



**\*\*Media Release: embargoed until 00.01 on Tuesday 21st April 2015\*\***

## **Cancer52 appoints new chair**

[Cancer52](#), an alliance of more than 80 cancer charities working for people with rare and less common cancers, has appointed Jonathan Pearce as Chair, effective from 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

Jonathan, chief executive of the Lymphoma Association, succeeds interim Chair Clara Mackay, deputy CEO of Pancreatic Cancer UK.

The appointment was officially announced at today's (21st April) Cancer52 All Member meeting.

Jonathan joins the alliance just weeks before the 2015 General Election.

He said: "I feel very privileged to have been appointed Chair and I thank Cancer52 members for granting me this opportunity.

'It is a great time to be taking on the position of Chair and I look forward to working with the rest of the Board and Jane Lyons, the chief executive, to promote the [Cancer52 Manifesto](#) and calling upon the Government to do more to help tackle the inequities in the diagnosis, treatment, management of support of people with rare or less common cancers. 'Regardless of which party is successful in May's General Election, I will be using the strength of this Alliance to call for a new cancer strategy that ensures rare and less common cancers are made a priority and that more is done to support charities and patient organisations in the sector.'

Rare and less common cancers account for more than half all cancer deaths in the UK. A rising proportion of cancer deaths are attributable to rare and less common cancers, up from 52% of all cancer deaths in England in 2006 when Cancer52 was founded, to 54% in 2011<sup>i</sup>.

Clara Mackay, Interim Chair of Cancer52, said: "I'm delighted to be handing over this role to Jonathan at such an important point in Cancer52's development. I am confident that Cancer52 will greatly benefit from Jonathan's passion and experience - and that the voice of rare and less common cancers will be well represented where and when it matters."

Baroness Delyth Morgan of Drefelin, honorary president of Cancer52, said: 'I have been involved with Cancer52 for many years and have seen the organisation go from strength to strength. Accordingly I was honoured to be asked to chair the interview panel for the new Chair. Jonathan is a great choice and will I am sure take Cancer52 onwards to its next level of influence and presence at the table to ensure the voice of people with these cancers is heard."

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For further information, please contact: Erika Murigi on 01296 619418 | 07710 393892 | [erika@lymphomas.org.uk](mailto:erika@lymphomas.org.uk)

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<sup>i</sup> 70,647 people died of a rare or less common cancer in 2011 and 132,770 people were diagnosed in 2012 Source Cascade, National Cancer Registration Service, Public Health England, accessed 21st May 2014)