In the two years since the launch of our War on Cancer series, our discussions have taken us to a place of cautious optimism about the future. We have explored how advances in diagnostics, therapy and information technology hold the potential to transform the outlook for people living with cancer. At the same time, we have interrogated the structures of our healthcare systems, and how the economics of healthcare, its incentives and its policies, can act as a barrier to optimal care.

So what are the goals of the global War on Cancer? Our aim, is not simply to wage war against cancer, but to improve care for cancer patients. What constitutes optimal care in an era of complex care, where cancer may be curable or transformed into a chronic disease? Whether the disease is curable or not, cancer leaves a legacy for patients, carers and broader society: disability, impaired quality of life, symptom control, stigma, psychological trauma, productivity and employment loss can have a profound impact. What are patients’ needs? How well are these being met? How can this be improved? And, most critically, what will improve the patient journey, now and in the future?

The War on Cancer London 2017 will bring together industry representatives, employers and policymakers for a patient-led discussion. If the “war on cancer” is to be won, patients first need to define what victory looks like.

Conference moderators:

Vivek Muthu, chair, The Economist Intelligence Unit Healthcare
Natasha Loder, health-care correspondent, The Economist
CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Matti Aapro, board member, ECCO
Neil Bacon, founder and chief executive, iWantGreatCare
Billy Boyle, co-founder, Owlstone Management
Sue Bourne, producer and director, "A Time To Live"
Francesco DeLorenzo, president, European Cancer Patient Coalition
Jan Geissler, director, European Patients’ Academy on Therapeutic Innovation (EUPATI)
Cecilia Halle, senior advisor and head of group, public health and health care division, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Sweden
Vincent Keunen, Founder and chief executive, Andaman7
Ricardo Baptista Leite, member of Parliament, Portugal and head of public health, Catolica University of Portugal
Jane Maher, chief medical officer, Macmillan Cancer Support
Dusty Majumdar, vice-president, IBM Watson Health
Sarunas Narbutas, president, Lithuanian Cancer Patient Coalition and co-founder, Youth Cancer Europe
Annie Pannelay, principal, EIU Healthcare
Olivia Rossanese, head of biology, division of cancer therapeutics, The Institute of Cancer Research
Sukhveer Singh, vice-president and general manager, oncology continuum solutions, Varian Medical Systems
Simon Stevens, chief executive, NHS England
Enrique Terol, head, European Reference Networks and national expert, European Commission DG Sante
Victoria Thomas, head, public involvement, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
Ali Stunt, founder and chief executive, Pancreatic Cancer Action
Suzanne Wait, managing director, The Health Policy Partnership
Lieve Wiernick, Belgian member, European Parliament
8.00am  Registration and refreshments

8.50am  Chairman’s opening remarks

9.00am  Keynote panel: Setting out the challenge—the patient view

In this panel session we will hear from individuals who have first-hand experiences living with a cancer diagnosis. We will discuss the insights that they have gained into the processes and extent of care, and what they see as the key questions and solutions that we need to examine today. What lessons can be learnt from their overall experience of care? How can treatment be managed over the long term in a way that prioritises the patient’s needs? And what does it really mean to be “cured”?

Ali Stunt, founder and chief executive, Pancreatic Cancer Action
Sarunas Narbutas, president, Lithuanian Cancer Patient Coalition and co-founder, Youth Cancer Europe

9.30am  Policy panel: Patient-centricity in an age of cost constraint

Despite the rhetoric in healthcare systems around patient-centred care, reality still falls short of expectation. Although clinical outcomes have improved, these vary depending on where people live and are treated, even within countries. Good cancer care requires integration across primary, secondary, tertiary and community settings, yet still remains fragmented, with duplication and inefficiency in care transitions.

At the same time, health systems in Europe face a funding crisis. Is there an opportunity to reduce the inefficiencies that lead to suboptimal, fragmented cancer care, while also reducing cost? Do the two go hand-in-hand, or do they fundamentally pull in different directions? What is the right response to the dual challenge of delivering better patient value while also managing cost?

Cecilia Halle, senior advisor and head of group, public health and health care division, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Sweden
Victoria Thomas, head, public involvement, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
Jane Maher, chief medical officer, Macmillan Cancer Support
10.05am  Caring for cancer patients: Research presentation from The Economist Intelligence Unit

In this session, The Economist Intelligence Unit presents the results of its current research.

