



THE MARINA DALGLISH APPEAL

**REPORT FROM MR LEE MARTIN
ON A PROPOSED NEW CHEMOTHERAPY CENTRE
AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AINTREE**

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and accounts for nearly 1 in 3 of all cancers. There has been an increase in the number of women diagnosed with breast cancer and in the UK, approximately 41,000 new breast cancers occur each year. Despite this increasing number, there has been a 30% increase in patients surviving breast cancer. This is probably secondary to improved breast awareness, detection and screening programmes in addition to a rapid expansion in the number of patients receiving chemotherapy and other new exciting anti-cancer agents.

These changes in clinical practice have outstripped the ability of the National Health Service to provide suitable facilities where chemotherapy is delivered. The rapid expansion in the number of patients receiving chemotherapy has also occurred for many other cancers including lung and colorectal. Over the last few years at University Hospital Aintree, chemotherapy has been administered in several different locations, in order to cope with the rising demand. None of the sites have been ideal and currently treatment is delivered in the Eye Clinic at Walton Hospital.

Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology (CCO), with the support of the Mersey and Cheshire Cancer Network (MCCN) are currently reviewing the strategy for improving chemotherapy facilities across Mersey and Cheshire, to make facilities fit for purpose. CCO are considering designating and using 4 major chemotherapy centres, one of which could be University Hospital Aintree. This would allow a greater de-centralisation of services from Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology, enabling delivery of chemotherapy as close to the patient's home as possible, avoiding unnecessary travel.

It is proposed that The Marina Dalglish Centre for Oncology would be a major refurbishment of an existing build at University Hospital Aintree to provide the ideal environment for patients to receive chemotherapy. The advice and support of the Mersey and Cheshire Cancer Network and CCO would ensure that this project would meet all current standards.

In addition to the provision of chemotherapy services, we would hope to offer other supportive care including complimentary and homeopathic treatments and practices. A designated drop in centre, information and support area would also be provided.

The Marina Dalglish Centre for Oncology would enable patients to receive adjuvant therapies as would be fitting for the 21st century.