



President's Report

2015 has been another great year for COSA. As I reported at the AGM in Hobart our governance structure is unequivocally embedded and we are fully operational as a Company Limited by Guarantee which ensures greater transparency and sustainability for the future. As a not-for-profit organisation we also report to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

In 2015 we farewelled a number of Board members and welcomed some new. On behalf of the Board I would once again like to thank outgoing members David Goldstein, Bruce Mann and Ian Olver for their valuable participation during the implementation of the new structure. I am delighted to welcome Sanchia Aranda, Sandy McKiernan and Wayne Nicholls who joined the Board in 2015 – each already making important contributions.

Whilst the Board retains ultimate responsibility for the operations of COSA, we have successfully convened a highly functioning Audit, Risk and Finance Committee (AR&FC) to assist and advise the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities to members of COSA on matters relating to the identification and mitigation of areas of significant business risk, as well as financial review, audit, reporting and monitoring. During 2015 the AR&FC developed a comprehensive suite of policies to assist COSA's operation, many of which relate to HR matters, risk management and fraud control.

The newly established Exercise & Cancer, and Rare Cancers Groups are already making their mark within COSA. Under the guidance of Chair Prue Cormie the Exercise Group held a strategic planning day in September where the Group brainstormed ideas in six areas: practice, education, research, advocacy,

partnerships and funding opportunities. I'm sure Prue will report more about the Exercise Group's activities and plans for the future in her Chair's report, however her enthusiasm really does deserve a mention from the President. As does Clare Scott's! Clare put forward a proposal for COSA to establish a Rare Cancers Group in late 2013 and with the support of COSA Council not only was the Group approved, but we agreed to focus on this important and burgeoning area for the 2015 ASM. Clare may not have been an official member of the Hobart Local Organising Committee, but she was certainly a much appreciated contributor.

This brings me to this year's COSA ASM held in Hobart 17-19 November. I cannot thank the Local Organising Committee enough for preparing such a diverse and meaningful program focused on rare and less common cancers. The buzz around the ASM was electric, everyone in attendance was fully engaged in the program (as well as the networking and social events). I must echo the words of our co-convenors Drs Allison Black and Louise Nott from their welcome during the opening ceremony – "I thought you were great people before and I still do" – they all did an outstanding job. I truly believe the ASM program will help propel the need for more work and research funding in this important area, and our ability to impact on the experience of people undergoing treatment for rare cancers.

I welcome your comments and any suggestions for current and future projects. If you would like to contact me, please do so via the COSA office cosa@cancer.org.au.

Mei Krishnasamy
President

Season's
Greetings

Executive Officer's Report



Marie Malica, COSA EO

It's been another very busy year at COSA, and this bumper Christmas edition of the Marryalyan truly attests to that. I'll just give a brief report on a few items and will leave it to the ASM convenors, the Group Chairs and Affiliates to feature their work.

2015 COSA ASM

A full evaluation of the 2015 ASM is still underway but I'm proud to say that the anecdotal feedback I've received has been fabulous! I'm so pleased that the outstanding efforts of Allison Black, Louise Nott and their Local Organising Committee came together to deliver a meaningful and memorable conference.

The ASM week began with the COSA Public Forum on Sunday 15 November. Each year COSA hosts this free information forum for people who have been affected by cancer on the Sunday prior to the ASM. We had 75 people from the general public attend the forum at the Hotel Grand Chancellor. Guest speakers included Poulam Patel on new cancer therapies; Prue Cormie on the role of exercise in the management of cancer; Jeremy Couper on using mindfulness during cancer treatment; Angelica Pearce talking about oral chemotherapy medication safety; and Christine Edwards discussing communication between GPs and oncologists. We really appreciated the support of our partners for the Public Forum, Cancer Council Tasmania who helped to develop and promote the program. Special thanks to Penny Egan the CEO of Cancer Council Tasmania who made it to the forum to present and co-chair after completing the Point to Pinnacle – a physically challenging and scenically stunning run/walk course of 21.4km and just over 1,270 metres in elevation – well done Penny! An impressive turnout of 75 people attended from the general public. Feedback from the day was excellent. It's not often that the public have an opportunity like this to hear from leading experts.

You'll see from Allison and Louise's convenors' report on the following pages, as well as the photo spread, that it was a great ASM. I won't go into a lot of detail, but I must thank not only the ASM Organising Committee, but also the sponsors, COSA members and delegates, the ASN Events team and the COSA staff who all helped make the ASM the success it was.

For COSA members that couldn't make it to Hobart, or if you did attend but missed some of the presentations, we recorded all the sessions held in the plenary hall. By the time this is published we plan to have recordings available online for COSA members. Visit the ASM section on the COSA website for more information.

Advanced Trainees Weekend

COSA has hosted the Advanced Trainees Weekend workshop annually prior to the COSA ASM since 2010, with the theme traditionally linked to the main ASM theme. With the 2015 ASM being held in Hobart with a focus on rare cancers – an excellent theme for the ASM but a challenge for the Trainees Weekend – we decided not to host the weekend this year. Given we are returning to the breast cancer theme for the 2016 ASM we will once again host the Trainees Weekend "Everything you need to know about breast cancer" on the Gold Coast, 12-13 November 2016.

2016 COSA ASM

We are well and truly gearing up for what we hope will be another successful ASM in 2016. We are partnering with the ANZBCTG for a breast cancer themed conference on the Gold Coast, 15-17 November 2016. We are delighted that Fran Boyle, who I am sure is well known to most COSA members, has agreed to represent both societies and act as convenor. Who better to help plan a fantastic breast cancer conference?! On 1 December we had our first planning meeting with the 2016 Committee and have already developed a great skeleton program and sent invitations to notable international breast cancer experts. Stay tuned for more information as we make program announcements.

Diarise now:

2016 ASM, 15-17 November, Gold Coast

2016 Advanced Trainees Weekend, 12-13 November, Gold Coast

2017 ASM, 13-15 November, Sydney

2018 ASM, 13-15 November, Perth

2019 ASM, 12-14 November, Adelaide

2020 ASM, 10-12 November, venue to be announced

**Marie Malica
Executive Officer**

merry
CHRISTMAS

COSA ASM 2015 - Convenors' Report

We are delighted to present this report on the COSA ASM held in Hobart 17-19 November 2015. As co-convenors of the 2015 ASM we are proud of the program the Local Organising Committee delivered and of the success of the ASM as COSA's renowned professional activity.

When we were approached by COSA to act as convenors we didn't really have a clear idea of how a Hobart meeting of this size would come together. We were unsure if COSA members and delegates would be attracted to Hobart as a destination, and when we were tasked with the rare cancers theme we knew we would have to get creative! Together with the Committee, we believe our innovative and imaginative interpretation of the rare cancers theme delivered a really exciting and stimulating program. We tried to encapsulate COSA's multidisciplinary focus in each session to ensure there was something for everyone. We hope those of you who attended will agree that we succeeded.

We started a hectic week with the COSA Public Forum on Cancer, held on Sunday 15 November. When we signed up as convenors we were unaware of the Public Forum, but quickly learned this was a great way to engage the local community, with 75 members of the general public in attendance.

On Monday 16 November, COSA hosted a number of pre-conference workshops, all had great feedback from delegates and most were sold out!

But things really got going when the conference proper started on Tuesday 17 November. With over 750 registrations we knew the ASM was off to a flying start. The opening ceremony officiated by the Governor of Tasmania, the Honourable Professor Kate Warner AM, really set the scene and reminded us all that the cancer patient and survivor is at the heart of our work.

The opening plenary "What are rare cancers?" chaired by prominent COSA member Ray Lowenthal cemented the importance of the rare cancers theme. Two of our invited international speakers, Paolo Dei Tos and Derek Raghavan, informed us on classifying, diagnosing and managing rare tumours, followed by Hugh Dawkins who told us about how other rare diseases can learn from rare cancers, and David Kissane who brought the psycho-oncology perspective to the fore.

On Tuesday we also concentrated on some of the common rare cancers – melanoma, NETs and sarcoma. In addition to our various health professional experts, it was great to include the patient's viewpoint. Luke Ryan – comedian, author and two-time sarcoma survivor – was honoured to share the stage with his surgeon and oncologist; and Simone Leyden from the Unicorn Foundation gave us the patient and carer perspective of NETs.

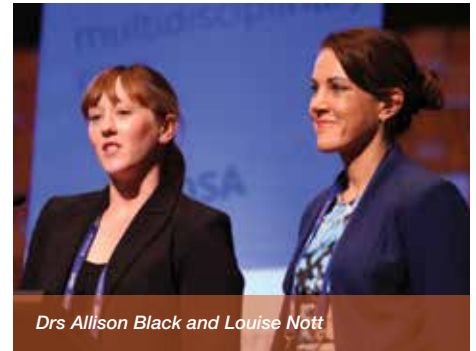
The program was jam-packed on Wednesday and we attended as many sessions as we could, but without showing any prejudice our personal favourite was the "Pregnancy and cancer" session. Expertly chaired by Rosie Harrup, speakers included: Elizabeth Sullivan who spoke about her population study on gestational breast cancers; Kim Hobbs dealt with the emotionally charged topic of termination decision making; Kelly Phillips gave a great update on fertility preservation; and Sally Brooks presented on the safety of cancer therapies during pregnancy. But the true highlight of the session was the personal perspectives brought by Bec O'Donnell and Pam Cinquini.

Bec O'Donnell worked for many years as an industry rep, so thought she knew a lot about cancer treatment until when at 30 weeks' pregnant she was diagnosed with breast cancer. One morning, while putting on her bra, she felt a pea-sized lump in her right breast. At first Bec thought it might be something related to milk production. A blocked duct perhaps? Her obstetrician seemed more alarmed. As soon as the doctor saw the lump a few days later, she immediately referred Bec to a surgeon. Within two days Bec was diagnosed with breast cancer found in two separate tumours. "I was pretty shell-shocked ... and my husband nearly passed out," she said. "I talked about cancer all day long in my job and now it was happening to me. It was quite surreal." After consulting various specialists, Bec had a caesarean at 33 weeks so she could begin treatment as soon as possible. A decision was made in favour of surgery to remove the cancer and radiation after her baby was born. However, before treatment and at 35 years old, she was advised that if she wanted more children, she should create embryos through IVF to be frozen for future use. The decision to give birth early meant her son, William, was born in a precarious state. With underdeveloped lungs, he struggled through his first few days of life. Two years on, Bec and William are both doing really well.

Pam Cinquini's story is similar but different. After eight years of IVF, six miscarriages and three egg donations, Pam became pregnant at the age of 45. As you can imagine she and her husband were delighted. But four months into her pregnancy Pam was also diagnosed with breast cancer. Pam said the diagnosis was a terrible blow and she was shocked to learn that she could safely have both surgery and chemotherapy while pregnant. "I feared if I didn't treat the cancer I wouldn't be around for my son," she said. "I wasn't the first to go through it and I trusted my doctors, including my oncologist Dr Louise Nott. At the time he was born, Leonardo had more hair than me! Consequently our family photos of that time aren't the best. But he came out perfectly healthy and I feel very fortunate." Pam is currently disease free and will undergo continued surveillance.

As you can see the addition of patient stories certainly helps remind us of the importance of the work we do. We hear it from our patients every day in clinic, but having them talk at a conference like COSA takes courage, and we should all take some courage from them to keep us going.

The ASM is not just about the presentations – another key feature is the networking opportunities. The social events and networking breaks are highly regarded by COSA delegates, and offer a forum to reinforce professional connections and establish new associations. We don't often get to meet with all our colleagues in Hobart, so we really appreciated the opportunity to chat with over a cup of tea (or glass of wine), and form new connections. We sincerely hope it doesn't take another 18 years for Hobart to host the COSA ASM again! But for now we hope to make it to the Gold Coast next November, and that we see many of you there.



