



Media Facts

Bringing lung cancer out of the shadow

Facts on the United Kingdom Lung Cancer Coalition

What is the UKLCC?

The UK Lung Cancer Coalition (UKLCC) is a coalition of the UK's leading lung cancer experts, senior NHS professionals, charities and healthcare companies. It is the UK's only multi-interest group in lung cancer.

Lung cancer is the UK's biggest cancer killer¹; it kills over 34,000 people each year¹. This is more than breast cancer, prostate cancer, bladder cancer and leukaemia combined.² Half of all people diagnosed with lung cancer die within six months.³

Why is the UKLCC needed?

The UKLCC was established in November 2005 to help to bring lung cancer out of the political, clinical and media shadow. Despite the huge scale of the problem posed by lung cancer, very little public or political attention had been paid to it.

Despite improvements in services in recent years, there is still a wide variation in survival rates across England. Currently, as a result of socioeconomics and health provision inequalities, you are four times more likely to survive from lung cancer in Chelsea, Stockport and Solihull than you are in Northumberland, Rotherham or Sunderland.⁴

The UKLCC believes that lung cancer gets a raw deal when compared to other cancers. Despite accounting for a quarter of all cancer deaths,⁵ lung

cancer only receives less than four per cent of all current UK cancer research funding.⁶ This is a travesty.

Who are the UKLCC?

The UKLCC consists of a partnership of some of the country's leading lung cancer experts, senior NHS professionals, charities and healthcare companies who are committed to, and have a shared interest in, improving the survival and quality of life of patients with lung cancer.

Currently, there are more than 20 partners of the UKLCC. They are:-

NHS / Clinical / Professional:

- Dr Mick Peake, Chair of the UKLCC Clinical Reference Group. National Lead Clinician for Lung Cancer, NHS Cancer Improvement; Consultant and Senior Lecturer in Respiratory Medicine, University Hospitals of Leicester Trust
- Dr Stephen Falk, Consultant Clinical Oncologist, Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre
- Professor Stephen Spiro, Former Head of the Dept of Respiratory Medicine, University College Hospital, and Vice-Chair of the British Lung Foundation.
- Mr Richard Steyn, Consultant Thoracic Surgeon, Birmingham Heartlands and Solihull NHS Trust
- General Practice Airways Group (GPiAG)
- National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses

Charities:

- British Lung Foundation (Secretariat)
- Cancer Black Care
- Cancer Research UK
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- Marie Curie Cancer Care

- Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation
- Tenovus

Companies:

- AstraZeneca UK Ltd
- Lilly UK
- GSK
- Merck Serono
- Pfizer Ltd
- Pierre Fabre
- Roche Products Ltd
- sanofi-aventis

The Chair of the UKLCC is Dame Gill Oliver.

What are the key aims and objectives of the UKLCC?

The UKLCC's key objectives are to:-

- Raise political awareness of lung cancer
- Raise the general public's awareness of lung cancer – and especially encourage earlier presentation and symptom recognition
- Empower patients to take an active part in their care
- Improve lung cancer services in the UK
- Increase research funding for lung cancer

What is the UKLCC's long-term vision?

The UKLCC is committed to doubling lung cancer patient survival, for example, five year survival by 2015. Currently, a quarter of people with lung cancer in England (25%) will live for a year and less than one in ten (7% in England) are still alive five years after diagnosis.⁷

How will the UKLCC achieve its vision?

By universally adopting the standards of care which already exist in the best NHS centres across the UK, the UKLCC believes it can double survival and help save thousands of lives.^{8,9,10}

The UKLCC also recently developed a 12 point national Lung Cancer Plan - the first in the UK. Development of screening (recognising that a pilot study is soon to commence), greater funding of research, earlier diagnosis and ensuring all patients, wherever they live, have access to a full range of lung cancer specialists, services and treatments, are among some of the detailed calls to action.¹¹

The UKLCC believes that, if prioritised and acted upon, these calls to action would make a real difference to lung cancer patients.

The UKLCC is working with the NHS, Government and parliamentarians, patients and carers, and the industry and voluntary sector to make sure this happens.

How can people contact the UKLCC?

People can contact the UKLCC by visiting www.uklcc.org.uk or by contacting the UKLCC Secretariat at uklcc@blf-uk.org. You can also write to the UKLCC at the following address:-

UKLCC Secretariat
C/o British Lung Foundation
73-75 Goswell Road
London EC1V 7ER
Tel: 0207 688 5555

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Note to editors:

In addition to sponsorship and grants from its constituent organisations, including charities, core funding for the UKLCC is obtained from membership fees received from pharmaceutical companies.

References:

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11. UKLCC Lung Cancer Plan 2007 Accessed at www.uklcc.org.uk

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