

UKONS

Oncology Nursing Society

Mission Statement
*Maximising the potential of
all nurses in cancer care*

Issue 4 • Spring 2007

GOING GLOBAL

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the UKONS 2007 Spring edition. Wherever we work in the UK at the moment, it is the season of reform—service improvement, restructuring, transformation and hopefully, progress. What an incredibly eventful but somewhat uncertain time for UKONS members. In England, the National Cancer Director, Prof Mike Richards, along with UK experts, is leading on the Cancer Reform Strategy (see page 6). A few UKONS members are involved in workstreams feeding the Cancer Reform Strategy and also the forthcoming 'End of Life Strategy', again steered by Prof Mike Richards and Prof Ian Philp, National Director for Older People's Services. As well as discussing death and dying with patients, we need to consider a wider societal perspective—'death happens'—and promote dialogue with our family and friends about what death means to them and us, in order to better prepare and carry out individual wishes.

These strategies are going to strongly influence UK action on cancer care, but cancer is, of course, a global challenge. As chair and because of UKONS' special interest and work in cancer and palliative care in the developing countries, stemming from our inaugural conference, I have been asked to participate on your behalf in a 'Cancer Control in Africa' meeting. To be held in London on May 10th & 11th 2007, the meeting will include over 20 African health ministers (including those from Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Uganda & Zambia) and some UK government ministers.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 12.5% of all deaths worldwide are currently caused by cancer, a greater percentage than is caused by HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria combined. There is often a misperception that cancer is associated with wealthy nations and

limited to the effects of diet, lack of exercise and smoking. In fact, more than half of new cancer cases occur in developing countries, where the disease is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) predicts that cancer rates will dramatically increase in the coming years, from 10 million new cases in 2000 to 15 million in 2020.

70% of all new cancer cases are foreseen in developing countries, where governments are least prepared to address the growing cancer burden and where survival rates are often less than half those of more developed countries. In the developing world, one third of cancers are potentially preventable and another third are treatable if detected early. As we know, in many developing countries, governments and institutions face a wide spectrum of serious health problems and cancer is often not a priority in limited resource settings. Currently, a cancer diagnosis in the

developing world means a painful and distressing death in most cases.

This meeting will focus on how best to bring comprehensive cancer care to the African countries that need it most, and I'd be grateful for your input prior to the meeting. I would ask UKONS members with experience of working with cancer patients in the developing world or who are interested in the global challenge of cancer, to let me know your thoughts on both caring for cancer patients in developing countries and on bringing cancer control programmes to Africa. Please 'enlighten us' via our UKONS website (www.ukons.org), e-mail me at a.young@bham.ac.uk or give me a ring via our secretariat, Kirsten Wicke at Succinct Communications—01494 549100. I will input your ideas at this important meeting.

I wish you well with your work objectives over the next few months,

Annie Young, Chair of UKONS



Annie Young,
Chair of UKONS

The UKONS Board

The members of the UKONS committee are:

Annie Young, Nurse Director, 3 Counties Cancer Network, a.young@bham.ac.uk
Maggie Crowe, Consultant Nurse, Royal United Hospital, Bath maggie.crowe@ruh-bath.swest.nhs.uk
Elizabeth England, Lead Nurse, Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Northern Ireland, eengland@alt.n-inhs.uk
Claire Kelly, Director of Nursing, Hartlepool & District Hospice ckelly@hartlepoolhospice.co.uk
Paul Trevatt, Nurse Director, North East London Cancer Network, Paul.Trevatt@bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk
Ann Fox, Nurse Director, North of England Cancer Network, Ann.Fox@northtyneside-pct.nhs.uk

Cheryl Vidall, Clinical Operations Manager, Healthcare at Home, cheryl@hah.co.uk

Debbie Fenlon, Senior Research Fellow, University of Southampton, d.r.fenlon@soton.ac.uk

Chrissie Lane, Macmillan Cancer Nurse Consultant, NHS Highland, chrissie.lane@hnb.scot.nhs.uk

Michele Pengelly, Specialist Nurse in Supportive Care, Cancer Care Cymru michele.pengelly@velindre-tr.wales.nhs.uk

