

21 February 2018

First patient enrolled on ground-breaking advanced prostate cancer trial

The first of 200 patients has been enrolled on an Australian-first nuclear medicine treatment for men with advanced prostate cancer.

The TheraP trial, which is now open at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, is a partnership between ANZUP Cancer Trials Group Limited (ANZUP) and Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA).

Prostate cancer remains the most common cancer in Australian men and the leading cause of cancer related-mortality for men in developed countries.

Many prostate cancers have a substance on their cell surface called prostate specific membrane antigen (PSMA). Lutetium-177 PSMA617 (LuPSMA) is a radioactive molecule that, after injection into a vein, specifically attaches to cells with high amounts of PSMA on the surface of the cells. This allows the radioactivity to be delivered mainly to the prostate cancer cells wherever they have spread, while sparing most normal tissues.

The study chair, Associate Professor Michael Hofman, recently presented pilot data demonstrating promising activity of LuPSMA in men who progressed after conventional therapies at the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) scientific meeting.

The new randomised phase 2 study will compare treatment with the radioactive molecule Lu-PSMA against cabazitaxel chemotherapy for men with advanced prostate cancer. Outcomes of the two treatments will be measured in terms of shrinking the cancer, improving pain, delaying the time until the cancer grows again, effects on quality of life, safety, and how long men survive after the treatment.

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) is supporting the trial through provision of Lutetium-177 (Lu-177) – a nuclear medicine produced using Australia's multipurpose reactor, OPAL. Combined with a network of hospitals with advanced nuclear medicine facilities, Australia is leading the world in clinical development of this novel treatment.

Mark Moore, General Manager at ANSTO Health, said that the trial will advance understanding of the effectiveness of Lu-177 PSMA.

“As the only manufacturer of Lutetium-177 in Australia, ANSTO is proud to be supporting this very important trial and to partner with ANZUP, PCFA and the wider clinical community to develop potential new treatment options for Australian men.”

ANZUP Chair Professor Ian Davis said the trial has only been made possible thanks to the partnership with PCFA and the support of ANSTO and Endocyte (as suppliers of one of the components of the molecule).

“We know clinical trials are the only way to find out how well new treatments work, whether they are safe, and whether they should become the new gold standard for treatment in the future,” said Prof Davis. “However they take a lot of investment to progress to activation and we are extremely grateful to our partners in enabling us to launch this study.”

PCFA COO, Malcolm Freame said the trial opening is a landmark moment.

“Getting this innovative trial off the ground has not been easy but the determination of everyone involved has paid off. We are delighted to partner with ANZUP on a study that could put Australia at the forefront of advanced prostate cancer treatment.

“I would also like to acknowledge the funding support of the Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride, Movember, It’s a Bloke Thing and CAN4CANCER in helping to make this important trial a reality.”

The first patient enrolled marks the start of the journey to recruit and follow up 200 eligible patients via 10 Australian cancer centres.

For more information about how Lu-PSMA works, see [A/Prof Michael Hofman discussing the TheraP trial with Prof Ian Davis at the 2017 ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting](#).

To make a donation to support clinical research in prostate cancer or other cancers of the urinary system, please visit www.anzup.org.au or www.pcfa.org.au.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information or to speak with an ANZUP or PCFA representative, contact:

Sukhvinder Kaur
Marketing & Communications Specialist (PCFA)
(02) 9438 7022
0413 412 395
sukhvinder.kaur@pcfa.org.au

Michelle Bowers
Internal Communications & Project Manager (ANZUP)
(02) 8036 5242
0415 098 485
michelle.bowers@anzup.org.au

ABOUT ANZUP CANCER TRIALS GROUP

ANZUP's mission is to conduct clinical trial research to improve treatment of bladder, kidney, testicular and prostate cancers.

ANZUP aims to develop, foster and promote prostate and urogenital cancer research by:

- providing access to clinical trials for all appropriate Australian and New Zealand patients
- increasing involvement of and collaboration with various professional disciplines in clinical and preclinical research
- providing opportunities for clinical research
- building systems to simplify and streamline clinical research of the highest quality
- fostering a culture of research amongst all clinicians involved in the care of patients with urogenital cancers
- providing training opportunities for the next generation of clinical researchers
- providing for translational studies in prostate and other urogenital cancers, including tissue banking from clinical trials for further studies

ABOUT PROSTATE CANCER FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia is a broad-based community organisation and the peak national body for prostate cancer in Australia. PCFA is dedicated to reducing the impact of prostate cancer on Australian men, their partners and families, recognising the diversity of the Australian community.

PCFA does this by:

- Promoting and funding world leading, innovative research into prostate cancer
- Implementing awareness campaigns and education programs for the Australian Community, health professionals and government
- Supporting men and their families affected by prostate cancer through evidence-based information and resources, support groups and Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses.

PCFA relies on the generosity of individuals, the community and partnerships to carry out its essential work.

For further information about prostate cancer or PCFA, visit www.pcfa.org.au or free call 1800 22 00 99

ENDS