

VOICE: 'Science for Advocates' Residential Study Week Hosted by Warwick Clinical Trials Unit: 19th to 23rd September 2016

Independent Cancer Patients' Voice (ICPV) is a patient advocate group led by patients for patients. We bring the views and experience of cancer patients, their families and carers to the cancer research community. Our mission statement is that clinical research is improved by patients being partners with clinicians and healthcare professionals, rather than passive recipients of healthcare.



Members of ICPV are actively involved in many areas of research. To facilitate and enhance our role in these activities, members aim to understand the fundamentals of cancer, study design and current areas of controversy and research.

Much of this is gained through experience. However, for the last three years we have worked with the internationally renowned Barts Cancer

Institute to develop a tailor-made course which provides intensive training in basic cancer biology, an introduction to research terminology and study design, and critical evaluation of research proposals and scientific papers. This is **VOICE** (Vision on Information, Confidence and Engagement), a Science Course for patient advocates. **VOICE** is unique, the only course of this type in the UK.



VOICE aims to give participants:



An introduction to basic cancer biology: This will include sessions on what cancer is, how it is caused, how it develops and how it is detected and treated.

An introduction to epidemiology, statistics and reading scientific papers: This will include sessions on understanding statistics, understanding risk, epidemiology and how to read and interpret scientific papers.

Increased confidence to become more effectively involved in cancer research as patient

advocates: A student from **VOICE** 2013 said *“By the end of the week my confidence had been bolstered by the information both from lectures and practicals. I believe this will enable me to provide useful input into clinical trials and research matters in the future should I have the opportunity.”*

This year **VOICE** will be hosted by Warwick Clinical Trials Unit.

Who can take part?



The course is open to anyone who has personal experience of cancer, either because they have had cancer themselves, or because a partner, close friend or family member has had cancer, or works for a cancer charity AND is already actively involved in cancer research (for example as a member of a trial management group or a clinical studies group). Participants do not need to have any understanding of cancer biology.

Anyone who wishes to take part would be expected to attend all five days of the course.

What do students and tutors from previous years say?

“It was a tremendous experience which highlighted the patience and passion of the researchers in their work.”

VOICE 2013 student

“The session where we discussed how chemotherapy agents work in relation to the cell cycle was the best teaching experience I think I’ve had – moving, informative and productive.”

VOICE 2013 tutor



If you would like to join us for **VOICE** 2016 please contact info@icpv.org.uk

For more information about previous **VOICE** courses check the ICPV website
www.independentcancerpatientsvoice.org.uk