

Greetings

Welcome to the first 2009 issue of the Southern Cancer Network Newsletter – Across the Continuum. This year there will be a change in format to our newsletter with issues to be quarterly rather than monthly.

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- New Years' Honours

SCN Manager's Update

- From Barbara Lloyd, SCN Manager



There has been a great deal of activity and progress during the first months of 2009. Key amongst this work are Local Cancer Networks being functional in each of the DHB regions. This is a real opportunity for consumers providers, planners and funders of cancer services to come together to discuss local issues.

The SCN projects are progressing well and are on target (see page 4 for more detail). Recruitment will commence in March for a project manager with an inequalities portfolio. The regional networks are collaborating with the Ministry on a national supportive care stocktake and developing key priority work programmes.

SCN Lead CEO Appointed



Brian Rousseau, Regional CEO of Otago DHB and Southland DHB, has been elected Lead CEO of the SCN by the South Island CEOs. This is a significant accomplishment in the ongoing development of the SCN and we look forward to working with

Brian to enhance and champion the progress and development of the network. As Lead CEO, Brian will

- act as a champion of the SCN
- be accountable for the delivery of planned benefits associated with the Network
- act on behalf of South Island DHB CEOs to manage the accountability of the SCN management team
- ensure resolution of issues escalated to the South Island CEOs
- support appropriate processes to enable key resource decisions for the network.

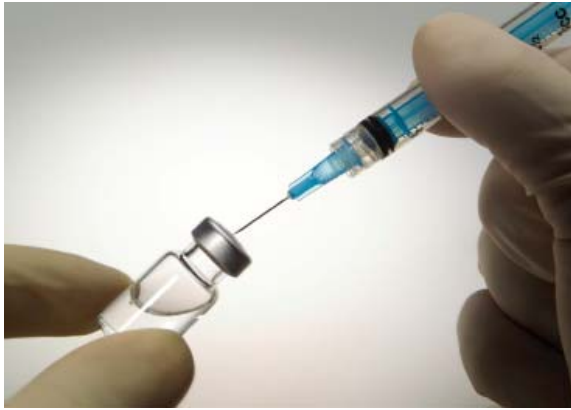
SCN Steering Group Nominations

We have had an excellent response from across the South Island for



membership on the SCN steering group. A panel made up of local cancer network representatives, NGO, SCN management, and Ministry of Health has been convened to determine final group selection. Membership represents professional and organisational groupings from across the cancer continuum and across the South Island. The role of the Steering Group is to provide advice and direction to the SCN management team and annual work plan. The Steering Group membership is due to be announced around mid March 2009.

HPV Vaccination Programme



Each year about 160 new women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 60 die from it. In 2008 the NZ government approved the use of Gardasil as a free immunisation for girls aged 12 to 18 against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) to help prevent cervical cancer. Three doses of the vaccine are required over a six month period to give optimum immunity to the four strains of HPV virus the vaccine is designed to protect against. The programme supports the Cancer Control Strategy and its goal of preventing cancer through primary prevention. The vaccine is available in over 100 countries and clinical trials and constant surveillance of the vaccine have proven it to be safe and very effective.

Regional HPV Round up:

Otago

In 2009 the Otago region mixed-model comprises targeting the younger girls at school (years 8,9) and the older girls through general practice and other alternate primary care providers. In 2010 the school based delivery will be expanded to years 8 (the ongoing cohort) and years 11-13. Working closely with Maori and Pacific Island groups will ensure that we reach as many girls as possible, helping to address the current inequalities. There is confidence that this multi-pronged approach will reach the majority of eligible girls (Maori and Pacific included) by the end of the catch-up programme in 2011.

