MELVAC Trial

MELVAC is a trial of a Melanoma Vaccine being run at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research in Wellington in collaboration with CTNZ. The study involves two protocols: the Phase I Dose Escalation Study & the Phase II Main Study. The Phase I is a single site Wellington trial. The Phase II will allow patients to enter from Auckland and fly down to Wellington for trial procedures if they are eligible. Both protocols and the Investigator Brochure were submitted to Ethics Committee Northern B on 5th Feb 2013. SCOTT submission also went in on 5th Feb.

A favourable response was received from the ethics meeting and the SCOTT application has been recognised as received. Original DMC questions have been responded to (regarding protocols IB & SAP). The two new protocols, IB & SAP have been sent to DMC. The clinical trial database is under construction. For further information about the MELVAC Trial please contact Penny Kirkwood: penny.kirkwood@auckland.ac.nz

National Rectal Cancer Summit

Rectal cancer is a major health issue in NZ, as we have the highest rates in women in the world. Management of this complex disease requires a multidisciplinary approach. With this in mind, NZSO has launched the first National Rectal Cancer Summit. This will be a highly educational meeting relevant to surgeons, medical and radiation oncologists, radiologists, as well as nurses. The meeting will be held on 9th August at Te Papa, Wellington. To register interest for the summit and for further information on topics to be discussed please visit the NZSO website: www.nzsoncology.org.nz

Director’s Message

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2013. As usual the year has got off to a busy start. The CTNZ Advisory Group met at the end of February. The final results of CYCLOXII have recently been published in the Annals of Oncology, thank you to Dr Harvey, Katrina, Vicki and Jade for their ongoing perserverance with this. We welcome two new staff members: Monica McCusker & Aish Gupta, and farewell Jade on maternity leave and Katy to a new role, and thank them both for their hard work and enthusiasm.
Up-coming Meetings: NETwork! The National Neuroendocrine Tumour Programme

Principal Investigator: Dr Ben Lawrence

Overview
There are three key strands to the NETwork! Programme:
1. An epidemiological analysis of NETs in NZ by creating a National registry of all NET cases across the country over the last 5 years, and then all new cases going forward.
2. The establishment of a national NET multidisciplinary framework, to provide clinical care advice, involving regional multidisciplinary meetings and the creation of a national meeting.
3. An integrated translational research project, involving genomic analysis of both prospectively collected fresh frozen tissue and retrospectively collected formalin-fixed paraffin embedded tissue.

Update
Ethical approval was granted at the end of 2012 to set up the National Registry and begin collection of the retrospective clinical data. The database for remote data collection has been built and is currently undergoing testing, with the first few cases having already been entered. Local site approvals will be sought over the next few months by regional co-investigators with CTNZ assistance.

Approval has been given by the ethics committee of the Cancer Society Tissue Bank in Christchurch to undertake molecular analysis on currently held pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours. The first of these samples have arrived and are currently undergoing processing prior to genomic analysis. This pilot analysis will help us to select the subsequent methods of genomic analysis for the larger cohort of prospective and retrospectively collected tissue. The next round of ethics applications to provide approval for retrospective and prospective tissue collection are in preparation for submission.

For further information about the study please contact Dr Lawrence at b.lawrence@auckland.ac.nz

Meeting Calendar 2013
Visit our website: www.ctnz.auckland.ac.nz
Projects & Current Trials Update

The PIPER Project
National case review and data collection is continuing to pick up in pace, with data on over 2000 cases collected to date. Thank you to all the regional Data Managers for their on-going commitment to this project. We are in the process of making contact with private Consultants to collect data for patients managed within this sector. Project Manager Melissa Murray presented an update on the project at the Midland Cancer Network Colorectal Cancer Education Meeting on 27th February 2013. For further information on the PIPER Project please contact Melissa: m.murray@auckland.ac.nz

RAZOR
One patient continues to receive treatment on compassionate grounds. Please contact CTNZ Research Manager Sarah Benge for queries relating to this study: s.benge@auckland.ac.nz

ReCharge
Sites have now started to be closed out. The Final Clinical Trial Report is still with the sponsor and the aim is to present the findings at an international conference sometime this year, until then the results will remain confidential. For any queries contact Sarah: s.benge@auckland.ac.nz

SIRFLOX
There has been a 10% extension to the sample size for the SIRFLOX study, taking the planned sample from 518 to 523. Current recruitment stands at 512 (NZ has contributed 87 patients to date). The SIRFLOX study will be superceded by the FOXFIREGlobal study in the near future, which is currently undergoing ethical and regulatory review. The sample size for FOXFIREGlobal is 200. An Investigator Meeting was held on 28th Feb - 1st March in Sydney, which was well attended by NZ sites. Monica McCusker is the contact for these studies, please send any queries to: m.mccusker@auckland.ac.nz

SOLD
International recruitment has now reached 1680 patients with 92 New Zealand patients included in this figure. The study recruitment target is 3000 patients. New Zealand patient accrual continues at approximately 1.5 patients per month however increased recruitment is required to meet study targets in New Zealand. Please continue to consider the SOLD study for patients with early breast cancer. For any queries relating to the SOLD study please contact Sarah: s.benge@auckland.ac.nz

Trial Recruitment
(as at 26 March 2013)

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<th>Study</th>
<th>Dunedin</th>
<th>Auckland</th>
<th>Christchurch</th>
<th>Palmerston North</th>
<th>Wellington</th>
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<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For further information about these trials including trial contacts please visit our website: www.ctnz.auckland.ac.nz

Easter Closure
CTNZ will be closed from 9am Friday 29th March until 9am Wednesday 3rd April, 2013. For urgent trial-related issues over this time period please call 09 923 4927 and leave a message. Messages will be checked daily.

From the team at CTNZ we hope you all have a happy and relaxing Easter break.
Welcome to Aishwarya & Monica - farewell to Jade and Katy

Monica will be coordinating the SIRFLOX Study. Monica graduated from the University of London (U.K) with a Masters of Science in Health Sciences. Monica has had several research roles in pharmaceutical companies, CROs and academia in the UK, working as CRA, Clinical Trial Coordinator and Senior Clinical Scientist. She has worked for many years in the field of Substance Misuse coordinating RCTs and developing a research culture in a service in London. She has also coordinated a programme of research on recovery from psychosis. Monica trained as a Nutritional Therapist in 2004 and has been practising part time in the UK and NZ, whilst still working in research. She came to NZ in 2010 working for Canterbury DHB and ADHB before joining CTNZ in January 2013.

Aish will be working as the Data Manager for the Auckland region on the PIPER study. She has a great deal of passion for cancer and plenty of experience working clinically with cancer patients. She has recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science (majoring in Biology) from Victoria University (Wellington) and also with a Bachelor of Radiation Therapy from Otago University (Dunedin). During her time as a student Aish researched in the field of Carbon Nano-Tubes being used to eliminate cancer with the help of radiation.

Sadly we say farewell to Jade Scott and Katy Wiessing in March. Jade is heading off onto maternity leave for her second child. Katy has taken on a new role that will extend her nutritional background and clinical skills in the Bone and Joint Research Group within the University of Auckland. We wish them both the best of luck.

Fundraiser Awareness

Ride to Conquer Cancer

The Ride to Conquer Cancer® is a unique, two-day bike ride that will take place on 16-17 November, 2013. The money raised will be benefiting the Cancer Society Auckland, and help to provide support, accommodation, prevention and cancer research. To register for the event or donate please visit http://ak13.conquercancer.org.nz.