

## **NCRI Skin Group**

**Annual Report 2018-19** 



Partners in cancer research



# NCRI Skin Group Annual Report 2018-19

#### 1. Top 3 achievements in the reporting year

#### **Achievement 1**

## Publication of the final results of AVAST-M study & of translation research associated with the study

The final results of the AVAST-M study were published in Annals of Oncology. This was a 1343 patient study of adjuvant bevacizumab in high risk resected melanoma with significant additional translational research. The overall findings of the clinical study showed no survival benefit of adjuvant bevacizumab. The measurement of Vit D levels and importance in predicting outcome have been analysed in a cohort of the AVAST-M trial patients.

Vitamin D did not correlate with known prognostic markers, nor predict for DFI or OS, but there was some evidence of benefit for patients with stage II disease treated with bevacizumab. (BJC). The translation research from the study demonstrated that monitoring of ctDNA may have a useful prognostic value in this setting and has led to the development of further studies using ctDNA to guide treatment choices in melanoma (Annals of Oncology).

#### **Achievement 2**

#### Developing the next 3-year strategy for the Skin CSG

A very constructive strategy meeting was held to update the Groups overall strategy for the next 3 years. Participants included the current group and subgroups, key members of the skin cancer research community and Skin Cancer Sub Specialty Leads for the NIHR CRN. The meeting also included sessions transitional research and biobanks and the NCRI work on Living with & Beyond Cancer.

The previous strategy was reviewed and areas for change and update were identified. In the main section the strategic aims remain largely similar. The key changes will be in the structure of the group with the aim of increasing the groups output. This will include having a smaller Executive Group which meets more often and the creation of more subgroups: an Early Disease / Primary Care Subgroup and a Melanoma Subgroup. New areas of activity have also

been identified including work on patient & carer information and decision making in the (new for melanoma) adjuvant space.

#### **Achievement 3**

#### **Early Diagnosis**

The current work led by Fiona Walters including the MelaTools programme (NIHR-funded), GP and patient interventions to promote the early diagnosis of melanoma, examining diagnostic approaches to skin cancer in primary care continues to be very fruitful. There are now 5 Cochrane Systematic Reviews examining different techniques to aid early diagnosis eg: Dinnes J, Deeks JJ, Chuchu N, Ferrante di Ruffano L, **Matin RN**, Thomson DR, Wong KY, Aldridge RB, Abbott R, Fawzy M, Bayliss SE, Grainge MJ, Takwoingi Y, Davenport C, Godfrey K, **Walter FM**, Williams HC, Cochrane Skin Cancer Diagnostic Test Accuracy Group. Dermoscopy, with and without visual inspection, for diagnosing melanoma in adults. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2018.

This will provide an excellent platform for future clinical studies.

#### 2. Structure of the Group

Over the last year the structure has remained largely the same with the main group and the one subgroup, non-melanoma skin cancers. Christian Ottensmeier, Mazhar Ajaz, Sarah Danson, our trainee member Suzanne Murphy and consumer representative Rosemary Cook have rotated off the Group and were thanked for their hard work as members.

We have recruited new members Kara Heelan, Consultant Dermatologist at the Royal Marsden Hospital and Ruth Board Consultant Medical Oncologist at the Royal Preston Hospital to the Group.

We have two active trainee members Mark Stares and Victoria Woodcock. Both contribute actively at the meeting and in particular contributed to the strategy day. Mark is establishing a melanoma trainees group (as seen effectively with the Breast Group) and Victoria is working on the Trial database initiative with Melanoma Focus.

