

The Right Honourable Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
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17 February 2016

Dear Secretary of State,

The announcement of the imposition of a new junior doctors' contract will have considerable negative effects on the future of cancer care in England. Clinical and medical oncologists provide radiotherapy and systemic anti-cancer treatments aimed at curing or improving the quality of life of patients diagnosed with cancer.

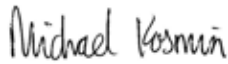
The Independent Cancer Taskforce's report published last year stated that 'in some parts of the country, workforce deficits in oncology mean that it is not possible to deliver optimal treatment safely' [1]. This damning indictment of the current state of cancer services is a warning that should be heeded. Furthermore the UK already falls behind many European countries in oncology doctor:patient ratios and outcomes are significantly worse than our European counterparts [2]. This situation can only worsen in the context of a new contract that will actively discourage recruitment and retention of the clinical and medical oncology workforce.

The proposed changes to rota and pay systems will have an adverse impact on the training opportunities for oncology trainees. Clinical and medical oncologists already offers 24/7 access to acute oncology services. The existing contract is not an obstacle to providing this care. However the increased out-of-hours work will reduce the cancer-specific training that junior doctors will be exposed to leading to less experienced consultants of the future. Furthermore remuneration for working out-of-hours in cancer services will be substantially inferior in the new contract as our speciality has a significant amount of non-resident on call. This will exacerbate current recruitment difficulties in both our specialties.

The poorer cancer outcomes in the UK compared to other similar economies are often quoted [3]. It is inconceivable that this gap in patient outcomes could be closed in the decades to come without an oncology workforce replete with well-trained and enthusiastic specialists, many with a focus on cancer research. This contract will lead to worse outcomes for our cancer patients.

We call on the Department of Health to withdraw the imposed contract and complete a negotiated settlement for the benefit of future cancer care in England.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael Kosmin, Chair of the Oncology Registrars' Forum, Royal College of Radiologists,

and



Dr Adam Januszewski, Trainee Representative to the Association of Cancer Physicians,
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*On behalf and with the support of over 470 named Clinical and Medical Oncology
Consultants and Trainees (below).*

References:

1. Independent Cancer Taskforce. *Achieving world-class cancer outcomes: a strategy for England 2015-2020*. Available at: https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/sites/default/files/achieving_world-class_cancer_outcomes_-_a_strategy_for_england_2015-2020.pdf; 2015 [accessed 11.02.16]
2. de Azambuja E, et al. *The landscape of medical oncology in Europe by 2020*. *Ann Oncol*. 2014 Feb;25(2):525-8
3. Coleman MP, et al. *Cancer survival in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and the UK, 1995–2007 (the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership): an analysis of population-based cancer registry data*. *The Lancet*, 2011. 377(9760): p. 127-138.

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| <i>Elaine Young</i> | Consultant Clinical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Albert Edwards</i> | Consultant Clinical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Jonathan Lim</i> | ST3 Medical Oncology | Trainee |
| <i>Saiqa Spensley</i> | Consultant Clinical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Cressida Lorimer</i> | Registrar | Trainee |
| <i>Spyridon Gennatas</i> | Clinical Research Fellow (ST5) | Trainee |
| <i>Shobha Silva</i> | Clinical research fellow | Trainee |
| <i>Helen Fitzgerald</i> | ST3 Medical Oncology | Trainee |
| <i>Dr Michael Davidson</i> | Clinical Research Fellow, Gastro-Intestinal Cancer Research Unit, Royal Marsden Hospital | Trainee |
| <i>Matthew Howell</i> | Specialist Registrar | Trainee |
| <i>Shairoz Merchant</i> | SpR Medical Oncology | Trainee |
| <i>Dr Georgina Wood</i> | Medical Oncology Registrar | Trainee |
| <i>anand sharma</i> | ST 6 Med Oncology trainee | Trainee |
| <i>Andrea Biondo</i> | Medical Oncology Clinical Research Fellow | Trainee |
| <i>Sarah Benafif</i> | Medical oncology registrar | Trainee |
| <i>Edward Armstrong</i> | Specialist Registrar Doctor | Trainee |
| <i>Kiruthikah Thillai</i> | Spr | Trainee |
| <i>Donna Graham</i> | Clinical Fellow in Medical Oncology | Trainee |
| <i>Nicola Flaum</i> | ST3 Medical Oncology | Trainee |
| <i>I Vazquez</i> | ST6 MEDICAL ONCOLOGY | Trainee |
| <i>Pavlina Spiliopoulou</i> | Medical Oncology SpR | Trainee |
| <i>Avinash Gupta</i> | ST6 Medical Oncology | Trainee |
| <i>Amy Quinton</i> | ST 6 | Trainee |
| <i>Joanna Wood</i> | ACL medical oncology | Trainee |
| <i>Dr Rowena Catipay-Buyan</i> | SAS in Oncology | SAS |
| <i>Ailsa Sita-Lumsden</i> | ST4 | Trainee |
| <i>Carles Escriu</i> | Senior Clinical Fellow | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Constantine Alifrangis</i> | Medical Oncology specialist registrar | Trainee |

