

Welcome to Neighbourhood News

Welcome to the tenth issue of Neighbourhood News - a newsletter from the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) to keep our neighbours up to date with developments and news from the MCRC and the new cancer research building for MCRC scientists. The newsletter is distributed to over 2,000 households in the local community and is produced every two months. We hope you find Neighbourhood News informative and helpful.

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About the MCRC

- The MCRC builds on Manchester's strong heritage in cancer research and provides a hub of cancer research activity in the region, attracting more world-class researchers and millions of pounds of investment from government, industry and research funding organisations every year.
- The University of Manchester received £12.8 million funding from the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund some of which will go towards construction of the new MCRC building with the remainder funding specialist research equipment.
- A global recruitment drive has been launched to bring 20 of the world's best cancer experts and their teams to Manchester.

Find out more about the new cancer research building and the MCRC here:

www.mcrc.manchester.ac.uk/newbuild/

Neighbourhood News

Cervical cancer survivor shares her story



Paula Jones from Cheshire was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 1996, aged just 23. Now 41, Paula shares her story in the run up to Cervical Screening Awareness Week.

Paula had booked an appointment with her GP in January 1996 after she began to experience light spotting between her periods. She was quickly referred for further investigation and within two weeks had a diagnosis of early stage cervical cancer confirmed. By February, Paula had undergone a full hysterectomy at Leighton Hospital in Crewe and, because she'd been so diligent in catching the cancer early before it had a chance to spread, did not need any further treatment.

"The diagnosis really came out of the blue – at the time there was no family history of cancer so to be told at a relatively early age that I had cervical cancer and needed surgery was a major shock," says Paula. Sadly, her mum was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 1996, a month after Paula's own diagnosis, and went on to have a

lumpectomy followed by radiotherapy at The Christie. Both are now well and cancer-free but their shared experience had a major and long term impact.

"My mum and I have always been really close so we supported each other through our cancer journeys. Even before I left the hospital I knew that if I could beat the cancer it would change my life – I was determined to make something positive from the experience," says Paula. She started fundraising and volunteered for Cancer Research UK – one of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre partners – and in 2005 had the opportunity to join the charity working in the events team and organising Race for Life.

Since 2012, Paula has been working as a local fundraising manager for Cancer Research UK. "If I hadn't been through cervical cancer, I would not now be doing the job I love so much. It made me see life very differently," says Paula.

Cervical Screening Awareness Week (CSAW) runs from 8-14 June 2014 and is a national initiative that aims to highlight the importance of cervical screening.

Find out more about More Tomorrows and how you can get involved with fundraising for the new MCRC building here: www.moretomorrows.org



World-renowned scientist will make 'outstanding addition'



One of the world's most cited scientists - knighted by the Queen for services to the subject - has taken the helm as Director of the Institute of Cancer Sciences at The University of Manchester.

Professor Sir Salvador Moncada takes up his new post during an exciting phase for cancer research in Manchester, with the new MCRC building nearing completion.

Professor Moncada said: "The University of Manchester has an outstanding history of research and innovation and there are currently many exciting things happening within the field of cancer. It's a fantastic time to work in this area of research and I am delighted to be leading a team of scientists and clinicians which has already made a big contribution to the understanding and management of this very important disease." Professor Ian Jacobs, Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences and Vice-President at The University of Manchester, described Professor Moncada as 'a great scientist' and 'a truly outstanding addition to our Faculty team'.

News from around the MCRC

Monitoring response to treatment in melanoma

Manchester cancer scientists have revealed the potential of a less invasive technique to monitor how metastatic melanoma responds to treatment, in real-time.

Metastatic melanoma has a poor survival outlook, despite advances in treatment. More targeted drugs are now available, but in order to monitor the effect of treatment and how effective it is in individual patients, the genetic make-up of each tumour must be assessed, usually using a biopsy sample. Carrying out such a biopsy can be challenging when cancers have spread away from the original tumour location.

An alternative, and less invasive, method to investigate tumour make-up is to look at circulating tumour cells (CTCs). These are cancer cells that have become separated from a tumour and can be found circulating in the blood. However, there are fewer than 50 of these CTCs in a small sample of blood, which contains millions of normal cells, and so specialised techniques are needed to separate, count and examine them.

MCRC scientists have come up with a different approach using filtration to isolate CTCs so that they can be fully characterised. This could help doctors to monitor treatment response and detect relapse in melanoma so that patients who have a suboptimal response to one type of treatment can be more readily identified and potentially offered a more effective therapy.

