

# Cancer Trials New Zealand Newsletter

September 2009 | Issue 3

## Cancer Trials New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)

The CTNZ Annual Scientific Meeting was held on Thursday 30th July at the Orams Marine Lounge in Auckland City. CTNZ would like to extend a big thank you to all the speakers at the meeting and to all the attendees from up and down the country.

CTNZ provided an update on their activity over the last year, covering all completed studies. Our new/up-coming studies: ASA404 Liver Impairment, LongCyp, RAZOR, ReCharge and the XEN tumour measurement and SOLD cardiac substudies were introduced by individual researchers.

The afternoon saw a tantalizing discussion around tissue banking in New Zealand, with representation from the Cancer Society Tissue Bank, Christchurch, plus the new Middlemore Tissue Bank. Data networking using platforms such as BioGRID in Australia was presented. Following this was an open session to discuss new trial concepts, which ranged from melanoma vaccines to collection of pre-surgical bloods and tissue for colorectal patients. The meeting closed after an enjoyable day that saw discussion of new ideas and celebrated successful collaborations. Again, thank you to everyone who attended and participated.

For a copy of the meeting report, please go to:

[www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/oncology/CTNZ/default.aspx](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/oncology/CTNZ/default.aspx)



## Directors Message

The last three months have been very busy for CTNZ, with our Annual Meeting (above) and SOLD Investigators Meeting (page 2) held in July. We have also opened two new studies - the ASA404 Liver Impairment study, and the ReCharge study (see pages 2 & 3), both of which are national studies that we look forward to working with you all on. If you have any questions about these or any other studies get in touch with the CTNZ team.

*Nikke*

### The NZ Drug Discovery Symposium - 11th September 2009

The Maurice Wilkins Centre warmly invites you to attend the above meeting at the University of Auckland Business School. This meeting will cover a portfolio of nine drugs discovered in NZ and present perspectives on NZ's clinical trials industry, and on the investment climate for developing new drugs within the country. Please contact Peter Lai: [p.lai@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:p.lai@auckland.ac.nz) to register and for programme details.

### The NZ Cancer Research Co-ordinators Group

CTNZ were delighted to host a NZ Cancer Research Coordinators Group Meeting on Wednesday 29th July. The meeting was organised by Gillian Humm from Palmerston North Hospital and Wendy Thomas from Waikato Hospital. The day was very productive, with the group working on strategies to simplify clinical trial processes across the country, such as a National Clinical Trial Agreement (as is currently being developed by COSA), budgeting and SOP development. It is hoped that this group will be instrumental in putting forward initiatives from which we will all benefit. The meeting was attended by representatives from all six cancer centres. The group have decided to meet every six months, with the next meeting to be held in Wellington in February 2010. Janie Proctor from CTNZ will be providing secretariat support for this group.

## The SOLD Investigators Meeting - July 29th, Auckland

An investigators meeting was recently held for the SOLD Study. All participating sites were represented.

The 5 Year Finher Results were reviewed, followed by an update of the international and New Zealand study status. New Zealand recruitment strategies were discussed, and since the meeting, contact has been made with the other groups conducting short duration Herceptin studies. They have been happy to communicate their experiences with us. It was noted that these other shorter duration studies are recruiting well, with approximately 3500 patients accrued to date. Details of these will be shared in a SOLD recruitment newsletter in the near future.

A New Zealand developed Cardiac Substudy is being planned and was presented at the meeting. This project has been developed in conjunction with New Zealand cardiologists and oncologists who are currently taking this project forward. The study will involve collection of biomarkers and sophisticated ECHOs.

A national NZ programme to assess possible early predictors of heart failure for patients receiving trastuzumab outside of clinical trials is being developed in conjunction with the SOLD Cardiac Substudy with interest expressed from all main centres. There may be no other country in which the majority of cardiologists and oncologists are committed in a single endeavour such as this. Funding is currently being sought for both projects.

We would like to thank Sanofi Aventis for supporting the meeting.



## The SOLD Trial Update

First patient randomised	14/10/2008
Most recent randomisation	19/08/2009
Patients screened (at July 09)	65
Patients randomised	24

For any queries about the SOLD Trial please contact Jade Scott:  
[j.scott@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.scott@auckland.ac.nz)

## New Studies

### CASA404A2105 - Liver Impairment Study

This is a phase I study to assess the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of ASA404 in adult cancer patients with impaired and normal liver function.

ASA404 (previously known as DMXAA) is an anti-vascular agent that was developed at the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre and is currently in a phase III trial in patients with non-small cell lung cancer. There have been multiple international phase I and II trials.