#### 3. Skin Group & Subgroup strategies

#### **Skin Group Strategy**

#### Portfolio Development: Melanoma

2 new trial proposals for melanoma are under development

• GASMAN – General Anaesthesia techniqueS in MAligNancy

A Randomised Controlled Trial of Inhalational Anaesthesia versus Total Intravenous Anaesthesia (TIVA) in surgery for malignancy. The primary aim of this prospective, randomised controlled trial is to investigate whether Total Intra Venous Anaesthesia (TIVA), when compared to Inhalational Anaesthesia (INHAL), is associated with improved survival for patients undergoing planned curative surgical resection of palpable melanoma or SCC (Stage 3B or above). The study outline has been discussed at BAPRAS and feasibility is being carried out. Led by Rowan Pritchard-Jones

CHILI – Checkpoint Inhibitor mediated Liver Injury. This study aims to optimise the
management of immune related hepatitis due to checkpoint inhibitors. This is a 2-part
study – a retrospective part which will aim to detail current management in terms of
treatment and re-challenge following hepatitis. The second, prospective part is a phase II
aiming to de-escalate treatment (we currently probably overtreat) and a to define a rechallenge protocol. Led by Poulam Patel & Prof Guru Aithal (Hepatologist)

At the strategy meeting: other areas identified for development were:

- Mucosal & Uveal melanoma
- Neoadjuvant treatment
- Information & Decision making (LWBC)
- Rx after Checkpoint inhibitors

#### **Increasing international collaborations**

The feasibility part of MelMART (melanoma margins surgical study) completed – This is a study that was led by ANZAC melanoma group and through collaboration with the CSG and UK investigators, the UK made a significant contribution to demonstrating feasibility. Funding for Phase III currently being sought (initial bid to CRUK not successful)

#### **Increasing Interaction with Translational research groups**

DANTE-PET – led by Pippa Corrie- translational PET imaging to be incorporated into the DANTE trial. Full application being worked up for CRUK.

#### Strategic aim 4

Project underway with Melanoma Focus / NIHR CRN and Skin Cancer CSG to develop a HCP and patient & carer friendly search trials database.

#### Strategic aim 5

Restructuring of Group – as above in achievements

#### Strategic aim 6

Early Diagnosis – as above in achievements

#### Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Subgroup (Chair, Dr Neil Steven)

#### **Development of trials in Squamous Cell Skin Cancer**

**SCC-AFTER**: Management of high risk primary cutaneous <u>squamous cell carcinoma</u> in the head and neck region <u>after</u> surgery.

Following preliminary feasibility work funded thought a 10K grant from UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network, the NCRI Skin Cancer CSG, Birmingham CRUK CTU and Oxford University Nuffield Department of Population Health have developed SCC-AFTER, a 1000 patient prospective, multi-centre phase III RCT to evaluate the role of Adjuvant RT in completely or closely excised high-risk primary c SCC. The trial is being presented to CTRad at the 10th Anniversary Symposium and then for funding to CRUK or NIHR HTA led by Dr Agata Rembielak.

#### **Development of new trials in rarer NMSC & to increase UK wide links**

A National Meeting on MCC, SCC and other rare skin cancers was held this year. Excellent, multi-disciplinary participation with discussion of current managements, areas of unmet need and uncertainty and new initiatives for clinical studies, including trial ideas, data bases and virtual tissue banks for rare skin cancers. This was an important forum to further develop the work of the NMSC sub-group. Led by Dr Neil Steven

#### 4. Task groups/Working parties

The Skin Group had no task groups or working parties during the reporting year.

## 5. Funding applications in last year

## Table 2 Funding submissions in the reporting year

Cancer Research UK Clinical Research Committee (CRUK CRC)							
Study	Application type	CI	Outcome	Level of CSG input	Funding amount		
May 2018							
Not applicable							
November 2018							
DETECTION: Circulating tumour DNA guidEd Therapy for stage IIB/C BRAF mutant- positive mElanoma after surgiCal resecTION	Experimental Medicine Award	Dr Paul Lorigan	Preliminary				
Other committees							
Study	Committee & application type	CI	Outcome	Level of CSG input	Funding amount		

#### 6. Consumer involvement

#### **Patricia Fairbrother**

Over the past year, Patricia has been involved in supporting her regional skin cancer clinical group as a patient representative. There has been concentration in the consumer involvement area this year on constructing a non-melanoma cancer patient survey, and she has aided this project along with an abstract written by Dr Helen Cooper, GP with a special interest in dermatology, relating to the survey results are to be included at the BAD annual conference in Liverpool.