Cholesterol may be key to prostate cancer spread

Scientists have uncovered a link between cholesterol and prostate cancer's ability to spread to the bones. The findings could help explain why taking statins – commonly used cholesterol-lowering drugs – is thought to slow the progress of the disease in some cases.

Arachidonic acid (AA) is an omega-6 fatty acid that has been shown to attract

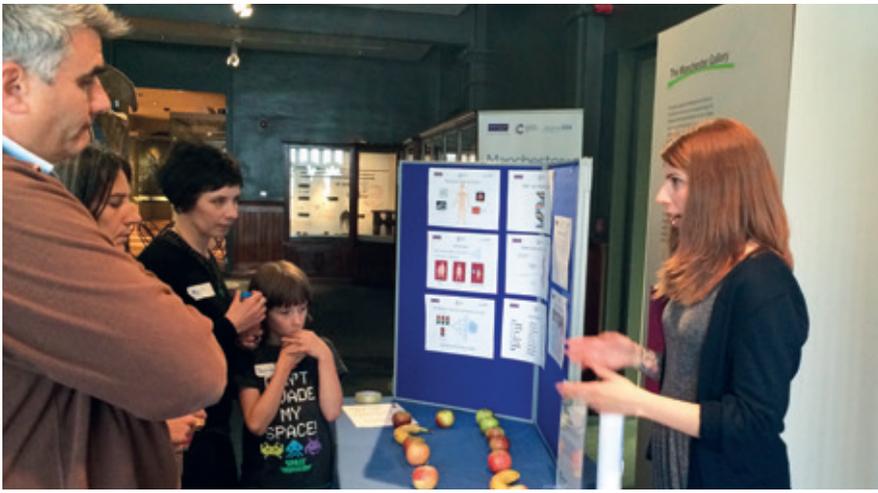
prostate cancer cells to the bone marrow. When the prostate cancer cells were exposed to AA the researchers found that they changed shape, and sprouted projections that helped them to squeeze through the gaps in the surrounding tissues and become established in the bone marrow. But treating the cells with statins, thereby disrupting their ability to manufacture cholesterol, stopped these changes. Further research aimed at understanding this process will provide vital clues as to how drugs like statins might benefit those prostate cancer patients who are more at risk of their cancer spreading.

Largest ever ovarian cancer study in final year

Prognosis for ovarian cancer is generally poor because it is often not diagnosed until it is at an advanced stage. Currently 7,000 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer in the UK each year. Of those, more than 4,000 are not expected to survive but if women are diagnosed earlier 90% of those cases could beat the disease.

The University of Manchester – one of the MCRC partners – is a participating centre in the UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening (UKCTOCS), which is the largest randomised, controlled trial to date to assess whether or not screening for ovarian cancer can help to improve survival. The study involving more than 200,000 women is comparing two different screening tests with having no test at all. One test is annual screening using transvaginal ultrasound as well as screening for CA125 – a protein produced by some ovarian cancer, which can be detected in the blood – and the other is annual screening with ultrasound alone.

Both techniques seem to be feasible on a large scale and are showing promising signs of identifying ovarian cancers at an early stage, one to two years before most women will develop any symptoms of ovarian cancer. The study is due to finish in December 2014 and final results will be published in 2015.



Public engagement at the MCRC

The construction of the new building has, in part, been made possible by the generosity of supporters.

In recognition of this support we provide opportunities for public engagement and interaction with MCRC researchers. Meeting supporters is also extremely motivating for our scientists. They visit local schools to teach pupils about how our bodies work, discuss the future of cancer treatments with enthusiastic audiences at science festivals and run interactive activities to bring cancer research to life.

Manchester-based Hannah Leaton, Research Engagement Manager at Cancer Research UK, said: "We are always developing our inspiring and innovative programme of public engagement. Once the building is open, we are looking forward to offering local residents behind the scenes access to our research by hosting open days and lab tours. We also plan to run a series of public lectures, along with other interactive events that we hope will entertain and educate."

More Tomorrows campaign news

The past few months have seen a flurry of events taking place to help raise awareness and funds for the new MCRC building.

Ollie's Ball, organised by Peter and Simone Schofield, was held in November 2013 at the Hillbark Hotel in the Wirral and raised an impressive £67,657. The event was set up by Ollie Battye, who was diagnosed at 16 with Ewing's Sarcoma bone cancer on the base of her spine and is in her fifth year of remission.

