

Cancer Trials New Zealand Newsletter

Issue 8, August 2011

The CTNZ Annual Scientific Meeting 2011

Thursday 29th September, Wellington



Save the date - the 2011 CTNZ ASM is booked for Thursday the 29th of September. The theme of this years meeting is:

Strategic Opportunities for Collaborative Research

The meeting will be held at The Cancer Society, Wellington Division building.

The aim of these meetings are to facilitate collaboration and networking between different regions and disciplines within the field of cancer research. CTNZ has a strong history of investigator-led and translational research projects. The meeting is free to attend. To register attendance at the meeting, please email Kasturi Naicker: k.naicker@auckland.ac.nz.

This year, we are delighted to have Dr Chris Jackson as our meeting convenor. Dr Jackson is a Consultant Medical Oncologist at Southern DHB and a Senior Lecturer in Medicine at Otago University. He has significant clinical trials experience, and has recently been appointed as CTNZs Clinical Advisor - Concept Development. As per previous years, the ASM will provide a forum to update on the current work being undertaken at CTNZ, along with new concepts session, which will include interactive discussion around future projects. If you would like to present a new concept, please contact Dr Jackson: Christopher.Jackson@southerndhb.govt.nz.



Director's Message

CTNZ is continuing to expand and I am very pleased to welcome our new team members: Research Manager Dr Sarah Bengé; Clinical Advisor - Concept Development Dr Chris Jackson; Database Development Officer Jerome Macapagal and Research Registrar Michelle Wilson. I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Stephanie Pollard for her commitment to CTNZ in maintaining her part time role during our extensive search for our new Research Manager. In addition I would like to thank Addah Nyawo, who has been assisting Stephanie with Research Manager duties. Finally, I would like to welcome you all to this years ASM, and look forward to seeing you there.

Nike | 1

Up-coming Meetings

NZACres Conference 2011

8-9 Aug 2011, Auckland

CTNZ Annual Scientific Meeting

29 September 2011, Wellington

International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP) 43rd congress

26-30 October 2011, Auckland

CTNZ Neuroendocrine Tumour Clinical Guideline Meeting

4 November 2011, Wellington

Meeting Feedback

ARCS Australia Conference - May 2011

Janie attended this years ARCS Australia conference. Highlights for her were the sessions on Monitoring with an Auditor's Eye and the Academic Research Organisation (ARO) model. Eleanor Allan is also speaking at NZACres this year, and Janie would highly recommend her session.

Projects Update

The Colorectal Cancer Patient Journey

The results of this project looking at the timeliness of the patient journey of Auckland patients with colorectal cancer (CRC) were published in March of this year in the New Zealand Medical Journal (Murray et. al. NZMJ 25 March 2011, Vol 124 No 1331). The study population including 1128 cases over 2001 and 2005, with an average age of 70. Nine percent of patients presented acutely through the emergency department and 23% had metastatic disease at diagnosis. The median number of days from referral to secondary care to initial treatment was 35. The timeliness of stages of the journey were compared to UK National Health Service Cancer Waiting Targets. Of concern, only 68% of patients were treated within 2 months of initial referral.

This work has led to the development of two student projects, investigating the rates of multidisciplinary review and clinical trial uptake of Auckland patients with CRC, and also the management of all NZ cases of youth CRC (to be presented at the SIOP conference in October). Further work looking at Key Performance indicators of CRC management and the variation of these by urban/rural status and ethnicity on a National scale is planned, with a grant application currently under consideration by the Health Research Council (HRC).

Identification of Barriers to the Early Diagnosis of People with Lung Cancer and Description of Best Practice Solutions

This 3 year project funded by the HRC & DHB NZ is led by Dr Wendy Stevens through the Northern Cancer Network (NCN), with research coordinator support from CTNZ. The project is in its final year, and the research phase of the project has now completed. Current work is focused on developing the final recommendations package and an economic evaluation of this.

