

Sarcoma UK appoints Anthony Nolan director as new chief executive

For immediate release

Richard Davidson has been appointed the new Chief Executive at Sarcoma UK, the national bone and soft tissue cancer charity.

The move follows eight years at the national blood cancer charity Anthony Nolan, where Richard led an 80-strong team as the charity's Director of Engagement, responsible for overseeing communications, fundraising and marketing. During his time at the charity, Anthony Nolan dramatically increased the recruitment of stem cell donors from 20,000 per year to 80,000.

Previously the Director of Policy and Public Affairs at Cancer Research UK, Richard successfully led the campaign that pushed for smoke free public spaces legislation in the UK.

Richard says: "I'm delighted to be joining Sarcoma UK at such an exciting time. There's clearly a huge amount of passion and ambition in the charity and I look forward to working with staff, volunteers, healthcare professionals, researchers and most importantly patients.

"I've worked in cancer charities for almost twenty years and I'm absolutely committed to raising much needed awareness of sarcoma. Every day, ten people are given the news that they have sarcoma. We know how crucial early diagnosis is, catching this cancer early means better survival rates and more effective treatments.

"I've experienced first-hand, the devastating impact sarcoma can have on your family and I'm honoured to have been given the opportunity to lead this amazing charity."

Richard joins Sarcoma UK at a time of continued growth over the last few years including the launch of its flagship nurse-led support line service for all people affected by sarcoma in February 2016. The charity also ran a hugely successful partnership with 10 Downing Street and has seen a year-on-year increase in the amount invested in sarcoma research, making Sarcoma UK one of the biggest funders of sarcoma research in the UK.

Glyn Wilmshurst, Sarcoma UK's Chair of Trustees, said: "We're very excited to be welcoming Richard to Sarcoma UK. He has an outstanding track record and will bring great energy and intellect to the role. Sarcoma UK has an ambitious strategy to fund even more ground-breaking research, support everybody affected by sarcoma, and increase public awareness, and Richard has demonstrated he has the vision, skills and experience to deliver it."

The new appointment follows the departure of founding Chief Executive Lindsey Bennister in March of this year, who stepped down after eight years to lead the mental health research charity MQ.

Sarcoma UK has awarded more than £2 million towards research into sarcoma cancer to date and is the only cancer charity in the UK focusing on all types of sarcoma. To find out more visit sarcoma.org.uk

Notes to editors

For further information, please contact Bevis Man, Communications Director at Sarcoma UK:

bevis.man@sarcoma.org.uk or 07931 254 697.

About sarcoma

- Sarcoma is cancer of the bone and soft tissue. It can develop anywhere in the body.
- A key symptom of sarcoma is a lump that is increasing in size, often quickly.
- More than 3,800 new cases of sarcoma are diagnosed each year in the UK, making up approximately 1% of all cancer diagnoses.
- In Scotland, around 350 new cases of sarcoma are diagnosed each year. Around 200 of these are soft tissue sarcoma.
- Sarcoma is one of the hardest cancers to diagnose. People visit their GP more times than those with any other form of cancer before being diagnosed with sarcoma.
- Early diagnosis could improve survival rates by 20%.
- Sarcoma is usually the size of a baked bean tin when diagnosed. If sarcoma is diagnosed when it is smaller than a golf ball, it would increase the chance of survival by at least 20%.
- People with sarcoma tend to be younger than most people with cancer. 16% of sarcomas are diagnosed in people under 30, compared to only 2% of all other cancers.