Drs Allison Black and Louise Nott

Drs Allison Black and Louise Nott
2015 COSA ASM Co-convenors

COSA Membership

Membership categories and prices are listed below:

COSA – medical (1 year)	\$200
COSA – medical (2 years).....	\$385
COSA – non medical (1 year)	\$115
COSA – non medical (2 years).....	\$220
COSA Student member (1 year).....	no charge
COSA Retiree member (1 year)	\$55

COSA welcomes Affiliate and Associate 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 affiliate/associate* members – medical (1 yr).....	\$165
COSA affiliate/associate* members – medical (2 yrs)	\$290
COSA affiliate/associate* members non-medical (1 yr)	\$105
COSA affiliate/associate* members non-medical (2 yrs)	\$200

* A list of all current Affiliated and Associated Organisations can be found at www.cosa.org.au

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Asia-Pacific Journal of
Clinical Oncology
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COSA members can access your official journal for FREE through the member's section of the COSA website.

www.cosa.org.au

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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 8063 4100 or email cosa@cancer.org.au

International Speaker Profiles

For those not fortunate enough to attend this year's Annual Scientific Meeting, or those wanting to know a little more about the experiences of our international guests, COSA took 5 minutes to speak with a few of our international guests: Professor Andy Adam, Dr Heather Cunliffe, Professor Poulam Patel and Professor Brian O'Sullivan.



Andreas Adam

Andy Adam

Andreas Adam is Professor of Interventional Radiology at the University of London. He trained in medicine at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, after which he spent four years in internal medicine, cardiology and oncology. He then trained in radiology at the Royal

Postgraduate Medical School, obtaining Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists. He is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1992 he was appointed to the first professorial chair of interventional radiology in Europe, at King's College London. In conjunction with his full-time post at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, he is Dean of the first state medical school in Cyprus, the creation of which he led as chairman of an international committee tasked with this purpose by the senate of the University of Cyprus. His research work has shaped clinical practice internationally and has been recognised by the award of Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences. He has made extensive original contributions to the medical and scientific literature, has published eleven books, and has served as Editor-in-Chief of Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology. Professor Adam has demonstrated leadership skills on a global level. He was one of the architects of the European Society of Radiology (ESR), which he helped to create by merging the European Congress of Radiology (ECR) with the European Association of Radiology (EAR). He has held the presidencies of eight national and international societies, including the Royal College of Radiologists and the European Society of Radiology. He has received numerous honours and awards, including fifteen eponymous lectures, Honorary Fellowship of sixteen national radiological societies, five gold medals and an Honorary Doctorate. In 2012 he was made a Commander of the British Empire for his contributions to interventional radiology.

Was this your first time to Hobart?

Yes; it is a beautiful city.

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes.

What was your overall impression of the conference?

It is a superb conference in every way. Its greatest strength is

the diversity of disciplines represented, which helps to facilitate discussion at a different and fascinating level.

Highlights of the meeting?

The excellent sessions I attended, the wonderful President's Dinner and Conference Dinner, and the excellent multidisciplinary discussions.

Any other comments?

The organisation of COSA is outstanding; it is run superbly in every way. I would love to attend another COSA conference!



Heather Cunliffe

Heather Cunliffe

Dr Heather Cunliffe is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pathology at the University of Otago, Dunedin School of Medicine. Her primary research focus is the discovery and validation of biomarkers that will impact therapeutic decision-making and improve treatment outcomes

for breast cancer and ovarian cancer patients. Heather leverages genomic, biochemical and cell-biologic approaches to define and target the pathobiology underlying and driving malignant progression in treatment-refractory tumour contexts. Specific interests include triple negative breast cancer, mechanisms of endocrine resistance, inflammatory breast cancer and recalcitrant subtypes of ovarian cancer. Heather also has an interest and significant expertise in Biospecimen Science to empower genomics-enabled medicine.

Heather completed her undergraduate training at Victoria University of Wellington and received her Ph.D. from the University of Otago. She then trained as a postdoctoral fellow from 1999-2004 in the Cancer Genetics Branch of the National Human Genome Research Institute, at the National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, Maryland. Her postdoctoral research focused on the role of hormones and growth factors in the development and progression of breast cancer. In 2004, Heather joined the research faculty at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), a not-for-profit biomedical research institute in Phoenix Arizona, where she headed the Breast and Ovarian Cancer Research Unit for 10 years prior to returning to the University of Otago.

Was this your first time to Hobart?

Yes. This is a fantastic meeting venue for mid-November in Australia. As a Kiwi, Hobart felt just like home.

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes, my first COSA conference.

What was your overall impression of the conference?

There was a friendly professional atmosphere from start to finish with a strong feeling of openness and collegiality. This meeting is the right size to facilitate ease of discussion, foster new ideas and develop new collaborative opportunities. A great balance of basic, translational and clinical research expertise, as well as consumer advocacy made this a very educational and rewarding experience. Meeting organization and logistics (before and during) were flawless, allowing enough time to network with colleagues and develop new relationships. Concurrent sessions were well thought out with respect to areas of research interest overlap.

Highlights of the meeting?

The Plenary speakers were outstanding. An additional highlight was being a Discussant at a Best-of-the-best oral symposium, and selecting the winning paper along with the Symposium Chair. This is a style I have not come across before, and found it was intellectually stimulating, and very rewarding.

Any other comments?

Loved the President's Dinner. This intimate-size gathering set the stage for ease of communication, and an appreciation for the significance of multidisciplinary expertise in attendance.



Poulam Patel

Poulam Patel is Professor of Clinical Oncology at the University of Nottingham and the Nottingham Cancer Centre and Head of Division of Cancer & Stem Cells at the University of Nottingham.

Professor Patel trained at St George's Medical School, London. After completing his general medical training he was a Clinical Research Fellow at the Royal Marsden Hospital and then the Institute of Cancer Research, where he completed his PhD in gene therapy and tumour immunology. He continued his translational research into Renal Cancer and Melanoma as a Cancer Research UK Clinician Scientist at the Leeds Cancer Centre.

Currently, as Professor of Clinical Oncology in Nottingham, he leads a laboratory team investigating the interactions of tumour cells and the immune system, focusing on the developing of novel vaccines, and dendritic cell vaccination strategies. His clinical and research focuses on the treatment of melanoma and renal carcinoma the evaluation of new therapies. He has been PI on several Phase I and II and III studies of novel therapies and participates in many multicentre studies.

Professor Patel is the National Specialty Lead at the NIHR Clinical Research Network: Cancer (NCRN), past Chairman of the EORTC (European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer)

Melanoma Study Group and Divisional Cancer Clinical Lead at the East Midlands Clinical Research Network.

Was this your first time to Hobart?

Yes

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes

What was your overall impression of the conference?

Very friendly, collaborative and well organised. High quality presentations.

Highlights of the meeting?

Multi-disciplinary nature of the sessions.

Any other comments?

Very enjoyable and informative. Learnt lots and saw different perspectives.



Brian O'Sullivan

Brian O'Sullivan is a Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He also holds the Bartley-Smith/Wharton Distinguished Chair in Radiation Oncology in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Princess Margaret Cancer

Centre, University of Toronto. He is the Head and Neck Oncology Program Chair at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, the co-Chair of the US NCI Head and Neck Steering Committee, Coordinating Center for Clinical Trials, CTEP, and a full standing member of the Commission of the International Commission on Radiation Units (ICRU). He is the recipient of numerous international awards, and research grants. He has published almost 300 peer reviewed papers, in excess of 50 book chapters, and has written or edited 6 oncology textbooks. His interests include sarcoma and head and neck cancer, translational research, intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) delivery and the principles of image guided radiotherapy, chemo-radiotherapy and molecular targeting. He is a member of the TNM Committee of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), Chair of the UICC Prognostic Classification Sub-Committee and represents the UICC as liaison to the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) in head and neck cancer and bone and soft tissue sarcoma. He is a past President of the Connective Tissue Oncology Society (CTOS), former Head of the Sarcoma Program at the Princess Margaret, and a past Chair of the Sarcoma section for the ASCO Scientific Committee. He has led significant clinical trials in sarcoma management including a landmark paper that compared pre- and post-operative radiotherapy published in the Lancet, and most recently published the first clinical trial addressing the use of IMRT in extremity soft tissue sarcoma. He has published and lectured extensively on

sarcoma and will deliver the lecture on radiotherapy for soft tissue sarcoma in the Educational Course in Multidisciplinary Management of soft tissue sarcoma at the ASCO Scientific Meeting in June 2015.

Was this your first time to Hobart?

No, I have previously visited Hobart and Tasmania in 2009 for a side trip (holiday) when I was an invited speaker for several meetings in other parts of Australia.

Was this your first COSA conference?

No, I was an invited speaker to the 2005 COSA Conference in Brisbane.

What was your overall impression of the conference?

Excellent. I found the interactions and scientific discussions very rewarding and managed to catch up with colleagues I had not seen for a long time and meet new people.

Highlights of the meeting?

I was particularly interested in the Best of Best the Orals sessions where I was a discussant for one of the sessions. We enjoyed a lot of discussion both from the audience and the speakers during the Discussion and even though it was a late session in the day the room stayed full to the end. That format seemed to be particularly useful.

Any other comments?

Once again, a great experience of Australia and great opportunity to interact with the oncology community. You pulled off a daunting task (rare cancers) and you must be commended for that. Thank you sincerely.

The Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care

Professor David Currow was announced as the 2015 recipient of the Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care at the conference dinner held on the Wednesday evening of the ASM.

It is the 10th year of this prestigious award and Professor Currow delivered an inspiring and meaningful oration that challenged the audience to consider their personal and professional perspectives on end of life care.



Mei Krishnasamy with David Currow and previous award recipients Patsy Yates (2009) and Phyllis Butow AM (2011)

Did you know COSA is on social media?



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and



Like our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/COSA-Clinical-Oncology-Society-of-Australia/172334056270046?ref=hl>

merry

COSA 2015 Best of the Best Awards

Best of the Best Poster Oral Presentation Awards

Clinical & Health services research

Emily D'Arcy
abs#152

*A complex cocktail: polypharmacy,
potentially inappropriate medications
and palliative cancer patients*

Education & Collaboration

Aisling Kelly
abs#159

*Oral Antineoplastic Drugs – the role
Community Pharmacists play in
facilitating safe and effective use*

Epidemiology & Health services

Sandro Porceddu
abs#165

*Innovating multidisciplinary triage
of head and neck cancer patients
and their carers during (chemo)
radiotherapy: the "ScreenIT" system*

Survivorship & Supportive care

Peey-Sei Kok
abs#167

*Is it time to change the primary
endpoint in clinical trials in recurrent
ovarian cancer (ROC)? Symptom
burden and outcomes in patients with
platinum resistant/refractory (PRR)
and potentially platinum sensitive ROC
receiving ≥ 3 lines of chemotherapy
(PPS) – The Gynecologic Cancer
Intergroup (GCIG) Symptom Benefit
Study (SBS)*

Best of the Best Oral Presentation Awards

Clinical research

Victoria Bray
abs#18

*Evaluation of a web based cognitive
rehabilitation programme (CRP) in
cancer survivors reporting cognitive
symptoms following chemotherapy*

Basic & translational

Erik Thompson
abs#28

*Epithelial-Mesenchymal Plasticity
Status in Circulating Tumour Cells of
Breast Cancer Xenograft Models*

Supportive care

Elizabeth Eakin
abs#49

*Translating Research Into Practice: The
Healthy Living after Cancer Partnership
Project*

Epidemiology

Kelly-Anne Phillips
abs#54

*Fertility Implications for Women with a
BRCA1 or BRCA2 Germline Mutation*

Rare cancers

Lucinda Hossack
abs#72

*How empowered do carriers of
hereditary cancer gene mutations
participating in an annual review
program feel about managing their
cancer risk?*

Education

Franchelle Lubotzky
abs#98

*A randomised controlled trial of a
psycho-educational booklet to improve
psychosexual adjustment for women
undergoing pelvic radiotherapy for
gynaecological or anorectal cancer*

Health services

Alexandra Philpott
abs#106

*Optimal Care Pathways: Achievements
and future directions*

HAPPY
New Year

COSA 2015 Travel Grant Recipients

The following COSA members received travel grants to attend the 2015 COSA ASM in Hobart:

Trainee Travel Grants

- David Chan
- Aimee Hayes
- Ellen Hedditch
- Yada Kanjanapan
- Shu Fen Lee
- Chris Luis
- Krithika Murali

COSA Travel Grants

- Nazim Abbas
- Janelle Levesque
- Sagun Parakh
- Catriona Parker
- Krithika Murali

COSA-IPSEN Travel Grants

- Victoria Bray
- Sharni Patchell
- Claire Vajdic

COSA acknowledges and thanks IPSEN for their continued support through educational grants in 2015.



WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST - REWARDING AUSTRALIANS STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

2015 Churchill Fellowships

Applications open **Sunday 28 February 2016** and close 11.59pm AEST Sunday 15 May 2016

A Churchill Fellowship offers ordinary Australians the opportunity to travel to the far edges of the globe to conduct valuable research in their field and bring back knowledge, experience, ideas and innovation for the betterment of their industry and Australia.

Fellowships are awarded for the purpose of pursuing an overseas investigative project of a kind that is not readily available in Australia. The Fellowship is not designed to enable applicants to complete tertiary qualifications.

More than 100 Fellowships are to be awarded in 2016 worth more than \$25,000 each.

The Application Package will be available for download at **www.churchilltrust.com.au** from 24 January 2016. Apply online from 28 February 2015.

For further information and application forms please visit **www.churchilltrust.com.au** or contact the National Office, freecall 1800 777 231 or phone 02 6247 8333

COSA ASM 2015 in pictures..



MONA



Delegates



Mark Dawson delivering the Presidential Lecture



Mei Krishnasamy, Brian O'Sullivan & Carol O'Sullivan



Luke Ryan on the 'Soapbox'



Poster viewing

Plenary



Poster viewing

Angelo Paolo Dei Tos



Andy Adam, Liz Kenny & Helen Zorbas



Rhonda DeSouza & Sabe Sabesan



Closing Ceremony



Plenary



Conference Dinner



Delegates



Hot Topic Panel



Leeka & Aaron Kheifets



Delegating seating



Dancing up a storm



President's Dinner

Full house in the concurrent session



Conference Dinner

COSA Group Reports

AYA Group

The AYA Group has been focused on progressing the new recommendations that arose from the second COSA AYA Research Workshop which was held in Sydney on 8 May 2015. These include:

- Expansion and collation of briefing papers on the following discussion topics to be used for advocacy:
 1. Lowering the age of eligibility for clinical trials participation
 2. Collaborative opportunities for AYA clinical trial development and access
 3. Virtual national tumour bank
 4. National clinical trials app
- Letters to stakeholders addressing the issue of age of eligibility and potential collaborative opportunities for clinical trials.

Other work has focussed on updating and expanding the AYA Fertility Preservation Guidance http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:AYA_cancer_fertility_preservation. The Guidance will now include children and adults, as well as AYAs, to bring it into line with current medical knowledge and make it relevant to all cancer patients of reproductive age.

Loss of reproductive function can be one of the most distressing and potentially adverse consequences of cancer treatment. A number of studies show that infertility is a major concern for patients and clinicians. The update and expansion of the COSA Guidance is timely in the setting of the FUTuRE (Fertility Understand Through Registry and Evaluation) Fertility study currently being rolled out across Australia. The aim of this study is to better understand fertility issues for cancer patients through the establishment of

an Australasian Oncofertility Registry collecting international data from cancer and fertility centres. Outcomes from the registry will monitor uptake and use of fertility preservation, future use and complications of assisted reproductive practices giving clinicians accurate risk projections for patients' future infertility (reproductive potential) and assisting clinicians in making recommendations for fertility preservation and assisted reproductive techniques and strategies (<http://www.futurefertility.com.au/>).

The COSA project will be led by Dr Antoinette Anazodo and A/Prof Kate Stern and supported by Hayley Griffin who has recently returned from maternity leave. A small core Working Party has been formed to complete the initial writing, and a wider Consultation Committee of clinicians will provide subsequent feedback prior to the Guidance undergoing public consultation. The Working Party are currently finalising the clinical questions and Guidance scope, and developing a full project plan. The next step will be to conduct extensive literature searches and summarise the evidence base.

With the support of COSA, the AYA Group is pleased to be able to progress some of the issues forming the most significant barriers to AYA research in Australia and be involved in developing important cancer resources.

I would encourage members interested in the above activities to join the AYA Group if you have not done this already. I'd like to thank Hayley, Chantal and Marie for their wonderful support during the last year on behalf of all of the members of the AYA Group. We look forward to a productive year in 2016.

Wayne Nicholls
Chair, AYA Group
Wayne.Nicholls@health.qld.gov.au

Cancer Care Coordination Group

Position Statement

A 2015 highlight for the Cancer Care Coordination Group was the finalisation of the Cancer Care Coordinator Position Statement, which was endorsed by COSA Council at the Hobart COSA ASM. This paper ultimately benefited from the considered and extensive input of all parties involved. We now look forward to taking the position statement to the next stage, as it will help guide the strategic directions for this Group. The Cancer Care Coordinator Position Statement is available on the COSA website www.cosa.org.au.

Educational and Professional Development Activities

We convened a Group meeting while at the COSA ASM on Hobart, and were encouraged by the continued interest and commitment expressed by members to this important area. We are now keen to start progressing our ideas for a Cancer Care Coordination Professional Development Day, which will be held in alignment with the 2016 COSA ASM on the Gold Coast.

We are also keen to move forward on planning our next webinar after our successful pilot in October 2015, which focused on indigenous cancer care. The positive feedback we received from the evaluations confirmed our expectation of webinars being an area worth developing for this Group, to provide an accessible and time effective way to help meet professional development needs for care coordinators throughout Australia.

Our pilot webinar was well attended by health professionals with an interest in care coordination from every state and territory in Australia, and successfully met the challenges of delivering this event across five time zones to metropolitan, regional and rural and remote areas.

We were fortunate to benefit from the experience and insights of three diverse speakers – A/Prof Gail Garvey, Principal Research Fellow, Menzies School of Health Research; Mary Wagner, Staff Development Consultant at the Royal Adelaide Hospital; and Jayne Treagust, Oncology Nurse Cancer Care Coordinator, Alice Springs Hospital. The webinar was coordinated and moderated by Chair of the Professional Development Subcommittee – Liz Zwart (Nurse Education Facilitator, CALHN Cancer Directorate SA Health), and technical expertise was provided by Stephen Platt of the WA Cancer & Palliative Care Network. I would like to convey my appreciation to all involved in this collaborative effort, and we look forward to continuing to improve the delivery of the webinar program in 2016.

Patsy Yates

Chair, Cancer Care Coordination Group
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Cancer Pharmacists Group

The second half of 2015 was extremely busy for the Cancer Pharmacists Group! The CPG continued to work on a number of projects and to organise seminars designed to support cancer pharmacists and advanced medical trainees around Australia.

Advanced Clinical Skills Seminar for Cancer Pharmacists

In keeping with our continuing professional development work, the CPG held their 5th Advanced Clinical Skills seminar in

Melbourne on 5-6 September. This course is becoming a mainstay in our education program, providing an opportunity for pharmacists with experience in the broader cancer setting to expand their knowledge and network.

The seminar involved speakers from a wide range of disciplines including medical, pharmacy and related professions with great sessions covering areas such as Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Care and radiotherapy for pharmacists. Two workshops explored the related areas of Chronic Care of the Allogeneic Transplant Patient and Antimicrobial Stewardship and the Cancer Pharmacist.

Feedback on the course was overwhelming positive and has affirmed the CPG's commitment to providing this seminar on an annual basis. Thanks go to all the wonderful speakers for giving up their time, the convenors for putting together a great program and the attendees for coming and contributing to the seminar. We are already planning our 2016 Advanced Clinical Skills Seminar so watch out for more details soon!

Educational Modules for Advanced Medical Trainees

The "Pharmacology of Cancer Chemotherapy" course comprises a series of 8 modules for Oncology and Haematology Advanced Medical Trainees. The course content was developed and presented by expert pharmacists Dr Christine Carrington and Dan McKavanagh, with each module designed to provide education on the pharmacology of cancer chemotherapy and targeted therapy. The workshops have been run successfully in Brisbane for 4 years and for the first time in 2015 they were held in Queensland, NSW and Victoria, facilitated by COSA. We thank Roche for their sponsorship of this important work.

There was a different format for the courses in QLD, NSW and VIC. The first workshop was held in Brisbane at Princess Alexandra Hospital as 4 fortnightly

evening sessions in June/July. There were 26 participants, most who attended in person and a few in regional areas who joined via videoconference. The workshop in Sydney was also run as 4 fortnightly evening sessions in Sept/Oct. There were 28 participants who all joined via videoconference from 12 different sites. The workshop in Melbourne was held at Peter Mac as a one day face to face course on Saturday 17 October. The 19 attendees were primarily from hospitals across Melbourne plus one advanced trainee from Hobart.

An evaluation of the workshops was recently undertaken using Survey Monkey. There were 26/74 responses with overall excellent feedback on the quality and conduct of the workshops. The survey also gave some insight into the preferred delivery mode for future courses. Despite the higher number of registrations for the evening workshops, many of these participants missed one or more modules due to work or other commitments. As a result only 8% of respondents favoured an in-person evening based workshop as the delivery format. The preferred delivery mode was an in-person all day workshop (50%), followed by videoconferencing/web based seminar (42%) but ideally recorded to watch at a convenient time.

CPG Clinical Professional Development Day

The CPG were again pleased to be supported by COSA in hosting a Professional Development Day prior to the ASM in Hobart. With a combined focus on clinical and professional development this day is always well attended (over booked) and has good feedback. This year we looked at Medication Safety and tied in the ASM theme of rare cancers with a great presentation from Dr David Chan on the treatment of neuroendocrine tumours. A big thank you goes to the convenors of the day for organising a varied program and stepping in as needed.



Revision of the COSA Chemotherapy Guidelines

The COSA guidelines for the safe prescribing, dispensing and administration of cancer chemotherapy were developed in 2008 and subsequently published in APJCO in 2010. The guidelines are now 5 years old and require review and updating to maintain currency. A multidisciplinary working group led by Dr Christine Carrington was formed in May (following a call for EOI) and includes 3 medical oncologists, 4 nurses, 4 pharmacists and 1 eviQ representative.

Work to date has focussed on the definition of search terms and process for literature review. Current headings have been reviewed to identify the need for new sections (e.g. electronic prescribing, expanding the section on oral chemotherapy, paediatrics) and what remains out of scope (e.g. safe handling, chemotherapy for non malignant conditions). A questionnaire developed by eviQ was also been posted on Survey Monkey to obtain feedback on the usefulness of the current guidelines.

COSA Cancer Pharmacists Group Grants

For the first time in 2015, COSA offered CPG members the chance to apply for a Professional Development Grant or Research Grant to be used in the area of oncology, haematology, stem cell transplantation or palliative care. COSA would like to thank Roche for their support with this initiative through an unrestricted educational grant.

We would like to congratulate Marliese Alexander on her successful application for a COSA CPG Professional Development Grant. Marliese will be receiving \$5000 to attend and present her research findings at the 2016 International Conference of Thrombosis and Haemostasis Issues in Cancer (ICTHIC) in Bergamo, Italy. We hope to announce the recipient of the Research Grant soon.

CPG Annual General Meeting

The CPG held its AGM during the COSA ASM with good attendance. Matters of note are: the decision to develop an educational assessment survey for members to help direct the committee in planning future meetings and seminars; and the recently ratified Terms of Reference for the CPG were also presented and will be made available to members.

As a Committee we said farewell and thank you to Dan Mellor. Dan is a previous Chair of the CPG and has always been a very active CPG and COSA member but after many years Dan has decided to stand down from Committee. Jenny Casanova was confirmed onto the Committee for the next two year term. I am standing down as Chair of the CPG committee and welcome Michael Powell (University Gold Coast Hospital) as the new Chair for the next two year term. I will continue as a member of the CPG committee.

To close, I would like to say thank you to the Committee, CPG members and COSA for their support during my time as Chair.

We look forward to seeing people at our seminars and meetings next year and continuing our work for cancer pharmacists in Australia.

