



HEPATOCELLULAR CANCER UK SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (HCC-UK): ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

This annual report covers the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019.

Membership

The BASL Committee appointed an initial Chair, Dr Aileen Marshall, Consultant Hepatologist, Royal Free Hospital, London. A temporary Committee was also established. Dr Marshall was subsequently elected as Chair and a Steering Committee was elected. The Committee comprises the Lead, a Secretary and 10 other members. At the time of writing this report, there are 221 HCC-UK members.

Meetings

The fourth annual conference of HCC-UK was held 14-15 March 2019 in Birmingham. Various medical disciplines were covered in sessions delivered by leading UK experts. The programme included: HCC in the setting of viral hepatitis, an update on new oncological therapies on the horizon for HCC and cutting edge research presentations. The continuing area of controversy, should early HCC be managed by surgical resection rather than transplantation, was addressed in a debate with the opportunity for audience participation. Experts were also presented with a series of cases, and asked to define and justify the treatment plans.

The number of delegates increased again this year, with excellent feedback received.

Key achievements

HCC-UK supported the multicentre collaborative application to Cancer Research UK, led by Professor Helen Reeves. The HUNTER (Hepatocellular Carcinoma Expediter Network) project was awarded £5 million in 2018. The aims of this exciting project include developing tools to enable the research community to answer specific questions centred on stratification, monitoring and improvement of immunotherapy for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). They are collecting tissue and data, characterising the immunogenomic HCC microenvironment, developing preclinical animal and human models, and delivering a PhD training programme.

HCC-UK continue to engage with NICE, providing input into technology appraisals relating to HCC treatments.

Further information

Please visit the HCC-UK webpage at <https://www.basl.org.uk/index.cfm/content/page/cid/34>.