

CTNZ Newsletter

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MagLev Study—follow up complete

“A feasibility study of increasing magnesium levels by supplementation for endocrine related cognitive problems in women with breast cancer”

CTNZ is very pleased to report that the MagLev Study has completed the follow up of its last participant. In total 33 women kindly took part from Auckland, Christchurch and Palmerston North. The original target was 50 women but with starting later than planned and needing to finish by the end of March 2017

recruitment closed at 33. The data are currently being cleaned, analysis will be performed in April and reporting to the funders will follow.

MagLev is a pilot study designed to test the feasibility for a larger clinical trial. We plan to seek funding for the main study this year following a favourable outcome from this feasibility phase. The main study will have sufficient numbers of women to investigate whether the cognition-related side effects (e.g. poor memory, loss of concentration) experienced by women receiving endocrine treatments for breast cancer, can be alleviated by dietary magnesium supplementation.

We would like to thank the funders of this feasibility study—the Health Research Council, New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation and Lottery Health Research.



Message from the Director

I would firstly like to welcome all of our new Consumer Representatives to CTNZ, it is good to see the formation of this group come to fruition and we are looking forward to the next phase of their involvement.

You will see (above) that we are in the final stages of the MagLev Study and will report on this in June and depending on our findings look towards grant application for a larger study. The KISS Study has received ethical approval and we are in the process of talking to sites with a view to opening the first one mid-2017. It's great to be getting going with this study with its important potential impact on care of patients with CML. I am pleased to also report that the MELVAC study continues to recruit to the phase 2 component of the study and is fast approaching the interim analysis. My thanks to the MELVAC team for their efforts – we look forward to reporting the phase 1 results soon.

Important news from CTNZ is that we have successfully secured another year of core funding from the Cancer Society of New Zealand (Auckland and Northland Division) which will allow us to continue developing and conducting studies of importance to New Zealand and New Zealanders.

We are also delighted to report the safe arrival of baby Violet who arrived since our last newsletter - congratulations to Melissa and Silas!



CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES TRAINING

CTNZ is very pleased to introduce our eight new consumer representatives (CRs). All recently attended their induction and first training session in Auckland and will now be assigned to specific trials and tasks.

Sheldon Ngatai is our Māori CR and comes from New Plymouth. Sheldon will work across all trials giving a Māori perspective. She will evaluate and improve CTNZ's responsiveness to Māori for existing and new clinical trials and research.

Ros Day from Dunedin and Emma Crowley from Auckland are our breast cancer CRs. Ros and Emma will set to work on the MagLev Study as it nears the time for reporting and preparation of results for the participants. If this feasibility study proves to be a success we will be applying to funding bodies to fund the main clinical trial, Ros and Emma will help with this and be involved in the main trial if funding is awarded.

Tanja Schipper is our gynaecological cancer CR from Auckland. Tanja will become the CR for the PROSPER Study (see page 4 for an update on progress).

From left to right:

Sheldon Ngatai; Ros Day; Emma Crowley and Tanja Schipper



From left to right:

Tania Ohlson; Sarah Speight, Tia Ulugia and Kathy Sullivan

Tia Ulugia from Auckland is one of our bowel cancer CRs and also our Pasifika CR. Tia will work across all trials in the same way as Sheldon but from the Pasifika perspective. The need for more Pasifika health research was documented in the recently published summary of submissions on the Health Research Strategy consultation document. Tia will be able to support CTNZ in this area. As for her bowel cancer representation we hope Tia will get involved with the THYMINE study if it successfully receives HRC funding.

Kathy Sullivan is our other bowel cancer CR from Wellington. Kathy will work with Tia on the THYMINE study if it receives funding, plus any new colorectal cancer trials that come through CTNZ.

Tania Ohlson and Sarah Speight, from Christchurch and Tauranga respectively, are our melanoma CRs. The current melanoma study we have is MELVAC and although this is part way through Tania and Sarah will join the study, commenting on any protocol and/or PISCF changes that may be needed. At the end of the study they will help with the report and disseminating the results to the participants. They will also get involved with any new melanoma studies.

Our original CR, Moira Broughton (from Wellington), will take on the role of mentor for all of our new CRs as well as acting as the CR for the haematology KISS Study. Our other original CR, Julian Grennell (from Auckland) has links with colorectal cancer and will also be our second Māori CR to support Sheldon as required. Julian's CR role will be at a more strategic level for CTNZ. Both Moira and Julian sit on the CTNZ Advisory Group.

CTNZ NEWS

CTNZ Advisory Group Meeting

Wellington, 17th March 2017

The CTNZ Advisory Group consists of oncologists (medical and radiation) from all of the main centres in New Zealand, together with two scientists, a surgeon, an experienced clinical trialist, a legal (lay) representative and two consumer representatives. The group meets regularly and rotates meetings around the country, this year we were in Wellington.

The main discussions held over the day were around the New Zealand Health Research Strategy Public Discussion document that came out in May 2016. Submissions were welcomed from all areas and CTNZ submitted their own response (if you would like a copy of this please contact Sarah Benge s.benge@auckland.ac.nz). A summary of all the submissions was published in February this year and the key areas of relevance to CTNZ in this document were used to base discussions around at our Advisory Group Meeting.

New Zealand
Health
Research
Strategy

Public Discussion
Document

May 2016

New Zealand Health
Research Strategy
2017–2027

Summary of submissions
and consultation

Released February 2017

Fortuitously Dr Andy Simpson (Acting Chief Medical Officer) was in Wellington and available at lunchtime to come and update us on the status of the upcoming 10 year strategy.

