

# Newsletter

Volume 11 – June 2013

[www.stgeorgescancerinstitute.co.nz](http://www.stgeorgescancerinstitute.co.nz)



ST GEORGE'S  
CANCER INSTITUTE

## Greetings

Welcome to winter after an amazing summer.

We have had an amazing two months from the Cancer Institute's point of view. We are \$300,000 off our target of \$7 million which is brilliant. We had an incredible "Hot Night Out" fundraiser on Saturday 09 March which netted us \$162,000. 500 people enjoyed fabulous food by our chef Hans and his team, dancing and auctions. Thank you to those of you who supported the evening. There is a whisper it could happen once more next year!

In addition to the above we also received \$7,000 from the Garden City Rotary Club Charity Golf Tournament and over \$3,500 from the annual 4WD event (see article later in the newsletter). Thanks to John Belcher who so loyally organises this each year for the Cancer Institute.

We received a \$500,000 donation and another of \$100,000 from a patient. We are so grateful for these. Our next goal is to install a stereotactic machine at a cost of approximately \$700,000 which you can read about later in the newsletter. It would make a huge difference to treatments.

We have been showing a steady stream of Probus groups through the Cancer Care Centre. These groups have been very positive about the evenings and have left feeling a little more positive about cancer, especially after Chris Wynne and Chris Atkinson have put them at ease. If you belong to a Probus, Rotary or any other group who would like an evening at the Centre, please contact me on 021 662 195.

Thank you once again for your continued support of the Cancer Institute.

**Cilla Glasson**  
Chair, Cancer Institute Trustees Limited and  
Fundraising Committee

## Recent Media Articles re Charitable Services

Many of you will have seen the recent articles in the media regarding St George's Hospital and its charitable services outside of running the hospital. Some Cancer Care Centre friends have enquired about the St George's Cancer Institute and how it relates to the newspaper discussions.

St George's Cancer Institute is a completely separate registered Charitable Trust. All funds donated to the Trust, are used only for the purposes of that Trust. The funds raised have enabled the purchase of world class radiation therapy treatment machines that are leased to the Cancer Care Centre at commercial rates. The income from the lease then funds 100% of the free psychosocial support services for cancer patients and their families, dietetic support and direct financial assistance for many.

It is the interest component from the lease that funds these charitable services whilst the capital component of the lease (and part of the interest) is saved to replace and upgrade the treatment machines. This will enable the direct support to cancer patients to continue on after the machines need replacing. It will ensure that the most up to date treatments are available for cancer patients and also ensure that the donations so generously given continue to provide benefits to cancer patients and their families well into the future. We are proud of the contribution made by the Cancer Institute to the quality of services being provided at the Cancer Care Centre and the positive flow-on impact it has on the public waiting time for cancer patients. The Trustees have been humbled by the gratitude of so many patients, particularly so as that gratitude should

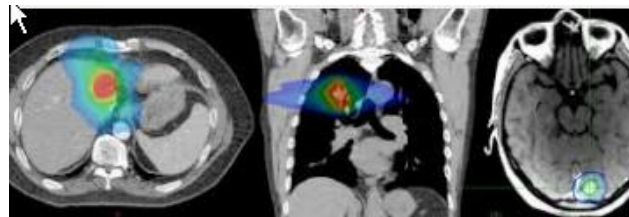
*St George's Cancer Institute, St George's Hospital Inc., Private Bag 4737, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand*  
**DIRECTORS:** Cilla Glasson (021 662 195), Rob Black (021 505 816), Christopher Weir (021 832 988),  
Dr Chris Atkinson (027 522 8447), Dr Chris Wynne (027 244 3963)

be directed to all donors because it is their generosity, and only their generosity, which has made this special medical facility possible.

**Greg Brooks**  
Chief Executive Officer, St George's Hospital

## FUTURE NEW SERVICES

### Stereotactic Radio Surgery / Stereotactic Radiation Therapy



Stereotactic radio surgery and stereotactic radiation therapy are extremely high precision forms of x-ray therapy that can be utilised for treatment of both benign and malignant tumours.

