

Welcome to Neighbourhood News

Welcome to the eighth 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

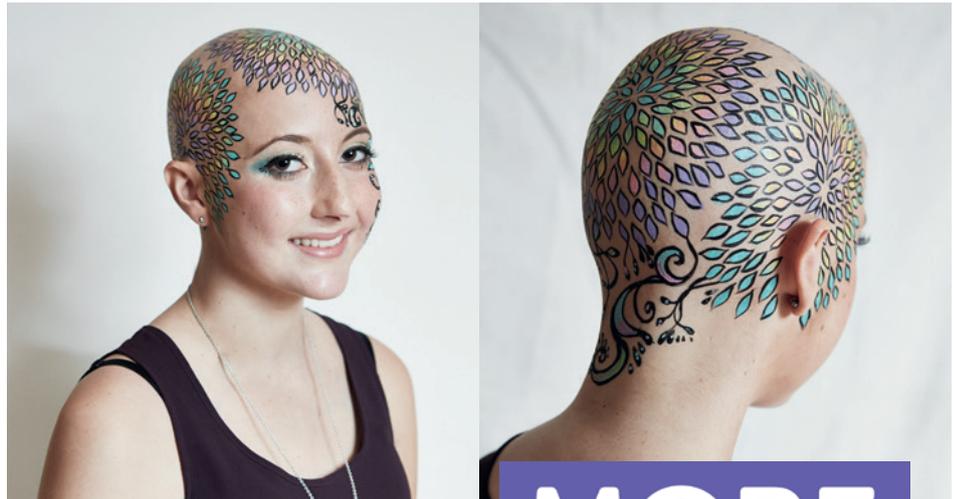
- 2014 marks eight years since the MCRC was established as a partnership between three organisations - The University of Manchester, The Christie and Cancer Research UK.
- The MCRC builds on Manchester's strong heritage in cancer research and provides a hub of cancer research activity in the region, attracting more world-class researchers and millions of pounds of investment from government, industry and research funding organisations every year.

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

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

Neighbourhood News

Women fighting cancer share their hopes through unique body art



Sixteen-year old Katie Thorburn was one of three inspirational women fighting cancer who shared their hopes for "More Tomorrows" through stunning artwork painted onto their heads.

Along with Dawn Craddock, aged 37, and 46-year-old Pam Rhodes, Katie used her hair loss caused by chemotherapy treatment to highlight the importance of pioneering cancer research. They worked closely with renowned body artist Emma Allen to express what it means to have more time to spend with family and friends. The eye-catching results were captured by photographer Josh Shinner to help publicise the More Tomorrows fundraising campaign for the new research building. Emma and Josh gave up their time free of charge to be involved in the project.

Katie's journey began in September 2012 when she developed pains in her legs. She saw a consultant who immediately recommended an MRI scan and was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of cancer in the bone. Katie underwent months of chemotherapy treatment as well

as surgery to replace the bone from her shin to above the knee with metal. Sadly, in summer 2013 a scan revealed the cancer had returned and spread to Katie's lungs and the base of her skull. She said: "Being diagnosed with cancer at such a young age was a terrible shock, but I just needed to face it head-on and cope the best I can for my friends and family.

"I was thrilled with the design painted on my head, which was done the week I celebrated my 16th birthday. The More Tomorrows fundraising campaign is so important as the new research centre will help future generations affected by cancer and I want to make sure nobody has to go through what I've been through."

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

**MORE
TOMORROWS**
MANCHESTER
REVOLUTIONISING CANCER TREATMENT

Little Stars award for brave youngster

A Bolton teenager who has successfully fought leukaemia has had her courage recognised with a special Little Stars award from Cancer Research UK – one of the MCRC partners.

The awards acknowledge the unique challenges faced by youngsters who battle cancer.