Gail Rowan
Chair, Cancer Pharmacists Group
gail.rowan@petermac.org

Clinical Trials Research Professionals Group

Chair:

Dianne Lindsay, Australia and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group, Newcastle, NSW

Executive Committee:

Annette Cubitt, Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, QLD (Deputy Chair)
Alison Coote, Orange Health Service, NSW (Secretary)

There have been recent changes to the Executive of the CTRPG and this is my first Marryalyan report as Chair. The Executive Committee also recently endorsed Annette Cubitt, from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, as Deputy Chair and Alison Coote, from Orange Health Service as Secretary. While we have nominations from two people for the Executive, there will also be other positions available next year on the Committee and we are keen to establish representation from all states.

A grant from COSA enabled our Group to coordinate a Professional Development Day for COSA members on Monday 16 November just prior to the COSA ASM. The workshop, entitled **Risk-Based Monitoring and GCP Coordinators Training Workshop** was very well attended and led by two expert trainers.

COSA Cancer Pharmacists Group Professional Development Grant

Congratulations **Marliese Alexander** the recipient of a COSA CPG Professional Development Grant. Marliese will be receiving \$5000 to attend and present her research at the 2016 International Conference of Thrombosis and Haemostasis Issues in Cancer (ICTHIC) in Bergamo, Italy.



COSA would like to thank Roche for their support through an unrestricted educational grant.

Elizabeth Wilson, Sites Relationship Manager from Quintiles presented an overview of the key principles for risk based monitoring, which is changing the way clinical studies are conducted. During this session we learned that this approach builds on the International Conference on Harmonisation guideline on quality risk management and will allow more efficient targeting of clinical trial monitoring resources. The increasing use of electronic systems and the number and complexity of current trials have created opportunities and new challenges. It is now possible to gather data on performance across sites in real time and apply centralized monitoring to focus oversight activities on preventing or mitigating risks to data quality, subject protection and trial integrity. Everyone who attended gained insight into how this approach may be implemented by their collaborative clinical trials group or change the way trials are conducted at their site.

Angela Giagodi, the Director of Creative Touch Coaching and Training, presented a refresher on GCP which, as promised was fun and interactive. The case scenarios presented led to some innovative thoughts on possible solutions, and many of the attendees shared prior experiences as we worked through site, investigator and sponsor responsibilities in the context of GCP. Angela used some clever techniques to help us focus on the material presented in this session and to implement the skills and tools that we had learned during the workshop.

It was a pleasure to work with both Liz and Angela who provided an excellent and enjoyable workshop. It was also a wonderful opportunity for the CTRPG Executive to meet some of our members during the Professional Development Day and to convey the aims of our Group which are to achieve and promote excellence in clinical cancer research through education, the provision of information and leadership.

I am looking forward to a busy year in 2016 and to assisting the CTRPG Executive to continue to provide our members with high quality training and resources which enable

continuing professional development, and to further enhance networking opportunities that have been established with the support of COSA.

Dianne Lindsay
**Chair, Clinical Trials Research
Professionals Group**
Dianne.lindsay@anzbctg.org

Complementary and Integrative Therapies Group

In line with the conference theme the stand-out paper presented at the ASM for the field of complementary and integrative therapies in the oncology settings was: *Rare and uncommon cancers: impact on quality of life, psychological morbidity, and use of CAMs* by Ian Olver and Hayley Whitford.

As part of a larger Australian longitudinal online survey, 1,208 cancer survivors (52.8% of the larger community sample) completed demographic/health questions and various standardised measures at baseline. This project aimed to compare cancer survivors with rare/uncommon (R/U) diagnoses to those with more common cancers, across quality of life (QOL), psychological morbidity, and use of complementary and alternative medicines (CAMs) across the cancer journey.

No significant differences were found for Total QOL or Physical, Social/Family, Functional or Spiritual Wellbeing subscales. However, survivors of R/U cancers showed slightly poorer Emotional Wellbeing compared to those with common diagnoses.

The R/U group reported slightly elevated Stress, and a similar pattern of increased Anxiety, although there were no group differences for Depression. Across 20 common CAMs, the only chi-square test differences were that the R/U group reported significantly less use of Vitamins/

Minerals, Acupuncture, Naturopathy, and Massage.

This study identified very few differences between R/U and common cancer groups, highlighting greater similarities across survivors' cancer journeys. Although those with less common diagnoses reported poorer emotional wellbeing, higher levels of stress, and less attraction to some CAM therapies (often sought to improve treatment outcomes and lower stress), group differences were small-to-negligible, perhaps highlighting that patients with R/U don't identify as a niche group.

The Complementary and Integrative Therapies Group has recently produced some infographics covering themes such as evidence based communication advice for health professionals treating cancer patients using, or contemplating using, complementary and integrative therapies. Much of the evidence presented was taken with permission from systematic reviews undertaken by international faculty with the European CAM-CANCER project entitled "Concerted Action for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Assessment in the Cancer Field". These infographics have been approved by COSA Council and are expected to be available on the COSA website early in 2016.

Looking ahead to the 2016 ASM in the Gold Coast being a joint meeting with the ANZ Breast Cancer Trials Group, and given the high use of complementary and integrative therapies amongst breast cancer patients, this will be a great opportunity to showcase Australian research in the field and we encourage members to submit papers for presentation.

Paul Katris
**Chair, Complementary and Integrative
Therapies Group**
PKatris@cancerwa.asn.au



Exercise and Cancer Group

Since our Group's formation in May we have worked to establish our governance and initiated work on a range of activities, including:

Defining Our Vision, Aim & Objectives

The vision of the COSA Exercise and Cancer Group is enhanced supportive care practice and policy leading to improved outcomes for patients through affordable, accessible and effective exercise medicine. The overarching aim of the COSA Exercise and Cancer Group is to have exercise incorporated as a standard component of care for people with cancer. The primary objectives of the Group are to:

- Promote and progress a national approach to the implementation of evidence-based exercise in cancer care
- Foster and facilitate effective research, education and advocacy of the role of exercise in cancer care
- Engage stakeholders and collaborate with partners to improve the quality of, and access to, exercise in cancer care
- Provide a multidisciplinary forum for discussion and exchange of knowledge and experiences related to exercise in cancer care

Strategic Planning Day

In September an initial working party of 12 professionals travelled to Sydney to participate in our Group's initial strategic planning day. The expertise represented the multidisciplinary background of our Group's membership including exercise physiology, physiotherapy, clinical oncology, nursing, research, public health professionals from public and private practice as well as consumers. The Group's governance, priorities and activities were discussed and drafted for consideration of the full Group membership.

Executive Committee

There was a fantastic response to the call for expressions of interest for our Group's executive committee positions. 16 excellent applications were received from professionals with a range of backgrounds with the Group membership voting for the nine executive committee positions. I'm delighted to announce the executive committee for the Group:

Role: Deputy Chair

Name: Liz Eakin

Institution: University of Queensland, QLD

Domain Area: Clinical Exercise Physiology

Name: Andrew Murnane

Institution: Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC

Domain Area: Clinical Exercise Physiology

Name: Morgan Atkinson

Institution: Youth Cancer Services SA/NT, SA

Domain Area: Clinical Physiotherapy

Name: Sharni Patchell

Institution: Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC

Domain Area: Clinical Physiotherapy

Name: Lucy Buccini

Institution: Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC

Domain Area: Clinical Oncology

Name: Di Adams

Institution: Campbelltown Hospital, NSW

Domain Area: Nursing

Name: Sandie McCarthy

Institution: Queensland University of Technology, QLD

Domain Area: Research

Name: Sandi Hayes

Institution: Queensland University of Technology, QLD

Domain Area: Public Health

Name: Anne Cust

Institution: University of Sydney, NSW

Annual General Meeting

The inaugural AGM for the Exercise and Cancer Group was held at the COSA

Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart. Approximately 25 members were present to discuss the Group's strategic priorities, terms of reference and agenda of activities.

Clinical Professional Day

In collaboration with the Survivorship, Complementary & Integrative Therapies, Nutrition and Psycho-Oncology Groups, the Exercise and Cancer Group participated in the combined pre-conference workshop at the COSA ASM in Hobart. The 'Multidisciplinary Supportive and Survivorship Care: Models, Methods and More' workshop was attended by 100 delegates. The workshop provided an excellent forum to discuss models of care that integrate allied health professionals across the cancer trajectory as well as the design and implementation of complex interventions.

I'm looking forward to working with the executive committee and COSA membership to progress the Group's activities throughout 2016. If you would like to participate in the Exercise and Cancer Group, or simply be kept informed of our activities in this area, please login to your member profile on the COSA website and select Exercise and Cancer as either a 'COSA Group' or 'Area of Interest'. We strongly encourage members from all discipline areas to get involved with our Group.

Prue Cormie

Chair, Exercise and Cancer Group

p.cormie@acu.edu.au

Familial Cancer Group

The **COSA/Human Genetics Society of Australia (HGSA) Familial Cancer Clinics Clinical Professional Day (FCC CPD)** was held on Tuesday 25 August 2015, at the Mantra Resort, Kingscliff, NSW. The day featured 4 sessions:

Session 1: Genomic issues

in genetic counselling

Alison Trainer opened the session with an overview on Genomic investigations. Mary-Anne Young then reviewed genetic health professional's beliefs and attitudes about the clinical utility of SNP testing in high risk breast cancer families. Finally, our international speaker, Kelly Ormond, explored whether genomic genetic counselling was any different to "traditional" genetic counselling.

Session 2: "Next-Generation Sequencing" and uncertainty: the lab, the clinician, and the client

Karin Kassahn presented on the application of next generation sequencing to familial cancer risk prediction. Next Lesley Rawlings highlighted the complexities in sequencing variant classification. Jemma Gilchrist, Clinical Psychologist from Westmead Breast Cancer Institute in Sydney, then presented an excellent approach to helping clients live with uncertainty. The session concluded with a panel discussion by the 3 speakers.

Session 3: Chemoprevention/risk reducing medication

Kelly-Anne Phillips reviewed the latest information on risk-reducing medication for breast cancer. Laura Forrest then looked at high-risk young Australian women's perspectives and experiences about taking risk-reducing medication. Gillian Mitchell and Annabel Goodwin then presented the results of a national survey undertaken by ICCOn of clinician attitudes to risk-reducing medication. The session concluded with a panel discussion by the 4 speakers.

Session 4: Surgical Prevention of Breast Cancer

In the final session of the day, Christobel Saunders overviewed the suite of surgical prevention options available for women at high risk of developing breast cancer. This

was followed by a talk by Garry Buckland on the uptake of risk-reducing mastectomy and the experience of the High-Risk Clinics. Finally, Bettina Meiser presented on the experience of women at a high-risk clinic: risk-reducing mastectomy and psychosocial implications.

The day was well received by all that attended and my thanks go to all of the speakers who made it such an excellent day with all of their hard work generating and presenting their talks. My thanks also go to the COSA FCC Group executive committee who gave freely of their time during the year to organise the meeting. Finally we also gratefully acknowledge the support and monetary input provided by COSA and kConFab in making this day happen. We look forward to August 2017!

Familial Cancer topics also featured strongly at the recently held **COSA ASM** in beautiful Hobart. The theme was **"Rare Cancers – Common goals"**.

The following speakers presented on topics relevant to familial cancer:

- Hugh Dawkins - Rare diseases learning from rare cancers
- Paul James - Familial clusters
- Nick Pachter - Furnishing the Genetic Firepower in Phaeochromocytoma
- John Burgess - Pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours in MEN 1 - basic science & clinical management
- Kelly-Anne Phillips – Fertility Implications for Women with a BRCA1 or BRCA2 Germline Mutation
- Angelo Dei Tos – Genetics of Sarcomas
- Clare Scott – Molecular classification of ovarian cancer
- Heather Cunliffe - Targeted therapies for triple negative breast cancer
- Lucinda Hossack – How empowered do carriers of hereditary cancer gene mutations participating in an annual review program feel about managing their cancer risk?

- Mathilda Wilding – Analysis of screening program for Von Hippel-Lindau and SDH mutation carriers
- Finally, Kathy Tucker led a session entitled Lynch Syndrome: improving patient outcomes through a translational research network.

My thanks go to the Conveners of this meeting, Louise Nott and Allison Black, for organising a wonderful meeting and acknowledging a powerful theme in Rare Cancers.

The second half of the year has seen some changes to the Executive Committee of the FCC Group. Lara Lipton has stepped off the committee after many years of service and Kathy Wu and Helen Marfan have joined.

