



A/Prof Fran Boyle AM, President, COSA

## President's Report

It's a pleasure to present my first Marryalyan report as COSA President. I thought I knew COSA well, but it's a different experience when you're at the helm. The breadth of work undertaken, especially with our limited capacity, is a real testament to our members and staff. Despite COVID-19 forcing us all into a state of hibernation, it has been business as usual for COSA, with the necessary modifications reflecting the need to be adaptable. The team continue with a mix of working from home and in the office.

### My early days of COSA

I will never forget walking into my first COSA meeting in Melbourne in 1990 as an advanced trainee, carrying my humble poster up that escalator in what, at the time, seemed an enormous conference centre. My boss, who had encouraged me to audit practice RNSH around a controversial procedure to present at the meeting, seemed to have disappeared off to "secret men's business" committee meetings. What a relief it was to find helpful staff, interested passers-by asking reasonable questions, and,

best of all, a dance floor at the dinner. It was the meeting at which adjuvant chemotherapy for colon cancer was being discussed, with concerns being expressed about whether we would ever have the workforce to deliver practice changing research outcomes. As an introduction to COSA, it was all I could have hoped for, and more.

Over the subsequent 30 years, the growth of the mid-year meetings of the individual COSA Groups, and the maturing of the cancer cooperative trials groups have meant that the oncology meeting landscape in Australia is increasingly crowded. Why would a cancer clinician still choose COSA over other opportunities to present their research work, learn and network?

Perceiving the strength of the multidisciplinary approach after my formative years at NBCC under the guidance / thumb of Professor Tom Reeve, it seems to me that COSA remains the perfect venue for presentation of research results that have implications for other clinicians, and that require cooperation for implementation. Our challenge, as the organisation grows, is to ensure that young researchers have a stimulating and supportive experience when they come to our meetings, so as to build their own networks for education and implementation.

Having had the opportunity to see "behind the scenes" at COSA, I have also recognised the extensive advocacy work done by the organisation.

### Australian Cancer Plan

I was privileged to represent COSA at the recent Ministerial Roundtable to develop the Australian Cancer Plan (ACP). Cancer Australia is developing the ACP to provide an overarching national approach to cancer control that meets the needs of all Australians now and in the future. The Roundtable was the first step in bringing together stakeholders from across the country to develop the ACP.

Among those in attendance and presenting, I was invited to present the professional and clinical trial perspective. It was great to share the podium with so many leading experts

including Tanya Buchanan, the new CEO of Cancer Council Australia, who presented the peak advocacy group perspective.

Cancer Australia will develop the ACP within two years to enable comprehensive and inclusive engagement and consultation with stakeholders across the cancer control continuum.

Professor Dorothy Keefe PSM MD, CEO of Cancer Australia, said "This will be an inclusive plan... that must be future focused to address inequities and priorities across the whole cancer journey for key population groups."

### My vision for COSA

I believe that we can tackle some of the new challenges facing cooperative clinical trials groups, including the further implementation of tele-trials, to increase participation of rural and regional patients in clinical trials. Consumers are demanding that we improve communication skills training for cancer clinicians, and it is in this most sensitive area, trials consent, that many of the challenges of clinical communication are writ large.

I applaud the incorporation of survivorship care into the COSA landscape, in recognition of the increasing number of patients whose disease is (probably) cured, and yet who suffer ongoing consequences of their disease and its treatment. In addition, patients with metastatic cancer now often live for many years, and are often faced with similar issues. I hope we will be able to extend our learnings and advocacy efforts to this important group. It is only through interdisciplinary education and advocacy such as that provided by COSA, that this will be possible.

As I write this report, National Volunteer Week is drawing to a close (17-23 May 2021). National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. The contributions of the COSA Board, Council, Groups Chairs, Executive Committees and working groups are all voluntary – I have great respect and admiration for them all, and thank every individual for their support.

**Fran Boyle AM**  
**COSA President**

# Chief Executive Officer's Report



Marie Malica, CEO, COSA

## 2021 COSA ASM

### *Cancer care and research: Learning from the past and improving the future*

The question everyone keeps asking me... "What format will the ASM be in this year Marie?" FACE-TO-FACE I reply

with great enthusiasm! That is definitely the current plan. I'll be honest – that was the plan at this time last year and we all know what happened then. Initially we planned for F2F, then we moved to a hybrid with a mix of F2F and virtual, and finally we made the sensible decision to go fully virtual. Whilst the virtual ASM was a great success, we sincerely hope our plan for F2F this year comes to fruition. Obviously we will keep a close eye on any changes to meeting and travel restrictions, and if circumstances change and do not permit a F2F event, we will revert to a hybrid or virtual event as required.

The theme for the 2021 ASM is "**Cancer care and research: Learning from the past and improving the future**". We have chosen this theme because we cannot ignore the challenges of last year, rather there is much to learn and implement now and into the future. Additionally, the feedback from evaluations from previous years indicates that delegates would like us to build on recent ASM topics rather than introduce all new themes.

In terms of clinical themes, the program will have a focus on **immunotherapy**. This theme was very well received when we last featured it in 2017. There has been a lot of progress since, and in disease areas other than melanoma, so we hope to feature new research and ground-breaking treatments for diseases such as breast and lung cancers. Secondary themes will focus on **PROMs and PREMs** which are of particular interest to our convenor, Dr Kate Webber.

Lung cancer screening is very newsworthy at present, so we are pleased to include a session highlighting it. Other contemporary topics will include sessions on controversies in cancer, such as voluntary assisted dying and medicinal cannabis. We cannot let the opportunity pass to reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic – what we have learned, changes to patient outcomes and practice.

**Please diarise 16-18 November 2021.** Submit your abstracts now, be part of the program, and join us in Melbourne, in real life! Catch up in person with your friends and colleagues. We can't wait to see you there.

As I write this report, I am attending the ACT & NSW Oncology Weekend in Bowral (ACTNOW). We have over 70 medical and radiation oncology consultants and trainees with us for a jam-packed program. This is our first in-person meeting since March 2020, so it's well overdue – and we've proven it can be done. The vibe is wonderful and I can't wait to see more of you in Melbourne in November.

## Cancer Survivorship 2021

### *Life After Cancer – Redefined, Reimagined and Rebuilt*

The 2021 Cancer Survivorship Conference was planned as a face-to-face event in Adelaide, 18-19 March. We hoped that by March 2021 the COVID-19 situation would have improved somewhat allowing more interstate travel. We made the difficult but appropriate decision to take this event online. The conference was attended by 295 participants from across Australia, as well as from Canada, France, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the United States, with almost 14 hours of live streamed content including 61 e-posters and four practical workshops.

Prior to the conference we co-hosted an online roundtable with the Menzies School of Health Research on Cancer Survivorship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This Roundtable was the beginning of an important discussion about cancer survivorship and care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including existing survivorship models and their relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and also identifying some priority areas to move forward.

## Partnerships and collaborations

COSA has a strong history of working with other organisations. We often partner with Cancer Council on joint government submissions. More recently we have been working closely with CNSA to deliver webinars on important topics for all our members. So far we have held joint webinars on Cancer Care Coordination, COVID-19 vaccines and cancer, as well as Exercise and cancer care.

In 2020 COSA partnered with the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre (ACSC) and Cancer Council Victoria (CCV) to deliver a webinar on allied health. Building on the success of that event, we are again partnering with CNSA to deliver another webinar on “Allied health providing cancer survivorship care”.

## Submissions

Since my last report we have made the following submissions in late 2020 and early 2021:

1. Telehealth for people with Cancer – joint submission with Cancer Council Australia (CCA) (June 2020)
2. Targeted Consultation Survey on MSAC Application 1632 – PSMA PET for informing treatment of patients with prostate cancer (June 2020)
3. Targeted Consultation Survey on MSAC Application 1634 – Comprehensive genomic profiling of non-small cell lung cancer tumour tissue specimens using next generation sequencing assays (October 2020)
4. National Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Information Priorities – joint submission with CCA (November 2020)
5. Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy arrangements, draft Terms of Reference – joint submission with CCA (November 2020)
6. Therapeutic Goods Administration consultation on the repurposing of prescription medicines – joint submission with CCA and MOGA (March 2021)
7. Therapeutic Goods Administration consultation on Building a more robust medicine supply: Proposals to help prevent, mitigate and manage medicine shortages – joint submission with CCA (May 2021)

**Marie Malica**  
Chief Executive Officer

# COSA Membership

## COSA memberships are now open for renewal!

**To renew your membership please sign into [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au), and select membership renewal from the MY COSA website.**

The membership categories and prices are listed below:

COSA – Medical (1 year) . . . . .	\$235
COSA – Allied Health (1 year) . . . . .	\$140
COSA Student member (1 year) . . . . .	no charge
COSA Retiree member (1 year) . . . . .	\$65

*Please note: **Medical Oncology Advanced Trainees** are eligible to join COSA at the Allied Health member rate for the duration of their training.*

*COSA welcomes Affiliated and Associated Organisations, which brings many opportunities one of which is **discounted COSA membership to members of the Affiliated or Associated Organisation**. Membership costs are listed below:*

COSA Affiliated/Associated* members – Medical (1 year) . . . . .	\$215
COSA Affiliated/Associated* members – Allied Health (1 year) . . . . .	\$130

A list of all current Affiliated and Associated Organisations can be found at [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au).

## Automated renewal feature

**COSA members have the option of annual renewal fees being automatically deducted from their nominated credit card.**

If you wish to **opt in** to automatic annual membership renewal please check the box at the end of the payment section during the renewal process – it’s that simple!

Things you need to know:

- Automatic renewals will be processed in July each year
- If you need to update your credit card details or wish to opt out, you can do so via MY COSA
- COSA does not store your credit card details - they are securely stored with our payment gateway, SecurePay

For automatic annual membership renewal terms and conditions please visit <https://www.cosa.org.au/media/332297/automatic-annual-membership-renewal-tcs.pdf>

*For more information regarding Affiliated or Associated Organisation Memberships please contact COSA [cosa@cancer.org.au](mailto:cosa@cancer.org.au)*

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your membership, please do not hesitate to contact the COSA office on 02 8256 4100 or email [cosa@cancer.org.au](mailto:cosa@cancer.org.au).

# 2021 Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care - Call for Nominations

The Tom Reeve Award, offered annually by COSA, formally recognises a national leader who has made a significant contribution to cancer care.

**Nominations are now open for the 2021 Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care, closing Monday 19 July 2021.**

To be eligible nominees must:

- have made a significant contribution to cancer care through research, clinical leadership and/or community service
- have made a substantial contribution over a relatively long period of time
- be nominated by a COSA member and have support from a member of COSA Council
- be an Australian resident

Each nomination should include:

- an explanation of the nominee's work in the area of cancer control or research
- an evaluation of the accomplishments of the nominee
- letters of reference from two individuals from outside the nominees' institution (where applicable). These letters should contain a critical appraisal of the nominee's work

The successful nominee will be presented with a Gold Marryalyan at the COSA ASM in Melbourne in November at which he/she will be invited to deliver an address highlighting appropriate aspects of their area of professional interest.

**Nominations and supporting documentation should be sent to [cosa@cancer.org.au](mailto:cosa@cancer.org.au) by COB Monday 19 July 2021.**

Previous recipients:

Year	Recipient
2020	Professor Sanchia Aranda AM
2019	Professor Ian Olver AM
2018	Professor Grant McArthur
2017	Emeritus Professor William McCarthy AM
2016	Professor Fran Boyle AM
2015	Professor David Currow
2014	Professor John Zalcborg OAM
2013	Professor Ian Frazer AC
2012	Professor David Ball AO
2011	Professor Phyllis Butow AM
2010	Professor John Forbes AM
2009	Distinguished Professor Patsy Yates AM
2008	Professor Lester Peters AM
2007	Professor Martin Tattersall AO
2006	Professor Alan Coates AM
2005	Emeritus Professor Tom Reeve AC CBE



*Sanchia Aranda receives the 2020 Tom Reeve award from then COSA President Nick Pavlakis*



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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### Online Abstract Submission

Abstract submission is online at [www.cosa2021.org](http://www.cosa2021.org)

You are able to cut and paste your abstract from a Word document, into the online submission system. The link used for submission will first ask you to load your personal details on your “registration dashboard”. This is the same site for registration and accommodation if required, and is an enduring page that will last for future COSA meetings. If you registered for previous COSA ASMs &/or submitted an abstract, your details should still be in the system and can be updated if necessary.

You should keep all emails sent to you regarding your abstract submission. Once you begin your abstract submission, a number of specific background questions will be asked. The reviewers can see your answer to these questions. Once you have made your submission, you can return and edit it up until the closing date for submissions.

1. Abstract submissions close:

**Friday 13 August 2021 – Abstract submissions**

**Friday 9 July 2021 – Symposium submissions** (*Please refer to the Symposium Submission Guidelines for additional information*)

2. Abstracts are invited to be submitted under one of the following categories:

- Basic and Translational Research
- Clinical research
- Education
- Epidemiology
- Health Services
- Supportive Care \*
- Immunotherapy (*Conference Theme*)
- PROMs and PREMs (*Conference Theme*)
- Service Provision (poster only) \*\*
- Trials in Progress (poster only) \*\*

*\* Supportive Care is a highly subscribed category. Submitters should consider the suitability of this category when submitting an abstract, as the potential for being awarded a presentation in the Supportive Care category is reduced.*

*\*\* These abstract categories are for non-scientific abstracts. They do not need to follow the normal abstract format and are only considered for posters.*

3. Maximum text length allowed is 300 words in length including sub-headings. To assist your preparation, abstracts may be structured under the sub-headings Aims, Methods, Results, Conclusions. The sub-headings must be concise, with only the first word starting with a capital letter.



4. Reports of completed studies are preferred, and will be given preference in selecting oral presentations, especially over abstracts which do not report results but indicate that they will be reported at the meeting or mere descriptions of trial methodology. Results of research will be given preference over descriptions of services for oral presentations.
5. Abstracts reporting quantitative studies should contain the planned accrual target and the actual number of patients recruited, levels of significance and confidence intervals of results. Abstracts of qualitative research should indicate how they chose their sample size (e.g. data saturation) and the methodology of analysis.
6. Abstracts will be “blinded” to the reviewers. They will not be able to see the authoring or organisation information. Submitters must not assume that there will be knowledge of the previous work of a group or strength of a research group or researcher.
7. Most of the submitted abstracts will be allocated posters as there will only be a limited number of slots for oral presentations. The best posters will be selected for specific poster presentation sessions with a discussant.
8. Images are not accepted in abstracts.

## COSA Travel Grants

COSA is pleased to call for travel grant applications from financial Society members to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Melbourne, 16-18 November 2021. Each grant will be up to the value of \$1,000.

*Please note: In an effort to fund as many applications as possible in previous years, complimentary registration was offered in lieu of cash reimbursement due to the overwhelming number of applications received.*

## COSA Trainee Travel Grants

COSA trainee travel grants aim to assist oncology trainees in medical, surgical or radiation oncology to attend the ASM in Melbourne, 16-18 November 2021.

**All travel grant applications close: Friday 13 August 2021**

*All funds awarded are to be used for expenses incurred in attending the ASM. Please note all recipients of travel grants will be reimbursed after the event.*

Please refer to <https://www.cosa.org.au/grants-awards/travel-grants/cosa-travel-grant.aspx> for further information on all travel grants

## 2021 Australia Day Honours

*COSA congratulates the following members of the oncology community who were recognised in the 2021 Australia Day Honours List*

### **Ms Paula Benson AO**

For significant service to people living with ovarian cancer, and to business.

### **Professor Roger Reddel AO**

For distinguished service to biomedical research in the field of adult and childhood cancer and genetics, and to tertiary education.

### **Professor Emily Banks AM**

For significant service to medical research and education.

### **Associate Professor Alison Brand AM**

For significant service to medicine, to gynaecology, and to medical organisations.

### **Dr Paul Craft AM**

For significant service to medicine, to oncology, and to professional organisations.

### **Professor Colleen Nelson AM**

For significant service to medical research, particularly to prostate cancer, and to health organisations.

### **Associate Professor Michael Penniment AM**

For significant service to medicine, and to radiation oncology.

### **Professor Jonathan Serpell AM**

For significant service to medicine, particularly to endocrine surgery.

### **Dr Jeffrey Tan AM**

For significant service to gynaecological medicine, and to cervical cancer research.

### **Ms Theodora Ahilas OAM**

For service to people affected by asbestos-related diseases, and to the law.

### **Mr Jay Allen OAM**

For service to people living with melanoma.

### **Mrs Megan Rynderman OAM**

For service to people living with cancer, and to the community.

## 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours

*Congratulations to the following members and friends of COSA who were recognised in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List.*

### **Emeritus Professor Lester Peters AO**

For distinguished service to medicine, particularly to radiation oncology, and to professional medical groups.

### **Professor Richard Scolyer AO**

For distinguished service to medicine, particularly in the field of melanoma and skin cancer, and to national and international professional organisations.

### **Ms Letitia Lancaster AM**

For significant service to oncology nursing, and to professional societies.

### **Dr Antoinette Anazodo OAM**

For service to medical research.

### **Dr Stephen Della-Fiorentina OAM**

For service to oncology.

Save the date!



**Clinical  
Oncology  
Society of  
Australia**

**COSA's 49TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

**1–4 November 2022**

**Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre**

For more information please visit  
[www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au) or call us on 02 8256 4100

# COSA Group Reports

## Adolescent and Young Adult Group

Discussion of the impact of cancer and cancer treatment on fertility is important to ensure that all people with cancer have the option of preserving their fertility. The rapidly changing field of fertility preservation and assisted reproduction also means that up to date clinical guidance for health professionals in the Australian context is necessary.

