

Welcome to Neighbourhood News

Welcome to the ninth 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 brings cancer scientists and doctors together on one site to help drive the development of personalised medicine, so that in future each patient gets the treatment that will work best for them
- The MCRC is home to the world's largest early-phase clinical trials unit - based within The Christie
- The MCRC provides unique opportunities for local patients to access the latest and most innovative cancer treatments more rapidly

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

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

Neighbourhood News

Drug trial gives new hope for cancer patient

In 2001, aged just 33, Ian Brooks from Bolton was diagnosed with anaplastic large cell lymphoma – an aggressive and rare form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

He responded well to initial treatment but, despite a stem cell transplant, the cancer came back again spreading throughout his body.

With few treatment options remaining Ian was given only weeks to live. But following enrolment on a clinical trial at The Christie, Ian became the first patient outside the US to receive a new drug, brentuximab. He had a remarkable response and after twelve weeks of treatment, scans showed that the tumours spread throughout his body had gone.

"My specialist at the hospital was so excited when he saw the results that he came and showed me them straight away. Before treatment I had around 70 tumours in my body and just like that they had gone – it was an incredible feeling. I felt hugely privileged to have been able to access what for me was life-saving treatment – I don't think I would be here today without that drug," said Ian.

Professor Tim Illidge, who led the trial at The Christie, said: "Brentuximab is a type of monoclonal antibody that targets a protein called CD30, which is found on lymphoma cells. Brentuximab attaches to the CD30 protein delivering a fatal drug to the cancer cell. This makes it more effective at killing cancer cells."

Dr Adam Gibb, a clinical research fellow in lymphoma at The Christie, added: "The drug can be administered



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rapidly and has few side effects. This is probably the most impressive response I've seen. Ian is now in remission and we are increasingly confident about him." Ian has now had a bone marrow transplant and been discharged from The Christie. "I can't thank the NHS and the hospital enough. They gave me back my life," he said.

"Ian's experience illustrates the value of clinical trials. Individual patients can benefit and the knowledge we acquire allows us to move on to the next stage in developing the treatments of tomorrow," said Professor John Radford, director of research at The Christie. The Christie trial proved so successful that brentuximab is now routinely available for NHS patients with the same rare lymphoma through the Cancer Drugs Fund.

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



Spring opening for new treatment centre

The Christie's new £12million Young Oncology Unit and Haematology and Transplant Unit opens to patients later this spring.

This new facility will transform treatment for young cancer patients and all patients with blood-related cancers.

Improving facilities for teenagers and young adults with cancer across Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Lancashire and South Cumbria, the new Centre provides inpatient and outpatient facilities as well as rehabilitation and support services.

Inpatients with blood cancers, such as leukaemia and lymphoma, receive their treatment in the Haematology and Transplant Unit. The new Centre will not only improve the patient experience, it will increase the number of specialist rooms available for patients undergoing transplants and other treatments.

Annual parking survey results

The Christie carried out its annual parking survey last November monitoring the streets included in the proposed Section 106 parking scheme zone.

The survey, which was conducted over four days from 11–14 November 2013, included a nightly check to identify residents' cars and was then repeated every two hours during the working day to identify the numbers of non-residents parking in the survey area.

The survey was designed to differentiate between short stay parkers (likely to be patients) and longer stay parkers (likely to be staff). The survey results indicate a decrease in the number of staff members parking on local streets over the last year with a figure of 745 cars in November 2013 compared to 820 in November 2012.

Institute appoints new cancer research group leaders

Two new group leaders from the US are set to join the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute this summer, strengthening research in lung cancer and prostate cancer.

Dr Michela Garofalo's work looks at potential treatment approaches in lung cancer and the importance of small molecules that prevent the expression of individual genes in sensitising tumour cells to chemotherapy. Dr Esther Baena's research focuses on prostate cancer. She explores mechanisms involved in progression and treatment resistance and the role of proteins that control the flow of genetic information in tumour growth. Professor Richard Marais, Director of the Institute, said: "These are very exciting appointments for the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute and for Manchester as a whole. It allows us to further develop these two important areas of cancer research."

Funding boost for prostate cancer

Manchester along with Belfast has received £5million to host one of the UK's first Movember Centres of Excellence in partnership with Prostate Cancer UK.

Researchers at the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute – part of The University of Manchester – and clinicians at The Christie NHS Foundation Trust will work with clinicians and researchers at the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology at Queen's University Belfast. The partnership will form a unique Centre of Excellence in prostate cancer research based across the two cities. The investment of £5million over a five year period aims to accelerate understanding of the disease through innovation, ensuring laboratory breakthroughs are translated into clinical benefits for men as quickly as possible.

History tours prove a hit

The MCRC hosted two walking tours at the end of March as part of the Manchester Histories Festival.

