



CTNZ Newsletter



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Season's Greetings from the CTNZ Team



Message from the Director

2015 has been quite a year for us, starting off in March with the submission of the PIPER Report to the HRC, a culmination of over three years of work by many people across the country. In August the PIPER initial findings were presented at a public seminar which was well attended and got excellent wider coverage demonstrating how important colorectal cancer is to New Zealanders. On the back of PIPER we developed a new study, Tri-PIPER, a comparison study of management and outcomes of colorectal cancer between NZ, England and Australia. We successfully got through the HRC's expression of interest and submitted a full application in November. Earlier in the year we were awarded funding from the HRC Feasibility round and NZ Breast Cancer Foundation for the MagLev Trial, set up for this is well underway and will start early next year. Hot off the press is great news that we have just received funding for a pilot phase of Tri-PIPER from the Genesis Oncology Trust. In total this year we've been awarded \$249,567 in project funding. So all in all a busy and successful year. I would like to thank all supporters of CTNZ and also take the opportunity to thank the CTNZ team all of whom have worked very hard this year! I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.



Mike



CTNZ News

Staff Update

CTNZ - Welcome Christine

Christine joined Cancer Trials New Zealand in November 2015. She has a PhD in clinical nutrition and investigated dietary supplementation on mucosal immunity through intervention trials with various cohorts. Christine recently worked at the Auckland Hospital Cancer and Blood Research Centre and has five years' experience coordinating and managing all aspects of clinical trials. Prior to this she worked as a post-doctoral research fellow investigating food allergy in young New Zealand children. Christine has a special interest in supportive care for cancer patients and in human ethics in research. She is currently a committee member of the Northern A Health and Disability Ethics Committee.

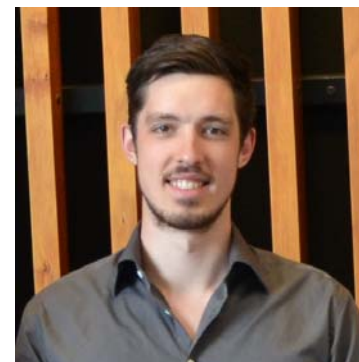


NETWork! - Welcome Esther and Braden



Esther will be working as a data manager for the NETwork! Registry. She graduated from Birmingham University with a Bachelor in Medicine and Surgery in 2007 and for the next five years pursued vocational training as a general practitioner in Swindon. After working as a GP in her hometown, Bristol, for a couple of years, she took up a teaching role at the University of Bristol for a few months before moving to NZ with her husband. She worked as a GP in Warkworth before joining the NETwork! Team in October 2015. Having had the privilege of working in haemato-oncology as a junior doctor, and of providing palliative care for hundreds of cancer patients in the community, she is keen to support the NETwork! team in the research and quantification of neuroendocrine tumours and eventually develop a research career of her own.

Braden recently completed a BSc (Hons) at the University of Auckland and was based at the Centre for Brain Research. Like Esther, he joined the NETwork! team in October as a data manager. His desire to be involved in clinical research and personal connection with cancer sufferers has driven him to join CTNZ. Outside of work, Braden is a passionate musician, primarily playing guitar. Braden brings an abundance of enthusiasm, motivation and humour to the team.





New Projects: The Tri-PIPER Project

Continuing the theme of colorectal cancer management in NZ, we submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the HRC 2015 funding round for a new project called the Tri-PIPER Project. In the PIPER project we have been using key performance indicators to look at how well we are meeting international guidelines for quality of care for New Zealand patients diagnosed with colorectal adenocarcinoma. We will be further looking at comparisons between groups of patients based on urban/rural status of residence, ethnicity and socioeconomic status. However, in presenting the initial findings for the total NZ population, we found that we wanted to make comparisons to other countries. Survival after diagnosis from colorectal cancer has been demonstrated to vary significantly between countries; NZ appears to have poorer survival outcomes than Australia, as does England and the UK as a whole. We were successful at the EOI stage and have submitted a full application, which brought together 5 international research groups across Australia and England. We would like to compare stage at presentation and the clinical management of patients in New Zealand, Australia and England, to understand how variations in clinical management relate to differences in survival outcomes.