The COSA Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Group identified the need to update the guidance for health professionals on fertility preservation for AYAs diagnosed with cancer, which were first published in 2011.

The new **COSA Clinical Practice Guidelines for fertility preservation for people with cancer** were developed by the multidisciplinary **COSA Fertility Preservation Guidelines Working Group**. The scope of the guidelines was expanded to include people with cancer of any age and the evidence was systematically identified and appraised according to the NHMRC evidence hierarchy.

The Guidelines are published on the Cancer Council Australia Clinical Guidelines Network wiki and were open for comments from the public until earlier this month.

The COSA AYA Group would like to thank the members of the working group for volunteering their expertise and time to develop the guidelines, especially the group chairs Associate Professor Kate

Stern and Dr Antoinette Anazodo. We would also like to thank Cancer Council Australia for their support and access to the wiki.

Please contact Jessica Harris (COSA Project Manager) at [jessica.harris@cancer.org.au](mailto:jessica.harris@cancer.org.au) if you have any questions.

**Wayne Nicholls**  
*Chair, Adolescent And Young Adult Group*  
[Wayne.Nicholls@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Wayne.Nicholls@health.qld.gov.au)

## Cancer Care Coordination Group

We were delighted to collaborate with CNSA in March 2021 to present the webinar *What really matters? Critical attributes of cancer care coordination in a complex world*. Professor Mei Krishnasamy led a thought-provoking discussion which encouraged participants to critically and broadly consider the comprehensive attributes of cancer care coordination. Mei's presentation drew upon recent research relating to the characteristics of expert cancer nurses, and the need for advanced assessment skills and principles of emotional intelligence, providing participants with an understanding of the evolving attributes required of cancer care coordinators. Participants were also challenged to embrace professional and personal development strategies to advance and progress in the cancer care coordinator role. If you did not get the chance to join the webinar on the night, I encourage you access the recording via the **COSA Cancer Care Coordination Group's resources page**. Our webinar was extremely well attended and received

excellent feedback, and we look forward to working with CNSA to deliver another collaborative webinar in the future.

We are also looking forward to the chance to attend COSA's Annual Scientific Meeting this year in Melbourne from 16-18 November. This year's conference theme – *Cancer care and research: Learning from the past and improving the future*, with a focus on immunotherapy and PROMs and PREMs – promises to deliver an engaging program with many sessions of interest to a cancer care coordination audience. I particularly encourage our Group members to submit your work for consideration in the program, either for an oral or poster presentation or a submitted symposia. Please visit [www.cosa2021.org](http://www.cosa2021.org) for more details and key dates.

A reminder that our latest edition of *The Coordinator* was issued in April 2021, and we thank our editor Claire Kelly for helping our members keep up to date. Highlights include insights into the impact of COVID lock-downs in regional Victoria, a report from ICCN 2021, a comprehensive review of our collaborative webinar, and links to studies of relevance and interest to cancer care coordination. Please visit our **Group's resources page** to read the April 2021 edition of *The Coordinator*.

**Patsy Yates AM**  
*Chair, Cancer Care Coordination Group*  
[p.yates@qut.edu.au](mailto:p.yates@qut.edu.au)



## Cancer Genetics Group



*This report is also on behalf of the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA).*

The COSA Cancer Genetics Group (previously known as Familial Cancer Group) has a few updates that may be of interest.

### Conferences and Education

Planning is well underway for the following events which will all feature high quality presentations on cancer genetics, germline and/or somatic.

- The COSA/Human Genetics Society of Australia (HGSA) Familial Cancer Clinics Clinical Professional Day will be held on Tuesday 31 August 2021, prior to the Familial Aspects of Cancer: Research & Practice conference, in Kingscliff NSW. In person and virtual registration are being offered. More information can be found at <https://www.ivvy.com.au/event/FAC2021>.
- 2021 COSA ASM to be held from 16-18 November 2021 in Melbourne. More information can be found at <https://www.cosa2021.org/>
- Human Genetics Society of Australia ASM 2021 to be held 14-17 August 2021 in Adelaide. In person and virtual registration are being offered. More information can be found at <https://aacb.eventsair.com/hgsa-44th-annual-scientific-meeting/>

The Group continues to run a webinar series, 2021 has featured the following presentations thus far;

- Managing menopause after risk reducing BSO & hormonal contraception for women at increased breast cancer risk.
- Li Fraumeni Syndrome

Upcoming webinars planned include the latest on well-known genetic syndromes that predispose to cancer as well as developments in somatic cancer genetics testing and research.

The webinars conducted so far have been well attended. The Executive thanks all the speakers who gave their time. We also acknowledge the support provided by COSA and HGSA to support the registration and running of the various events.

### Somatic cancer genetics survey

We will circulate a short survey in the coming weeks to ascertain the views of those working in areas that particularly involve somatic cancer genetics. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated and will assist and inform our planning work in this space.

### New genetic testing indications

There have been a number of new eviQ guidelines for genetic testing for specific individuals with prostate cancer and pancreatic cancer. In addition, there have been some slight changes to situations where genetic testing should be considered for women with breast and ovarian cancer.

More information can be found at <https://www.eviq.org.au/cancer-genetics>.

I thank the Cancer Genetics Group Executive Committee for their work on the above-mentioned activities and others that we hope to update you about in future reports.

**Lucinda Salmon**  
**Chair, Cancer Genetics Group**  
[lucinda.salmon@austin.org.au](mailto:lucinda.salmon@austin.org.au)

## Cancer Pharmacists Group



Firstly, I'd like to welcome the most recent member of the Cancer Pharmacists Group Executive Committee: Chi Hao La. Chi Hao La is already heavily involved in many of the upcoming group activities and is a fabulous addition to the team.

It has been a busy start to 2021, with the committee providing advocacy and support for COSA and the CPG while continuing to plan for several educational activities.

### Foundation Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists Course, 5 & 12 June 2021

The Foundation course will be delivered as a mix of pre-recorded video content and live video conference group workshops this year. The course conveners (Geeta Sandhu, Courtney Oar, Marissa Ryan and Dan McKavanagh) and speakers have done an amazing job of adjusting to the revised format. The course is at capacity and a follow-up course will be considered based on successful delivery and feedback.

### Pharmacology of Cancer Chemotherapy for Advanced Trainees workshop

COSA is preparing for the 2021 workshop, to be presented by Krissy Carrington and Dan McKavanagh. Date and venue to be confirmed.

## COSA ASM 2021, 16 – 18 November, Melbourne

Preparations are well underway for the 2021 ASM. Thanks ever so much to Gail Rowan and Chi Hao La, the CPG representatives on the ASM organising committee.

### Other activities

The CPG committee have supported COSA with advice and feedback on several hot topics:

- Potential for allergy related to same/ similar ingredients in systemic anticancer therapy and COVID-19 vaccines
- PBS Active Ingredient Prescribing
- TGA consultation on the repurposing of prescription medicines
- Upcoming work to support COSA in the planned review of the PBS Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy (EFC) arrangements

## CPG Executive Committee Update

The CPG committee consists of:

- Dan McKavanagh – Chair
- Kimberley-Ann Kerr – Deputy Chair
- Geeta Sandhu
- Gail Rowan
- Courtney Oar
- Marissa Ryan
- Chi Hao La

**Dan McKavanagh**  
**Chair, Cancer Pharmacists Group**  
**Daniel.Mckavanagh@health.qld.gov.au**

## Exercise and Cancer Group

### Exercise and Cancer Position Statement: Updated

Over the course of 2020 the COSA Position Statement on Exercise in Cancer Care underwent a major revision and was recently re-launched by the Exercise and Cancer Group in March 2021. The statement endorses evidence-based guidelines and provides guidance to all members of the

multidisciplinary cancer team regarding the role of exercise in the care of people with cancer. It encourages all clinicians that work in cancer to play an active role in discussing exercise with their patients, recommending that people with cancer follow the exercise guidelines and refer patients to exercise specialists for individualised support. A copy of the updated position statement can be found on the COSA [website](#).

This work has been highlighted in recent editions of *The Limbic* and *AJGP*.

A number of short videos were also developed by the team and posted on social media as a way to promote the updated position statement.



I would like to sincerely thank all members of the Executive Committee and everyone who provided feedback during the consultation phase. We hope that you find this position statement useful and encourage you to share it with all of your colleagues. As we move forward through the course of 2021,

Did you know COSA is on social media?



Please follow us on Twitter  
<https://twitter.com/COSAoncology>



Link to us on LinkedIn  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/clinical-oncology-society-of-australia-cosa>



Like our Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/COSAoncology/>



the Exercise Group will work aside the Exercise Implementation Working Group to look at ways of supporting the implementation of the position statement recommendations into standard care.

## Exercise and Cancer Infographic

To align with the updated position statement, the Exercise and Cancer Infographic has also undergone a revamp. The infographic highlights the key messaging of “Discuss, Recommend and Refer”. In line with the position statement, images have been updated to better reflect that exercise can occur in a number of different settings. The infographic is designed to be visible in patient care areas (clinics) to remind clinicians about the role of exercise during patient consultations. You can [download](#) a copy of the infographic to use at your workplace.

## COSA and CNSA Webinar

The COSA Exercise and Cancer Group recently collaborated with Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) to present a webinar titled “Exercise in Cancer Care”. It provided a great opportunity to promote the role of exercise to all members of the multidisciplinary cancer team. The webinar was delivered by COSA Executive Committee members, Prof Sandie McCarthy (Prof of Clinical Nursing, University of Queensland),

Dr Diana Adams (Medical Oncologist, Macarthur Cancer Centre) and Lucy Bucci (Physiotherapist, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre) with the webinar hosted by Jemma Still (CNSA).

The session covered the updated Exercise and Cancer Position Statement including key changes made to the position statement; how to access exercise based supports and resources; highlight the important role medical, nursing and allied health play in the exercise and cancer continuum; and describe key features of an individualised exercise program. The session was very well received with over 100 people from a wide range of disciplines attending the event. If you missed this webinar, a recording is available for all COSA members and can be accessed via the Exercise and Cancer Group [Activities](#) page on the COSA website.

The Exercise Group welcomes new members and anyone with an interest in exercise to get involved in our projects. If you would like to participate in the Group’s activities, please login to your member profile on the COSA website and either select Exercise as a COSA Group or Area of Interest. We encourage members from all discipline areas to participate in our Group.

**Andrew Murnane**  
**Chair, Exercise and Cancer Group**  
[Andrew.Murnane@petermac.org](mailto:Andrew.Murnane@petermac.org)

## Geriatric Oncology Group

The Geriatric Oncology Group aims to improve outcomes for older adults affected by cancer. Our work has had a strong focus on the further development of the Australian Geriatric Oncology (GO) guidelines, with great engagement from a broad range of interdisciplinary clinicians from across Australia. The GO guideline working group has recently finished drafting the guideline for screening older adults for geriatric assessment. The guideline was published in *JAMA Oncology* in January 2021: [Screening Tools for Identifying Older Adults with Cancer Who May Benefit from a Geriatric Assessment – A Systematic Review](#). It will also be published on Cancer Council’s Wiki platform in the future. The team hopes that this review and online guideline will support clinicians to routinely screen older adults with cancer for vulnerabilities, and to complete a geriatric assessment for those patients that might benefit. Work is well underway for guidelines for referring older adults with cancer for systemic anti-cancer therapy, surgery, radiotherapy, bringing in the input of oncology experts across Australia, as well as from the UK.

The Group has specifically focused on providing opportunities for emerging clinical and research leaders to have the opportunity to join a team within the guideline group to foster capacity building and networking. We are keen to increase engagement of other members with Group activities and provide new opportunities for leadership as this year progresses. Our current leadership team comprises recognised leaders in the field of geriatric oncology in Australia and internationally – Dr Heather Lane, Prof Jane Phillips, Dr Wee-Kheng Soo, Dr Christopher Steer and Dr Timothy To – and we thank them for their ongoing contribution and for facilitating our connections with the wider community of oncology health professionals.

We are very pleased to welcome Polly Dufton to our team, who will co-edit future editions of the *GO eNews* with Kheng Soo. I encourage you to catch-up on our most **recent edition** of *GO eNews* if you haven't already done so. *GO eNews* has proved a great resource for our members, keeping us up to date on the latest in geriatric oncology. Please get in touch if you would like to contribute to a future edition.

Polly Dufton also Chairs the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) Older Person's with Cancer Specialist Practice Network, and this connection will prove valuable as we are now working collaboratively with CNSA to develop a webinar series focused on geriatric oncology. Our Group aims to contribute to the education needs of COSA's membership, and we especially strive to provide educational opportunities that improve knowledge about, and increase the awareness of, specific approaches to cancer treatment and care in older adults. We expect the collaborative webinars will provide a practical focus and be framed so as to be relevant to not only cancer nurses, but to COSA's broader multidisciplinary membership. We expect our first webinar to be delivered in August 2021 and will keep you updated when registrations open.

We anticipate that the new **OlderCan** resources will be a topic of interest that we feature in our webinar series. Several of our Group members contributed their expertise to inform the development of the OlderCan resources, which was led by the University of Melbourne and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. This new research-based resource was developed to empower older Australians living with cancer to discuss and prioritise their needs when making decisions about treatment and care. Please visit the **OlderCan website** for information and templates to help older adults share important information about them with their cancer team, GP and family.

We are also fortunate that two of our Executive members provide important linkages with international geriatric oncology initiatives – Heather Lane continues in her role as Australia's SIOG representative, and Christopher Steer is working with the Cancer and Aging Research Group (CARG). This work highlights the importance of collaborating and sharing learnings on the same issues that face geriatric oncology both in Australia and internationally, and working together on our common goal to improve outcomes for older adults with cancer.

**Meera Agar**  
*Chair, Geriatric Oncology Group*  
[meera.agar@uts.edu.au](mailto:meera.agar@uts.edu.au)

## Integrative Oncology Group

What a year this has been. For most of us, a year full of challenges. Finding ways to deliver care and meet the brief of developing novel and innovative strategies to best maintain the wellbeing of our patient population. Integrating exercise, lifestyle changes, yoga, mindfulness, acupuncture, touch therapies and other complementary therapies to enhance wellbeing for all cancer patients independent of prognosis.

Integrative oncology services throughout the world have come together to develop online programs, podcasts, webinars, and sharing strategies to deliver care. The importance of our own self-care and empowering our patients to embrace strategies to improve their self-care has fallen on many integrative oncology (IO) and wellness programs. The challenge of delivering many of their services required novel solutions, and, as the Australians were so much luckier than most other countries, we worked together to collaborate and participate as much as possible with our colleagues overseas.

The Integrative Oncology Group Executive Committee were called upon to contribute to the development of an online global task force initiative of the Society of Integrative oncology (SIO). Survey replies were obtained from 54 integrative oncology experts from 19 countries. Read the published article [here](#).

The IO Group Executive Committee continued our commitment to working together during the past year to develop a "White Paper" on the role of IO and wellness services in comprehensive cancer care. This is now completed and has received endorsement from our leading cancer centres with the aim to obtain further endorsements and ongoing developments in the near future. We look forward to sharing our project in the coming months. Our Executive member, Geraldine Macdonald took charge to lead this initiative.

Integrative Oncology is increasingly becoming recognised as part of holistic supportive cancer care. It was an honour to be invited to speak at the Christie School of Oncology – Essentials in Palliative and End of Life Care Symposium on the role of integrative oncology in holistic supportive care in cancer, and I look forward to speaking on integrative medicine in survivorship care at the upcoming MASCC conference. It is always exciting to welcome our emerging talent in the field. One of our PhD students, Maria Gonzalez has received a young investigator award and scholarship for **MASCC 2021** (24-26 June), speaking on "**Yoga for Depression and Anxiety Symptoms in People with Cancer**". (Gonzalez, Maria, et al. "Yoga for depression and anxiety symptoms in people with cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis." *Psycho-Oncology* (2021)).

With virtual communication changing our conference experiences and ways of communication, many resources have been developed and proudly we are all contributing in some way, with a lot more



## 18th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE The Science of Living Well With Cancer

September 24-26, 2021 | Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel | Baltimore, Maryland

\*Co-Hosted by Johns Hopkins University

opportunities being opened up to us all in this field in the future. I encourage you all to take some time to check out the Society of Integrative Oncology [podcast and webinar series](#).

These provide some great material, interesting podcasts and webinars and links. The website has recently been updated and as a member of the international leadership team including on the podcast, I can say with confidence that we are planning to include a lot of great resources in the near future for all!

This year the Society for Integrative Oncology (SIO) is focusing on global connections and developing global partnerships, including formal partnerships with leading bodies and organisations. We are currently exploring the way forward to formalise these relationships with Australia.

So, **for any of you interested in integrative oncology and joining our COSA IO Group, please contact me or COSA for details.** And think of joining SIO: a great way to engage with experts in the field and give us Australians a greater voice.

Some other initiatives include the development of **SIO-ASCO joint guidelines**. In 2017 the Society for Integrative Oncology published [guidelines](#) for use of integrative therapies in breast cancer.

SIO is currently working on a collaboration with the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) to develop two new evidence-based guidelines in 2021 and 2022.

*“WASHINGTON (October 27, 2020) – The Society for Integrative Oncology announced today that it is collaborating with the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO®), the world’s leading professional organization of its kind representing oncology professionals who care for people living with cancer, to develop a series of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for integrative therapies in oncology care. The guidelines, planned for publication in 2021 and 2022, will provide clinicians and patients much-needed guidance on safely and effectively treating common cancer symptoms and side effects using integrative approaches.”*

These guidelines currently being worked on focus on the role of Integrative medicine in the management of the symptoms of Pain, Fatigue and Anxiety and Depression in oncology. I look forward to sharing updates.