In addition we had a round table discussion asking the clinical researchers from around the country to comment on what CTNZ has done for them in the past, what they are doing currently and what they thought they could do in the future. A lot of very useful information was generated that we are currently working through in order to come up with a plan of action for the immediate future, hopefully then linking in with the new strategy. We will report more on this over the coming year.

INSIGHT STUDY - *We need your voice and help!*

Currently in New Zealand <3% of patients with cancer are involved in clinical trials, this is well below the rates seen in other countries which range up to 20%. ***We need to work out how we change this.***

This survey for researchers is completely voluntary and anonymous. It covers a number of areas related to clinical trials and is our opportunity to give our opinion, document the barriers we see and work out what needs to change to make a difference.

If you would like to have your say, please complete the survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/HWWXLPS.

Each response helps so please take the time to fill it in.

If you have any questions please contact Michelle Wilson (021 156 1492) or Michael Findlay (021 753 735)

Thank you for your time.

CURRENT TRIALS and STUDIES

MELVAC

The MELVAC Phase II Study is running well with 19 patients consented, 11 completed and 8 ongoing. There will be an interim analysis at 20 patients. The team is currently preparing the 6 monthly DMC report for the next meeting in April. We would like to thank the MELVAC Clinical Trial Coordinator, Catherine Wood, for her commitment to the project since the start. Catherine moved onto a new position in March. We welcome Tess Ostapowicz as her replacement. For further information please contact Monica: m.mccusker@auckland.ac.nz

SIRFLOX and FOXFIREGlobal

The SIRFLOX and FOXFIREGlobal study databases were locked on 25th November and 23rd December 2016, respectively. Both studies are ready for closure at all participating sites. New Zealand site close-out visits took place in February 2017. The results of the combined overall survival analysis, using data from the SIRFLOX, FOXFIRE and FOXFIREGlobal studies, are expected to be released at ASCO in June 2017. For further information, please contact Lindsey: l.wylde@auckland.ac.nz

KISS

The protocol has been finalised and peer review has been received from Dr David Yeung (University of Adelaide, Australia). The ethics approval was recently received. Interested sites around New Zealand have now been re-contacted about their site costs, with site agreements to follow. We aim to open the first sites in May/June, with the others following shortly thereafter. For further information, please contact Sarah Bengé: s.benge@auckland.ac.nz

MAGLEV

All follow-up visits have been done. Data are now being cleaned, ready for analysis. The study was designed to assess the feasibility of a larger trial, so we will be looking at recruitment limitations, time involvement for participants, acceptability of questionnaires to the participants, adherence to the investigational treatment and adverse events. For further information, please contact Sarah Bengé: s.benge@auckland.ac.nz

INSIGHT

This project looking at how to improve access to trials across New Zealand has started. We have now had over 450 responses from patients and 88 from members of research teams. We are open at Whangarei, Auckland, Christchurch, Waikato, Tauranga, Palmerston North, Nelson and Dunedin. We appreciate the support we have received nationwide and we are excited to see what this project finds. For further information, please contact Michelle Wilson: MiWilson@adhb.govt.nz

PROSPER

This project introducing genomics to clinic is recruiting well with 16 patients recruited since November. We are about to start the analysis of the tumour samples and hope to have preliminary data over the next few months. The feedback from patients has been fantastic and we look forward to seeing the results unfold. For further information, please contact Michelle Wilson: 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

The final analysis for the SOLD Trial is currently in progress. NZ sites completed all data capture for the analysis. Follow-up continues in accordance with the trial schedule. For further information, please contact Jade: j.scott@auckland.ac.nz

STAFF UPDATE

The Smallest Member of the CTNZ Team

A huge congratulations to Melissa & Silas Firth on the birth of their beautiful daughter. Meet Violet Christine Firth, born 11 days early on the 15th December 2016, here in plenty of time for her first Christmas.



Farewell Christine

In January we said farewell to Christine Crooks. Christine had been with CTNZ for just over a year almost seeing the MagLev Study through to completion and was instrumental in getting the KISS Study off the ground. Many thanks to Christine for her hard work on these two studies and we would like to wish her all the best in her new role within the Liver Group at Auckland City Hospital. In Christine's absence Sarah Bengé is looking after the MagLev and KISS studies.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ASCO 2017 Annual Meeting: 2nd- 6th June 2017, Chicago, Illinois, USA

NZACRes Annual Meeting: 17th- 18th August 2017, Auckland

ESMO 2017 Congress: 8th- 12th September 2017, Madrid, Spain

AGITG 2017 Annual Meeting: 4th- 6th October 2017, Cairns, Australia

New Zealand Society for Oncology Conference: 14th-15th October 2017, Auckland

COSA 2017 Annual Meeting: 13th-15th November 2017, Sydney, Australia

ESMO Asia 2017 Congress: 17th-20th November 2017, Singapore

FUNDRAISING AWARENESS



Saturday 13 May 2017

750 firefighters from around NZ, Australia and the USA are collecting funds and will race up 51 flights of Auckland's Sky Tower while wearing full firefighting kit.

This year is the 13th year of this fundraiser for Leukaemia and Blood New Zealand .

To donate please go to www.firefightersclimb.org.nz



Registrations are open for Pink Ribbon Breakfast 2017.

Come together with you friends and host a breakfast this May

Money raised helps the Breast Cancer Foundation support patients and funds life-saving research

For more information and to register please visit www.pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz



With thanks to
the Cancer Society
Auckland and Northland



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