

# Newsletter

## Volume 14 – September 2014

www.stgeorgescancerinstitute.co.nz



**ST GEORGE'S**  
CANCER INSTITUTE  
(Registered Charitable Trust)

### Greetings

I have just returned from England (a lot warmer) where the newspapers are full of stories of people with cancer and how their doctor had misdiagnosed them for months. Obviously the health system there is under a lot more pressure, however I think it brings back the point if you continue to be unwell you must insist on another opinion or x-rays, scans etc.

On 23 May Tim Shadbolt, Mayor of Invercargill visited the Cancer Care Centre to see first-hand the top of the range cancer treatments available to people of the South Island.



As a follow up to that visit, we are planning a trip to Invercargill on 2 October to show case the Cancer Care Centre and highlight the video conferencing option where a patient can speak and see one of our oncologists from the comfort of their own region, without the expense and anxiety of a trip to Christchurch.

I am delighted to report that the money raised at the 'Hot Night Out Grand Finale' function in March together with other generous donations received in the first quarter of this year, the St George's Cancer Institute reached its initial \$7 million fundraising target for the purchase of the linear accelerators on Friday 11 April 2014.

However the Institute is 'not resting on its laurels' and continues its fundraising drive for the ongoing purchase of world-class equipment and technology to enable our Cancer Care Centre team to provide advanced treatment protocols to our patients and support to their families.

The redevelopment is gaining momentum. On Thursday 28 August the basement of Stage 1b (the Cancer Care Centre bunkers and ancillary services building) was poured. This consisted of some 40 trucks of concrete moving on and off the site at 15 minute intervals. It will be exciting once we see the new bunkers arising above the ground.

The Trust continues to support patients who need assistance with treatments, physiotherapy or psychosocial support (see details later in the newsletter).

Groups are still being shown through the Cancer Care Centre. If you are a member of a group who would like to visit the Centre please contact me on 021 662 195 or Dawn Hinton on 375 6013 or 027 432 3371.

Roll on summer and may it be as hot as the northern hemisphere has experienced.

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

### Remembering Cyril Smith

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of Cyril Smith on 19 May 2014. Cyril was a loyal supporter of the Cancer Care Centre and the Institute was overwhelmed by the generosity of Cyril and his wife Jane. The superficial radiation treatment machine was made possible through their very generous donation in August 2010.

Cyril was farewelled on 22 May by his family and friends at a special tribute to his outstanding life. Our thoughts are with Jane and the family.

### Treatment Support Grants

The St George's Cancer Institute has provided assistance to 19 patients (total of \$48,213) since 1 April 2014. As mentioned in previous newsletters the purpose of the Treatment Support Grant is to enable patients who might not otherwise be able to access timely or appropriate cancer treatment to receive their treatment at the St George's Cancer Care Centre.

Thanks to the generous donation from a grateful patient who wanted to specifically assist women requiring lymphoedema physiotherapy treatments, support has been provided to 22 women to the value of \$3,160 since the grant commenced in May 2014.

### Profiles of the Cancer Care Centre Oncologists

The Cancer Care Centre has grown significantly since we started more than 5 years ago with the service originally being delivered from the Heritage Building at St George's Hospital. At that time Dr David Gibbs and our Clinical Nurse Manager Bronwyn Ward provided chemotherapy. In February 2010 the Cancer Care Centre building opened and the radiation oncology service commenced. There are now three medical oncologists and three radiation oncologists providing care to our patients. Our most recent addition is Dr Bernie Fitzharris who joined Dr David Gibbs and Dr Jim Edwards this year. With the increasing number of oncologists we are able to provide care to the growing number of people who require our services and offer expert sub specialisation for different cancer sites.

#### Radiation Oncologists

##### Assoc Prof Chris Atkinson



With over 30 years experience in cancer care, Chris has been involved in numerous cancer related boards including the Cancer Society, Cancer Control NZ, Psycho Oncology New Zealand and the Canterbury District Health Board. He is currently medical director of the Cancer Society. His areas of cancer specialisation

include breast, urological, gastrointestinal, paediatric, lymphoma, sarcoma, palliative care, and psycho oncology.

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), Chris Weir (021 832 988),  
Dr Andrew Laing (021 905 071); Dr Chris Atkinson (027 522 8447), Dr Chris Wynne (027 244 3963)

**Dr Chris Wynne**

Chris has over 20 years experience in radiation oncology, and has headed oncology departments in New Zealand and overseas. He is currently a Director at the Christchurch Clinical Studies Trust, and is particularly interested in cancer research, breast, prostate and gastrointestinal cancers, and high tech radiation treatment techniques.



**Dr Bernie Fitzharris**

Bernie has over 30 years experience in medical oncology and he also works as a medical oncologist at Christchurch Hospital and he is a clinical reader in the University of Otago, Christchurch School of Medicine.



His special interests include breast cancer, malignant lymphoma, malignant melanoma and lung cancer.

**Dr Avtar Raina**



Avtar moved to New Zealand with his family in 2007. He works as a senior lecturer and consultant radiation oncologist at Christchurch Hospital and University of Otago Medical School. His areas of special interest include head and neck, breast and gynaecological cancer and he has over 15 years of experience in Radiation Oncology.

**Medical Oncologists**

**Dr David Gibbs**

David is a medical oncologist with specialty interests in lung cancer, gynaecological, urological (prostate, bladder and kidney) and skin cancers.



**Dr Jim Edwards**



Jim is a medical oncologist who works at Christchurch Hospital and the St George's Cancer Care Centre. He moved to Christchurch in 2011 having previously worked as an oncologist in Wellington. His areas of interest include gastrointestinal cancers, urological cancers, breast cancer and lymphoma.

**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 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