

SCN Progress Update

The Southern Cancer Network (SCN) has been making steady progress since the infrastructure was finally bedded down in April 2008.

Phase one of the set up and establishment of the SCN is now nearing completion and we are planning the next phase of development with feedback from our key stakeholders.



Initial focus has been on developing relationships with key stakeholders in the six DHB districts and emphasis has been placed on the establishment of the Local Cancer Networks (LCNs) in these areas. The purpose and function of the Local Networks is to support the development and implementation of the Local Cancer Plans (MoH requirement of DHBs) and provide a collaborative approach to the planning and funding of local cancer services.

LCNs are now functioning in Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast and are developing in Southland/Otago and South Canterbury, with plans underway to have the inaugural meeting of the Canterbury LCN in December/January.

Phase two with regard to the development of the SCN infrastructure has commenced with the management team of the Southern Cancer Network attending a meeting of the South Island Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) on Friday 5 December. It was agreed at this meeting that Brian Rousseau of Otago and Southland District Health Boards would take on the role of Lead CEO of the SCN until December 2009. The CEOs discussed the format for establishing a steering group for the Network and promoted a proposal for an interim steering group, which will be selected through a nomination process from the Local Cancer Networks and key stakeholders from across the South Island Cancer Continuum. The interim steering group will have an advisory and directional role to provide guidance to the current management team and will be modified, if necessary, by a South Island Regional Forum, to take place in March 2009, at a venue to be determined.



I would like to thank all those people who have shown great support and encouragement in getting the SCN established; and we - as a team - look forward to new and continued engagement with our stakeholders across the South Island in 2009.

- Barbara Lloyd, Network Manager

Attention SCN Stakeholders!

Expressions of Interest Sought to attend the

SCN Regional Stakeholder Forum 2009

Friday, 27 March 2009
(Location TBC based on RSVP preference)

Purpose:

1. Influence the Strategic Direction of the SCN
2. Influence the 2009-2010 SCN Work Plan
3. Endorse/modify the membership of the interim SCN Steering Group

RSVP:

Please RSVP your interest together with preferred meeting location (either Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown or videolink) to:

Email: pauline.boereboom@sissal.govt.nz

SCN Planned Activity



In addition to the current work underway, the SCN Team will be focusing on the following pieces of work over the next six months.

1. Establishment of the **Southern Cancer Network Steering Group**.
2. The Commencement of the **Lung Cancer Patient Mapping Project in Otago and Southland**.
3. **Regional Strategic Plan**. The Ministry of Health requires a Regional Strategic Plan for Cancer Services. In consultation with key stakeholders, we will be carrying out a review of progress across the region in relation to the six goals for the Cancer Control strategy. This will identify what is happening and what needs to happen and how the gaps may be filled.
4. Establishment of a **South Island Cancer Nurse Network**. This will be a video linked network for the purpose of professional sharing and education. The Network forum will appeal to any nurse who works with patients who are living with a cancer diagnosis. The education topics will be generic and will utilise the nurse, clinician and professional expertise from the Christchurch and Dunedin Oncology Centres. To register your interest contact pauline.boereboom@sissal.govt.nz
5. Establishment of a **Regional Palliative Care Network**. This will be scoped in early 2009.
6. **Ongoing engagement with stakeholders to identify and address inequalities**. A project is being scoped to look at the Travel and Accommodation subsidy, which is provided to eligible cancer

patients receiving diagnosis and treatment at a site away from their home.

7. Working with key stakeholders to **implement guidelines supporting best practice across the region** ie. Current work being done on a national level includes suspected cancer in primary care, supportive care guidance and medical imaging guidelines.

New Project Manager

It is with pleasure that we welcome Marinda Hawthorne to the SCN team. Marinda comes from a background as a Medical Laboratory Scientist who then studied and worked in event management, including a regional co-ordinator's position with CanTeen.



For the last 4 years, she has worked at St John and the CDHB where she co-ordinated the Canterbury West Coast Emergency

Care Co-ordination Team - working on projects to improve pre-hospital emergency health issues. She is looking forward to new challenges in her role with the Southern Cancer Network and to meeting stakeholders throughout the region.

Quarterly Newsletter

In 2009 there will be a change in format to our newsletter and issues will be quarterly rather than monthly.



South Island

Cancer Research Group

The Southern Cancer Network was delighted to be the first Regional Network to host a Research Reference Group. This occurred during October. The South Island Cancer Research Group consists of research experts and key stakeholders from across the South Island cancer continuum and has a mission statement:

“To promote uptake of cancer research in the South Island in order to provide best care for cancer patients.”

