

The Genesis Oncology Trust 2007 Professional Development Award April Grant Round

In 2007, we introduced an additional grant round in early April for PDA applicants only. This allows them more flexibility to attend conferences and training courses. The successful applicants are:

Alexis Bilyard	Auckland Regional Cancer and Blood Services
Dr Kanueng Chitcholtan	Christchurch School of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of Otago
Alexandra de Vries	Radiation Oncology, Otago DHB
Gay Dungey	Wellington School of Medicine, University of Otago
Dr Bright Starling Emerald	The Liggins Institute, University of Auckland
Dianne Harker	Christchurch School of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of Otago
Andrea Herbert	Te Ranimarie Hospice, New Plymouth
Dr David Innes	Taranaki Medlab, New Plymouth
Dr Anna Janssen	University of Auckland Medical School
Dr Mona Jeffreys	Centre for Public Health Research, Massey University
Janet Johnson	Waikato Regional Cancer Centre
Elizabeth Kent	Psyco-Oncology Service, Massey University
Dr Andrea 't Mannetje	Centre for Public Health Research, Massey University
Rachel Purcell	Christchurch School of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of Otago
Penny Salmon	The Quit Group, Wellington
Logan Seddon	Radiation Oncology, Otago District Health Board
Bronwyn Ward	Waikato Regional Cancer Centre

Supporting the Genesis Oncology Trust

If you'd like to donate to the Genesis Oncology Trust or you wish to change your monthly donation amount from \$1 to \$2, fill in the form on genesisenergy.co.nz or call us on 0800 300 400. Remember to have your consumer number handy (you'll find this at the top right hand corner of your Genesis Energy bill).

If you want to make a one-off donation, you can do so through our secure 'Make a Donation' page on our website www.genesisoncology.org.nz



new hope

October 2007



Murray Jackson, Chairman, Genesis Oncology Trust

From modest beginnings in 2000 the Genesis Oncology Trust has grown to become New Zealand's second largest charity dedicated to funding cancer control research and education. This achievement is the result of a unique partnership between Genesis Energy and its customers who support the Trust by donating each month via their Genesis Energy bill. Thanks to all our donors for their generosity.

Although we're now making a significant contribution to cancer control research and education, we always have more requests for funds than we can support and our aim is to grow the Trust so we can meet the ever increasing demand. If you're not already

a supporter and would like to donate \$1 or \$2 each month with your energy bill, it would be very welcome. Every cent will be applied to worthwhile cancer projects. To become a Genesis Oncology Trust sponsor, please refer to the information on the back page.

In this issue of New Hope we continue to share with you some of the research that the Trust is supporting as well as providing details on how the grant recipients are selected. The Trust plays an important part in helping to make a difference to tomorrow and Genesis Energy is proud, along with its customers, to be actively involved.

How Grant Recipients Are Selected

Giving away money may look like the easiest job in the world, but in reality making sure the Genesis Oncology Trust funds are applied to the best projects and educational initiatives is very hard work. We're fortunate to have some of New Zealand's foremost cancer control professionals helping us make sure the money donated by Genesis Energy customers is well spent. These busy doctors, scientists, nurses and administrators donate their time to the Trust, and the non-medical members of the board are grateful for their expert opinion and guidance.

Central to the grant allocation process is the peer review which is applied to all applications. This involves detailed evaluation by members of the seven-person Genesis Oncology Trust Assessment Committee and, where appropriate, additional reviews provided by local and overseas experts. The Assessment Committee debates and scores applications according to merit and relevance to cancer control. The Genesis Oncology Trust Board then meets to consider the recommendations for funding and sets a budget cut-off according to the funds available.

Unfortunately it is a fact of life that some worthy projects do not get funded, but as more and more Genesis Energy customers donate, this budget will be increased.

As you read this edition of New Hope, the Assessment Committee and a raft of external reviewers are working their way through the applications submitted to our sixth annual grant round. A record number of applications have been received and, with your help, we'll fund as many worthy projects as possible in the fight against cancer.



0800 300 400 www.genesisoncology.org.nz

HELLO TOMORROW



Dr Andrew Wood, Clinical and Research Fellowship at 'CHOP' USA

Hardly a month goes by without a media headline lamenting the "loss" of New Zealand trained doctors overseas. However, for 100 or more years, New Zealand's top health professionals have spent time in overseas medical centres expanding their clinical knowledge and learning how to carry out research. For sure, there are imbalances from time to time and a few won't return to New Zealand, but the reality is that there is an international brain circulation rather than a brain drain in the medical profession.

One way of encouraging New Zealand trained doctors to return home once they've completed their advanced training, is to fund them from New Zealand. Of course they're under no obligation to return, but it's natural to feel loyalty to those who support your career. The Genesis Oncology Trust has funded several New Zealand doctors and surgeons to work in overseas centres of excellence and the latest is child cancer specialist, Dr Andrew Wood. Having undergone the first part of his specialist training at the Starship Children's Hospital in Auckland, Dr Wood is now working at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia - known throughout the medical world as 'CHOP'.