### SIO 2021 International Conference

SIO’s 18th International Conference will present an exceptional opportunity to learn about new findings in integrative oncology from healthcare/scientific disciplines that have the potential to transform cancer care internationally. The 2021 theme is **“The Science of Living Well with Cancer.”** The conference features include keynote, plenary and concurrent sessions, as well as workshops highlighting the latest clinical, research and methodological issues, and offers opportunities to learn about integrative modalities. This hybrid format conference will comprise

an in-person conference in Baltimore, US, as well as a virtual conference for those unable to attend in-person.

**[REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!](#)**

SIO is providing discounted rates for those members not from the United States or Canada. In addition, there will be special International themed content at the conference including an “International” pre-conference workshop that is included with the International Registration Rate

**Judith Lacey**  
**Chair, Integrative Oncology Group**  
[Judith.Lacey@lh.org.au](mailto:Judith.Lacey@lh.org.au)

## Lung Cancer Group

The year for lung cancer has begun positively with the welcome announcement of support by Government from 1 July 2021 to invest in and commence the early scoping of a potential **National Lung Cancer Screening Program**, in a commitment to increase early diagnosis and survivorship, and improve lung cancer outcomes.

The appropriate data from the **National Lung Cancer Screening Enquiry** were reviewed and a robust discussion around this movement was conducted during the first COSA Council meeting of the year, in March, with a valuable contribution from Cancer Australia Chief Executive Officer Professor Dorothy O’Keefe. It was gratifying to read in the report that in the first 10 years of a lung cancer screening program in Australia, over 70 per cent of

all screen-detected lung cancers would be diagnosed at an early stage, over 12,000 deaths would be prevented and up to 50,000 quality adjusted life years would be gained. This figure would flip the expected presentations currently approaching 70 per cent presenting with advanced disease as the experience. In an invited response from COSA to the report we offered our support for the implementation, also highlighting the potential impact on the multidisciplinary lung cancer workforce and resourcing on multiple layers from the time of diagnosis of cancer. We will continue to advocate in support of a smooth transition to screening.

Under the soon-to-be formally COSA affiliated **Thoracic Oncology Group of Australasia (TOGA)**, we have seen the eagerly anticipated **ASPIRATION** and **DREAM3R** clinical trials activate in early 2021. The ASPIRATION clinical trial, in collaboration with industry and the Australian Genomic Cancer Medicine Centre's (AGCMC trading as Omico) Molecular Screening and Therapeutics (MoST) study, co-ordinated through the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, is evaluating the benefit of routine up-front comprehensive genomic profiling (CGP) in 1000 newly diagnosed metastatic, non-squamous, non-small cell lung cancer patients in Australia. The innovative umbrella design will enable intervention with and evaluation of active therapy arms in an array of oncogene sub-studies in an effort to deliver personalised maximal impact therapy to all eligible Australians moving forward, and contribute novel practice-changing scientific data to the international arena.

DREAM3R is a randomised Phase III 2:1 design evaluating the front-line combination of chemotherapy with immunotherapy (PD-L1 checkpoint inhibition) in malignant pleural mesothelioma, in collaboration with PreCOG, a US-based clinical trials group. We are excited to see this study now open, offering our patients an excellent

treatment opportunity and evaluating a highly important therapeutic combination in this group with unmet need.

For anyone interested in joining **TOGA** please visit the [website](#). Please also consider registering for the inaugural **Annual Scientific Meeting** 22-23 July this year in Sydney. Program highlights see international speakers including plenary presenter and lead-investigator Prof Pan Chyr Yang (Taiwan) presenting on the positive Taiwan Lung Cancer Screening in Never-Smoker Trial (TALENT); promising and positive neoadjuvant combination chemo-immunotherapy data delivered by Prof Jay Lee (USA) and Professor Ramaswamy Govindan (USA) covering the emerging role of proteogenomics in lung cancer treatments. Prof Julie Brahmer (USA) will engage as the affirmative speaker in the "Are two immunotherapies better than one in first line lung cancer treatment?" debate. There will also be broad representation with presentations from our fantastic Australian lung cancer multi-disciplinary team. An unmissable networking occasion for the lung cancer enthusiast.

There is a continuing interest to update the **Cancer Council Lung Cancer Guidelines**, which I would like to support in 2021. These were last published in 2017, and we have seen a rapidly shifting paradigm in the management and treatment of lung cancer in the intervening time. I invite any suggested initiatives and/or members who would like to form a **lung cancer guidelines working group** to please contact me.

**Malinda Itchins**  
**Chair, Lung Cancer Group**  
[malinda.itchins@sydney.edu.au](mailto:malinda.itchins@sydney.edu.au)

## Melanoma and Skin Cancer Group

The last year has seen tremendous progress in the research and management of patients with melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, with much activity occurring within the COSA Melanoma and Skin Cancer Group. Australia truly leads the way in prevention, detection and management of skin cancer, with several COSA members recognised worldwide as key opinion leaders in this space, more so than any other cancer group. Special congratulations should be made to **Prof Georgina Long AO**, who completed her (first Australian and first female) presidency of the Society for Melanoma Research (SMR) and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Of all research efforts, perhaps most exciting have been the rapidly expanding portfolio of Australian investigator-led **clinical trials of adjuvant and neoadjuvant immunotherapy** in melanoma, merkel cell cancer and cutaneous squamous cell cancer. These studies will lead to improvements in the understanding of cancer and immune biology, directly leading to improved clinical outcomes for patients.

Two seminal papers have been published this year (Rozeman EA et al Nat Med. 2021 and Menzies AM et al Nat Med. 2021) demonstrating high clinical activity and durable survival with combination immunotherapy in stage III melanoma (a phase 3 trial compared to "standard" adjuvant therapy will soon open) and proof of a strong association between pathological response and survival which will lead to this being an early endpoint for future trials and more early phase drug development in the neoadjuvant setting, cutting costs, saving time, and saving lives.



The **Australian Centre of Excellence in Melanoma Imaging & Diagnosis (ACEMID) study**, led by Prof Peter Soyer and running across 15 sites in Australia, has commenced, using cutting edge 3D total body photography to more efficiently and effectively screen for the early detection of melanoma. Basic and translational science also continues at a frantic pace, with an ever increasing number of high impact papers being published from COSA members and collaborators.

Several “virtual” conferences have been successfully conducted, including the annual **COSA Advanced Trainees Meeting** at the end of 2020. Medical oncology trainees from across Australia dialled in to view presentations from key opinion leaders in the latest developments of surgery, systemic and radiation therapy for melanoma and complex skin cancers.

The annual ASCO conference will run in June, with a practice changing trial of **combination nivolumab and relatlimab** (a LAG3 antibody) showing superiority over nivolumab monotherapy, offering another advancement over PD1 monotherapy for patients with metastatic melanoma which will likely flow to other tumour types. Also at ASCO and later in the year at ESMO, COSA members will present data on various aspects of immunotherapy, culminating in two national conferences, the **COSA Annual Scientific Meeting** (theme – immunotherapy) in Melbourne and the bi-annual **Australasian Melanoma Conference** (AMC) in Sydney.

**Alex Menzies**  
Chair, Melanoma and Skin Cancer Group  
[alexander.menzies@sydney.edu.au](mailto:alexander.menzies@sydney.edu.au)

## Nutrition Group

The Nutrition Group has welcomed the new year, and despite the challenges of 2020, has hit the ground running with enthusiasm to progress recent and new ideas and collaborations. We have had a changing of the guard in terms of membership of our Executive Committee, which offers new opportunities and fresh perspectives. In doing so, we thank our outgoing Chair, Associate Professor Nicole Kiss for her dedication and leadership for the past six years and are delighted that she is staying on as a key member of the Nutrition Group Executive Committee.

We are also thrilled to welcome new members: Lauren Atkins (VIC), Dr Teresa Brown (QLD), Irene Deftereos (VIC), Emily Jeffrey (WA), Louise Moodie (QLD) and Belinda Steer (VIC). We are fortunate to be able to draw from a talented group of cancer-nutrition experts representing diversity across their clinical and research interests, public and private settings, geographical location and unique skill sets including evidence synthesis, implementation science, large-scale project management, indigenous cancer care and social media.

The Nutrition Group has delivered numerous cancer-nutrition initiatives, the most recent being the foundational **Clinical Oncology Society of Australia: Position Statement on Cancer-Related Malnutrition and Sarcopenia**, now an **open access publication** in *Nutrition and Dietetics*. Over the coming year, we look forward to undertaking further work that includes a focus on implementation of the position statement recommendations and to this end, we have recently had an abstract accepted to deliver an implementation workshop at this year's **Dietitians Association Conference** in Melbourne in July.

Another key focus will be ongoing evidence synthesis to progress the update to the COSA evidence-based guidelines for nutritional management of adult patients with head and neck cancer. We have several systematic reviews led by Associate Professor Judy Bauer, Dr Teresa Brown and myself currently in press or under review and look forward to sharing details of those publications through the *COSA Nutrition Group e-News* as they become available.

Planning for the COSA 2021 ASM in Melbourne is already underway with Jenelle Loeliger representing the Group on the Scientific Program Committee. At this stage, I am able to share that we have an incredible line up of expert speakers for the cancer-related malnutrition and sarcopenia session so stay tuned for more details through the COSA ASM promotional information. Trust us, it will be a session not to be missed! The opportunity to showcase outstanding cancer nutrition research is always a highlight of the ASM and we are pleased to confirm we are able to offer the Dietitians Australia Research Prize again this year.

It is both humbling and exciting to step into the role of Nutrition Group Chair. Having been a member of the Nutrition Group Executive for about a decade or so, it was certainly time to consider picking up the baton. With such a talented, motivated Nutrition Group to work with, it will be inspiring to see where we can go next. The Nutrition Group welcome new members and would love to hear from anyone interested in becoming involved with our projects and about opportunities for collaborating with other Groups where nutrition expertise can add value to their initiatives.

**Merran Findlay**  
Chair, Nutrition Group  
[merran.findlay@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:merran.findlay@health.nsw.gov.au)



## Psycho-Oncology Group

As I write this report, many of our Australian Psycho-oncology colleagues are in the final throes of preparation for the International Psycho-oncology Society 2021 Congress which will be held 26 to 29 May. The conference will be based in Japan and is a virtual meeting. It is pleasing to see a strong contingent of Australian researchers and clinicians showcasing their work and participating in the conference.

I think that we are all bursting to attend conferences in person and certainly, at time of writing, this is the plan for the 2021 COSA ASM where we will get to access the latest updates on contemporary issues in cancer care and we will have the opportunity to meet with our colleagues and friends from around our nation. The congress will be in Melbourne from 16-18 November with the title being *Cancer Care and Research: Learning from the past and improving the future* with the very topical themes: Immunotherapy and PREMS and PROMS.

Associate Professor Lesley Stafford has been an outstanding representative for psycho-oncology on the organising committee and from the program there is a clear influence of the psycho-oncology voice. Lesley has coordinated a plenary session which will encourage us to reflect on the key learnings from our experiences in 2020 and how these learnings will influence our future directions. In addition, Lesley has coordinated a session on immunotherapy which considers challenging communication issues in this context, the impact of and on carers of people undergoing immunotherapy, the impact of this treatment on long-term responders and the fear of cancer recurrence in this group.

Key dates for the 2021 COSA ASM are: 9 July, Symposia submissions close; 13 August, Abstract submissions close; 10 September, Early bird registration closes; and 16 November, ASM commences.

I look forward to seeing you in person in Melbourne in November. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with me if you have any ideas you would like to share.

**Laura Kirsten**  
**Chair, Psycho-Oncology Group**  
[laura.kirsten@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:laura.kirsten@health.nsw.gov.au)

## Survivorship Group

COSA Survivorship Group activities continue to advance at a rapid pace during the first half of 2021 as we work towards our goal of improved care and outcomes for all Australians after cancer treatment.

We welcomed four new members to our Group Executive who bring diverse skills and experience that will strengthen our efforts – Prof Gail Garvey (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health – Menzies School of Health Research, Qld); Dr Nicolas Hart (Allied health – exercise scientist – Queensland University of Technology, QLD/ Edith Cowan University, University of Notre Dame Australia, WA); Ms Rebecca McIntosh (Allied health – dietitian – Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre/ Carrington Health, VIC) and Dr Tom Walwyn (Paediatric and adolescent oncology – Perth Children’s Hospital, WA). We thank our outgoing Executive members for their significant contribution to our Group’s activities – Prof John Boyages, Prof Richard Cohn, Prof David Joske and Prof Janette Vardy.

Our work has continued to focus on strategic areas of importance for the Survivorship Group:

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[www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au)

Simply log-in using your member number and password, and follow the links for full access to the Journal through Blackwell Synergy.

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## Exploring care delivery and new models of care

The Survivorship Group recognises that there is significant variation in the delivery of survivorship care across the country, and we continue to consider how to support implementation of the COSA Model of Survivorship Care. Many of our members contribute their time and expertise to our three working groups which focus on different elements of care delivery and the application of the model of care – *Financial Toxicity* (Chaired by Prof Ray Chan); *Patient Reported Outcomes* (Chaired by Prof Bogda Koczwara); and *Primary Care-Survivorship* (Chaired by Prof Michael Jefford). Each working group is making significant progress and more details on their projects may be found on our Group’s [Activities page](#) on the COSA website. The Survivorship Group’s strategic plan includes a focus on the development of a national cancer

control plan, so we are delighted that Cancer Australia is working to develop the Australian Cancer Plan (ACP). The Survivorship Group is keen to support this development, particularly to inform policy around the care of survivors/care in the post-treatment phase.

The COSA Model of Survivorship Care recognises the importance of understanding survivors' issues, concerns and needs, to inform patient-directed care, and the Model's applicability to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians was considered at the recent *Roundtable on Cancer Survivorship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*. This online Roundtable was co-hosted by Menzies School of Health Research and COSA prior to the March 2021 COSA/Flinders Cancer Survivorship Conference. To date, there is little evidence regarding the lived experience, and specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the post-treatment survivorship phase. The Roundtable was the beginning of an important discussion about these issues and the applicability of existing survivorship models, and identified priority areas to move forward. The Roundtable report is now available from the [TACTICS Centre of Research Excellence](#).

## Educational opportunities

*Cancer Survivorship 2021* was held virtually in March in partnership with the Flinders University Health and Medical Research Institute. The theme *Life after cancer – redefined, reimaged and rebuilt* tackled some challenging concepts and focused on a number of important topics including survivorship in the context of incurable cancer, survivorship issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and neurological sequelae, including peripheral neuropathy and cognitive changes. Four workshops were very well attended; these emphasised skill acquisition covering cognition, mental health, self-management, and practical

issues. Registered attendees can **access** conference content, plenaries, workshop introductions and e-posters for the next 12 months, and I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity.

We have expanded our commitment to delivering collaborative webinars relevant to survivorship, and have formed a partnership with the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre (ACSC), Cancer Nurses Society of Australia and Cancer Council Victoria. Our Allied Health-Survivorship webinar took place on 25 May 2021 exploring the role of allied health providers in cancer survivorship care. This webinar was very well attended and brought together experts who provided insights on the context, challenges, and opportunities providing cancer survivorship care in rural and regional settings. It also provided information to help allied health professionals identify and effectively manage the common unmet needs of regional and rural cancer survivors through evidence-based tools and support. If you missed this webinar, or want to view a previous session, you can catch up via our [Group Resources page](#). Planning is already underway for our next collaborative webinar which we expect to deliver in the next few months – we will let you know when registrations open.

We also recently distributed another edition of our excellent Group publication – *Survivorship eNews* – skilfully co-edited by Dr Fiona Crawford-Williams and Dr Carolyn Mazariego. Please check it out [here](#) if you haven't already, and consider contributing your survivorship news, research and achievements to our next edition. A reminder also that our [@COSA\\_Surviv](#) twitter account enjoys an active following, so please tag us if you are on Twitter so we can share your work with the COSA Survivorship community.

## Survivorship research

COSA's inaugural Survivorship Research Fellows continue to make excellent progress on their research projects:

*Implementation of Patient Reported Outcomes in Cancer Care Clinical Settings* (Dr Carolyn Mazariego): A two-round Delphi process to determine priorities for implementation of PROs to inform clinical care has been undertaken and findings are now being analysed. Initial findings from this study have been accepted as a poster presentation at the PROMS Down Under Conference to be held in Sydney, 8-9 July 2021.

*Defining Research Priorities for cancer survivorship in Australia* (Dr Fiona Crawford-Williams): This project involved a two-round Delphi which was finalised in February 2021. Preliminary findings were presented in an e-poster at the COSA/Flinders Survivorship Conference in March. A publication is currently being drafted.

*Current audit of cancer survivorship research activity in Australia* (Dr Julia Morris): The results of Julia's fellowship project were also presented at the COSA/Flinders Survivorship conference. A journal publication will be developed.

We established these Survivorship Research Fellowships to help advance our research agenda and build capacity in survivorship research. Each Fellow receives ongoing mentorship and guidance from Executive members, and meets regularly with their mentoring team to discuss their project. We have been deeply impressed with the commitment dedicated by each of our Fellows to their projects and the calibre of their research efforts.

Please get in touch for more information about Survivorship Group activities.