Annie Pannelay, principal, EIU Healthcare

10.20am  Networking break

10.50am  Innovations within the care continuum: Patient-centric models

Care of a cancer patient extends far beyond episodes of in-hospital treatment. In these circumstances, consistency, access, quality and continuity of care become all the more important and, in a fragmented and siloed health system, much more complicated to achieve. What are the innovative models of care that can improve the end-to-end patient experience of cancer care? How are providers innovating to provide care across different settings, in a way that is integrated and high quality? We bring together a multi-stakeholder panel, which is patient focused, to discuss the theory and the reality of patient-centric integrated care models.

Lieve Wiernick, Belgian member, European Parliament
Enrique Terol, head, European Reference Networks and national expert, European Commission DG Sante

11.30am  Innovations within the care continuum: Surgery and radiotherapy

How can innovations in surgery and radiotherapy improve care? In what ways are surgical practitioners, instrument manufacturers and radio-oncology technology firms thinking about patient-centric innovation? What are the latest developments that aim to optimise not only the clinical outcome of patients, but the overall experience of care? Our panellists will provide a grounded view of the discussion, helping us to ask whether the innovations being discussed really represent meaningful progress towards patient centric care.

Billy Boyle, co-founder, Owlstone Management
Sukveer Singh, vice-president and general manager, oncology continuum solutions, Varian Medical Systems
Innovations within the care continuum: Precision medicine

12.10 pm

Precision medicine is widely regarded as promising transformative benefits for patients. But does it, as much of the hype suggests, really hold the key to fighting the war on cancer? In this session, we debate the impact of precision medicine to date and ask whether and how its promise will be realised in future.

Jan Geissler, director, European Patients’ Academy on Therapeutic Innovation (EUPATI)
Matti Aapro, board member, The European CanCer Organisation (ECCO)
Olivia Rossanese, head of biology, division of cancer therapeutics, The Institute of Cancer Research

12.50 pm

Lunch and networking

2.00 pm

Panel discussion: Digital health and cancer care

What is the role of digital technologies in improving patients’ experience of care, and of living with cancer?

We ask how patients use digital technologies day-to-day. What do digital platforms enable, in terms of connecting patients with professionals (and with their peers), accessing support and services, and enhancing continuity and timeliness of care? Can digital technologies and social media be leveraged to enhance research and development?

Neil Bacon, founder and chief executive, iWantGreatCare
Vincent Keunen, founder and chief executive, Andaman7
Dusty Majumdar, vice-president, IBM Watson Health
2.40pm  **Palliation and end-of-life care**

Despite breakthroughs in care, many cancers remain fatal. End-of-life care, therefore, remains a critical function within the cancer care continuum. Despite this, palliation is a subject that provokes much discomfort for patients, and in the wider social discourse around cancer. With the proliferation of public rhetoric around “miracle cures”, this is likely to become trickier still.

Progress towards patient-centricity in end-of-life care is fundamental, and the definition of quality and outcome in this setting are by necessity highly experiential. In this session, we break down the taboos, and ask stakeholders to discuss with patients and their carers, the gaps in our present models of palliative care, and how these can be closed.

_Suzanne Wait_, managing director, The Health Policy Partnership  
_Ricardo Baptista Leite_, member of Parliament, Portugal and head of public health, Catolica University of Portugal

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3.20pm  **In conversation**

One on one discussion with the chief executive of NHS England and a senior Economist editor.

_Simon Stevens_, chief executive, NHS England

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3.50pm  **Networking break**

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4.20pm  **Panel discussion: patients and policy**

If cancer care is to be truly patient centric, then patients need to be involved and empowered, not only in their own care, but in shaping the policies and structures that determine care policy and care systems. How should patients guide and inform policy decisions, around care design, outcomes design, quality metrics and quality assurance? What about product and drug regulation? How can patient advocacy groups better engage with these initiatives? And how can legislators effectively reach out to patients to ensure that new policies are fit for purpose?

_Francesco DeLorenzo_, president, European Cancer Patient Coalition  
_Andreas Penk_, oncology regional president, international developed markets, Pfizer
4.50pm  In conversation with Sue Bourne

Sue Bourne, producer and director, “A Time to Live”

5.15pm  Closing discussion: where next?

We close by asking our keynote patient panel to reconvene and reflect upon the insights and major takeaways from the day. This session will be followed by an opportunity for audience members to ask questions and position the day’s outcomes in the context of the wider conversation.

Ali Stunt, founder and chief executive, Pancreatic Cancer Action
Sarunas Narbutas, president, Lithuanian Cancer Patient Coalition and co-founder, Youth Cancer Europe

5.35pm  End of event