Ongoing projects overseen by the COSA FCC Group include developing and actioning a national consensus for routine immunohistochemistry (IHC) for mismatch repair (MMR) proteins in colorectal cancer to detect Lynch syndrome. We aim to generate a combined COSA/RCPA position statement endorsing routine MMR IHC testing for all newly diagnosed colorectal cancer.

Guidelines for prescribing selective oestrogen receptor modulators (SERMs) for the medical prevention of breast cancer and aspirin for the medical prevention of colorectal cancer are also in progress.

Finally, the COSA FCC Group are also developing an education tool for Oncologists for ovarian cancer treatment-focused genetic testing (TFGT), a flowchart to implement TFGT in practice, and to develop a way to evaluate the approach at different centres.

I wish all readers a happy and healthy festive season and a productive year in 2016!

Nick Pachter
Chair, Familial Cancer Group
Nicholas.Pachter@health.wa.gov.au

Geriatric Oncology Group

I have just returned from the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) annual scientific meeting held in Prague in November 2015. SIOG is the leading international conference for experts in the field of geriatric oncology and this year's theme was "**Geriatric oncology and supportive care: a global approach to advance the science**". I had the honour of chairing the scientific committee for the meeting this year and was extremely pleased with the quality of the submitted abstracts and presentations. The strength of the programme was one of the factors that enabled a record attendance; the field of geriatric oncology is growing in importance at a global level. I was asked to review the studies in supportive care published in 2015 in a 15 minute presentation and found it difficult to choose the best research from a large body of work. As the SIOG national representative for Australia I presented a poster outlining the activities of the COSA Geriatric Oncology Group. As you know this is the only Australian organisation dedicated to cancer care in the older adult.

The SIOG meeting was held in conjunction with the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC). The MASCC motto is "supportive care makes excellent cancer care possible" and I would argue that this is even more relevant in the care of the older adult with cancer. As co-chair of the geriatric oncology interest group of MASCC it was my aim to weave the supportive care theme throughout the SIOG meeting and enable ongoing collaboration. The positive feedback I received regarding this approach strengthens my resolve to continue this collaborative effort. For further information on the research presented at SIOG I suggest you find the #SIOG15 twitter feed. Tweets using this hashtag gained over 2 million impressions during the course of the meeting.

We are now looking towards contributing to the next MASCC annual scientific meeting

which is being hosted in Adelaide in June 2016. The geriatric oncology study group of MASCC has over 80 members and is a potential source of collaboration with COSA. The final programme is yet to be finalised but I am hoping COSA members will have the opportunity to contribute to a session on geriatric assessment as a supportive care strategy. I encourage COSA members to attend this important international meeting.

Members of the COSA Geriatric Oncology Group continue to educate oncology professionals about cancer in the older adult. Key presentations were given at Westmead Hospital Week in Sydney and the University of Sydney 2015 Cancer-Lifespan Research Symposium entitled "From the very beginning to the end of life: cancer over the lifespan."

The research committee of the Geriatric Oncology Group has completed their survey of MOGA members on the topic of attitudes to geriatric oncology. Data analysis is now underway, and we look forward to sharing these results in future forums.

A 2015 research publication highlight was the publication of the COSA national geriatric assessment audit. Key Australian publications in cancer in the older adult for 2015 include:

1. Lakhanpal R, et al: Geriatric assessment of older patients with cancer in Australia – a multicentre audit. *J Geriatr Oncol* 6:185-93, 2015
2. Parakh S, et al: Patterns of care and outcomes for elderly patients with metastatic colorectal cancer in Australia. *J Geriatr Oncol*, 6:387-394, 2015
3. Yates, P et al: Differences in Composition of Symptom Clusters between older and younger oncology patients. *J Pain Symptom Manag* 49:1025-34, 2015

Discussions are making progress as we prepare for our April 2016 Strategic Planning Day. We are aiming for this day

to help guide our future directions as to how this Group may best facilitate our key priorities – service provision, education and research – to improve outcomes for older people affected by cancer.

COSA members with an interest in actively contributing to Geriatric Oncology Group activities are invited to submit expressions of interest to cosa@cancer.org.au.

Christopher Steer
Chair, Geriatric Oncology Group
christopher.steer@bordermedonc.com.au
(Follow me on twitter @drcbsteer for geriatric oncology updates)

NETs Group

The future is looking brighter for patients with neuroendocrine tumours (NETs). In addition to the now established randomised data supporting the anti-proliferative efficacy of the somatostatin analogs in well to intermediate grade gastroenteropancreatic NETs, the European NETTER1 trial has also demonstrated that lutetium peptide receptor radiopeptide therapy (PRRT) may have the significant benefit for patients with somatostatin receptor expressing metastatic disease which has been hoped. These results make the recently opened world leading Australasian Gastrointestinal Trials Group (AGITG)-run Unicorn Foundation-supported CONTROL NETs study all the more relevant as it will clarify the role of lutetium PRRT and concurrent capecitabine-temozolomide chemotherapy in midgut and pancreatic NETs. The study will also have the secondary benefit of helping to standardise delivery of this emerging therapy across Australia.

NETs were also a feature of the rare cancers-themed 2015 COSA Annual Scientific Meeting which was held in Hobart in November. Highlights included a plenary presentation by John Burgess, a Hobart based endocrinologist with particular expertise in Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia (MEN), on MEN1-related pancreatic NETs. A separate NETs-dedicated session also provided updates on the Ipsen

supported SIGNATURE registry and the aforementioned CONTROL NETs trial (Katrin Sjoquist), and highly informative presentations on the increasing role of nuclear medicine in NETs management (Michael Hoffman) as well as the surgical treatment of carcinoid heart disease (Marco Larobina). Finally, the CEO of the Unicorn Foundation Simone Leyden spoke of the NETs patients' perspective of this disease.

The closure of the SIGNATURE NETs registry was also announced in November with a total recruitment of 228 patients from the 9 NETs specialist centres involved. Results from the registry were presented at the European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society meeting and the European Cancer Congress. With the ongoing need for epidemiological and clinical information on NETs, options for a new registry are being explored. The COSA NETs Group would like to acknowledge Ipsen's support in this initiative.

Yu Jo Chua
Chair, NETs Group
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Nutrition Group

A highlight of the recent ASM in Hobart for the Nutrition Group was the first joint clinical professional day in collaboration with the Survivorship, Exercise, Psycho-oncology and Complementary and Integrative Therapies Groups. This was an excellent opportunity to come together as multidisciplinary professionals and discuss common issues around models of care, research and evidence implementation. The Nutrition Group also held an invited symposium on the topic rare and not so rare issues in cancer nutrition. Presentations in this symposium spanned issues such as dietary supplements,

implementing evidence, supporting community practitioners and rare gene mutations with nutrition implications.

Congratulations go to two of our Nutrition Group members for recent big achievements:

Teresa Brown, PhD candidate at the University of Queensland and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital was awarded the 2016 Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Research Scholarship in Allied Health Sciences for her research into early nutrition support in head and neck cancer patients.

And in between commitments at the COSA ASM, **Wolf Marx**, PhD candidate at Bond University and Senior Research Officer at the University of Queensland, submitted his PhD thesis on standardised ginger extract as a treatment for chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting: efficacy, safety and feasibility.

Congratulations to both Teresa and Wolf!

Further resources have been added to the Nutrition Group page on the COSA website including an updated oncology resource guide for dietitians and new taste and smell resources for both clinicians and patients.

The Nutrition Group's AGM was also held at the Hobart ASM, with planning for Group activities in 2016 underway. Minutes of the AGM will be circulated to Nutrition Group members.

Nicole Kiss
Chair, Nutrition Group
Nicole.Kiss@petermac.org

Psycho-Oncology Group

It is incredible that one year has passed already since my appointment as Chair of the Group and the COSA ASM in Hobart was a fantastic way to end the year!

Professional Day

Once again, we were successful in receiving support for the Professional Day for our Group. This year presented us with an opportunity to work collaboratively with our colleagues from other COSA Groups: Survivorship, Exercise and Cancer, Complementary and Integrative Therapies and Nutrition. The professional day was a forum for us to discuss and reflect on models of care that integrate allied health professionals across the disease trajectory. The day was well-attended with the registrations reaching capacity of the venue! It was an excellent environment for sharing with our colleagues and also there was the opportunity for informal networking throughout the day and at the concluding networking drinks. This day highlighted the importance of collaboration to research, develop and deliver the best possible care to the cancer community.

Psycho-oncology AGM

The AGM was well-attended with attendees actively participating in the meeting. We had updates from PoCoG and also a report about the Professional Day. There was agreement that we need to proceed with the establishment of an executive committee aiming to have representation from across the country. This will advance governance within the Group. There will be a call for nominations in early 2016 so please look out for this in your inbox and consider being involved.

Members also engaged in an enthusiastic discussion about plans for COSA ASM 2016 and the Professional Day. Input regarding this is welcomed from all members.



Happy
New
Year

COSA ASM 2015

The ASM theme was Rare Cancers and there was content of relevance to all interested in psycho-oncology throughout the program. Professor David Kissane delivered an excellent, thought-provoking presentation in the opening plenary highlighting the existential uncertainty in rare cancers and furthermore the challenges associated with communicating clearly to patients increasingly complex modern treatment regimes. The high quality presentations continued and stimulated fascinating discussions throughout the ASM.

Thanks to all for your support in 2015, and I am excited about working alongside you to progress some Psycho-oncology initiatives. I am keen for members to be involved in these initiatives so please get in contact!

Laura Kirsten

Chair, Psycho-Oncology Group
laura.kirsten@health.nsw.gov.au

Regional and Rural Group

The COSA Regional and Rural Group have been busily working on a number of major projects over the past 6-12 months.

The 2nd annual face-to-face meeting of the **Network of Directors and Clinical Leads of Regional Cancer Centres** was held in Sydney on 23 October 2015. A key objective of this meeting was to report back and progress the actions of the 4 working groups: (i) Workforce issues; (ii) Models of Care and Innovation; (iii) Training and Education; and (iv) Research and Databases. The meeting was also used as an opportunity to present the national initiatives developed by the COSA Regional and Rural Group, with Sabe providing updates to the Network on the Teleoncology Guidelines and Teletrial Model. The day was a great success and provided an excellent forum to facilitate communication and collaboration between regional cancer centres.

Teleoncology is becoming part of the core business of many cancer clinicians to enable them to provide care closer to home for rural and remote patients. In 2014, the Regional and Rural Group identified the need to pool together the evidence and make recommendations for use of teleoncology models. After a year of work the draft **COSA Clinical Practice Guidelines for Teleoncology** were launched at the COSA ASM in Hobart. The guidelines were developed by a multidisciplinary working group led by Sabe Sabesan and assisted by COSA Project Manager Jessica Harris. The guidelines will continue to be updated on the Cancer Guidelines Wiki and can be found at: <http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:Teleoncology> COSA would like to thank everyone who was involved in writing the guidelines.

Development of an **ANZ Teletrial Model** is underway to enable the conduct of clinical trials closer to home for regional and rural patients. The model allows clinicians from larger centres (primary sites) to enrol, consent and treat patients on clinical trials at regional and rural centres (satellite sites) using teleoncology in collaboration with clinicians from satellite centres. This is a joint collaboration between COSA and the Cancer Institute NSW with the model being endorsed by COSA Council at the August 2015 meeting. The next steps will be to seek feedback and endorsement from our Affiliated Organisations, especially the cooperative trials groups on the Guide for Implementation.

For further information on any of the Regional and Rural projects please contact Rhonda DeSouza (COSA Project Manager) rhonda.desouza@cancer.org.au or A/ Prof Sabe Sabesan Sabe.sabesan@health.qld.gov.au.

Sabe Sabesan

Chair, Regional and Rural Group
sabe.sabesan@health.qld.gov.au

Survivorship Group

Clinical Professional Day

Wow – what an end to a very busy year! This year's combined Clinical Professional Day brought together members of five COSA Groups: Complementary and Integrative Therapies, Exercise and Cancer, Nutrition, Psycho-Oncology, and Survivorship. It provided a unique forum to begin a dialogue across these groups about professional development, multidisciplinary engagement, workforce development, and research involving system change. We are looking forward to sending through the results of an evaluation sent soon after the workshop.

