

## **Newsletter - January 2018**

**We are grateful to study participants, collaborators and funders, the Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK, for their continued support. Follow-up data, now for up to 18 years, continues to enable us to answer many important questions related to women's health.**

**This year we have been joined on campus by a new Big Data Institute (photo below).** With close links to our department, this provides additional expertise in analysing large datasets like ours, and using linked health data.

**More online questionnaires:** 60,000 study participants have now completed online diet questionnaires, and we have a new online survey on cognitive health.

### **Some recent Million Women Study results:**

#### **Blood transfusions linked to liver cancer and non-Hodgkin lymphoma**

Women who had undergone a blood transfusion in 2000 or later had a higher risk of developing liver cancer and non-Hodgkin lymphoma than other women. This was after tests were put in place to minimise the risk of transmission of hepatitis C virus from donors. However, there may be other cancer-causing agents which are not currently screened for in transfused blood.

*Yang et al. Ann Oncol 2017;28:393-99*

#### **Women with disabilities are less likely to participate in cancer screening**

Women with a disability are less likely to participate in breast and bowel cancer screening. Lack of access to a car seems to have a particularly negative effect on breast cancer screening attendance, probably because this takes place at a clinic rather than at home.

*Floud et al. Br J Cancer 2017;117: 1711-14*

#### **Childbearing history and ovarian cancer risk**

We found that each birth in parous women reduces ovarian cancer risk by 6%, and nulliparity is associated with a 24% increase in risk compared to women with one child. Risk reduction varied by tumour type, with the greatest reduction observed for clear cell tumours and little, if any, reduction for serous tumours. Ovarian cancer risk was additionally reduced by 10% for every 12 months of breastfeeding.

*Gaitskell et al. Int. J. Cancer 2018;142: 281-289*

For more of our recent papers, please visit the study progress section of our web site:

[www.millionwomenstudy.org](http://www.millionwomenstudy.org)

If you have any comments or suggestions, please email us on:

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