



## Contacts

For further information or to arrange a site visit please contact:

### Further enquiries on ECMT

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### Address details

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### Website

[tinyurl.com/hcyu6vk](https://tinyurl.com/hcyu6vk)

[www.christie.nhs.uk/professionals/research/research-themes/experimental-cancer-medicine-team/](http://www.christie.nhs.uk/professionals/research/research-themes/experimental-cancer-medicine-team/)

## The Experimental Cancer Medicine Team

### 2015 Annual Report

### Delivering tomorrow's treatment, today



## Introduction From the Chair in Experimental Medicine

**With cancer survival doubling in the last 40 years the aim of cancer research has shifted to having cancer survivorship at 75% by the year 2035. A critical part of this aim is not only to increase the number of novel personalised agents being trialled but also introduce smarter trial designs and help patients to take on a more active role in their treatment.**



Manchester is now well known for cancer research with many research partners collaborating with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust. This provides us with an opportunity to become a world leading phase I centre and help to bring treatments to the patient which would not normally be available to them.

The vision of the Experimental Cancer Medicine Team (ECMT) is to deliver tomorrow's treatment, today and so become one of the top 3 phase I centres in Europe by 2020.

Our precision medicine capabilities are rapidly expanding enabling the classification of cancer tumours according to their genetic make-up using tumour and blood biomarkers, and selection of a therapy to target specific individual tumour molecular changes.

An exciting aspect of 2016 is the implementation of a 5 year initiative to integrate eDecisions into our trials through a project called iDecide. This collaboration is generously supported by our research partners, The University of Manchester, CRUK Manchester Institute and AstraZeneca and will put into practice technology which will help to increase the speed of data input to benefit pharma and help the patient have an active role in their treatment.

**Professor Andrew Hughes**  
Strategic Chair in Experimental Medicine

## Our Phase I trials online

In the Experimental Cancer Medicine Team we strive to make the information on clinical trials as easy as possible to find and understand. In 2015 we started to upload our clinical trials to The Christie's website so to make them more accessible to both patients and clinicians.

To access our clinical trials use the following URL:

[tinyurl.com/h3m9t9s](https://tinyurl.com/h3m9t9s)

If you have any questions about clinical trials please email them to:

[ECMT.enquiries@christie.nhs.uk](mailto:ECMT.enquiries@christie.nhs.uk)

## Our other achievements in 2015

### In 2015 members of the ECMT presented four publications at conferences around the world.

A First-In-Human Study of the First-In-Class Fatty Acid Synthase (FASN) Inhibitor TVB-2640 Results of Dose Escalation in Mono and Combination and Evidence of Preliminary Activity

AZD5363, a catalytic pan-AKT inhibitor, in AKT1 E17K mutation positive advanced solid tumors

PROACT: A new way of engaging and empowering patients that fundamentally changes our understanding of how tolerability impacts in early clinical development.

The Patient Referral Pathway to Phase I Clinical Trials: The Christie Experience

### Awards, Prizes and Degrees

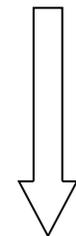
<b>PhD Immuno-oncology, University of Manchester</b>	Hannah Gornall, PhD (Senior CTC)
<b>PhD Cancer Translational Science, University of Manchester</b>	Stephanie Harrison, PhD (Clinical Trials Data Manager)
<b>PhD Translational cancer bi- omarkers, University of Manchester</b>	Dr Louise Carter, PhD (Clinical Fellow)
<b>CHP (Certificate in Human Pharma- cology), Royal College of Physicians</b>	Dr Emma Dean (Clinical Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Medical Oncology)

## Research 2015 Summary of progress : Virtual Biopsy Precision Medicine

In April 2015, the “TARGET” clinical trial recruited its first patient.

This study has been designed to understand whether tumour material circulating in blood can be used to molecularly characterise the tumour to support the clinical decisions as to the most appropriate therapy to give the patient - thereby avoiding the need for an invasive tumour biopsy.

The first part of the study was completed in October 2015 with the objective of defining the work-flows which need to be in place to carry out the following tasks in a 28 day window

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1. identification of patient,
  2. the collection and processing of samples,
  3. mining results for actionable genetic aberrations
  4. molecular tumour board

Insight from this pilot phase has been incorporated into the 80 patient second phase which seeks to now match patients to the most suitable experimental cancer medicine clinical trial and is on schedule to complete September 2016.

Manchester Cancer  
Research Centre



TARGET

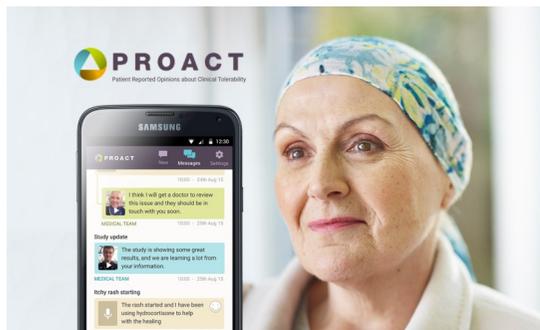
## Real Time Decision Making

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust Research Division has entered into an £11.5m partnership with The University of Manchester Institute of Cancer Sciences, The CRUK Manchester Institute Centre for Cancer Biomarker Sciences, and AstraZeneca to bring real time e-decisions to phase I clinical trials during a 5 year project called iDECIDE.

The iDECIDE desktop and mobile app has been designed to facilitate the partnership and collaboration necessary to advance the process of phase I clinical trials for the benefit of patients. From the **patient** perspective iDECIDE takes the form of the PROACT app (**P**atient **R**eported **O**pinions **A**bout **C**linical **T**olerability).

PROACT is designed around the patient, which gives patients a user-friendly way to get involved in their own treatment. They can link to their anchor person at site, and also directly share whatever experiences they have with all relevant experts, including the study sponsor. Patients can share their own experiences and receive study-updates from their medical team so that they can learn along with the experts around them.

From the **investigators** perspective iDECIDE takes the form of REACT (**R**eal tim**E** **A**nalytics for **C**linical **T**rials). REACT provides experts with real-time access to integrated clinical trial data such as exposure, safety, efficacy and biomarkers. This enables more informed reasoning, decisions enabled by all available information (eDecisions) and an earlier understanding of the patient benefit-risk trajectory.



## Training and Staff Development

October 2015 saw the first students enrolled on to an [MRes in Experimental Cancer Medicine](#).

The course is different from other Masters programmes in experimental therapeutics by being **(a)** focussed upon cancer and **(b)** based off residential students rather than based on distance learning.

The Masters is open to qualified physicians, nursing and clinical trials administration staff. Students spend their year assigned to specific clinical studies and the dissertation for the Masters draws upon outputs generated in support of these studies. The remaining one third of credits are secured by completion of four taught modules which formally introduce students to concepts of experimental cancer medicine clinical *study* and *programme* design, conduct and reporting; and to the skills needed to assemble an accompanying translational science plan to inform the clinical programme.

ECMT staff also support the MRes in Oncology and the Biological basis of cancer programmes run by The Christie School of Oncology; and participate in undergraduate and post-graduate teaching and supervision. Clinical fellows appointed within ECMT have one session each week dedicated to supporting a specific disease research clinic to create additional awareness and understanding.

