

CAMBRIDGE CANCER TRIALS CENTRE

STRATEGIC PLAN

December 2012



VISION & GOALS



FOREWORD

This document aims to help define what the Cambridge Cancer Trials Centre (CCTC) is, why it exists, and what it hopes to achieve over the coming years.

It should be noted that 2012-13 will be an academic year of major changes for oncology in Cambridge, including a new Director of the CRI, a new Head of Department, a new Regius Professor of Physic and a newly established strategy for the Cambridge Cancer Centre (CCC). In addition, a national restructuring of research organisations is also being implemented. The CCTC recognises that it may need to reconsider its structure and processes in light of this, although we expect that our underlying goals will remain the same.



Prof Tim Eisen

Director



Dr Pippa Corrie

Deputy Director



Michael Harrison

Business & Operations
Manager

WHAT IS THE CAMBRIDGE CANCER TRIALS CENTRE?



The Cambridge Cancer Trials Centre (CCTC) was established in 2007 and has grown over the years to now accommodate 96 staff responsible for the conduct of 42 clinical studies and participation in 250 studies (either open to recruitment or in follow-up). The breadth of research is extensive, spanning both early and late phase studies, many addressing or associated with translational scientific end points. The CCTC forms an integral part of the Cambridge Cancer Centre (CCC).

As the Cancer Theme of the Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit (CCTU), the CCTC is responsible for working with investigators to design, set up, conduct, analyse and publish cancer research studies sponsored by Cambridge University Hospital Foundation Trust (CUHFT). The CCTC is also the host of the West Anglia Cancer Research Network (WACRN): a flagship regional research network at the forefront of national clinical trial recruitment. The CCTC provides resources to enable participation in National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) portfolio studies open to recruitment in Cambridge (along-side non portfolio studies). Patients recruited into these portfolio studies constitute around two thirds of WACRN accruals.

Cambridge is well placed both to bring research from bench to bedside, and to inform clinical practice through both early and late phase studies, since successful phase III randomised trials are the predominant route to changing disease outcomes. For both activities - trial coordination and participation - the CCTC has research governance responsibilities, with defined reporting structures both to and from the CCC. The CCTC is a vital resource in the development and training of future researchers.

The CCTC has a defined strategy, with short (1 year), medium (2 year) and longer term (5 year) goals.

THE CCC

The Cambridge Cancer Centre is a coalition between Cambridge University, Cancer Research UK and Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, together with associated Institutes and members, to focus and drive the cause of basic research, clinical research and clinical practice centred on Cambridge. The Aim of the Cambridge Cancer Centre is to improve cancer patient outcomes, both in the Anglia region and ultimately globally.

WHAT IS OUR VISION?

1

To establish the Cambridge Cancer Trials Centre as an international centre of excellence for clinical and translational cancer research by being at the forefront of the design and development of novel experimental studies.

2

To offer all patients referred to the Cambridge Cancer Centre with a diagnosis of, or at high risk of cancer, the opportunity to be involved in a research study and access to state of the art interventions.

3

To provide integrated learning for both clinical and non-clinical staff to gain experience in the conduct of all aspects of clinical and applied cancer research.



HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THIS VISION?

This vision will be achieved through growing, focusing and refining areas of work already in existence within the CCTC. Specifically, we wish to

- act as the Cancer Theme for the conduct of cancer studies sponsored by the CUHFT and run via the (CCTU) to develop and co-ordinate single and multi-centre clinical trials and other well designed studies led by investigators associated with the CCC. This will be done in line with the CCC strategy, with particular emphasis on local scientific research strengths
- provide the infrastructure required for investigators to participate in clinical trials and other well designed studies within the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) portfolio as well as other studies relevant to the CCC strategy
- own a portfolio of clinical studies (referred to as the CCTC portfolio), for which the CCTC provides oversight in terms of recruitment to time and target
- be responsible for research governance associated with the CCTC portfolio
- publish our studies in high impact journals, where the role of CCTC will be acknowledged, either directly (CCTC employed staff as authors) or indirectly (CCTC named as contributor)
- provide training in clinical research for junior medical staff, nurses and non-clinical staff, which is essential for the development of the next generation of clinical researchers
- provide accommodation, human resources support and professional management for staff involved in CCTC portfolio studies
- provide support and assistance to clinical and translational cancer researchers wishing to navigate through research and ethical regulatory affairs
- support the Deputy Divisional Director in the allocation of DoH clinical research funding for cancer





WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

In order to achieve our vision the CCTC needs to be closely associated with the following groups/committees:

- CCC - which includes :-
 - CCC Executive Committee
 - CCC Clinical Strategy Committee
 - University of Cambridge cancer research teams
 - CUHFT Cancer Division
 - The Cambridge Cancer Research Institute (CRI)
 - Cambridge Experimental Cancer Medicines Centre (EMCC)
 - Hutchinson - Medical Research Council (MRC) Research Centre
- Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit (CCTU)
- CCTU Steering Committee
- Oncology R&D Committee
- CUHFT R&D department and finance
- CUHFT Research Board
- CUHFT Research Advisory Committee
- West Anglia Cancer Research Network (WACRN)
- West Anglia Comprehensive Local Research Network (WACL RN)
- Anglia Research Executive Group
- Cancer Research UK (CRUK)
- MRC-Biostatistics Unit (MRC-BSU)
- Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (ACT)
- Cambridge University Development Office