**Michael Jefford**  
**Chair, Survivorship Group**  
[michael.jefford@petermac.org](mailto:michael.jefford@petermac.org)

# COSA Affiliated Organisation Reports

## Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group



For 30 years the AGITG has conducted clinical trials in gastro-intestinal (GI) cancer to improve patient care, medical practice, and survival rates. The AGITG membership encompasses a wide range of medical specialists, scientists, nurses, allied health professionals and consumers involved in all aspects of GI cancer research. The Group supports research through awards, grants, and events including the Annual Scientific Meeting. Members are also eligible for unique grant opportunities thanks to the fundraising efforts of the GI Cancer Institute, the community division of the AGITG working across Australia to raise funds for small-scale AGITG trials and raise awareness of GI cancer.

### Latest research news

The INTEGRATE IIb stomach cancer clinical trial has just opened to patient enrolment, with Coffs Harbour Health Campus becoming the first site to open in early May. INTEGRATE IIb builds on the success of the INTEGRATE study and will determine whether a combination of regorafenib and the immunotherapy treatment nivolumab is more effective than standard chemotherapy for these patients. Professor Nick Pavlakis is leading this cutting-edge international trial, working with researchers in Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, USA and Europe.



*Prof Nick Pavlakis, Principal Investigator of the INTEGRATE IIb trial*

Recruitment to the global ACTICCA-1 gallbladder and biliary tract cancer trial has now closed. The ACTICCA-1 trial was conceived to determine whether treating patients with the chemotherapy drugs cisplatin and gemcitabine after surgery is better than the current standard of care (capecitabine) in helping to reduce the risk of cancer returning. We are grateful to the patients and researchers for investing time and effort into this study and look forward to sharing the results from this important trial.

Patient enrolment for the NABNEC neuroendocrine carcinoma (NECs) cancer trial has been extended to 31 December 2021. The aim of this trial is to establish if carboplatin and nab-paclitaxel combination is an effective and tolerable chemotherapy treatment for grade 3 advanced gastrointestinal NECs, and to explore translational biologic, molecular and functional imaging endpoints to inform future research and improve outcomes for NEC patients.

There are currently 17 AGITG studies open to recruitment for people with colorectal, pancreatic, oesophageal and stomach cancer, and neuroendocrine carcinomas. Find out more at [gicancer.org.au/opentrials](http://gicancer.org.au/opentrials)

### Developing new research in areas of great need

In 2019, we launched our first Idea Generation Workshop, a unique opportunity for researchers to present new research ideas at the earliest

stages to experts in the field. The workshop was so successful that it is now part of our yearly strategic activities to develop new research. In 2021, we are holding three workshops for GI cancers that desperately need more attention: cholangiocarcinoma, hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and rectal cancer.

We are pleased to be expanding our collaborations to bring together expert specialists at our Idea Generation Workshops. For the Cholangiocarcinoma workshop in May, we are collaborating with Pancare Foundation and co-funding a grant of up to \$100,000 for the best concept developed through our concept development pathway. In August, ideas for future clinical trials in HCC with a focus on radiation will be developed in collaboration with the TROG Cancer Research, Liver Cancer Collaborative and the Gastroenterological Society of Australia. The November rectal cancer workshop will also be held in collaboration with TROG. We look forward to progressing development from idea to clinical trial and improving patient outcomes in these neglected cancers.

### 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting: 12-15 October in Melbourne

In our 30th anniversary year, the Annual Scientific Meeting is the perfect time to reflect on the advances in GI cancer trials and treatments since 1991 and to look at innovative new technologies and methods that will influence GI cancer treatments in the future.

Widely known throughout Australasia as the premier meeting in the GI cancer space, the AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting provides a forum where, on behalf of GI cancer patients, the enigmatic nature of GI cancer is




**AGITG**  
23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
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12–15 October 2021 · Sofitel Melbourne on Collins  
[asm.gicancer.org.au](http://asm.gicancer.org.au)

challenged. The program and shared exchange of knowledge is designed to uncover the mysteries of the many cancers that are GI cancer and meet the challenges facing health professionals in the treatment for this group of cancers.

For more information or to register, go to [asm.gicancer.org.au](http://asm.gicancer.org.au).

## Develop your research with the AGITG

We encourage investigators to bring research concepts forward through the various avenues and opportunities offered by the AGITG. All concepts are reviewed for their scientific rigour and feasibility by the Upper or Lower GI Working Party, and the Consumer Advisory Panel. To learn more about developing your research with us, go to [gicancer.org.au/research](http://gicancer.org.au/research).

## The Gutsy Challenge returns in 2021

The Gutsy Challenge community fundraising program raises vital funds for the Innovation Grant and we are thrilled to

be hosting treks again. In March this year, Professor Nick Pavlakis led a team of 63 trekkers, including AGITG CEO Russell Conley, to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko. This incredible team raised over \$140,000 for new GI cancer research.

Our second trek of the year will take place in September, where you can experience a stunning walk to the Twelve Apostles rock formations along the beautiful Victorian coastline. In this Gutsy Challenge led by Clinical Dietitian Belinda Steer and Associate Professor Lara Lipton, you will trek 46km of scenic coastline over four days. There are a handful of places remaining for the unique opportunity to challenge yourself, take in some of the country's most iconic landmarks, and raise vital funds for GI cancer research.

Find out more at [gicancer.org.au/gutsy](http://gicancer.org.au/gutsy).

## An invitation from Dr Lorraine Chantrill, AGITG Chair

*The AGITG has a rich history of conducting practice changing clinical trials and cutting-edge translational*

*research. We are a collaborative group that welcomes new ideas and out-of-the-box thinking.*

*I invite colleagues who are not currently members of the AGITG to join our Group. Our membership is strengthened by the range of specialists from varied disciplines including medical and radiation oncologists, surgeons, data managers, research nurses, gastroenterologists, scientists, pathologists, statisticians, bioinformatics, radiologist, trial coordinators, consumers and allied health specialists.*

*Membership is free. To apply for membership or refer a colleague contact the Chief Executive Officer, Russell Conley at [russell@gicancer.org.au](mailto:russell@gicancer.org.au).*

**Lorraine Chantrill**  
Chair, AGITG

## Australian & New Zealand Children's Haematology Oncology Group

**ANZCHOG**  
Australian & New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group

## ANZCHOG's 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting, 23–25 June

ANZCHOG's ASM will be virtual this year! With the theme of "Clinical decision-making in a time of precision, hope and uncertainty", we are delighted to have secured leading national and international keynote speakers to discuss emerging issues and breakthroughs in paediatric oncology. The ASM will also showcase the latest national research in our main scientific



program and the virtual poster session, with the opportunity to digitally connect with other delegates in Australia, New Zealand and around the world. A range of pre-conference workshops and symposiums are also available, with targeted educational opportunities for health professionals working with children diagnosed with cancer and their families.

To find out more information, please visit: [anzchog2021.com](http://anzchog2021.com)

## Clinical trials update

With the support of our funding partners, ANZCHOG continues to expand our portfolio of clinical trials available for Australian and New Zealand children diagnosed with cancer. We currently have 24 clinical trials open for recruitment throughout Australia and New Zealand. More information can be found on our website at [anzchog.org/clinical-trials-research/](http://anzchog.org/clinical-trials-research/).

Already this year we have opened four new trials, enhancing access to novel treatment options across for a wider variety of childhood cancers.

### **FaR-RMS: An overarching study for children and adults with Frontline and Relapsed RhabdoMyoSarcoma.**

This international trial, developed by our colleagues at the University of Birmingham, incorporates multiple research questions within the single trial design, including optimising radiotherapy, testing the latest promising agents and new combinations and analysing the length of therapy. In partnership with ANZSA, FaR-RMS will be opened at a number of paediatric and adult centres across Australia and New Zealand.

### **TiNT: A phase II study of trametinib in paediatric, adolescent and young adult patients with Neurofibromatosis type 1 associated plexiform neurofibromas or progressive optic pathway gliomas.**

This locally developed study will be available at every children's cancer centre throughout Australia and New Zealand, examining if treatment with a novel MEK-inhibitor can reduce tumour growth caused by neurofibromatosis conditions.

### **PNOC-019/NICHE-HGG: A Randomized, Double-Blinded, Pilot Trial of Neoadjuvant Checkpoint Inhibition followed by Combination Adjuvant Checkpoint Inhibition in Children and Young Adults with Recurrent or Progressive High Grade Glioma (HGG).**

This is the first study to examine if immunotherapy before and after surgery can help boost the immune response to immunotherapy in children with HGG, and will provide preliminary data on changes in patient survival. PNOC-019 was developed by the Pacific Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Consortium (PNOC), a consortium based in the United States, with study sites across the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

### **CONNECT1903: A Pilot and Surgical Study of Larotrectinib for Treatment of Children with Newly-Diagnosed High-Grade Glioma with NTRK Fusion.**

Australian children were the first in the world to have access to this international trial, designed by the Collaborative Network for Neuro-oncology Clinical Trials (CONNECT), a US-based brain cancer trials consortium.

We continue to prioritise building our strong collaborative links with international colleagues and trials consortia, as, due to the low incidence of children's cancers, participation in international trials is vital to enable access to novel agents and innovative trials for Australian and New Zealand children. The development of our National Trials Office to provide centralised trial coordination and quality assurance activities is important component of our

international engagement strategy, as establishing ANZCHOG as a valued trial partner will lead to further trial opportunities in the future.

## Upcoming launch of our e-community platform!

In partnership with MCI, we are currently developing a members-only e-community platform! This digital communications tool will enable members to share the latest research and clinical trial findings, network within and across tumour and discipline-specific groups, host webinars and provide educational content. The e-community will build ANZCHOG's capacity for information flow, collaboration and networking.

Please note that this is a members-only platform; applications for ANZCHOG membership can be accessed at [anzchog.org/members/](http://anzchog.org/members/).

*Nick Gottardo*  
**Chair, ANZCHOG**

## Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group



Improving life for  
women through  
cancer research

## ANZGOG's OUTBACK study to be presented at upcoming ASCO Plenary Session

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) has selected OUTBACK, an ANZGOG cervical cancer study, to be presented during the Plenary Session at their upcoming 2021 Annual Meeting.

This is exciting news as this is arguably the premier session of ASCO, where the most important trials are presented, discussed, and reviewed. It is a great honour and a true reflection of the nature of the trial – the robustness of the question and how it has been answered within the trial. Credit to all senior groups involved in OUTBACK, including Principal Investigator Prof Linda Mileshkin and everyone else associated with the management of the study.

OUTBACK is an international trial led by ANZGOG collaboratively with the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre (CTC). It is a phase III trial of adjuvant chemotherapy following chemoradiation as primary treatment for locally advanced cervical cancer compared with chemoradiation alone.

Abstract Title: *'Adjuvant chemotherapy following chemoradiation as primary treatment for locally advanced cervical cancer compared to chemoradiation alone: The randomized phase III OUTBACK Trial (ANZGOG 0902, RTOG 1174, NRG 0274).'*

Another ANZGOG study has also been included in the ASCO program. An abstract from the endometrial cancer

study, PHAEDRA, PI Dr Yoland Antill, has been accepted to be part of the Poster Session - Gynecologic Cancer.

Abstract Title: *'Tumor-associated immune cells and progression-free survival in advanced endometrial cancer (EC), results from the PHAEDRA trial (ANZGOG 1601).'*

Both ANZGOG studies, along with other highly notable studies, will be presented at ASCO's 2021 Annual Meeting, June 4–8, 2021.

## IGNITE study expansion

Due to positive signalling from an interim analysis, ANZGOG have received approval to expand one of IGNITE's cohorts – the Cyclin E1 over-expressed without gene amplification cohort – doubling the total number of planned patients in that cohort (now 64 patients).

A study in ANZGOG's OASIS Initiative, IGNITE is a phase II trial testing whether the use of adavosertib will provide clinical benefit to women with recurrent high-grade serious ovarian cancer. The study is open to recruitment at ten sites across Australia.

For more information on the study, watch Principal Investigator **Dr George Au-Yeung's video** explaining the trial or visit **ANZCTR's website** for further patient population information.

## ANZGOG Virtual Annual Scientific Meeting 2021

ANZGOG's **Virtual Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 2021** was held over two days: Friday 5 February for the Pure Science Symposium, and Friday 12 February for the main conference program. The theme of this year's ASM was *From Research to Clinical Practice – Patient-Reported Outcomes in Gynaecological Cancers*.

ANZGOG's first virtual ASM delivered an interactive and meaningful program to over 340 delegates – researchers, clinicians, nurses and those with an interest in gynaecological cancer research.

*"In the tradition of previous ANZGOG meetings, our 2021 virtual ASM provided an excellent opportunity for researchers, clinicians, scientists, nurses, and study coordinators, to hear about the practice-changing research*


 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING **2022** | 23-26 March  
 Crown Promenade  
 Melbourne

# SAVE THE DATE



being generated by ANZGOG and our collaborators, that is improving outcomes for women with gynaecological cancers,” said Dr Paul Cohen, 2021 ASM Convenor.

The Pure Science Symposium was an excellent opportunity to highlight the variety and significance of work performed by our pre-clinical researchers to better understand gynaecological cancers. It was also an invaluable opportunity for our pre-clinical and clinical researchers to engage and collaborate.

After the postponement of last year’s ASM, we thank our three keynote international speakers who joined us virtually to each deliver outstanding and insightful presentations:

- **Prof Nicoletta Colombo** (Gynaecological Oncologist, University of Milan, Italy). *Secondary debulking surgery for recurrent ovarian cancer – What I do and why.*
- **Prof Amit Oza** (Medical Oncologist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, Canada). **Ovarian Cancer – Building on BRCA: Where Next?**
- **Prof Wui-Jin Koh** (Radiation Oncologist, National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Pennsylvania, USA). *Defining optimal care for gynaecologic cancers – how do we incorporate patient-reported outcomes into decision making?*

Please save the date as we look forward to coming together face to face at next year’s ASM on **23-26 March 2022** at the Crown Promenade, Melbourne!

## ANZGOG trial update

ANZGOG currently has more trials in operation, in development and in its pipeline than ever before:

ANZGOG clinical trials open to recruitment:

- 10 ovarian cancer (iPRIME, IGNITE, PRECISE, VIP, ECHO, ICON9, SOLACE2, STICS AND STONES, TIPS, EMBRACE)

- 1 endometrial cancer (AtTend)
- ANZGOG clinical trials in start-up:
- 2 ovarian cancer including 1 surgical (HyNOVA, PARAGON II)
  - 1 endometrial (ADELE)
  - 1 QoL/End of life study (PEACE)

For more information on ANZGOG’s trials, [please visit our website](#).

## ANZGOG’s 20th Anniversary Annual Report

Earlier this year, ANZGOG has launched its first fully digital **Annual Report**, celebrating 20 years of improving life for women through research.

The 2020 Annual Report is digitally interactive, across three web pages, features trial summary videos by investigators, visual summaries of our achievements, and celebrates 20 years of improving life for women through gynaecological cancer research, with a 20-year timeline of ANZGOG’s milestones with videos by John Simes and Michael Friedlander AM, about the beginning of ANZGOG.

View the online report [here](#).

## Over \$250K raised for ovarian cancer through the Team Teal campaign

ANZGOG’s fundraising arm, WomenCan, in partnership with the Harness Racing Industry in Australia and New Zealand, has wrapped up the annual Team Teal campaign for another year. Funds raised will support ANZGOG’s **Survivors Teaching Students** and Research Nurse Grant programs in Australia and research projects in New Zealand.

The **2021 Team Teal campaign** was an outstanding success. Via an incredible effort by harness racing reinswomen along with community fundraisers, a total of \$238,331 was raised across

six states of Australia. Thank you to our Team Teal partners in the harness racing industry.

**Philip Beale**  
**Chair, ANZGOG**

## Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society



The Executive of the ANZHNCS and New Zealand Association of Plastic Surgeons (NZAPS) have confirmed that our joint Annual Scientific Meeting this year will be a hybrid meeting. This year our theme is “Innovation through Collaboration” and as the Australian and New Zealand ‘travel bubble’ is operational, we will be taking the plunge and meeting in Queenstown, New Zealand, 5-8 August 2021. We would welcome any COSA members to join us!

We have a fantastic line up of international speakers including Professor Jonathan Irish from Toronto, Canada, A/Professor Randall Kimple from the US and Dr Stefan Hofer from Toronto, Canada. We are also really fortunate to have Australian and New Zealand leaders in the fields of surgery, oncology, dentistry, immunology and allied health join the outstanding international faculty.

The meeting details are on our website ([anzhnsc.org](#)) and we would love to see you all in beautiful Queenstown!

Following our ASM, I will be stepping down from the ANZHNCS Executive after 12 years. Dr Brian Stein, current President, will be taking up the role



**JOINT SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2021  
ANZHNCS and NZAPS**  
Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society  
and the New Zealand Association of Plastic Surgeons

*Innovation through collaboration*

5-8 August 2021 | QT/Rydges Lakeland Resort | Queenstown




of Past President and will therefore also be representing the Society on COSA Council. I would like to thank the COSA Board for the experience of representing the ANZHNCS over the past two years. It has been an honour to see the development of some wonderful initiatives that have greatly assisted our Society members and the head and neck cancer patients who we represent. I look forward to seeing the continued projects through COSA that the ANZHNCS can contribute to and support.

**Julia Maclean**

**Immediate Past President, ANZHNCS**

## Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association



The Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association (ANZSA) team is off to another busy start to the year. Here are some of the key updates for this first half of 2021.

## Save the Date – ANZSA ASM 2021

The ANZSA Annual Scientific Meeting 2021 will take place on the 5 and 6 November in Melbourne, Victoria. There will be opportunities to meet in person (following COVID-safe procedures) or join remotely via Zoom. Save the date and stay tuned for more details.

