ReCharge - Update

ReCharge closed to recruitment on the 4th May 2012 with a final recruitment total of 197. While the final recruitment total fell just short of the planned target of 200, all sites worked tirelessly to reach this impressive total and continue to do so as they complete data collection for the study. The study saw two new hospitals participating in a CTNZ trial, with Tauranga opening as a site and Invercargill as a satellite site to join the 6 main cancer centres. Recruitment was spread almost evenly across both the North (53%) & South (47%) Islands. Data cleaning will begin in August and data analysis will follow soon after so please be aware that queries may start to increase during this period.

All participating sites deserve a big thank you for their ongoing support for this study and for making it so successful. This has been an excellent effort for a New Zealand derived study.

2012 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)

Friday 27th July 2012, Auckland.

The 2012 CTNZ ASM will be held at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland. Please see draft programme attached. The meeting is free to attend, please register by sending your details to Kasturi Naicker (k.naicker@auckland.ac.nz) We hope to see you all there!

Director’s Message

As we enter the mid year, ReCharge and RAZOR enter the data analysis phase and the PIPER Project starts data collection with most participating sites in PIPER having data managers in place. A final reminder that the forthcoming CTNZ Annual Scientific Meeting is to be held on Friday 27th July in Auckland. To date, numbers attending are on par with previous years meetings. We hope you are able to use this meeting to network with the usual wide cross section of researchers that attend this meeting and look forward to seeing you there. We are also happy to welcome Donna Guy to the CTNZ team as the SIRFLOX coordinator. 

Mike
Meetings Update

The Australasian NET Meeting
17-18 August, Auckland

CTNZ is pleased to host a meeting to discuss the management of Neuroendocrine Tumors (NETs) in New Zealand. Professor Kjell Oberg from Upsalla, will be the keynote speaker. He is considered one of the world’s leading authority on the management of NETs. The meeting will also host Professor Rod Hicks from Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, and Associate Professor Nick Pavlakis from the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney.

The meeting will consist of two parts, Day 1 is focused on clinical management. Day 2 will concentrate on developing and planning a new national clinical and translational research programme for NETs in NZ.

Please see the last newsletter for more information. It is not too late to register your interest in attending these meetings. Contact Kasturi Naicker by email: k.naicker@auckland.ac.nz

Projects Update

The PIPER Project

The PIPER Project is a three year Health Research Council (HRC) & Ministry of Health (MOH) funded project lead by Cancer Trials New Zealand (CTNZ), and will be the most comprehensive study of patient outcomes from colorectal cancer undertaken in NZ. Data on all NZ cases over a selected timeframe will be collected regionally across 6 centres from a variety of service providers, including the private sector. Five of the 6 Data Managers are in place, and the pilot phase of data collection is due to start mid-June. For further information on the PIPER Project please visit the CTNZ website.

The HRC Barriers to Early Diagnosis of Lung Cancer Project

This project led by Dr Wendy Stevens has now completed. The project aimed to identify the major barriers to the early diagnosis of lung cancer and to develop an economically evaluated recommendations package targeted to reduce these barriers. The project was conducted over a 3 year period from June 2009 until May 2012 and involved 2 Cancer Networks, 3 District Health Boards, and 4 primary care organisations within the Auckland and Lakes regions. The final report for the project and the list of recommendations will be available on the Northern Cancer Network’s website.
Current Trials Update

RAZOR

The Bone Specific Phase of the trial was completed at the end of December 2011. Data collection now continues for 1 year post-completion of the Bone Specific Phase for patients still on treatment and for patients on follow-up.

The RAZOR abstract was recently accepted as an oral presentation to the Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate (ANZUP) Cancer Trials Group Annual Scientific Meeting to be held 15-17 July 2012. Dr Reuben Broom will present the study at the conference.

ReCharge

The last few ReCharge patients are due to complete the trial in early July 2012, with all monitoring visits and monitoring queries to be complete by 10th August 2012. Data cleaning will then commence on 13th August 2012 and we anticipate that this will be an ongoing process through to October. We will require timely query resolution so we can produce the Final Report by the end of the year. Sites will be notified of these timelines closer to the time.

We would like to thank everyone for all the hard work that has been put in over the last 3 years and for your continued support as the trial nears completion.

SIRFLOX

SIRFLOX recruitment continues with a decision to increase the study cohort to 518 internationally. As of May international numbers stand at 382. New Zealand continues to be a top runner in international recruitment, so please continue to look for potential participants.

We would like to welcome Donna Guy as the new Study co-ordinator at Auckland. Her contact is d.guy@auckland.ac.nz.

SOLD

1471 patients have been recruited to this study, including 79 New Zealand patients. Patient accrual has been steady this year but increased recruitment is required to meet study targets in New Zealand. Please continue to consider the SOLD study for patients with early breast cancer.

Trial Recruitment
(as at 20 June 2012)

Final ReCharge
Auckland 63
Christchurch 56
Dunedin 37
Wellington 24
Palmerston North 10
Tauranga 4
Waikato 3
TOTAL 197

SIRFLOX
Dunedin 25
Auckland 22
Christchurch 18
Palmerston North 6
Wellington 0
TOTAL 71

SOLD
Auckland 59
Christchurch 11
Dunedin 7
Wellington 2
TOTAL 79

For further information about these trials including trial contacts please visit our website: http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/sms/oncology/ctnz/
Welcome Katy Wiessing & Donna Guy

Katy Wiessing joined the CTNZ team in April. She is the PIPER Data Manager. Katy has a background in nutritional research and trials.

We also welcome Donna Guy, who joined CTNZ in May and has taken over coordinating the SIRFLOX study from Heidi. Donna is a registered nurse with a background in clinical trials.

Bowel Cancer Awareness Week 2012

This year’s Bowel Cancer Awareness Week was held from June 4-10. Professor Findlay was interviewed for the news story “The Silent Killer” which was aired on Campbell Live on 8th June 2012. We also had two papers accepted into the special edition of the New Zealand Medical Journal:

Dietary information for colorectal cancer survivors: an unmet need
Jessie M Pullar, Alexandra Chisholm, Christopher Jackson

[abstract]

Dietary patterns and information needs of colorectal cancer patients post-surgery in Auckland
Ryan Cha, Melissa J Murray, John Thompson, Clare R Wall, Andrew Hill, Mike Hulme-Moir, Arend Merrie, Michael P N Findlay

[abstract]

Dry July 2012

Dry July is a fundraising campaign launched for the first time this year in New Zealand. The idea is that participants abstain from alcohol for the month of July—encourage friends and colleagues to sponsor them to stay ‘dry’, and raise money for adult cancer patients.

This year funds are being raised for the Northern Region Cancer & Blood Service, based at Auckland City Hospital. Monies raised will go towards providing some small comforts for the hundreds of cancer patients from Mercer to the Far North who use this service every day. Visit the www.dryjuly.co.nz for further information.