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**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: 1PM, THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY, SEMINAR ROOM C, LEVEL 7
NINEWELLS HOSPITAL**

Cancer specialist Professor Elaine Rankin retires

Consultant and Professor of Medical Oncology Elaine Rankin has retired from NHS Tayside after 13 years service.

Professor Rankin came to Dundee as consultant professor and head of division of cancer medicine in 1998 after medical school training in Manchester and a BSc at the University of St Andrews.

She occupied posts as a research fellow both in Manchester and in the Netherlands and was a senior lecturer in medical oncology in Glasgow before being appointed as consultant medical oncologist at the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam. Her areas of special interest included lung, melanoma and ovarian cancer.

Professor Rankin said, "In my inaugural address, when I took up post, I bemoaned the poor standards of care for patients with lung cancer in Scotland. With the help of many colleagues in the NHS we have been able to build up a centre which is second to none in the UK.

"The collaboration of patients and their families has allowed me to establish a programme of clinical research which has contributed to the development of new methods for treating this difficult disease. These treatments are more effective and less toxic, so the outlook for patients has improved considerably.

"Teaching students has brought me great satisfaction since it provides the opportunity to improve the clinical skills and acumen of the next generation of doctors. As the first female Professor of Cancer Medicine in the United Kingdom, I have faced many challenges. One of these has been to try to persuade the University not to overlook the importance of recognising excellence in clinical care in its drive to increase the number of scientific publications, many of which will never be relevant to patients.

"It is essential that our medical students have exposure to role models who are able to combine superb clinical skills, critical thinking and a broad knowledge of their subject with compassion and empathy for those in their care. I am very grateful for the generosity of patients who have allowed students into consultations and to examine them.

Media Information



Press Release

“Like many in my position, I have sat on various committees at both a national and an international level and have seen how, by working together, we can improve matters. Politics and policies are important but nothing is ever as important as the clinical relationship between a doctor and a patient and it is essential that the appreciation of this is transmitted to future generations of doctors.”

Professor Rankin was the recipient of a number of grants, including a CRUK grant as clinical investigator looking at individualisation of patient treatment and also a CSO grant looking at the role of antidepressants in improving the mood of patients with newly diagnosed lung cancer.

She is a member of numerous committees, including the NCRI Lung Group Committee, EORTC Lung and Melanoma Groups as well as Scottish Lung and Melanoma Groups. She referred numerous publications on a regular basis for 30 peer review journals and has published over 70 papers in peer reviewed journals on topics in Medical Oncology & Immuni-therapy.

On retirement, Professor Rankin intends to continue her degree at the University of St Andrews looking at the history of art and will also focus her attention on the renovation of her new house in Pittenweem in the East Neuk of Fife.

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