



Welcome to our round up of the goings on in the UK ocular melanoma world, and the life of our charity.

Jo and I have been very busy. Jo has been focusing on patient support, manning the helpline and sorting out our merchandising and marketing materials. I have been focusing on a couple of projects.



First was our promotional video. If you haven't seen it, click [here](#). I also interviewed Jacqui Quinn for a future video (picture on left).

Second, I have been working with the designers from Digital Storm on our new look website. There has been a lot to write as we are creating many new sections from scratch, in response to all the feedback we have received from members.

One of the most important things we want to incorporate is patient stories. We still have a couple of gaps to fill and we would love to hear from any patients who had their **eye** tumour resected, or who received stereotactic radiosurgery. We are looking for people who would be willing to write a short piece about the treatment - how they found it, how they recovered etc. If you think you might be able to help, please email me via Kathryn@ocumeluk.org or call the helpline on 0300 790 0512.

Of course we had our annual conference in September 2015, which was a great success as always. We were lucky to once again have some fantastic speakers. As usual we recorded the talks and you can see them [here](#). Last year also saw the national guidelines for uveal melanoma published. OcuMel UK paid for the article to be open source in perpetuity, so you can read it [here](#).

The funding of chemosaturation therapy continues to be a huge bugbear. NHS England have repeatedly changed their processes with regards to CtE (Commissioning Through Evaluation) and OcuMel UK is currently consulting on a routine commissioning proposal. Meanwhile, you can find out more at Delcath's [new website](#) about living with liver cancer, and about their chemosaturation therapy. Check out the patient stories for a familiar face!

If you have any questions about any of the above, or you have any ideas or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Jo or I. Please scroll down for more news.

Thank you for all your support!

Kathryn Curtis

The OcuMel UK Board of Trustees

OcuMel UK is looking for enthusiastic patients and family members to join Neil Pearce, Jo Gumbs and Joanna Dallas on our friendly board of trustees, meeting around 3 times a year either in person or on the phone.

This is a great opportunity to shape the future of OcuMel UK and take an active role in ensuring the future viability of our charity.

We would especially love to recruit someone with organisational skills to take the role of secretary, but it is your personal experience of ocular melanoma that is most valuable to the board, so please do not hesitate to apply whatever your interests.

Please contact Jo@ocumeluk.org for an application form and more information, or call the helpline on 0300 790 0512.

Grateful thanks go to our out-going board member, David Hughes, for all his hard work, particularly in the area of driving forward our use of IT and technology.

We are also hugely grateful to our former Chair, Professor Sarah Coupland. She has been a champion of OcuMel UK and has now kindly agreed to sit on our new Clinical Advisory Panel.

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Ms Cohen will be taking your questions

OM Eye Patch Day

Get ready for OM Eye Patch Day 2016



Jo Gumbs and David Hughes

The OcuMel UK Clinical Advisory Panel

We are extremely excited and honoured to be able to announce that some of the top experts in the country in ocular melanoma have agreed to sit on our Clinical Advisory Panel (CAP).

The CAP members are:

Dr Amit Arora (Ocular Oncology)
Dr Paul Cauchi (Ocular Oncology)
Prof. Sarah Coupland (Pathology)
Mr Stephen Fenwick (Liver Surgery)
Prof. Heinrich Heimann (Ocular Oncology)
Dr Pradesh Kumar (Interventional Radiology)
Mr Ali Majeed (Liver Surgery)
Dr Ernie Marshall (Medical/Clinical Oncology)
Dr Paul Nathan (Medical/Clinical Oncology)
Prof. Christian Ottensmeier (Medical/Clinical Oncology)
Mr Sachin Salvi (Ocular Oncology)
Dr Brian Stedman (Interventional Radiology)
Dr Peter Szlosarek (Medical/Clinical Oncology)

The CAP is going to be helping us with two main projects initially. The first is our new website. We would like the panel to check the accuracy of the information we are offering. The second project is a trials database. We would like to host an up-to-date, comprehensive list of all clinical trials available to ocular melanoma patients, so that there is a one stop shop for information to make our members' lives easier. The panel will be meeting for the first time on Monday 1st February 2016.



Our conference 2015 speakers, including CAP members; Peter Szlosarek, Christian Ottensmeier and Sachin Salvi

Supporter Care

Thanks to the support of our members, and of the general public, we have been able to bring a new member of the team on board, Nicolette McDowell. Nicky will be our new supporter care officer and will be in contact with our fundraisers and our valued donors, who for years have supported and helped OcuMel UK.

If you are interested in fundraising for us, have any questions or would just like to say “hi”, please do email her at supporter.care@ocumeluk.org.

Web Chat with Ms Victoria Cohen

In support of World Cancer Day on Thursday 4th February 2016, Moorfields Eye Hospital is hosting a web chat with Victoria Cohen, consultant ocular oncologist, on Tuesday 2nd February between 12.30pm and 1.30pm.

You are invited to ask Ms Cohen questions about any aspect of ocular oncology, by accessing this [link](#) to the Moorfields website, and submitting your questions when the web chat goes live.

OM Eye Patch Day 2016

OM Eye Patch Day will take place on Friday 20th May 2016. This is a day when our supporters collect sponsorship for wearing an eye patch all day (except when driving, riding a bike etc.)

This is a great opportunity for us all to pull together and make a noise about ocular melanoma and the



Nicolette McDowell



importance of eye tests.

We are looking for volunteers to help us make this year's day better than ever. Please contact Jo@ocumeluk.org or call her on 0300 790 0512 if you want to get involved. We would love to form a committee to get some new ideas happening and help us create a buzz around the day.



*OM Eye Patch Day 2015 reached
as far as Australia!*