The research phase involved 8 components, including clinical audit, surveys, interviews and focus groups. Preliminary results from the research phase were presented at the Midlands Cancer Network Research and Audit Day (19th July 2011). This presentation, and the formal reports of the components completed to date are available on the NCN website: <http://www.northerncancernetwork.org.nz/>

Current Trials Update

ReCharge

ReCharge is fast approaching enrolling the 150th patient. The study now has 141 patients registered across the 7 sites. For the 150th patient, CTNZ will be shouting all sites ice creams as a reward for all the hard work!

The recent removal of the Special Authority for Docetaxel will widen funded access to docetaxel and increase the number of potential patients among early breast and advanced prostate cancer. It is expected that this will help us achieve our target of 200 patients by the end of the year.

RAZOR

After a dramatic start to this investigator-led study, recruitment eased off earlier this year and has recently picked up again. As we go to print, 26 out of the 30 patients have been randomised in RAZOR and 3 of the final 4 screening slots have been allocated. The hope is that recruitment will close by 1st September.

SIRFLOX

New Zealand is racing ahead this year in the Sirflox study, with a total of 56 patients recruited. This means we will easily achieve our target of 60 patients by May 2012, thus an extension of recruitment to 80 patients has been requested for ethical approval.

We are very pleased to welcome Dr Stephen Merrilees, Interventional Radiologist, to the Auckland team. Dr Merrilees has had experience delivering SIRT in Australia and will help Dr Andrew Holden to treat NZ patients randomised to the SIRT arm from Auckland, Palmerston North and Christchurch. We are also very excited to be currently finalising opening Wellington Hospital to the Sirflox trial.

SOLD

SOLD is still progressing with international recruitment as of 1st August at 1,139, with 64 patients coming from New Zealand sites. International recruitment is being bolstered by the opening of many new sites in the UK and Belgium.

For further information about these trials including trial contacts please visit our website:

<http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/oncology/ctnz/default.aspx>

Trial Recruitment

(as at 5-Aug-2011)

ReCharge

Auckland	47
Christchurch	36
Dunedin	24
Wellington	20
Palmerston North	8
Tauranga	4
Waikato	2
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>141</u>

RAZOR

Auckland	17
Palmerston North	5
Christchurch	1
Tauranga	1
Waikato	1
Wellington	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>26</u>

SIRFLOX

Dunedin	20
Auckland	17
Christchurch	16
Palmerston North	3
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>56</u>

SOLD

Auckland	49
Christchurch	8
Dunedin	5
Wellington	2
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>64</u>

Introducing our new Research Manager: Dr Sarah Benge

We are very excited to introduce our new Research Manager Sarah. Sarah will be joining CTNZ in November from Hampshire in the UK. She has over 10 years experience of managing multi-centre, national clinical trials. In her previous role as Senior Clinical Trials Manager at the University of Southampton Clinical Trials Unit she has been involved in the development and/or management of over 10 trials across a variety of disciplines in the last year. With her solid knowledge and experience in managing clinical trials units and ICH-GCP she will be a great asset to CTNZ and we look forward to welcoming her into our team.



New Team Members

Jerome Macapagal: Database Development Officer



Jerome joined CTNZ in May as the Database Development Officer. He has a diploma in ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and extensive experience in databases development, implementation and management. Jerome will be helping with CTNZ database development and maintenance. In his spare time Jerome can usually be found at the netball courts supporting his two teenage daughters.

Michelle Wilson: Research Registrar

Michelle joined the CTNZ team in April as a part-time Research Fellow. She is currently completing her advanced training in Medical Oncology at Auckland hospital. During her time at CTNZ Michelle will be involved in a number of clinical trials. Michelle has a special interest in gastro-intestinal malignancies.



Contact: Kasturi Naicker
Discipline of Oncology, Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, 1142
Direct dial: +64 9 923 4927
Fax: +64 9 373 7927
Email: k.naicker@auckland.ac.nz
<http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/oncology>

In association with

Did you know?

We are on Skype: [Cancertrialsnewzealand](https://www.skype.com/join/ctnznewzealand)

Meetings 2011 Calendar

Visit our website: <http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/oncology/ctnz/>