Davina Porock, Professor of Nursing Practice, University of Nottingham davina.porock@nottingham.ac.uk

Isabel White, Cancer Research UK Nursing Research Training Fellow, University of Surrey i.white@surrey.ac.uk

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Welcome on Board

The UKONS Board is delighted to introduce you to our new board members

Ann Fox

Ann is Nurse Director for the North of England Cancer Network. She has worked in cancer/palliative care services for most of her career in a variety of clinical and managerial roles. Ann has been involved in many service developments locally e.g. out of hours palliative care services and nurse-led chemotherapy services (which remain an area of personal interest). Ann is Co-Chair of the National Network Nurse Directors' Forum and represents nursing on the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group. Ann is passionate about providing the best services possible for patients and their families and believes her role at the cancer network influences the local and national agenda, particularly from a nursing and clinical support professionals' perspective. The focus of Ann's role is to ensure the patient perspective and experience is considered as central to every service delivery and development.



Paul Trevatt

Paul has worked in cancer and palliative care nursing for over 15 years in both specialist and generalist roles and across a variety of clinical settings from primary to secondary and tertiary care. In his role as Nurse Director for the North East London Cancer Network, he provides direction and leadership to all nurses and allied healthcare professionals involved with cancer patients across the network and healthcare boundaries. He has a strong interest in a number of specialities: the role of nursing leadership within healthcare; the challenge of ethnicity and cancer; and the continually evolving role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist. Paul has contributed to a number of national workstreams and initiatives and maintains a passionate commitment to the nursing arena.



Debbie Fenlon

Debbie is currently working as a Senior Research Fellow in the Cancer, Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group at the University of Southampton. Her area of interest is to research symptoms following treatment for breast cancer in order to help improve understanding of symptoms and their impact on women's lives and to find ways of helping to manage difficult symptoms. She won a CRUK fellowship to undertake a PhD, which was a randomised, controlled trial of relaxation to reduce hot flushes after breast cancer. Prior to this, she worked as a lecturer in cancer care at the Institute of Cancer Research and as a clinical nurse specialist in breast cancer at the Royal Marsden Hospital. Debbie has contributed to a number of text books on cancer nursing and co-authored a book for women with breast cancer.



Cheryl Vidall

Cheryl has been a trained nurse for over 20 years, with expertise in colorectal cancer. She was a CNS in Exeter for 5 years before working for Healthcare at Home. Her particular interest has been in functional issues following treatment for rectal cancers, most specifically sexual function. She has spoken nationally and internationally on this subject. She has also chaired the South West Colorectal Nurses' Forum, been nursing governor on the foundation trust board and set up user groups in the south west. She worked for the Peninsula Cancer Network on a secondment for 6 months. Cheryl is delighted to be on the board of UKONS, to represent nurses working in the independent sector.



Chrissie Lane

Chrissie Lane is currently working as the Macmillan Cancer Nurse Consultant within NHS Highland. Chrissie has over 22 years working within cancer care in a wide variety of clinical and managerial roles. Now having moved to the Highlands from Yorkshire there is a fascinating challenge to deliver high quality cancer services to remote and rural populations. Key areas of interest for Chrissie are: developing the leadership potential of all nurses within cancer care; developing nurse led services which are focused on the needs of patients and their carers; and ensuring that nurses are skilled and capable to deliver interventions based upon good evidence. Given the rural landscape of the Highlands, working to deliver cancer care closer to people's homes is her next big challenge.



Become a member of the UK Oncology Nursing Society **TODAY** and receive all the latest news in oncology nursing practice

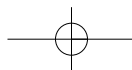
MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- UKONS newsletter
- Members only access to the UKONS website and e-newsletter

JOIN NOW & BENEFIT FROM:

- Reduced conference fees
- Group membership rates
- Sharing your views with colleagues
- Influencing policy

