Hello everyone

In this issue of our newsletter, we look back at some of the milestone achievements of 2015, share some of our vision for 2016 and introduce two of our exceptional and well-respected Oncologists, Drs Phadke and Chaudhuri.

August 2015 saw the successful joint accreditation of our three Sydney-based centres; In September 2015 we became the first Centre in the world to trial a breast cancer study vaccine; and by December 2015, we had the honour and distinction of becoming the highest recruiting Centre for clinical trials in this study.

During 2016, the Riverina Cancer Care Centre will introduce a state-of-the-art superficial orthovoltage machine to treat skin cancer; The Southside Cancer Care Centre redevelopment will be completed soon and officially opened shortly thereafter; And our new Northern Beaches comprehensive cancer care Centre will be completed soon offering radiation oncology, in addition to our existing medical oncology service, is expected to be the highest recruiting centre in Australia over the last six months. Presently there are seven patients participating in this study.

The Centre’s outstanding reputation has resulted in NCI hosting two senior global research teams in recent weeks. There are exciting studies starting up, which will enable our centres to offer new treatment options, not otherwise available to patients.

We plan to continue working with our local GPs and specialists to facilitate education, networking and information about the latest developments in cancer treatments and world-best practice protocols.

As always, thank you all for your support and continuing dedication to excellence. And a special thank you to our team of volunteers, without whom the cancer patient’s journey would be all the more challenging.

Wishing you all the very best for the year ahead; and I look forward to our time together at the staff mid-year function on 23 July 2016.

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Clinical Trials

The last few months have seen our Innovations and clinical research team at Northern Cancer Institute, extremely busy with new and exiting clinical trials and protocol development.

These innovative studies, combined with new drugs accessible through our clinical trials, have seen an increase in referrals so much so that patients from all over Australia, New Zealand and internationally are coming to our centres for treatment. Although it is very sad to see patients with cancer, especially those with advanced disease, it is rewarding for our team to be able to offer treatment, which would otherwise not have been possible for the patient.

Our research and clinical trials program is attaining great success. For example, a patient was given a vaccine made from her tumour, is only one of three patients in the world to have received such a vaccine.

For the breast study, NCI is most privileged to be the highest recruiting centre in Australia over the last six months. Presently there are seven patients participating in this study.

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GP Education

As part of our CME program, accredited by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, an Education Evening was held in late November 2015 at Frenchs Forest. Topics included, Leukaemia, Lymphoma, Diet & Exercise. Our specialist team of presenters were, Drs Naomi McKinlay, Chris Arthur and Lina Pugliano. The session was well attended with GP participants expressing high levels of satisfaction with presenters, topics and quality of information.

For details about 2016 sessions, visit our website: www.cancercare.com.au

Innovations / Dr Anupam Chaudhuri

The longstanding objective to offer patients faced with aggressive skin cancers, radiotherapy treatment using specialised radiotherapy equipment, will become a reality by early June 2016 at the Riverina Cancer Care Centre.

A first of its kind in Wagga Wagga, there is a well-established benefit in using this technology, thanks to the outstanding clinical accuracy, and provision of a non-surgical alternative for treating primary Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) and Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC) skin lesions, and for sensitive areas of the head and neck. In addition to non-melanoma skin cancers of BCCs and SCCs, the clinical benefit also extends to Keloid scars, dermatological conditions and mycosis fungicides, complementing the excellent services rendered by the local GPs and skin cancer specialists at the Centre.

A champion of this technology is Riverina radiation oncologist, Dr Anupam Chaudhuri, who joined the Centre in 2013. Having completed his Specialist Radiation Oncology training in New Zealand, he then moved to St Vincent Hospital, Sydney and Cairns Base Hospital, before relocating to Wagga Wagga. He has a unique insight and understanding of Oncology, which benefits the patients at the Centre. He provides consultation outreach to Young Oncology on a monthly basis.

Save the Date

CCA Family Mid-year Celebrations

Date: 23 July 2016

Time: 12:00pm

Place: Sydney

Note: Transport will be provided for all non-Sydney-based attendees.

Cancer Council NSW Events March – May

Sydney Morning Herald Half Marathon Training ~ Until 15 May

Pink Ribbon Yoga ~ 1 March to 31 May

Relay for Life ~ April

Southern Highlands, Orange, Shoalhaven Nowra, Penrith, Lismore, Wee Waa, & Eurobodalla
Dr Ernst was born in Winterthur, Switzerland on 14 August 1933, during the Great Depression. Winterthur was a famous musical town and young Ernst played the violoncello and tried his hand at composing whilst in high school. But it was the influence of his late uncle, who was a metallurgical engineer interested in chemistry, that eventually won the day and Ernst turned his mind full time to chemistry. To this end, he studied chemistry at the famous Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich gaining his Diploma in Chemistry in 1957 and his PhD in 1962. From 1963 to 1968 he worked in Palo Alto California as a research chemist. It was whilst working there in 1966 that he made the first of his two great discoveries namely, that the sensitivity of NMR spectroscopy could be dramatically improved by using short intense pulses instead of the usual slower radio wave frequencies. His second major contribution to the field of NMR spectroscopy was developing a technique whereby a high-resolution, “two-dimensional” study of much larger molecules was possible. The improvements in NMR spectroscopy enabled scientists and doctors to determine the three dimensional structure of organic and inorganic compounds such as seen with MRI imaging. For his work, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1991 and also the Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize. The Bel Air Film Festival in 2009 featured the world premiere of a documentary on Dr Ernst entitled “Science Plus Dharma Equals Social Cure.”

Oncology would be working “blind” if it were not for diagnostic tools such as MRI scans, PET scans and CAT scans which locate and monitor tumors during the various therapies used to fight cancer. The next three Newsletter sections of ‘Cancer Doctor from History’ stories will be devoted to the men who have discovered and developed these remarkable adjuncts to cancer treatment. Firstly, it is the story of the MRI scan and its inventor Dr. Richard Ernst.

Dr Ernst is extremely interested and knowledgeable about art and heritage, he is a member of the National Trust. For more information about Dr Phadke and his clinical achievements, please visit our website or follow the link herein http://www.southsidecancercare.com.au/index.php/doctors-2/