



CAN YOU CME?

THE CROYDON CANCER CONFERENCE 2024

THEME

"Beyond Statistics: Humanising Cancer Care for BME Patients and their loved ones."

Description: A conference aiming to address racial disparities within cancer support, raise the voices of marginalised communities, and emphasise the importance of equality in healthcare.

Date:

Wednesday 3rd July 2024

Event duration:

10am – 5pm

Venue:

St Mary Conference Centre,
70 Wellesley Road, Croydon,
CR0 2AR

FUNDED BY



RM Partners
North & South London Cancer Alliance

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

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WELCOME
TO THE

**CROYDON
CANCER
CONFERENCE**

2024



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2: Welcome Message (Andrew Brown, CEO)

3: About the Conference

4: Speakers Profiles

5: Speakers Profiles

6: Speakers Profiles

7: Agenda (Program Line-Up)

8: Agenda (Program Line-Up)

9: Conference Information

10: Croydon Cancer Conference 2023 (Gallery)

11: Croydon Cancer Conference 2023 (Gallery)

12: Appreciation

13: Appreciation

14. About Croydon BME Forum



WELCOME MESSAGE

Andrew Brown,
CEO of Croydon BME Forum

JOB TITLE: CEO

ORGANISATION: CROYDON BME FORUM

A big thank you to everyone who attended, participated, and helped organise our first Cancer Conference in November 2022. Your involvement and enthusiasm made the event a remarkable success, highlighting the urgent need for such services within the BME Communities. The overwhelming response we received underscores the vital importance of addressing health disparities and providing support where it is most needed.

Building on the success of this initial conference, we are thrilled to announce that we have signed a three-year contract with Macmillan to continue our efforts in supporting the community. This partnership will focus on raising awareness and tackling health inequalities for BME individuals affected by cancer.

The dedicated Macmillan team, consisting of one Programme Manager and three Co-ordinators, will be working across six South West London Boroughs: Croydon, Sutton, Merton, Wandsworth, Kingston, and Richmond. Their mission is to support, engage, and empower people affected by cancer within the BME Communities, ensuring they have access to the resources and care they need.

We recognise the significant racial disparities within cancer support and are committed to addressing these challenges. The Croydon BME Forum is dedicated to supporting our community, increasing awareness, and providing essential information to our harder-to-reach populations. Through this effort, we aim to build long-lasting, sustainable relationships that will make a meaningful difference.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Macmillan for believing in and trusting us to deliver this crucial three-year project. Your support is invaluable. Additionally, I want to express our gratitude to our Royal Marsden Partners, who first approached us three years ago to collaborate on their Cancer Awareness programme. Your foresight and partnership have been instrumental in laying the groundwork for our ongoing efforts.

We will continue to tackle health inequalities in our work and strive to be a catalyst for change. Together, we can make a significant impact and ensure that everyone, regardless of their background, has access to the cancer support they deserve.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone here today, Croydon BME Forum staff, volunteers, sponsors and all of you who have come together to make today's event a success.



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This conference aims to address racial disparities within cancer support, an area that requires more attention according to documented evidence. The Croydon BME Forum has partnered with Macmillan Cancer Support on a three-year project spanning six southwest London boroughs: Croydon, Merton, Sutton, Wandsworth, Richmond, and Kingston. This initiative tackles health inequalities and amplifies the voices of marginalised communities from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

According to the British Journal of Cancer, Black people are more than a third less likely than White people to be diagnosed with cancer via screening in England. This research highlights stark disparities, showing that Black people are 38% less likely to be diagnosed via screening compared to White people. Cancer rates vary by race and ethnicity, revealing significant discrepancies between different groups. It is imperative for minority ethnic communities to understand these differences and inequalities in cancer. Addressing these disparities will not only improve regular screening and early diagnosis but also highlight the need to fill gaps in policy and practice. While there have been significant strides in cancer diagnosis and treatment, these achievements are not equally distributed. At the Croydon BME Forum, we will continue to raise awareness of long-term health conditions, provide appropriate community-led interventions, and champion the voices of those with lived experiences.

Thank you for attending, and we hope to see you at the next conference.

SPEAKERS PROFILE



Charmaine Case

Job title: Breast Screening Clinical Nurse Specialist

Organisation: South West London Breast Screening Unit

Charmaine Case RGN, BSc. Works as a Breast screening CNS with the South West London Breast Screening Unit. The role is to support the clients, advise GPs and encourage uptake of Breast Screening. She was involved with NHS England 'Be Clear on Cancer' targeting the Black and Ethnic minority groups like using churches social media and radio interviews. She previously worked with the Macmillan Breast CNS patients for 15 years.