Contact: Kirstie Wicke
Email: Kirsten@succinctcomms.com



UKONS Chemotherapy Nurses' Forum

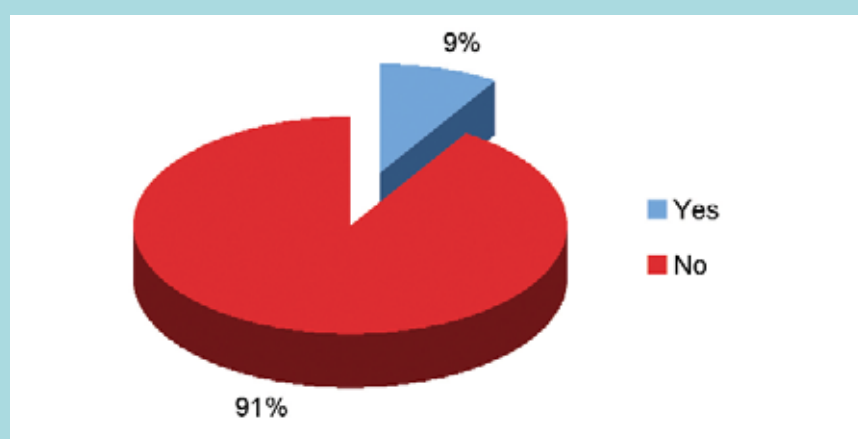
It became apparent following the establishment of the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group (NCAG), chaired by Prof Mike Richards, that it was quite difficult for me, as Nurse Director, to truly represent chemotherapy nurses across the UK. I had to acknowledge I was no longer a practising chemotherapy nurse and it was crucial that those nurses with patient contact needed to be the voice driving and influencing the national direction.

Although there are excellent fora for cancer nurses i.e. site specific fora, the RCN Oncology Nursing Society and intravenous therapy fora, a forum solely dedicated to chemotherapy nursing issues was lacking. This type of forum is all the more important as we are now in a climate in which nurses are blurring the boundaries with regard to clinical roles and clinical decision making and, in order to collectively and appropriately influence local and national direction, we need the infrastructure to support this.

This approach fits in very well with UKONS' mission and philosophy. At my first meeting as a board member for UKONS in December 2006, we discussed how the idea of this new group could be supported. As a result of that discussion, UKONS has agreed to endorse the National Chemotherapy Nurses' Forum as a workstream of UKONS with the aim to "enable chemotherapy nurses to influence clinical care, practice and the future direction of services at a national level".

In the recent communication which occurred in December and January, 53 responses were received (more still arriving) and a full report of the analysis of these questionnaires can be viewed on the UKONS website www.ukons.org. Highlights are shown in the panel opposite:

Q1 Do you wish to add / amend the terms of reference?



Q2 What would you like to see on the programme for an inaugural meeting?

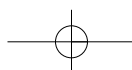
- Strategies for chemotherapy services repatriation to DGHs
- Integration of clinical trial activities
- Workload management tools
- Quality control
- Vascular access assessments
- Sharing of best practice
- In-depth review of extravasation (immediate & delayed)
- Background to how the forum has developed
- Aims and objectives of the group
- Identify some workstreams

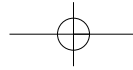
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MEMBERSHIP RATES

Calendar year runs from April to March

Individual membership:	£30.00
Group membership (10 individuals):	£250.00
Corporate membership:	£350.00
Charity membership:	£200 Large charity (more than 25 nursing staff) £100 Small charity (less than 25 nursing staff)

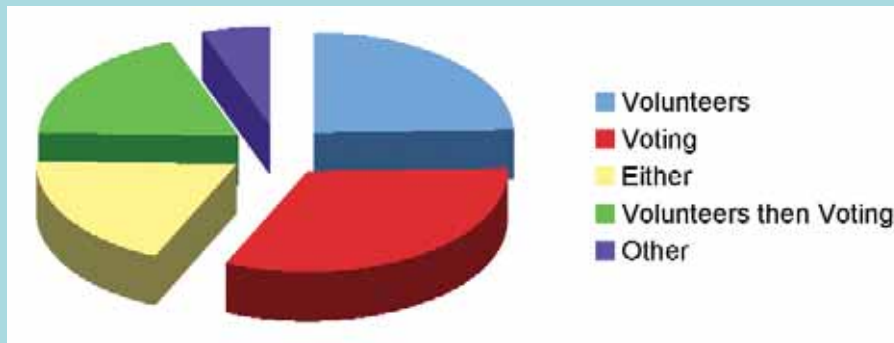




Q4 What are the main issues you would like the UK Chemotherapy Nurses Forum to address?