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| <i>Fiona Kyle</i> | Locum Medical Oncology Consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Bihani Kularatne</i> | Specialist Registrar | Trainee |
| <i>Alice Freebairn</i> | Consultant oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Lucy Dumas</i> | Medical Oncology Specialty Registrar | Trainee |
| <i>Chinenye Iwuji</i> | | Trainee |
| <i>Jenny Forrest</i> | Clinical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Alexandros Georgiou</i> | Medical Oncology SpR | Trainee |
| <i>Dr Ioannis Gounaris</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>T Yap</i> | Consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Mark Bower</i> | Professor of Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Alistair Ring</i> | | Consultant |
| <i>Simon Pacey</i> | Consultant and Academic Training Lead for Medical Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Tanya Ahmad</i> | Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Professor Johann de Bono</i> | Professor of Cancer Medicine | Consultant |
| <i>Katy Herring</i> | Medical Oncology ST4 | Trainee |
| <i>andrew webb</i> | consultant med oncol | Consultant |
| <i>Faisal Azam</i> | Consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Martin Eatock</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Ruth Board</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Linda Evans</i> | Consultant in Medical Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Joseph Sacco</i> | | Consultant |
| <i>Ruth Plummer</i> | Professor of Experimental Cancer medicine and Consultant Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Agnieszka Michael</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Carlos Caldas</i> | | Consultant |
| <i>S Ahmed</i> | Consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Dr S Madhusudan</i> | | Consultant |
| <i>kate scatchard</i> | consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Tom Newsom-Davis</i> | Medical Oncology Consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Simon Grumett</i> | Clinical Director Oncology & Clinical Haematology | Consultant |
| <i>Adrian Harnett</i> | Consultant Clinical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Jean Abraham</i> | Academic Consultant in Medical Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Sacha Howell</i> | senior lecturer medical oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Lynn Campbell</i> | | Consultant |
| <i>Dr David Noble</i> | Clinical Oncology ST8 | Trainee |

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| <i>Balaji Venugopal</i> | Consultant in Medical Oncology and Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer | Consultant |
| <i>Charlotte Benson</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Mark Napier</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Nick Brown</i> | Consultant in Medical Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Gayathri Anandappa</i> | SpR Medical Oncology | Trainee |
| <i>Nicola levitt</i> | Consultant medical oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Fatima El-Khouly</i> | Research Fellow | Trainee |
| <i>Dr Laura Assersohn</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Muireann T Kelleher</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Mark Openshaw</i> | Oncology clinical fellow | Trainee |
| <i>Dr Sanjay Popat</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Caroline Michie</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Lara Sophia Gibbs</i> | ST4 Medical Oncology | Trainee |
| <i>Michelle Cunnell</i> | Acting Consultant | Trainee |
| <i>Peter Johnson</i> | Professor of Medical Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Stefan Symeonides</i> | Clinical Lecturer (Medical Oncology) | Trainee |
| <i>David Church</i> | Clinician Scientist Fellow and Honorary Consultant in Medical Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Uschi hofmann</i> | Consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Kiran Das</i> | | Consultant |
| <i>Helen Dearden</i> | Oncology SpR | Trainee |
| <i>Sarah Ngan</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Shobhit Bajjal</i> | Consultant Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Adam Dangoor</i> | Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Paula Scullin</i> | Medical Oncologist, Educational Supervisor | Consultant |
| <i>Anna Mary Young</i> | consultant medical oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Judith Carser</i> | Consultant medical oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Hester Franks</i> | NIHR Clinical Lecturer | Trainee |
| <i>Yvette Drew</i> | Consultant medical oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Thinn Pwint</i> | Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Andrew Gaya</i> | Consultant Clinical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Nawaz Walji</i> | Consultant Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Sue Cheeseman</i> | Consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Waleed Mohammed</i> | ST4 Clinical Oncology | Trainee |
| <i>Charlotte Moss</i> | Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Lucy McAvan</i> | ST5 | Trainee |
| <i>Rowan Miller</i> | SpR Medical Oncology | Trainee |
| <i>Dawn Storey</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |

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| <i>Dr Valentine Macaulay</i> | Associate Professor and Honorary Consultant in Medical Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Radha Todd</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Natalie cook</i> | Consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Catherine Harper-Wynne</i> | Consultant medical oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Axel Walther</i> | Research Lead, Bristol Cancer Institute | Consultant |
| <i>Sonali Dasgupta</i> | | Trainee |
| <i>Dr Sharadah Essapen</i> | Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Sue Darby</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Jason Adhikaree</i> | Medical Oncology Registrar | Trainee |
| <i>Janet Graham</i> | Consultant Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Ivo M Hennig</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>guy faust</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Fiona J Lofts</i> | Consultant Oncologist | |
| <i>Prof R J Grieve</i> | Consultant Clinical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>DR ARAFAT MIRZA</i> | | Consultant |
| <i>Helen Hockings</i> | ST4 | Trainee |
| <i>Sandra Strauss</i> | consultant medical oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Samra Turajlic</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Ian Judson</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Jens Samol</i> | Senior Consultant in medical oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Juan Valle</i> | Professor of Medical Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>John A Green</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Anthony Maraveyas</i> | Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Eliyaz Ahmed</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Astrid Mayer</i> | Consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Anne Kendall</i> | Medical Oncologist -support the statement | Consultant |
| <i>Deborah Gregory</i> | Consultant Clinical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr David Jonathan Chambers</i> | Clinical Oncology ST4 | Trainee |
| <i>Prof Johnathan Joffe</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>G.Eslamian</i> | Oncology SPR | Trainee |
| <i>Dr Zoe Hudson</i> | Medical Oncology - ST4 | Trainee |
| <i>Kate Connolly</i> | Consultant Medical Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Matthew Winter</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Saif Ahmad</i> | Spr | Trainee |
| <i>Anne Armstrong</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Jay Naik</i> | Consultant in Medical Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Zena Salih</i> | ST4 Medical Oncology | Trainee |

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| <i>Michael Braun</i> | Consultant in Medical Oncology | Consultant |
| <i>Nangi Lo</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Naomi Lock</i> | ST4 Medical Oncology | Trainee |
| <i>Tony Branson</i> | Consultant clinical oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr R Douglas</i> | Medical Oncology Registrar | Trainee |
| <i>Angela Darby</i> | Consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Timothy Simmons</i> | Consultant clinical oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Laura Feeney</i> | ST4 | Trainee |
| <i>Professor John Wagstaff</i> | Director South West Wales Cancer Institute | Consultant |
| <i>Dr Barbara Crosse</i> | medical oncology consultant | Consultant |
| <i>Sarah Briggs</i> | Medical Oncology ST3 | Trainee |
| <i>Adam Uprichard</i> | ST4 | Trainee |
| <i>Caroline Forde</i> | Clinical Research Fellow | Trainee |
| <i>Roopa Kurup</i> | SpR | Trainee |
| <i>Ian Geh</i> | Consultant Clinical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Simon Brown</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Dr L Speed</i> | Clinical Oncology Consultant | Consultant |
| <i>lind</i> | professor | Consultant |
| <i>Jenny Bradbury</i> | Consultant Medical Oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Imogen Locke</i> | Oncoogist | Consultant |
| <i>Natalie Nobar</i> | ST3 | Trainee |
| <i>Matthew Beasley</i> | | Consultant |
| <i>Marianne Nicolson</i> | consultant medical oncologist | Consultant |
| <i>Sara Lightowers</i> | ACF ST4 Clinical Oncology | Trainee |