Patricia has been engaged in teleconferences and a face-to-face meeting of the NMSC Subgroup, with a particular focus on the design of a potential new study cSCC-AFTER, Keratocanthoma, rational MCC and more.

Patricia remains a member of the UKDCTN executive committee, and attended the BAD AGM last year in Edinburgh and will be attending in Liverpool this year.

#### 7. Priorities and challenges for the forthcoming year

#### **Priority 1**

#### **Establish the new CSG structure and working groups**

A key priority is to form the 2 new subgroups – a Melanoma Treatment Subgroup and a Skin Cancer Early Diagnosis/Prevention Subgroup and to establish ways of working for new smaller 'steering group'.

The Melanoma Subgroup will further refine the ideas discussed at the strategy group. We will have specific leads for uveal & mucosal melanomas. These will be important for ensuing the best use intranational initiatives such as IRCI. An early task will be to have a clear project map of trials we will aim to develop this subgroup will also take the lead in ensuring the agenda for looking and monitoring long term toxicities is progressed along with the supportive care CSG and other initiatives such as TIC-TOC.

The Skin Cancer Early Diagnose & Prevention (SPED) Group will aim to bring together several strands of work from different for including the Primary Care CSG (Fiona Waters) and the Skin Cancer Cochrane group (who are currently reviewing the data on skin cancer diagnostic devices). An early aim will be to develop larger scale trials to test the various approaches to early diagnosis and screening.

#### **Priority 2**

#### **Develop new trials in melanoma:**

- GASMAN
- CHILI
- Decision Aid/Info study

#### • Brain metastases study

Development of the first 2 studies is already underway. Over this year we aim to have these submitted for funding.

Early discussions are underway and expertise is being brought together to (being led by Ruth Board) investigate use of decision tools and info for adjuvant therapy. This will draw on the established data in other cancers.

Following a workshop led by the Brain CSG, areas for clinic trials in this area have been identified. Over this coming year, these will be developed into clinical trials funding applications.

#### **Priority 3**

#### **Development of the New trials for NMSC**

Obtaining funding for the **SCC After** trial is a priority for the Group.

The SPOT trial examined secondary prevention of SCC has been completed and based on the lessons from this a new study is be developed: SPRIIINT-a- randomised phase III topical 5fU versus nicotinamide versus sunscreen as secondary prevention in immune competent and non-transplant immune suppressed.

#### Challenge 1

#### **Ensuring that new structure allows good cross fertilisation among the subgroup members**

With less members on the main group, we will lose some input and so will need ways of working that ensure the impact of this is minimal. We will aim to mitigate this through the Subgroup Chairs and inviting individual subgroup members to join meetings (via teleconference) on a needs basis. As part of the reorganisation we will also try to include more project management and further information on IT solutions- shared documents etc (e.g. Outlook360 tools)

#### Challenge 2

#### **Time pressures**

This is not peculiar to skin cancer research- increasingly NHS active researchers are finding the increased pressures of clinical service commitments are impacting on research. Unfortunately, there are no easy solutions to this. The project management tools discussed along with more regular meetings (again, virtual) may help us to deliver and keeps projects on track.

#### **Challenge 3**

#### **Funding of research**

Again, not peculiar to skin cancer research. It seems to be increasingly difficult to obtain funding for certain types of trials, perhaps the more pragmatic ones with less TR. Extending the

reach to other funding bodies such as NIHR is helping and the group will continue to optimise grant applications and look at a range of funding bodies.

#### 8. Collaborative partnership studies with industry

Collaborations with industry continue on an adhoc basis.

As a Group we continue to maintain a dialogue regarding placement of industry studies in the UK and advise on centres to ensure best access for patient to new treatments.

Dr Corrie is currently developing a protocol for RAF Inhibitors with Pierre Fabre which will be worked up with the CSG. The creation of a Melanoma Subgroup will increase our partnership with industry. Similarly, the studies in the early diagnosis arena will increase collaborations with the devices industry.

