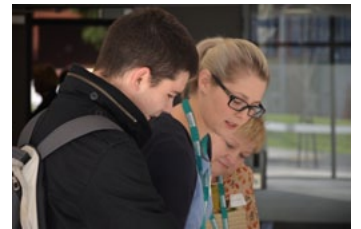


Cancer Trials New Zealand Newsletter

Issue 12, Sept 2012

2012 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's ASM held at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland. As with previous meetings, it was well attended by a cross section of those who work in the field of cancer research, with each regional cancer centre also represented.



The meeting started with a session about research opportunities across a range of cancer areas, with both scientist and clinician presenters.

The key note speaker, Assoc. Professor Cristin Print gave an interesting and thought provoking talk on the medical impact of genomics, and the challenges and opportunities that are being created in this area of research.



Three new trials and studies were presented, and for the first time included a haematology study VIVA, the LIME Study & the Neuroendocrine Neoplasm Registry. If you would like any further information about these projects please contact CTNZ via Kasturi: k.naicker@auckland.ac.nz.



Victoria Hinder & Jerome Macagapal gave an overview of the new web access database that CTNZ has developed for the PIPER Study. The day was rounded off with an update report of all CTNZ studies.

Again thank you to everyone who attended and participated.

Director's Message

It has been a busy few months with this year's CTNZ ASM and Australasian NET meeting held in July and August respectively. Both meetings were a great success with excellent attendance, it was particularly nice to see some of our Australian colleagues attend the NET meeting. Both these meetings highlight CTNZ's continued commitment to providing opportunities to encourage and support researchers and facilitate collaboration. I would also like to welcome Dr Ben Lawrence to the CTNZ team, he joins us as The Translational Medicine Trust Clinical Senior Research Fellow. In the short time Ben has been with us he has already played an important role in the NET meeting and is enthusiastic about helping to develop a more national approach to this area.



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Up-coming Meetings:

Australasian Gastro Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG) 2012

6-8 September, Sydney

European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) 2012

28 September - 2 October, Vienna

Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) 39th Annual Scientific Meeting

13-15 November, Brisbane

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2013

31 May - 4 June 2013, Chicago

Melanoma Summit 2013

5 April 2013, Wellington

New Zealand Society for Oncology (NZSO) 2013 Conference

1 - 3 July 2013, Dunedin

Meeting Calender 2012

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

Meetings Update

The Australasian NET Meeting

In mid August, CTNZ hosted the Australia and New Zealand Neuroendocrine Tumour (NET) meeting in Auckland. Over 130 delegates from both countries attended an extremely productive meeting over 2 days. The Australia and New Zealand NET Guidelines were launched; the culmination of three years hard work – congratulations to the Guidelines Group members and their Chairs. The guidelines can be found at http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:NETs_guidelines. Speakers described clinical research surrounding surgery, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, PRRT and SIRT. Ben Lawrence discussed the genetics of NETs. Keynote speakers including Professors Oberg (Uppsala, Sweden) and Hicks (Peter Mac, Melbourne) provided specific insights into a series of clinical cases representing the gamut of NETs, from localised and low grade to metastatic high grade and mixed histology. The panel functioned like a MultiDisciplinary Team (MDT) meeting and the benefits of this approach for NET patient care decision-making was apparent.



Above: (L-R) Professor Kjell Oberg, Professor Rod Hicks, Dr Mee-Ling Yeong

The second day turned to discuss the mechanics of establishing a national MDT framework. A mandate was given to incorporate an inherent research framework from the beginning; to prospectively register all NET patients, collect tumour tissue from all patients, and to run collaborative national clinical trials. Importantly, several patients with NETs attended the meeting, and their input and support for change was a feature. The next step is to establish MDTs in regional centres and nationally, and regional champions nominated themselves from most centres.



Above: Dr Ben Lawrence

A project to guide the shape of this initiative by determining NET epidemiology in NZ was announced. A retrospective registry of all patients diagnosed with NETs in NZ for the past 5 years will be established. Delegates were introduced to Donna Guy, the CTNZ Research Officer who will coordinate this project. This is the first (of many!) multicentre collaborative projects to improve the care of patients with NETs in NZ.

