

Welcome to Neighbourhood News

Welcome to the second 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. Neighbourhood News is distributed to about 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 is one of Europe's biggest comprehensive cancer research centres.
- The new research building will allow further expansion of vital and internationally-leading facilities and services on the MCRC site.

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

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

Neighbourhood News

A patient's story



With building activity well underway, new hoardings telling the story of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre and cancer research in Manchester are now being erected. This issue of Neighbourhood News takes a look at the people behind the stories.

Jo Jones was diagnosed with breast cancer in November 2009, shortly after her 40th birthday, after finding a lump on her right breast. Jo is now 43 and lives in Whalley Range, just 10 minutes from The Christie, where she had surgery to remove the lump. This was followed by four months of chemotherapy and then four weeks of radiotherapy treatment. Jo completed her treatment in August 2010 and now has annual check-ups. She is taking tamoxifen – a drug that had its first clinical study at The Christie – and is half way through her five-year course. Jo talked to Neighbourhood News about her experience:

“I had a phenomenal experience of care at The Christie. I was treated like an individual – like I was the only patient there – from the staff at the front desk right up to the senior consultants. I think the staff are a special bunch

of people – they made me and my family feel very welcome and we developed some amazing relationships with the team. My experience was overwhelmingly positive and my consultant, Professor Bergh, was wonderful. He really took the time to talk to not just me but my mum also who was and continues to be a huge support.

“I have some special memories of The Christie: mum would come with me to my appointments and we would make a day of it, sharing time in the hospital gardens. The whole experience made me rethink my career. I was a store manager before but had always wanted to do something different. I did an access course at college, followed by a Diploma in Education with a specialism in literacy at the University of Bolton. I graduated as a qualified teacher in July 2012 and am now teaching adults English and employability skills at Community Revival in Chorlton.

“The whole experience has made me appreciate life, family and friends even more, and made me determined to achieve what I want to achieve. The Christie team saved my life.”

Research spotlight: Drug Discovery Unit



The Drug Discovery Unit (DDU) was established in 2009 and is based at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, part of The University of Manchester and the MCRC. Dr Donald Ogilvie, who leads the DDU, explains why the work of the Unit is so important:

“Unlike drug companies, we are principally an academic, rather than a commercial organisation. This means that we can explore niche areas of currently unmet need – research that

may not be commercially attractive but that has the potential to yield new treatment options that can have a tangible impact on cancer patients.”

One of the key strengths of the Unit is its proximity to the expertise and resources of the MCRC partners. Dr Ogilvie continues: “Being based in Manchester, and close to The Christie, means that, as a scientist, even though you may not necessarily have direct patient contact, you are nearer to the issues that affect cancer patients. Being close to those most likely to benefit from your research efforts is immensely motivational. We also have first-hand experience of the value of drug discovery scientists working closely with doctors.”

Dr Tim Somerville is a clinician scientist, based in the MCRC, specialising in leukaemia. Recently, he worked with the DDU team who made him a new drug compound that could be useful for treating a particular type leukaemia. Dr Somerville tested the new compound in his laboratory with encouraging results. But to fully explore its potential he needed to test it on a patient’s leukaemia cells. To do this he collected a donated blood sample from one of his patients. By looking at the sample in his laboratory he showed that the compound could kill the patient’s cancer cells.

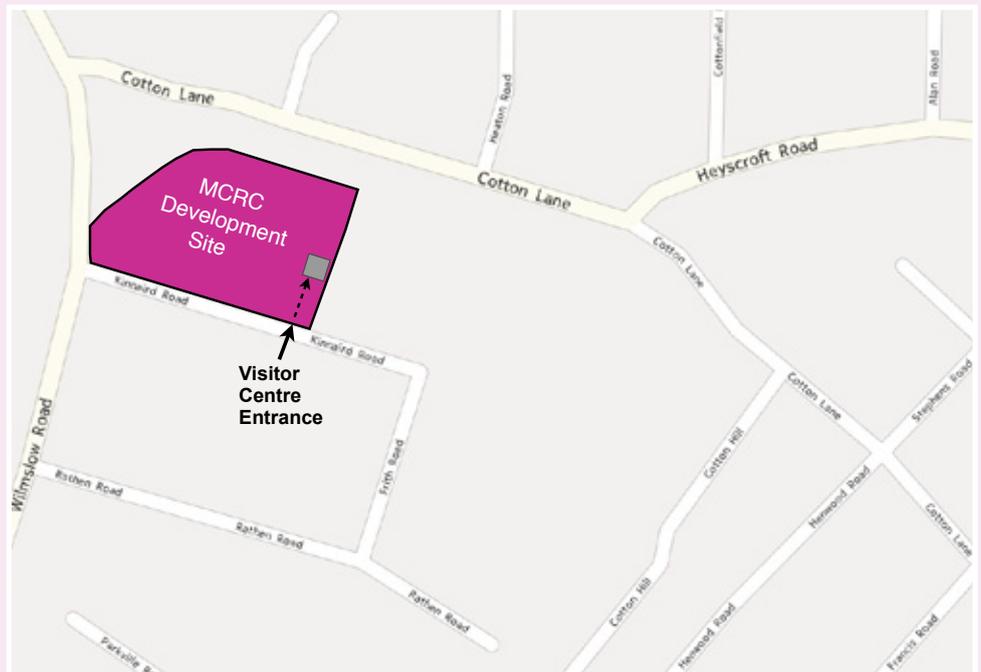
The DDU team are now working with Dr Somerville to see if this compound can be developed into a new treatment that can be tested in clinical trials.

He said: “Helping researchers source the best compounds to evaluate in the laboratory and then aligning this with clinical testing in patient samples is a real-life demonstration of the benefits of co-location in the MCRC.

