"Research into less common cancers" report

Key findings summary

Introduction

- Cancer52 has worked with the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) to analyse the research spend of the members of Cancer52 in 2012 and place this in the wider context of less common cancer research funded by NCRI Partners.

- The resultant report *Research into less common cancers*, published on 4th November 2013, shows for the first time the level and type of research investment in rare and less common cancers by members of Cancer52.

Methodology

- Findings are based on data from 17 members of Cancer52. Twenty-five Cancer52 members indicated they were research-active and submitted data to the analysis but eight organisations were excluded from the analysis as their awards were not active on 1st April 2012 census date.

- For the purposes of this analysis less common cancer awards were defined as awards that were focussed on a specific cancer site, which was not breast, colon and rectal, lung or prostate (the four more common cancers).

Key findings of the report

- Cancer52 members spent £7,082,333 on all cancer research in 2012. Of this £6,288,071, or 88.8%, was spent on less common cancers. The remaining 11.2% was non-site specific research or research which was focussed on more common cancers.

- The £6,288,071 represents 5.1% of the total investment by NCRI Partners and Cancer52 members combined in research on rare and less common cancers.¹

- There were 87 individual Cancer52 member awards included in the analysis with 80.7 award equivalents focussed on less common cancers.

- The average annual award spend by members of Cancer52 on less common cancers was £77,938 and the median spend was £52,710. This compares to an average annual award spend of £136,275, and a median of £73,060 in the combined less common cancer data based on spend of Cancer52 members and NCRI Partners.
• The highest proportion of spend by Cancer52 members on research by research category was on Treatment (47.0%), significantly higher than the 36.5% spent on Treatment research by NCRI Partners and Cancer52 members combined. The combined spend on Treatment research on the more common cancers was 28.3%.

• By cancer group, Blood cancers account for the highest percentage (41.8%) of spend by Cancer52 members, followed by cancer of the Brain and Nervous System (25.0%), Gynaecological cancers (14.8%), Gastrointestinal cancers (6.8%), and Urological cancers (1.7%).

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1 The combined total spend on all types of cancer research by Cancer52 members and NCRI Partners in 2012 was £512,438,177. Approximately 44%, or £225,394,257, of this demonstrated a clear cancer site of focus with the remaining 56%, or £287,043,920, being non-site specific research. Of the site specific spend, 54.9% was focussed on less common cancers equating to £123,776,277, with Cancer52 members accounting for 5.1% of this spend.