## Patient recruitment open for FaR-RMS clinical trial

Great news for all Australian patients diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS): The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Chris O'Brien Lifehouse (NSW) is the first sarcoma specialist centre in Australia to start patient recruitment for the all-important clinical trial – *FaR-RMS: An overarching study for children and adults with Frontline and Relapsed RhabdoMyoSarcoma*.

The FaR-RMS study is an overarching clinical trial that optimises radiotherapy dose, testing of the latest promising agents, new combinations and analysing the length of systemic therapy.

This study is open to RMS patients (newly diagnosed, relapsed and progressive) of all ages (children, teenagers, young adults, and adults).

### Open: Patient recruitment for rhabdomyosarcoma



**Clinical trial:** FaR-RMS: An overarching study for children and adults with Frontline and Relapsed Rhabdomyosarcoma

**Disease:** Rhabdomyosarcoma

**Disease stage:** Newly diagnosed, relapsed and progressive

**Patient age range:** All (children, teenagers, young adults, and adults)

**Recruitment timeline:** Anticipated for up to seven years

ANZCHOC 

Patient recruitment is anticipated for up to seven years.

The FaR-RMS study will open in more Australian and New Zealand sarcoma specialists centres in due time and will be announced accordingly. More details of the FaR-RMS study can be found [here](#).

ANZSA wishes to acknowledge our collaborators:

- Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group (ANZCHOG) as the national sponsor for Australia and New Zealand, with funding support from the Australian Government through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).
- University of Birmingham (UK) as the international sponsor.

## ANZSA clinical trials and research

In addition to the newly added FaR-RMS clinical trial, we have three ongoing clinical trials, two clinical studies and one database project open for patient recruitment:

- **SARC032** – A Phase II randomised controlled trial of neoadjuvant pembrolizumab with radiotherapy and adjuvant pembrolizumab in patients with high-risk, localised soft tissue sarcoma of the extremity. Open for recruitment across three sites in Australia.
- **NORTH** – A Phase II study of panobinostat in paediatric adolescent and young adult patients with solid tumours including osteosarcoma, malignant rhabdoid tumour and neuroblastoma. This clinical trial is funded by the NH&MRC and jointly run with ANZCHOG. It is now open for patient recruitment in 15 sites across Australia.
- **rEECur** – International randomised

controlled trial of chemotherapy for the treatment of recurrent and primary refractory Ewing sarcoma. This clinical trial is funded by a grant from CanTeen and is now open for patient recruitment in adult and paediatric sarcoma centres across ANZ. It is now open for patient recruitment in 15 sites across Australia.

- **ISKS** – The International Sarcoma Kindred Study: a global multi-site prospective cancer genetics study. This project aims to establish an international database and biospecimen repository to be used as a clinical and research resource. It is now open at five sites across Australia.
- **SMOC+** – A surveillance study utilising whole-body magnetic resonance imaging and other surveillance procedures in people with germline cancer gene mutations to investigate the prevalence and incidence of investigable lesions. It is now open at six sites across Australia.
- **RESAR** – Retroperitoneal Sarcoma Registry (RESAR): a prospective collection of primary retroperitoneal sarcoma patients' clinical, radiological and pathology data for the TransAtlantic Retroperitoneal Sarcoma Working Group. It is now open at two sites in Australia.

For more details about the projects, site locations or if you want to be involved in the patient recruitment process, write to us at [contact@sarcoma.org.au](mailto:contact@sarcoma.org.au) or visit [sarcoma.org.au/projects](http://sarcoma.org.au/projects).

## ANZSA Sarcoma Journal Club

The ANZSA Sarcoma Journal Club is a forum for sarcoma experts across Australia and New Zealand to discuss interesting articles representing the best evidence to inform sarcoma clinical

practice. Sessions are organised every six weeks for an hour via Zoom.

The next session is on Thursday 10 June 2021, 5pm-6pm (AEST) and is hosted by Dr Wayne Nicholls (Children's Health Queensland Hospital). If you are interested in joining us, please email us at [contact@sarcoma.org.au](mailto:contact@sarcoma.org.au).

## ANZSA Sarcoma Specialist Allied Health Network

This allied health network is a newly formed professional group within ANZSA as an avenue to gather allied health professionals from Australia and New Zealand who treat sarcoma patients. The network aims, among other things, to establish guidelines for allied health practice for sarcoma patients, create a patient support tool and share expertise with fellow allied health members.

If you are interested in joining this network, please email us at [contact@sarcoma.org.au](mailto:contact@sarcoma.org.au).

## ANZSA Strategic Planning

The ANZSA Board, together with our consumer representatives, met in May 2021 to brainstorm and plan for the organisation's new Strategic Plan 2022-2024. This Strategic Plan will serve as guiding principles for all the work undertaken by ANZSA, which include improving early diagnosis, treatment options, outcomes and quality of life for sarcoma and related tumours patients. Stay tuned for more details.

We want to thank all our partners, philanthropic groups and members for their continued support, generosity and trust in us and the work we do.

**Denise Caruso**  
CEO, ANZSA

# Australian and New Zealand Urogenital & Prostate Cancer Trials Group



So far, 2021 has proved a busy year for ANZUP: studies reaching recruitment, sites opening overseas and we continue to receive more awards, publications and accolades for our clinical trials.

The practice changing results seen by our ENZAMET clinical trial (ANZUP 1304) continues to have impact and be recognised for its achievements. In December 2020, ENZAMET won the **2020 ACTA Trial of the Year Award**, the **ACTA STInG Award for Excellence in Trial Statistics** and the **Consumer Involvement Award** — a fantastic achievement and the first trial awarded all three categories. Congratulations to study co-Chairs Professor Ian Davis (ANZUP Chair) and Professor Christopher Sweeney, and everyone involved in this trial.



Ian Davis receiving the 2020 ACTA Trial of the Year award for ENZAMET

Other achievements of ENZAMET include:

- Featured in the ASCO main plenary session in 2019
- Featured in ESMO's Clinical Practice Guidelines for 2020
- Named in the ASCO Annual Report on Progress Against Cancer as one of its Clinical Cancer Advances for 2020
- Contributed to the FDA approval of enzalutamide in December 2019
- In April 2021 in Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved enzalutamide for use with metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer (mHSPC), a decision supported by the ENZAMET trial

On International Clinical Trials Day, our co-badged study ProPSMA led by Professor Michael Hofman, was announced as the winner of the **2021 ACTA Trial of the Year**. A great achievement for the study, and two years in a row for ANZUP!

Our TheraP trial (ANZUP 1603) featured as an oral presentation at the ASCO GU 2021 virtual meeting in February 2021, with Michael Hofman presenting the results of the study, as well as being published synchronously in *The Lancet*. The study also featured in the ASCO Post Genitourinary Oncology Highlight 2020-2021 – a great achievement.

TheraP is the first randomised trial comparing <sup>177</sup>Lu-PSMA-617 (Lu-PSMA), a novel radioactive treatment, to the current standard-of-care chemotherapy called cabazitaxel for men with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.

In other exciting news, our UNICAB trial (ANZUP 1802) brought on its first teletrial site at Goulburn Valley Hospital (Shepparton) under Border Medical Oncology (Albury). This marks an ANZUP first as we look forward to ever expanding the availability of our trials to rural and regional patients.

Our P3BEP study (ANZUP 1502) recruited its 150th patient – reaching our stage 1st recruitment target milestone. We now look forward to beginning recruitment for the next phase of this study.

Our DASL-HiCaP study (ANZUP 1801) randomised its first patient in Canada and New Zealand and aims to open in the USA, Ireland and the UK in 2021.

In November 2020, ANZUP held its first ever virtual ASM. The two day program included an impressive international speaking line-up featuring Cristiane Bergerot, Alison Birtle, Robert Bristow, Felix Feng, Silke Gillissen, Alicia Morgans, Tom Powles, Chris Sweeney and Bertrand Tombal. The virtual program also featured popular sessions including the Nurses and Allied Health



**Acknowledgements**

@ANZUP #TheraP  
All slides can be downloaded at: [www.anzup.org.au/therap](http://www.anzup.org.au/therap)

**We thank:**

- Patients and support network
- Principal and co-investigators
- Study coordinators
- Nurses
- Radiopharmacists/chemists
- Nuclear medicine technologists
- Clinical research associates
- Data managers

**Industry support:**

- PSMA-617 supply and financial support: Endocyte Inc., a Novartis company
- Lutetium-177 no carrier added supplied from Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)

**Funding:**

- Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia with thanks to community generosity of
  - Movember
  - It's a Bloke Thing Foundation
  - Can4Cancer
- Cancer Australia (ANZUP infrastructure support)
- M Hofman: Peter MacCallum Foundation, Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF)
- I Davis: NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship

Study designed and conducted by the ANZUP in collaboration with:

- NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre at the University of Sydney
- Australasian Radiopharmaceutical Trials Network (ARTnet)

Presented at: Genitourinary Cancers Symposium

Presented by: Michael Hofman

The TheraP trial was presented at ASCO GU 2021

Session, MDT Master Games, ANZUP Symposium, ANZUP in Conversation, trial updates, ANZUPx, and virtual poster discussant rooms. As with all ANZUP ASM's, the presentations and discussions were interesting, thought provoking and focussed around the challenges and opportunities faced as we work together to improve access to clinical trials, particularly in light of the challenges of COVID-19.

We are planning to hold our 2021 ASM as a face-to-face meeting in Adelaide from 17–19 October, with the theme 'A Clearer Vision During Change'. The convening committee, led by convener A/Prof Nick Brook, are currently working hard on delivering another stellar program – featuring a faculty of world-class international and national speakers, your ASM favourite sessions, as well as some new and exciting additions to the program. Save the date — and we look forward to seeing you in person! You can learn more about the ASM on our [website](#).

In February and April 2021, ANZUP held two virtual RCC Horizon Scanning Meetings with clinical and scientific experts and consumers from across Australia. The aim of these meetings was to identify unmet needs in RCC that clinical trials research could address in Australia and New Zealand and align with the available skills and expertise.

The workshops generated a range of opportunities that could answer clinical questions in RCC to improve patient outcomes. At the RCC Concept Development Workshop in June, we will discuss and develop these opportunities further.

In September 2020 we held our inaugural virtual Below the Belt #YourWay Challenge, and as this publication goes to print will be wrapping up our second event, held during May 2021. All funds raised go directly to ANZUP's clinical trial

research via the Below the Belt Research Fund, to support the important work of our ANZUP clinicians and researchers.

Our ANZUP membership continues to grow, and is close to reaching 1850. We would like to thank our members, who, without their time, expertise and tireless dedication to clinical trials, we would not be able to help improve treatments and outcomes for those with urogenital cancers.

*Ian Davis*  
**Chair, ANZUP**

## Breast Cancer Trials



### 42nd Annual Scientific Meeting

Registration is open for the Breast Cancer Trials 42nd Annual Scientific Meeting, which will be a virtual conference this year from 28-30 July 2021.

The program includes two days of Scientific Sessions, a pathology workshop, updates on current clinical trials and a concept workshop for new research ideas.

International speakers will be:

- Professor Fraser Symmans – Director of Research Operations in the Department of Pathology at the M D Anderson Cancer Centre, where he practices Breast Surgical Pathology and Cytopathology and directs the Breast Cancer Pharmacogenomics Laboratory.

- Professor Eileen Rakovitch – Professor and Scientist in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto and an Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences.
- Professor Fran A Vicini – Chief Academic Officer for Michigan Healthcare Professionals and 21st Century Oncology, as well as Professor of Radiation Oncology.
- Professor Roberto Salgado – Anatomic Pathologist in Antwerp, Belgium, an Honorary Research Associate at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, and part of the Tracer-X Consortium aimed at deciphering the clonal evolutionary pressures in lung and renal cancer.

For more information or to register, visit [www.bct2021.org](http://www.bct2021.org).

### Neoadjuvant Patient Decision Aid

Breast Cancer Trials has launched an online version of the Neoadjuvant Patient Decision Aid, which aims to help women make an informed decision about their breast cancer treatment.

For many women recently diagnosed with breast cancer, the treatment process can be overwhelming and stressful. In certain situations, doctors may offer treatment with chemotherapy or hormonal therapy before surgery to the breast and lymph nodes (neoadjuvant).

Our new online tool is tailored to each breast cancer patient and factors in what type of breast cancer they have been diagnosed with. The decision aid is not intended to change a patient's mind about treatment, rather to present an evidence-based view of their options and ensure their treatment choice is aligned with their particular circumstance. It informs breast cancer patients about their options for the

timing of their treatment and surgery, and the pros and cons of having surgery first.

To try the online guide, visit [www.myneoguide.com](http://www.myneoguide.com) or to order printed guides, please email [media@bctrials.org.au](mailto:media@bctrials.org.au).

**Bruce Mann**  
Chair, BCT

## Cancer Symptom Trials



Cancer Symptom Trials  
(CST)

### Overview

On 12 March, we wrapped up the end of what was a fantastic online PaCCSC and CST Annual Research Forum 2021. The forum gave us pause to reflect on what a wonderful and diverse community we are part of with speakers and guests joining us from the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Japan, as well as from across Australia. The forum is an opportunity to shine a light on common challenges as well as opportunities for new collaborations. Our three forum themes – geriatric oncology, telehealth, and immunotherapy toxicity – were all topical and drew keen interest from the audience.

Our international collaborations are progressing well with the CST DEPART Pain study now open to recruitment in Australia, and the PaCCSC BETTER-B study well underway. The IMPACCT Rapid program continues to grow with new series opening and to track our

successes with recruitment targets being met for others. We are pleased to be collaborating with colleagues in the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) ithree institute on finding solutions to better manage malignant wounds.

We've had some changes in our team, with two team members moving on to new roles and we have welcomed three new people. Grace Prael, PaCCSC Research Assistant-Writer, Jessie Hao, Research Assistant-Data, and Yinyin Phyto, Project Support, have all commenced in the IMPACCT Trial Coordination Centre supporting CST and PaCCSC clinical trials.

### Events

#### PaCCSC and CST Annual Research Forum 2021

After having to cancel the PaCCSC forum last year, we were excited to get this year's forum underway. The joint PaCCSC and CST Annual Research Forum for 2021 brought together speakers and guests with interests in palliative care and cancer symptom management. We chose topical themes that resonated with the audience and put the spotlight on common challenges faced here in Australia and overseas.

We would like to acknowledge our keynote speaker, **Professor R Sean Morrison**, Director of the USA National Palliative Care Research Center, for an insightful presentation on palliative care research in the United States. Our thanks also go to Professor Christine Ritchie, Minaker Chair in Geriatrics and Director of Research for the Division of Palliative Care and Geriatric Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Dr Michael Dougan, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of Immunotherapy the Mucosal Toxicities Program at Massachusetts General hospital. It was a great privilege to have three excellent international speakers at the forum.



*Professor R Sean Morrison was keynote speaker at the PaCCSC/CST Annual Research Forum 2021*

And to the two speakers who stepped in at the eleventh hour when we had to make some last-minute changes to the program – thank you! Stefan Harrer, Chief Innovation Officer of Digital Health CRC, joined us to talk about technological developments in telehealth delivery, and Hayley Burridge, Melanoma Nurse Consultant at The Alfred, who conducted an engaging discussion with Tamara Dawson, founder of the Melanoma & Skin Cancer Advocacy network (MSCAN).

Thanks also to our session chairs who led us through the program so knowledgeably – Dr Michael Chapman, Professor Peter Martin, and Professor Janette Vardy. Your guidance on the program topics and facilitation of the sessions was appreciated.

The small talk sessions for early- and mid-career researchers were well received and a wonderful opportunity for them to talk directly to our speakers and pose those burning questions.

This was our first online forum and we have received lots of positive response about the program and range of topics and also some great ideas to implement for next year. Thank you to all who attended and took the time to give feedback.

## Delphi surveys

We continue to work to identify the most troubling symptoms for people with cancer and their families through the Delphi surveys. We are working through the data from the first adult population survey, and recently launched the paediatric and AYA surveys.

The data gathered from these surveys will inform new research directions and focus for CST as we work to improve the quality of life for people living with cancer. Consumer insights are paramount to the work we do, and these surveys will give us their views as well as those of the people who care for them.

## Seeking better pain management solutions for people with cancer

On 23 February, Professor Melanie Lovell facilitated a Cancer Symptom Trials (CST)-hosted workshop where presenters and guests discussed pain management solutions.

We also welcomed guest speaker, Emeritus Professor Maree Smith, Director of the Centre for Integrated Preclinical Drug Development (CIPDD) at The University of Queensland, who shared her invaluable experience of pharmacological management of cancer pain.

Pain is a common symptom in people living with life limiting illness and neuropathic pain is often undertreated and can be refractory to existing therapies. This workshop's purpose was to give clinicians and researchers the opportunity to present new or innovative solutions to manage pain for people living with cancer.

We heard a range of new study ideas from a specialist pain physician, palliative care specialists and a palliative care nurse, who benefited

from the collective wisdom of the group who gave feedback and suggestions to improve their study ideas.

CST workshops aim to identify clinical challenges for which solutions would positively impact the future of healthcare and identify ideas for which a team can be put together to further develop the idea into a trial concept.

## PaCCSC projects



Dr Slavica Kochovska, PaCCSC Postgraduate Research Fellow, is leading two new breathlessness studies, which are now featured on the **PaCCSC projects** web page. The first, *Delineating the impact of chronic breathlessness: a cross-sectional population study*, aims to identify the link between chronic breathlessness and its impact on aspects of quality of life including physical, psychosocial, social, family, and environmental.

The second study, *Discussing the impact of chronic breathlessness in clinical consultations*, is a qualitative study investigating the perceptions and experiences of people with chronic breathlessness as well as caregivers and clinicians in discussing chronic breathlessness during clinical consultations.

