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CANCER REFORM STRATEGY HAS TO EMBRACE THE SCIENCE PATHWAY SAYS THINK TANK

Newton's Apple today publishes ***Cancer Vision 2025 – The Science Pathway to Effective Treatments and Services***. The report firmly pushes science to the forefront of the cancer debate and its conclusions have been based upon input from a wider than usual key stakeholder consultation covering the whole patient pathway.

Major cancer research funders and charities, national patient groups, policymakers and politicians of all parties, regulators, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, and in particular young researchers, doctors and nurses participated in this consultation. Newton's Apple recommends:

In the lab...

- Successful development of personalised medicines and preventative measures;
- More sustainable frameworks for cancer research funding;
- Productive interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration; and
- Actions to strengthen the cancer science base through improved competitive career structures.

...to the clinic...

- Methods to foster more academic, industry and clinical collaborations to carry out translational research and clinical trials.

...to the patient

- Development of early detection techniques;
- Methods to successfully engage the research community in the delivery of services to patients, including NHS provision of novel medicines and treatments; and
- Production of evidence-based patient information.

“Patients and the NHS are failing to get the benefit of the wonderful and prolific cancer research being done in the UK” says Dr Monica Darnbrough, Chairman of the project working group, Board Member of Newton's Apple, and former Head of DTI's Bioscience Unit.

“Our vision is that we must make sure the research strength is maintained in the UK and most importantly that more is done to pull through the discoveries into treatments. And of course researchers and developers will need to work with NICE and NHS commissioning experts in working out how novel treatments can be afforded.”

“Science has to be an integral part of every element of the new Cancer Reform Strategy” concluded Dr Darnbrough.

ENDS

Notes for editors

Cancer Vision 2025 – The Science Pathway to Effective Treatments and Services can be found at www.newtons-apple.org.uk/cancer including the stakeholder consultation agenda. To obtain a hard copy or arrange an interview with Dr Monica Darnbrough please contact Mia Nybrant (Director) on 07890 864 361, 020 7936 5959 or mia@newtons-apple.org.uk

Newton's Apple (www.newtons-apple.org.uk) is a new science think-tank. Its objective is to bring a greater understanding to society of the vital role that science, technology and engineering contribute to the wealth of the UK and the health of its people. By engaging professional scientists of all age groups and from different fields in the policy process, the organisation aims to offer robust solutions to some of the challenges we are facing in the 21st century and beyond.