Projects & Current Trials Update

The PIPER Project

The PIPER Project is well underway with pilot data collection being undertaken at Auckland, Palmerston North, Wellington and Dunedin. Data on over 150 cases has been collected to date. The next 6-monthly advisory group meeting will be held in October. For further information on the PIPER Project please contact Melissa Murray: m.murray@auckland.ac.nz

The HRC Barriers to Early Diagnosis of Lung Cancer Project

This 3 year HRC & DHBNZ funded project has been completed. The final report and summary reports are available on the [Northern Cancer Network's website](#). Four hui will be held over the Lakes, Auckland and Northland regions later in the year to present the findings. If you are interested in attending please contact the Northern Cancer Network.

RAZOR

The Final Clinical Trial Report is nearing completion. The report will contain data on the Bone Specific Assessment Phase of the trial which was completed at the end of December 2011. Data collection continues 1 year post-completion of the BSA Phase for the sole patient still on treatment and for patients on follow-up until January 2013.

ReCharge

We recently commenced the data cleaning phase for the Final Clinical Trial Report. Many thanks to everyone for the timely resolution of the data queries so far. We now anticipate that the query generation will be ongoing until mid October. We are aiming to have the confidential final report out at the end of November 2012 and the abstract submitted to ASCO in January 2013. We would like to thank everyone in advance for their support in helping us to achieve these deadlines.

SIRFLOX

SIRFLOX recruitment continues with the decision to increase the study cohort to 518 internationally. As of July international numbers stand at 403. Please continue to look for potential participants so New Zealand can continue to be a top runner in international recruitment.

SOLD

International recruitment has now seen 1541 patients recruited to this study, including 81 New Zealand patients. The study recruitment target is 3000 patients. Patient accrual in New Zealand has slowed considerably during the middle of this year and 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 7 Sept 2012)

Final ReCharge

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

SIRFLOX

Dunedin	25
Auckland	23
Christchurch	18
Palmerston North	7
Wellington	1
TOTAL	74

SOLD

Auckland	61
Christchurch	11
Dunedin	7
Wellington	2
TOTAL	81

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

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

Welcome Ben Lawrence

CTNZ welcomes Dr Ben Lawrence, who recently joined the CTNZ team as a Senior Clinical Research Fellow. Dr Lawrence is an Auckland-trained Medical Oncologist who specializes in gastrointestinal cancers. He recently completed a 2 year research Fellowship at Yale University, as the Murray Jackson Clinical Fellow (Genesis Oncology Trust) studying the molecular biology of Neuroendocrine Tumors, with a focus on developing alternative biomarkers related to tumor proliferation. He was previously a Drug Development Scholar at TGen in Scottsdale Arizona, with support from the Gavin and Ann Kellaway Medical Research Fellowship (Auckland Medical Research Foundation). He returned to Auckland in August to take up concurrent faculty positions at the University of Auckland and Auckland City Hospital. He aims to establish a nationwide translational project involving national tumor collection (clinically annotated retrospective and prospective) and foster development of a new virtual multi-centre tumor board. Working with A/Prof Cris Print as a translational partner, Ben will undertake multi-level genomic profiling of a large number of NETs with the ultimate aim to develop a real time predictive model based in the genomic constituents of each tumour.



Pictured: Ben Lawrence

Fundraiser Awareness

Daffodil Day - 31st August

This year CTNZ staff volunteered their work time to help collect donations for the Cancer Society's annual appeal - Daffodil Day. Sarah, Melissa, Katy, Jerome and Janie received a steady stream of donations throughout the day to help out with such an important cause.

Pictured: Katy and Janie collecting donations in central Auckland



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Blue September 2012

Blue September is the Prostate Cancer Foundation's national awareness campaign. The aim of the campaign is to raise the profile of prostate cancer and to raise funds which will go towards prostate cancer research.



For further information visit the www.blueseptember.org.nz website



in association with

Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month

September is also Gynaecological Cancer Awareness month. To find out more please visit the New Zealand Gynaecological Cancer Foundation website. www.silverribbon.co.nz

