

CTNZ Newsletter

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Merry Christmas

From everyone at CTNZ

Final 2017 Message from the Director

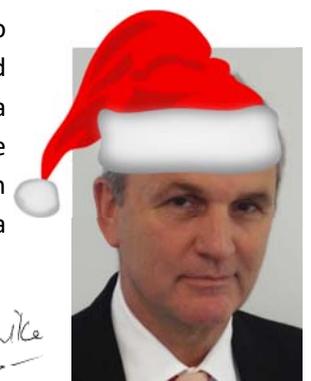
CTNZ has had another very busy year in 2017. One of our key initiatives this year has been consumer representation. We have recruited our full complement of consumer representatives (CRs), completed their training and have engaged them in our existing studies and new applications. This is a very exciting area for CTNZ and also the CRs themselves who are very motivated and very happy to use their own experiences of cancer to help us improve our research.

A great success for CTNZ and Associate Professor Nuala Helsby this year was getting a Health Research Council award for \$1.2m to fund the THYmine2 Study. This research is examining the use of a thymine metabolism test as a predictor of fluoropyrimidine-related toxicity. The findings from this research could be ground breaking for patients and reduce the cost of inpatient admissions to the health service.

The CTNZ MAGLEV Study (PI David Porter), a supportive care study looking into the feasibility of conducting a randomised controlled trial of dietary magnesium supplementation in breast cancer patients treated with anti-oestrogens and/or aromatase inhibitors, was successfully recruited and reported. We showed that it was feasible to run a study of this design and although we were unsuccessful in this year's HRC funding round we are still committed to doing this supportive care study and will look for alternative funding in 2018.

We have said goodbye to a few longstanding members of the team this year. I would like to thank them all for their wonderful contributions to our work: Vicki Hinder for her statistical and data management skills; Jerome Macapagal for his database development; Melissa Firth, Monica McCusker and Christine Crooks for their project management expertise. With goodbyes we have said hellos to three new team members this year, our new Statistician Ying Huang joined us in June, Rebecca Hu joined in August as a new Trial Manager and I'd like to introduce our new Data Manager, Gwladys Gourdeau, who joined us at the beginning of this month.

We are looking forward to 2018 and all the new challenges ahead. I would like to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a safe and happy end to 2017 and start of 2018. Merry Christmas to you all.



CTNZ NEWS

Annual Scientific Meeting

Our Annual Scientific Meeting in Auckland was very well attended this year, many thanks to all of you that joined us on the day. Our guest Speaker, Professor Sandie McCarthy gave a very interesting introduction to her research provoking much discussion and questions. Our returning clinicians gave excellent accounts of their time abroad, an excellent opportunity to broaden horizons and increase networks.



Following an update on where CTNZ has got to with their Consumer Representatives (CRs), three of the CRs stood up and presented their journeys, why they volunteered and what they have done so far—CTNZ is very grateful to all of our CRs. The day was wrapped up with a couple of presentations of new concepts, one was PantoCIN a trial involving pantaprozole in the chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting arena (Navin Wewala and Richard Isaacs, Palmerston North). The other was Professor Frank Frizelle's concept of organ preservation in patients with rectal cancer. CTNZ will look into progressing both of these studies.



**CTNZ will be 15 years old next year so please come and join us to
celebrate at our 2018 ASM**

(details to follow in the new year)

CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES TRAINING

CTNZ is delighted to now have a very engaged panel of consumer representatives (CRs) that come from all over New Zealand: two breast cancer CRs; two melanoma CRs; two bowel cancer CRs (one of which is also our Pasifika CR); one gynaecological CR; one Māori CR and one haematological CR.



In March and April this year we held a training day, repeated over three separate days to accommodate the CRs' work/life schedules. We brought them all up to Auckland to hear about CTNZ and receive training in their future role. Most of them have already been helping out with our ongoing trials and the applications that we submitted to funding bodies this year. Most also attended (see above photo) and presented at our 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting. In 2018 we plan to increase their involvement and provide more focussed training.



CTNZ are excited to announce that they have purchased an electronic data capture (EDC) software licence to build all of their databases from now on. ALEA is an EDC system that has been designed specifically for the non-commercial setting but that complies with all the necessary guidelines and requirements. The first database to be built in ALEA is for the KISS Study and will go live for sites very soon. Our new Data Manager, Gwladys Gourdeau (see page 5) has been employed to build the databases and manage the data from each study.

