



## The Cancer Experiences Collaborative (CECo) developing research capacity in supportive and palliative care

### Background

The Cancer Experiences Collaborative (CECo) brings together five UK universities led by Southampton with Lancaster, Manchester, Liverpool, and Nottingham. Funding is provided by six partner organisations through the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) Supportive and Palliative Care (SuPaC) research collaboratives scheme. CECo has been given an exciting opportunity from 2006 over the next 5 years to build much needed research capacity in supportive and palliative care; through the development of new research initiatives, resources and networks.

### CECo aims to:

- Fully engage with people affected by cancer;
- Work with clinical colleagues;
- Work with experts from outside palliative and supportive care;
- Grow the next generation of supportive and palliative care researchers;
- Work together to achieve our mutual aims;
- Lay foundations for progress beyond initial five years;
- Create a research community without walls where the standard of intellectual debate and scientific endeavour is high, and where both are saturated by user perspectives and clinical issues.

### Ways of Working

**Protocol Generation Events** are being held to bring together collaborators (researchers, clinicians, service users) to develop new research ideas and to provide a networking opportunities. Capacity Building occurs through '**State of the Science**' meetings where eminent speakers present on topical issues relevant to each theme.

The website [www.ceco.org.uk](http://www.ceco.org.uk) provides a forum, events board and web-based resources.

### CECo Research Themes

CECo works through university-based research teams collaborating on three key themes;

#### • **Innovative Approaches to Complex Symptoms**

The focus is to gain insight into how patients and carers self manage the symptoms and problems of cancer and its treatment and to test non-pharmacological interventions, focusing on nausea & vomiting, depression, sleep disturbances and nutritional problems

#### • **The Care of Older Adults Towards the End of Life**

The programme of work initially seeks to address older adult's priorities in end of life care, end of life decision making and preferences for places of care.



#### • **Narrative Research**

This methodological approach is used in all the themes: research on narratives written by those affected by cancer aims to inform changes in practice and policy

