

Newsletter

Volume 20 – April 2018

www.stgeorgescancerinstitute.co.nz



ST GEORGE'S
CANCER INSTITUTE
(Registered Charitable Trust)

Greetings

We are well into 2018 and one can't complain about the weather.

St George's Cancer Care has been very busy and with the new garden layout and patio furniture, it is looking smart.

The Institute has purchased a stereotactic 6 degree freedom couch which will be used for the treatment of spinal tumours. Options are also being considered for the purchase of a cooling cap which greatly reduces hair loss during chemotherapy. We continued to assist patients with their treatments.

We are visiting the West Coast in June and plan to be in Nelson and Wanaka later in the year advising of new equipment and treatments.

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.

Let's hope we don't have a Northern Hemisphere winter.

Cilla Glasson
Chair, Cancer Institute Trustees Limited and
Fundraising Committee

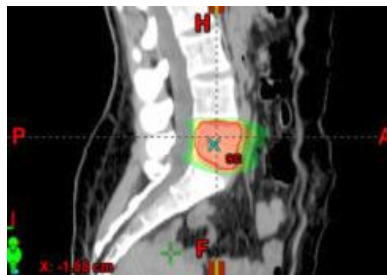
Stereotactic programme update

Since December 2017, six public health patients have undergone brain stereotactic treatment free of charge thanks to the charitable work of the St George's Cancer Institute, St George's Hospital and St George's Cancer Care. The treatment is very complex and would not have been available to patients through the public system due to resourcing issues.



Graham Nicoll says he is very grateful for the charitable treatment St George's Cancer Care is offering. "I discovered I had lung cancer in 2015, and nine months ago it spread to my brain. St George's is the best hospital I've been to – the level of treatment and care I've received has been terrific," says Graham.

The next phase of the stereotactic programme will be the introduction of spinal stereotactic treatments. Part of this requires the purchase of a new piece of equipment called a HexaPOD™ couch.

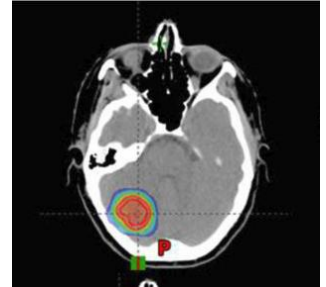


The HexaPOD system is a fully robotic patient positioning system with six degrees of freedom to correct for any misalignments detected by the imaging done before treatment each day. This allows treatment of much smaller lesions close to the spinal cord and other critical structures.

The purchase of this has been facilitated by the St George's Cancer Institute Equipment Trust.

Education is a key component to the introduction of any new technology and we have a team heading to Toronto, Canada in May this year to learn from world leaders in the field of spinal stereotactic radiation treatment.

We hope to be able to provide these treatments from July 2018.



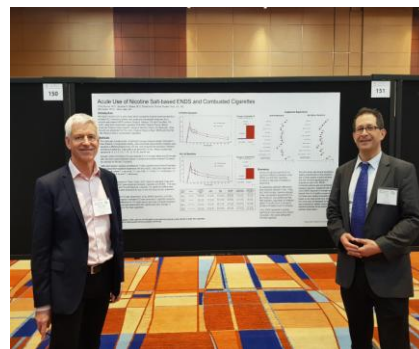
Electronic cigarettes research

Cigarette smoking remains the leading cause of preventable harm in New Zealand. St George Cancer Care treats patients who have developed lung cancer, some of these are because of exposure to tobacco smoke. Stopping smoking is obviously the best way to prevent smoking related disease but the addictive nature of nicotine means that most smokers have trouble quitting.

Electronic cigarettes provide nicotine however because there is no burning of tobacco it is likely that they are much safer than combustible cigarettes. Switching smokers to e-cigarettes has the potential to reduce harm by 95%.

Dr Chris Wynne has been working with a US based e-cigarette company, JUUL Labs, investigating how much nicotine enters the blood stream from a standard tobacco cigarette compared to an e-cigarette. The data shows that the nicotine delivery from JUUL e-cigarettes is very similar to Pall Mall cigarettes so a smoker can switch to e-cigarettes without experiencing withdrawal symptoms.

E-cigarettes may be another tool that allows New Zealand to achieve the goal of being smoke-free by 2025.



*Dr Chris Wynne
and Dr Gal Cohen
(JUUL Labs)
presenting
research at the
SRNT conference
in Baltimore*

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

New MOSAIQ Informatics Specialist role

St George's Cancer Care is committed to providing leading edge cancer treatment services.

Integral to the service are the computer systems and equipment used for planning and delivery of treatment and other services to our patients.

MOSAIQ is our oncology specific patient management system that holds all relevant patient information for prescribing and delivering radiation treatment, chemotherapy and all our other cancer care services.

To ensure MOSAIQ runs smoothly, data integrity is maintained, our knowledge grows and the system is continually evolving, we require ongoing MOSAIQ expertise. The service has grown significantly and we are now at the point where we need a dedicated resource person for this purpose. We have appointed one of our radiation therapists, Fiona Lee, to the newly created role of MOSAIQ Informatics Specialist.



Viv Ali

Practice Manager, St George's Cancer Care

Fundraising event for the St George's Cancer Institute – 4WD day out

About 37 vehicles took part in the 4WD trip in North Canterbury on Sunday 15 April. It was run over two adjoining properties, Foxdown and Mt Bengier, stretching from the Scargill Valley to the banks of the Hurunui River.

The weather was good allowing expansive views of the very attractive countryside. The route was quite challenging however the only problem was some young cattle which were keen to go through an open gate. The vehicles varied a lot, from new and very shiny to definitely old. As an added attraction, there is a car museum at Foxdown which was very popular at lunchtime.

The day was enjoyed by all and it was pleasing to be able to add a few more dollars to the St George's Cancer Institute fundraising efforts.

John Belcher
Organiser

St George's Cancer Institute Newsletters

We trust you find the updates on St George's Cancer Care – The Glasson Centre and the fundraising activities of the St George's Cancer Institute interesting.

As previously advised, in an effort to reduce printing costs and improve distribution, you can receive future newsletters via email.

We may already have your email address in our database, however until you give us permission to send newsletters via email, we are legally unable to do so. We encourage you to add your name to our email distribution list - please advise details:

EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____

Thank you for your interest in St George's Cancer Care – The Glasson Centre and your support of the St George's Cancer Institute.

If you no longer wish to receive future newsletters, please tick (✓) the box and advise your name.

NAME: _____

Please complete and return in the enclosed self addressed envelope or email dawn.hinton@stgeorges.org.nz advising you wish to be removed from the database. Thank you.

DONATION CARD

To support the St George's Cancer Institute, please fill out the form, including your cheque or credit card details, and post to:

Fundraising Coordinator, 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 | | | | | cvv | | | |

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.

Thank you