become permanent. As a clinician I would choose the IMM-101 combination over the other options in the vast majority of my patients.”

One of the patients on the trial has since raised over £135,000 for the ICVI. Simon Oliver said, “I had been given a very bleak outlook following a diagnosis of stage four melanoma. Following a consultation with Professor Dalglish I was put on this trial for a new treatment combination. Almost three years on I am delighted to be part of this successful trial and am committed to supporting Professor Dalglish’s innovative research in any way I can.”



ICVI funded Dr Alberto Fusi was Principal Investigator on this important trial

## THE TRIAL PROCESS EXPLAINED - PROFESSOR DALGLEISH



It can take years and millions of pounds for a cancer treatment to go from its discovery to approval and licensing. Many potential advances never make it to patients.

The first stage is to spot a potential new advance. The second stage is to test it in the lab to see if cancer cells can be killed and whether there are any harmful side effects.

The third stage is known as a Phase I clinical trial when a treatment or drug is first tested on patients to see whether it is safe and how it behaves in the body.

This is the trial stage which have been run by the ICVI in past years. Volunteers, often patients with very advanced cancers, elect to have the treatment (usually when their current treatments have stopped working or failed) and are carefully monitored for side effects. Those that pass this stage go on to Phase II clinical trials, which involves more testing on patients, to examine if a treatment or drug really does tackle the disease and which doses work best. The trials use about 100 people who have the condition. Half of the advances fail at this point.

The final phase of clinical trials, Phase III is the ultimate test of a new treatment's potential and is tested randomly on thousands of ill volunteers who receive the treatment or a placebo or an

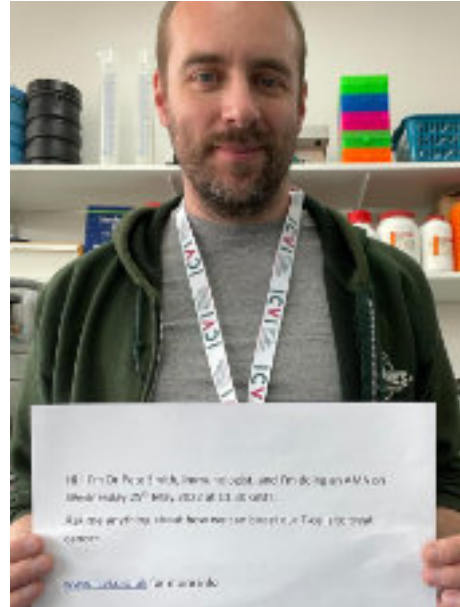
existing treatment. If this passes it must be licensed to be sold or practiced in the UK. If it is up to standard it may be sold but that does not necessarily make it available on the NHS. It must gain approval from the Prescription Pricing Authority. The final hurdle is the National Institute for Clinical Excellence. It examines the cost effectiveness and recommends to the NHS whether or not it should be used.

Clinical trials aren't just beneficial for the future of medicine, but also for each individual patient enrolling in them—especially if traditional treatment options haven't worked. Clinical trials give patients access to new drugs, particularly patients with diseases that don't have great outcomes. Also, clinical trials involve multiple people who are experts in that particular disease, so in a way patients get opinions from experts other than their oncologist.

The LDN trial which supporter Angela Feather is kindly fundraising for is really important in my view. As far as I am aware I am one of a tiny minority of oncologists who prescribe LDN for cancer in this country. My fear is that when I retire this cheap, non-toxic and often very effective cancer treatment will no longer be available for patients.

**REDDIT AMA**

Following Dr Liu's Reddit Ask Me Anything back in February 2022 we decided to run another, this time with Dr Pete Smith. The theme was how we can boost our immune system (specifically T Cells) to fight cancer. This was another successful endeavour, engaging over two thousand users asking questions, liking or commenting on the session.



# DONATING - PLEASE HELP US FIGHT CANCER TODAY



To donate by card please visit [www.icvi.org.uk](http://www.icvi.org.uk) or phone **020 7498 8263**

## PERSONAL DETAILS

TITLE: Mr  Ms  Mrs  Other

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POST CODE:

TELEPHONE/  
MOBILE:

EMAIL:

WHERE DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?

We would like to keep you in touch with our work. If you prefer not to receive our newsletter twice a year please tick here:

## DONATION

One hour of research undertaken by the whole of the research team costs £400 and £2,000 per patient per year for a trial (this is an average cost, including salaries, consumables and supervision)

£400     £200     £100     £50     £

OTHER

### ONE OFF PAYMENT

I enclose a cheque / CAF Voucher made payable to the ICVI

Please tick this box if you wish to receive an acknowledgement of your donation

IN MEMORY OF (optional):

Please treat all donations I make or have made to the ICVI as Gift Aid donations until further notice

SIGNATURE(S)

DATE

You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations. Please notify us if your address or tax circumstances change and this in no longer the case.

### REGULAR PAYMENT

Please email [abi@icvi.org.uk](mailto:abi@icvi.org.uk) or fill in the form below

PLEASE PAY THE ICVI the amount ticked above yearly (1 payment annually), each quarter(4 payments), monthly (12 payments)\* until further notice and debit my account:

\*please delete as applicable

ACCOUNT NO:

SORT CODE:

STARTING:  please allow one month from today

SIGNATURE(S)

DATE

TO THE MANAGER (Bank name and address)

POST CODE

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SEND THIS FORM TO:  
ICVI, Unit 15 Abbeville Mews  
88 Clapham Park Road  
LONDON, SW4 7BX

FOR ICVI USE ONLY  
Recipient Bank details: Pay Barclays Bank plc.  
Account Name: The ICVI Sort code: 20-47-34  
Account Number: 10088145  
Payment Reference: