

Director's message



CTNZ Neuro-Endocrine Tumour (NET) Meeting held on Friday May 1st at Auckland City Hospital

On Friday 1st May a Neuroendocrine Tumour workshop at Auckland City Hospital was held. This CTNZ sponsored meeting convened by Dr Dragan Damianovich and Dr Amanda Ashley, Oncologists from Auckland City Hospital. An unrestricted grant from Novartis New Zealand Ltd enabled CTNZ to invite a number of prominent overseas speakers with an interest in these tumours. Dr Irvin Modlin, Surgical Oncologist from Yale, updated us on the loco-regional treatment of Neuroendocrine Tumours. Dr Mee-Ling Yeong, Pathologist from Diagnostic Medlab discussed the Pathology of Neuroendocrine Tumours and Dr Kate Moodie, Radiologist from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, presented the latest work on Radiolabelled modalities in both the imaging and treatment of these tumours. Dr Yu Jo Chua, Oncologist from Canberra, discussed chemotherapy options and gave us the Australian perspective on their management and updated us on recent initiatives to develop Australian guidelines for these tumours. Dr Richard Stubbs a Surgeon from Wakefield Hospital in Wellington, discussed his experience with SIRT for the treatment of neuroendocrine liver metastases. The afternoon involved a panel discussion exploring some of the controversies in diagnosis and treatment of these tumours. The attendees agreed there was a strong case to develop treatment guidelines for NETs and that this should be continued focus of those involved in the management of patient with NETs.

CTNZ has been keeping us all busy these last couple of months, with the two new trials 'Vadimezan in patients with liver dysfunction' and RECHARGE due to open in June. CTNZ sponsored the recently held NET meeting, which was well received. The team are currently preparing for presentations at NZSO, NZAcres and our up-and-coming CTNZ Annual Scientific Meeting on Thursday 30th July, at which I look forward to seeing those of you who can attend.




Prof Irvin Modlin of Gastroenterological Surgery at Yale University School of Medicine & Director of the GI Pathobiology Group with meeting organisers Drs Amanda Ashley and Dragan Damianovich.



NET Workshop panel discussion

NZSO

Jade and Stephanie will be presenting “eCRFS - The Pros and Cons” at the Study Coordinators Meeting at NZSO in Palmerston North in June.

A questionnaire was recently distributed to all NZ sites surveying the experiences sites have had with eCRFs and comparing them to paper CRFs.

Results of the questionnaires will be presented at this meeting.

Many thanks to all the sites for their quick responses.

Go online to find out more about this conference

www.conference.co.nz/nzso2009

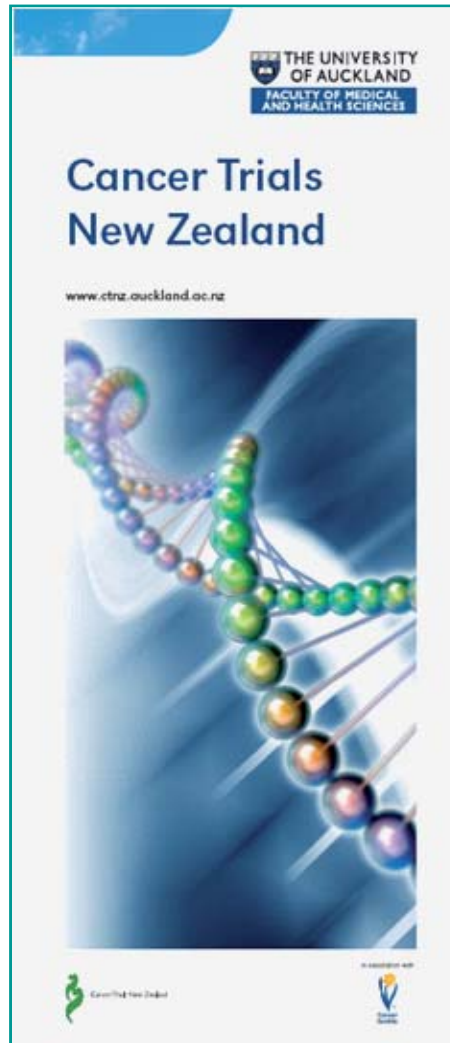
NZAcres

This year the 5th Annual NZACRes Conference will be held on 20th – 21st August, at the Sky City Convention Centre in Auckland.

Katrina Sharples and Vicki Hinder will be running a workshop titled “Clinical trial design: demystifying the protocol”.

Go online to find out more about this conference

www.nzacres.org.nz



The next CTNZ ASM will be held on Thursday, 30th July 2009 in Auckland. Come along to meet your colleagues and discuss the trials and tribulations of clinical cancer research throughout the country. The program will cover updates on current and future trials being coordinated by CTNZ and also provide an open forum to discuss new ideas. We hope this date later in the year will provide a forum to discuss developments reported at the ASCO meeting in May and NZSO meeting in June. Lunch will be provided and as in previous years there is no charge for attendance.

To register contact Kasturi Naicker at k.naicker@auckland.ac.nz

Upcoming Trial

ReCharge

Ice cream anyone?

As some of you may already know, CTNZ is currently setting up a new study involving ice cream!

The ReCharge study 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 components, milk fat and lactoferrin and will be compared to a placebo containing a soy ice cream formulation.

Set up is progressing well with the start-up meeting scheduled for Friday, 22nd May 2009 in Auckland.

Recruitment for this study is expected to start in June 2009.

Associate Professor David Perez is the study Chairperson, with Dunedin as lead centre.

Janie Proctor, who recently joined the CTNZ team is the Trial Manager and Monitor. Janie comes to CTNZ with a background in oncology and nutrition clinical trials so will be a great asset to the study.

If you have any questions please contact Janie at +64 9 923 9643 or email j.proctor@auckland.ac.nz.

SOLD - Synergism (and short) or Long Duration of Herceptin in early breast cancer

20 patients have now been randomised to the SOLD Study. Wellington is also close to opening the study for recruitment. An investigators meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 29th July 2009 in Auckland. All site principal investigators and study trial coordinators are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held the evening before the CTNZ Annual Meeting.

SIRFLOX – SIR-Spheres and FOLFOX chemotherapy in colorectal cancer liver metastases.

The SIRFLOX trial is still at 15 patients, with no new patients having been recruited during the months of March and April. Recruitment is still on target, so please keep screening and approaching potential patients.

An updated version of the protocol and Patient Information Sheet and Consent form was recently circulated to all sites. Contact Melissa Murray at m.murray@auckland.ac.nz if you need an electronic copy of either of these documents.

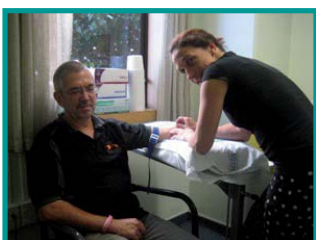
HI-5 Study (5HIAA as a marker for anti-vascular activity)

Recruitment is almost complete. Only one more patient is required! This year has seen an excellent response by the clinicians at ADHB bringing the total subjects recruited to 29.

We are grateful to the patients and volunteers who have given their time (and their blood).

Also a big thank you to the oncology research nurses at ADHB who have been a tremendous help.

We look forward to seeing the final results of this study.



Nurse Karen Spells and patient Peter Bates contribute to the HI-5 Study

RECHARGE Set-up Meeting - Auckland
22 May

NZSO - Palmerston North
16-18 June

SOLD Investigators Meeting - Auckland
29 July

CTNZ Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) – Auckland
30 July

NZAcrs Conference - Auckland
20-21 August

2009 Conference and Meetings Calendar

Visit our website

www.ctnz.auckland.ac.nz

CTNZ Staff Activity....

New Staff

The team at CTNZ would like to extend a very warm welcome to Janie Proctor, our new Clinical Research Officer. Janie comes with an extensive background in clinical research and Oncology clinical trials, and will be coordinating the RECHARGE study.

CTNZ move to new premises

CTNZ will be moving to new offices on the ground floor at #89 Grafton Road, currently planned for Tuesday 26th May. All staff contact details will remain unchanged and a flyer will be provided to all sites with our new address details.

Round the Bays 2009

Congratulations to Jade, Vicki and Kasturi (pictured left to right) for representing us and taking on the challenge of the 2009 Round the Bays for the very worthwhile causes of Fairfax First Books, The Gifted Kids Programme and Hearing House.



CTNZ Staff Profile: Melissa Murray Clinical Research Officer

Melissa first joined CTNZ in 2006 after completing her MSc in Molecular Medicine and Pathology at the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre. In her initial role she worked on a project mapping the journey of patients with colorectal cancer in the Auckland region, and trial coordination of the CYP2C19 and Hi-5 studies.

She spent a year over 2007/2008 in London, working at the Institute of Cancer Research Clinical Trials and Statistics Unit as the Quality of Life Co-ordinator for the Urology team on trials such as SPARE, CHHiP and ProSTART. After travelling Europe and consuming large quantities of Galaxy chocolate, Melissa returned to NZ and CTNZ where she now works on the SIRFLOX and Vadimezan Liver Dysfunction studies, and sits on the operations group for the Auckland Cancer Research Network.

When not at work Melissa enjoys anything food related, travelling, music, dancing and of course swimming and bush walking on the beautiful West Coast.



Competition

What date is International Clinical Trials' Day celebrated this year?

Email your answer to Kasturi Naicker k.naicker@auckland.ac.nz by Friday, 15th May 2009 .

Prize: Gift box of gourmet handmade chocolates from Devonport Chocolates

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