#### 9. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Membership of Skin Group and Subgroups

Appendix 2 – Skin Group and Subgroup strategies

A - Skin Group Strategy

B - Non-Melanoma Skin Subgroup Strategy

Appendix 3 - Portfolio Maps

Appendix 4 – Top 5 publications in reporting year

Appendix 5 - Recruitment to the NIHR portfolio in the reporting year

**Professor Poulam Patel (Skin Group Chair)** 

## Membership of the Skin Group

Name	Specialism	Location	
Dr Agata Rembielak	Clinical Oncologist	Manchester	
Dr Mark Stares*	Clinical Research Fellow	Glasgow	
Dr Victoria Woodcock*	Clinical Research Fellow	Oxford	
Dr Ros Cook	Consumer	Hertfordshire	
Ms Patricia Fairbrother	Consumer	Derby	
Dr Rubeta Matin	Dermatologist	Oxford	
Professor Charlotte Proby	Dermatologist	Dundee	
Dr Fiona Walter	General Practitioner	Cambridge	
Professor Sarah Danson	Medical Oncologist	Sheffield	
Dr Avinash Gupta	Medical Oncologist	Manchester	
Professor Poulam Patel (Chair)	Medical Oncologist	Nottingham	
Dr Miranda Payne	Medical Oncologist	Oxford	
Professor Christian	Medical Oncologist		
Ottensmeier		Southampton	
Dr Neil Steven	Medical Oncologist	Birmingham	
Dr Paul Craig	Pathologist	Cheltenham	
Dr Christina Yap	Statistician	Birmingham	
Mr Jong Kim	Surgeon	Manchester	
Mr Marc Moncrieff	Surgeon	Norwich	
Mr Rowan Pritchard Jones	Surgeon	Merseyside	
Dr Suzanne Murphy*	Surgeon	Cambridge	

<sup>\*</sup> denotes trainee member

## Membership of the Subgroup

Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Subgroup						
Name	Specialism	Location				
Dr Pat Lawton**	Clinical Oncologist	Nottingham				
Dr Jenny Nobes	Clinical Oncologist	Norwich				
Dr Agata Rembielak	Clinical Oncologist	Manchester				
Dr Victoria Woodcock*	Clinical Research Fellow	Oxford				
Ms Patricia Fairbrother	Consumer	Derby				
Dr David Slater**	Dermapathologist	Sheffield				
Dr Catherine Harwood	Dermatologist	Birmingham				
Dr John Lear**	Dermatologist	Manchester				
Dr Jack Mann	Dermatologist	Essex				
Dr Jerry Marsden	Dermatologist	Birmingham				
Dr Rubeta Matin	Dermatologist	Oxford				
Dr Charlotte Proby	Dermatologist	Dundee				
Dr Neil Steven (Chair)	Medical Oncologist	Birmingham				
Dr Paul Craig**	Pathologist	Cheltenham				
Professor Fiona Bath-Hextall**	Professor of Evidence					
	Based Healthcare	Nottingham				
Dr Christina Yap	Statistician	Birmingham				
Mr Marc Moncrieff	Surgeon	Norwich				
Dr Carrie Newlands**	Surgeon	Surrey				

