

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 6 | AUGUST 2010

Welcome to the August edition of the ANZMTG Newsletter. The first half of 2010 has proved a successful year for the group and we continue to promote important investigator-driven trials throughout Australia and New Zealand. ANZMTG is always keen to receive any new suggestions for research so please log on to the website to download the Research Proposal / Protocol Synopsis Application or contact the ANZMTG office. ANZMTG continues to update the website, so please keep an eye out for any upcoming events and news items.

ANZMTG 01/07 – WBRT Trial Study Update

WBRT UK Investigator Meeting Leeds University, 23 June 2010

The WBRT trial continues to go from strength to strength, including 12 sites who have randomised 21 patients to the protocol.

To the existing 12 sites in Australia and Norway, the WBRT investigators and site staff, well done and thank you for your efforts supporting this important clinical trial.



University of Leeds Business School

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SMR 2010

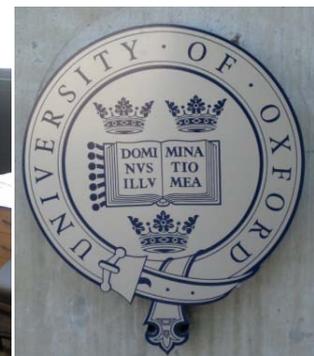
COSA ASM 2010

2010 Calendar of Oncological Meetings

Dr. Fogarty and ANZMTG are very pleased to be working together with Professor Mark Middleton at Oxford University, in welcoming new UK clinics on to the study. This is an important development in the trial operations which will improve access to more trial participants and interested researchers.

An Investigator Meeting was held with great success at Leeds University on 24 June in preparation for the activation of sites throughout the UK. The meeting was attended by representatives from all clinics, Dr Gerald Fogarty, WBRT Chief Investigator and provided an opportunity for the UK investigators to meet the ANZMTG Trial team, discuss the trial and review the protocol. The UK arm of the trial will be coordinated by Linda Collins, at the University of Oxford Oncology Clinical Trials Office (OCTO). ANZMTG extends a very warm welcome to all of the new investigators, their site staff and OCTO staff. We look forward to opening the trial at these clinics soon.

An Investigator Meeting for all Australian and International sites will be held on the evening of 3 November in Sydney, to coincide with the 7th International Melanoma Congress and 4th Meeting of the Interdisciplinary Melanoma/Skin Cancer Centres, 4-7 November 2010.



Attendees at the WBRT UK Investigators Meeting, Leeds University; Linda Collins & Libby Paton, OCTO

The Melbourne Melanoma Project

The Melbourne Melanoma Project commenced in 2008 and is a collaborative project between Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Alfred Health and Austin Health. The MMP's vision is to integrate care of patients in Victoria's hospitals with clinical data collection, molecular analyses of melanoma tissue, and clinical trials of melanoma therapies, to improve outcomes for patients with melanoma in Victoria. This will be achieved by linking leading programs in melanoma research across Victoria to improve diagnosis and early detection, gain more accurate tools to predict outcome and target new melanoma therapies for the patients at most risk. A Consumer Reference Group will provide direct input into the MMP research directions and priorities from a consumer perspective.





MMP is working to accelerate the translation of new molecular diagnostics and matched therapeutics. Recent findings of molecular targets leading to the development of novel therapeutic approaches are offering significant promise to reduce the impact of melanoma. To maximise the potential of these findings requires a collaborative approach using integrated Clinical and Laboratory Research.

Whereas data collection and storage capacity that links to tissue banking and molecular characterisation of individual patients melanomas has to date been a limiting factor for data provision and analysis, an interactive database will have benefits of enhanced efficiency and the capacity to maximise information exchange between sites. MMP plans to conduct a pilot on a state level in Victoria, but with the capacity for further collaboration in the future. For further information please contact Anne Woollett, MMP Project Manager on 0438 561 020.

Society of Melanoma Research Congress 2010



The 7th International Melanoma Research Congress will be held from 4-7 November 2010 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre in Sydney, Australia. The congress will be held in conjunction with the 4th Meeting of Interdisciplinary Melanoma/Skin Cancer Centres.

Early bird registration will close on 01 September 2010

For further information, visit conference website www.melanoma2010.com

Melanoma Communication Workshops – April 2010

The final two workshops in the current series of seminars were held on Thursday 22 April at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, with great success. Facilitated by Professors Stewart Dunn and Fran Boyle of the University of Sydney Northern Clinical School, the workshops were open to both administrative and clinical staff who come into contact with melanoma patients. Both the administrative and clinical staff sessions were well-attended by individuals from a range of backgrounds including dermatology, surgery, physiotherapy, nursing, research, public affairs and office support. These workshops presented the opportunity for ANZMTG to offer the training to those in the southern states with participants travelling from centres in South Australia, Tasmania and also Western Australia to attend.

