



Cancer Trials New Zealand Newsletter



Issue 13, Dec 2012

600 patients recruited!

In November the 600th patient was randomised into a CTNZ trial. This milestone was achieved by the SIFLOX trial however it should be mentioned that the SOLD study did randomise 2 patients only a few days later. Established in 2003, CTNZ was developed to assist clinical researchers and the existing Cancer research units by creating an adaptive infrastructure to facilitate more rapid development of new ideas from investigators across all disciplines. CTNZ has continued to provide support to researchers where it has been needed and this can be seen as a direct reflection of the number of patients that have participated in trials run by CTNZ. We would also like to thank all the coordinating centres in New Zealand for their support and enthusiasm for trials we have run past, present and future.



Above: 600th patient celebration cake

Identification of the Barriers to the Early Diagnosis and Management of Lung Cancer Hui



At the end of October the results of this 3 year HRC & DHBNZ funded study were presented across three meetings to consumers & local iwi, GPs and secondary care staff in the Rotorua and Taupo regions by Dr Denise Aitken (HOD Medicine, Rotorua Hospital) and Melissa Murray (Clinical Research Officer, CTNZ). The final hui to disseminate the results of this study will be held in Auckland at the end of January. If you are interested in attending please contact Aroha Haggie at the Northern Cancer Network Aroha.Haggie@ndsa.co.nz The final report and summary reports are also available on the Northern Cancer Network's website www.northerncancernetwork.org.nz/.

Director's Message

Once again the holiday season approaches and we can take a moment to reflect on the busy and successful year CTNZ has had. We have seen the team increase with new staff members joining us but have sadly had to say goodbye to Janie Proctor and Donna Guy. Important project milestones have been reached: ReCharge and RAZOR closing to recruitment, PIPER going through a successful pilot phase and now having gone live. SIFLOX & SOLD are ongoing and have continued to recruit. This year's CTNZ ASM and Australasian NET meetings were both well received. We look forward to another productive year in 2013 and thank everyone who has contributed to making this year so successful.



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Up-coming Meetings:

Melanoma Summit 2013

5 April 2013, Wellington

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2013

31 May - 4 June 2013, Chicago

New Zealand Society for Oncology (NZSO) 2013 Conference

1 - 3 July 2013, Dunedin

17th ECCO - 38th ESMO - 32nd ESTRO European Cancer Conference

27 Sept - 1 October 2013, Amsterdam

Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) 40th Annual Scientific Meeting

12 - 14 November 2013, Adelaide

Meeting Calendar 2012

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

Meetings Update

European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO)

By Sarah Bengé

At the end of September I attended the Congress for the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) in Vienna, Austria. The Congress turned out to be the biggest one to date with nearly 16,400 delegates from all around the world attending. In the five days there were 110 scientific and 30 educational sessions. For me this was the biggest conference I had ever been to, thank goodness they provided an iPhone app to help you plan your days! As my interest was broad I chose many and varied sessions, finding most of them very interesting and useful to my role as CTNZ Research Manager.

The most exciting session for me was the Preferred Paper Session Presidential Symposium II where the results of the breast cancer trials PHARE and HERA were presented, both saying that one year of trastuzumab should remain as the preferred treatment choice for now, but that trials

looking at shorter duration should continue – rightly so this even went up on the Twitter big screen in the main concourse! These findings are good news for our SOLD study.

The posters were changed daily with more than 300 displayed each day. In the exhibition hall were nearly 70 industry stands, many of the usual names but some smaller companies that were very good to chat to. It was good to see a company that CTNZ are involved with, SIRTEX were there demonstrating their procedures with SIRspheres used in our SIRflox study.

It was interesting, and heartening, to hear the challenges that everyone is facing in the world of clinical trials, globally. But



Above: Live twitter feeds projected onto screens

despite issues with funding, regulatory bodies, etc that are clearly commonplace everywhere, there is still a lot of important great work being done and many more research questions to be answered.



Above: View from above meeting area

I would like to thank the Cancer Society Auckland for their support in allowing me to attend this Congress.

Projects & Current Trials Update

The PIPER Project

Case review and data collection is now underway at all 6 regional centres: Auckland, Waikato, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. Data on over 700 cases has been collected to date. Thank you to all of our regional Data Managers and the research team for your on-going effort and support for this project. For further information on the PIPER Project please contact Melissa Murray: m.murray@auckland.ac.nz

RAZOR

We are pleased to announce that RAZOR has recently been accepted as poster for ASCO Genitourinary Cancers Symposium in February 2013.

The 1 year follow-up data is due on 30th December 2012 and the study will officially close. One patient will continue to receive treatment on compassionate grounds.

Sarah Benge will be taking over as the contact for RAZOR, her contact is s.benge@auckland.ac.nz

ReCharge

The results of the study are now in and the Final Clinical Trial Report has been submitted to the sponsor. We will be aiming to present the findings at ASCO 2013, until then the results will remain confidential.

SIRFLOX

The SIRFLOX trial is nearing its target with 459 out of 518 patients recruited internationally (as at 1 November 2012). New Zealand continues to rank as one of the top recruiting countries with 80 patients recruited to date. Please continue to look for potential participants so we can maintain our status as world leaders! Please note that Donna Guy no longer works at CTNZ. Please send any queries to Melissa Murray: m.murray@auckland.ac.nz.

SOLD

Results from the PHARE and HERA studies were presented at the ESMO conference in September. These indicated that 1 year Herceptin was the preferred option, however SOLD is still considered an important study. International recruitment has now seen 1620 patients recruited to this study, including 88 New Zealand patients. The study recruitment target is 3000 patients. Patient accrual in New Zealand has picked since August 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 3 Dec 2012)

SIRFLOX

Dunedin	27
Auckland	24
Christchurch	19
Palmerston North	8
Wellington	2
TOTAL	80

SOLD

Auckland	68
Christchurch	11
Dunedin	7
Wellington	2
TOTAL	88

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

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

CTNZ welcomes Penny Kirkwood who joined the team in October. Penny will be coordinating the new Dareck trial. She comes to us with significant experience of working in clinical trials in the UK and NZ. She has worked for a number of pharmaceutical companies and CROs in both countries.



Above: Penny Kirkwood

We are also very sorry to say goodbye to Janie Proctor and Donna Guy. Janies last day at CTNZ will be Friday 7th of December. Janie has been at CTNZ for 3 1/2 years and during that time has played an integral role in the successful running of the ReCharge trial. She will be sadly missed by everyone here but we wish her success in her future roles.

Donna Guy recently left CTNZ to return to being a research nurse. She coordinated the SIRFLOX Study and made an excellent contribution to it's smooth running. Donna has been highly valued by us and by the people she has interacted with around NZ.

Christmas Trial Cover

CTNZ will be closed from 3pm Friday 21st December until 9am Thursday 3rd January.

Trial specific contacts over this period are:

Trial	SAEs fax directly to	Urgent eligibility/ protocol enquiries
SIRFLOX	Sirtex: 0061 2 9475 0467	Dr Michael Findlay 021 753 735
SOLD	Finland: 00358 9 471 73 181	Dr Vernon Harvey 0274 958 778



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Merry Christmas to you all from the CTNZ team



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