

The Inequalities in Cancer Outcomes Network (ICON)

Who are we?

We are a group of researchers, staff and PhD students at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine who aim to understand and explain inequalities in cancer outcomes, such as why some people survive their cancer longer than others.

What do we do?

We use population-based data, routinely collected in the UK and other countries, to look at where inequalities happen and understand what factors may be causing them. Our results can help develop strategies or solutions for tackling inequalities and we work with stakeholders, including clinicians, policy-makers and people affected by cancer to ensure our research is relevant, meaningful and has impact.

How can I get involved?

We involve patients and members of the public in our research in several ways, known as Patient and Public Engagement and Involvement (PPIE). Some examples are:

- As lay members of project advisory committees (helping us ensure our research is of relevance and benefit for patients/the public)
- as contributors to outputs such as research papers or infographics
- as contributors, co-organisers or facilitators of PPIE activities
- as co-applicants in research study teams

We also run sessions where we discuss certain topics with small groups - this could be to get feedback on research ideas, to share early results, or get insights from the public or patient perspective.

Are there any requirements for getting involved?

Given the nature of our research we are particularly keen to involve people from underserved groups, but there is no prior knowledge or experience required and people from all backgrounds and walks-of-life are welcome. The level of involvement will depend on the individual.

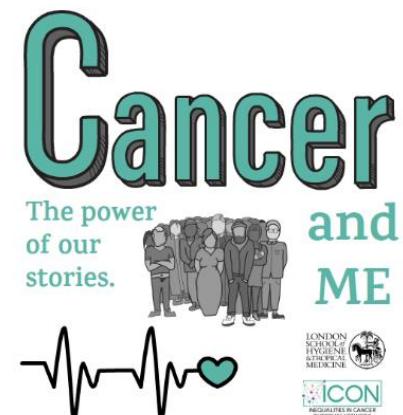
We want to provide support for individuals and recognition of involvement, including financially where possible. We aim to always cover out-of-pocket expenses.

Current opportunities:

As well as involving patients and the public in our research, we are also passionate about listening to and raising the voices of people with experience of cancer.

1. The Power of Our Stories

We are bringing together stories from people affected by cancer, alongside observations from our research, to present a collection that we hope will speak to policy makers, public health commissioners, patients, and the public, to raise awareness of the issues and present ideas for tackling them. Stories can be gathered in whatever format the contributor wishes, and we will work together to ensure voices are captured and shared as preferred.



2. Visual representations of cancer journeys

Sometimes expressing things with words can be difficult. Together with patient representatives, we have developed workshops aimed at bringing our researchers and people affected by cancer together to explore how their experiences of cancer can be shared through images. This workshop involves two sessions, ideally hosted within a community setting, co-facilitated by ICON staff, patient representatives and a professional photographer.

If you would like to find out more about any of our activities above, have a chat or become involved please get in touch with me directly or via someone else if you would rather. Thank you!

Yuki Alencar
ICON Research Group Manager
yuki.alencar@lshtm.ac.uk

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