<sup>\*</sup> denotes trainee member

<sup>\*\*</sup>denotes non-core member

## **CSG & Subgroup Strategies**

## A - Skin Group Strategy

rategic objective	Action	CSG lead	Date	Outcome
La Portfolio Development MELANOMA	Ensure cohesive strategy of melanoma clinical trials taking into account: Opportunities within international agenda Need for high recruiting studies Balance between early & late phase Multicentre studies accessible to more centres All melanoma subgroups/rare forms Interaction with CRN subspecialty leads	Current studies GASMAN -RP-J CHILI-PP To develop (leads TBA) Mucosal/occular 2 <sup>nd</sup> line post CI Brain mets	Current studies April 2020 April 2020 To develop (leads TBA) Mucosal/occular 2 <sup>nd</sup> line post Cl Brain mets	Current studies GASMAN – grant applicati CHILI – grant application To develop (leads TBA)  Firm proposal Firm proposal
1b Portfolio Development NON-MELANOMA	Secure new studies for common and rare non melanoma skin cancers SCC BCC Merkel cell Rarer non- melanoma skin cancers	SCC AFTER – AG SPRIINT CP MCC- NS	April 2020 April 2020	Secured funding Grant application
1c interaction with NCRI- cross cutting gps	Develop studies with cross cutting groups  Primary care - evaluation of screening tools TYA CT RAD - RT in SCC CNS CSG- brain mets	FW/ RM MP AG AGu	April 2020 April 2020 April 2020	New group- trial proposa Secured funding Grant applications
ategic objective	Action/ Area for development	CSG lead		Outcome
ategic objective  Key Research fority Areas	Action/ Area for development  Melanoma	CSG lead		Outcome
Key Research		CSG lead  New subgroup FW/RM/CP		Outcome ew studies
Key Research	Melanoma	New subgroup	Ne	
Key Research	Melanoma  Early Diagnosis/ Screening  Adjuvant therapy- Info needs/decision aids	New subgroup FW/RM/CP	Ne Ne	ew studies
Key Research	Melanoma  Early Diagnosis/ Screening  Adjuvant therapy- Info needs/decision aids (LWBC)  Duration of Rx (DANTE)  Resistance to B-RAF (INTERIM)	New subgroup FW/RM/CP RB SD PC	No No Co	ew studies
Key Research	Melanoma Early Diagnosis/ Screening Adjuvant therapy- Info needs/decision aids (LWBC) Duration of Rx (DANTE) Resistance to B-RAF (INTERIM) Surgery (GASMAN -+ others- Neoadjuvant/IIn transit)	New subgroup FW/RM/CP RB SD	Ne Co	ew Studies ew Study ontinued recruitment
Key Research	Melanoma  Early Diagnosis/ Screening  Adjuvant therapy- Info needs/decision aids (LWBC)  Duration of Rx (DANTE)  Resistance to B-RAF (INTERIM)  Surgery ( GASMAN -+ others- Neoadjuvant/IIn	New subgroup FW/RM/CP  RB  SD  PC  RP-J  PP	Ne Co	ew studies  ew Study  ontinued recruitment  ontinued recruitment  nded Trial  nded Trial
Key Research	Melanoma  Early Diagnosis/ Screening  Adjuvant therapy- Info needs/decision aids (LWBC)  Duration of Rx (DANTE)  Resistance to B-RAF (INTERIM)  Surgery (GASMAN -+ others- Neoadjuvant/IIn transit)  Immunotherapy toxicity (CHILI+ others)  NMSC  SCC - Adjuvant Rx  Secondary prevention	New subgroup FW/RM/CP RB SD PC RP-J	Ne Co	ew studies  ew Study  ontinued recruitment  ontinued recruitment
	Melanoma  Early Diagnosis/ Screening  Adjuvant therapy- Info needs/decision aids (LWBC)  Duration of Rx (DANTE)  Resistance to B-RAF (INTERIM)  Surgery (GASMAN -+ others- Neoadjuvant/IIn transit)  Immunotherapy toxicity (CHILI+ others)  NMSC  SCC - Adjuvant Rx	New subgroup FW/RM/CP  RB  SD  PC  RP-J  PP	Ne Co	ew studies ew Study ontinued recruitment ontinued recruitment inded Trial inded Trial

