

Following the success of our first newsletter launched in Autumn 2012, please read on for an update on the key highlights and achievements for each of the IRCI rare cancer groups over the last 6 months. A big thank you for your continued hard work and enthusiasm driving the success and progress of this initiative into 2013.

IRCI at ASCO, and two new groups! We are currently planning a busy schedule of IRCI meetings alongside this year's ASCO annual meeting. Each of the IRCI groups will be meeting, including the newly formed Rare brain cancer group and Desmoplastic small round cell tumour group.

IRCI Small bowel adenocarcinoma group



The BALLAD study: A global study to evaluate the potential benefit of adjuvant chemotherapy for small bowel adenocarcinoma (IRCI 002) (Lead: Dr Richard Wilson - Belfast, co-ordinated by Glasgow CTU). We are pleased to report that this study has been approved for funding by the UK's Clinical Trials Awards and Advisory Committee (CTAAC) and the trial is currently in set-up. We are working with Dr Rob McWilliams (Mayo Clinic) and the NCI to identifying a US co-operative group.

IRCI Relapsed/metastatic anal cancer group



InterAAct: A phase II International multicentre randomised advanced anal cancer trial comparing cisplatin plus 5FU vs. carboplatin plus weekly paclitaxel in patients with relapsed or metastatic disease (IRCI 003) (Lead: Dr Sheela Rao - Royal Marsden, co-ordinated by Royal Marsden CTU). We are pleased to report that this study has been approved for funding by CTAAC in the UK and the trial is currently in set-up. At present Dr Cathy Eng (MD Anderson) is working towards submission to the US co-operative group EGOG, and the EORTC are soon due to review the proposal.

IRCI Thymoma group



Randomised Study of Resected Stage III Invasive Thymoma or Stage II –III Thymic Carcinoma with or without Postoperative Radiation Therapy (Lead: Dr Heather Wakelee - Stanford University/Stanford Cancer Institute). Dr Wakelee has submitted an application to the US EGOG co-operative group and is currently in discussion with the group regarding their feedback. Professor Mike Lind (Hull) will be the UK lead, and Dr Sanjay Popat (Imperial) will be the European lead for this study. The study has also received international interest from China, Japan and Korea.

IRCI Gynaecological sarcoma group



HGUS: A randomised phase II study evaluating the role of maintenance therapy with Cabozantinib in High Grade Uterine Sarcoma (HGUS) after stabilisation or response to chemotherapy following surgery or in metastatic first line treatment (IRCI 006) (Lead: Dr Isabelle Ray-Coquard - Léon Bérard Cancer Center, co-ordinated by the EORTC). The study has received approval from the EORTC who are shortly due to finalise the protocol and confirm agreements with the Pharmaceutical company. The proposal has been submitted for approval by Dr Helena Earl (Cambridge, co-ordinated by Glasgow CTU) to CTAAC. Dr Martee Hensley (MSKCC) is awaiting feedback from the US co-operative group GOG who have approved the study in principle.

uLMS: A phase III randomised trial of gemcitabine plus docetaxel followed by doxorubicin versus observation for uterus-limited, high grade uterine leiomyosarcoma (IRCI 001) (Lead: Dr Martee Hensley, co-ordinated by the GOG). This study opened to recruitment at MSKCC early in September 2012. It is hoped that the first patient will be recruited to this study imminently. The study is currently being processed by the EORTC and Glasgow CTU.

ESS: Efficacy of aromatase inhibitors in stage III-IV or recurrent endometrial stromal sarcoma: a phase II trial (Lead: Dr Frederic Amant - U.Z. Leuven, coordinated by the EORTC). The study outline has been endorsed by EORTC PRC, and EORTC is currently developing the protocol and negotiating with Pharma on drug support.

IRCI Salivary cancer group



A randomised phase II study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of chemotherapy vs. androgen deprivation therapy in patients with recurrent and/or metastatic, androgen receptor expressing, salivary gland cancer (IRCI 007) (Lead: Dr Lisa Licitra - Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori Milan, co-ordinated by the EORTC). This study has received approval by the EORTC who are in the process of finalising the protocol and international drug supply. The proposal has been submitted for approval by Dr Kevin Harrington (ICR) to CTAAC in the UK. Dr Alan Ho (MSKCC) is currently drafting a submission to the US co-operative Alliance group.

IRCI Penile cancer group



InPACT – International Penile Advanced Cancer Trial (IRCI 004) (Lead: Dr Steve Nicholson - Charing Cross, co-ordinated by the ICR CTU). We are pleased to report that this study has been approved in principle for funding by CTAAC in the UK. The US co-operative group ECOG has agreed in principle to take this study forward with Dr Curtis Pettaway (MD Anderson). The EORTC are working with Christine Theodore (Hopital Foch), who will be the European lead, to submit this study for review.

IRCI Ocular melanoma group



A randomised phase two-arm phase II study of Trametinib alone and in combination with GSK214795 in patients with advanced uveal melanoma (IRCI 005) (Lead: Dr Rich Carvajal - MSKCC). This trial has been approved in the US and is due to activate in October this year. The trial will be run by MSKCC. We are happy to report that the study has been approved in principle by CTAAC in the UK, and is currently in set-up with Dr Ernie Marshall (Clatterbridge) and Liverpool CTU. The EORTC are working towards submission of the study to their research funding body with Dr Serge Leyvraz (CHUV) taking the lead. International drug supply agreements are underway with GSK.

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National Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer Tissue Bank and Database Project (NATT): A UK wide project initiated by Dr Laura Moss (Velindre) which is open to all patients with a diagnosis of anaplastic thyroid cancer (or foci of anaplastic thyroid cancer within a more differentiated thyroid tumour) and will collect tumour tissue and a serum blood sample along with clinical data. The aim is to develop a tissue bank that can then be accessed by researchers for translational research and that in the long run will help find therapeutic targets and agents for the treatment of this disease. The samples will be hosted in the Wales Cancer Bank.