



Scottish Conference of Cancer Support Groups

**NEWSLETTER
March 2012**

**13th/14th/15th September
The Beardmore Hotel and
Conference Centre
Glasgow**



Put the date in your diary now and look out for further details and application forms next month. Keep an eye on the web site for updates. www.sccsg.org

Music
 Crafts
 First Class Speakers
 Yoga
 Warmth
 New Groups
 REFLEXOLOGY
 Friendship
 LISTENING
 Massage
 Learning
 Fun!
 INFORMATION
 Sharing
 Dancing
 Therapies

Tai Chi 






Funding

SCCSG Organising Committee are delighted that Macmillan Cancer Support is again giving us a sum of money to allocate to Groups for delegate fees and to help towards travel costs. However it is with disappointment that we tell you this was hard won, less than last year and will not happen in the future. We therefore need to think about the financial future for Groups attending Conference and this will be fully discussed at the AGM. Conference application forms with funding applications will be sent out in the next few weeks.

We know that for the future sustainability of the Conference we must look at other areas for funding and this we are actively doing—applying to various trust and funding bodies. Year-on-year conference organising expenses are kept to a minimum while conference venue and associated costs increase. If you know of any potential funders in your area or through your Groups please get in touch with Clare as we would very much appreciate your help. We are also asking Groups to remember Conference in their fundraising activities and to this end we are introducing two new stalls at the Fringe Night - as well as the usual raffle with its fantastic prizes, we plan to have sales and craft table and a bottle table. If your Groups wish to help we would be most grateful for items for these stalls which will bring in additional income. SCCSG 100 club has proved to be very popular so we hope to start another one at the Conference so please let your Groups know and if anyone interested in joining please pass on their names to Clare. (£12 for a year's membership with a monthly draw to win £50).

Committee also feel that it would be helpful to have a designated fundraiser and ask for a volunteer or two to come forward for this role which would be supported by former convenor Bill Stewart. Please think about it and again contact Clare or Bill for a chat if you want to find out more. We are also looking for a new treasurer (with working knowledge of financial accounts) to take over from Debbie Thomson after the AGM. The systems are in place and Debbie will still be available for support and assistance and if you would like to find out more please get in touch with Debbie. Again please give these opportunities to join the Committee some consideration—we all enjoy being part of a great team and making the Conference happen.

As mentioned the increasing costs of Conference mean we have to increase the delegate fee this year. The new delegate residential rate is still heavily subsidised but goes up to £250. for the full package and we think you will agree it still gives great value for money. This year the full residential rate also includes a buffet on the Thursday night. Day delegate rates will also increase to £65. We must emphasise that we wish to continue as we have in the past in making sure that all who will benefit from the Conference will be able to attend, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any concerns.

On last year's evaluation forms many delegates requested that we video the main speakers so that copies can be taken back to your Groups to be shared with all. Over the years there have also been suggestions that the whole experience could be improved with the availability of roving microphones during Question and Answer and discussion sessions. We also want to have enough breakout areas so that Welcome Groups can all be in different rooms. To do all this, of course, will add to the overall cost so we are looking for sponsors of these specific items. For example, each breakout room costs £235 a day so if you have any sponsorship ideas or contacts who might be able to help us please let Clare know.

SCCSG 2012 Organising Committee



Clare's contact details: claredavidson@btinternet.com or
by post PO Box number 10513, Aberdeen AB12 9DF

For marketing and fundraising purposes we will need testimonials so we are looking into the possibility of having a video “booth” at this year’s event. As with the evaluation forms we need to hear both the positive and the negative. Committee always considers and takes action on both.



Some of the Comments from the 2011 Evaluation Forms:

‘It has been a fantastic, informative and inspirational conference which has provided me with many more tools to help me on the next step of my journey.’

‘This conference has been an inspirational experience with a wide variety of workshops and speakers who have suited most people’.

‘An all encompassing learning curve of interaction in a warm and friendly atmosphere’

Conference 2012

It is a long time since Conference has met in Glasgow and we are delighted to return there. Our venue this September is the wonderful conference centre at the Beardmore Hotel on Clydebank. All the conference rooms and bedrooms are of a high standard as is the cuisine. There is a purpose built auditorium and exhibition area and a great standard of breakout rooms. When Committee members visited prior to booking they found the staff pleasant and helpful and the communal areas large and comfortable. The hotel also has leisure facilities so don’t forget your swimsuit! For more details about the venue visit www.thebeardmore.com

Newsletter

In an effort to cut down postage costs the newsletter is being sent to group leaders where possible for distribution. If more copies are needed, or if there is anyone else you would like to receive this, then please let Clare know: claredavidson@btinternet.com. Copy of the newsletter can also be found on the website www.sccsg.org

Guest Speakers 2012

We are delighted to announce our two key note speakers:

Dr Melanie MacKean is a consultant in medical oncology and honorary senior lecturer at the Edinburgh Cancer Centre with a special interest in lung and ovarian cancer. She is Chair of the Regional Gynaecological Cancer Network for South East Scotland and also chairs the multidisciplinary meetings. Her MD thesis was in chemotherapy resistance in ovarian cancer. She participates in research trials in ovarian and lung cancer, including UK lead for a vaccine trial. She teaches communication skills and has a particular interest in developing ways of communication including websites and information leaflets.

Dr Roelf Dijkhuizen’s talk went down so well last year that all delegates asked for more and he was delighted to be invited back and keen to talk more on his future vision for the NHS in Scotland. Last year he also stepped in at the last minute to lead a workshop and heard first-hand from many of the delegates. Born in Holland, Dr Dijkhuizen studied Tropical Nutrition and worked for short spells in Africa before he took up Medicine. Immediately after graduation he came to the United Kingdom in 1988 and worked in the London area for 4 years. After obtaining his MRCP he came to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to pursue a career in infectious diseases but before completing his training he was invited to set up an Acute Stroke Service for Grampian. During this work he became interested in the patient pathways across Primary and Secondary care and Medical Management. In April 2004 he was appointed Medical Director for NHS Grampian. In 2011 he joined the Board of CLAN Cancer Support as Medical Advisor.





SCOTTISH CONFERENCE OF CANCER SUPPORT GROUPS 2012 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

How to contact us:

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As an organisation that holds information, we are required by law to ask those who are on our mailing list if they still wish to receive mailings from us. If you wish to be taken off our mailing list or if the information we hold on you is incorrect, please contact us by either calling Clare on 01224-781583 or emailing her at: claredavidson@btinternet.com so that we can make the necessary alterations.

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Jimmy Bickerstaff. He died peacefully at home with his family on 21st March. He was a great friend to SCCSG and an inspiration to all who met him. He will be so missed at Conference.

