Is it really just Heartburn?

HCUK - Our Trustees
Changing Lives - Saving People
Mimi McCord  
Chairman Trustee & Director

I am the founder trustee of the McCord Oesophageal Cancer Fund which is now known as Heartburn Cancer UK (HCUK). I set up the charity in memory of my husband Michael who died from oesophageal cancer in 2002, a death that could have been prevented had he known of the dangers of long term persistent heartburn. HCUK raises awareness and educates the general public and medical profession of the link, and risk factors, between heartburn, Barrett’s oesophagus and oesophageal cancer to try and reduce the increasing number of deaths from this cancer through prevention and early diagnosis.

Over the last ten years I have been a lay member on NICE and British Society of Gastroenterology guideline committees focusing on Barrett’s oesophagus and oesophageal cancer and have advised the Department of Health on their public awareness campaign on oesophago-gastric cancer.

I am also involved in a number of trials to improve diagnosis, treatment and management of Barrett’s oesophagus and oesophageal cancer from design through to publication of research results. Currently I am Patient Advocate for a major research project funded by CRUK as part of their Grand Challenge venture. The project called Mutographs of Cancer is led by Professor Sir Mike Stratton and seeks to fill in the missing gaps to identify the unknown cancer causing factors and reveal how they lead to cancer.

I am the mother of two grown-up children and the grandmother of three with a fourth due shortly. I am a very hands on grandmother looking after all three every Tuesday, very rewarding but hard-work, particularly when I’m juggling a toddler and my computer when something charity related needs a response. I am a very keen runner and frequently seen running round Bosham where I live. I’m also in the gym three times a week so I’m fit and reasonably de-stressed thanks to so much exercise, including dog walking.
Prof Tim Underwood
Vice Chair

I am a surgeon scientist with a special interest in oesophageal cancer. With a team of specialists, I perform surgery for cancer of the oesophagus and stomach on a weekly basis. I believe passionately that through improvements in diagnosis and treatment, founded on basic scientific research, the survival rates for oesophageal cancer can be greatly improved.

I lead a network of researchers and clinicians in Southampton (SC3) who share this aim and I am delighted to represent them and their patients as a trustee of HCUK.

I am married with a five year old daughter. I am passionate about sport in all its forms and have been since I was a child. However, playing rugby has given way to golf as age advances!

Professor Rebecca Fitzgerald
Trustee & Director

I am a Professor of Cancer Prevention at the University of Cambridge & a Research Professor for the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR). I trained in clinical Gastroenterology and started doing research into cancer of the oesophagus in 1995. Over the years I have looked after many patients, some diagnosed with Barrett’s oesophagus and some with cancer of the oesophagus. More recently I have had the privilege of seeing how patients with oesophageal cancer can be cured through simple endoscopic treatments when their disease is diagnosed early.

I run a research programme to improve the early detection of cancer of the oesophagus at the MRC Cancer Unit in Cambridge. I think that it is vital that we improve awareness amongst the general public and doctors about heartburn and the link with Barrett’s oesophagus and cancer which is why I am so keen to be involved with this charity.

People sometimes think that working in this area might be depressing but it is very fulfilling to be able to work on something so important and my husband and four young sons ensure that I keep a perspective on life!
Beryl Huntingdon - Vice Chair

Having suffered with persistent heartburn Beryl Huntingdon, a successful businesswoman, knows exactly the importance of being alert to the symptoms, which could ultimately lead to Oesophageal cancer.

Beryl had a Laparoscopic Fundoplication in 2001, & for her the surgery was a welcome, positive, life-changing experience. She was delighted to be approached by Mimi McCord to become a Trustee of HCUK. Since becoming a Trustee one of her main aims is to raise public awareness & understanding of this potential condition.

Tim Thornton Jones - Trustee & Director

As a close friend of Michael McCord, and his solicitor, I was one of the first trustees of the McCord Fund and was involved in its initial registration as a charity in 2003. I am committed to raising awareness of the link between heartburn, Barrett's oesophagus & oesophageal cancer and to supporting sufferers.

Alistair Cheyne OBE - Trustee & Director

Alistair is a seasoned professional who brings considerable experience in the fields of Business, Leadership, Operations and knowledge of the Charitable sector, having worked as a Trustee in a number of charities.

He has a high sense of urgency and organisational discipline and is determined to create as much public awareness of the disease and dangers of persistent heartburn, as is possible, in the firm belief that early diagnosis saves lives!

Alistair was awarded an OBE for services to motoring in 1997.

Alistair is married to his long suffering wife Dorothy, and together they enjoy reading, gardening, their dogs, indeed all animals, and all sorts of sports, though now of course a little too old to participate!
Paul Carr
Trustee & Director

Paul is a highly experienced senior Commercial/Marketing/Business Director and motivating leader of high-performing and collaborative teams throughout his long career, spent mainly in the Food and Drink sector. He has held key responsibility for such brands as Bass, Diamond White, Saxa, Sharwoods, Hovis and Cadburys drinking chocolates, as well as running successful and profitable businesses and business units from £50m to £250m turnover pa.. Paul recently retired from mainstream corporate life at the comparatively young age of 55, and has the energy and desire to now focus his 30+ years of marketing experience towards the aim of developing and practically implementing initiatives which raise awareness around the importance of recognising the dangers of heartburn, and thus delivering its key objective of reducing mortality rates associated with Oesophageal Cancer.

Paul has two grown-up daughters, both of whom are following in his Food & Drink marketer footsteps. He’s a keen amateur chef and truly appreciates fantastic food & drink – especially English ales and ciders (one of which he brews himself from his own apples). He now lives in a 500 year old thatched cottage in rural Hampshire with his wife Jeni (also a trustee of Heartburn Cancer UK), four fluffy moggies and a tank full of tropical fish. When not engaged in working for the charity and its aims he can usually be found in the garden, turning wood in his workshop, walking the lanes with his camera or repairing the latest problem in the cottage.

Jeni Carr
Trustee & Director

Jeni has spent her career working in Finance as a Chartered Accountant, firstly in practice for such firms as Ernst & Young and RSM Tenon and more latterly as Finance Director working for a law firm in Reading, where she is currently. She’s passionate about the numbers, and has enormous experience particularly in Charity Finance, having spent many years working with this side of the business whilst in practice.

In her spare time she’s married to Paul (above) and shares the same daughters, cats and cottage in rural Hampshire. She enjoys arts and crafts, particularly needlework and sewing, but is equally adept at painting and decorating on a small scale, pyrocrafts and knitting. Both Jeni and Paul enjoy travel and skiing and Jeni has recently discovered Yoga which she combines with "Spin" and Swimming to keep trim. She continues to work as a Lay Steward at St Georges Chapel in Windsor, another voluntary role which involves stewarding major events such as Royal Weddings and the annual Garter Ceremony and attends other services at the Chapel throughout the year. Jeni’s involvement in the charity came about through Paul and their neighbour, Alistair Cheyne, who’s inspiration she took to help raise awareness of the dangers of heartburn, whilst ensuring there’s always the funding available to do so!
"Oesophageal cancer is the seventh most common cancer in the UK. Early diagnosis saves lives"
Help us by donating now!

HCUK relies on public support to do their vital work.

Donating to HCUK is easy.

You can donate:

- on-line through justgiving.com and virgin money,
- by cheque made payable to: Heartburn Cancer UK
- through a payroll giving scheme,
- with regular standing orders,
- as part of your legacy,
- or every time you shop online.

If you are a current UK taxpayer we would encourage you to complete a gift aid declaration which allows us to reclaim the tax so a donation of £10 is worth £12.50 to us.

Registered Charity No. 1136413

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