

CTNZ Newsletter

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Celebrating 2003 to 2018



With 2018 coming to a close and with our celebratory Annual Scientific Meeting taking place last week, in this issue we reflect on CTNZ's 15 years of activity. In 2003 Michael Findlay and Katrina Sharples, with a three-year seeding grant from Cancer Society Auckland and Northland (CSAN), set up CTNZ—a national clinical trial coordinating centre housed in the University of Auckland alongside Mike's professorship in the Discipline of Oncology. Over the years we have expanded our remit and have conducted clinical research projects not just clinical trials.

From our 15 years we have 37 projects in our portfolio, 17 clinical trials, 15 clinical studies and five projects where we provided a service (monitoring or statistics). A combination of project funding and core funding support (mainly from CSAN) has seen over \$15m come into the centre to employ staff and provide infrastructure as well as most importantly, allowing participants to join trials and studies.

All of this would not have been possible without all of you—scientists, clinicians, researchers, site staff, nurses, consumers...the list goes on. So, thank you to you all for your long standing support, we wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

See you in 2019 as we start the next 15 years!



ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

CTNZ celebrated fifteen years since it came into operation at this year's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM). The ASM took place on Monday 3 December at the Cancer Society Auckland and Northland Headquarters, Domain Lodge, Auckland. The event was an opportunity for reflection on our achievements, inspiring talks from guest speakers and, of course, celebratory cake!

We welcomed attendees from around the country as well as international speaker Professor Chris Karapetis, who discussed his experiences in clinical research in his presentation entitled 'Trials and Tribulations of a Clinical Researcher'. We heard from researchers whose interests included genomic oncology (Dr Ben Lawrence), stimulating cancer-specific T-cells (Professor Rod Dunbar) and the microbiome in colorectal cancer (Dr Rachel Purcell).



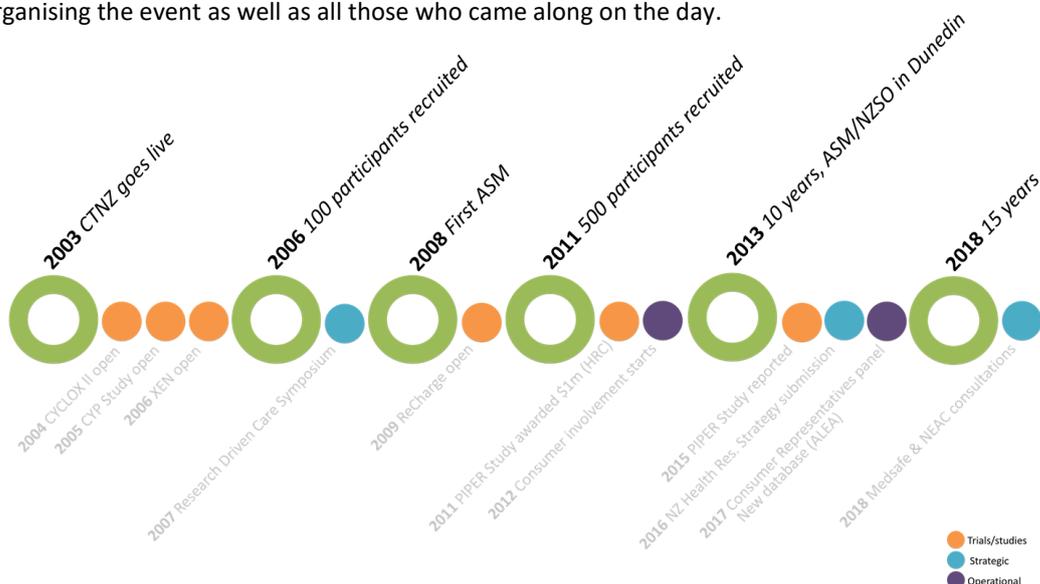
There was a chance to learn about upcoming and ongoing CTNZ projects, including an important new study in development. Kate Gorton presented INSIGHT-FULL, which is researching low patient recruitment to clinical research in New Zealand. Over a networking lunch, attendees also viewed posters of recruiting and recently published studies.



Professor Michael Findlay, Associate Professor Katrina Sharples and Dr Sarah Bengel presented on the history and achievements of CTNZ. During its fifteen years, CTNZ has successfully developed studies to improve the cancer care and treatment of New Zealanders. CTNZ has coordinated studies in melanoma, breast and colorectal cancer, amongst others. We have helped researchers work with emerging technologies and supported the governance and information management of studies, protecting the safety and wellbeing of the patients and publishing high quality results. Looking to the future of our research, Katrina Sharples presented data about how scientific discoveries in medicine are affecting clinical trial design, particularly to do with international recruitment strategies.

At this ASM we were very pleased to welcome a new Senior Research Fellow, Dr Nicky Lawrence, who has recently returned to New Zealand from Australia and will join the team early 2019. She presented on her Research Fellowship at National Health and Medical Research Council's Clinical Trials Centre in Sydney.

We would like to thank the Cancer Society Auckland and Northland for hosting us this year, all the presenters and those involved in organising the event as well as all those who came along on the day.





