Patient and Public Representatives needed to help
develop research in the Oncology Clinical Trials
Office, University of Oxford

- Are you a patient, a carer, or someone with an interest in cancer research?
- Are you passionate about improving patient experience?
- Do you have a strong interest in contributing to the oversight and direction of the University of Oxford’s Department of Oncology Clinical Trials Unit, which is dedicated to high quality research for people with cancer?

The University of Oxford’s Department of Oncology Clinical Trials Office ("OCTO") is part of the Cancer Research UK Oxford Centre. OCTO conducts research (clinical trials) in many different types of cancer. OCTO is involved in research looking at effective treatments for different cancers, improving diagnosis of cancers, and establishing ways of identifying which groups of patients may respond best to particular treatments. The treatments we look at include:

- chemotherapy (using drugs)
- radiotherapy (use of radiation)
- biological therapy (immunotherapy)
- or combinations of these treatments.

We also research imaging of cancers, using techniques such as CT and MRI scans, to learn more about how a tumour is responding to particular treatments. Our trials vary in size from small, single centre trials (working with just one hospital), to international trials working with multiple hospitals in multiple countries.

Cancer Research UK firmly believes that working with people affected by cancer increases our understanding of cancer, and that high quality Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) helps to ensure that the work they fund meets the needs of patients. OCTO’s work is funded by Cancer Research UK.

In OCTO we have three committees which provide independent oversight of our work.

IEPTOC is the Independent Early Phase Trial Oversight Committee which meets twice a year and provides oversight for OCTO’s early phase medical oncology (drug) trials

RIOC is the Radiotherapy and Imaging Oversight Committee which meets twice a year and provides oversight for OCTO’s trials looking at radiotherapy and/or imaging.
OCTO Steering Group meets monthly and defines and develops overall strategy for OCTO, and oversees the operations of OCTO at an executive level to make recommendations on these operations to ensure the unit delivers trials in an efficient manner.

The meetings are usually face to face and usually held in Oxford. Membership of the committees includes: Doctors, Researchers, Trial Managers, Statisticians, and Patient and Public Representatives.

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) representatives can give patients a voice in how OCTO’s research is conducted. PPI representatives are experts in how patients experience cancer. They can help on oversight committees to represent the opinions of patients, carers and the general public, as well as helping write and refine documents written for trial participants (i.e., lay summaries, Patient Information Sheets). We expect to have at least two PPI representatives attending each committee meeting.

We are inviting applications from a diverse range of individuals with experience of all kinds of cancer who live in Oxfordshire to form a panel of Patient and Public Involvement Representatives who attend these committees. By having a panel of members, no one member will be expected to attend all of the meetings, and there will be other representatives in the same role that can support you.

As a PPI Representative your role is:
- To contribute to the development of our research, from the point of view of someone with direct or indirect experience of cancer, through commenting on and feeding into our research
- To make contributions to the setting of our research strategy.
- To bring the patient, carer and general public perspective to discussions with health professionals and researchers.

We will provide our Patient and Public Representatives with:
- An induction to the work of the Oncology Clinical Trials Office and each of our oversight committees.
- A clinical mentor.
- Ongoing support and training.
- Payment for your time and reimbursement for travel to meetings.

To apply please complete the Application Form and send to fiona.cooper@oncology.ox.ac.uk by 31 October 2017.

For further information or an informal discussion, please contact either:
Sarah Pearson, Trial Management Director at OCTO sarah.pearson@oncology.ox.ac.uk
Claire Brooks, Portfolio Lead at OCTO on 01865 617082 or claire.brooks@oncology.ox.ac.uk

We will shortlist candidates and invite them to attend a meeting at the University of Oxford Old Road Campus during December 2017 before confirming appointments.