

**VOICE: 'Science for Advocates' Residential Study Week
3rd – 7th September 2018
Barts Cancer Institute, Charterhouse Square, London**

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. For the last five years we have worked with Barts Cancer Institute to develop a tailor-made course which provides intensive training in basic cancer biology, hand-on laboratory experience, 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. Course participants will spend time in the research laboratories to help them to build their understanding.

An understanding of different types of cancers

This will include sessions on current understanding, new research technologies and the biology of different cancers. Students will also learn 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.”*

From **VOICE 2016**: *“with the increased knowledge, I will be able to discuss research with professional members of research teams and steering groups on an equal footing.”*

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 or have a science background.

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

“Well organised course which made it possible to learn a lot within the short time.” **VOICE 2016** student



Find out more...

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

For more information about **VOICE 2018** and course fees please contact info@icpv.org.uk