

Newsletter

Volume 19 – November 2017

www.stgeorgescancerinstitute.co.nz



ST GEORGE'S
CANCER INSTITUTE
(Registered Charitable Trust)

Greetings

As we speed towards Christmas I am pleased to say that we have a lovely new setting for our chemotherapy patients to look out on.



The garden area has been revamped by Michael De Wit and he and his wife Amy have kindly donated patio furniture and table and chairs for under the pergola so that all patients of the Cancer Centre and their families can enjoy. This was a very generous donation.



On Sunday 8 October at the Transitional Cathedral a concert was organised by John Gardner and proceeds totalling \$1,782 were donated to the Cancer Institute.

Top brass from Australia and New Zealand, a hip hop group who are going to the World championships, an opera singer and an organ recital were amongst the items performed over an hour and a half. Once again a generous thought to help the Institute continue achieving its support of patients.

If any of you belong to a group that would like to hear more about St George's Cancer Care, we are happy to host you at the Centre or travel to your region and provide an overview of the comprehensive services provided. Please contact me on 021 662 195 or Dawn on 0-3-375 6013 or 027 432 3371.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a healthy 2018. May it go a little slower than 2017!

Cilla Glasson
Chair, Cancer Institute Trustees Limited and
Fundraising Committee

Research on Breast Cancer medications

Twenty Christchurch women are assisting St George's Cancer Care Oncologist Dr Chris Wynne to develop a new way of delivering the breast cancer medicines Herceptin and Pertuzumab. Currently these medicines need to be given as an intravenous infusion which may take up to three hours every three weeks for 12 months. By giving the medicines as a subcutaneous injection (under the skin) the treatment time can be reduced to five minutes every three weeks.

When the project is completed it is anticipated that Roche, the manufacturer of these medicines, will market the subcutaneous formulation globally resulting in a considerable saving of time for women with breast cancer and improved efficiencies for hospitals.



*Clinical trial participants
Kate Clode, Jane Andrews
and Kathy Jones with Dr
Chris Wynne*

The project is run at the clinical trials unit, Christchurch Clinical Studies Trust.

Jane Andrews, who received her breast cancer treatment over 10 years ago, is participating in the study. She will receive a single dose of these medicines to be followed by blood tests to check on levels of the medicines in the blood. Jane says "I know that the development of this new medicine will not help me personally but I am pleased to be able to make a contribution of my time for a project that may help hundreds of thousands of breast cancer patients. Other women did it for me".

Chris Wynne
Radiation Oncologist and Clinical Director
St George's Cancer Care

Treatment Support Grants

The Trust started providing financial assistance to qualifying patients in July 2011 and up to September 2017 has assisted 203 patients with financial support totalling \$617,261.

The Institute continues to be grateful for the generous donations received from a patient who was so impressed with the care she received from Mary Thomson, Lymphoedema Physiotherapist, that she wanted other patients, who could not afford this service, to receive the benefit of the specialised treatment. The Institute also received a donation from another donor, specifically tagged for this treatment.

Since the physiotherapy grant commenced in May 2014, support has been provided to 118 patients to the value of \$31,970.

New Radiation Oncologist, Dr Gill Campbell

I originally completed my medical degree in Dundee, Scotland in 1991. I moved to New Zealand in 1992 and worked at Christchurch Hospital and started my specialist Radiation Oncology training. In 1997 I moved to Sydney, Australia to complete my Radiation Oncology training in 1999 and then enjoyed a Fellowship at the British Columbia Cancer Agency in Vancouver.



After completing my fellowship I remained as a Consultant in Vancouver before returning to New Zealand in 2004. I have been working at Auckland Hospital until May 2017 when I chose to relocate back to Christchurch. I am now working at Christchurch Hospital and at St George's Cancer Care. My areas of specialist interest are breast cancer, CNS (central nervous system) / neuro oncology and lymphoma.

I am lucky to have a delightful and supportive family with my husband and 2 boys. I returned to Christchurch to work with many of my colleagues who have remained friends over the years and to enjoy the wonderful, outdoor South Island lifestyle.

A secret not many people know about me is my wish to bring some humour into medicine. I attended a 7 day residential course with "Patch Adams" (the original clown doctor from the movie starring Robin Williams) in West Virginia, USA regarding the 'Art of Caring'.