The South Island Cancer Research Group (SICRG) work plan for the next twelve months will concentrate on how to raise the profile of research by:

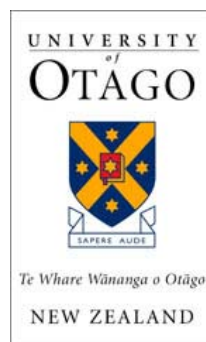
- Exploring the linking of monthly clinical trials meetings in Otago and Canterbury.
- Publishing a fact sheet about SICRG and clinical trials.
- Linking with Local Cancer Networks
- Having representation on the Southern Cancer Network steering group (when established).
- Identifying the gaps in research and involving NGOs.
- Exploring workforce issues and training.

The group will meet again in February to plan a South Island Research Forum, scheduled for March/April, with an aim of bringing together all those involved and interested in research for sharing of information and learning. Further details will be published in the SCN newsletter and by email to interested persons.

For more information, please refer to the fact sheet on page four of this newsletter or contact Barbara Lloyd Barbara.lloyd@sissal.govt.nz

South Island

Inequalities Seminar



On 3 December 2008, SCN hosted a regional seminar with a focus on Ethnic Inequalities. Researchers from the University of Otago Wellington gave an overview of cancer inequalities in Maori and non-Maori New Zealanders.

Topics included ethnic inequalities in cancer and cancer treatment; issues in accessing cancer services for Maori patients; and system-level factors affecting equity of cancer care.

Presenters, Dr Donna Cormack and Dr Melissa McLeod, are part of Te Rōpū Rangahau Hauora o Eru Pōmare, the Eru Pōmare Māori Health Research Group at the University of Otago Wellington. Dr Sarah Hill and Dr Diana Sarfati are Public Health Physicians and senior researchers with the Department of Public Health, University of Otago Wellington. Sarah and Diana are also co-Principal Investigators on the **Differential Colon Cancer Survival by Ethnicity** project, funded by the Cancer Society. This study examined Māori/non-Māori inequalities in cancer treatment and survival, based on a nationally-representative cohort of over 600 patients

The seminar was well received by the attendees at the Christchurch venue and by those who utilised the eight video linked sites, facilitated by SCN, around the North and South Island. Contact SCN for a video copy of this presentation.

Feedback Welcome

Send us your comments and feedback

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South Island Cancer Research Group

FACTSHEET OVERVIEW

What is the South Island Cancer Research group? A research group encourages researchers to work together and improve the quality of research. Research groups/networks aim to bring together people who have an interest in research about a particular condition such as Cancer. The South Island Cancer Research group is a group of experts from across the South Island Cancer Continuum that will make sure cancer patients in the region get maximum benefit from research.

Why is it important to have clinical trials?

Clinical trials are research studies that evaluate new approaches to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, as well as quality of life/patient comfort, behavioural, psychosocial (the impact of cancer) and genetic questions that researchers would like to answer. They involve human participation. Without this participation, the study may conclude without definitive answers. Clinical trials are sometimes called "clinical studies," "research protocols" and "medical research." A clinical trial is one of the stages of a long and careful cancer research process. The Cancer Control Strategy (2003) and the Cancer Control Action plan 2005 – 2010 outline numerous actions with respect to cancer and activities to be undertaken at a national, regional and local level. Research helps address the question what works?

What will the group aim to achieve?

To promote uptake and application of cancer research in the South Island in order to provide best care for cancer patients through a coordinated and collaborative approach to research that is equitable in access, quality and quantity.

What principles will be adopted?

All research will be consistent with current standards for research on humans, and be approved by the appropriate ethics committee. Involving patients and the community, and training researchers will be important components. The results of research will be widely disseminated to everyone in the network, so that everyone can benefit.

Where does research relate to

inequalities? The aim to reduce inequalities is threaded through the six goals of the NZ cancer control strategy. The goal with supporting objectives that relates to research is Goal 6 which states:

To improve the effectiveness of cancer control in New Zealand through research and surveillance.

Some research will explore why inequalities occur. Other projects will aim to offer clinical trials to everyone eligible, regardless of where they live in the South Island. Research can help address the known significant disparities in the incidence, mortality and survival of some forms of cancer in New Zealand ethnic groups (eg. Maori), and recently noted poorer care for Asian people.

Who are the key stakeholders?

South Island:

- Consumers
- Clinical Experts
- Universities
- DHBs
- Cancer Societies/NGOs
- Private Sector
- Primary Health – GPs /PHOs

More information?

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