- Development of a programme / pathway to enable UK chemotherapy nurses to influence the national cancer agenda
- Development of methods to facilitate sharing of best practice across all cancer networks
- National standards in cancer care provision
- National research agenda
- Clinical developments
- Nurse education training for chemotherapy services
- National tools for chemotherapy assessment
- Continuity of documentation for chemotherapy patients
- Nurse-led services

Q6 How would you like the key officers, i.e. chair, vice-chair and secretary to be elected?



The intention now is to plan the inaugural meeting this year with Prof Mike Richards as the keynote speaker and to invite all those who expressed an interest—over 100 practising chemotherapy and research nurses—in order to agree the terms of reference, to elect key officers and to discuss how the group will conduct its business, having the **right influence** in the **right places**.

Of course, as a UKONS workstream, those who decide to be chemotherapy forum participants will be able to do so by becoming (if not already) a member of UKONS. It has been agreed with the Cancer Action Team that this group will act as the primary source of advice and support to the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group and will be able to shape and influence how things progress at a national and then at your local level. We are also developing a collaborative relationship with the RCN Cancer Nursing Society to ensure that recommendations for practice are supported at the highest level both professionally and politically.

This inaugural meeting will take place on **14th September 2007** in central London and UKONS will be distributing more details shortly. In the meantime, please inform any colleagues who you think may be interested, since this is **your** opportunity as nurses to lead and influence the future of chemotherapy nursing.

Ann Fox, Nurse Director,
North of England Cancer Network

UKONS would like to thank the companies below for their continued support:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Merck & Co., Inc. | Amdipharm Plc |
| Pharmion Ltd. | IMPAC Medical Systems, Inc. |
| Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. | Teva Hospitals |
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| Fresenius Kabi | Healthcare at Home |

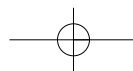
UKONS members are given the opportunity to influence beyond the UK through membership of the European Oncology Nursing Society

We are delighted to announce that UKONS is now a society member of EONS. This essentially means that UKONS members will now have a voice in the work of EONS and will be able to influence the future of cancer nursing beyond the UK.

As a UKONS member it is important that you share your views with UKONS so that our chair can ensure you are represented at the EONS advisory council. We also want to include your voice in their discussions and consultations. UKONS members will also be eligible for certain discounts offered to EONS members.

This membership does not mean that every UKONS member will be an individual member of EONS, but UKONS will keep you up-to-date regarding ongoing discussions through our website and the newsletter.

You can find out more about EONS by visiting their website www.cancerworld.org or via the link on the UKONS website www.ukons.org.



NETWORK ROUND UP

what's going on around the UK

ENGLAND

England has seen a flurry of cancer activity in recent months, culminating with the announcement at the end of November that there is to be a new Cancer Reform Strategy. The strategy will build on aspects of the NHS Cancer Plan, but recognises that in 2006/2007 there are new challenges that have to be met. These include rising incidence, advances in medical technologies, new drugs and the rising expectation among the public. Prof Mike Richards has already identified that there is unlikely to be any new funding following the Strategy and that reform will be the principle catalyst for how cancer services will be delivered. Care will move from inpatients to outpatients, from hospital to community as healthcare professionals work to deliver treatment and care where the patients want to be.

Although the Strategy was only launched towards the end of last year, a number of key areas have already been identified for development. These include:

- Clinical outcome measurement
- Patient experience
- Provider development/service models
- Commissioning and levers for changes
- Costs and benefits (value for money)
- Awareness and early detection

The Strategy will cover a 5–10 year period and is likely to be submitted to ministers in autumn 2007. We must not, in any way, underestimate the importance of these key areas for cancer nurses. Clinical outcome measures can be as much about supportive care and holistic assessment outcome as they might be about medical interventions. Costs and benefits will undoubtedly continue the pressure on cancer nurses to be innovative about the way they deliver care. For these reasons we are very pleased to say that UKONS has been given the opportunity to feed into

the Cancer Reform Strategy throughout 2007. We will give you regular updates about that through this newsletter and on the UKONS website. If you have any views or ideas about the cancer reform strategy please visit the website (www.ukons.org) and be part of this important development for cancer care. Interestingly, the launch of the Cancer Reform Strategy follows the publication of a number of papers last summer calling for a second NHS Cancer Plan (Kings Fund 2006, Cancer Campaigning Group 2006). UKONS members who are interested in reading further can access the reports as follows:

