



For UK Consumer Media

## **First of its kind cancer study launched to evaluate the effectiveness of a combination of tolerable medicines**

**Patients for whom standard cancer treatments are not effective alone or no longer viable are eligible for recruitment into the METRICS study**

**London, UK, 2nd September, 2014** – The Care Oncology Clinic based in Harley Street, London announced today that it is recruiting patients into a first-of-its-kind medical study to evaluate the effectiveness of a unique combination of existing tolerable medicines in slowing the growth rate of tumours.

The open-label, observational METRICS<sup>1</sup> study, supported by The SEEK Group, is potentially appropriate for people who have been diagnosed with cancer and not able to tolerate, see benefit from, or have access to existing cancer therapies.

Justin Stebbing, Professor of Cancer Medicine and Oncology, Consultant Oncologist, Imperial College and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, is leading the study and comments, “The METRICS study provides another option for those people for whom standard cancer treatment regimens are not viable, tolerable, available or providing any benefit on a stand-alone basis. The medicines prescribed in the study are well-established medicines in other diseases indications, having been used by a large number of people over a long period of time, with known and acceptable side effects. These medicines have also been shown to reduce cancer growth rates. By studying these treatments in combination, it is hoped we will see a slowing of cancer growth rates above and beyond using the medicines on their own at the same time as providing the patient with an improved quality of life”.

Cancer cells differ substantially from normal cells in the way they metabolise food to energy, utilising the body’s energy sources to feed and grow.<sup>2-8</sup> These differences are well established and documented in clinical research, with existing prescription medicines, including metformin (diabetes), statins (cholesterol) and antibiotics (infections) already being used with positive effect to target cancer cell energy processes and slow down the growth rates of tumours.<sup>9-25</sup>

The Care Oncology Clinic’s study builds on this existing evidence, evaluating the effectiveness of proven treatments in combination, rather than on their own, to determine if this type of combination treatment will provide even more clinically significant results at the same time as offering an improved quality of life for people participating in the study. Over time, data generated by the study will be collected and analysed, using standard study procedures, and subsequently published. It is



hoped, in time, that the results from this study will establish this new treatment regime as a new option and contribute to the ongoing quest to fight cancer.

“The SEEK Group is delighted to be able to support the Care Oncology Clinic in making this important study a reality. We have a strong heritage and interest in research and development of medicines and new treatment advances, which allows us to bring safe, effective and low cost medicines to patients in the shortest possible time to help improve patient outcomes and quality of life. We are excited to think that the outcomes of the study have the possibility to help dramatically improve the future standard of cancer care” Robin Bannister, CEO Strategy and Business Development, The SEEK Group.

If you would like to find out more or to speak with a nurse at the Care Oncology Clinic to see if you are eligible to enrol on the study, please visit [www.careoncologyclinic.com](http://www.careoncologyclinic.com) or call +44 (0)207 580 3266.

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**For further information, please contact:**

Robin Bannister, SEEK Pharmaceuticals, +44 7980 254 128, [robin.bannister@seekacure.com](mailto:robin.bannister@seekacure.com)

Glenn Mursell, Packer Forbes, 020 7036 8550, [glenn@packerforbes.com](mailto:glenn@packerforbes.com)

Harriet Reynolds, Packer Forbes, 020 7036 8550, [harriet@packerforbes.com](mailto:harriet@packerforbes.com)

**Notes to Editors**

**Cancer rates in the UK**

There are around 330,000 new cases of cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) diagnosed each year in the UK, with more than 1 in 3 people likely to develop some form of cancer during their lifetime.<sup>26</sup>

**About the study**

The study will evaluate the effectiveness and tolerability of combinations of established medicines, with differing metabolic impacts, for their potential to slow-down the growth and proliferation of cancer cells. The study is open to patients for whom no other treatments are available; patients who can no longer be treated for reasons of cumulative toxicity; patients who are intolerant of current chemotherapy drugs; patients on round 3 or 4 of chemotherapy with low probability of success and patients who refuse traditional chemotherapy.



The Care Oncology Clinic uses medicines which lower cholesterol, lower glucose, impact on glycolysis, mitochondria and apoptosis (cell death). A range of well-established options is available in each of these categories. Examples of the medicines used include:

- Statins (to lower low density lipid levels)
- Metformin (to lower glucose levels and starve cancer cells of energy)
- Doxycycline (to remove immune depressing infection and to inhibit glycolysis (uptake of sugars as food) and metastasis (cancer growth))
- Mebendazole (to reduce glycolysis and destabilise mitochondria (inhibiting cell growth))
- Ibuprofen (to reduce inflammatory processes).

The study, launched in August 2014, already has a small number of patients enrolled and has recently been accepted by a number of NHS hospitals. The Care Oncology Clinic will continue to recruit patients into the study through each site and through patients and their doctors directly, until the target study number of 2,000 to 5,000 patients is reached. In the UK it is estimated that there are 500,000 existing patients who fit the study criteria with a further 150,000 eligible patients' being diagnosed each year.

When studies are conducted on existing medicines the sponsoring company, in this case The SEEK Group, does not benefit from commercial protection. Therefore, patients are asked to contribute towards the cost of their consultation and treatment while on the study.

### **About the Care Oncology Clinic**

The Care Oncology Clinic, Harley Street is an independent, private healthcare provider for the treatment of cancer. Through its leading oncology consultants, the Care Oncology Clinic is currently undertaking a study of medical treatments, which aims to provide an acceptable quality of life, while showing significant, positive results in fighting the disease.

Care Oncology Clinic oncology consultants:

- *Professor Justin Stebbing*, Professor of Cancer Medicine and Oncology, Consultant Oncologist, Imperial College and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust,
- *Professor Angus Dalglish*, Foundation Chair of oncology at St George's, University of London.
- *Dr David Feuer*, Senior Registrar & Research Fellow at The Royal Marsden NHS Trust and St Bartholomews



### **About SEEK Pharmaceuticals**

Founded in 2004, the SEEK Group, headquartered in London, is involved in research and development of over the counter and prescription medicines and management and operation of clinics. It undertakes all these activities in order to bring safe, effective and low cost medicines to patients in the shortest possible time to radically improve human health in major disease areas.

The SEEK group with other investors are providing financial backing to the Care Oncology Clinic to facilitate the running of the study. As the medicines involved are existing, generic therapies, The SEEK Group does not hold any commercial interest in the medicines and is acting on its ethos of bringing safe, effective and low costs medicines to patients in the shortest time possible to radically improve human health in cancer [www.seekacure.com](http://www.seekacure.com).

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