

## GP Education - Oesophageal Cancer - Training Programme



'Mortality rate for oesophageal cancer in males has increased by 56% in the last 10 years. It is the 4th most common cancer death in men in the UK. Survival rate is measured at 12% for 10 years compared to 75% survival rate for 10 years for breast cancer in women. (Source : CRUK)

It is believed that GPs have a role to play in both encouraging males to be aware of symptoms and to raise concerns with their GP much earlier than currently seems to be the case.

Many patients are diagnosed at Stage 4. 'There are no 5 year survival statistics for stage 4 (oesophageal) cancer because sadly many people don't live for that long after diagnosis'. (Source CRUK)

We were delighted to work with Dr Jeremy Harris of the Groves Medical Practice, Chairman of Surrey and Sussex LMC to organise a virtual training event, in partnership with the LMC and representatives from 300 GP practices.

A panel of clinicians from St. Georges Hospital was chaired by Dr Doraid Alrifai, consultant oncologist and included Dr Sophie Barker, consultant, lead of the two week referral pathway for suspected upper GI cancers: Dr Kesavan Kandiah, 'endoscopy and endoscopic treatment for oesophageal cancer': Dr Jason Chow, oncologist responsible for the treatment of early oesophageal cancer and recent advances in immunotherapy.

Dr Jason Chow wrote 'As an oncologist specialising in a variety of tumour types, oesophageal cancer remains one of the most challenging cancer types to treat, often due to the late presentation of the illness and unmet need of more effective treatments in the early and advanced settings. It is an honour to help facilitate the recent education event arranged by The Laurie Todd Foundation and to support its cause of raising awareness of

oesophageal cancer and championing early diagnosis. Education remains one of the most powerful tools we have in the fight against cancer. Early referral will save lives'.

Dr Jeremy Harris wrote: 'Surrey and Sussex LMC were pleased to support this educational event, enabling 300 GP surgeries to access the latest information on the management of oesophageal cancer from an excellent group of consultant colleagues. primary care has a very important role in facilitation the early detection and diagnosis of oesophageal cancer'.

Video snapshot <https://youtu.be/-NOLAx8xrEk>

We believe that GP Education could make a massive difference to survival rates and will continue to work with our partners and others to encourage and accelerate GP Education programmes for oesophageal cancer to reduce mortality, increase survival rates and identify Oesophageal Cancer in males earlier.

We are also hopeful that the research we are co-funding investigating the role of HPV and the development of UGI cancers, a joint Kingston Hospital /University programme will eventually lead to a vaccination programme.

## **Dr Doraid Alrifai**



The speakers really were excellent. It was a privilege to chair the event.

“A great opportunity to hear from 3 expert speakers about early upper gastrointestinal tumours from diagnostic pathways, both current and novel, all the way to systemic treatment for more advanced cases. Much to learn and more to come we hope in a disease which historically has been neglected compared with other more common tumour types”

Dr Doraid Alrifai has worked in several London teaching hospitals throughout his oncology training, acquiring a plethora of experience managing patients with cancer. Dr Alrifai has spent years treating patients with upper gastrointestinal malignancies. Dr Alrifai has completed an MSc at the Institute of Cancer Research and a PhD at University College London, studying the role of genetically engineered mesenchymal stromal cells in cancer. Dr Alrifai has published in several high impact factor journals and has presented work at national and international conferences. He is a sub investigator on a number of clinical trials. He has won awards both nationally and internationally for his work.

## **Dr Sophie Barker**



### **Clinical interests**

Dr Barker is a consultant physician at St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust specializing in Gastroenterology and Hepatology. She has a special interest in UGI cancer and small bowel capsule endoscopy.

### **Professional profile**

Dr Barker trained at Southampton University and then completed her specialist training in Gastroenterology in Wessex and SW Thames. She was awarded a Doctorate of Medicine from Southampton University, investigating the immune response to Hepatitis C.

She was appointed consultant at St George's in 2013.

At St George's she is the clinical lead for Upper GI and Hepatopancreatobiliary cancer, leads the multidisciplinary team and runs the weekly UGI Two Week Wait clinics. She also has a gastroenterology clinic at the Nelson Hospital, weekly upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy lists at St George's and runs the capsule endoscopy service.

## **Dr Kesavan Kandiah**



Dr Kandiah trained in the University of Manchester, qualifying in 2006. He undertook specialist training in gastroenterology in the North West London Deanery and completed an

Advanced Endoscopy Research Fellowship in Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth in 2017. His research on advanced endoscopic detection and resection techniques has been presented in national and international conferences. His work on advanced resection of colonic polyps was awarded the Marsha Dreyer Award by the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy in 2016. He has widely published on advanced endoscopy and continues to participate in endoscopy research.

## **Dr Jason Chow**



Consultant Medical Oncologist in Lung and Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers

Dr Chow is a consultant medical oncologist at St. George's Hospital NHS Trust, London. He completed his medical training at Imperial College School of Medicine, London in 2007. He trained in general medicine in London and went on to train in Medical oncology at Guys and St Thomas's Hospital and St George's Hospital. He completed a master's degree in oncology from the Institute of Cancer Research, completing a research project looking at prognostic biomarkers in patients treated with immunotherapy. He has had a keen interest in education and training and has been an active member of the pan-London oncology specialist training committee for many years. He has been a member of the substantive oncology consultant body at St. George's Hospital since 2018 and plays an active role in departmental management, especially the joint Training Programme Director for Medical Oncology, College Tutor for internal Medicine Training and Oncology Clinical Governance lead.

Dr Chow's main clinical interests are in Lung Cancer and Upper gastrointestinal cancers including hepatobiliary and pancreatic cancers. As a consultant in these tumour types he is part of a network of cancer specialists spanning St. Georges Hospital, The Royal Marsden Hospital and Kings College hospital. He has been involved in a number of clinical trials across these tumour types. Dr Chow has a keen interest in teaching and training of the junior doctors and specialist registrars and is the departmental lead for teaching at St. Georges Hospital, leading wide ranging oncology reaching programmes both within the department and with the wider hospital alongside programs in London. He is a keen lecturer and has been invited to speak at numerous national and international meetings. He is Honorary Senior Lecturer at St George's University London, taking part in university tuition, undergraduate examination and interviews as well as supporting the University Oncology

Society. He is also keen on charity work and has arranged several Charity events for the St. George's Hospital Oncology Charity Fund.

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