This study allows patients with reduced or normal (as controls) liver function to receive up to six cycles of the study drug either along or in combination with docetaxel, paclitaxel, carboplatin, paclitaxel + carboplatin.

Currently, the study will be undertaken at Auckland, Waikato, Wellington and Christchurch Hospitals, with Professor Michael Findlay acting as PI at the lead centre, Auckland Hospital. The recruitment target is 39 patients over one year. Auckland Hospital opened to recruitment in July 2009, and has had one patient treated on the study.

If you would like any information about this study please contact the trial coordinator Melissa Murray at [m.murray@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.murray@auckland.ac.nz)

### ReCharge

Yes, this is the ice cream study!

The start-up meeting for ReCharge was held on 22nd May 2009 in Auckland, and ReCharge recently opened for recruitment at Auckland, Christchurch and Palmerston North Hospitals, with Dunedin Hospital expected to open as we go to press. The recruitment target is 200 patients over 9 months. We are off to a good start, with Auckland already recruiting their first patient.

This is a randomised phase IIb, placebo controlled trial to assess the efficacy of ReCharge™ in preventing chemotherapy induced diarrhoea when administered daily to patients undergoing chemotherapy. ReCharge™ is a medical food developed by LactoPharma which contains two milk bioactive compounds, lactoferrin and milk fat and will be compared to a placebo soy ice cream.

This will be the first study to use eCRFs via CTNZs Macro Database.

Associate Professor David Perez is the study Chairperson, with Dunedin as lead centre. Janie Proctor is the Trial Manager and Monitor at CTNZ.

If you have any questions please contact Janie Proctor at:

[j.proctor@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.proctor@auckland.ac.nz)

## Current Studies

### The SIFLOX Study

The last three months have been impressive for the Siflox study, with six new patients randomised into the trial - four of which were from Dunedin Hospital! The fifth was from Auckland and sixth from Christchurch. Thank-you to you all for your hard work and keep those patients coming!

Current recruitment (Sep): 22

Target: 40 patients by June 2010

## Competition Winners

Congratulations to Rebecca Waghorn, Research Nurse Coordinator of Christchurch Hospital for winning the beautiful box of handmade chocolates from Devonport Chocolates.

Also congratulations to Kasturi Naicker for winning the 'fastest fingers' award at the Association of Administrative Professionals of NZ Conference, with a whopping speed of 97 words per minute!

### Can you help?

Do you have artistic flare ?

The NZ Cancer Research Coordinators Group are looking for a logo. Send your ideas to Janie Proctor:

[j.proctor@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.proctor@auckland.ac.nz)

A box of chocolates courtesy of Devonport Chocolates is up for grabs.

## CTNZ Staff Activity

### NZSO 2009

Jade Scott and Stephanie Pollard presented the results of the cancer centre survey into the use of electronic data collection at the NZSO study coordinators meeting. The presentation was well received with positive feedback. Copies of the results are available in poster format on the CTNZ website.

### Mid Winter Christmas

The team at CTNZ know how to keep warm and merry during the busy winter months with a good old English Mid Winter Christmas. Thanks to our hosts Stephanie and Kevin, we feasted upon a hearty roast, mince tarts, plus a selection of traditional desserts and a very merry time was had by all.



### New office location

CTNZ have settled into our new offices on the ground floor at 89 Grafton Road. All staff telephone contact details and our private bag address remain unchanged.

## NZ Cancer Centre Staff Profile: Marina Dzhelali

Marina Dzhelali works as a Charge Nurse of the Clinical Research Unit, Wellington. Born in Russia, raised in Ukraine and having worked professionally in the USA and NZ for the last eleven years, Marina has acquired nursing and research experience in many areas.

Living in one of Wellington's suburbs allows her to enjoy a combination of a suburban and a semirural lifestyle, with her husband, children and animals around.

Her favourite past time is to curl up on the sofa with an Agatha Christie book and an apple.



### 2009 Conference and Meetings Calendar

Visit our website: [www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/oncology](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/oncology)

## Support Prostate Cancer Research

The Rotary Club of Birkenhead and the Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences at the University of Auckland invite you to join them on the "Dawn Walk for Prostate Cancer" on Sunday 20th September at Shepherd Park, in Beach Haven, Auckland. Proceeds from the walk will be put toward a research project to map the journey of prostate cancer patients.

For more details and to register or make a donation go to:

[www.birkenheadrotary.org.nz](http://www.birkenheadrotary.org.nz)



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