

CTNZ Newsletter



December 2013 | Issue 17



Ride to Conquer Cancer



The Ride to Conquer Cancer was an incredible event to participate in. 663 Cyclists covered 200km across two days and cycled through the best of South Auckland from the beaches of Maraetai to the rolling hills and dales of Waiuku.

There were many inspirational stories; the man on the Unicycle cycling for his tiny grand-daughter who was passed to him triumphantly at the finish with a little drip in her nose, the patient on a Phase I trial who having responded to his drug managed to complete the whole course whilst still on treatment, the Pacific Island woman cycling for her mother, who was engulfed by 20 of her family members as she fell across the finish line.

The cyclists were just a small part of the team as many of the CTNZ crew and the Regional Blood and Cancer Service had been fundraising and working towards this for several weeks. Our gratitude goes to the organisers for a very well-run event and all those that donated to the event. The riders raised a total of \$2.1m for Cancer Research.

Mike, Ben and the rest of the team are looking forward to repeating the ride next year this time with their wives!



SAVE THE DATE

CTNZ Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 21st October, Tauranga.
(our ASM will precede NZSO which is being held in Tauranga 22nd-23rd October)



It has been an exciting year for CTNZ, we celebrated our 10 year anniversary, had a record attendance at our Annual Scientific Meeting in Dunedin and achieved several important milestones. Firstly due to the support from the Auckland Cancer Society we have secured an increased level of core funding enabling consolidation of our operating centre. Secondly clinical trial activity including SIRFLOX closed to recruitment in April and three new trials: DARECK, FOXFIREGlobal and MELVAC were opened. PIPER is approaching the end of the data collection stage and the NET Registry is gaining momentum with its data collection. We have said good-bye to two members of staff but gained five new ones. And of course Ben and I successfully completed our 200km bike ride much to the relief of family and friends...and us! So all in all it has been a prosperous year for CTNZ and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making it so successful.



Mike

Ride to Conquer Cancer – Fundraising

CTNZ embarked on a campaign to help the ‘Tyreless Trialist’ reach their team goal of \$27,500 by selling raffle tickets and ice-cream.



The team at CTNZ held two ice-cream sales at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland. Our sincere thanks go to TipTop, who kindly donated 8 flavours of ice-cream for the two events. We were fortunate to have lovely sunny weather on both days, and great support from our extended colleagues at the University who happen to enjoy a scoop of ice-cream (or two, or three, or even four!)

Raffle tickets were sold by all CTNZ and Canopy Care staff to colleagues, patients, friends and family as well as being sold to those buying ice-creams at the Ice-Cream sales. Winners were drawn on 20th November.

Gifts were kindly donated by the following: Hot Stone Massage from **The Beauty Space**, Ozone Facia by **Tamara Spa**, Nutritional consultation from **Wholistic Nutrition**, one night Bed and Breakfast at The **Sudima Hotel**, Auckland Airport, 4 hours Bouncy Castle hire from **Kumeu Bouncy Castles** and an initial consultation and adjustment with **Dynamic Family Chiropractor**.

All in all the fundraising events proved to be very successful with a total of \$2,293.10 raised. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

NEXT FUNDRAISER - Relay For Life

Relay For Life is an inspiring community event that gives everyone a chance to celebrate cancer survivors and caregivers; remember loved ones lost to cancer; and fight back by raising awareness and funds to support the work of the Cancer Society.



The events take place throughout New Zealand from late Feb to March. For more details see <http://www.relayforlife.org.nz/event/event>

Projects and Current Trials Update

DARECK

Four sites in NZ are participating in this trial. CTNZ is coordinating only the Auckland site where seven patients have been recruited. Of the seven patients in Auckland, five are the experimental arm and two the control. Six patients are currently on treatment with the first patient up to cycle 19. Global recruitment has now stopped. For further details about DARECK please contact Sarah: sarah.dawes@auckland.ac.nz

FOXFIREGlobal and SIRFLOX

Sirflox is in follow-up phase with 4 patients still on study protocol, 3 on 8 weekly follow-up (not progressed in liver) and 5 on 12 weekly follow up. Two patients have been recruited to FOXFIREGlobal in NZ, 1 in Auckland and 1 in Wellington. The first patient was recruited at Auckland in Dec 13. A total of 40 have been recruited worldwide. For further details about SIRFLOX or FOXFIREGlobal please contact Monica: m.mccusker@auckland.ac.nz

