

Welcome to Neighbourhood News

Welcome to the fourteenth 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.

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

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

Neighbourhood News

Prostate cancer survivor calls for vigilance



Cancer survivor Pete Clinton shares his experience ahead of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in March.

Now aged 59, Pete was diagnosed with prostate cancer in December 2013 after blood tests showed he had elevated levels of PSA protein – commonly associated with prostate cancer. It was only at the insistence of his daughter Emily that Pete went to his GP for blood tests and he believes this early detection was vital. "I didn't really have marked symptoms other than more frequent visits to the loo, feeling tired and being a bit more forgetful – nothing that felt urgent enough to see a doctor but I am so glad my daughter was vigilant," said Pete.

As Pete was recovering from a heart attack he had suffered in June 2013, he took the option of radiotherapy rather than surgery and starting in April 2014 had 20 treatment sessions at The Christie. "I was surprised at the size of the hospital and also the number of cancer patients they treat every day. Words can't describe the help and support I received – my doctor, healthcare team and other patients were fantastic. Taking the

time to explain and discuss options and treatment really allayed a lot of fears and made everything feel less daunting," explained Pete.

Pete was also put in touch with others who had faced or were facing the same journey, giving him people to talk to outside of his family and providing additional reassurance. He completed his treatment in May, was given the all clear in November and will now be monitored for five years. "Men – especially those over 50 – need to be aware of possible symptoms of prostate cancer and go to their doctor to get checked over even if they don't feel particularly ill. It's not a waste of time and could lead to early detection," Pete said.

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





Catwalk fashion raises awareness of prostate cancer

A Manchester-based scientist has teamed up with a Pennsylvanian fashion designer to create a dress showing how prostate cancer spreads in the body.

Their science-inspired dress, called Transmutation, is part of the Descience project, which aims to make scientific research more accessible and reach new audiences. The garment – based on the work of Dr Esther Baena, a Junior Group Leader at the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute – depicts the tumour transformation process from normal to malignant and invasive cancerous cells. Designer Arielle Gogh made the cell shapes look increasingly rough to show tumour progression and used stronger colours to differentiate between normal and cancerous cells. Having featured in catwalk shows in the United States, Transmutation will now go on a global tour to promote science.

New campaign encourages patients to get involved in clinical trials

Cancer Research UK funds around three quarters of all clinical trials in the UK but public awareness of this is low.

The charity has launched a campaign to increase awareness of its role in supporting clinical trials as well as highlighting how trials have helped to improve treatments and research successes, therefore making a difference to patients today. In addition, as only one in five patients joins a clinical trial, Cancer Research UK wants to encourage patients to find out more about individual trials through its comprehensive clinical trials database.

The campaign is taking place in Manchester and will include a series of adverts featuring patients who've been on Cancer Research UK clinical trials; Kelly, Vinod and Nicki were all keen to help promote this vital area of work. Look out for them on posters around the city this February. For more information visit www.cruk.org/trials

News from around the MCRC

Manchester takes part in 100,000 Genomes Project

Manchester is one of just 11 centres across the country chosen to take part in an ambitious three-year project that aims to collect and decode 100,000 human genomes - complete sets of people's genes – in order to better understand the impact of individual genetic profiles on cancer and rare diseases. Outcomes from the project could improve the prediction and prevention of disease, enable new and more precise diagnostic tests, and allow personalisation of drugs and other treatments to specific genetic variants. With a target of around 75,000 participants, recruitment to the 100,000 Genomes Project starts this month.

Investment boost for lung cancer

The Cancer Research Technology Pioneer Fund (CPF) is collaborating with the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute Drug Discovery Unit to develop a promising class of drugs called RET inhibitors to treat cancer. The investment is the fourth made by the CPF which was set up as a £50 million fund by Cancer Research Technology – Cancer Research UK's commercial arm – and the European Investment Fund. It will build on research by scientists at the Institute, enabling them to accelerate the development of RET inhibitors and fund early clinical trials of potential drugs developed through the collaboration. The RET gene plays a critical role in the development of medullary thyroid cancer, and is mutated in up to two percent of non-small cell lung adenocarcinomas. The goal of the project is to discover novel compounds targeting the RET gene in a specific population of patients.

