



PRESS RELEASE

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Ovacome is the first ovarian cancer charity to publish clinical trial details online

The re-launched Ovacome web site will from this May give medical professionals, patients and carers the latest information on innovative drugs being tested in the UK and overseas, together with contact details for those running the trial: the first ovarian cancer charity to do so.

Women with ovarian cancer will be able to nominate themselves for inclusion in clinical trials - including those run on a small local and a national basis - and in a separate add-on, 'discuss' health and other issues with fellow patients on a single web site: both leading the way for an ovarian cancer charity.

"Ovarian cancer often returns after treatment and patients do not know where to turn after they have exhausted all of the conventional drugs available," says Louise Bayne, chief executive of Ovacome. "This database will save patients and their families from spending hours of their precious time having to trawl aimlessly through web sites in the hope of stumbling upon a trial that they might be suitable for. Our database will offer a valuable service in bringing together ovarian cancer patients and trial facilitators without delay."

Sean Kehoe, MD FRCOG from the Oxford Gynaecological Cancer Centre agrees: "This one-stop shop to find out about clinical trials is great news for women with ovarian cancer and for the medical profession. I hope that GPs and other medical professionals will point patients to this site which will help to speed up the process of finding appropriate women for important trials."

The chat room will also be invaluable in uniting ovarian cancer sufferers and their families and friends. It will give people affected by ovarian cancer the chance to 'chat' informally, giving each other hints and tips on coping with the disease and general support, says Louise. "We are the only charity to offer a nurse run helpline specifically for people with ovarian cancer to phone for advice and a letters page in our newsletter, but sometimes ovarian cancer patients and their carers don't feel emotionally strong enough to talk on the phone or bare all in a public way and like the relative anonymity of being able to discuss what can be very personal matters on line. It will be invaluable for them to have somewhere to go to share their experiences, to get support

emotionally as well as educationally and to make friends in this virtual community.”

“There are 6,900 incidents of ovarian cancer in women every year in the UK, where it is the fourth most common cancer for women. Often the disease is diagnosed too late to completely eradicate and women are left feeling helpless and desperate in getting through it. These two latest initiatives from Ovacome will undoubtedly help them,” says Louise.

To visit the web site contact www.ovacome.org.uk

Notes for editors:

Ovacome’s chief executive Louise Bayne would be happy to discuss the initiatives or ovarian cancer in more detail. For an interview contact Juliet or Amanda on the above numbers.

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