The Bobby Moore Sports Fund Quiz was held in Manchester in March 2014 and attracted a host of celebrity guests. Themed as a live auction, the event raised an incredible £135,606 towards the campaign. Ongoing More Tomorrows activities will raise the remaining £4m needed to complete the new MCRC building.

Final call for Visitor Centre

This month is the last chance to drop in to the on-site Visitor Centre, which will be removed at the end of June to allow completion of the landscaping surrounding the new MCRC building. The Visitor Centre, which opened in January 2013, can be accessed from Kinnaird Road and will be open on Wednesday 11 and 25 June 2014 from 2-5pm.

Awards recognise Manchester pioneers

The third Christie annual Research and Education Awards took place recently celebrating the range of outstanding students and researchers at the Trust.

Among the winners was Professor Malcolm Ranson, who has been a consultant for 19 years and received a lifetime achievement award for his work on lung cancer.

Professor Ranson led the very first phase I clinical trial at The Christie of the pioneering gefitinib treatment - a targeted therapy aiming to block pathways for specific mutations for non-small cell lung cancer. This treatment has resulted in patients surviving for, on average, two years, compared with previous treatments that gave patients an average nine month life expectancy.

Withington Green

Works to re-landscape Withington Green will commence in June 2014 to create the new high quality public space that was designed with the help of a group of local residents, local Councillors and landscape architects.

We shared the design at drop-in sessions during November 2012 and Planning Permission was subsequently granted. It is expected that the works will take around 4 months to complete and some temporary diversions along the footpath will be necessary to enable resurfacing of the footpath along Wilmslow Road and Cotton Lane.



Construction update



M+W GROUP

Approaching the final phase of construction, the focus continues on completing the specialist installations within the new state-of-the-art facility.

Currently, the fit out of electrical cables, pipework, ceilings, doors and flooring within the offices, laboratories and plant rooms are in progress.

During the next few months, the following activities will be taking place:

- Completion of the external cladding
- Internal fit out works including mechanical and electrical installation
- Landscaping, footpaths and block paving of the external areas
- Completion of the external buildings and goods-in areas
- Installation of photovoltaic (solar) panels on the roof

M+W Group - Considerate Constructors

M+W Group - Considerate Constructors M+W Group's work for the MCRC project is part of the national Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) initiative, which aims to improve the image of the construction industry.

Construction sites or companies register with the CCS and in doing so agree to be monitored against a Code of Considerate Practice.

The code is split into five key areas:

- Care about appearance
- Respect the community
- Protect the environment
- Secure everyone's safety
- Value their workforce

The MCRC project was evaluated as "performance beyond compliance" by the CCS upon site establishment and at further recent assessments. This rating endorses that, as the main contractor for the new MCRC building, M+W Group is performing in a way that is considered to be advancing the standards by which the image of the industry is judged.

Working hours

Construction work will be carried out on site from 08.30 to 17.30 from Monday to Friday, although personnel will access the site from 07.00. A small team will progress with the internal fit-out works from 17.30 to 20.00 from Monday to Thursday but will be restricted to quiet working. No work is currently planned on Saturdays and Sundays, although it is likely that admin/surveying personnel will be on site at times.

Deliveries to site will be between 07.30 and 18.00 from Monday to Friday. No deliveries are currently planned on Saturdays and Sundays.

Timeline

- ▶ **November 2012**
Breaking the ground event marks start of construction
- ▶ **November 2013**
Topping Out ceremony marks completion of the highest point of the building
- ▶ **January 2014**
Building weather-tight enabling internal works to progress
- ▶ **April 2014**
Office block cladding system and glazing complete
- ▶ **June 2014**
Completion of the building façade
- ▶ **Winter 2014**
Building completed and ready for use

Building facts

- The building provides over 6,000m² for expansion of research activity and has been designed to promote interaction between the different research groups so they can share common resources and equipment.
- The steel frame of the new MCRC research centre was completed less than one year after the start of construction and by April 2014 the cladding system and glazing to the office block had been fully installed.

Contact us

For queries about the MCRC or general questions about the new cancer research building you can email us on newbuilding@mcrc.man.ac.uk or call **0161 446 3111** during office hours.

For queries about construction, or issues related to work on site, you can contact David Day, M+W Project Manager, 24 hours a day, by calling **07770 667 899**.