CTNZ Special Seminar: Dr Kate Walker

CTNZ were delighted to host a seminar from Dr Kate Walker on Tuesday 15th December, entitled "Making fair comparisons between healthcare providers or patient groups". Dr Walker, who is based at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, is the Senior Methodologist for the UK National Bowel Audit, and a named Investigator for the Tri-PIPER Project application. She spoke about issues such as data quality, linkage to administrative data, statistical uncertainty, and adjusting for patient risk factors, including real examples from the audits carried out at the Clinical Effectiveness Unit, the Royal College of Surgeons, London, UK.



Current Trials

MagLev

MagLev has received HDEC approval and locality approval at Auckland District Health Board. Christchurch's locality approval is pending. An application to SCOTT will be submitted shortly and recruitment is planned to start mid-February 2016. For further information please contact Christine : c.crooks@auckland.ac.nz

MELVAC

The Phase II MELVAC study has been running since June 2015. Five participants have been recruited and three treated. Those on treatment have all received at least one vaccine (of a possible 4, depending on allocation) and these have all gone well. The first participant completes treatment this month. The Wellington site, where recruitment and treatment occurs, has at least 3 people with an interest to join the study in January 2016, full eligibility pending. For further information about MELVAC please contact Monica : m.mccusker@auckland.ac.nz

SIRFLOX

532 participants were recruited globally to take part in the SIRFLOX study, including 88 participants from New Zealand. Five patients are in follow up at the Auckland site. The study's findings are expected to be published in 2016. For further details please contact Lindsey : l.wylde@auckland.ac.nz

FOXFIREGlobal

The FOXFIREGlobal study is in follow up. Data cleaning is ongoing and data collection is expected to be completed in late 2016. Two patients are currently on protocol treatment at the Auckland site. For further details please contact Lindsey : l.wylde@auckland.ac.nz

SOLD

2176 patients were recruited to SOLD worldwide, 120 in NZ. The study is now in follow up phase. Analysis is anticipated in December 2016. Monitoring by CTNZ is on-going at Auckland and plans for visiting the other NZ sites will be underway in early 2016. For any queries please contact Monica : m.mccusker@auckland.ac.nz

The PIPER Project

Initial findings from the PIPER Project were presented at the New Zealand Society for Oncology Conference held in Christchurch in November. The extension phase of analyses and paper writing is on-going. For further information about the PIPER Project please contact Melissa : m.firth@auckland.ac.nz

NET Registry

To date, 2050 cases have been entered in the registry by Data Managers located around the country. The team are aiming to complete data collection by mid-2016.

The NETwork! Genomics Study

Data analysis for 52 pancreatic NETS for the first paper from the project is complete. A paper is in preparation for publication next year. We are continuing to identify further tumours for inclusion in the study, either via collection of prospective tissue from consented patients, or by identification of appropriate cases through our registry. For further details about the NET Registry/NETwork! Genomics Study, please contact Kate: kate.parker@auckland.ac.nz



Upcoming Meetings

ASCO GI Cancers Symposium 2016, 21-23 January 2016, San Francisco, USA
ASCO 2016 Annual Meeting, 3rd-7th June 2016, Chicago, Illinois, USA
ASCO 2016 Annual Meeting, 3rd-7th June 2016, Chicago, Illinois, USA
ESMO 2016 Congress, 7th-11th October, Copenhagen, Denmark
COSA 2016 Annual Meeting, 15th-17th November 2016, Gold Coast, Australia

Christmas Cover for Trials

CTNZ will be closed from 3PM on Wednesday 23rd December and will reopen on Tuesday 5th January. Trial specific contacts over this period are:

TRIAL	SAE REPORTING	URGENT QUERIES
FOXFIREGlobal	Fax directly to SIRTEX: 0061 2 9475 0467 or scan and email to sae@sirtex.com	Prof Michael Findlay: 021 753 735 Dr Ben Lawrence: 021 494 337
SOLD	Fax directly to Finland: 00 358 947 173 181	Dr Vernon Harvey: 0274 958 778
MELVAC	Email: ctnztrialsservices@auckland.ac.nz and phone 09 923 4927 (leave a message)	Dr Catherine Barrow: 027 703 9952 Prof Michael Findlay: 021 753 735

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With thanks to
the Cancer Society
Auckland and Northland