Kings Fund (2006). Future Trends and Challenges for Cancer Services in England
www.kingsfund.org.uk/resources/publications/future_trends.html

Cancer Campaigning Group (2006). Preparing for a Second Plan: Maintaining the Momentum in Cancer Policy
www.cancercampaigninggroup.uk/docs/CCG_green_paper.pdf

NORTHERN IRELAND

Following the Review of Public Administration, the Health and Social Service in Northern Ireland is currently undergoing tremendous change with the emergence of new amalgamated Health and Social Service Trusts. Amidst the uncertainty all around, direction has been clearly set for cancer services across the region, with a Cancer Control Plan issued for consultation by the Department of Health and Public Safety, in which the Cancer Network is identified as the mechanism for delivery, an expectation further endorsed by Mr David Sissling, chief executive of the new Health and Social Service Authority. In response to this document, the first of a series, the Northern Ireland Cancer Network (NICaN) Nursing Group has submitted a reply, very much welcoming the strategic direction of travel and looking forward to the Standards Framework

Document and Implementation Plan still to follow. In line with the Cancer Control Plan, the NICaN Nursing Group has now signed off their Strategic Workplan, framed around the six workstreams of the network. They have produced the Chemotherapy Administration Competency Workbook and are now leading on the development of the baseline assessment of the chemotherapy service against the newly endorsed NICaN Chemotherapy Service Standards. A position paper and proposed action plan with regards to Cancer Nursing Research and Development is currently being circulated widely amongst nurse leaders across Northern Ireland. The Nurse Network recently led on the production of a chapter for an international book on practice development, which identified the processes used by the network team in the development of the cancer network, and compared and contrasted service improvement and practice development methodologies. Publication of the book is now awaited.

The very successful Republic of Ireland/Northern Ireland/National Cancer Institute Consortium Conference recently held in Belfast had two excellent nursing research sessions with contributions from all three countries. The potential for further cross-border partnership working was highlighted. The ROI/NI/NCI Nurses' Working Group are to meet to take stock of collaborative nursing initiatives to date and to plan for future projects. Successes noted include joint clinical research nurse training and the development of e-learning modules.

We are delighted that Ms Lesley Rutherford has been appointed as Consultant Nurse in Palliative Care (the first in palliative or cancer care in Northern Ireland) in a joint post between Marie Curie Centre, Cancer Centre and Queens University Belfast.

UKONS

What's in it for you?

- A vehicle to communicate with colleagues working in cancer care to share challenges in practice and support practice development
- Your views and expertise will be sought and shared with peers, cancer nurse leaders and national strategic policy makers in every country of the UK
- Your collective voice will influence the future of cancer nursing to ensure nursing practice is informed and developed by practising nurses
- Educational initiatives that highlight practice innovations to meet the challenges of emergent technologies and service re-design inherent in contemporary cancer care
- Access to the UKONS website, receipt of a quarterly newsletter and a chance to have your say about the issues that affect cancer nurses everywhere
- Automatic membership of the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) with associated opportunities

UKONS NEEDS YOU TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN

If you want to find out more, please contact one of our Board members or visit our website

www.ukons.org

NETWORK ROUND UP

what's going on around the UK

SCOTLAND

Nursing People with Cancer in Scotland: A Framework (SEHD 2004) provided strategic direction for cancer nursing, building on key priorities set out in *Cancer in Scotland: Action for Change* (SEHD 2001). The Framework provided an important platform for cancer nurses to consider what was required in order to maximise the nursing contribution in strengthening cancer services. A recent review of its implementation has shown that considerable inroads have been made in trying to secure more co-ordinated cancer nursing services, and there are 'pockets' of evidence beginning to emerge demonstrating improvements in patient outcomes.