- Jo-Anne Skinner HPV Project Manager (Otago)

Southland

The vaccine is now being delivered to Southland and Queenstown girls in their schools. In 2009, it is offered to girls in Yrs 8, 12 & 13 at school. Girls no longer at school but

within the eligible age group can have the vaccine free of charge through their G.P., Practice Nurse, Family Planning, Number 10 One Stop Shop Youth Centre or S.I.T. Student Health Clinic. The school based programme is delivered in Southland by the four Primary Health Organisations, with a project team of two Registered Nurses, two administration staff and a Project Manager. The school based system was chosen as the most effective way of delivering the vaccine to large numbers of eligible girls. Parental consent is required for girls under the age of 16. The Immunisation Team encourages all girls to discuss the vaccine with their parents to make an informed decision about this immunization.

- Diane Wilson, HPV Project Manager, PHO Management Services Southland Ltd

Nelson/Marlborough

Public Health Nurses have given education sessions and managed distribution of consent forms, ready for the cervical cancer immunisation programme. The programme's success will link relationships with Public Health Nurses working with schools, and previous school-based immunisation campaigns. Programme set up has taken six months including employing an additional two coordinators and five registered nurses for immunisation delivery. Around 2700 students in Years 8, 12 and 13 are eligible to receive the immunisation. The HPV team will run catch-up clinics in schools for students who were absent during scheduled visits.

- AnneMarie Ballagh Public Health Nelson

West Coast

The school-based HPV Immunisation Project starts on the West Coast on 3 March. Although the population base is smaller, there are vast areas to cover. Public Health Nurses have done a great job so far in communicating with schools and parents.

- HPV Project Co-ordinator Lynda Driver

Canterbury

Canterbury DHB is offering the HPV immunisation at all General Practices, 198 Youth Health, Family Planning Association and the Sexual Health Clinic. All girls will receive a letter from their General Practice inviting them to come for the immunisation. The vaccination will not be offered in schools as in other parts of New Zealand.

- Alison Young, Project Manger HPV, CDHB

South Canterbury

Public Health Nurses and schools are preparing for the HPV Immunisation Programme in South Canterbury. The free school-based programme for girls aged 12 to 18 years begins with Grantlea Downs, Oceanview Heights, Sacred Heart and Waimataitai with other schools to follow. Girls under 16 need written parental consent to receive the HPV vaccine at school. Girls over 16 can self-consent to the HPV vaccine. Census data shows 2630 females aged 12-18 in South Canterbury. Those not attending school are entitled to free immunisation through GPs, Family Planning, Youth Health Clinic Aoraki Polytechnic, or the health clinic at Arowhenua Marae. From 2010, twelve year old girls can access HPV vaccination from GPs as part of the routine childhood immunisation schedule.

- Arlene Goss, Communications Advisor, Timaru Hospital

Colposcopy Research Linking the Effects of Smoking



Jill Lamb of Christchurch Women's Hospital (CWH), recently undertook a Clinical Masters in Nursing, researching the effect of cigarette smoking on the frequency of colposcopy visits, treatments and re-referrals, as well as identifying if inequalities in attendance existed due to ethnicity.

Over several years it was noted that women requiring visits to the colposcopy department, with on-going treatments to the cervix, and re-referrals post - discharge, were more likely to be cigarette smokers when compared to non-smokers. Nearly 45% of patients in the study were current smokers (compared with approximately 23% of women smoking in Canterbury (MOH, 2004). With Maori women, 71% attending the clinic were smokers compared to 44% of non-Maori women. Women aged between 20 and 29 years had the highest number of smokers.

Research shows women identified with Human Papillomavirus (HPV) are twice as likely

to develop cervical disease when compared to non-smokers. Many women attending for colposcopy were unaware that cigarette smoking is a risk factor for cervical cancer. Knowledge of this link between cervical disease and cigarette smoking can be useful to encourage smoke free behaviour.

Jill's study tracked 494 new patients attending CWH's colposcopy department in 2001 and observed their data for a six year period, comparing smokers vs non-smokers.

The results identified women who smoked were three times more likely to need a third follow up visit and twice as likely to need further treatments to remove abnormalities compared to non-smokers. Study results also support the maintenance and development of the smoking cessation clinic for colposcopy patients at CWH where the link to cervical abnormalities and smoking is explained and smoking cessation options are offered.