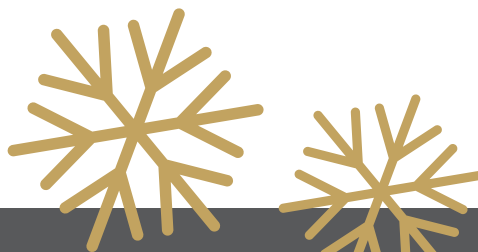
COSA 2015 and looking forward to 2016

The 2015 COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart had a real buzz about it with lots of really innovative perspectives on rare cancers and rare presentations of common cancers. All the sessions explored issues with a multidisciplinary perspective with many insights shared across professional groups.

2016 is going to be an amazing conference for survivorship as COSA is partnering with the ANZ Breast Cancer Trials Group to run a breast cancer focused meeting. There is so much we can talk about and promote from the excellent work done in Australia on survivorship. So while you are out and about over the next few months do give some thought to symposia and abstracts for submission mid-year.

ASCO Survivorship Symposium

ASCO is holding its inaugural Survivorship Symposium in San Francisco 15-16 January 2016. The meeting is themed: 'Advancing care and research' and it is a collaboration between ASCO and primary care groups. If anyone is attending please do let us know, if you are willing to write



a report about this for circulation to the Group.

Survivorship Care Critical Components and Model

Work has been slowly progressing over the past few months in this area. A report from the 2014 workshop is being finalized and will be circulated to the Group. Recently we held a consumer consultation workshop to obtain detailed consumer input into the position statement. Working groups are being formed to progress some of the activities that have been identified as high priority to take this work forward. We are looking forward to sharing more of this information with people in 2016.

Executive Committee

We are delighted to announce that Prof. Bogda Koczwara AM nominated for the role of Deputy Chair of the Group, and was elected unopposed.

As you know we called for nominations to form the Survivorship Group Executive Committee, and had a number of people nominating. Voting was recently circulated and the results will be announced via email soon.

Wishing you all a joyous and relaxing summer season. See you in 2016 for another very active year.

Haryana Dhillon
Chair, Survivorship Group
haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au

COSA Affiliated Organisation Reports

Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group



The AGITG conducts clinical trials into gastro-intestinal (GI) cancers, and supports research through awards, grants, courses and conferences. Some of our recent and forthcoming efforts:

AGITG at the European Cancer Congress

Results from two AGITG clinical trials were presented at the European Cancer Congress (ESMO@ECC 2015) held in Vienna, 25-29 September, 2015.

Associate Professor Eva Segelov gave an oral presentation in the Gastro-Intestinal cancers/Anticancer agents & Biologic therapy session where she presented the AGITG ICECREAM trial: A randomised Phase II study of cetuximab alone or in combination with irinotecan in patients with KRAS WT metastatic CRC and patients harbouring a G13D mutation.

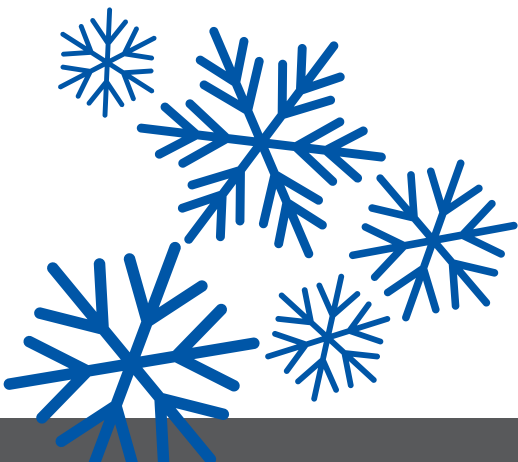
During the presentation, A/Prof Segelov discussed the rationale for the study, explaining that patients with KRAS or NRAS mutated metastatic CRC (mCRC) are generally not offered treatment with epidermal growth factor receptor inhibitors (EGFR-I) due to lack of response to these agents. There is a 40% incidence of KRAS mutations in CRC, with approximately 19% of these mutations occurring in

the KRAS exon 2c.38G>A: pGly13Asp (G13D mutation); the absolute incidence comprising 8% of mCRC. Preclinical data and some small retrospective series have demonstrated that this particular KRAS mutation unlike others may be sensitive to EGFR-I and therefore the ICECREAM trial was undertaken to prospectively validate this hypothesis. This trial demonstrated a lack of activity of cetuximab monotherapy in patients with G13D mutated mCRC. However, AGITG researchers felt that combination therapy may warrant further evaluation to confirm whether irinotecan acts synergistically with EGFR inhibitors in patients with G13D mutated mCRC.

“The presentation appeared to be well received with widespread feedback from the audience that the AGITG had done a very important trial in a very robust and timely manner,” said A/Prof Segelov.

Associate Professor Trevor Leong gave an oral presentation in the Gastro-Intestinal Malignancies – Non Colorectal session where he presented interim results of the AGITG-led TOPGEAR trial: A randomised phase II/III trial of perioperative ECF chemotherapy versus preoperative chemoradiation plus perioperative ECF chemotherapy for resectable gastric cancer. Interim results from an international, intergroup trial of the AGITG/TROG/NCIC CTG/EORTC.

“TOPGEAR is a landmark trial, which is often discussed by speakers at international oncology meetings and in the medical literature. So for me, the ECC meeting was a great opportunity to finally present an update of the trial and present some preliminary results to a global audience,” said A/Prof Leong. “It was also an opportunity to meet some of the



international investigators taking part in the trial.”

Full report at agitg.org.au/agitg-presents-at-esmo-ecc-2015

New JAMA paper on the AGITG led ALaCaRT Study

A comparison of the surgical removal of rectal tumours by a laparoscopically-assisted procedure and open surgery reveals that the case for routine use of laparoscopic procedures has not yet been established, according to the AGITG led multicentre Australasian Laparoscopic Cancer of the Rectum Trial (ALaCaRT) published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

The objective of the ALaCaRT trial involving 475 patients with T1-T3 rectal tumours was to assess whether laparoscopic surgery was similar – or no worse – than open surgery in terms of the successful removal of all the rectal cancer. Ultimately the case for recommending the routine use of laparoscopic surgery for these patients will be based on long term outcomes for recurrence and survival associated with each procedure.

The study’s lead investigator, Dr Andrew Stevenson said: “The ALaCaRT study is an important next step in analysing our approach to treating rectal cancer with laparoscopic surgery.

“The results of surgery performed by members of the Colorectal Surgical Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSSANZ) in this trial were excellent but we need to wait longer and get further results to understand the best way to use laparoscopic procedures, and to determine whether this is something suitable for all patients or considered with more caution in patients who are difficult to operate on.”

Full report at agitg.org.au/new-jama-paper-on-laparoscopic-surgery-for-rectal-cancer

More AGITG publications at agitg.org.au/clinical-trials/publications

John Zalberg OAM Award for Excellence in AGITG Research

The inaugural John Zalberg OAM Award for Excellence in AGITG Clinical Trials Research was awarded to Mr Dan Kent, Chair of the AGITG Consumer Advisory Panel (CAP) at the AGITG 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting.



The Award recognises a member of the AGITG who has made significant and outstanding leadership contributions to AGITG clinical trials research over a sustained period. Dan Kent has been the current Chair of the AGITG Consumer Advisory Panel (CAP) since 2011 and a member of the inaugural CAP since it formed in 2008.

Said Dan, “As a consumer I was humbled and honoured to receive this prestigious award in honour of a man who has given so much to the AGITG over the years.”

Full report at agitg.org.au/john-zalberg-oam-award-for-excellence

AGITG Innovation Fund

The recipients of the inaugural AGITG Innovation Fund were announced at the AGITG 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting. The Innovation Fund which is supported through the generosity of donors encourages innovation and leadership in GI cancer research.

The 2015 Innovation Fund will support two translational research projects which will value add to existing AGITG studies INTEGRATE and DOCTOR.

“We are delighted to support these two

significant research projects through the AGITG Innovation Fund. Both proposed research studies reflect our goal of building on existing AGITG clinical trials to improve patient outcomes with GI cancer,” commented Associate Professor Tim Price, Chair of AGITG.

Full report at agitg.org.au/2015-agitg-innovation-fund

AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting

Save the date for the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting where the AGITG will celebrate 25 years of research: 14-16 September, 2016, at Sofitel Melbourne on Collins.

The 2015 AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting held at Sofitel Sydney Wentworth on 2-4 September featured presentations by seven world leaders in gastro-intestinal cancer research, updates on AGITG clinical trials, interactive poster presentation session and multiple breakfast keynote addresses.

Full report at agitg.org.au/agitg-asm-summary-2015

Pancreas Cancer Surgical Guidelines Workshop

A new collaborative initiative by the AGITG was recently undertaken to put into place surgical standards of care for pancreatic cancer. Medical experts from around Australia, including surgeons, medical oncologists, pathologists, gastroenterologists and representatives from the Avner Foundation held a one day workshop on 25 July with a view to developing an Australian consensus.

The workshop comprised an overview of local and international guidelines which define operability and RO section; a discussion of the elements of a consensus statement to define when a patient is clearly operable, is borderline or is locally advanced inoperable; a discussion on understanding of the circumstances around the use of neoadjuvant therapies and chemotherapy and in some centres per-

operative radiation; and an understanding of the role of multidisciplinary tumour groups to set treatment plants.

“This workshop was an important step in highlighting the lack of standardisation in approach to pancreatic cancer management and the variation between the States and moving us forward in standardising care for pancreatic cancer patients,” commented Professor David Goldstein, Convenor of the workshop. “We are excited by the degree of engagement of all disciplines in assessing and debating the issues and the high degree of accord about a future direction.”

Results from the workshop are currently being prepared as a discussion paper. The AGITG is grateful to receive funding from the Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation in support of the workshop.

Pancreas Cancer Research Workshop

The AGITG and the Australasian Pancreatic Club (APC) hosted the third annual Pancreas Cancer Research Workshop on Sunday 27 September at Brisbane Convention Centre.

The Workshop aims to assist the development of embryonic research ideas into projects through:

- Developing new collaborations between researchers, health care providers, consumers and pharmaceutical companies;
- Presentation of research concepts at their emergent stage;
- Round table discussions to workshop new concepts through networking; and
- The encouragement of new ideas in pancreas cancer research.

Full report at agitg.org.au/2015-agitg-apc-pancreas-cancer-research-workshop.



Commonwealth Neuroendocrine Tumour Group – Two Day Honolulu Meeting

Commonwealth Neuroendocrine Tumour Group

A two day meeting in Honolulu on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 November 2015 led by AGITG Director Associate Professor Eva Segelov brought together NET clinicians, researchers and consumers from Australia, New Zealand and Canada for a review of gaps in NET research.

The aim of the meeting was to produce data for presentation and publication which describes the current needs and gaps in NET clinical and translational research worldwide. This will form the basis for further projects undertaken by the COMMNETS Group.

Full report at agitg.org.au/commnets-2015

Preceptorship in Colorectal Cancer

For the third consecutive year the AGITG is hosting a Preceptorship in Colorectal Cancer for senior trainees and junior consultants. Convened by Associate Professor Eva Segelov, the two day intensive learning course to be held on 4-5 December is based on a complete review of literature to understand evolution of treatment for colorectal cancer in the adjuvant and metastatic setting, in the context of current treatment paradigms.

Learning is in small group interactive sessions along the Harvard short course model. Aimed at advanced trainees/junior consultants in medical, radiation and surgical oncology, the format will be that of a short course (retreat) with learning in small

groups, active participation from attendees with regard to reviewing papers, presenting cases etc.

“Spaces for all Preceptorships have filled quickly proving a need for this interactive learning model.” said A/Prof Segelov.

Gutsy Challenge team conquers Mt Kilimanjaro

A “Gutsy Challenge” team organised by the GI Cancer Institute scaled Mt Kilimanjaro in November to raise funds for AGITG clinical trials. AGITG Director and Principal Investigator Associate Professor Niall Tebbutt led the team up the mountain. The team of 14 raised over \$135,000 for the AGITG Innovation Fund.



