

# CTNZ Newsletter

September 2019 | **Quarterly newsletter** | Issue 40

## Cancer Trials New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting

**Thursday 24 October 2019**  
**Harbourside Function Centre, Wellington**

*CTNZ will be joining NZSO again this year with their ASM preceding the main NZSO conference (25-26 October)*



**CLICK for  
programme**

**REGISTER  
HERE**



**Dr George Laking**  
*Medical Oncologist*

“Kia whakakōtahitia a te Mātai  
Mate-Pukupuku i roto i te Ao  
Māori – He Tono mō te  
Rangahau

Integrating Oncology into  
Te Ao Māori:  
a Research Proposal”

**Dr Annie Wong**  
*Medical Oncologist*

“A Cook’s Tour of Clinical  
Fellowship at Peter  
MacCallum Cancer Centre  
(VCCC), Melbourne”



## GUEST SPEAKERS



**Dr Matthew Strother**  
*Medical Oncologist /  
Clinical Pharmacologist*

“How do we measure  
the value of new  
medicines in the real  
world – access, efficacy  
and equity?”

**Dr Kathryn Burns**  
*Research Fellow*

“Translational cancer  
research; lessons from the  
American Association for  
Cancer Research workshop”





## Two-day Cancer Research Training Workshop

*'I would recommend this workshop for new advocates or people without a science background'.*

*'A really great environment with support to speak our ideas and develop our own understanding through discussion'.*

*Feedback from attendees*



We hosted a Cancer Research Training Workshop for Consumer Advocates on the 3 - 4 August 2019. The **first of its kind in New Zealand**, the workshop was delivered by Leonie Young (Immediate Past Chair of the Breast Cancer Trials' Consumer Advisory Panel, Australia) and Dr Janine Porter Steele (Clinical Nurse Consultant and Manager of Choices Cancer Support Centre, Australia). It was designed to support, educate and train people with the lived cancer experience from across the country, who are new to cancer research advocacy.

CTNZ has established a panel of consumer advocates for research over the past eight years. Involvement of consumers has many benefits including helping ensure research is designed with the interests of the public in mind and that research is supported and promoted effectively.

Twenty people attended the course, from charity groups, cancer networks and District Health Boards. Through presentations, interactive and feedback sessions, the workshop aimed to equip attendees with skills and knowledge to further extend their current consumer role into research.

The workshop was made possible with a grant from Cancer Research Trust, awarded to Dr Sarah Benge, Leonie Young, Professor Sandie McCarthy and Moira Broughton (CTNZ founding consumer). We are very grateful to the Cancer Research Trust for funding this important foundation workshop in an area that needs development in New Zealand. Future plans are to hold more workshops, not only for consumers, but also for researchers; to educate them in the benefits of involving consumers in their research and how they can go about doing it.



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## New Zealand Cancer Concept Development Workshop 2019

*Biennial workshop developing ideas into research and bringing the research community together*

The one day concept development workshop was held in Auckland on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. Eight participants attended from across New Zealand including from Christchurch, Wellington, Hamilton and Auckland. Faculty included medical oncologists, a radiation oncologist, a haematologist and two statisticians from around New Zealand.

The goal of the workshop was to help participants turn good ideas for a trial into a successful concept outline that explains the key components of a cancer clinical trial. A successful concept outline is one that persuades people to support a study.

The workshop consisted of presentations highlighting core components to consider in a research study as well as a statistics overview, written exercises and small group discussions. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with most participants enjoying the supportive advice, small group discussions and interaction with faculty members. We are looking forward to hearing how these concepts are further developed, and have encouraged participants to apply for the ACORD protocol workshop which is being held next year.



**INSIGHT-FULL**

**IN SET UP**

Work is ongoing for the INSIGHT-FULL study, a national survey to better understand the barriers to participating in a clinical trial for New Zealand cancer patients. Thank you to all the clinicians and oncology research staff who have provided their feedback and support for this study. Currently, we are awaiting ethical approval of the study and working with participating centres to obtain local approval for this research. We are aiming to complete the survey at all oncology centres across New Zealand, including regional peripheral clinics. The study will involve treating clinicians completing a short and simple survey for each patient seen in their oncology clinic during a one week period. The results from this research will help us to better understand the percentage of NZ patients on clinical trials, and establish possible reasons clinical trial participation is not offered or taken up.

For further information, please contact either Nicky: [nicky.lawrence@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:nicky.lawrence@auckland.ac.nz) or Kate: [kate.gorton@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:kate.gorton@auckland.ac.nz)

**KŌWHAI**

**IN SET UP**

Earlier this year researchers at the School of Nursing, University of Auckland in collaboration with Cancer Trials New Zealand and Menzies Health Institute Queensland, were awarded a HRC feasibility grant to pilot an Australian lifestyle intervention adapted to meet the needs of younger New Zealand women treated for cancer. The intervention called the *Younger Women's Wellness after Cancer Program* aims to enable women to self-manage their chronic disease risk after cancer treatment. The planned feasibility study, now called the *Kōwhai Study*, will test the adapted program in New Zealand women aged 18 to 50 years who have completed treatment for breast cancer. Recruitment for the study is scheduled to begin in February 2020.