Engaging with participants from both English- and Arabic-speaking backgrounds, this study is exploring whether chronic breathlessness is discussed in clinical consultations and whether current communication practices are effective identifying the presence and burden of this symptom.

Including people from the Arabic-speaking community in this research is critical to our understanding of the symptom needs of linguistically and ethnically diverse populations as well as how this diversity is reflected in clinical practice.

## IMPACCT Rapid Program

### ***Dressings for malignant cutaneous wounds – series 38***

We are pleased to be collaborating with Professor Liz Harry, Professor of Biology, and Dr Nural Cokcetin, Research Fellow, both at the ithree institute (Infection, Immunity & Innovation) in the Faculty of Science at UTS, to seek innovative treatments for managing wounds for people living with cancer.

We have a current Rapid series that aims to identify current wound management procedures that clinicians use for malignant cutaneous wounds as well as how the course of management is decided, and which interventions achieve the goals of care.

It is estimated that fungating wounds present in 5 to 14 per cent of advanced cancer patients, often occurring in the last six months of life and most commonly associated with breast, or head and neck cancers.

The physiological, psychological, and sociological consequences of living with a painful, infected, and malodorous wound can have a dramatic impact on the quality of life for the patient and their caregivers.

To get involved or find out more, go to the **Rapid Program Get involved page** or email [rapid@uts.edu.au](mailto:rapid@uts.edu.au).

**Linda Brown**  
National Manager, PaCCSC/CST

# Faculty of Radiation Oncology



The Royal Australian and New Zealand  
College of Radiologists\*  
The Faculty of Radiation Oncology

## Indigenous Health

Over recent years, RANZCR, as an organisation, has been reflecting on what it can do to make a positive impact on health outcomes for Indigenous people in Australia and New Zealand. RANZCR is committed to supporting the professions of radiation oncology and clinical radiology to contribute to equitable health outcomes for Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This work is now integral to the strategic objectives of the College.

RANZCR will honour our commitment to Indigenous health by:

- increasing the number of Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the clinical radiology and radiation oncology workforce;
- ensuring cultural safety is an essential component of clinical safety, and aligns with best practice and the accreditation standards of the Australian Medical Council (AMC) and Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ);
- building and maintaining sustainable relationships with the Indigenous health sector;
- ensuring College governance and strategic plans address Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' health priorities.

To support the College's work in achieving its commitment, the Board has established the Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Executive Committee (MATEC) as a bi-national peak committee to provide authoritative advice to the Board, the Faculty of Radiation Oncology, the Faculty of Clinical Radiology, and other key committees, on how to significantly reduce disparities in health outcomes for Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We are pleased to announce that MATEC is now operational and had its inaugural meeting in late 2020.

During 2021, MATEC is focusing on developing a RANZCR Action Plan for Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. The Action Plan will set achievable and measurable goals that are meaningful and can be implemented to enable RANZCR's membership to deliver better care to Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori patients and increase the recruitment of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori trainees.

RANZCR is soon to publish its Statement of Intent for Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. This Statement is designed to publicly communicate the College's commitments, values and directions in addressing Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and workforce outcomes. This Statement represents an opportunity for RANZCR to commit to achieving MATEC's objectives and underpins our refocused efforts in this area.

## Medical Benefits Schedule Review

In 2019-2020, there were nearly 2.54 million radiation therapy MBS services delivered to patients. It is recognised that this is still not the optimal rate of utilisation of radiation therapy in Australia. The Faculty of Radiation Oncology MBS Review Working Group

continues to liaise with the federal government regarding the review. RANZCR's two expert nominees are currently working with the Department to resolve the methodology for the cost modelling and analysis exercise that the Department will undertake. It is not expected that the new schedule will be implemented until 2022. This piece of ongoing work is vital to ensure the revised and proposed MBS descriptors are appropriately utilised and funded.

**Keen Hun Tai**

**Dean, Faculty of Radiation Oncology**

## MASC Trials



2021 has already been a dynamic and eventful year for MASC Trials as we continue to settle into our new governance structure and home within the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. Our trial activity has never been greater, and we remain focussed on availing the tremendous opportunities for collaborative co-operative group research in the modern and exciting era of melanoma and skin cancer treatment.

First, I would like to inform you of Aileen Boyd-Squires' departure as CEO of MASC Trials. Aileen made an outstanding contribution to our group in her time with MASC Trials (September 2020 to April 2021), initiating and installing many key operational and structural improvements. We wish Aileen every success in the next phase of her career.

The MASC Trials Board and Monash University have already moved to fill the CEO position, appointing Cheryl-Ann Hawkins to the role. Cheryl-Ann brings

decades of experience in Management and Clinical Trial operations, with a proven track record of developing and managing successful and productive teams within the field, so MASC Trials remains in very capable hands. Other staffing additions are planned as we continue to build our team in the excellent and supportive environment at Monash University.

In the last six months we have recruited a steady stream of new research participants, with 281 patients / 10 protocols / 81 sites / 11 countries. I am delighted to share with you some of our key achievements, as well as details on upcoming publications.

### 02.18 MelMarT-II

The MelMarT-II trial has had recent international progress, after Principal Investigator Prof Marc Moncrieff successfully received funding from the NIHR to run MelMarT-II in the United Kingdom. This will allow MelMarT-II to operate independently in the UK, working with the Surgical Intervention Trials Unit at Oxford University and with oversight by MASC Trials. We have also recently activated North Shore Hospital in Auckland, New Zealand, and Ottawa Hospital Research Institute in Ontario, Canada. Globally, MelMarT-II is now active in Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, New Zealand, and Sweden, with plans to open in Netherlands, Ireland, Slovenia, Norway and others in the next twelve months.

### 03.18 I-MAT

Our very first teletrial site for I-MAT has opened at Cairns Hospital. We look forward to opening more teletrial sites across numerous projects to provide crucial access to experimental treatments for patients in rural and remote areas.

### 10.17 GoTHAM

The GoTHAM trial, which aims to improve the management of patients diagnosed with metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma, has now recruited three participants across six sites (as of May 2021). Given the rarity of this disease, this trial provides hope for better outcomes for those suffering with metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma.

### Uveal Melanoma Registry

The first Australian site for the global Uveal Melanoma Registry has opened at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Uveal melanoma is a rare and aggressive form of melanoma which affects the eye, and the rarity of the disease makes collation of patient data even more critical.

### 02.14 Combi-RT

Dr Tim Wang's Combi-RT research study, which evaluated the safety and efficacy of dabrafenib, trametinib, and palliative radiation therapy in patients with stage IIIc and IV BRAF V600E/K melanoma, is currently being analysed, and written up for publication.

### 02.17 MEL-SELF Pilot

We are excited to announce that MEL-SELF pilot, for which Principal Investigator Dr Katy Bell investigated the research question "Can patient-led surveillance detect more early stage recurrent or new primary melanoma than clinician-led surveillance?", now has its publication in the final stages.

## Active Trials (Recruiting)

Recruiting clinical trials are fully approved and accepting patients. For more information please visit [www.masc.org.au/recruiting-trials/](http://www.masc.org.au/recruiting-trials/)

### 01.10 CARPETS

**Prof Michael Brown**

Phase I study of safety and immune effects of an escalating dose of autologous GD2 chimeric antigen receptor-expressing peripheral blood T cells in patients with metastatic melanoma.

### 02.12 RADICAL

**A/Prof Pascale Guitera**

A randomised controlled multicentre trial of imiquimod versus radiotherapy for lentigo maligna when staged surgical excision with 5mm margins is not possible, is refused, or fails.

### 01.15 CHARLI

**A/Prof Shahneen Sandhu**

A Phase Ib/II trial of Ipilimumab-Nivolumab-Denosumab and Nivolumab-Denosumab in patients with unresectable Stage III and IV melanoma.

### 04.17 SMARTI

**A/Prof Victoria Mar**

A Pilot Study of an artificial intelligence system as a diagnostic aide for better skin cancer management.

### 09.17 PRIME002

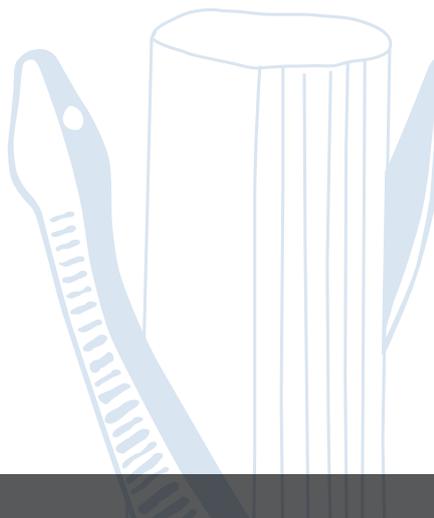
**Dr Andre van der Westhuizen**

Early Phase II study of Azacitidine and Carboplatin priming for Avelumab in patients with advanced melanoma who are resistant to immunotherapy.

### 10.17 GoTHAM

**A/Prof Associate Professor Shahneen Sandhu**

A Phase Ib/II study of combination avelumab with peptide receptor radionuclide therapy or conventional fractionated radiotherapy in patients with metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma.





Join us  
**VIRTUALLY**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Australasian Ocular Melanoma Alliance Summit**

18 June 2021  
8:30am – 1:00pm AEDT  
**SCIENTIFIC SESSION**

19 June 2021  
9:00am – 12:00pm AEDT  
**PATIENT SESSION**

**AOMA**  
AUSTRALASIAN OCULAR MELANOMA ALLIANCE

Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials  
Limited

**02.18 MelMarT-II**

**Prof Michael Henderson and  
Prof Marc Moncrieff**

A Phase III, multicentre, multinational randomised control trial investigating 1cm v 2cm wide excision margins for primary cutaneous melanoma.

**03.18 I-MAT**

**Dr Wen Xu**

A randomised, placebo-controlled, Phase II trial of adjuvant Avelumab in patients with stage I-III Merkel cell carcinoma.

**02.19 IMAGE**

**A/Prof Victoria Mar**

Melanoma Surveillance Photography to improve early detection of melanoma in very high risk (or high risk) patients.

## Upcoming Events

Join us virtually for the **2021 Australasian Ocular Melanoma Alliance (AOMA) Summit**, 18-19 June, as we bring together healthcare professionals, researchers and consumers in ocular melanoma to facilitate national and international collaborations. The diverse program includes international keynote speakers, Dr Brian Marr and Dr Richard Carvajal both from the Columbia University Irving Medical Centre, as well as influential leaders from across Australia and New Zealand. Register today at [aoma.org.au/2ndaomasummit/](http://aoma.org.au/2ndaomasummit/)

## Become a MASC Trials Member

We invite Australian and New Zealand researchers, health professionals and consumers to consider becoming a MASC Trials member. All members will benefit from:

- Access to a professional network for melanoma research, including clinicians, nursing staff, industry affiliates and patient/consumer representatives
- Support for the development of investigator-initiated studies
- Access to grant opportunities

**Subscribe to our eNewsletter** to be notified of all trial updates and publications.

For more information email [hello@masc.org.au](mailto:hello@masc.org.au) or visit [members.masc.org.au](http://members.masc.org.au).

**Mark Shackleton**  
**Chair, MASC Trials**



# Medical Oncology Group of Australia



The Medical Oncology Group (MOGA) hit the ground running in 2021 with a strong program of specialised education programs and oncology treatment advocacy activities planned throughout the year.

## Education and Professional Development programs

MOGA launched the new, **Oncology Professionals Advancing Leadership (OPAL)** program in early May. This program was convened by Radiation Oncologist and Oncology Leadership specialist, Associate Professor Sandra Turner and Associate Professor Prunella Blinman, MOGA Chair. Being a leader is an important role of medical oncologists, regardless of seniority and career stage. This course was designed to increase the effectiveness of medical oncology team members with the ultimate goal of optimising patient care in the clinical setting. All the educational sessions were directed at team-based learning among the oncologists with the objective of improving all aspects of patient care, from consultation to improved cancer treatment and quality of life outcomes. Specific clinical scenarios were used to ground discussions and learning in the real-life clinical environment. The program attracted far more applicants than could be accommodated and it is planned that this will be a regular component of future programming.

The 2021 MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting titled **Future of Oncology: Improving Outcomes through Innovation**, to be held online from 5-6 August, is being convened by Drs Florian Honeyball and Felicia Roncolato. International guest presenters, Professors Carlos Barrios (Brazil) and Martin Reck (Germany) will join a strong line up of Australian experts to participate in symposia featuring the latest developments in genetic diagnosis, prostate cancer, lung cancer and breast cancer, as well as oncology leadership and the Australian medical oncology workforce. The Young Oncologists program will focus on **Oncology in the Social Century** with sessions on podcasting and social media in health communications while the Trainees Program will examine the management of immune related adverse events and onco-fertility advances. The program will be rounded out with oral presentations, a virtual exhibition area and Poster Walk and Talk and sessions on theranostics, cyberknife and cutting-edge radiotherapy.

Applications for the ACORD21 Online Workshop (29 August to 3 September) from junior oncology clinicians based in the South East Asia region have been reviewed for our second one-week online ACORD21 Protocol Development Workshop. Convenor, Professor Martin Stockler and the program steering committee have offered seventy-five places to participate in the Workshop which will include up to 60 Faculty members.

## Professor M Tattersall AM Heroes Award

In late March MOGA announced the inaugural **Professor M Tattersall AM Heroes Award**. This new annual award seeks to recognise contributions by medical oncologists that honour the spirit, courage and commitment of the late Professor Martin Tattersall AO, and his significant contributions to Medical Oncology in Australia.

Martin Tattersall was a giant of medical oncology, a founding member and the first chair of the MOGA, who was responsible for the establishment and development of medical oncology in Australia.

Under the terms of the Award MOGA called for nominations from outstanding colleagues, heroes, who have made a significant contribution to Australian Medical Oncology in any of the following domains:

- Research
- Communication
- Community Service
- Patient advocacy
- Contribution to MOGA as the national professional organisation
- Contribution to Medical Oncology and the profession in Australia

The inaugural Award recipient will be announced at the 2021 Online Annual Scientific Meeting on 5 August 2021 and will receive a \$5,000 grant to support their ongoing professional development and research activities.

## Oncology drugs and treatment advocacy and initiatives

MOGA's activities in oncology drugs and treatment advocacy and initiatives continues to expand in response to emerging developments in clinical practice, research and the regulatory environment.

MOGA members Dr Yada Kanjanapan and Professor Desmond Yip, based in the ACT, lead a group of members earlier this year in the development of a MOGA COVID-19 vaccination statement. This living document was developed to provide timely and up to date advice to the Australian medical oncology profession in their day to day clinical practice in working with cancer patients throughout the continuum of the pandemic.

MOGA, along with the Haemal Society of Australia and New Zealand, and the Private Cancer Physicians of Australia are in negotiations with the Department of Health to collaborate on the development of a Medical Services Advisory Committee application for the new oral chemotherapy item as part of the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review. This will be a challenging task for our professional craft groups over the next 12 months or so, but we are committed to supporting the implementation of this new item to benefit Australian cancer patients.

Along with other leaders in Australian medical oncology including Professors Fran Boyle AM and Dorothy Keefe, CEO of Cancer Australia, I represented MOGA in late April at the Ministerial Roundtable to help develop the **Australian Cancer Plan**. This two year project led by Cancer Australia is being planned in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, and seeks to establish a framework for shared responsibility for implementation.

The Roundtable at Parliament House was part of the first step in the development of a visionary ten-year Australian Cancer Plan. The Plan will set out the key national priorities and action areas over the next 10 years to improve outcomes for Australian's affected by cancer. It will also cover prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and palliative care, while providing for the unique needs of specific cancer types and populations. MOGA welcomes the opportunity to participate in this important initiative that will deploy emerging evidence, technologies and innovations to improve outcomes, and benefit all Australians affected by cancer.

**Prunella Blinman**  
*Chair, MOGA*

## Oncology Social Work Australia New Zealand



In common with most organisations, OSWANZ has entered a second year in which we need to think creatively about the delivery of education and information to members. Having deferred our National Conference in 2020, the ongoing level of uncertainty about borders, quarantine and changing public health orders has resulted in the management committee making a decision to postpone a face to face conference again in 2021. However, with some optimism we are planning a one day conference for 2022, to be delivered virtually. A sub-group of the management committee is evaluating virtual platforms to determine the most reliable way in which we can link our membership throughout Australia and across the Tasman.

In lieu of our conference we have organised a series of lunchtime webinars which have been well attended and positively evaluated by the membership. Three webinars have been held to date, with a fourth planned for May 2021. Speakers have included Dr Carrie Lethborg, Prof Sanchia Aranda, Dr Richard Egan and Christine Cotter. Two further webinars for 2021 are at the planning stages. The webinars are offered free of charge for members, and with a cost for non-members. This has produced a membership surge as people took the opportunity to join OSWANZ. As a result, our membership numbers are at an all-time high.

OSWANZ continues to have a collaborative relationship with multidisciplinary colleagues in COSA and Cancer Council Australia. Kim Hobbs is currently representing OSWANZ on a working group of the COSA Survivorship Group and Cancer Council to undertake a body of work on financial toxicity. The working group was convened in March 2021 and has a challenging agenda which includes drafting a clear definition of financial toxicity, undertaking a scoping survey, preparation of manuscripts to communicate about financial toxicity and developing a care pathway for preventing and minimising financial toxicity. A webinar is planned for later in the year, as well as consideration of presentations at the COSA ASM and other conference opportunities. OSWANZ members can expect to receive an invitation to complete the scoping survey and are encouraged to distribute this widely among their networks. Dealing with the financial distress experienced by patients and families through direct and indirect costs associated with cancer treatment and recovery is an important part of the oncology social worker's role. Wide participation in the survey will help to articulate the breadth and depth of the multiple ways in which people with cancer experience financial burden.

