As most of you will know, Euromoney’s inspirational Chairman, Padraic Fallon, recently lost his battle with cancer. We ask for your generous support in helping to fund the groundbreaking development of a cancer-beating drug which could save the lives of millions of cancer sufferers worldwide. We hope that this will serve as a fitting tribute to Padraic, a great man who was dearly loved and is sorely missed.

Action Against Cancer is a low bureaucracy charity which funds the development of cures for cancer at Imperial College, Hammersmith Hospital, led by world-renowned oncologist, Professor Justin Stebbing.

Professor Stebbing, who treated Padraic, gained a triple first class degree from Oxford University and is Europe’s most published oncologist over the last two years. He regularly writes for national newspapers and presents at major international oncology conferences. Professor Stebbing’s team recently gained worldwide acclaim for their discovery of a cancer causing gene.

Padraic Fallon
21st September 1946-14th October 2012

Developing a new drug: a totally new approach to therapy

by Professor Justin Stebbing

The goal of this project is, for the first time ever, to produce a drug that overcomes resistance to anti-cancer treatments. This drug could save millions of lives worldwide. We can do this independently of drug companies and have our own clinical trials unit to test this on patients.

We have recently identified a new cancer causing gene called LMTK3. We have compelling data for breast, colon, gastric and brain cancers, showing that this gene is central to cancer causation, turning normal cells into cancer cells. Those cancers that have high levels of LMTK3 are much more aggressive.

With your support, we want to establish the 3-dimensional crystal structure of LMTK3 – its shape, so we can find drugs that fit into it, and block its activity. We know that LMTK3 turns cancer cells on. Finding the crystal structure will allow us to accurately design a drug that will block this gene. The purpose of this drug is to be different in that it will be designed to work in conjunction with a patient’s existing treatment, to make sure that they don’t become resistant to it.

Many patients respond well to initial treatment but then develop resistance to it – this is when, with currently available treatments, their cancer becomes incurable. The new drug will be specifically designed to work in a way that overcomes chemotherapy or hormonal therapy resistance, making the cells sensitive again.

This would be one of the biggest breakthroughs ever in cancer medicine.

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There are currently no drugs that can overcome resistance to therapy. An anti-LMTK3 drug would, we believe, allow the initial treatment to start working again, bring back hope to patients, and ultimately save their lives. Thank you for your support.
Our commitment: developing cures FOR ALL

The fundamental principle underlying all of our work at Imperial College is that the end ‘products’, the cancer-beating drugs and diagnostics, must be NHS available and absolutely non-exclusive.

Surrendering control to big pharmaceuticals used to be unavoidable, but this is no longer the case. The Imperial Clinical Trials Unit was set up in February 2010 and encompasses all stages of clinical trials, from generation to delivery.

We no longer have to rely on the big pharmaceuticals – we will be able to develop the drug ourselves. This new model makes it a very exciting time to be involved with cancer drug development.

The goal is to make lifesaving treatments, not profits. With this new model of drug development and our collaborations in the developing world, we hope and will strive to make this drug available at cost for those in resource poor areas.

What others say...

Justin Stebbing is the brightest young oncologist that I have come across: he has an incredible drive combined with extraordinary intelligence.

Professor Charles Coombs
Head, Division of Cancer, Imperial College

Professor Stebbing is a tireless and creative protagonist in the battle against cancer... he understands the complex dynamics involved in new drug development and has the intellectual courage and stamina to bring the fight to the enemy.

He is a risk-taker, and we desperately need more like him.

Professor Mark Vincent
Medical oncologist, London Regional Cancer Centre

Justin combines his passion for scientific discovery with his calling to do the utmost for his patients. His commitment to discovering the root causes of cancer and developing groundbreaking cancer therapies is truly remarkable.

Professor Ajit Lalvani
Chair of Infectious Diseases, Co-Chairman of the Section of Respiratory Infection of the National Heart and Lung Institute and Honorary Consultant Physician, Imperial College

What your donations will make possible:

£200,000 will allow Professor Stebbing’s team to establish the 3D crystal structure (the shape) of LMTK3. Establishing LMTK3’s unique structure, mapping precisely all of its protrusions and pockets, will allow for the exciting journey of designing a specific drug that will fit in to it and block it (like a lock and key), to begin. The closer the fit, the more targeted the therapy will be, reducing the side effects on other healthy cells in patients.

£100,000 will allow the team to produce large quantities of synthetic LMTK3 to be tested with different drug compounds.

£300,000 will pay for the screening of 100,000 drug compounds to test their effectiveness in blocking the LMTK3 gene.

£400,000 will allow the team to analyse the data gained from the drug screening, identify a lead drug compound, and develop it in a form that can be taken by, or administered to patients.

Total project budget: £1,000,000

This will allow for the drug to be tested on patients at clinical trials, to study both the effects of the drug on cancer, and also the people receiving it – to ensure that it is not toxic. Ultimately, should the trials succeed, the drug will be used to treat patients and save lives worldwide.

For further information, please visit www.aacancer.org
Email anthony@aacancer.org or call Anthony Hayman, Action Against Cancer’s Head of Fundraising and Communications, 0845 680 1894 or 07535 806067.
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