Of particular importance was that Maori women were poor attendees for colposcopy compared to non-Maori and these results identified a need for further research and strategy development to improve attendance. The study results highlight to women and health professionals that colposcopy treatment has a greater chance of success, alongside less colposcopy treatments, when women become smoke free.

- Jill is training to become a nurse colposcopist and is also responsible for a smoking cessation clinic at CWH.

2009 New Years Honours

The SCN is aware of three award recipients of New Years Honours and acknowledges and congratulates them for their contribution to cancer control.

D.C.N.Z.M.
Professor David Christopher Graham **KEGG**, O.B.E., of Dunedin. For services to medicine.

O.N.Z.M.
Associate Professor Bridget Anne **ROBINSON**, of Lyttelton. For services to medicine.

Q.S.O.
Mrs Elspeth Cantlie **KENNEDY**, M.B.E., of Nelson. For services to the community. Nelson Regional Hospice.

SCN Project Updates



Travel & Accommodation Impact

Awareness by SCN regarding issues of inequity and financial and personal hardship has been a catalyst to the development of this project. The Ministry of Health is concurrently undertaking a review of Travel and Accommodation rates provided as assistance through the National Travel and Accommodation Policy. The SCN project is assessing the overall impact on patients and their families which occur through travel from their home regions to cancer treatment centres in Christchurch or Dunedin. Interviews of all key stakeholders have begun in Christchurch, followed by Dunedin and feeder DHBs throughout the South Island. Final reporting on this project is aimed for mid 2009.

Lung Cancer Patient Mapping

Stage One of this project – mapping the lung cancer patient journey in Canterbury – is now complete with a report in draft. Stage Two –



mapping the lung cancer patient journey in Nelson/Marlborough, South Canterbury and West Coast – is underway. A similar project is being scoped for Otago and Southland in late March.

South Island Cancer Services Stocktake

A stocktake of cancer services within the 5 South Island DHBs is being undertaken during late 2008 / early 2009. The purpose of this stocktake is to:

- provide a comprehensive overview and measure of the level of cancer services provided by South Island funders and planners of cancer services across the cancer care continuum
- To provide a baseline of what services exist and where.
- To assist in the development of a South Island strategic work plan for the Southern Cancer Network

- To identify gaps in the provision of service and to highlight areas where inequalities exist

A stocktake tool (questionnaire) was developed and was sent to key cancer service funders and planners within each DHB for completion by end February 2009. Final report release is aimed for mid April 2009.

SI Cancer Nurse Network

The first session of the SI Cancer Nurse Network is scheduled for:

Thursday 19 March, 5.30-7.00pm

Session One:

Nursing in the 21st Century

Presenter: Glynis Cumming

Oncology Nurse Specialist, Christchurch

The purpose of the network is to:

1. To provide educational opportunities for nurses who are working with people with a cancer diagnosis.
2. To provide a forum for regular professional networking and discussion

This monthly session will utilise the expertise of nurses, clinicians and other health professionals from the Dunedin and Christchurch Cancer Centres and will be broadcast, utilising the videoconference network, to nurses across the South Island.

CanTeen

Update



CanTeen welcomes Jane Ryder-Foskett as a full-time Patient Support Coordinator based in Christchurch. With a professional background as an Occupational Therapist, Jane will be working with young people with disabilities and life limiting conditions. Jane's contact details are: psccanterbury@canteen.org.nz, (03) 377 3028.

Contact Us

Barbara Lloyd, Manager ph: 03 372 3036
barbara.lloyd@sissal.govt.nz

Pauline Boereboom, Administrator
ph: 03 372 3016 pauline.boereboom@sissal.govt.nz

Ruth Robson, Project Manager ph: 03 372 3028
ruth.robson@sissal.govt.nz

Marinda Hawthorne, Project Manager
ph: 03 372 3025 marinda.hawthorne@sissal.govt.nz

