

Mercedes Vázquez Cantú, Veterinary Medicine Science (NBCRC Membership Engagement sub-group).

Mercedes joins our management committee as part of the member engagement subgroup. She is a PhD research student in the BBSRC DTP, a four-year research programme. Currently in her final year, her research focuses on modelling triple-negative breast cancer using stem cell-derived organoids. Through this work, she aims to enhance understanding of the disease and identify potential therapeutic strategies.

Ashia Wheeler-Crawford (NBCRC Membership Engagement sub-group).

Ashia leads the member engagement subgroup of our management committee. She is in the final year of her PhD working on a research project 'The role of Bromodomain and extra terminal proteins (BET) in triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC).' Her studies seek to understand how these proteins influence hypoxia – low oxygen conditions in tumours that contribute to poor prognosis in TNBC. BET proteins modulate angiogenesis by regulating the expression and secretion of angiogenic cytokines, regulating new blood vessel growth into tumours.

If you would like to find out more about our membership committee and our members, please visit our [website](#).



BACR Breast Cancer Conference 2024

It was wonderful to see many NBCRC members present at the 2024 British Association of Cancer Research (BACR) Breast Cancer Conference, entitled 'New Developments in Breast Cancer Research - From Lab to Clinic', which was held in Gateshead November 27th. They report that it was a wonderful event. Well done for flying the flag for NBCRC!



Fundraising Events – Celebrating Past Success!

Robin Hood Half Marathon

The Robin Hood Half Marathon is a popular annual event that brings together runners from all walks of life, united by their passion for fitness and commitment to charitable causes. This year, Katherine, Jon, Joanne and Rachael demonstrated incredible dedication by participating in the challenge to support NBCRC. These four runners not only pushed their physical limits but also made a meaningful impact by raising an impressive £3,720. Their participation highlights the power of community spirit and dedication to supporting breast cancer research.



John Lewis & Partners Fashion Show

During October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we were thrilled to partner with John Lewis & Partners Nottingham to host a Fashion Show event. The evening was a vibrant celebration of style, and attendees were not only treated to a stunning showcase of fashion but also united in support of breast cancer. We are pleased to announce that through the generosity of the community, we raised an incredible £1,753 for our research centre as well as receiving media coverage from [Notts TV](#) and an acknowledgement in the [University of Nottingham News story](#).



University of Nottingham Cheerleading Society

Faylisha, from the NBCRC team, together with passionate NBCRC Patient Supporter Alexandra Perry brought vital health awareness to the University of Nottingham Cheerleading squad's rehearsal, sharing research updates and crucial signs and symptoms of breast cancer. Alexandra shared her personal story as well as leading the team through a live demonstration on how to check your chest.



Warrior Weekend: A Celebration of Strength and Sisterhood

Alexandra Perry, one of our NBCRC Patient Supporters, organised an inspiring Warrior Weekend raising £358. The retreat offered attendees the chance to relax and enjoy adventurous activities.

University of Nottingham Cancer Sciences Society

The University of Nottingham Cancer Sciences Society hosted an exciting breast cancer awareness pub quiz that raised £114.

University of Nottingham Woman's* Network

The Women's Network hosted a delicious bake sale, raising an impressive £242. Thank you to Charlotte Spencer for leading this fundraising event.



Dragon Boat Volunteer Celebration

Our inspiring Dragon Boat racers were celebrated in a special cheque ceremony and team tour of the labs, to celebrate their success. This year's Dragon Boat Teams raised a fantastic £13,245 which contributed to the funding of this year's Pilot Grant Awards - to Professor Alan McIntyre and Dr Cinzia Allegrucci.

An enormous thank you to organisers, volunteers and Patient Ambassadors Claire Tomlinson and Sarah Nice for all the hard work and effort in putting the event together, and to all the participants in the boats! Claire, Sarah, Liam, Nikola, Michelle, Kieran, Shane and Josephine attended the presentation event and lab tour. If you would also like to have a look around our research facilities, please contact us.

