

A person wearing a white lab coat is holding a prosthetic hand. The background is a blurred blue and white. In the bottom right corner, there is a large graphic of a flame in red and yellow.

**HCUK**

HEARTBURN  
CANCER UK

Is it really

just Heartburn?

**HCUK - Our Trustees**  
Changing Lives - Saving People

# HCUK - Meet the Trustees



**Mimi McCord**  
**Chairman Trustee & Director**

I am the founder trustee of the McCord Oesophageal Cancer Fund which is now known as Heartburn Cancer UK. 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 the dangers of long term persistent heartburn. The charity raises awareness and educates the general public and medical profession of the link, and risk factors, between heartburn and oesophageal cancer to try and reduce the increasing number of deaths from this cancer through prevention and early diagnosis.

I am a lay member of NICE and BSG guideline groups focusing on Barrett's Oesophagus and Oesophageal cancer and have advised the Department of Health on their public awareness campaigns.

I am also involved in a number of trials attempting to improve diagnosis, treatment and management of Barrett's oesophagus and oesophageal cancer. I am the mother of two grown up children and now have two grandchildren with a third on the way. Both my children are 'scoped' as they have reflux.

I am a very keen runner and can frequently be seen running around Bosham where I live. I also take part in my local 'Boot Camp Fitness' three times a week in the local recreation ground, regardless of the weather! All this keeps me fit and reasonably de-stressed.



**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 with cancer of the oesophagus who have been diagnosed too late and more recently had the privilege of seeing how patients 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.



**Matt Read**  
**Trustee & Director**

Having worked in the clinical research arena for in excess of 20 years I have seen the progress and advances being made in the fields of gastroenterology and oesophageal cancer. I manage a small contract clinical research organisation conducting clinical trials across a range of cancers, and bring my experience of research, patient engagement and access to pharmaceutical industry leads to the group. I am married with 3 children and enjoy long distance cycling and badminton.



**Rita Phillips**  
**Trustee & Director**

A former director of nursing who brings a wealth of experience within both the NHS and private sector. A clear understanding of the needs of patients. Brings compassion and empathy, to ensure the correct standards of support and education.



## **Alistair Cheyne OBE Trustee & Director**

I am a former Deputy MD of the AA, having worked my way up from Office Boy to Board level and as such I have considerable experience of business both at operational and commercial levels. During my time with the AA I managed major changes and saw substantial growth and an increase in member and staff satisfaction. Following retirement I was Chairman of IAM RoadSmart where I saw the implementation of new strategies and the introduction of new clearly defined independent standards.

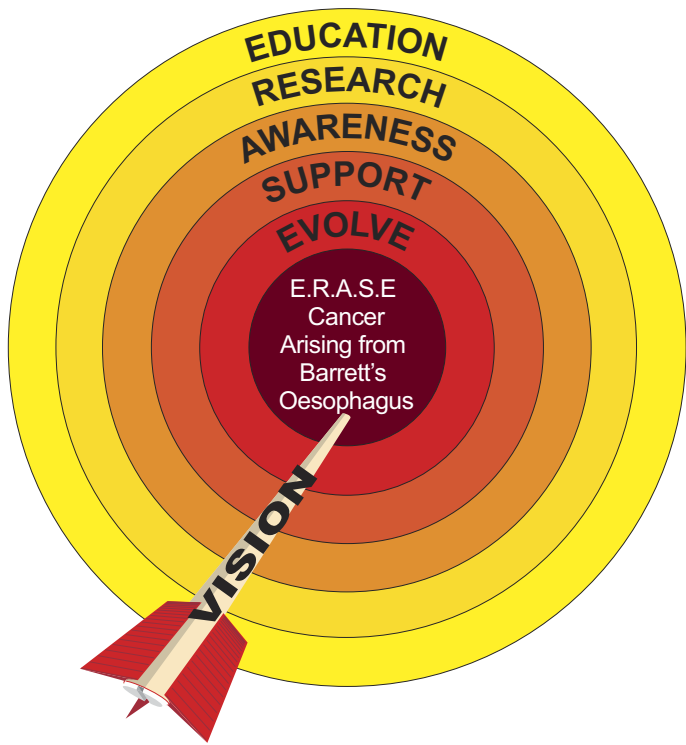
On being introduced to HCUK I felt I could make a contribution in promoting the charity and to create a platform from which we will be able to create greater public awareness, support for those suffering from this dreadful disease and encourage greater research—all with a high degree of urgency for I believe passionately that early diagnosis will save many lives! I and my wife Dorothy, both of us from Aberdeen but now live in Hampshire, enjoy our Dogs, Sport (Only Golf nowadays! but most sports as spectators), Wildlife and eating out! I myself also enjoy reading History. I am a Life Governor of BEN, the motor industry charity, a trustee of Citizens Advice Tadley, active in Rotary. I am a FIMI , FCIM and was awarded an OBE in 1997 for Services to motoring.



“Oesophageal cancer is the sixth most common cancer in the UK.

Late diagnosis costs lives”

# Save a Life TODAY



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HEARTBURN  
CANCER UK

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## 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](http://justgiving.com) and [virgin money](http://virginmoney.com),
- 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.

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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

**HEARTBURN CANCER UK**

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Call 01256 338 668  
[www.heartburncanceruk.org](http://www.heartburncanceruk.org)

**Raising awareness,  
changing  
the future**