Emma Turner fell ill in January 2012 aged 12 and within the space of a few days went from being a healthy, lively youngster to becoming gravely sick. A bone marrow test revealed she had acute myeloid leukaemia – a type of blood cancer. Emma had two separate courses of chemotherapy at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, a bone marrow transplant and several hospital readmissions. Despite her ordeal she remained positive and tried to carry on life as normally as possible and is now an A star Year 10 pupil.

The Little Star Awards are open to all under-18s who have cancer or who have been treated for the disease in the last five years. Siblings of Little Stars also receive a special certificate in recognition of the support they give. To find out more and nominate a Little Star visit www.cruk.org/littlestar

About childhood cancer

- 15 February 2014 marks International Childhood Cancer Day. Around 1,600 children are diagnosed with cancer in the UK every year and leukaemia is the most commonly diagnosed childhood cancer.
- Within the MCRC, the Children's Cancer group focuses on childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) – a fast growing cancer of the white blood cells. As well as lab-based research to better understand ALL, the group carries out international clinical trials to improve treatments and outcomes for children with leukaemia.

Manchester to benefit from Cancer Research UK £100m investment in research centres across the UK



Manchester scientists will benefit from a Cancer Research UK investment of over £100 million across cutting-edge research centres to help get new treatments and diagnostics to cancer patients sooner.

The investment marks the latest phase in the development of the Cancer Research UK Centres network of excellence - a chain of research hubs that have been established across the country. The MCRC is one of 15 national 'centres of excellence' to receive funding and each centre will bring its own areas of strength to the network. Research in Manchester will focus on screening and prevention, personalised medicine, radiotherapy, lung cancer, melanoma, women's cancers and blood cancers.

Professor Nic Jones, director of the MCRC said: "The investment is an endorsement of our research and of the partnership approach at the heart of the MCRC. With the new MCRC research building due to be completed in Summer 2014, we have an outstanding opportunity in Manchester to make a valuable contribution to the network of excellence and to drive research that changes lives."

Leukaemia research gets £1.8 million boost

Scientists within the MCRC have been awarded a £1.8 million grant by the blood cancer charity Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, to improve treatments for leukaemia patients.

Professor Tony Whetton, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences and Professor of Cancer Cell Biology at The University of Manchester, will lead the five year project which aims to develop new treatments that are more effective at seeking out and destroying leukaemia cells.

"Whilst DNA is the blueprint of the cell, proteins are the work horses involved in the control of all cellular processes. Disruption of these proteins and their networks leads to many diseases including leukaemia. Our large scale study of proteins over the last 10 years has identified pathways common to many types of leukaemia. Our present research is aimed at further understanding these pathways and investigating how we may target them more effectively with drugs," said Professor Whetton.

News from around the MCRC

Preventative surgery benefits for at risk women

A study by Manchester scientists backs preventative surgery to improve survival for women who are at greater risk of getting ovarian cancer and suggests it may be helpful for women at risk of getting breast cancer because of genetic faults. Women who carry a fault in one of two high-risk genes known as BRCA1 or BRCA2 have an increased risk of dying from breast and/or ovarian cancer. Many, including high-profile celebrities such as Angelina Jolie, choose to undergo surgery to remove their healthy breasts, ovaries or both before the disease affects them. However, few studies have looked at the possible benefits of these procedures across large groups of women.

Manchester researchers looked at 691 women carrying a mutation in either the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene before they had developed cancer. They found that risk-reducing surgery, particularly removal of the ovaries and fallopian tubes reduced the risk of both ovarian cancer greatly and breast cancer by about half. Women who had any form of risk-reducing surgery had increased survival compared to those deciding against such an operation. Further research is now needed to assess the possible advantage of a double mastectomy alone.

Study aims to minimise side effects of radiotherapy

MCRC scientists are leading a European study to come up with new ways of reducing the unwanted side effects of radiotherapy and improving cancer treatment. The five-year REQUITE study involves 13 institutions across Europe and the US, and will identify ways to predict which breast, prostate and lung cancer patients are most likely to suffer long-term side effects. These findings will then be used to design trials that test if cancer treatment can be tailored more specially to individuals so that the worse side effects of radiation – such as bowel or bladder incontinence – which can impact the quality of life of cancer survivors can be avoided. In the long-term around 1.4 million people across the European Union suffering with mild to severe side-effects could benefit from the improvements the study brings.