Boobie Ball 4

The fourth Boobie Ball, held on November 30th and organised entirely by our wonderful patient supporters and volunteers, was an extraordinary evening which raised over £28,000! Over 450 attended, with the event bringing together survivors, friends and their families in a powerful celebration of awareness and solidarity. This year's ball was especially dedicated to the memory of Becca Hunt, and her significant contributions to previous Boobie Ball events. She will be very sadly missed by all who knew her.

The night was a testament to the strength of our community and our shared commitment to the strength of our community and our shared commitment to breast cancer research. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and supported this bi-annual celebration as well as to all of the amazing event organisers Lisa Johnson, Alexandra Perry, Sally Stretton, Rachael Homewood and Claire Jennings.



Awareness Ambassadors

The University of Nottingham University Medics Football (Ladies) and University of Nottingham Futsal team united in support of breast cancer awareness, wearing pink during their training. Their vibrant display highlighted the importance of community solidarity in raising awareness.

If you would like to organise, or participate in, fundraising events for NBCRC please contact us – we will release news and plans for future events early in 2025 – watch this space!

Welcome To Our New Patient Support Ambassadors

We are thrilled to welcome new members to our Patient & Supporters Subgroup – it's great to have them onboard! Each volunteer/patient supporter brings their unique lived experiences and insights and will play a crucial role in supporting and empowering our community.

Janine Borderick

"I have always been an advocate of cancer research and have raised funds following the death of my parents to cancer. My mum passed away at 44 from bowel cancer in 1999 and my dad passed away from primary lung cancer aged 56 in 2007. I feel incredibly lucky in catching my cancer relatively early and for the treatment that I have had. I want to be able to feed into the next breakthrough, that will save lives. I also have feedback on side effects, treatments, and menopause that may help develop treatment plans of the future."

Jacqueline Bassaragh

"Breast cancer awareness is important to me to ensure all women know how to self-check, be aware of the possible signs and symptoms and attend screening. All of these combined can contribute to early detection and may save your life."

Sandra Collins

"I was diagnosed in March of 2022 with a stage 3 fast growing cancer, so I campaign to ensure that women of colour are supported through the treatment path from booking your appointment for a mammogram through to, if needed, hospital appointments."

Vivienne Aiyela

"When I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I was aware of chemotherapy, radiotherapy, what a mastectomy was, but that was all. My diagnosis was low grade, it wasn't as severe as many women experience so I just got on with life and didn't ask for help as I didn't know what help I needed. I am very resilient, however, it was the side effects of the Tamoxifen which has been the most life-changing for me. Black women are always strong, and don't want to ask for help or know how to/where to get help. This is why health inequalities occur for Black women, also due to cultural differences. There is no one-size fits all. Sharing my story is important to me."

Monica Duncan

"Breast cancer awareness is crucial for me. I had breast cancer 25 years ago and it returned again in 2023. I have been attending the annual breast cancer conference for black women, which has been a lifeline for me in terms of research updates, listening to medical and social stories and learning about resources and support available to me. With the dramatic increase in breast cancer diagnosis, we owe it to ourselves to be breast aware."

Itunu Johnson Sogbetun

"Raising awareness is crucial because early detection and education can make life-saving differences, particularly in the Black community, where health disparities often mean delayed diagnoses and poorer outcomes. I want to help bridge these gaps and advocate for improved accessibility and culturally competent care."

Student Graduates

We are thrilled to congratulate all of our breast cancer research students who participated in this year's graduation ceremony and successfully completed their degrees.

Name of student: Ahmed Alnaeem

Degree: PhD

Thesis Title: Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic investigation into polymeric nano-carriers of doxorubicin for the treatment of breast cancer

Supervisor: Cinzia Allegrucci, Cameron Alexander, Anna Grabowska, Stuart Paine

Name of student: Jack Morton

Degree: PhD

Thesis Title: Arenavirus-based infection as a targeted non-lytic anti-cancer virotherapy for breast cancer

Supervisor: Cinzia Allegrucci, Toshana Foster, Nathan Archer, Janet Daly, Rob Stot-Marshall

How to Give

You can help support vital breast cancer research. Making a gift is easy, you can donate once or set up a regular direct debit.

[Donate](#)

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