

In 2010, the Medical Oncology Unit contributed to clinical research projects involving Phase 1, 2 and 3 trials, with both national and international sponsors, as well as collaborative trial groups. The collaboration between the Medical Oncology Unit and Cancer Trials Australia continues, offering us the opportunity to participate in and offer more trials to our patients.

Dr Andrew Haydon is the Australian/New Zealand Study Chair of a large international trial called the SCOT Study. It is a Phase 3, randomised, multicentre study of adjuvant chemotherapy in colorectal cancer, comparing a shorter course of chemotherapy treatment against the standard duration. This study is conducted by the National Cancer Research Network in the UK, and run locally by the Australasian Gastrointestinal Trials Group (AGITG).

Dr Jeremy Shapiro is the AGITG Study Chair of an international study run by the National Cancer Institute of Canada. The study is titled: a Phase 3 randomised study of brivanib alaninate (BMS-582664) in combination with cetuximab (ERBITUX®) versus placebo in combination with cetuximab in patients with K-Ras wild type tumours previously treated with combination chemotherapy for metastatic colorectal carcinoma. Recruitment to this study is now closed and there were 16 Alfred hospital participants enrolled.

In 2010, the Medical Oncology Unit successfully completed a Phase 1 malignant melanoma study, offering a promising new treatment to Alfred patients.

The unit has collaborated with the Monash University Women's Health Program to evaluate a large contemporary cohort of Victorian women with invasive breast cancer, focusing on important psycho-social and quality of life issues which are often poorly addressed in the medical literature. The work resulted in three international publications in 2010.

The unit collaborated with the Palliative Care Units from St Vincent's Hospital and The Alfred together with The Alfred Clinical Ethics Group

Medical Oncology Research Manager Nikki Cross interviews a patient.



in exploring the dynamics and outcomes of second medical opinions in cancer care, and their impact on patients and their doctors. The results were published in an international journal in 2010, and a second paper will be published in 2011.

Current Projects

- SCOT (Short Course Oncology Therapy) Study – a study of adjuvant chemotherapy in colorectal cancer (Dr Andrew Haydon)
- QUASAR 2 – multicentre international study of capecitabine +/- bevacizumab as adjuvant treatment of colorectal cancer (Dr Andrew Haydon)
- PETACC-6 – preoperative chemoradiotherapy and postoperative chemotherapy with capecitabine and oxaliplatin versus capecitabine alone in locally advanced rectal cancer (Dr Sanjeev Gill)
- LAP07 study – a randomised multicentre Phase 3 study in patients with locally advanced adenocarcinoma of the pancreas: gemcitabine with or without chemoradiotherapy and with or without erlotinib AGITG (Dr Andrew Haydon)
- A randomised Phase 3 study of weekly abi-007 plus gemcitabine versus gemcitabine alone in patients with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas (Dr Sanjeev Gill)
- BETH – Multicentre Phase 3 randomised trial of adjuvant therapy for patients with her2-positive node-positive or high risk node-negative breast cancer comparing chemotherapy plus trastuzumab with chemotherapy plus trastuzumab plus bevacizumab (Professor Max Schwarz)
- A randomised Phase 3, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicentre study (RAD001) to evaluate the efficacy and safety of everolimus in adult patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma after failure of sorafenib treatment (Dr Andrew Haydon)
- NITRO – A Phase 3, randomised trial of adding nitroglycerin to first line chemotherapy for advanced non-small cell lung cancer (Dr Andrew Haydon)
- An open label, multicentre, Phase 3 trial of ABI-007 versus dacarbazine in previously untreated patients with metastatic malignant melanoma (Dr Andrew Haydon)
- A Phase 1, randomised, open-label, multicentre, multiple dose study to investigate the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of RO5185426 administered as 240 mg tablets to previously treated BRAF V600E positive metastatic melanoma patients (Dr Andrew Haydon)
- SORCE – a Phase 3 randomised double-blind study comparing sorafenib with placebo in patients with resected primary renal cell carcinoma at high or intermediate risk of relapse (Dr Sanjeev Gill)
- A randomised, double-blinded, multicentre Phase 3 study comparing everolimus (RAD001) plus BSC versus placebo plus BSC in patients with advanced gastric cancer after progression on prior systemic chemotherapy (Dr Prasad Cooray)

Publications
6 Journal Articles