For further information, please contact Kate: [kate.gorton@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:kate.gorton@auckland.ac.nz)

**PROSPER**

**OPEN TO RECRUITMENT**

This study aims to understand more about what causes a cancer to develop and to use this knowledge to predict how patients will respond to drug treatment. It is achieving this through collecting tissue samples from patients with cancer and subsequent genetic analysis. The study is a collaboration between Auckland City Hospital and Auckland Regional Tissue Bank. To date, the focus of PROSPER has been patients who have had a diagnosis of ovarian cancer. However, in the coming months PROSPER will move into part II, where eligibility will be widened and participants with other cancer diagnoses will be eligible to take part.

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

**THYmine 2**

**OPEN TO RECRUITMENT**

We had a burst of recruitment in the past three months. A big round of applause to all our sites for their commitment in the THYmine 2 study. The study is actively recruiting at five sites across New Zealand, with total of 89 patients enrolled so far. We are aiming 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.

Dunedin	4
Tauranga	6
Auckland	64
Canopy Care (Auckland)	13
Christchurch	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>

For further information about the THYmine2 Study, please contact Rebecca: [r.hu@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:r.hu@auckland.ac.nz)



# TRIALS and STUDIES (cont'd)

## **KISS** OPEN TO RECRUITMENT

Recruitment continues for the KISS Study at 9 treating cancer centres across New Zealand. Currently, 34 patients are enrolled on the study. Our recruitment target is 100 patients with newly diagnosed chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML). The study is investigating the efficacy and safety of a new treatment plan using two drugs approved for the treatment of CML patients in New Zealand, tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) – dasatanib and imatinib. We are currently preparing the second annual interim report for the study.

North Shore	4
Auckland	7
Middlemore	4
Waikato	5
Christchurch	5
Taranaki	0
Palmerston North	4
Wellington	0
Dunedin	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>

For further information about the KISS study, please contact Kate: [kate.gorton@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:kate.gorton@auckland.ac.nz)

## **SOLD** IN FOLLOW UP

Annual Follow-up continues and many participants are now reaching the end of the study. By the end of the year, almost 60% of participants will have reached the final follow-up assessment. The study is on target to complete all planned follow up assessments by the end of 2022. Thank you to all the sites and participants for their continued support for this study

For further information, please contact Jade: [j.scott@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.scott@auckland.ac.nz)

## **PANTOCIN** OPEN TO RECRUITMENT

PantoCIN is now open to sites across New Zealand, with eight centres currently recruiting to the study. Twenty-three participants have been recruited. The highest recruiting site is Palmerston North Hospital, with six participants. The study is looking at pantoprazole's effectiveness as prophylaxis against delayed chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) and will recruit 160 participants, who are receiving chemotherapy for breast cancer. PantoCIN is funded by Breast Cancer Foundation and Breast Cancer Foundation, New Zealand. The study is led by Dr Richard Isaacs and Dr Navin Wewala.

Dunedin	0
Christchurch	0
Wellington	4
Palmerston North	6
Taranaki	-
Hawkes Bay	-
Tauranga	4
Rotorua	2
Waikato	1
Auckland	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>

For further information, please contact Lou: [louise.clement@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:louise.clement@auckland.ac.nz)

## **MELVAC** CLOSED, BEING ANALYSED

It is exciting to see the study coming close to the finishing line. The study team has been busy with the final data analysis and now preparing the final report.

For further information about MELVAC, please contact Rebecca: [r.hu@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:r.hu@auckland.ac.nz)

# STAFF NEWS and UPDATES

## CONGRATULATIONS ROBERT

**Robert Cartwright**, our Clinical Data Manager, has had his paper - **“Challenges of Establishing Good Clinical Data Management Practices in New Zealand”** - accepted as an oral presentation at the Society for Clinical Data Management EMEA Leadership Forum and Conference being held in Berlin, 23-25 October. We are so very proud of his achievement especially as he is, most likely, the first ever NZ Data Manager to present at this conference. He has also had added success with two travel grant applications. Robert will make the most of his trip to Europe as he will also attend a week of training with FormsVision, the providers of our ALEA EDC system. We look forward to an update in the next edition of the newsletter



# EVENTS



Walking Stars 2019 | Saturday 23 November | Auckland, NZ  
| Saturday 16 November | Wellington, NZ



Friday 11th & Saturday 12th of October 2019



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