On 5th July 2023 She was awarded the lifetime achievement for 40 years of Nursing and pastoral care support for International Nurses at the NHS Parliamentary Awards and went to a reception at 10 Downing Street the same day.



Malcolm Gill

Job title: Croydon Project coordinator

Organisation: St Christopher's Hospice

I work in the Community Action Team as the Project Coordinator on the Croydon Death Literary project where we develop a vast range of significant partnerships with community groups and organisations, whose members often face multiple health inequalities, helping them to improve their skills and confidence to have important conversations about death, dying and loss.



Lisa-Lyna Ofosu-Asare

Job title: Health Improvement Specialist for the Bowel Cancer Screening Centre

Organisation: St George's Hospital

Lisa-Lyna Ofosu-Asare is a Health Improvement Specialist for Bowel Cancer, based at St Georges Hospital. Lisa-Lyna has a passion for all things cancer related, and has been working in cancer for the last 9 years. She is an advocate for healthy lifestyle choices and works (both in the community and alongside Health Professionals) on raising awareness about Bowel Cancer, their signs and symptoms and eligible people that can take part in the screening programme.



Petrina Kamara

Petrina Kamara was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2020 right in the middle of the pandemic. However, the diagnosis did not deter her pursuit to continue their studies while going through cancer treatments, to qualify as a Chartered Surveyor. She has used her experience with cancer to support others either directly and via Macmillan, The Health Show and Prostrate Cancer UK. She has recently started Africa Cancer Support (ACS), an organisation that is committed to demystifying the taboo around cancer in the African Community by raising awareness to minimise the risks of premature death.



Lorna Jones

Job title: Trichologist

Organisation: Caring for Hair Trichology Clinic

Lorna Jones qualified as a Trichologist from the prestigious International Association of Trichologists. She undertook her clinical training in various parts of the world including Australia, South Africa, Washington and the UK.

She set up her clinic dealing with hair loss and scalp issues, Caring for Hair, in London where she is now based.

She is a published author and speaks at conferences both in the UK and internationally on various aspects of hair care and hair loss; she runs training courses and trains new trichologists.

She is also the National Group leader of the UK CCCA support group run by the Scarring Alopecia Foundation (SAF), based in the US. CCCA, otherwise known as Central Centrifugal Cicatricial Alopecia is a type of central hair loss condition that is found almost exclusively in black women. Recognising some of the unique experiences that individuals with Afro-textured hair may face regarding cancer-related hair loss, she founded C & Hair. It is a service dedicated to providing support and guidance for individuals with Afro-textured hair faced with hair loss due to cancer



Orin Lewis OBE

Job title: Co-Founder and CEO

Organisation: (ACLT) African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust

Orin Lewis OBE is the co-founder (alongside his partner Beverley De-Gale, OBE) and CEO of leading UK blood cancer charity, the ACLT (African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust).

ACLT was founded in June 1996, after Orin and his partner Beverley received the devastating news that their 6-year-old son Daniel De-Gale needed a lifesaving stem cell transplant in order to win his 3-year battle against leukaemia.



Nicola Delsol

Since my diagnosis in September 2023, it's inspired me to do more public & inspirational speaking. Having had such an extraordinary journey over the last 10 months, I feel compelled to share my journey of change & to push the message of not to wait for a diagnosis to make changes. I want to raise more awareness of breast cancer in younger people and that it doesn't mean it's a death sentence but rather a time to inspire.



Baljit Vohra

Job title: Registered Nurse, Clinical Care Nursing

Baljit is currently the Lead Cancer Nurse for Croydon Health Services and has worked with Cancer patients for 22 years. Her

qualifications are as follows: BSc (Critical care Nursing), Dip

Cancer Nursing, Non-medical prescriber and MSc in Health Policy.



**Paulette
Lewis MBE**

Job title: Trichologist

Organisation: Caring for Hair Trichology Clinic

Paulette is a highly experienced and respected leader and management consultant specialising in health, management, leadership, and institutional strengthening. She serves as a Non-Executive Director, Chair of the Croydon BME Forum, and President of the Caribbean Nurses & Midwives Association (UK). Paulette has held several senior executive positions, including Director of Midwifery and Children Services, Executive Director of Nursing, and Director of the Pan London Maternity Service Review.

Paulette is dedicated to mentoring and coaching staff, influencing health and social care policies, and addressing inequalities for Black Minority Ethnic groups at local, national, and international levels. She has also supported the Jamaica High Commission and worked in America and Chad on maternal and infant services.

Her accolades include the Silver Award for Excellence in Health Care (2000), the European Social and Humanitarian Award (2002), an MBE from the Queen's Birthday Honours List (2014), the Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation for Service to Jamaica (2018), the Global Recognition Award by Zenith Global Health (2022), and two awards from the Caribbean Global Awards (2023) for Best Health Care Staff Organisation and Excellence in Community Health Services.