Raising the profile of careers in construction

'Budding Brunels' is a schools engagement programme run by the Construction Youth Trust (CYT) that aims to inform students from disadvantaged backgrounds about the benefits of higher education, as well as raise the profile of career opportunities within the construction industry.

In December, in conjunction with the CYT, MCRC building contractors M+W Group and Pochin UK Ltd invited 22 construction students from Stockport College to take part in this exciting programme. Students attended a three-day event, where they received a site tour, a range of presentations from construction professionals and training sessions to develop their interview skills.

The CYT commended the MCRC teams for the delivery of the programme with feedback from students and college staff stating that it was an interesting and enlightening visit. During their time on site, a number of students were selected for work experience placements. Both M+W Group and Pochin UK Ltd will be taking on these enthusiastic young learners during the coming year.

Visitor Centre opening times

The Visitor Centre can be accessed from Kinnaird Road and is open fortnightly on Wednesdays from 14.00-17.00. Opening dates over the next few months are: 5 February, 19 February, 5 March, 19 March, 2 April and 16 April 2014.

Green Travel Plan update

Work continues on The Christie Green Travel Plan, encouraging staff, patients and visitors to consider alternative methods of travel other than car.

The latest developments include:

- Launch of a 10% staff discount for Metrolink travel
- Installation of a 12-space bike rack at Candleford House, off Palatine Road
- Installation of signs at West Didsbury Metrolink station directing people to The Christie
- Discussions with Northern Rail for a corporate season ticket
- Analysis of the results of an annual parking survey carried out in November 2013 on 52 local roads in the vicinity of the MCRC development. The roads were surveyed every two hours between 09.00-17.00 to identify the number of non-resident vehicles. Results will be discussed at the next Neighbourhood Forum meeting, which will be held on Wednesday 19 February 2014.

Find out more about the Neighbourhood Forum here: www.christie.nhs.uk/about-the-christie/our-ambitions-developments/neighbourhood

Construction update



Work on MCRC's state-of-the-art research centre is progressing well despite the winter weather.

The installation of the external glazing panels and construction of the internal walls is nearing completion. Pipework and ventilation works have continued in both the laboratories and offices. The boilers, chillers and heat pumps arrived on site in December 2013 and have now been installed. The ceiling installation has also now commenced.

Over the next few months, you will be able to observe the following activities:

- Completion of the external façade
- The landscaping surrounding the building will commence
- Internal works will continue – joinery works and the installation of ceilings, cables, plumbing and sanitary systems

A process called "commissioning works" will also begin over the next few months. This is where the mechanical and electrical equipment and connections are tested to ensure that everything works as it should.



M+W GROUP

The Christie Strategic Planning Framework

Consultation around The Christie Strategic Planning Framework, which outlines plans for the hospital site over the next 15 years, is now underway.

This consultation looks at a number of key projects at the hospital, including the development of the world leading MCRC building, which will attract experts from across the globe, and a Proton Beam Therapy Centre that will provide specialised treatment for patients who currently have to travel abroad.

Interested parties are encouraged to share their views on the plans at: www.manchester.gov.uk/thechristieplans

The consultation period closes on Friday 29 February 2014.

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. 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 the start of construction
- ▶ **January 2013**
Access Road from Cotton Lane completed and work on the new building began
- ▶ **November 2013**
Topping Out ceremony marks completion of the highest point of the building
- ▶ **Summer 2014**
Building completed and ready for use

Building Facts

- The building has photovoltaic panels for generating electricity, solar thermal panels to produce hot water and an extensive range of metering so that energy use in different areas can be monitored separately and optimised.
- A rainwater harvesting system will make the most of the North West's weather by collecting and recycling rainwater and using it to flush the lavatories in the building. This will save around one-third of the water needed for flushing every year.

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**.