CURRENT TRIALS and STUDIES

MELVAC

Study recruitment continues to go well with 22 participants having completed the study and 8 still ongoing. All vaccinations have gone smoothly to date. The team met with the Independent DMC in October and the study was recommended to continue. The last date of enrolment is set on 31 January 2018 as funding runs out in June next year. For further information about MELVAC, please contact Rebecca: r.hu@auckland.ac.nz

THYmine 2

We received final approval from ethics in October. The Auckland Regional Cancer and Blood Centre site officially opened in November and we already have 3 patients consented to the study! We are aiming to recruit 200 patients over a 26 month period. These patients will have 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 THYmine2, please contact Rebecca: r.hu@auckland.ac.nz

KISS Study

Two participants have been recruited to date. Site initiation visits recently took place at Christchurch Hospital and Middlemore Hospital and set-up is underway at Palmerston North Hospital and Wellington Hospital. The newly designed database has been built using ALEA software and is about to be rolled out to sites. One of the sub-studies to be run in conjunction with the main KISS Study has been submitted for ethics review. *The Effect of Dasatinib on Bone Metabolism* will assess the effects of dasatinib on bone health in a cohort of KISS Study participants recruited from the Auckland region. Dr Susannah O' Sullivan of the Bone and Joint Research Group, based at the University of Auckland, will lead this project. For further information, please contact Lindsey: l.wylde@auckland.ac.nz

MAGLEV

In October we heard that the HRC expression of interest for the main MagLev Study was unsuccessful, however we are still looking at other funding opportunities. For further information, please contact Sarah Bengé: s.benge@auckland.ac.nz

INSIGHT

We had just under 700 responses from patients across the country and over 100 responses from members of research teams. Over 80% of patients wanted to know about clinical trials! There was no difference based on gender, type of cancer, location or age. Only 19% of patients had been involved in a trial but of these 98% said they would participate in a trial again. We are currently working on the manuscript for this. We appreciate the support we have received nationwide and look forward to the next steps in developing strategies to bring more trials to our patients. For further information, please contact Michelle : MiWilson@adhb.govt.nz

PROSPER

This project introducing genomics to clinic is recruiting well with nearly 30 patients recruited to date. We have preliminary data and hope to have the first official reports for our patients shortly. As we enter our second year of this study our key objectives are to improve the efficiency of the testing for patients. Feedback from patients has been fantastic and we look forward to seeing the results unfold. For further information, please contact Michelle : MiWilson@adhb.govt.nz

NETwork! Registry

Over 3000 cases have been entered in the registry and data cleaning is well underway. We are working on the preparation of the first publications. For further information, please contact Kate Parker: kate.parker@auckland.ac.nz

SOLD

Results from the SOLD study were presented at San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium on the 12th December 2017. Sites continue to follow up patients yearly. For further information, please contact Jade: j.scott@auckland.ac.nz

STAFF UPDATE



Farewell Jerome

Earlier this month the team said a very fond farewell to their ever-smiling Database Developer Jerome Macapagal. In addition to being our resident IT guru, photographer and comedian, over the last six and a half years Jerome has held a pivotal role within CTNZ, building and maintaining many of our fantastic study databases and looking after our website.

We are all very sad to see Jerome leave, he will be greatly missed by all at CTNZ, but we wish him all the best in his new position as a Data Manager at ALLG in Melbourne.



Welcome to Gwladys

Gwladys has a degree in Data Management from the University of Poitiers (2008). She joined CTNZ in December 2017 from Paris.

She has several years of experience in Data Management working in a Clinical Research Organisation (CRO) on national (French) and international clinical and observational studies. She also has experience of working for pharmaceutical companies supervising CRO work.

Gwladys will be implementing databases with the new ALEA electronic data capture system that CTNZ and the University of Auckland have purchased. She will be working on building and managing databases for the THYmine 2 and PROSPER studies.



Update from Melissa

Some of you may recall that around this time last year our PIPER Study Manager, Melissa Firth gave birth to lovely baby Violet. Unbelievably Violet is now a year old and here is a photo of them both on Violet's birthday last week. Melissa is loving motherhood very much and will be spending some more time with Violet before returning to CTNZ should the right project come her way.

We would like to say again a big thank you to Melissa for all her hard work on the PIPER Study as well as all the other studies she was involved in during her time at CTNZ. We look forward to catching up with them both very soon.



FESTIVE SEASON COVER FOR TRIALS

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



Trial specific contacts over this period are:



| Trial | SAE Reporting | Urgent Queries |
|-----------------|--|--|
| SOLD | Fax directly to Finland: 00 358 947 173 181 | Dr David Porter 021 502 500 |
| MELVAC | Email: ctnztrialservices@auckland.ac.nz and phone 09 923 4927 (leave a message) | Dr Catherine Barrow 027 703 9952 Dr Michael Findlay 021 753 735 |
| 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!*



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