Auckland Cancer Research Network **News** **March 2011**

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**As many of you will be aware the annual NZ Society for Oncology (NZSO) on 12-13 May, has been relocated from Christchurch to Auckland.**

Abstract submission has been extended to Wednesday 6 April 2011 and conference registrations will re-open online in early April. Please visit the conference website for regular updates <http://www.conference.co.nz/nzso2011> Enquiries can be directed to wendy@conference.co.nz

Proacta Incorporated and Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd. (Tokyo) have recently announced an agreement to undertake clinical development of PR509 for non-small cell lung cancer. Congratulations to Dr Jeff Smaill and Dr Adam Patterson, based at the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre. For further information visit the FMHS website: <http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/newsandevents/news_details.aspx?Id=820>

**We have had a great start to the year with a number of seminars and talks which have, hopefully, been of interest to the network. Please note the upcoming seminars/events in your diary or visit the ACRN website for further information.** Also note that the weekly research talks hosted by the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre run on Friday’s 1-2pm at the Grafton Campus.

**Tuesday 29th March 4pm 502-003, FMHS**

**Blending diagnostics and therapies in the treatment of prostate cancer**

Dr Jim Watson, Caldera Health ltd

**Thursday April 14**  **4pm FMHS**

A seminar profiling the **ReCharge trial** (an ice cream to reduce the side effects of chemotherapy) is planned as part of the ***Spark FMHS Roadshow*** on for 4pm April 14th at FMHS. This will feature the research of Assoc Prof Geoff Krissansen and the clinical trial run through CTNZ

**Friday July 8th**  **FMHS**

***3rd Annual ACRN winter school.*** Planning is already underway for this popular day.

**Some recent publication successes from across the network are highlighted below**

AS04-Adjuvanted Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Types 16 and 18 Vaccine (Cervarix®): A Review of its Use in the Prevention of Premalignant Cervical Lesions and Cervical Cancer Causally Related to Certain Oncogenic HPV Types. McKeage K, Romanowski B. Drugs. 2011 Mar 5;71(4):465-8.

Patterns of care for cervical cancer in Auckland, New Zealand, 2003-2007. Capelle L, Stevens W, Brooks S. J Med Imaging Radiat Oncol. 2011 Feb;55(1):82-9.

Selective treatment of hypoxic tumor cells in vivo: phosphate pre-prodrugs of nitro analogues of the duocarmycins. Tercel M, Atwell GJ, Yang S, Ashoorzadeh A, Stevenson RJ, Botting KJ, Gu Y, Mehta SY, Denny WA, Wilson WR, Pruijn FB. Angew Chem Int Ed Engl. 2011 Mar 7;50(11):2606-9

Fulvestrant: a review of its use in the management of hormone receptor-positive metastatic breast cancer in postmenopausal women. Croxtall JD, McKeage K. Drugs. 2011 Feb 12;71(3):363-80.

The paradox of cancer cell apoptosis. Baguley BC. Front Biosci. 2011 Jan 1;16:1759-67.

PAX3 knockdown in metastatic melanoma cell lines does not reduce MITF expression. He S, Li CG, Slobbe L, Glover A, Marshall E, Baguley BC, Eccles MR. Melanoma Res. 2010 Dec 15

Recent advances in understanding of interactions between genes and diet in the etiology of colorectal cancer. Ferguson LR.World J Gastrointest Oncol. 2010 Mar 15;2(3):125-9.

[The importance of correct assignment of CYP2B6 genetic variants with respect to cyclophosphamide metaboliser status](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajh.21987/abstract) Helsby NA, Tingle MD. Am J Hematol Jan 2011 DOI: 10.1002/ajh.21987

Epigenetic regulation of gene expression as an anticancer drug target. Ferguson LR, Tatham AL, Lin Z, Denny WA. Curr Cancer Drug Targets. 2011 Feb 1;11(2):199-212.

MCF-7 breast cancer cells selected for tamoxifen resistance acquire new phenotypes differing in DNA content, phospho-HER2 and PAX2 expression, and rapamycin sensitivity. Leung E, Kannan N, Krissansen GW, Findlay MP, Baguley BC. Cancer Biol Ther 2010; 9:717-24.

Modulatory effects of curcumin on multi-drug resistance-associated protein 5 in pancreatic cancer cells. Li Y, Revalde JL, Reid G, Paxton JW.Cancer Chemother Pharmacol. 2010 Nov 30.

**Network coordinator**

**This will be my last newsletter for the ACRN as I am stepping down from my role as coordinator due to increasing commitments to other positions.**

I have enjoyed the opportunity to initiate the network and I am grateful for the support from the membership for the initiatives that have been launched. It has been a pleasure to bring together the diverse community of cancer researchers within Auckland and I hope you will all continue to support ACRN.

I delighted to announce that **Jack Flanagan** has agreed to take on the coordinator role and he will still be expertly aided by the network administrator Euphemia Leung. I will continue my involvement as a member of the steering group.

Jack is a molecular modeller based in the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre, FMHS. As many of you are aware Jack initiated the annual Winter School event and I am sure Jack has the enthusiasm to continue to build the ACRN. If you have any suggestions or ideas for new initiatives for the network please contact him on: j.flanagan@auckland.ac.nz