rategic objective	Action	CSG lead	Date	Outcome		
a Raising wareness & rofile	though newsletters, annual stakeholders  Annual CSG/ NIHR Subspect regular interim updates of representation of clinical trial meetings  ASCO/ESMO/SMR/AARCR  Creation of a user friendly (	finding to national and Inter	s to all on/virtual with national	All	Ongoing  April2020	More recruitment & engagement   More presentaions / Profile   New database More recuitment
b Ensure uccessful elivery od tudies though ntegration with IIHR CRN	CSG members to commit to Interaction with LCRN subsp and identification of barriers Monitor recruitment and de	s to recruitment		All	Ongoing	Faster recruitment Better engagement
Effective set	Establish working group for n		funding award	сі/сти	Ongoing	Faster recruitme
of new	with representation form CI,	CTU,NIHR CRN				
o of new udies	with representation form CI,			CSG lead	Date	Outcome
o of new udies		n in melanoma cooperative gr ation groups in particular tho imal co-ordination	se collecting	CSG lead  All  PP  All  All	Date	Outcome  Better co- ordination of tria more research into rarer subtype  Improved TR  More recruitmen & awareness
trategic objective  4. Strengthen UK Wide & International	Continue current links with in EORTC ANZAC IRCI Establish new links – with ma DCOG/ECOG/SWOG  Continue to work with transl tissue and data to ensure opt	in melanoma cooperative gration groups in particular tho imal co-ordination and integraqte research & Se	se collecting	All PP All		Better co- ordination of tria more research into rarer subtype Improved TR

# Appendix 3 - Portfolio maps **NCRI Portfolio Maps Skin Cancer** Map A - Melanoma ê below to reset map d) 2nd line metastatic a) Surgery Study ANZMTG 01.09/T zolizumab open label e 44 in Metastatic Melan All cutaneous - BRAF muta. Other 002 BMS-986253 IL8 w Mucosal oth.. Other All Mucosal oth.. Other Mucosal ckit Mucosal oth.. Cutaneous - BRAF wt

Filters Used:

Active Status: All, CSG Involvement: Data collection in progress, Funding Type: All, Phase: All, LCRN: None

In Setup / single re.. Open / single rese.. Suspended / singl..
In Setup / multi res.. Open / multi resea.. Suspended / multi ..





## **NCRI Portfolio Maps**

#### Map B – Non-melanoma

## Skin Cancer

ê below to reset map

		a) Pre-diagnosis	b) Neoadjuvant	c) Surgery	d) Adjuvant	e) Metastatic	f) Non- interventional/other
							Molecular patho
							CR UK Stratifie
							SC stem cells
							Outcome Measure In Skin Cancer
All	All						immunoregulation of skin cancer and
							Utility of Digital Dermoscopy in the Skin Cancer Clinic
							PDL1 expression in cancer (PECan study)
							HPV in skin transformation into cancer
Basal cell carcinoma	All						
Market as II							
Merkel cell	All						
Other	All						Imaging leukocyte accumulation in cancers
Otner	All						ANZMTG 02.12 RADICAL
							RP2 +/- PD1 Blockade in solid
Squamous cell carcinoma	All					Pembrolizumab in Participants With	
							SMA0217

Filters Used:

Active Status: All, CSG Involvement: Data collection in progress, Funding Type: All, Phase: All, LCRN: None

In Setup / single re.. Open / single rese..

In Setup / multi res.. Open / multi resea.. Suspended / multi ..



Designed and maintained by NCRI Clinical Research Groups (CRGs) & NIHR



## Top 5 publications in the reporting year

- This section remains incomplete and will be provided as an amendment

Trial name & publication reference	Impact of the trial	CSG involvement in the trial
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

## Recruitment to the NIHR portfolio in the reporting year

In the Skin Group portfolio, 13 trials closed to recruitment and 24 opened.

## Summary of patient recruitment by Interventional/Non-interventional

Year	All participants		Cancer patients only		% of cancer patients relative to incidence	
	Non- interventional	Interventional	Non- interventional	Interventional	Non- interventional	Interventional
2014/2015	622	217	609	175	4.9	1.4
2015/2016	504	234	504	228	4.09	1.85
2016/2017	182	320	182	312	1.48	2.53
2017/2018	2117	321	2097	321	17.02	2.61
2018/2019	1915	196	1882	196	11.83	1.23