Around 20 participants began by exploring the humble beginnings, in sheds and converted outbuildings, of cancer research in Manchester. They learnt about pioneering treatments through the ages, the men and women who made them possible, and explored the future of cancer treatment by visiting the site of the new Manchester Cancer Research Centre.

News from around the MCRC

Scientists explore promising new option for first line of attack in lymphoma

A study led by MCRC scientists has shown promising results for a new treatment approach in follicular lymphoma – a type of blood cancer that usually develops slowly. Antibody therapy where the patient's own immune system is stimulated to attack their tumour is effective but most patients still relapse.

Radioimmunotherapy – using a radioactive substance attached to the antibody – has been successful in relapsed patients and now a team involving MCRC researchers has investigated the use of radioimmunotherapy in newly diagnosed patients. Rather than a single full dose treatment they used two smaller doses – a novel approach which may improve the penetration of the drug within larger tumours and also help reduce side effects. The innovative treatment plan was effective – around 95% of the 72 patients treated responded to therapy and some 70% saw their symptoms disappear – and had very few side effects. These encouraging results will need to be confirmed in further studies in larger numbers of patients to fully compare this approach with current standard chemotherapy.

Research focuses on oxygen levels in cancer cells

Tumours with lower levels of oxygen – known as hypoxia – often respond less well to radiation therapy. A team of Manchester scientists is investigating a new imaging method that is able to measure oxygen levels within an individual patient's tumour. The new form of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan – oxygen-enhanced MRI – is designed to provide a convenient non-invasive way of measuring how much oxygen gets to the tumour. In the future, the technique may help in selecting appropriate treatments for patients and also in monitoring how well patients respond to treatment.

Neighbourhood Forum News

The Neighbourhood Forum was established in May 2012 to provide an opportunity for local residents and elected representatives to engage and communicate directly with The Christie about the trust's role and impact within the local community.

The forum meets quarterly with an agenda that reflects the priorities of the local community. Forum meetings are open to resident representatives and minutes are available on the Trust website <http://www.christie.nhs.uk/about-the-christie/our-ambitions-developments/neighbourhood-forum.aspx>. The next meeting is on Tuesday 8 April 2014.

Maggie's Charity applies for new Centre at The Christie



Maggie's, a charity that provides practical, emotional and social support for people with cancer, has applied for planning permission for a new Maggie's Centre on The Christie site, which is designed by world-renowned architects, Foster + Partners.

Working in partnership with The Christie, the new Maggie's Centre will provide free practical, emotional and social support for anyone living with cancer as well as their family and friends. The Centre is due to open in 2016 and will enhance the cancer support already offered at The Christie.

Duerrs raise £30,000 for More Tomorrows

Duerr's, the family run jam makers, recently held a Russian themed Jamski' ball to raise funds for the More Tomorrows campaign.

Juliet, a member of the Duerr family who received treatment at The Christie, visited the MCRC to present Professor Richard Marais with a cheque for £30,000.

Visitor Centre opening times

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: 16 April, 30 April, 14 May and 28 May 2014.

Construction update



M+W GROUP

Over the last few months there has been a continued focus on a number of key activities - this includes the installation of specialist pipework, mechanical ventilation and extract systems as well as the commencement of electrical works in the plantrooms.

Over the next couple of months, the following activities will progress at a pace:

- Completion of the building facade
- Glass balustrades and handrails fitted to the feature staircase



- Ceilings installed in the reception area
- Construction of the external gas compound and goods-in area
- Work on the landscaping will continue

The labs will also begin to take shape with the installation of furniture and specialist equipment.

The Christie Strategic Planning Framework update

The Christie Strategic Planning Framework, compiled in consultation with Manchester City Council, outlines the Trust's plans for the hospital site over the next 15 years and identifies potential areas that could be considered for future development, allowing it to continue its life-changing and potentially life-saving research and treatment.

A public consultation relating to the Framework closed at the end of February 2014, with Manchester City Council reporting very useful and detailed feedback from the local community. This feedback will now inform revisions and amendments to parts of the document, which will be presented to the City Council's executive committee for reconsideration. This is currently scheduled for the June executive meeting. If the document is accepted and endorsed by the Council, it will be used as reference for any future planning applications for The Christie site.

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. Work during weekends may be needed during the next few months but this is currently under review and consultation will take place with Manchester City Council as required prior to any works commencing outside of the hours stated above.

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
- ▶ **January 2013**
Access road from Cotton Lane completed, site hoardings reconfigured and work on the new building begins
- ▶ **November 2013**
Topping Out ceremony marks completion of the highest point of the building
- ▶ **January 2014**
Building weather-tight enabling internal works to progress
- ▶ **June 2014**
Completion of the building façade
- ▶ **Autumn 2014**
Building completed and ready for use

Building facts

- The high-tech aluminium cladding has a special self-cleaning EcoClean™ coating that uses UV radiation from the sun to help attract rainwater and breakdown pollutants.
- The building has been designed to facilitate collaboration between researchers and 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@mcr.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**.