

# CTNZ Newsletter

December 2019 | Quarterly newsletter | Issue 41



*Merry  
Christmas!*

Thanks to you all for your  
continued support

*Safe, happy holidays from the CTNZ team*

# Our key achievements in 2019



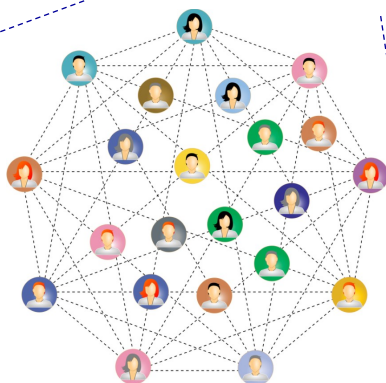
**139** participants recruited



**1** CTMS piloted



**5** applications submitted



**10s** of linkages made and reinforced



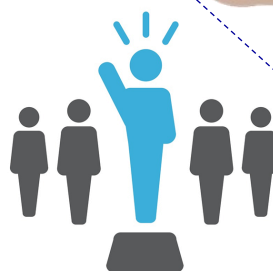
**9** new studies in development



**4** grants awarded



**11** sites open around NZ



Held **2** workshops

**1** ASM

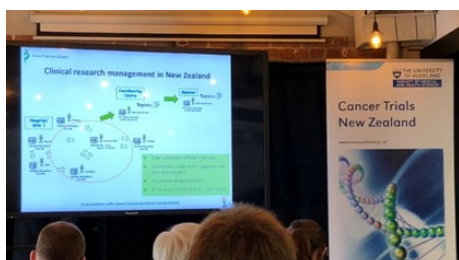


## Annual Scientific Meeting

*Highlights included a proposal for integrating oncology into Te Ao Māori; a discussion of using real world data for new medicines as well as showcasing the work of Cancer Trials New Zealand (CTNZ)*



CTNZ convened its Annual Scientific Meeting on 24 October 2019 in Wellington at the Harbourside function centre. We welcomed the largest number of attendees to the meeting, this year. We hosted presentations on topics ranging from the clinical research management software EDGE, new research on clinical trial availability in New Zealand (INSIGHT FULL) and on younger women's wellness after breast cancer (Kōwhai).



Attendees were shown a new clinical research management system, EDGE, which is being used internationally to improve management of clinical research information across hospitals and research organisations. The system was developed based on each country's requirements and is currently being piloted in New Zealand at University of Auckland and Auckland City Hospital.

Invited speakers, George Laking gave an inspiring talk on a proposal to integrate oncology in to Te Ao Māori; leading to a lively Q&A session. Christchurch physician Matthew Strother presented a novel and exciting look into the way we collect and use data for new medicines. CTNZ consumer representatives delivered presentations on how they have been, and continue to be, involved throughout the research cycle, offering insights and guidance into the process.



The afternoon sessions included insights into one researcher's experiences at the highly renowned American Association for Cancer Research workshop. Many staff from hospitals across the country were in attendance and the afternoon sessions gave updates and information on future plans for CTNZ research studies. It was a packed day with opportunities to talk to collaborators, share in our achievements and hear what projects and studies we are excitedly anticipating in 2020.



# TRIALS and STUDIES

## INSIGHT-FULL

## IN SET UP

Ethics approval has been received 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 for their support of INSIGHT-FULL to-date. 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. The study will involve treating clinicians completing a short survey for each patient seen in their oncology clinic during a one week period. We are aiming to complete the survey at all oncology centres across New Zealand, including regional peripheral clinics, in the first half of 2020.

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)



## 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 January 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)



## KŌWHAI

## IN SET UP

Provisional ethics approval has been received for the *Kōwhai Study* and we are aiming to commence recruitment in February 2020. The Kōwhai Study will pilot an Australian lifestyle intervention in New Zealand women aged 18 to 50 years who have completed treatment for breast 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.

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



## THYmine 2

## OPEN TO RECRUITMENT

The study continues to recruit at five sites across New Zealand. We have extended the recruitment timeline till early 2021. Currently there are 105 participants enrolled on the study. 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	7
Tauranga	7
Auckland	73
Canopy Care (Auckland)	16
Christchurch	2
TOTAL	105



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 at 9 cancer centres across NZ, with plans to continue recruitment up until January 2021. Currently, 45 patients with newly diagnosed chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) are enrolled on the study and our target is 100. The study is investigating the efficacy and safety of a new treatment plan using two drugs approved for the treatment of CML patients in NZ, tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) – dasatinib and imatinib. In November the KISS Data Monitoring Committee reviewed the second annual interim report for the study and support the trial continuing.

North Shore	6
Auckland	8
Middlemore	5
Waikato	5
Christchurch	6
Taranaki	0
Palmerston North	4
Wellington	4
Dunedin	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>

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

### PANTOCIN

### OPEN TO RECRUITMENT

PantoCIN is now open to sites across New Zealand, with nine centres currently recruiting to the study. We are excited to be welcoming Whangarei onboard in the new year. Forty-four participants have been recruited. The highest recruiting sites are Waikato Hospital and Palmerston North Hospital, both with eight 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	3
Christchurch	0
Wellington	8
Palmerston North	7
Taranaki	-
Hawkes Bay	-
Tauranga	6
Rotorua	4
Waikato	8
Auckland	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>



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

### SOLD

### IN FOLLOW UP

Annual Follow-up continues and many participants are now reaching the end of the study. Almost 60% of participants have now 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)



### 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 is 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

### Welcome!

**Shani Peleg** started CTNZ in November as a Clinical Trials Data Manager, she will work alongside Robert joining the Data Management team led by Luzi. Shani is an IT Project Manager with over eight years' experience in a large Health Maintenance Organization. She is experienced in leading and implementing high-volume IT projects including, clinical research development platform, data maintenance and management, software development, communication and infrastructure. Shani is also an experienced Data Analyst and BI Developer and is passionate about exploring and analysing data. Shani holds a Bachelor of Science (Merit) – Industrial and Management Engineering, University of Ariel, Israel. We are very excited about our growing Data Management team.



## HOLIDAY CLOSE DOWN AND COVER

CTNZ will be closed from **5pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec** and will reopen at **9am on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan**

*Study specific contacts over this period are:*

Study	SAE Reporting	Urgent Queries
<b>SOLD</b>	Fax directly to Finland: <b>00 358 947 173 181</b>	Dr David Porter <b>021 502 500</b>
<b>KISS</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:ctnztialservices@auckland.ac.nz">ctnztialservices@auckland.ac.nz</a> and phone <b>09 923 3585</b> (leave a message)	Dr Peter Browett <b>021 473 817</b>
<b>PantoCIN</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:ctnztialservices@auckland.ac.nz">ctnztialservices@auckland.ac.nz</a> and phone <b>09 923 3585</b> (leave a message)	Dr Navin Wewala <b>022 493 9252</b> Dr Richard Isaacs <b>021 243 5210</b>
<b>THYmine2</b>	No SAE reporting required	Dr Michael Findlay <b>021 753 735</b>