Current Clinical Trials Update

ANZMTG 02.09 Vitamin D following primary treatment of melanoma at high risk of recurrence - a pilot placebo controlled randomised trial (*Acronym: Mel-D*)

Chief Investigator: Dr Robyn Saw; Trial Co-ordinator: Valerie Jakrot

The purpose of this trial is to assess the feasibility, safety and toxicity of a high loading dose of Vitamin D followed by monthly oral dosing of Vitamin D tablets for 2 years. Ethics approval has been obtained for this protocol with approval currently pending for a protocol amendment. This will be a single centre clinical trial with an accrual target of 75 patients over 2 years. ANZMTG is the co-ordinating Centre with statistical support provided by the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, University of Sydney.

For further information on the trial, contact Valerie Jakrot on +61 2 9911 7306 or email valerie.jakrot@melanoma.org.au.

ANZMTG RP1.09 Improving Quality of Life (QoL) measurement for melanoma patients: Validity and reliability study of QoL instruments in a NSW population (*Acronym: MEL-QOL Research Study*)

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor Julie Winstanley; Trial Co-ordinator: Bridget Myles

Analysis of data from 32 semi-structured interviews with melanoma patients and relatives most closely involved in their care has been completed. A wide range of issues emerged, in varying degrees of importance; principal amongst them were 'information seeking and provision', 'support' and the occurrence of 'dark thoughts'. The Chief Investigator, Julie Winstanley, has attended two successive EORTC Quality of Life Group (QLG) meetings (Autumn 2009 and Spring 2010) to present preliminary results to a core group of interested QLG members. Between June and November 2010, patients and family members are being approached to participate in the second phase of the MEL-QOL validity and reliability study, establishing a normative dataset on a large Australian sample.

A proposal to expand the study to include 7 countries in total (3 English speaking and 4 non English speaking) has been developed, together with applications for funding the EORTC QLQ-MEL (acronym for the new international development project) project. In July 2010, the ANZMTG Executive Committee approved a funding contribution to the international project to support the module development activities in Australia and New Zealand. The proposal was also submitted to the EORTC Quality of Life Module Development Committee in June 2010 for a 'matching' funding contribution for module development activities in Europe (Germany, Sweden, The Netherlands, Italy and UK). The outcome will be known in September, 2010.

For further information on the research project, contact Bridget Myles on +61 2 9911 7371 or email bridget.myles@melanoma.org.au.

ANZMTG 01.09 A randomised trial of post-operative radiation therapy following wide excision of neurotropic melanoma of the head and neck (*Acronym: RTN2*)

Chief Investigator: Dr. Matthew Foote; Trial Co-ordinator: Janelle Meakin

This trial is open and recruiting at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, QLD. Other Australian sites will follow once amendment to the current protocol has been approved by ethics. International interest has been expressed for this study. The Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group is the lead group co-ordinating the trial in collaboration with ANZMTG.

For further information on the trial, contact Janelle Meakin by phone +61 7 3240 2498 or email janelle.meakin@health.qld.gov.au.

Current Clinical Trials Update Continued

ANZMTG 01.07 Whole Brain Radiotherapy (WBRT) following local treatment of intracranial metastases of melanoma - A randomised phase III trial (*Acronym: WBRT in melanoma*)

Chief Investigator: Dr Gerald Fogarty; Trial Co-ordinator: Marianne Byrne

Currently, 11 Australian and 1 international site are open to recruitment. The most recent site to open is the Radiation Oncology Services – Mater Centre in Brisbane, and ethical approval is currently pending at the Townsville Cancer Centre. To date 21 patients have been randomised on this protocol. ANZMTG is working closely with OCTO to open 10 new clinics in England soon.

For further information on the trial, contact Marianne Byrne on +61 2 9911 7351 or email marianne.byrne@melanoma.org.au.

A phase III multicenter randomized trial of sentinel lymphadenectomy and complete lymph node dissection versus sentinel lymphadenectomy alone, in cutaneous melanoma patients with molecular or histopathological evidence of metastases in the sentinel node (*Acronym: MSLT II*)

Chief Investigator: Dr Don Morton; Trial Co-ordinator: Lisa van Kreuningen

MSLT II continues to actively recruit patients both nationally and internationally. The accrual target for this study is 1925 patients (worldwide) to be randomised over 7 years following 3 year follow-up. To date, 1023 patients have been randomised worldwide with 212 patients recruited from Melanoma Institute Australia.

Multicenter Selective Lymphadenectomy Trial I (MSLT I) follow-up data collection continues, pending final analysis.

For further information on both trials, contact Lisa van Kreuningen on +1 310 5827053 or email lvk@jwci.org. For Melanoma Institute Australia co-ordinators, email Jo Dalton and Valerie Jakrot on jo.dalton@melanoma.org.au and valerie.jakrot@melanoma.org.au respectively.