Says Dr Wood, "CHOP is consistently ranked as the top children's hospital in the USA, so having the opportunity to spend two years here is really fantastic. Currently I'm doing laboratory research into neuroblastoma, the most common solid tumour in children outside the brain. Later on I'll work in the paediatric oncology clinic. To be good at my job it's important that I know how to do research and analyse research results. This experience means that I'll be able



Dr Andrew Wood

to interpret the latest publications and implement new therapies when appropriate. Based on my work here, I also hope to establish new lines of research when I return to New Zealand. On the clinical side the most important benefit is exposure to large numbers of patients with different types of cancer. For instance, one of my interests is neuroblastoma which can be notoriously difficult to treat. In New Zealand we might see eight new cases a year, but CHOP sees around 100. There is nothing like hands-on experience surrounded by world experts to hone laboratory and clinical skills. I'm very grateful for the generous support of Genesis Energy customers who donate money to the Genesis Oncology Trust to help make this time possible."

Dr Wood is also the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship, and a grant from the Child Cancer Foundation.

Update on Dr Jill Bennett's Life After Cancer Study Are You a Cancer Survivor?



Tanja Ottaway Parkes

In the last issue of New Hope we featured a study of cancer survivors in New Zealand being carried out by Dr Jill Bennett and a team of investigators at the Auckland University School of Nursing. The Life After Cancer Study, funded by the Genesis Oncology Trust, will provide an understanding of the issues faced by cancer survivors from the viewpoints of the survivors themselves. Cancer survivors participating in the study answer a written questionnaire developed by an interdisciplinary research team at the University of Auckland and the University of Otago, in conjunction with cancer specialists from Auckland Hospital. The questionnaire asks about many issues, including long-term symptoms, the financial impact of cancer, important supports after treatment, feelings about cancer and others, with space for participants to add more about their personal experiences. It takes one to two hours to complete. The Life After Cancer questionnaire is posted to each person's home along with a freepost envelope to send the completed questionnaire back.

We called for volunteers to participate in the Life After Cancer study in the last New Hope. The response was incredible and more than 200 Genesis Energy customers

signed up in the first few weeks of the study. Since then, interest has grown even more, with stories in newspapers and on television and radio. New Zealand cancer survivors have been keen to share their experiences by joining the study and the number of cancer survivors enrolled in the first three months now stands at 500 and growing. Participants include men and women who have survived a variety of cancers, including breast, prostate, colorectal, lung, melanoma, ovarian and lymphoma. They live throughout New Zealand, from Kaitia to Gore. The data from questionnaires is currently being recorded and analysed, with results available in early 2008. No individuals will be identified in the results, but the overall experiences of the cancer survivors in the study should provide a comprehensive picture of the important issues faced by people after the completion of cancer treatment.

Project Manager, Tanja Ottaway Parkes, encourages cancer survivors to consider participating in the study. "Our findings will be more representative of New Zealand cancer survivors if we have a large number of participants from different backgrounds or with different experiences. As such, we would especially like to hear from more Maori and Pasifika cancer survivors". If you're a cancer survivor who was diagnosed with cancer when you were aged 18 or older, and you completed primary cancer treatment more than six months ago, you're eligible to participate and we'd love to have you involved in the study. To find out more or to enrol online, please visit www.lifeaftercancer.auckland.ac.nz Alternatively you can call Tanja on 0800 333 227 (or from within Auckland: 373 7599, ext 89752).

University of Auckland Ethics #2007/002 (approved 11/04/07 for 3 years)

The Genesis Oncology Trust Officers Receive Awards

To ensure your donations are spent wisely, the Genesis Oncology Trust has been fortunate to secure the voluntary services of some of New Zealand's top cancer control specialists. Two of these people, Bruce Baguley and Helen Glasgow, have recently been awarded high honours in their field and the Trust Board would like to extend their congratulations to both.



Left: Helen Glasgow and Dr Rima Staugas

Ms Helen Glasgow

Quit Group Executive Director, Helen Glasgow, has been awarded the prestigious 2007 President's Award of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand.

The award is given to people who have demonstrated a strong track record in promoting respiratory health through tobacco control. The Prime Minister Helen Clark is the only other New Zealander who has received the President's Award.



Left: Professor Bruce Baguley and the Governor General Anand Satyanand

Professor Bruce Baguley

The 2006 Sir Charles Hercus Medal in molecular and cellular sciences and technologies has been awarded to Professor Bruce Baguley, for his contribution to the development of new cancer therapeutics. The Sir Charles Hercus Medal was established by the Academy of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1996 in memory of former Otago Medical School Dean Sir Charles Hercus to recognise excellence in biomedical and health sciences. The Medal is awarded biennially to the investigator who, working in New Zealand, has undertaken scientific or technological work of great merit and has made an outstanding contribution towards the advancement of science.