Visitor Centre opens its doors

The MCRC Visitor Centre opened on Wednesday 9 January 2013, providing the local community and visitors the chance to find out more about the MCRC and the progress of the new cancer research building.

The Visitor Centre can be accessed from Kinnaird Road and is open fortnightly on Wednesdays from 2-5pm. Opening dates over the next few months are: 6 February, 20 February, 6 March, 20 March, 3 April and 17 April 2013.



News from around the MCRC

Multimillion pound funding boost for cancer research in Manchester

Cancer research in Manchester has been given a £12.8 million funding boost following a successful bid by The University of Manchester to the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF). The investment has been awarded to the University to part-fund the construction of the new MCRC research building and pay for vital equipment to progress cancer research development in the city.

The Christie celebrates New Year Honours

The chief executive of The Christie was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. Caroline Shaw was given the recognition for services to health. Speaking about the award she said: "I have worked in the NHS for more than 27 years and I am as dedicated to helping patients now as the first day I began my training to be a midwife, so I am absolutely delighted to receive the CBE for services to health. Throughout my time at The Christie, improving outcomes and care for cancer patients has been, and will remain, my number one priority."

BBC Radio Manchester makes The Christie its Charity of the Year

The Christie charity has been chosen as BBC Radio Manchester's first ever 'Charity of the Year' for 2013. The partnership will be raising funds for The Christie's new mobile chemotherapy unit. The unit, which is expected to be up and running for summer 2013, costs just over £700,000. Each day the mobile chemotherapy unit will travel to different areas of the Greater Manchester region to deliver treatment, which will save time and travelling costs for about 80 patients a week.

TV advert features MCRC brain tumour images

Cancer Research UK's latest TV advert campaign features brain tumour images from MCRC researchers. The magnetic resonance image (MRI) scans are vertical cross-sections of the head that feature about halfway through the advert and show the tumour blood vessels in a patient before therapy. Launched on Boxing Day, the advert identifies research as the 'enemy' of cancer, highlighting how diseases like polio and smallpox have been eradicated by research. It highlights how research has already improved survival for many cancer patients and points to a future where cancer research leads to more cures. The TV advert can be seen at: www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-us/what-we-do/our-new-brand-campaign/its-cancers-turn-to-be-afraid/

MCRC scientist gets international award



A scientist from the MCRC has been awarded a €150,000 (about £120,000) research prize for the development of scalpel-sparing tests for the diagnosis and management of cancer.

Professor Caroline Dive, who heads the Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology Group (CEP) at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, received the Pasteur-Weizmann/Servier Prize for her work on non-invasive techniques for early cancer diagnosis and prediction of drug response. The Prize is awarded every three years to a world-leading academic and their team for major contributions to biomedical discoveries that have led to new therapeutic applications. Professor Dive was one of only nine international nominees.

Cancer cells can have specific molecules on them that are not found on normal cells. These molecules can be used as 'markers' to detect and monitor cancer cells before, during and after patients receive cancer treatment. Traditionally these markers are detected in tumour biopsy samples removed from the patient by surgery. But Professor Dive's group has been studying cancer cells found in patients' blood to identify and characterise markers that can be used and monitor patients' response to treatment without the need for a surgical biopsy.

The prize money will fund cutting-edge equipment for the purification of circulating cancer cells (akin to isolating the 'needles in the haystack') from blood that will allow the team to fully characterise them and identify new molecular markers that can then be used in clinical trials to facilitate clinical treatment decisions.

Professor Dive said: "I am honoured to receive the 2012 Pasteur-Weizmann/Servier Prize. Our work is all about taking findings from the laboratory and translating it into new tests and treatments for patients. The more we can use markers to interrogate cancer cells and how they respond to treatment, the more we can develop a personalised approach to medicine where patients get treatment tailored to their specific cancer characteristics."

Professor Dive has also been elected as a Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) in recognition of her work on non-invasive techniques for prediction and monitoring of drug response in cancer patients.

Construction update



M+W GROUP

As planned, construction activity recommenced on site on 2 January with the development of the new access road from Cotton Lane, which was completed at the end of January.

The site hoardings have now been reconfigured, expanding the construction site towards Kinnaird Road. This enabled works on the new MCRC building to begin.

You will be able to watch the following activities during the next few months:

- The ground levels across the site will be consolidated and recycled crushed concrete will be spread across the footprint of the building to prepare the ground for the start of foundation works.
- Excavation of the new building foundations (concrete piles) will be done by some large drilling machines that auger holes deep into the ground until strong ground, such as rock, is found. The holes will then be filled with reinforcement steel and concrete. This type of foundation has been selected to minimise vibration in the completed building and is the least noisy method of construction that exists for foundations of this type.



- Concrete mixing transport trucks will make frequent deliveries to the site.
- Towards the end of March the structural walls will start to emerge out of the ground.

Key dates

29 March – 1 April 2013:

Site closed for the Easter holidays.

Building facts

- The building has been designed to incorporate as much natural ventilation as possible – 85% of the offices and 25% of the open plan office will be naturally ventilated.
- Attenuated surface water drainage – storage that holds surface water and feeds it into the drainage system gradually – will be incorporated to reduce the risk of flooding by more effectively managing the surface water runoff.

Timelines

- ▶ **March 2012**
Planning approval gained
- ▶ **May 2012**
Enabling works on site started
- ▶ **November 2012**
Breaking the ground event marks start of construction
- ▶ **January 2013**
Access road from Cotton Lane completed, site hoardings reconfigured and work on the new building begins
- ▶ **Summer 2014**
Building completed and ready for use

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, 24hours a day, by calling **07770 667 899**.