**Anthony
King**

Job title: Conference Host

Anthony is the Service Manager and Chair of the My Ends project in Croydon.

Following a major operation in 2012, he discovered a benign tumour the following year, which profoundly influenced his perspective on life. In 2019, Anthony raised £2,500 for prostate cancer awareness and remains dedicated to raising awareness. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Policy and Community Development, a HND in Health and Social Care, and is committed to reducing knife crime in Croydon.



**Andréa
Tshibangu**

Job title: Personal employment in Technology / volunteer at Cancer Don't Let it Win

I am a dynamic and determined Christian woman with a bright and creative spirit. As a Field Service Coordinator at a technology company, I excel in planning, maintaining confidences, speaking three languages, and derive great satisfaction from assisting others.

With over 13 years of experience in the financial sector, encompassing retail, public health, technology, and social media industries, I am a seasoned office professional. Throughout my career, I have cultivated strong, positive relationships with individuals across all organisational levels, from senior management to stakeholders.

Currently, I volunteer at "Cancer Don't Let It Win," a valuable support group for men facing prostate cancer, led by Jeff Thompson. In a significant personal triumph, I successfully completed cancer treatment in May 2024. I am immensely proud and grateful to announce that God and I have emerged victoriously over Breast Cancer

AGENDA

9.30 – 10.15	Registration/visit stalls	
10.15 – 10.25	Welcome	Anthony & Andrea (hosts)
10.25 – 10.35	Welcome Message	Andrew Brown – CEO Croydon BME Forum
10.35 – 10.40	Introduce 'Can You C Me? Project'	Saffron Shadbolt, Macmillan Cancer Support and Wellbeing Programme Manager
10.40 – 10.50	Borough Update	Can You C Me? Team – Zak and Michael
10.50 – 11.00	Macmillan Cancer Support	Emma & Christine
11.00 – 11.05	Introduce first speaker	Anthony & Andrea (hosts)
11.05 – 11.15	Cancer referrals in Croydon and What's changed in the last 2 years	Baljit Vohra
11.15 – 11.25	Blood Cancer 'It's Beyond the Stats'	Orin Lewis
11.25 – 11.45	BREAK/VISIT STALLS	
11.45 – 11.55	Breast Screening and Breast Cancer in the BME community	Charmaine Case
11.55 – 12.05	Bowel Cancer and The Screening Programme	Lisa-Lyna Ofosu-Asare
12.05 – 12.15	Cancer-related Afro Hair Loss	Lorna Jones
12.15 – 12.25	Community Action at St Christopher's	Malcolm Gill
12.25 – 12.40	How my situation became my motivation	Petrina and daughter, Farrina
12.40 – 12.50	Positivity after Cancer	Valerie Betts
12.50 – 13.00	Breast Cancer; A Blessing in Disguise	Nicola

13.00 – 14.25	LUNCH/VISIT STALLS	
14.25 – 14.30	Get everyone seated	Anthony & Andrea (hosts)
14.30 – 15.00	Panel Discussion and Q&A	1. Charmaine Case 2. Nicola 3. Orin Lewis 4. Petrina 5. Farrina 6. Judith Mbaire
15.00 – 15.25	Workshops – Session one	1. Lisa-Lyna Ofosu-Asare, St George's Hospital - Bowel Cancer and The Screening Programme 2. Malcolm Gill, St Christopher's - Anticipatory Loss workshop 3. Patricia Williams, Cancer Black Care – Finding Your Joy 4. Alicia Joseph, Southwest London Macmillan Benefit Advice Service - Benefits Advice Service – What do we do?
15.25 – 15.40	BREAK/CHANGE WORKSHOP	
15.40 – 16.05	Workshops – Session two	1. Lisa-Lyna Ofosu-Asare, St George's Hospital - Bowel Cancer and The Screening Programme 2. Malcolm Gill, St Christopher's - Anticipatory Loss workshop 3. Lorna Jones, Caring for Hair, Cancer-related Afro Hair Loss 4. Alicia Joseph, Southwest London Macmillan Benefit Advice Service - Benefits Advice Service – What do we do?
16.05 – 16.10	Get everyone seated	Anthony & Andrea (hosts)
16.10 – 16.25	Reflection of the Day	Anthony & Andrea (hosts)
16.25 – 16.45	Raffle prizes	Can You C Me team – Saffron, Zak, Michael
16.45 – 16.50	Poem	Petrina
16.50 – 17.00	Thank you	Paulette Lewis MBE, Former Nurse, Chair Croydon BME Forum
17.00	CLOSE NETWORKING & MUSIC	

CONFERENCE INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE

WELCOME TO OUR CONFERENCE!

