



C & Hair News

The C & Hair Conference: Advancing Conversations on Cancer, Afro-Textured Hair and broader related issues.

4th June 2024

Conference Overview



Elaine Bowes, Conference Chair
Photo: Kwaku Bonsu, ADE

On Saturday, May 18, the highly anticipated C & Hair Conference took place, a landmark event dedicated to advancing discussions on cancer, Afro-textured hair, and broader related issues. The conference was a remarkable success, bringing together over 200 attendees, including healthcare professionals, cancer survivors, carers, advocates, and individuals keen to learn more about these important topics.

We welcomed Elaine Bowes to the event, who chaired the Conference.

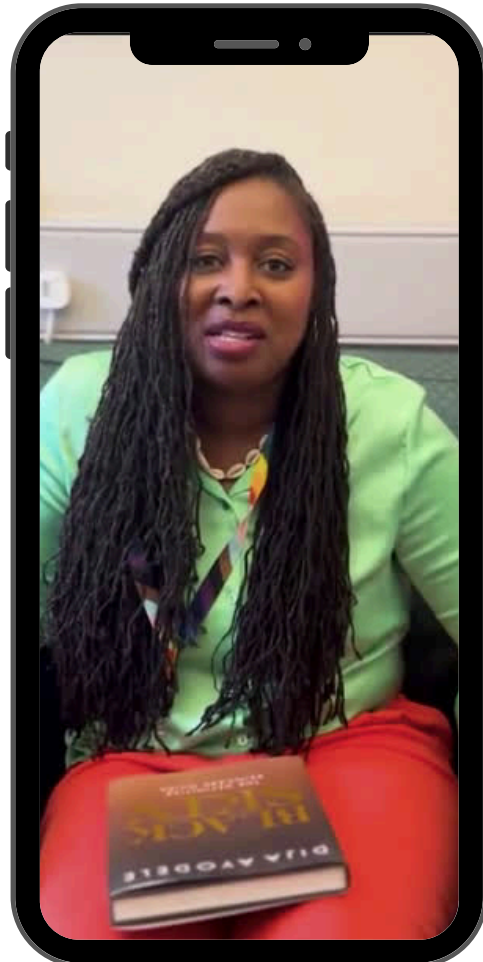
The event aimed to educate, inspire, and empower participants through engaging talks, workshops, and live demonstrations.

Attendees had the opportunity to connect with expert speakers and participate in discussions on a variety of crucial subjects, including: Cancer risk factors and early detection 'screening', Treatment options such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy, Scalp cooling, Understanding Afro-textured hair and cancer-related hair loss, Prostate Cancer and Breast Cancer.

Followed by practical sessions on Scalp cooling, how to check your breast, eyebrow and eyelash replacement, wig-making and hair camouflage techniques

Welcome Address

Dawn Butler MP could not be with us in person at the Conference, but we were honoured to receive a video welcome address:



Click [here](#) to watch the video

Some highlights of the Day

C & Hair completed a BIG CHOP Challenge with the help of Adriel and Murl. Prior to the Conference this Adriel, 6 years old, cut off 12 inches of his hair and Murl cut off 12 inches of her Sisterlocks. At the Conference, their hair was donated to the Little Princess Trust and Ian Morris, the Communications Manager, was on hand to receive them.



Adriel receiving his certificate from Ian Morris, from the Little Princess Trust for kindly donating his hair.

Photo: Kwaku Bonsu, ADE

The Little Princess Trust is a charity that provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment and other conditions.

www.littleprincesses.org.uk.

In addition to the hair donations, we were pleased to be able to raise funds from a number of donations totally £320, in support of the work that the Little Princess Trust does. At the Conference, we were able to present a cheque to them.



Lorna Jones handing Ian Morris a cheque following the BIG CHOP fundraising initiative.

Photo: Kwaku Bonsu, ADE

Generous donations from our stallholders and proceeds from a raffle saw us raise an additional £321.00 in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, and a cheque was also presented to them.



Lorna Jones handing a fundraising cheque to Janet Clarke, from Macmillan Cancer Support

Photo: Kwaku Bonsu, ADE

Raffle prizes were generously donated by:

Sainsbury's and Marks and Spencer who supplied gift vouchers, BIG Nanny's Hair Products who supplied a hamper of products, and Goodwashday who supplied an organic jersey cotton hair towel.