COSA is also partnering with the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre (ACSC), Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) and Cancer Council Victoria (CCV) to present a webinar on the topic of "Allied health providing cancer survivorship care". The panel, on which Kim Hobbs will be representing OSWANZ, aims to give insight into the context, challenges and opportunities for cancer survivorship care in the rural or regional setting. The interactive webinar to be held on 25th May will explore common unmet needs of regional or rural cancer survivors, assist allied health professionals to identify and effectively manage these needs through evidence based tools and support and discuss

optimal care and communication of healthcare professionals when patients transfer between metropolitan cancer centres and rural and regional areas.

Finally for this report, Kim Hobbs is co-editing with Dr Rosalie Pockett from the University of Sydney, a Special Issue of the AASW journal Australian Social Work focussing on oncology social work. This will be the first edition of the journal in 2022 and collation of manuscripts is nearing completion. Several OSWANZ members have contributed articles and others have undertaken peer review.

The OSWANZ Executive and Management Committees continue to be the dynamic forces behind the day to day administration of the organisation. Monthly Zoom conferences are lively and well attended. I would like to acknowledge in particular, our current President and Treasurer Nicholas Hobbs from Hobart, and our Secretary, Olga Gountras. Our President Elect is Justin Gulliver from Wellington, New Zealand, thus formalising the partnership with our trans-Tasman colleagues. Along with state, territory and New Zealand representatives on the committee there is a wealth of talent which will see the organisation continue to grow and prosper. As a group we look forward to a continuation of the fruitful collaboration with COSA and with our colleagues from all disciplines.

**Kim Hobbs**  
Council Representative,  
OSWANZ

## SAVE THE DATE

**5<sup>th</sup> Scientific Symposium**  
**of the**  
**OzMRS**  
Australasian Metastasis  
Research Society

**23-24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**  
hosted virtually from the Translational Research Institute,  
Woolloongabba, QLD, Australia

Proudly supported by our  
Gold sponsor:



**cancers**

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

### With confirmed speakers including:

Jean-Christophe Marine (VIB-KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology, Belgium)  
Neta Erez (Tel Aviv University, Israel)  
Rakesh Jain (Harvard University, USA)  
Johannes Eble (University of Münster, Germany)  
Christina Curtis (Stanford University, USA)  
Aniruddha Chatterjee (University of Otago, NZ)  
Yash Chhabra (John Hopkins University, USA)  
Arlene Chan (Curtin University, USA)  
Tom Cox (Garvan Institute, Sydney, NSW)  
Susan Woods (The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, SA)  
Christine Chaffer (Garvan Institute, Sydney, NSW)  
Philip Gregory (University of South Australia, Adelaide, SA)  
Carmela Ricciardelli (The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, SA)  
Normand Pouliot (Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute, Heidelberg, VIC)  
Jean Berthelet (Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute, Heidelberg, VIC)  
Katie Owen (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, VIC)  
Jennifer Gunter (Queensland University of Technology, QLD)

**For updates follow: @OzMRS1 on Twitter or Facebook.**  
**Visit our webpage <https://www.ozmrs.com/>**



## Australasian Metastasis Research Society

The Australasian Metastasis Research Society (OzMRS) continues to grow and is now just shy of 200 active members. Increased activity on social media is also noteworthy, with approximately 70 Facebook and 110 Twitter followers. These platforms have been particularly useful in highlighting recent high impact publications from OzMRS members as well as achievements from OzMRS researchers, particularly from students, early- and mid-career metastasis researchers. The OzMRS Committee has been working hard also to develop a clear **Vision and Mission** that reflect the values of the organisation.

### Save the Date – OzMRS 5th Scientific Symposium

In line with our goal to act as a central organisation that connects all stakeholders with an interest in metastasis, we are proud to announce the upcoming 5th OzMRS Scientific Symposium to be held on Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 June 2021. The event, sponsored by Cancers, will be hosted virtually by the Translational Research Institute (TRI, Woolloongabba, QLD). Local hubs (QLD, NSW and VIC) may be organised also for those wishing to attend in person.

This year's Symposium will showcase metastasis-focussed research from national and international leaders in the field. The key themes of the Symposium will be **Plasticity, The Metastatic Tumour Microenvironment and Heterogeneity, Therapy Resistance and Site-Specific Metastasis**. The meeting will also feature presentations by consumers/advocates and the work they are doing to guide our research community as well as to advocate for metastasis research to the community. There will be several opportunities for **short-talks selected from abstracts and awards** for the top three presentations.

We invite everyone with an interest in metastasis to visit the **OzMRS website**, like our Facebook page (**Oz MRS**) and follow us on Twitter (**@ozmrs1**) for regular updates and to register for the Symposium. To make the meeting accessible to as many as possible, registrations are now open and have been heavily discounted. Full registration costs only \$50 and includes a 1-year membership and virtual access to all meeting sessions. Registration for students or patient advocates is free. The list of confirmed speakers and draft program can be viewed/downloaded from the **OzMRS website**. Of course, if you have not done so already, you can become a OzMRS member by following the "Become a member" link. **Membership is completely free** and only takes 5 minutes to complete.

**Normand Pouliot**  
Council Representative, OzMRS

## Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group



The Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4) has continued to support the advancement of high-quality cancer research in primary care.

### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

#### PC4 Scientific Symposium



PC4's Annual Scientific Symposium

After being postponed last year due to COVID-19, PC4 were excited to once again host our annual Scientific Symposium - Australia's only cancer in primary care conference. The theme this year was 'Shaping Optimal Care Pathways Around Australia', and we enjoyed a diverse program of expert presenters, panel discussions and abstract presentations.

Key speakers included Professor Bob Thomas from Cancer Council Victoria, who used his experience in cancer reform and designing Victoria's system of care for cancer patients to provide background on OCPs. Our closing



plenary was delivered by Professor Dorothy Keefe from Cancer Australia, who presented on lung cancer screening in Australia. Following Dorothy's talk, our 'fireside chat' discussion panel, featuring clinicians, researchers and consumers delved into issues surrounding implementation, policy, technical and workforce considerations around lung cancer screening.

The 2021 Symposium was a hybrid event, with both face-to-face and virtual attendees. With record registrations from every state, the 2021 Symposium was our largest yet.

## Annual Strategic Planning Meeting

On 25 May we hosted our Annual Strategic Planning Meeting. Our Advisory Committee, Scientific Committee and Community Advisory Group all met to plan PC4's activities and research goals over the next three years.

Discussions were built on the results of our recent research prioritisation study. The study engaged a broad range of stakeholders including GPs, practice nurses, cancer survivors and researchers to help shape our research goals moving forward.

## Peer Review Workshops

PC4's Peer Review Workshops are designed to provide detailed feedback on grant submissions.

So far in 2021, PC4 has provided support for a total of six NHMRC Investigator Grants, three MRFF applications and one Cancer Australia Supporting people with cancer grant application.

## Successful MRFF grant – the MOSES trial

Special congratulations to PC4 Scientific Committee Co-Chair and Advisory Committee member, Professor Raymond Chan. Professor Chan, was awarded a \$1.62 million MRFF grant for the MOSES trial. This trial is a hybrid, implementation-effectiveness trial of a nurse-enabled, shared-care Model between primary and acute care for proStatE cancer Survivors. The MOSES trial aims to advance shared survivorship care between cancer specialists and GPs for men with prostate cancer.

## Podcast

Our monthly podcast, **Research Round-up** has featured some excellent guests, both international and domestic, over the last six months with PC4's Dr Kristi Milley diving into current research and how this impacts primary care.

*Guests have included:*

Dr Natalia Calanzani from Cambridge University in the UK. Natalia is a Research Associate and a member of the CanTest Collaborative.

Kristi and Natalia discussed Natalia's recently published paper; 'Identifying novel biomarkers ready for evaluation in low-prevalence populations for the early detection of upper gastrointestinal cancers: a systematic review' in *Advances in Therapy*.

Prof Marjan van den Akker from Goethe University in Germany and Dr Laura Deckx from The University of Queensland on their paper 'Psychosocial care for cancer survivors: A systematic literature review on the role of general practitioners' in the journal *Psycho-Oncology*.

The  
**RESEARCH  
ROUND-UP**

**JANUARY 2021**

Prof. Yoryos Lyratzopoulos

Dr Monica Koo

Professor Yoryos Lyratzopoulos and Dr Monica Koo from University College London. Yoryos is Professor of Cancer Healthcare Epidemiology and leads the Epidemiology of Cancer Healthcare and Outcomes (ECHO) group and Monica is a post-doctoral research associate in the ECHO group.

And a special host-swap episode, in which previous guest, and former host of PC4's other podcast *Cheers with Peers*, Dr Sibel Saya took control of the microphone to interview Dr Kristi Milley. Kristi slid into the guest spotlight to answer questions about her most recent paper entitled 'Look who's talking now: Cancer in primary care on Twitter. An observational study.' Kristi's paper was published in *BJGP Open*.

All of our *Research Round-up* episodes are available [here](#).

## PC4 engagement and growth

Over the past year, PC4 has seen growth across our membership and social media platforms. We now have a network of over 800 members. 2020 also saw PC4 launch our community network, which already has close to 100 consumer members.

Our social media has also grown significantly, with over 900 twitter followers [@PC4TG](#). We have also substantially increased our [Linkedin](#) following, with 40 new followers this year alone.

## Looking forward

Later this month we are holding a two-part workshop for PC4 members on 'Writing for Policymakers'. Facilitated by the Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research (the research arm of the AHHA), this short course will assist academic and clinical researchers to make their research more accessible and useful to policy makers.

In July we are hosting a workshop with the Research Impact Academy for our Early Career Research Network and PC4 members to provide an introduction to what research impact is, and how research can be planned for impact. We will be using a real-life example of a PC4 supported trial, SCRIPT, to demonstrate the concepts being discussed.

**Carolyn Ee**  
**Chair, PC4**

## Psycho-Oncology Co-Operative Research Group



Usually we send COSA a report of our activities for inclusion in Marryalyan, but this time we thought it would be more appropriate to submit an announcement about someone close to all our hearts at PoCoG.

Professor Phyllis Butow, Australia's amazing gift to the world of international psycho-oncology and health care communication research and practice is retiring at the end of June 2021 after a career spanning more than 30 years.

Australia's reputation as a leader in the basic, theoretical, and empirical domains of psycho-oncology and health care communication has been made possible through Professor Butow's commitment to collaborative research and evidence-based training for clinicians.

Her impact both locally and internationally is recognised through her many awards including International Psycho-Oncology Society Bernie Fox Award for outstanding contribution in education, research or leadership to the field of psycho-oncology; Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care (2011); Cancer Researcher of the Year (2012); the Order of Australia (2014); NHMRC Elizabeth Blackburn Fellowship—Clinical Award for top ranked female Research Fellowship applicant in Clinical Medicine and Science in 2016 (2017); and, The University of Sydney Payne-Scott Award for Academic Leadership (2019).

Phyllis's research successes are demonstrated by her publication track record, including 10 books, 22 book chapters, four clinical guidelines, and 640 peer-reviewed academic papers. She has been awarded over \$50 million in grant funding and has held editorial positions in the prestigious *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, and *Patient Education and Counselling*, and innumerable invited conference presentations both in Australia and internationally.

Throughout her career, Phyllis has guided and mentored many researchers and clinicians. Those of us lucky enough to be mentored by Phyllis regard her as a friend as well as a colleague. Phyllis has been a great supporter of inter-disciplinary capacity building and collaboration and her commitment to oncology culminated in her appointment as COSA President in 2017-2018. She has also contributed extensively to service and professional development in cancer care and advocacy through her work with peak cancer organisations in Australia and internationally.

Phyllis will be transitioning to an Emeritus position and will continue to be involved in psycho-oncology research.

All of us at PoCoG, as well as the wider oncology community will miss Phyllis's sharp intellect, deep understanding of the issues patients and their families face as a result of a cancer experience and her commitment to evidence-based care. We look forward to seeing what this next phase brings for Phyllis and her family.

**Joanne Shaw**  
Executive Director, PoCoG

## Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia



The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) principal objectives are to train and support pathologists

and senior scientists to improve the use of pathology testing utilising the highest quality evidence and expert collaboration.

### RCPA and the COVID-19 pandemic

Vaccines for COVID-19 are in progress around the world and both the Australian and New Zealand immunisation schemes are underway. A number of College fellows were involved in the planning and roll-out of COVID-19 vaccinations. In February the College published an Infographic and **Fact Sheet** about the vaccine roll-out.

### RCPA Anatomical Pathology Lecture Series 2021 and RCPA Podcast

The RCPA's Anatomical Pathology Lecture Series for 2021 was launched by Dr Patrick Hosking on International Pathology Day in November 2020. The lecture **series** commenced on Tuesday 9 February with a seven-week program followed by a second seven-week block, commencing 13 April 2021.

The lectures are an initiative of the RCPA Trainees Committee and are available on the RCPA **website** following the lecture.

The RCPA has also launched a new podcast series **The Pathologists Cut**. This regular podcast is hosted by RCPA President Dr Michael Dray and includes conversations with expert Pathology Fellows, bringing to light the critical work of pathologists, and the integral part pathology plays in medicine and healthcare. Never before has pathology testing made such a contribution to the wellbeing of the community as it has now, during this COVID-19 pandemic.

### Pathology Update 2021

The **Pathology Update** 2021 conference will be presented as a hybrid event: face-to-face with the option to attend virtually. The addition of a virtual element presents new opportunities previously unseen by Pathology Update.

It promises to be a fabulous three-day not-to-be missed event, back stronger than ever after the 2020 cancellation.

**SARS-CoV-2 IMMUNISATION**  
COVID-19 Vaccination Fact Sheet

**There are many reasons to be vaccinated**

COVID-19 can have serious, life-threatening complications and there is no way to know how it may affect you.

**Nearly 100 million cases of COVID-19 and +2 million deaths have been reported globally**

While the mortality rate is higher in older age groups and those with pre-existing illnesses, significant long-term morbidity is being seen in all age groups.

**In Australia and New Zealand**

Our governments have entered into multiple agreements to supply vaccines to protect the community.

All vaccines must undergo rigorous testing for safety before they are approved for use in Australia and New Zealand.

**Vaccine approval**

The COVID-19 vaccines have been subjected to extensive overseas trials to ensure efficacy and safety. Clinical trial data is carefully analysed, as well as ingredients, chemistry and manufacturing processes.

**Efficacy vs effectiveness**

Efficacy is measured in controlled clinical trials, whereas effectiveness is measured once the vaccine is approved for use in the general population.

**High-priority groups**

The vaccine schedule ensures those who need the vaccine the most are prioritised:

- Quarantine and border workers
- Frontline healthcare workers
- Residents and staff in aged-care facilities
- Certain laboratory personnel and essential staff involved in SARS-CoV-2 testing

**Vaccine types**

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is currently being administered in Australia and New Zealand, with the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine to follow shortly. Other vaccines are expected to be approved for rollout in due course.

**Possible side effects**

Not everyone will experience side effects.

Most common reported reactions are pain and redness at injection site, fever, headache, muscle aches.

**Pfizer/BioNTech mRNA vaccine**

- Does not use the live virus that causes COVID-19
- Manufactured in USA and Belgium
- Made of genetic material (mRNA)
- Gives instructions for our cells to make a harmless piece of protein which then triggers an immune response
- Required doses: 2
- Efficacy 52% (one dose) 95% (two doses)

**Oxford/AstraZeneca viral vector vaccine**

- Uses genetic code taken from SARS-CoV-2
- Manufactured in Australia, Europe, America and Asia
- Teaches the immune system how to fight the virus should it need to
- Required doses: 2
- Efficacy: 70.4% overall\*

\*During trials, a sub-group inadvertently received a lower initial dose, followed by a normal second dose, which had an overall efficacy of 90.0%. This is currently being investigated further in the multi-national evaluation of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.

**SARS-CoV-2: the virus that causes COVID-19 infection**

On the first anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic, several SARS-CoV-2 vaccines are in phase 3 trials with interim results reported. National vaccination programs are in progress across the globe.

**This is an incredible scientific achievement.**

25 February 2021

rcpa.edu.au



## RCPA Cancer Services Advisory Committee

The work of the Cancer Services Advisory Committee (CanSAC) is to continually raise the standard of pathology and cancer information. CanSAC is a multidisciplinary committee which has oversight for all cancer related activities within the RCPA. CanSAC lends its expertise and provides an important link to other external cancer related organisations such as the Cancer Monitoring Advisory Group (CMAG), the Intercollegiate Committee on Cancer (ICC), Cancer Australia, as well as COSA.

CanSAC's recent activities include the support of further training opportunities for pathologists in molecular and genomic pathology. The committee also has been recently continuing the work to achieving Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) funding approval for evidence-based molecular and genomic testing of brain and haematology tumours.

## Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer Project

Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer (SPRC) protocols are the result of expert multi-disciplinary input and independent peer review and are authored by a volunteer group of expert pathologists, clinicians and scientists.

The resources and protocols are free to access on the RCPA [website](#).

The SPRC Project recently attained a new Chair - Professor Priyanthi Kumarasinghe. Prof Kumarasinghe brings a lot of experience to the role, having been Series chair of the RCPA GI and Cytology expert committees in addition to authoring multiple structured reporting protocols. Prof Kumarasinghe is a national and international authority on Gastrointestinal pathology. She was a member of the expert panels for the ICCR datasets for Oesophagus, Endoscopic resections of the oesophagus, Stomach and Endoscopic resections of the stomach. Priyanthi is a Clinical Professor at University of Western Australia Medical School, Consultant pathologist at PathWest QEII Medical Centre and a Consulting pathologist to Clinipath Laboratories.

