

**VOICE: Science for Patient Advocates – Residential Study week
Sunday 1st to Friday 6th September 2024
Barts Cancer Institute, Charterhouse Square, London**

Independent Cancer Patients' Voice is a patient advocate group led by patients for patients. We bring the views and experience of cancer patients, their family and carers, to the cancer research community. We believe clinical research is improved by patients being partners with clinicians and researchers, rather than passive recipients of health care

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



Much of this is gained through experience. For over ten years we have worked with Barts Cancer Institute to develop a tailor-made course which provides intensive training in basic cancer biology, hands-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.

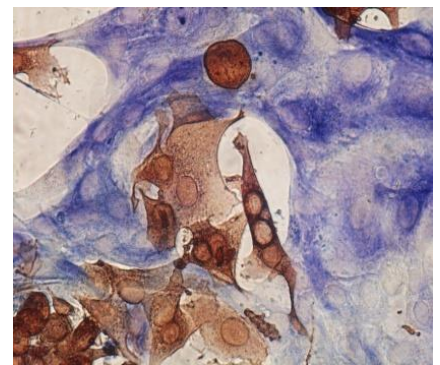
VOICE aims to give participants:

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.



Normal Breast Cells CK8 (brown) CK14 (Blue)

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. This will enable me to provide useful input into clinical trials and research.”*

From VOICE 2016: *“I will be able to discuss research with professionals on an equal footing.”*

From VOICE 2022: *“Stimulating, inspiring, thought provoking, remarkable.... I pinched myself to be sure that I was really there.”*

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?

“What a week from a fantastic team. Great presentations in a language we understand. Patients and carers need good researchers like you.” 2023 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 2018 tutor

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

“The labs sessions were well planned and exciting” 2023 student

For more VOICE 2024 information and course fees please contact info@icpv.org.uk or voice@icpv.org.uk

Read the [VOICE 2023 report](#)

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