Auckland Cancer Research Network

**News** **November 2010**

[**www.acrn.auckland.ac.nz**](http://www.acrn.auckland.ac.nz)



An important role of the ACRN is toemphasize the vigour of the cancer research ongoing in the Auckland region. A number of exciting new developments have occurred since the August newsletter.

* As many of you will be aware Associate-Professor Mark McKeage has been **appointed as a co-director** of the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre (ACSRC). His initial focus will be to development of new translational research in the ACSRC.
* The establishment of **a new chair in Molecular Cancer Therapeutics** has been recently publicized. This chair within the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre has been established with the philanthropic support of the NZ businessman Mr Owen Glenn. An international search for a leading expert in the field is ongoing.
* We are also pleased to announce that Professor Iain Martin, will provide **formal feedback on the outcome of the FMHS External Review of Cancer Research.** Please join us on Thursday December 9th at 4pm to hear more about the exciting opportunities for the future.

*The Auckland Cancer Research Network is celebrating!*

It is two years since the network was launched and we hope you can join us at the **upcoming seminars:**

**Tuesday 16November  4-5pm B41, FMHS, Grafton**

***The epidemiology, molecular basis and current approaches to hepatocellular cancer therapy***.

Associate Professor Ed Gane1 and Mr Adam Bartlett2

1Deputy Director and Hepatologist of the New Zealand Liver Transplant Unit, and Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine University of Auckland. 2Consultant Transplant & Hepatobiliary Surgeon New Zealand Liver Transplant Unit.

**Friday 17 December    11am, Domain lodge**

***Gestational Trophoblastic disease and Female germ cell tumours.***

Dr Michael Seckl, Head of Medical Oncology, Charing Cross Hospital London, UK

**Anne and David Norman Fellowship in Leukemia and Lymphoma Research**

**Deadline 30 Nov**

As a result of the significant generosity of the Norman family, the “Anne and David Norman

Fellowship in Leukemia and Lymphoma Research” will be established in 2010 to support

basic and clinical research into improving the outcomes for patients with leukaemia and

related cancers. The purpose in establishing this Fellowship is to provide additional funding and support for promising research scientists and medical graduates who are training in haematology or

oncology, allowing them to continue their research in the University of Auckland. For further details and application form please visit the ACRN website: [www.acrn.acukland.ac.nz](http://www.acrn.acukland.ac.nz)

**Congratulations:** Jian Kang was recently awarded the Merck young achiever award for 2010. Jian was recognised for her research paper published in Oncogene 2010 Jun 3;29(22):3228-40. “Artemin is estrogen regulated and mediates antiestrogen resistance in mammary carcinoma”.

Other recently published research articles from across the network are highlighted below.

* Baguley BC, Siemann DW. Temporal aspects of the action of ASA404 (vadimezan; DMXAA). Expert Opin Investig Drugs. 2010 Nov;19(11):1413-25.
* Cheung CH, Sun X, Kanwar JR, Bai JZ, Cheng L, Krissansen GW.A cell-permeable dominant-negative survivin protein induces apoptosis and sensitizes prostate cancer cells to TNF-α therapy. Cancer Cell Int. 2010 Oct 1;10:36.
* Ferguson LR. Dietary influences on mutagenesis--where is this field going? Environ Mol Mutagen. 2010 Oct-Dec;51(8-9):909-18
* Ip V, Liu JJ, Mercer JF, McKeage MJ. Differential expression of ATP7A, ATP7B and CTR1 in adult rat dorsal root ganglion tissue. Mol Pain. 2010 Sep 13;6:53
* Brauer R, Wang LC, Woon ST, Bridewell DJ, Henare K, Malinger D, Palmer BD, Vogel SN, Kieda C, Tijono SM, Ching LM. Labeling of oxidizable proteins with a photoactivatable analog of the antitumor agent DMXAA: evidence for redox signaling in its mode of action. Neoplasia. 2010 Sep;12(9):755-65.

Please continue to let me know of any new research successes (publications, grants received or awards etc). I hope that you have found this ACRN news update of interest. If you have any feedback or suggestions for the newsletter, or for the network, please feel free to contact me:

 (n.helsby@auckland.ac.nz). Also continue to encourage your colleagues and research students to join the network. To register and for further information please email: acrn@auckland.ac.nz or visit the website [www.acrn.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.acrn.auckland.ac.nz)

**Let’s continue to celebrate our successes and highlight further areas for collaboration and translational engagement.**

 Regards

