Beating bowel cancer in Ayrshire and Arran

Members of staff, the public and current and former patients came along to NHS Ayrshire & Arran’s fourth annual bowel screening awareness event to mark Bowel Cancer Awareness Month in April.

The popular event was held on 26 April in University Hospital Crosshouse and attracted almost 50 people. Topics ranged from the importance of exercise and good diet in cancer prevention, the role of genetics and how family history of disease is tracked, to early warning signs, advances in treatment and the practical issue of how to take the bowel screening test.

The star of the day was definitely the eight feet high walk-through inflatable bowel! The bowel, and its keeper Mick Pilling, travelled all the way from Addenbrooke’s Hospital in Cambridge to help delegates learn about bowel diseases in an innovative way. The bowel even attracted attention from all over the hospital as news of it being there spread.

Mr Bob Diament, Colorectal Surgeon and Director of Ayrshire and Arran’s bowel screening programme, commented: “I am very grateful to all the clinicians and guests who made this event such a success. Good discussion was generated on the day and the inflatable bowel was definitely a talking point! It is really important that we encourage as many people as possible to complete the bowel screening test as early diagnosis makes all the difference.”

Since screening started in Ayrshire and Arran in September 2007, 3,856 people have had a positive test result with 212 of these having a diagnosis of bowel cancer. Every year 58,000 bowel screening kits are sent to people aged 50 to 74 in Ayrshire but only 60 per cent actually do the test.
For more information on the Scottish Bowel Screening Programme, call 0800 0121 833 (calls charged at local rate) or visit www.bowelscreening.scot.nhs.uk.

Ends

Date of release: Friday 4 May 2012

Photograph: Guest speakers back row left to right: Miss Cathy Watt, Principal Genetic Counsellor; Mr Bob Diament, colorectal surgeon and Director of Ayrshire and Arran Bowel Screening Programme; Dr David Morrison, Public Health Consultant; Mr Charles Waddell, Retired Depute Head Teacher; Mr Itamar Felsenstein, Consultant in colorectal and general surgery

Front row left to right: Fiona McTaggart, Bowel Screening Audit Facilitator and event organiser; Tricia Moss, Physiotherapist; Martin Cheyne, Chairman of Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board; Ann Moulds, Ayrshire Cancer Support; Sister Amy Kerr, Clinical Nurse Specialist.
Left to right: Mick Pilling, Bowel Cancer Administrator from Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge who travelled to Ayrshire with the inflatable bowel; Mr Bob Diament, colorectal surgeon and Director of Ayrshire and Arran Bowel Screening Programme and Fiona McTaggart, Bowel Screening Audit Facilitator and event organiser.

For further media enquiries about this topic, please contact:

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