The high precision enables treatment of tumours that are adjacent to critical structures such as acoustic neuromas where the tumour is adjacent to the acoustic nerve (damage to which would cause deafness), tumours in the brain stem and other critical parts of the brain (where high dose radiation treatment might cause brain necrosis and symptoms of a stroke). Increasingly high precision radiation treatment is being used to treat tumours in organs outside of the head and neck region such as tumours around the spinal cord and in the liver.

Having the capability to treat such tumours at St George's Cancer Care Centre will allow us to offer treatment to patients who are currently poorly served by limited access to stereotactic radiotherapy services. The national centre in Dunedin is not always able to meet demand and the length of the waiting list means that patients who have a low priority for treatment (but who may have major improvement in symptoms from stereotactic treatment) are either not treated at all or offered treatment that is not as efficacious, or treatment with a higher risk of side effects.

This form of treatment has been validated in many scientific studies and can be administered in a variety of methods including gamma knife or linear accelerator based stereotactic systems. It is this latter treatment that we will introduce at St George's Cancer Care Centre as it requires only an adaptation to our current linear accelerators. The additional equipment required involves modification of the treatment couch, additional collimators for the treatment machine, new planning software and staff training.

We would look to upgrading our current linear accelerators with this technology during the relocation process and be clinical towards the end of 2014.

## Relocation of Radiation treatment Bunkers

Planning is well underway for the relocation of our linear accelerators to a new purpose-built facility above ground. The new bunkers will be built adjoining the current building on the ground floor.

All going to plan we hope to be utilising the new facilities by the end of 2014.

## Staff Profile: David Mackay, Principal Physicist

The medical physicist working in radiation therapy uses their scientific and technical expertise to ensure that radiation treatments can be delivered safely and accurately. This includes commissioning equipment for clinical use, quality control checks on equipment and checking individual patient treatment plans.



David worked as a Medical Physicist in the UK prior to moving to take up a role at the Oncology Department at Christchurch Hospital. With 22 years experience he is Principal Physicist, and heads the physics department at the St George's Cancer Care Centre.

David's current role has involved him in the installation and commissioning of linear accelerators, a CT scanner, and a superficial treatment machine and associated planning systems. He has also been responsible for implementing the advanced treatment technologies of IMRT and VMAT at the St George's Cancer Care Centre. His aim is to ensure that the best use of the technology available to us continues to be used. David is really looking forward to implementing other technologies for the service such as stereotactic radiotherapy.

## 4WD Safari

One of our wonderful autumn days attracted lots of people to Waipara to take part in a 4-wheel drive event to raise money for the St George's Cancer Institute. Almost 50 vehicles took part, crossing 4 farms with varying terrain from gentle pasture to steep, rutted tracks.



The onlookers got much amusement as some drivers didn't quite master one of the small creeks to be forded. And the rest of the time there were the superb views along the Canterbury coast for everyone to enjoy. As mentioned by Cilla over \$3,500 was raised for this very worthy cause. As it seems to be now becoming an annual event, keep an eye out for next year's trip and come and join the fun.

**John Belcher**  
Organiser

## Patient feedback (2 weeks after completion of radiation treatment)

- ✓ My whole experience was excellent, positive and everyone was so kind to me.
- ✓ You couldn't have done anything differently, the whole service was fabulous.
- ✓ The service was very good and the staff very friendly. Treatment overall was easier than what I anticipated.
- ✓ Everyone was very lovely and my experience couldn't have been better.
- ✓ I enjoyed my time in the department and appreciated the support and friendliness of all the staff and have definitely missed them since finishing treatment.

## St George's Cancer Institute Newsletters

We trust you find the regular updates on the St George's Cancer Care 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 the St George's Cancer Care 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](mailto: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: **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