Celebrating the Inaugural Lecture of Professor Heather Payne

Location: Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre (Third floor, South Cloisters, UCL)

Programme: Friday 18th December 2015

17.30 Introduction to Proceedings
Professor Jem Hebden
Head of Department of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering

Introduction to Lecture
Professor Gary Royle
UCL Department of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering

17.45 Inaugural Lecture
“RADARS of the lost particle”
Professor Heather Payne

18.30 Vote of thanks
Dr Reena Davda and Dr Ajay Aggarwal
Specialist Registrars Clinical Oncology / UCLH

19.15 Reception in South Cloisters
Heather Payne is a consultant in clinical oncology at University College Hospital with a specialist interest in the treatment of prostate cancer. Heather trained at St Mary’s Hospital, London, and after qualifying spent time working in psychiatry, radiotherapy, palliative care and general medicine both in London and also as a physician in Haiti where conventional medicine was mixed with voodoo practices. She returned to London with a variety of new skills and after passing the membership examination to the Royal College of Physicians, commenced training at as a clinical oncologist at Guys and St Thomas Hospitals. Heather enjoyed the varied workload and also the challenges of clinical oncology which matched technical physics and radiobiology to very basic patient care. She passed the fellowship to the Royal College of Radiologists and continued her training at Mount Vernon and the Middlesex Hospitals. During this period of time, she developed an interest in urological cancers and found her passion for prostates.

Heather was appointed as a consultant in clinical oncology at the Middlesex Hospital in 1997 and works at University College Hospital as a prostate oncologist. She has a busy clinical practice and works with a dedicated multidisciplinary team. She has implemented new techniques to improve radiotherapy for urological malignancies, including a High Dose Rate brachytherapy service for prostate cancer in 2000 and also Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy and Image Guided Radiotherapy techniques.

Heather has established a national and international profile in the treatment of urological malignancies and has been the Chief Investigator and Principle Investigator in a variety of clinical trials investigating new therapies for the management of prostate cancer. She has published over 150 articles in scientific journals.

In 2004, Heather founded the British Uro-oncology Group (BUG), a national association for Uro-oncologists with over 200 members and regular educational meetings which are immensely popular and oversubscribed. Heather has brought her own personality to BUG and has served as chair for over 10 years. Through BUG, she has implemented 12 national meetings for oncologists, developed a website, a journal (BUG Bytes) and organised regional educational meetings.

Heather is a trustee of the Prostate Cancer Research Centre, Oncology Lead for the National Prostate cancer Audit, and serves on the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group, National Cancer Intelligence Network site specific reference group for urology, ICR-CTSU Prostate Radiotherapy trials steering committee, and works closely with the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) to encourage equity of care for the elderly. In 2014, she was appointed to the prostate cancer working group of The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM). The work and recommendations from this committee is about to be published and will influence outcome measures in prostate cancer in clinical trials and everyday practice. She works with a number of patient groups and to raise awareness of prostate cancer and to improve opportunities for more effective therapy for all men.

Heather’s current research interests include hormone therapy, sensitization of hormones and radiotherapy, predictive indices for bowel toxicity with radiotherapy, proton beam therapy for prostate cancer, quality of life, and decision-making for men with prostate cancer. Heather is currently working with a small multidisciplinary group of clinicians, physicists and scientists who are dedicated to promote novel research and development and in 2015, founded Prostate Cancer RADAR (RADiotherapy Advances and Research)