A/Prof Tebbutt is pictured with team member Craig Pager who participated in the Kilimanjaro Gutsy Challenge in memory of his father who passed away from pancreatic cancer.

The next Gutsy Challenge adventure will see a team of AGITG supporters ride 300 km across Cambodia on 15-24 October 2016. To learn more about participating in this exciting challenge which will be led by Associate Professor Chris Karapetis visit gutsychallenge.com.

Invitation from the AGITG Chair

I invite colleagues who are not currently members of the AGITG to join the Group. Our members are specialists from all the relevant disciplines including medical and radiation oncologists, surgeons, data managers, research nurses, gastroenterologists, biological scientists, pathologists, statisticians and trial coordinators.

Membership is free and there are many good reasons to join the AGITG. To apply for membership or refer a colleague visit agitg.org.au or contact the Executive Officer, Russell Conley at russell@gicancer.org.au

Visit the AGITG

For more information on any of these topics visit us at agitg.org.au.

Tim Price
Chairperson, AGITG

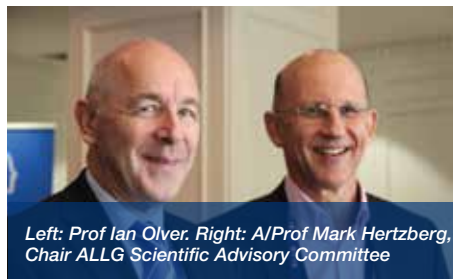
Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group



The hundreds of people who attended the ALLG Scientific Meeting in Melbourne in November were all in agreement – probably the best SM ever. Over 200 clinician haematologists, scientists, study coordinators, consumers, sponsors and ALLG staff participated in workshops and committee meetings, and discussed the ALLG's trial portfolio.

A highlight of the meeting was the address by invited guest Prof Ian Olver AM.

Marryalyan readers will of course know Prof Olver as he was chief executive officer of Cancer Council Australia for a number of years. He is currently Director of the Sansom Institute for Health Research and Professor of Translational Cancer Research at the University of South Australia. A noted authority and media commentator on cancer issues, Prof Olver has been recently appointed to Chair the NHMRC's Australian Health Ethics Committee.



Left: Prof Ian Olver. Right: A/Prof Mark Hertzberg, Chair ALLG Scientific Advisory Committee

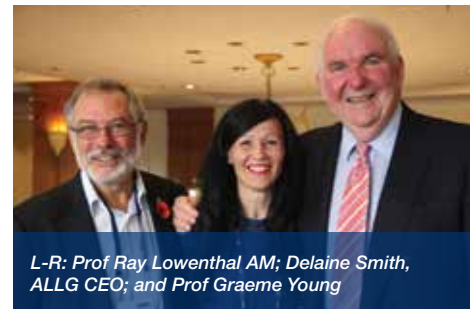
Prof Olver focussed on current and emerging trends in research in Australia and the role of the NHMRC Australian Health Ethics Committee. Prof Olver emphasised that future cancer research will target mutated genes and their products which are responsible for cell growth, resulting in less local surgery and radiotherapy leading to more effective, less toxic treatment.

In terms of choosing research priorities, he noted that expertise is increasingly through collaboration and that there is a need to prioritise research to fulfil the greatest need, which he defined as diseases with the most impact on health or rare diseases with no improvement in outcome to date. Unlike current NHMRC project grants which are investigator driven, the Medical Research Future Fund, a recent government initiative, will be priority driven, and will focus on translation.

Prof Olver also drew the audience's attention to ethical issues around genomics and the use of opt-out consent and to future challenges such as xenotransplantation.

Another highlight of the Scientific Meeting was the Next Generation Trialists workshop. This new initiative is a mentoring program for new members and new trialists of the ALLG. The aim of the program is

to encourage and mentor less senior haematologists to become engaged within ALLG activities and committees, as local champions for ALLG trials and as clinical trialists and PIs themselves. The well attended session was facilitated by the ALLG Scientific Advisory Committee and covered all aspects of the clinical trial process including concept and protocol development, the ALLG Trial Centre and trial conduct, funding and budgets, future directions in key diagnoses and an open forum. Special guests were two retired members of the ALLG Prof Ray Lowenthal AM and Prof Graeme Young. Both of whom have been key to the ALLG since its inception in 1973 and also have a wealth of experience to contribute from decades of trial involvement.



L-R: Prof Ray Lowenthal AM; Delaine Smith, ALLG CEO; and Prof Graeme Young

A number of new developments were presented to members at the plenary sessions. The Registry set up in 2012 for patients with acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) has been relaunched as the National Blood Cancer Registry (NBCR). The NBCR will collect information from patients with a suspected, known or diagnosed blood cancer who voluntarily consent to the collection of data with or without samples taken according to the standard of care at the treating hospital. NBCR data collected is according to the standard of care assessments at the respective treating hospitals for the diagnosis, treatment and follow up of the patients. The timing of these data collections varies according to the specific blood cancer diagnosis. The Registry will continue to collect AML data and will commence collections related to unusual lymphomas in December. Data collection for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia will start in February 2016.

In an exciting new development, from December the method of data collection is changing to an electronic data capture (eDC) system. This will streamline processes for data management both at sites and in the ALLG Trial Centre. Individual hospital sites will retain full access to their participants' data.

A new ALLG trial that is just starting up is CML12. Patients with chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) treated with tyrosine kinase inhibitors such as dasatinib enjoy excellent leukaemia free survival. However, a number of patients experience treatment related toxicity such as pulmonary effusions and pulmonary arterial hypertension. This may lead to treatment discontinuation. The data from various studies suggest a role for dose adjustment with therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) to minimise toxicity and preserve efficacy.

The design of the CML12 DIRECT study is based on the premise that TDM and subsequent dose adapted dasatinib will preserve efficacy and yet minimise toxicity, especially pulmonary effusions. A previous study suggested that the elderly are likely to have higher plasma through dasatinib drug levels and are particularly at risk of pulmonary effusions. The CML12 study therefore postulates that interventions should be aimed at patients over 60 years of age.

Another trial arousing considerable interest is AMLM21. FLT3-ITD is a common mutation found in approximately 25% of patients with AML. This mutation is linked to a high chance of relapse after chemotherapy and poor outcome. This new study aims to look at combining the FLT3-ITD inhibitor Ponatinib with Azacitidine. The study has two parts. In the first part, a Phase Ib study will investigate safety and tolerability in two dose schedules. In the subsequent Phase II study, patients will be randomised to 2 arms: Ponatinib with and without Azacitidine.

Study Coordinators participated in an Education Day on Tuesday on the topic of bone marrow transplantation (BMT) which was facilitated by Assoc Prof Ian Lewis. As well as discussing indications for BMT in

specific diseases, the agenda covered ALLG BMT trials and important issues such as graft versus host disease.

The site staff also discussed ALLG trials in detail on Wednesday. Richard De Abreu Lourenco from CREST gave a presentation called "Making cents of haematology research" covering some of the main topics in health economics, using examples of haematology trials and subsequent economic evaluations. Following on from this, Rebecca Mercieca-Bebber from the Cancer Australia QOL office talked about some aspects of quality assurance, including strategies for minimising the problem of missing PRO data.

Two study coordinators who received ALLG awards in 2015 presented reports. Angela Neville (Holman Clinic, Launceston) received the Janey Stone Perpetual Award and attended ASCO in Chicago in May. Andy Phay (Queen Elizabeth Hospital) received the Anne Lenton Memorial Scholarship which supported his attendance at the Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Oncology) course run by University of Melbourne in March and July.

The next Scientific Meeting will be 3-6 May 2016 in Adelaide.

Mark Hertzberg
Chair, ALLG Scientific Advisory
Committee

Australasian Metastasis Research Society

The Australasian Chapter of the International Metastasis Research Society

OzMRS has undergone further formalisation with the establishment of Office Bearers amongst the new Committee that we elected at the AGM last December. Our

committee comprises:

- Elizabeth Williams – President (QUT QLD)
- John Price – Vice President (VU, VIC)
- Maree Bilandzic – Secretary (Hudson Institute of Medical Research, VIC)
- Carmela Ricciardelli – Treasurer (Uni Adelaide, SA)
- Sarah Baird (Otago, NZ)
- Kevin Spring (UWS, NSW)
- Adrian Wiegman (QIMR, QLD)
- Kelly Kiejda (U Newcastle, NSW)
- Andreas Evdokiou (Uni Adelaide, SA)
- Erica Sloan (Monash, VIC)
- Marie Ranson (Uni Wollongong, NSW)
- Belinda Parker (LIMS, VIC)

Robin Anderson (PMCC, VIC) and Rik Thompson (QUT, QLD), who initially founded OzMRS, have remained as Ex Officio members.

OzMRS committee members were involved with two conferences in Melbourne in October 2015. The 7th biennial meeting of The Epithelial Mesenchymal Transition International Association (TEM-TIA-VII), Erik Thompson - Convener and Session Chair; Elizabeth Williams - Local Organising Committee member and Session Chair; Robin Anderson, - Local Organising Committee member and Session Chair) was held in Melbourne on 11-14 October, featuring for the first time a student/ECR forum consisting of two sessions and 12 speakers (from Australia, USA, Iceland, Spain, France and UK), prior to the main meeting. Prof Masatoshi Takeichi, from the RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, Kobe, Japan, presented the Betty Hay Oration, a lecture that honours the memory of the founder of the EMT field. Prof Takeichi discovered the Cadherin family of cell-cell adhesion molecules, and his title was "Factors that disrupt epithelial junction integrity". The Betty Hay award for a female scientist who has started her laboratory in the past 5 years went to Dr. Claudia Palena from the Laboratory of Tumor Immunology and Biology, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute; "Development of cancer vaccines



targeting the EMT driver brachyury". Prof. Jean Paul Thiery presented the EMBO Plenary Lecture, entitled "Understanding carcinoma dissemination for the design of new therapeutic strategies". The meeting brought 220 speakers, poster presenters and registrants from 17 countries, and was considered a great success.

The 2nd Thomas Ashworth Circulating Tumour Cell Symposium that ran alongside the TEMTIA VII meeting on Monday 12 October was convened by Kevin Spring. A shared session featured plenary speaker Prof. Caroline Dive from Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute, UK, as well as speakers from Adelaide, France, Crete, Belgium and Sydney.

In 2016, a major priority will be helping to organize the 16th Biennial Congress of the International Metastasis Research Society in Chengdu, China (<http://www.2016mrsmeeting.org>).

This conference will be convened by Professor Yibin Kang and Professor Qinghua Zhou. OzMRS will be actively helping as many of our members as possible to attend this conference and will be offering travel awards to young investigators.

OzMRS currently has 94 members, with representation largely from Victoria (38) and Queensland (36), but also NSW (14), South Australia (5) and NZ (1). We continue to look for membership across other states, so please encourage your colleagues to join. Our next OzMRS meeting and AGM will be held in 2017, mostly likely in conjunction with another larger meeting, especially one that is bringing international visitors to Australia.

The following recent articles describing aspects of metastasis research have been published by OzMRS members:

Mathe A, Wong-Brown M, Morten B, Forbes JF, Braye SG, Avery-Kiejda KA*, Scott RJ*. (co-senior authors). Novel genes associated with lymph node metastasis in triple negative breast cancer. *Sci Rep*. 2015 Nov 5;5:15832. doi: 10.1038/srep15832.

Liapis V, Labrinidis A, Zinonos I, Hay S,

Ponomarev V, Panagopoulos V, DeNichilo M, Ingman W, Atkins GJ, Findlay DM, Zannettino AC, Evdokiou A. Hypoxia-activated pro-drug TH-302 exhibits potent tumor suppressive activity and cooperates with chemotherapy against osteosarcoma. *Cancer Lett*. 2015 Feb 1;357(1):160-9.

Rautela J, Baschuk N, Slaney CY, Jayatilake KM, Xiao K, Bidwell BN, Lucas EC, Hawkins ED, Lock P, Wong CS, Chen W, Anderson RL, Hertzog PJ, Andrews DM, Möller A, Parker BS. Loss of Host Type-I IFN Signaling Accelerates Metastasis and

Impairs NK-cell Antitumor Function in Multiple Models of Breast Cancer. *Cancer Immunol Res*. 2015 Nov;3(11):1207-17.