The SPRC Project continues to work towards nationwide implementation of high-level structured pathology reporting of cancer, which has been shown to improve patient survival outcomes via two primary mechanisms. Structured reporting protocols act as a vehicle to: 1) enhance national awareness of critical issues in pathology assessment; and 2) help to standardise pathology information.

To allow Australasian pathologists to help evaluate the latest digital reporting tools to aide implementation of higher-level structured pathology reporting,

the SPRC Project is coordinating a pilot. Up to five software products (including two Australian-made platforms) will be available to try, with the National Cancer Screening Register and the NSW Cancer Registry also involved. The trial will provide participants with the highest standards of digital security and privacy, flexibility in their use of the software, while capturing qualitative and quantitative performance data to independently evaluate productivity improvements.

## International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting

The International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) project has produced standardised reporting templates for cancers available to all countries of the world. Six bone and soft tissue Datasets were recently published in April and are available to download on the [ICCR website](#).

A number of breast specimen and gynaecological specimen datasets are in production, which are expected to be published in 2021.

## Pathology terminology standardisation

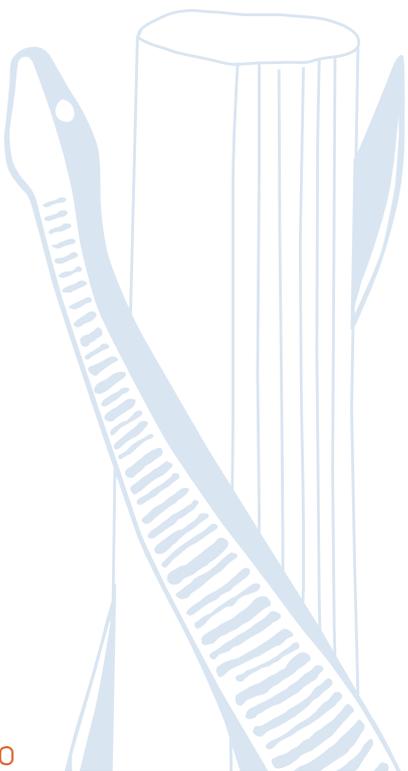
The final newsletter for the RCPA's national project for standardising Pathology Information, Terminology and Units Standardisation (PITUS) 18-20, Pathology Update 14th Edition, was

published and is available on the **PITUS website**. By the end of November 2020, 153 working group meetings had been held to complete the activities and deliverables allocated to PITUS 18-20.

The combined efforts of 107 dedicated working group and steering committee members enabled the development of many tangible outcomes, including the review of 1423 LOINC (Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes) reporting terms and 780 SNOMED (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine) requesting terms, enriching the suite of existing RCPA Standards for Pathology Informatics in Australia (SPIA) Terminology Reference Sets.

The PITUS 18-20 Project team would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the pathologists, general practitioners, other clinicians, scientists, informaticians, subject matter and technical experts, RCPA Board members, administrative and project staff who contributed to the success of this round of PITUS and were responsible for its body of work.

**Kenneth Lee**  
*Council representative, RCPA*



## TROG Cancer Research



TROG Cancer Research held its 33rd Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) virtually from 23 to 24 March 2021. Several international and nationally renowned keynote speakers presented alongside key TROG cancer researchers and clinicians. More than 200 delegates attended our meeting including leading Australian and New Zealand radiation oncologists, radiation therapists, interventional oncologists, medical physicists and clinical trials personnel — showcasing current clinical trials and discussing new clinical trials and future research directions in radiation oncology.

The international keynote speaker, Professor Sue Yom of University of California (USA) attended our recent ASM to provide an update of NRG Oncology Activities and Future Directions for Collaborative Research and then explored some recent developments and emerging research in Head and Neck/Lung Cancer. An important reminder of the size and impact of such a large collaborative trials group and potential for TROG collaboration.

TROG Lung Working party recently held a joint research symposium with the Thoracic Oncology Group of Australasia (TOGA) which was a successful collaboration to bring together the key investigators to discuss current and future trials in lung cancer.

TROG 13.01/ALTG 13.001 SAFRON

II (Stereotactic Ablative Fractionated Radiotherapy versus Radiosurgery for Oligometastatic Neoplasia to the Lung) randomised trial is soon to be published (Trial Chair: Associate Professor Shankar Siva, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC).

TROG 20.01 CHEST RT (Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy in Extensive-Stage Small-Cell Lung Cancer with Thoracic Radiotherapy) trial is currently in start-up (Trial Chair: Dr Eric Hau, Westmead Hospital, NSW). Dr Fiona Hegi-Johnson (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC) presented the TROG 17.02 OUTRUN (Phase II randomised trial of Osimertinib with or without Stereotactic Radiosurgery for EGFR Mutated NSCLC with Brain Metastases) which is currently open to recruitment and outlined the challenges in recruiting to this trial and now active in Singapore.

The Genitourinary working party has endorsed the TROG 19.06 DECREASE trial (DarolutamidE + Consolidation RadiothErapy in Advanced proStatE Cancer Detected by PSMA) which is now ethics approved and soon to open nationally across 15 centres (Trial Chair: Associate Professor Siva, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC).

TROG Head, Neck and Skin working party has a new chair taking over the role from Professor June Corry (GenesisCare, VIC), Associate Professor Charles Lin (Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, QLD) will chair from 2021.

We await the published results in coming months for the BIG 3-07/TROG 07.01 Randomised Phase III Study of Radiation Doses and Fractionation in Non-Low Risk DCIS of the Breast: 5-Year Main Analysis which was recently presented at San Antonio Breast Summit in 2020. Professor Boon Chua (Prince of Wales Hospital, NSW) has led this landmark study.

Several TROG committees are active in exploring the use of Emerging Technologies. Speakers from National Cancer Centre Singapore were invited to our ASM to speak about Technical Considerations and Future Directions of Proton Therapy (Professor Sung Yong Park) and Clinical Considerations and Future Directions of Proton Therapy presented (Associate Professor Melvin Chua Lee Kiang). TROG Technical Research Workshop (TRW) continues to attract a lot of interest with TROG radiation therapy quality assurance and technology driven clinical trials an important focus for all of our committees and working parties.

TROG has been developing some key underpinning infrastructure supporting TROG's Radiation Therapy Quality Assurance (RTQA) program and we acknowledge the tireless work of our members in achieving this, including Sensitivity of Patient Specific Quality Assurance (the SEAFARER project) having some exciting pilot results.

TROG have formed a new Central Nervous System Working Party and will hold the first meeting mid-year, to be chaired by Associate Professor Mark Pinkham (Princess Alexandra Hospital, QLD). Associate Professor Eng Siew Koh (Liverpool Hospital, NSW), Professor Andrew Scott (Austin Hospital, VIC) and team have recently opened TROG 18.06 FIG (FET-PET in Glioblastoma) Trial and despite some technical challenges have also identified some practice-changing ideas during the development and activation of this trial. See more information below about this novel trial:

## Trial In Focus!

### ***TROG 18.06 FIG - Prospective, multicentre trial evaluating FET-PET in Glioblastoma (Trial Chairs: A/Prof Eng-Siew Koh, Prof Andrew Scott)***

The FIG Trial ([ACTRN12619001735145](#)) opened the first site in December 2020, now a total of three sites are open and the first four patients were enrolled by the end of April this year. This trial will involve ten sites nationally and up to 210 participants.

The trial hypotheses are:

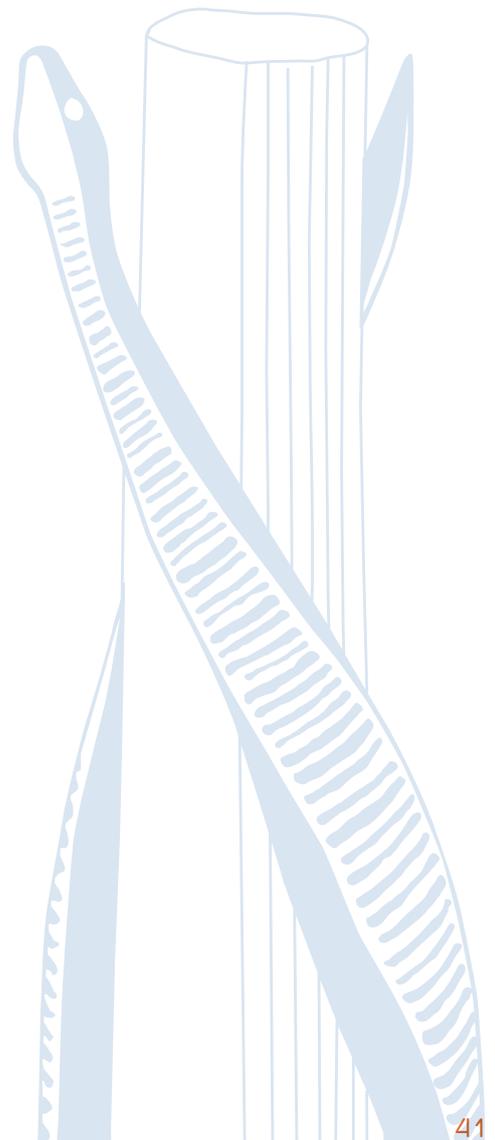
- 1) The incorporation of FET-PET imaging to radiation therapy (RT) treatment planning compared to (standard) MRI-based planning alone will lead to a clinically significant change in RT target volumes for Glioblastoma (GBM) patients
- 2) FET-PET imaging will be more accurate than routine MRI and clinical follow-up in differentiating tumour pseudoprogression from true tumour progression
- 3) FET-PET imaging, using the parameters of dynamic uptake, tumour to background ratio, and metabolic tumour volume, will be prognostic in relation to progression-free survival and overall survival

Glioblastoma (GBM) constitutes around 70 per cent of all gliomas and affects approximately 1000 Australian adults annually. FET-PET imaging is not currently funded in Australia for the management of patients with GBM, either in the initial diagnosis nor when

progression and/or recurrent disease is suspected. One of the key objectives of this trial will be to estimate the health economic impact and costs of incorporating FET-PET imaging into the management strategy of patients with GBM undergoing chemoradiation and in the assessment of post-treatment pseudoprogression or recurrence/progression.

Collaborators on this project include Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO), Australasian Radiopharmaceutical Trials Network (ARTnet), Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute (ONJCRI).

***Puma Sundaresan***  
***Council representative, TROG***



## Other Reports

### Cancer Council Australia



#### Introducing Cancer Council Australia's new CEO, Tanya Buchanan



*Tanya Buchanan, new Chief Executive Officer  
of Cancer Council Australia*

Tanya Buchanan is Cancer Council Australia's new Chief Executive Officer having joined in November 2020. Tanya is an experienced professional who brings many years' experience in public health to her role at Cancer Council Australia.

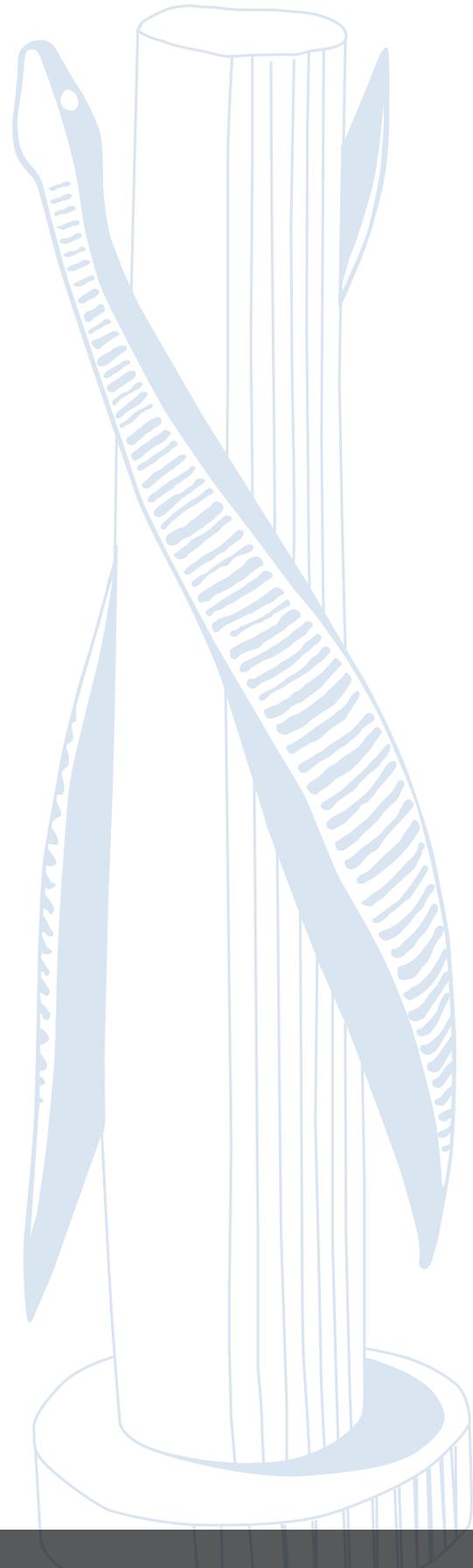
Tanya has a proven track record in leading organisations to improve health outcomes, having held roles as Chief Executive Officer of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) in Wales and most recently Chief Executive Officer of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand, a position she held for five years.

Tanya commenced her career as a nurse, working in oncology and neurosurgery. She has also worked for Red Cross Blood Service Australia, in academia, local government and the voluntary sector and has an MBA in Health Services Administration, a first-class honours degree in English and Comparative Literature, and a BSc (Nursing), as well as a range of vocational qualifications.

In 2011, Tanya won the Leading Wales Award in recognition of her leadership in tobacco control in Wales and was admitted as a Member of the Faculty of Public Health by Distinction for her contribution to Public Health in the UK.

Tanya looks forward to meeting and working with you all.

**Tanya Buchanan**  
**CEO, Cancer Council Australia**



# Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
<b>2021</b>		
18 June	CNSA Annual Congress	Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney & online
18-19 June	2021 Australasian Ocular Melanoma Alliance (AOMA) Summit	Virtual summit
23-24 June	OzMRS 5th Scientific Symposium	Virtual symposium
23-25 June	ANZCHOG Annual Scientific Meeting	Virtual Meeting
24-26 June	MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting on Supportive Care in Cancer	Virtual meeting
1-30 July	ISOQOL IPRO Course	Online course
2-4 July	Pathology Update 2021	Sydney, NSW, and online
8 July	Measuring PROMs “Down Under” conference	Online conference
9 July	Measuring PROMs “Down Under” workshops	Online workshops
11-13 July	Dietitians Australia 2021 Conference	Melbourne, VIC, and online
22-23 July	TOGA’s Inaugural Annual Scientific Meeting	Sydney, NSW, and online
28-30 July	Breast Cancer Trials 42nd Annual Scientific Meeting	Virtual conference
5-6 August	MOGA 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting	Online meeting
5-8 August	ANZHNCs/NZAPS Joint Scientific Meeting	Queenstown, New Zealand, and online
6-7 August	Australasian Rare Lung Disease Conference (ARLDC)	Sydney, Melbourne and online
6-8 August	RANZCR 2021 New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting	Wellington, New Zealand, and online
14-17 August	HGSA 44th Annual Scientific Conference	Adelaide, SA, and online
20 August	AGITG Idea Generation Workshop - Hepatocellular Carcinoma	Online workshop
29 August – 3 September	MOGA ACORD21 Protocol Development Workshop	Online workshop
9-10 September	Sydney Cancer Conference 2021	Virtual conference
16-21 September	ESMO Congress 2021	Virtual congress
16-19 September	RANZCR Annual Scientific Meeting 2021	Melbourne, VIC, and online

# Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
24-26 September	SIO 2021 International Conference	Baltimore, US, and online
4-6 October	25th Human Genome Meeting	Tel Aviv, Israel
12-15 October	AGITG 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting	Melbourne, VIC
14-16 October	Australasian International Breast Congress – AIBC 2021	Brisbane, QLD
17-19 October	ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting	Adelaide, SA
24-26 October	13th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting	Melbourne, VIC, and online
24-27 October	ASTRO's 63rd Annual Meeting	Chicago, USA
3-6 November	18th World Congress of Cancers of the Skin	Buenos Aires, Argentina
4-6 November	SIOG 2021 Annual Conference	Virtual conference
5-6 November	ANZSA Annual Scientific Meeting 2021	Melbourne, VIC, and online
8-10 November	ESSO 40	Lisbon, Portugal
12 November	AGITG Idea Generation Workshop – Rectal cancer	Online workshop
<b>16-18 November</b>	<b>COSA's 48th Annual Scientific Meeting</b>	<b>Melbourne, VIC</b>
19-20 November	Australasian Melanoma Conference (AMC) 2021	Sydney, NSW
7-10 December	San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium 2021	San Antonio, USA, and online
15-18 December	SIOG 2021 Advanced Course in Geriatric Oncology	Treviso, Italy

## 2022

22-23 February	International Conference on Cancer Nursing - ICCN 2022	Paris, France
23-26 March	ANZGOG Annual Scientific Meeting 2022	Melbourne, VIC
25-27 August	2022 ASCO Breakthrough Summit	Yokohama, Japan
<b>1-4 November</b>	<b>COSA's 49th Annual Scientific Meeting</b>	<b>Brisbane, QLD</b>

For additional events please see the COSA website.

# COSA'S 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING



Clinical  
Oncology  
Society of  
Australia

16-18  
November 2021

**SAVE THE  
DATE**



Melbourne  
Convention  
& Exhibition  
Centre

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