

Newsletter

Volume 2 – July 2009



ST GEORGE'S
CANCER INSTITUTE

Progress Report

With the completion of the Cancer Care facility a little over five months away (19 November 2009) and the linear accelerators for radiotherapy treatment due to be installed in just under three months, the activity level on the site has increased markedly.

The underground bunkers are now structurally complete and construction is now focused on fitting out these ready for the installation of the two linear accelerators in mid-September. The installation and commissioning of these machines will take approximately 3 months. A further instalment is due to be paid on delivery.



Basement

At ground floor level, the entire building structure has been completed and closed in ready for the commencement of the internal fitout of the reception, consulting suites, CT room and chemotherapy treatment areas.



Ground Floor

The construction works associated with the fitout of the 1st Floor of the adjacent building (which is connected to the Cancer Care Centre) are well advanced. Hand over of this area is expected in approximately one month's time. The completion of this floor in advance of the basement or ground level is necessary so that the computer software for the entire facility can be installed and staff training commenced so that by the time the linear accelerators are fully installed and commissioned, all staff are familiar with the sophisticated software packages that are required to run the machinery.

Radiation Treatment Service Takes a Step Forward

The St George's Cancer Care Centre radiation treatment service has taken a step forward with the appointment of two key staff Vivienne Ali, the Radiation Therapist Clinical Manager, and David McKay, Principal Physicist.



*Viv Ali
and
David McKay*

We are fortunate to obtain the calibre of Viv and David, who both stood out from a selection of international applicants for their respective positions. Viv started on 08 June and David will start on 13 July. Both Viv and David relish the opportunity and are excited about the prospect of starting up the new radiation treatment service at St George's.

Viv will be responsible for overseeing the radiation treatment service for our patients, and will lead a team of Radiation Therapists who provide care for patients undergoing radiation treatment. Viv has worked in both New Zealand and Canada and says she is "very excited about the opportunity to use the latest technology and build the best possible radiation treatment programme available for our patients in New Zealand".

David is responsible for commissioning and maintaining world-leading technologies delivered by the Elekta Synergy Linear Accelerator equipment. Originally from Ireland, David will co-ordinate a team of physicists and engineers to ensure that St George's provides the highest level of operation of that equipment.



We wish them the best in our quest to develop the leading radiation treatment service in New Zealand.

*David McKay, Viv Ali,
Tony Hunter and Gary Ng*

Chemotherapy Progress Report at 30 June 2009

The chemotherapy service, which started in late-March has been running smoothly under the management of Clinical Nurse Manager, Bronwyn Ward.



Bronwyn Ward (R) with a patient

A steady stream of patients referred from Oncologists, other Specialists and the Christchurch Hospital have kept both Dr David Gibbs, Medical Oncologist and Bronwyn busy over the first 3 months of the Chemotherapy service.

An important milestone was reached in the Chemotherapy service when the Medical Oncology module of the Impaq Mosaiq software, that is used to manage the chemotherapy treatment of patients, was

implemented. Bronwyn says "despite my initial concerns about its complexity, the Mosaiq software will be great for nurses and for the overall care of the patient".

David and Bronwyn have completed many Medical Oncology consultations every week and there are 12 patients currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Patients are delighted with the level of personalised care and expertise of chemotherapy services provided.

In early December 2009, Bronwyn and the Chemotherapy Service will move from the current location within St George's Hospital into the new St George's Cancer Care Centre at 131 Leinster Road.



Dr David Gibbs (L) & Bronwyn Ward (R) with a patient

Fundraising Report

The St George's Cancer Institute Trust has committed to fundraise the \$7.6 million required for the two linear accelerators. Whilst significant progress has been made and money paid for the first linear accelerator, there is still a pressing need to fundraise the balance especially since the delivery date for these machines is now only three months away.

Whilst the response from benefactors to date has been excellent, the short timeframe until delivery of the machines has created a more urgent imperative to fundraise the balance of the money required to complete their purchase.

DONATION CARD

To support St George's Cancer Care Centre, please fill out the form, including your cheque or credit card details, and post to: **St George's Cancer Institute, Private Bag 4737, Christchurch 8140.**

I will be paying by (tick appropriate)

Visa MasterCard Cheque Internet Banking

Card no _____ Expiry Date _____

Amount NZ\$ _____ Signature _____

Internet banking to St George's Cancer Institute, Account no 06-0801-0643073-00

First Name: _____ Mr/Mrs/Miss/other Surname: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

A receipt quoting the St George's Cancer Institute number CC26864 will be posted to the above address.

The Trust is registered under the Charities Act 2005 No CC26864

Thank you