

## Vision On Information, Confidence & Engagement

### Feedback from students on the VOICE course, 9-13 September 2013

Quotes from students are in *italic text*.

#### **The course as a whole**

Everyone who took part was very enthusiastic about the course.

*It was amazing – every day my expectations increased and were then exceeded.*

Students were particularly struck by the attitude of BCI staff. Comments included:

*The best things about this course was the infectious enthusiasm from the lecturers and mentors. Their unfailing attention to detail and our persistent questioning, even when they were trying to relax at the social events.*

*The best thing about this course was the complete experience, generosity of Barts staff, the learning experience in particular the lab work*

*The BCI team were amazing – their enthusiasm was infectious.*

*I was worried there would be fierce and high powered people and that we would be in the way. But everyone was so helpful and tolerant and kind.*

*I was struck by the conversations with young researchers and their enthusiasm. It gave me an understanding of their different but overlapping research.*

#### **Time spent in the labs**

The unique thing about this course was the time students were able to spend in the labs, not just watching researchers but actually trying out some experiments, to enable them to learn more about cancer biology. People saw this as *an amazing opportunity which I will probably never get the chance to repeat*. Other comments included:

*I was really excited to see human cells down a microscope*

*The lab work really put the lectures into context.*

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### **The highlight of the week**

On Thursday afternoon students spent time watching Louise Jones examine breast tissue. This session was the highlight of the course for many students:

*A really moving session carried out with respect and care. It changed my view of mastectomy being 'mutilating'; for want of a better word... I also spent some time talking to Louise about this and also reconstructive surgery and that, together with this practical session, really changed my view of the whole procedure.*

*Somehow it made it all real and she did it with such care.*

*Louise was incredibly sensitive and respectful and that made it easier to watch.*

*Seeing the breast tissue and analysis was the defining moment of the course.*

*Thursday afternoon was the high point of the week. I was so impressed with the way the team dealt with everything.*

### **Impact**

It is too early to say what the impact of the course will be, but students have commented how valuable it was:

*I learned a huge amount*

*It has given me more confidence.*

*There's lots I can take home for my work with the ethics committee, the BCC Tissue Bank work. It clarified the relationship between the surgeon and the pathologist.*

*I understand more now about cancer biology.*