ANZMTG 01.02 A randomised clinical trial of surgery versus surgery plus adjuvant radiotherapy for regional control in patients with completely resected macroscopic nodal metastatic melanoma

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor Bryan Burmeister; Trial Co-ordinator: Juliana Di Iulio

The trial continues to follow-up on patients. Survival analysis is planned at approximately 3 years following end of accrual (last patient accrued in September 2007). This was an independent investigator initiated cooperative group trial, sponsored by the ANZMTG, University of Sydney in collaboration with Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group. The trial is co-ordinated by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

For further information on the trial, contact Juliana Di Iulio on +61 3 9656 3786 or email juliana.diiulio@petermac.org.

Clinical Oncological Society of Australia's Annual Scientific Meeting 2010



COSA's 37th Annual Scientific Meeting

9–11 November 2010
Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Clinical Oncological Society of Australia

Australian New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group

The 37th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) will be held from 9-11 November 2010 at the Melbourne Convention Centre in Melbourne, Australia. For further information including registration and abstract submissions, visit conference website www.asnevents.com.au/cosa.

Melanoma Risk Calculator Launched in Australia

A web-based melanoma risk assessment calculator has been launched by the Victorian Melanoma Service in March 2010. The calculator calculates the risk of developing melanoma within the next 5 years and versions are available for use by both health professionals and the general public. The risk prediction tool has been developed for the Australian context and is based on common risk factors including: number of naevi, number of atypical naevi, complexion, hair colour, gender, family melanoma history, personal melanoma history and non-melanoma skin cancer history. Not all risk factors are incorporated however, such as ethnicity, phototype, sun exposure history, immunosuppression, sunbed use and phototherapy. The calculator is not intended as a substitute for independent medical advice.



For further information or to access the melanoma risk assessment calculator, please visit: <http://www.victorianmelanomaservice.org/>

The Melanoma Network of New Zealand (MelNet)

MelNet Melanoma Summit 2011

As a network of professionals working together to reduce the incidence and impact of melanoma in New Zealand, MelNet has been continuing to consolidate its role in coordinating melanoma activities in New Zealand since it was established in 2008.

The MelNet Committee is actively planning a second national Melanoma Summit to be held at Te Papa in Wellington on 11 March 2011. The Summit's aim is to bring together stakeholders representing the continuum of melanoma control to:

- share and disseminate knowledge
- develop and strengthen relationships across the continuum
- promote best practice across the continuum
- raise the profile of melanoma control in New Zealand.



Confirmed speakers thus far are Bruce Armstrong (Professor of Public Health, University of Sydney), Rick Kefford (Professor of Medicine, University of Sydney) and Lisa McFadyen (CEO, Melanoma Patients Australia). Regular Summit updates will soon to be posted on the MelNet website: www.melanoma.org.nz/melnet.

MelNet Launches Online Clinician's Forum

In June MelNet launched a Clinician's Forum within the Health Professional area of its website. Thus far the postings of 3 clinical cases and 2 topics of general clinical discussion have attracted nearly 300 views. Only clinicians registered with MelNet can access the Forum at: www.melanoma.org.nz/melnet

Skin Cancer Control Framework 2010 - 2013

Among the committees for which MelNet provides a home is the Skin Cancer Steering Committee. Its role is to facilitate improved coordination and collaboration between agencies involved in skin cancer control, particularly melanoma, with a focus on prevention and to a lesser extent early detection. MelNet will be hosting a meeting of the committee in August to formulate a skin cancer control framework for New Zealand for 2010-2013.

2010 Calendar

Date	Name of meeting	Place	Secretariat contact details
<i>August</i>			
11-14	Medical Oncology Group of Australia - Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 2010	Sydney Australia	The Medical Oncology Group of Australia E: moga@moga.org.au W: www.moga.org.au
18-21	2010 World Cancer Congress	Shenzhen China	2010 World Cancer Congress E: secretariat10@uicc.org W: www.worldcancercongress.org
<i>September</i>			
15 – 17	15th Congress of the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO)	Bordeaux France	European CanCer Organisation (ECCO) E: ESSO2010@ecco-org.eu W: www.ecco-org.eu
<i>October</i>			
8-12	35th European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress	Milan Italy	European Society for Medical Oncology E: congress@esmo.org W: www.esmo.org
<i>November</i>			
4-7	7th International Melanoma Congress and 4th Meeting of the Interdisciplinary Melanoma/Skin Cancer Centres	Sydney Australia	Arinex Pty Ltd E: melanoma2010@arinex.com.au W: www.melanoma2010.com
18-20	7th International Sentinel Node Society Meeting (ISNS2010)	Yokohama Japan	Keio University School of Medicine E: isns2010@convention.jp W: www2.convention.co.jp/isns2010
9-11	37 th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA)	Melbourne Australia	ASN Events Pty Ltd W: www.asnevents.com.au/cosa

2011 Calendar

Date	Name of meeting	Place	Secretariat contact details
<i>March</i>			
11	2nd Annual Melanoma Summit	Wellington, New Zealand	Melnet NZ W: www.melanoma.org.nz/melnet
<i>November</i>			
9-12	Society of Melanoma Research and 5th International Melanoma Centers Meetings	Tampa Florida USA	

Please contact the ANZMTG office if you would like to list any upcoming events