Makeover for tissue analysis lab

Manchester cancer scientists are benefitting from a major makeover of tissue-based research facilities that they can use for ground-breaking research. The histology suite at the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute has been expanded and upgraded providing new research equipment that can better detect and visualise proteins important in cancer and their interactions. The new equipment has been funded through a £12.8 million award to The University of Manchester from the HEFCE UK Research Partnership Investment Fund. The HEFCE award is paying for vital equipment to progress cancer research development in Manchester and part funding construction of the new MCRC building.



Cancer Research UK launches Little Star Awards 2015

Relatives and friends of young cancer patients or survivors from across Greater Manchester who deserve special recognition are being urged to nominate their Little Stars at www.cruk.org/littlestar.

Cancer Research UK has launched its annual Little Star Awards, in partnership with fashion retailer TK Maxx, across Greater Manchester. Stars including England captain Wayne Rooney and singer-songwriter Emeli Sandé are backing this year's awards which are open to all under-18s who have cancer or who have been treated for the disease in the last five years.

Around 160 children are diagnosed with cancer every year in the North West and last year 117 children in the area received a Little Star Award, including five-year-old Harley who had radiotherapy at The Christie. There is no judging panel because Cancer Research UK and TK Maxx believe that each and every child who faces cancer is extra special. Recipients get a unique trophy, a £50 TK Maxx gift card and a certificate signed by celebrities.

Proposed parking restrictions and green travel update

The legal notice period on the proposed parking restrictions on residential streets around The Christie closed on 12 December 2014.

Manchester City Council is in the process of reviewing the feedback it has received and assuming there are no objections the restrictions will be implemented in February 2015 at the earliest.

Planning applications have been approved for car parking at the Golden Lion site on Wilmslow Road and the Cotton Lane car park. These spaces will maintain parking provision levels when development commences on the Maggie's Centre and Proton Therapy Centre.

In addition to current sustainable travel programmes, The Christie is implementing a staff park and ride facility starting this month (February 2015), which will initially provide 120 additional staff car parking spaces, and can be extended in the future. The Christie continues to work with staff to encourage them to use alternative forms of transport where possible.

Work starts on new Maggie's Centre

With planning permission in place, enabling works have now started for the new Maggie's Centre, which will provide free practical, emotional and social support for people with cancer.

Construction is due to begin on the Kinnaird Road site in March 2015 and the new centre is scheduled for completion in 2016. Find out more about Maggie's at www.maggiescentres.org.



Construction update



M+W GROUP

Construction work on the new MCRC building is now drawing to a close.

We have been putting the final paint on the walls of the offices, lab areas, atrium and café area along with finalising the carpets, lighting and interior decorations. We are also completing the testing and commissioning of all the mechanical and electrical systems, including the installation of the audio and visual equipment in the lecture theatre.



After a 'fault free run', which is a test to ensure that the building functions as it should, the new MCRC building will be ready.

During February, M+W Group will finish the landscaping of the green swathe area along Kinnaird Road, where the contractor's site cabins are currently located.

Landscaping gets underway this month

Works to re-landscape Withington Green will commence in February 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.

Designs for the Green were shared at drop-in sessions during November 2012 and planning permission was subsequently granted. The final design incorporates results from residents' votes on preferred options for seating, planting and paving. It is expected that the works will take around three months to complete and some temporary pedestrian diversions will be necessary to enable re-surfacing of the footpath along Wilmslow Road and Cotton Lane.

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.

For any queries about working hours, contact David Day, M+W Project Manager on 07770 667 899.

Timeline

- ▶ **November 2012**
Breaking the ground event marks start of construction
- ▶ **May 2013**
Structural walls become clearly visible above the boundary fence and installation of structural steelwork commences
- ▶ **January 2014**
Building weather-tight enabling internal works to progress
- ▶ **June 2014**
Completion of the building façade
- ▶ **February 2015**
Re-landscaping of Withington Green commences
- ▶ **Spring 2015**
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 and collaboration between the different research groups so they can effectively share ideas, resources and equipment.
- The new research centre will be home to 250 staff. It will provide space for an additional 150 cancer researchers on the site and house about 100 clinical trials support staff.

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**.