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## **Three UK lung cancer charities collaborate to launch 'Oncogene-Driven Lung Cancer Patient Alliance'**

*Surrey, July 1, 2022* - Today sees three UK lung cancer charities launching a new alliance. ALK Positive UK, EGFR Positive UK and ROS1ders UK, who provide support, empowerment and advocacy for patients with rare forms of lung cancer, have formed the Oncogene-Driven Lung Cancer Patient Alliance. The three charities will share best practice, carry out joint projects and assist in the creation of new patient support groups. The charities will remain independent and continue to support their own members.

About 30% of lung cancer cases arise in never-smokers. These cancers are the result of genetic mutations and about 50% of patients are under the age of 50 years at diagnosis, some are much younger. About 85% of cases are diagnosed at stage 4 when there is no cure, although modern drugs can, in some cases, prolong life, often for many years.

ALK-positive, EGFR-positive and ROS-1 lung cancers are caused by mutations affecting about 20% of all lung cancer patients.

Debra Montague, Chair of ODLN Patient Alliance, said, "This formation is a major step forward in promoting the interests of lung cancer patients who have rare mutations."

Professor Sanjay Popat, Medical Thoracic Consultant at The Royal Marsden Hospital, said, "I think an alliance makes perfect sense. Many of each group's aims and objectives are the same and certainly overlap."

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