CURRENT TRIALS and STUDIES

KISS

Recruitment for the KISS study is ongoing at six treating centres across New Zealand. Currently, we have 17 participants enrolled on the study. Our recruitment target is 100 patients with newly diagnosed chronic myeloid leukaemia. The DMC met in November to review the first KISS interim report and the study was recommended to continue. Work is underway to open three additional sites in the new year - North Shore Hospital, Waikato Hospital and Taranaki Hospital.

Dunedin	4
Christchurch	3
Wellington	0
Taranaki	In set up
Palmerston North	3
Hawkes Bay	In set up
Middlemore	2
Auckland	5
North Shore	In set up
TOTAL	17

For further information about the KISS study, please contact Kate: kate.gorton@auckland.ac.nz

PROSPER

This project introducing genomics to clinic is recruiting well with over 35 patients recruited. We are about to start the analysis of the tumour samples and hope to have preliminary data very soon. Feedback from patients has been fantastic and we look forward to seeing the results unfold. A Study Management Committee meeting was held in October and an interim report went to the funder, The Li Family Trust.

For further information, please contact either Michelle: MiWilson@adhb.govt.nz or Lou (CTNZ): louise.clement@auckland.ac.nz

THYmine 2

The study team continues to work hard on ramping up recruitment in the past three months. There are now 37 patients enrolled into the THYmine 2 Study. Tauranga Hospital, the third study site, was initiated in November. They are actively looking for suitable patients around the Bay of Plenty region. In the first week of December, the team conducted a site initiation meeting at Dunedin Hospital and this site should be ready for recruitment in the next couple weeks.

Dunedin	In set up
Tauranga	0
Auckland	30
Canopy Care (Auckland)	7
TOTAL	37

The study aims to recruit 200 patients with gastrointestinal or metastatic breast cancer for whom the use of a schedule containing fluoropyrimidine (Capecitabine or 5-FU) is planned as a monotherapy or in combination.

For further information about the THYmine2 Study, please contact Rebecca: r.hu@auckland.ac.nz

MELVAC

The study is in the final phase of data cleaning. Data lock has been postponed until the beginning of 2019.

For further information about MELVAC, please contact Rebecca: r.hu@auckland.ac.nz

SOLD

Annual follow-up continues for all patients on this study.

For further information, please contact Jade: j.scott@auckland.ac.nz



CURRENT TRIALS and STUDIES (cont'd)

PantoCIN

This double blind placebo controlled trial received ethics approval recently. It is expected to start early 2019, with site training scheduled for February and then opening to patient recruitment in March. The target for PantoCIN is 160 participants. Eligible patients are: men and women with adjuvant or neo-adjuvant breast cancer receiving specific regimens of chemotherapy. In this crossover study, participants will receive Pantoprazole or Placebo for five days, beginning on the day of the first cycle of chemotherapy. Then, on day one of cycle two, the participant will receive the treatment they did not receive in cycle one, again for five days. This study has a short treatment phase; participants will have their end of study visit after the end of cycle 2/beginning of cycle 3 visit. The ALEA (FormsVision) database is currently being developed and sites are in process of setting up.

For further information, please contact Lou:
louise.clement@auckland.ac.nz

INSIGHT-FULL

CTNZ with Dr Michelle Wilson are currently developing *INSIGHT-FULL*, a new study concept to investigate trial recruitment in New Zealand. Participation in clinical trials is vital to advancing cancer treatment, and offers current patients access to new and improved treatment options, not otherwise available. Despite the benefits for patients being widely understood, in New Zealand fewer than 1 in 20 cancer patients participate in a clinical trial, compared to 1 in 5 in the United Kingdom.

INSIGHT-FULL will build on findings from the *INSIGHT* project (*Investigating strategies to increase clinical trial opportunities in oncology*) and will aim to inform strategies to increase patient participation in cancer trials. We look forward to sharing more details with you in the new year.

For further information, please contact either Michelle: MiWilson@adhb.govt.nz or Kate (CTNZ): kate.gorton@auckland.ac.nz



**CANCER
RESEARCH
TRUST**
NEW ZEALAND

CTNZ is very pleased to announce that we have been doubly successful in receiving funding from the Cancer Research Trust's Special Purpose Grant round, one for a two day consumer representatives training session (open to all cancer consumer reps in New Zealand), the other for a concept development workshop. We are very grateful to CRT for these awards and very excited about the training sessions we can now plan and hold in 2019.

Remember if you have any ideas for trials, studies, training or programmes please contact Sarah Benge, CTNZ Research Operations Manager (s.benge@auckland.ac.nz)



HOLIDAY CLOSE DOWN AND COVER

CTNZ will be closed from 3pm on Friday 21st December and will reopen at 9am on Thursday 3rd January.



Study specific contacts over this period are:



Study	SAE Reporting	Urgent Queries
SOLD	Fax directly to Finland: 00 358 947 173 181	Dr David Porter 021 502 500
KISS	Email: ctnztrialservices@auckland.ac.nz and phone 09 923 4927 (leave a message)	Dr Peter Browett 021 473 817
THYmine2	No SAE reporting required	Dr Michael Findlay 021 753 735

CTNZ wishes you & your family a safe & happy festive season & a prosperous New Year!



With thanks to the
Cancer Society
Auckland and
Northland



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