FROM NANO TO MEGA

In Manchester, we're leading the way in many fields, including the fight against drug resistance in melanoma, the development of liquid biopsies to track and tailor treatment for lung cancer, and the application of exciting imaging and radiotherapy technology. Researchers are using expertise in graphene and nano-materials to approach cancer medicine from a different angle and harnessing the power of particle physics to improve proton therapy.

TEN YEARS OF WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH

At the heart of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre is collaboration – between doctors, scientists and a host of others working in the clinic and the lab – and a unified strategy aimed at improving outcomes for cancer patients. By linking one of the UK's biggest and most successful research-focused universities with Europe's largest single-site cancer centre and the world's leading cancer charity, we have a unique set-up and some fantastic infrastructure and facilities.

CONTACT

Manchester Cancer Research Centre
The University of Manchester
Wilmslow Road
Manchester
M20 4QL

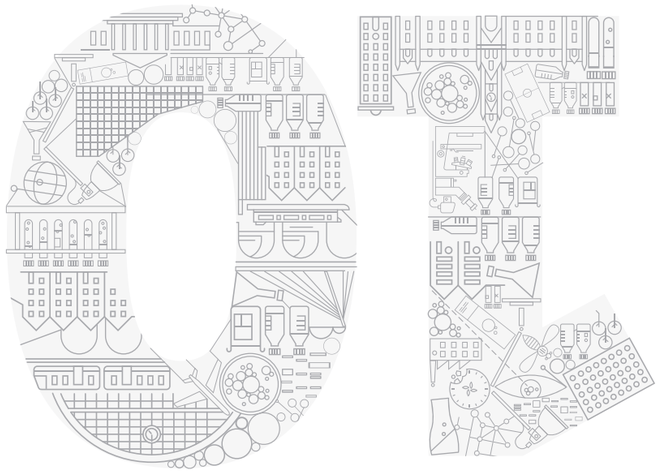
mcrc@mcrc.man.ac.uk
www.mcrc.manchester.ac.uk

@MCRCnews

The University of Manchester

CANCER RESEARCH UK

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust



MANCHESTER CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE

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2006

The University unites with The Christie and Cancer Research UK to form the Manchester Cancer Research Centre partnership. At the same time the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute, known at the time as the Paterson Institute, becomes part of The University of Manchester.

2007

The Breakthrough Breast Cancer (now Breast Cancer Now) Research Unit is established and the University creates the Muriel Rickman Trust funded Chair in Breast Oncology. Since then, the Manchester Breast Centre has grown to encompass 21 principal investigators looking at all aspects of breast cancer, including cancer stem cell-mediated resistance and recurrence, the potential of screening to reduce mortality in at-risk groups and the biological basis of early breast cancer.

2008

The MCRC Biobank is set up to centralise and standardise the collection and storage of biological samples from cancer patients in the Greater Manchester area. It ensures both high quality and easy access of samples for research. For solid tumours the Biobank collects a sample 'six-pack' from each consenting patient undergoing surgery and, in addition, samples can now routinely include ascites and plucked hair as well as the standard tissue, blood and urine.

2009

The Drug Discovery Unit is formed within the Paterson Institute. Bringing together biologists, chemists and computational experts, the Unit identifies and develops novel agents for key molecular targets – often working in cancers of unmet need.

2010

The Oak Road Treatment Centre opens at The Christie, providing space for the expansion of early phase clinical trials and offering more patients the opportunity to take part in research and to receive potentially life-changing therapies.

2012

Construction work starts on our new research building. We received a multi-million pound funding boost from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), following a bid to the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF).

2013

The Department of Health confirms investment of £250m for two Proton Beam Therapy Centres, one of which will be located at The Christie. In January 2015, Professor Karen Kirkby arrived as Chair in Proton Therapy Physics. Combined with the appointment of Professor Marcel van Herk and Manchester's involvement in the international MR Linac consortium, we have built a world-leading Radiotherapy-Related Research group, which has additional established strengths in radiobiology and radio-immunotherapy.

A key theme within the MCRC is research into Imaging. We joined forces with Cambridge to create a Cancer Imaging Centre, allowing us to drive forward the development of non-invasive imaging techniques that will improve the diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of cancer.

2014

Within our Biomarkers theme, we have led the way in developing those based on circulating tumour cells (CTCs) and circulating tumour DNA. Our pioneering CTC derived explant models of lung cancer enable patient-specific tumour characteristics to be recreated in the laboratory without the need for invasive biopsy.

MCRC groups study a diverse range of tumour types, however, there is a particular focus on lung cancer, melanoma, prostate cancer, haematological malignancies and women's cancers (including gynaecological oncology and breast cancer). In recognition of our strengths, we are home to a Cancer Research UK Lung Cancer Centre of Excellence (in conjunction with UCL) and a Prostate Cancer UK Movember Centre of Excellence (in partnership with Queen's University Belfast).

2015

The Christie and The University of Manchester jointly appoints Professor Andrew Hughes as Strategic Director in experimental cancer medicine. Later that year, the team begin recruiting for the TARGET project, which aims to use circulating tumour DNA to identify pertinent genetic mutations and select appropriate targeted drug trials.

We celebrate the opening of the new building for MCRC scientists. Home to 250 researchers and support staff, it is designed to encourage collaboration and drive progress in the implementation of personalised medicine.

The MCRC is named as a Cancer Research UK Major Centre. Making us one of only three such centres in the UK, the award recognises our achievements to date and our ambition for the future.