Since the framework was published, we have had three major policy documents produced, setting out structures for delivery of NHS Services in Scotland over the next 10–15 years and the nursing and AHP response to meeting the challenges:

Scottish Executive Health Department (2005a). *Delivering for Health*. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive.

Scottish Executive Health Department (2006). *Delivering Care, Enabling Health: Harnessing the nursing, midwife and allied health professional contribution to implementing Delivering for Health in Scotland*. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive.

Scottish Executive Health Department (2006). *Visible, Accessible and Integrated Care. Report of the review of nursing in the community in Scotland*. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive.

Based on all of the above, the priorities from a policy stance include:

- Ongoing commitment to quality improvement (through QIS standards)
- Developing services closer to home
- Supporting the self-care agenda (e.g. building an evidence base for small shift changes to support/enable people to feel more confident in becoming more 'self caring')
- User-involvement initiatives
- Building on the considerable work of the Research Consortia in Scotland and the Cancer Care Research Centre in Sterling to strengthen collaborative research across Scotland.
- Continued review of roles—the Advanced Practice Toolkit being developed at the SEHD based on the cancer work carried out in Scotland which is looking at sustainability
- Health promotion—ongoing commitment to improving the health of the Scottish population and reducing cancer deaths. Specific targeting of more deprived areas in Scotland (e.g. 2010 project etc)
- Education—NES currently looking at developing a capability Framework for Nursing and AHP cancer education starting at foundation level
- Evaluation of current post-graduate cancer care educational programmes. Work is beginning to ascertain need, modes of delivery, equality of access across Scotland to education, role of HEIs
- Development of national chemotherapy competencies is nearly complete



WALES

December 2006: The Welsh Assembly Government published the policy statement "Designed to Tackle Cancer in Wales". This sets out the Assembly Government's clear and specific policy aims and strategic direction to tackle cancer. Full document available: http://new.wales.gov.uk/dcrepos/40382/dhss/403821215/Designed_to_Tackle_Cancer_i1.pdf?lang=en.

January 2007: the final regulations were passed on a complete ban on smoking in all enclosed public places in Wales. This will take effect on Monday April 2nd 2007. Further Information is available at www.smokingbanwales.co.uk.

February 5th 2007: the 3rd Wales Against Cancer Conference was held in Cardiff. This annual conference was jointly organised by the cancer charities: Cancer Research UK, Cancer Care Cymru, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Macmillan Cancer Support and Tenovus. These charities will now continue to work together as the "Wales Cancer Alliance" and aim to provide a more unified and cohesive voice for cancer charities in Wales.

The conference examined issues surrounding cancer treatment and care provision in Wales, including care in the community, inequalities, creating opportunities for translational research and end of life care issues. Taking place just a few months before the Welsh Assembly elections, the conference offered delegates a real opportunity to send a strong message to politicians about the state of cancer services and the needs of patients in Wales. It also provided a platform for the launch of the National Assembly Health and Social Services Committees' much anticipated report 'Cancer Services in Wales'. In addition, the Health Minister, Dr Brian Gibbons announced that Health Commission Wales will receive almost £3.2 million for the phased implementation of a national bowel cancer screening programme in Wales.

The Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS)—England

Prof Mike Richards has recently announced that the CRS will embrace:

- New opportunities and challenges in cancer, such as rising incidence and people living longer with cancer as well as advances in new technology and drugs
- Changes in the NHS since the Cancer Plan was published in 2000, such as shifting services from hospital to the community
- The Healthcare Reform Agenda, including better patient choice, stronger commissioning of cancer services, improved quality of services and better value for money

The Board of 30 experts, including one UKONS member, will pull the strategy together, using the outcomes of six workstreams:

- Service models
- Commissioning and levers for change
- Costs, benefits and value for money
- Clinical outcomes data collection
- Public awareness and early detection
- Patient experience

UKONS is looking forward to both participating in the development of the Cancer Reform Strategy and its implementation.

Forthcoming Events

Hazardous drugs - managing the risks
14th June 2007, Strand, London

Supportive Care Day
13th July 2007

UK Chemotherapy Nurses Forum
Inaugural Conference
14th September 2007