Featured Presentation by Claire Paxman, Brand Ambassador and Director of Global Training at Paxman

Claire Paxman shared the inspiring history of Paxman and the numerous benefits of Scalp cooling. Her session was a highlight of the conference, offering in-depth insights into how Scalp cooling can help mitigate hair loss during chemotherapy. Claire then conducted a live demonstration on how to prepare Afro-textured hair for scalp cooling, assisted by Dorcas Efayena and her model, who expertly demonstrated the hair preparation techniques. More information about Scalp cooling can be found at www.coldcap.com



Claire Paxman, Brand Ambassador and Director of Global Training at Paxman speaking at the C & Hair Conference

Photo: Kwaku Bonsu, ADE

Speaker Line-Up

We were privileged to hear from an exceptional group of experts: Miss Georgette Oni, Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon; Miss Carol Norman, Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon; Dr. Sharon Belmo, Consultant Dermatologist; Dr. Emma Amofo-Mensah, Dermatology Registrar; Dr. Oluwatomilayo Ejedenawe, Clinical Oncology Registrar and Dr. Krishnie Srikandarajah, Medical Oncology Registrar.



Miss Georgette Oni, Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon speaking at the C & Hair Conference.

Photo: Kwaku Bonsu, ADE

We were also joined by Dr Yemi Bello, Dermatology Registrar who spoke about the importance of keeping a note of our medical records. She has written a book, called 'My Medical Record, a Comprehensive Journal and very kindly donated 50 books to the Conference attendees. They are available from Amazon for £6.99.

The conference was deeply enriched by the personal stories shared by Cody Gapare, Inventor of C-lash by Eylure, who also conducted a live demo on fitting eyelashes and Jeff Thompson, Founder of Cancer Don't Let it Win, a support group for men affected by Prostate cancer.



Cody Gapare, Inventor of C-Lash by Eylure

Photo: Kwaku Bonsu, ADE



Jeff Thompson, Founder of Cancer Don't Let it Win

Photo: Kwaku Bonsu, ADE

Their insights and experiences provided practical advice and strategies for dealing with cancer-related challenges, allowing the audience to connect on a deeper level.



Head wrapping Workshop with Joy Adeyemi, from Joyous Illustrious

Photo: Kwaku Bonsu, ADE

Workshops

The participants attended five workshops led by experts in various fields: Lina Milazzo, (Hair Reborn) Training for Hairdressers; Janet Clarke (Macmillan) Support for hairdressers; Verona White (Wig Technician), Wig-making class; Joy Adeyemi, (Joyous Luxurious) Headwrap tying techniques; Leanne Adu (Black Women Rising) on the importance of support groups; Zak Miah (Croydon BME) on Cancer services in Croydon; Gloria Yankson (MacMillan Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist) on 'how to check your breasts'.



BIG Nanny's Hair Products stall at the C & Hair Conference

Photo: Kwaku Bonsu, ADE

Stall Holders

We were delighted to have various stall holders contributing to the event, including: Tomiin Wig Hangers, BIG Nanny's Hair Products, Joyous Luxurious head wraps. Our other stall holders provided a wealth of information and advice for our participants between the talks including the Macmillan team at Croydon BME, the Little Princess Trust, Hair Reborn and Cancer, Don't let it Win.

The event was complemented by delicious refreshments throughout the day, featuring a Caribbean lunch menu. We had endless bottles of water, provided by Tesco's and music by DJs Back to Basics added a lively atmosphere to the proceedings.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

We are grateful to Paxman Scalp Cooling who were the main conference sponsors. We are also grateful to Eylure who provided free eyelashes for women who have lost their eyelashes as a result of chemotherapy and Spell Magazine who provided the goody bags, Macmillan Cancer Support and Croydon BME.

In summary, the C & Hair Conference was an extraordinary day of learning, sharing, and community building. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our speakers, sponsors, and participants for making this event a tremendous success. Together, we are advancing the conversations on cancer and Afro-textured hair, fostering a network of support and education that will continue to grow.

Please click [here](#) for the full copy of the C & Hair Programme.

Please click [here](#) to be added to our mailing list for details of future events and initiatives as we continue to make strides in this vital area of healthcare and wellbeing.