To ensure a smooth, productive, and enjoyable experience for all attendees, we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Registration

Registration: Ensure you are registered prior to attending. Check-in at the registration desk to receive your conference materials.

2. Attendance and Participation

Punctuality: Please arrive on time for all sessions and events.

Workshop Session Attendance: Please attend the workshop sessions you have signed up for. If you need to switch sessions, please find a member of staff and discuss this with them.

3. Etiquette and Conduct

Respect and Courtesy: Treat all participants, organisers, and venue staff with respect. Abusive or disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated.

Question and Answer Sessions: Participate actively but respectfully. Wait for your turn to speak and keep questions concise and relevant.

4. Electronic Devices

Please silence your mobile devices during sessions.

5. Health and Safety

Emergency Procedures: Familiarise yourself with the venue's emergency exits and procedures. Follow any instructions from staff during an emergency.

Health Protocols: Adhere to any health guidelines provided by the conference, including hygiene practices and social distancing if applicable.

7. Environment and Sustainability

Waste Management: Please dispose of waste in the designated bins.

8. Feedback and Improvement

Surveys and Feedback: Participate in feedback surveys to help us improve future conferences.

9. Compliance with Venue Rules

Venue Policies: Abide by all rules and regulations set by the conference venue. This includes smoking policies, restricted areas, and property handling.

We hope you have a rewarding and enjoyable conference experience!

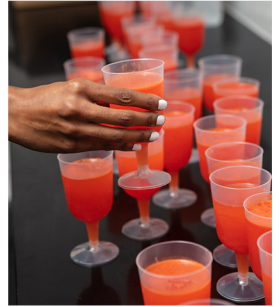
For more information on the 'Can You C Me?' project or to contact the team, please visit: www.cbmeforum.org or email: macmillanteam@bmeforum.org

You may also visit the Macmillan website or call 0808 808 00 00.

Thank you for your cooperation and participation.

CROYDON CANCER CONFERENCE 2022





APPRECIATION



NAME: ZAK MIAH

JOB TITLE: MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT AND WELLBEING PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

ORGANISATION: CROYDON BME FORUM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

A special thank you to all those that have supported and engaged with the “Can You C Me” project. It has only been six months, but yet we have achieved so much! We are shining a light on the disparities in healthcare outcomes for those of a BME background dealing with Cancer. Addressing racial disparities within Cancer support and giving a voice to marginalised communities. This project will give a better understanding in to the barriers which create inequality in healthcare outcomes for minority communities. Our work will ensure that we help shape the future of Cancer support and Healthcare and create equity for all. Through education and challenging current mindsets by better understating real stories and experiences, we hope to bridge the gap between healthcare providers and the communities they serve. We look forward to your continued support and the overall success of the project.

NAME: MICHAEL SAMUEL

JOB TITLE: MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT AND WELLBEING PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

ORGANISATION: CROYDON BME FORUM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



I extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you for joining and supporting us today as we work together to address health inequalities and enhance cancer support for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities across six Southwest London boroughs.

This partnership symbolises a shared commitment to humanity, equity, and progress. For too long, individuals from BME backgrounds have faced disproportionate barriers in accessing quality healthcare and support, especially in cancer care.

Over the next three years, my team and I are committed to providing holistic care that addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by BME individuals and their families when diagnosed with cancer. We will work within local communities in our six boroughs to ensure culturally sensitive support is delivered with compassion, understanding, and unwavering dedication. Thank you to our stakeholders, community members, and attendees for your support and presence today.



NAME: SAFFRON SHADBOLT
JOB TITLE: MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT AND WELLBEING PROGRAMME MANAGER
ORGANISATION: CROYDON BME FORUM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

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ABOUT CROYDON BME FORUM:



CROYDON BME FORUM

Croydon BME Forum is the umbrella organisation for Croydon's Black and Minority Ethnic voluntary and community sector, engaging people, building capacity, and promoting equality and cohesion.

We are a registered charity and company limited by guarantee.

We have multiple projects focused on mental health, general health, family support, financial support, and wellbeing.

The Forum was established to maximise the engagement of BME communities in all aspects of living and working in Croydon.

We make representations on behalf of Croydon's black and minority ethnic communities to public sector agencies and other statutory and non-statutory organisations.

Get in touch with Croydon BME Forum by calling us or dropping in.

Phone: 0208 680 3635 | 0208 684 3719

Address:
The Wellness Centre,
1st Floor Whitgift Centre,
Croydon, CR0 1LP

For more information on the 'Can You C Me?' project or to contact the team, please visit: www.cbmeforum.org, or email: macmillanteam@bmeforum.org

You may also visit the Macmillan website or call 0808 808 00 00

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