MELVAC

One patient has been recruited to MELVAC Phase 1 study. They will have their first vaccine in mid Jan 2014. A 2nd patient has agreed, and consent is planned for 16th Dec, with first vaccine at end of Jan. There seem to be plenty of interest from patients for both the Phase I and Phase II parts of this study. For further details about MELVAC please contact Monica: m.mccusker@auckland.ac.nz

PIPER

We have entered into the 3rd and final year of the PIPER Project, and data collection is on-going toward an expected completion date of March 2014. Data has been collected for 4899 patients as at 10th December 2013. Last Christmas we had collected data on 1000 patients so this is a huge achievement – thank you to all of the PIPER Data Managers for their on-going hard work! Data cleaning has begun, which many of the project Co-Investigators and Advisory Group members are assisting with – thank you to you all also. The final meeting for the Co-Investigator and Advisory Group members is due in Wellington around April next year. For further details about the PIPER Project please contact Melissa: m.murray@auckland.ac.nz

NETwork! Project

NET Registry: Over 1500 cases of NET have been identified as being of interest to the study across New Zealand. Entry of these cases into the NET Registry is now well underway, and locality approvals for the retrieval of data from DHBs across the country are being initiated. Please contact Joanne James-Hartnell j.james-hartnell@auckland.ac.nz for further information.

The NETwork! Genomics study

We now have ethical approval to start retrospective, as well as prospective collection of tissue samples, and again, individual site localities are now being liaised with to agree the best way forward to achieve this.

SOLD

International recruitment now stands at 1900 patients recruited to this study, including 106 NZ patients. Patient accrual in New Zealand has picked up but mainly in Auckland. Please continue to consider the SOLD study for patients with early breast cancer. For any queries please contact Sarah: s.benge@auckland.ac.nz

Trial Recruitment (as of 12 December 2013)

DARECK (CTNZ only)

Auckland	7
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FOXFIREGlobal

Auckland	1
Dunedin	0
Christchurch	0
Palmerston north	0
Wellington	1

TOTAL	2
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MELVAC

Auckland	1
Wellington	0
TOTAL	1

SOLD

Auckland	83
Christchurch	11
Dunedin	10
Wellington	2
TOTAL	106

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
CTNZ CHRISTMAS CLOSURE
SEE BACK PAGE

CTNZ Staff



Welcome Reenu!

Reenu joined CTNZ in September 2013 as the Auckland Regional Data Manager for the PIPER Project. Reenu graduated with a Bachelor in Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS) in India in 2007, and a Diploma in Health Care Studies (level 5) in New Zealand in 2010. Reenu has over two years' experience as a clinical research coordinator.

Welcome Joanne!

Joanne joined CTNZ as Study Coordinator for the NET Registry in November 2013. Joanne qualified as a Registered General and Obstetric Nurse in 1981 in Auckland. Initially working in Oncology and Endocrinology as Registered Nurse. She worked as a specialist nurse in Osteoporosis for 12 years. She also has had experience in a variety of research fields including rheumatoid, stroke and diabetes studies



Welcome Keerthana!

Keerthana joined CTNZ as a part of the NET Registry in November 2013. She graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (M.B.B.S) degree from India in 2012 and recently became an NZREX graduate. In India, Keerthana was part of a number of national medical research projects in the fields of Nutrition and Microbiology. She is now looking to pursue her interest in the field of Clinical Oncology Research in New Zealand.



Christmas Cover for Trials



CTNZ will be closed from 3pm Friday 20th December until Monday 6th January.

Trial specific contacts over this period are:

Trial	SAE reporting	Urgent eligibility/protocol queries
DARECK	Sarah Dawes: text - 021 039 1691 or email - sarah.dawes@auckland.ac.nz	Dr Michael Findlay 021 753 735 Dr Ben Lawrence 021 494 337
FOXFIREGlobal	Fax directly to SIRTEX: 0061 2 9475 0467 or scan and email to sae@sirtex.com	Dr Michael Findlay 021 753 735
SOLD	Fax directly to Finland: 00 358 947 173 181	Dr Vernon Harvey 0274 958 778

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year from all
the team at CTNZ*

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**With thanks to
the Cancer Society of NZ,
Auckland Division**