Indira Chandran V, Eppenberger-Castori S, Venkatesh T, Vine KL, Ranson M. HER2 and uPAR cooperativity contribute to metastatic phenotype of HER2-positive breast cancer. *Oncoscience*. 2015 Mar 23;2(3):207-24.

Rik Thompson
Council Representative, OzMRS

Australasian Sarcoma Study Group



The ASSG has had an incredibly eventful year. Some of the highlights include:

- Established co-funding arrangement with Canteen to fund the AYA component of the International Sarcoma Kindred Study headed by Prof David Thomas.
- Opened the international clinical trial, EuroEwing 08 in Australia in both paediatric and adult centres for patients

of all ages for Ewing sarcoma. This study has been fully funded by our philanthropic partner Rainbows for Kate.

- The ASSG has undertaken a governance restructure in line with our strategic plan and appointed a new Board and new Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The ASSG welcomes the new Chair of the Board, Adrian Cosenza, who comes to the ASSG with a strong corporate finance background. The new Chair of the SAC is Dr Jayesh Desai, who steps down as Chair of the Board after five years of service in that role.
- The ASM for the ASSG this year was held in Brisbane and was a huge success, with very high calibre international speakers including Dr David Kirsch (Radiation Oncologist and Lab Head from Duke University), Dr Bill Tap (Medical Oncologist and Head of the Sarcoma Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York) and Dr Shekar Kumta (Orthopaedic surgeon, Chinese University of Hong Kong).

The ASSG looks forward to the year ahead and to next phase of the ASSG's growth.

Happy New Year.

Denise Caruso
Executive Officer, ASSG

Australia & New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group



Board Changes

There have been several changes to the ANZBCTG Board of Directors in recent



Professor Stephen Ackland

months. Professor Stephen Ackland was elected as Chair and has served on the board for eight years. He has been involved in ANZBCTG research since

1994 and is a Medical Oncologist and Senior Staff Specialist in the Medical Oncology Department of the Calvary Mater Newcastle. Professor Fran Boyle AM, from the Mater Hospital in Sydney, stepped down as Chair after completing her term from 2012 to 2015 and will continue as a Board Member. Professor Bruce Mann, from The Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, was elected a new Board Member and Professor Geoffrey Lindeman from The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, was re-elected to the Board. Ms Jennifer Horrigan, CEO of leading independent investment bank Greenhill Australia, was recently appointed to the Board of Directors. And Associate Professor Jacquie Chirgwin has stepped down from the ANZBCTG Board. A/Prof Chirgwin was first elected to the Board in 2003 and was Chair from 2005 to 2012. The ANZBCTG sincerely thanks A/Prof Chirgwin for her leadership, commitment and service to the ANZBCTG.

TAILORx Initial Results

The initial results of an international breast cancer clinical trial provides evidence that a genetic test is able to reliably identify a subgroup of women with early stage, hormone receptor positive breast cancer who can safely avoid chemotherapy.

The TAILORx clinical trial assessed the effectiveness of a genetic test called Oncotype DX®, to more accurately determine which patients are likely to benefit from chemotherapy and those who won't. The test searches for the presence of 21 breast cancer related genes in breast tissue and produces a Recurrence Score® that predicts the risk of breast cancer recurrence. The score ranges from 0-100 and the higher the score, the greater the

chance that breast cancer will return. In TAILORx, women with a Recurrence Score of 10 or less received hormone therapy alone; women with a Recurrence Score of greater than 25 received hormone therapy plus chemotherapy; and those with a mid-range Recurrence Score from 11-25 were randomised to receive hormone therapy with or without chemotherapy.

This analysis involved the group of 1,626 patients with a Recurrence Score between 0 and 10, and found that 99% of women with hormone receptor positive, HER-2 negative, node negative breast cancer were free of recurrence after five years of hormone therapy alone. Outcomes were excellent, irrespective of patient age at diagnosis, tumour size and tumour grade. Furthermore, the rate of invasive disease-free survival in this population at 5 years was almost 94%, while the risk of cancer returning at a distant site was less than 1%.

The study was coordinated by the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group in the United States and was conducted in Australia and New Zealand by the ANZBCTG. More than 10,200 women participated in the study worldwide including 25 women from 10 institutions in Australia and New Zealand. The initial results of TAILORx were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. For more information about TAILORx initial results, visit www.anzbcctg.org.

2015 Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year

Professor John Forbes AM has received the 2015 NSW Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year. The Award was presented by the NSW Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner MP, on behalf of the NSW Premier at the 10th anniversary of the Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research. The Award for Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year is presented to an individual who has made a significant and fundamental contribution to any field of cancer in NSW. It is awarded to a researcher who shows leadership and is

active in NSW cancer research, and who has a record of substantive and noteworthy publications. The winner is selected based on the quality, significance, scientific originality and innovation of their research; their contribution to the acceleration of progress against cancer; and implications for future research. Professor Forbes is the Director of Research at the Australia and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG), which is based in Newcastle. Professor Forbes is Professor of Surgical Oncology at the University of Newcastle and is Director of Surgical Oncology at the Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital.



Jillian Skinner MP and Professor John Forbes

Diary

The 2016 Australian Women's Health Diary is now on sale and proceeds from the diary go towards the ANZBCTG breast cancer clinical trials research program. The diary is filled with reliable, up to date information for a healthy mind and body, and is also a practical day to day organiser. The 2015 diary raised a record profit of \$1.1 million, bringing the total raised by the diary to \$11.1 million. To purchase a copy, visit www.anzbcctg.org.



2016 Annual Scientific Meeting

A Joint Annual Scientific Meeting will be held with the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia, from 14-17 November 2016 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. More information about the ASM will be available in early 2016.

Stephen Ackland
Chair, ANZBCTG

Australia and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group

ANZMTG Australia and New Zealand
Melanoma Trials Group

I am pleased to report the recent exciting activities for ANZMTG. To date 71 hospitals in 14 countries are participating in ANZMTG-led protocols; and more than 3,000 patients having now been recruited to our trials. ANZMTG has a growing membership over more than 980 members, representing 29 countries, including Australia and New Zealand. The ANZMTG Research Portfolio includes 15 phase II and III clinical protocols and 9 complementing sub-studies; all which address clinically relevant research questions in a broad range of specialties including surgery, radiotherapy, medical oncology / immune-oncology, dermatology, imaging and diagnostics, quality of life and psycho-oncology themes, as well as health economic and cost effective analyses as appropriate.

Furthermore, in 2015 ANZMTG launched 5 new ANZMTG-led phase III randomised clinical trials for patients with Melanoma. These trials include patients diagnosed with Stage I, II, III and IV disease and incorporate a sophisticated combination of various interventions, trial designs and endpoints.

I am delighted to announce that ANZMTG was recently nominated and were the Award recipients for the National Melanoma Awards for Excellence in The Not for profit / Education / Research Category. This is an outstanding achievement for the group.



We also welcomed a host of new investigators and institutions including new partnerships with institutions in Australia (including the Gold Coast QLD, Hobart TAS and Darwin NT), and internationally (including the leading Melanoma units in Auckland New Zealand, Beijing China, Norway, Sweden, Holland, Slovenia, Italy, North America, Canada and Brazil).

We are thrilled to announce results of our first collaborative clinical trial, undertaken with the Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (ANZMTG 01/02 / TROG 02.01) were recently published in The Lancet Oncology.

We have also been active widely promoting our research portfolio at major meetings including at the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance Meeting in Sydney, the Global Controversies in Skin Cancer Meeting in Brisbane, and Clinical Oncology Society of Australia in Hobart, Australia; as well as The American Society of Radiation Oncology Annual Meeting, Houston USA, the Nordic Melanoma Congress in Gothenburg Sweden, the Brazilian Melanoma Meeting; Sao Paulo Brazil; Peking University Cancer Hospital in Beijing China, The European Association of Dermato-Oncology / World Meeting of Interdisciplinary Melanoma/Skin Centers in Marseille France and as well as the Melanoma Summit New Zealand in Auckland NZ.

I am pleased to report that the number, diversity and access to ANZMTG-led clinical trials has grown substantially this year; ensuring that ANZMTG is developing a robust network of leading melanoma units around Australia, New Zealand and internationally; with the hope that this will lead to more timely recruitment, and subsequently publication, of our trials to better address the important research questions which our trials have been designed to address. We thank our members, patients and families for their ongoing support. The need for investigator-driven, independently run clinical trials for melanoma remains just as important, especially as we enter a new era of melanoma treatment and management.

Bryan Burmeister
Chairman, ANZMTG

Australian & New Zealand Children's/ Haematology Oncology Group



Australian & New Zealand
Children's Haematology/Oncology Group

Annual Scientific Meetings

After a hugely successful 2015 ASM in Fremantle, we have commenced planning our 2016 ASM, to be held in conjunction with 2016 Advances in Neuroblastoma Research (ANR) meeting in Cairns. There will be an overlap day of shared program (Thursday 23rd June 2016), and then ANZCHOG's ASM will be held on 24-25th June 2016. The program will be very diverse, with a range of medical and scientific plenaries and presentations, and dedicated parents and nursing programs.

For further information, please visit <http://www.anr2016.org/program/draft-timetable/>. Please note that you do not have to be an ANZCHOG member to attend our ASM.

NHMRC Project Grant Success

We would like to congratulate Associate Professor Karin Thursky, Dr Gabrielle Haeusler and their research team on their success in the recent NHMRC Project Grant Funding Scheme. This ANZCHOG-endorsed study "Australian Predicting Infectious Complications In Children with Cancer (PICNICC) project" is an excellent

collaboration with the European-based PICNICC project, and involves researchers with expertise in infection management, guideline development, paediatric oncology and health economics. We look forward to initiating this study across all of Australia's children's cancer centres and their associated emergency departments in the coming year.

ANZCHOG support of clinical trial research

ANZCHOG continues to support its members to develop industry-independent clinical trials. We have run a number of successful initiatives over the last 12 months, including targeted education and mentoring opportunities and workshops, concept development workshops, protocol development, and funding to develop novel clinical trial instruments and proof-of-concept data.

This year, ANZCHOG has established a number of new partnerships with other organisations, such as CanTeen, Kids Cancer Alliance and The Kids Cancer Project. We are delighted to work with these organisations to achieve common goals and look forward to furthering these relationships in the future.

For further information about ANZCHOG, please visit www.anzchog.org

Chris Fraser
Chair, ANZCHOG

Australian and New Zealand Head & Neck Cancer Society



The ANZHNCS continues to progress as the recognised Australian and New Zealand Multidisciplinary Society for head and neck cancer care. Now with nearly 250 members, the Society represents the interests of 16 different professional disciplines coming together with a common purpose.

This year saw the 17th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society, held in conjunction with the **World Congress on Laryngeal Cancer** at the Cairns Convention Centre in late July. The program focussed on the care of patients with larynx cancer, not only at presentation, but in the years afterwards. The multidisciplinary congress attracted a wide range of health professionals including surgeons, oncologists, anaesthetists, trainees, speech pathologists, nurses, dietitians, psychologists, basic scientists, medical students and more.

The programme included contributions from 113 local faculty and 72 international faculty with 23 countries and 23 disciplines represented. Over 450 delegates from 36 countries were treated to an extensive program covering epidemiology, office endoscopy, public health, airway management, databases, molecular biology, supraglottic cancer, glottis, salvage treatment, chemotherapy, vocal fold wound healing, reconstruction, palliative care and the developing world, as well as numerous free research papers.

Keynote lectures delivered by invited faculty members were a highlight and featured throughout the four day congress. Feedback from delegates indicated that the program was of a very high standard with the opportunity to attend many different sessions of interest. More details of the conference can be found at www.wclc2015.org.au and in the Society newsletter <http://www.anzhnecs.org/headneck-october-2015>.

In July 2014, the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) convened the largest gathering of Head and Neck Cancer Specialists in history at its 5th World Congress in

New York. During that meeting, IFHNOS declared July 27 as World Head & Neck Cancer Day, to draw the world's attention to effective care and control of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. This declaration was endorsed by 52 Head & Neck Oncology societies of 45 countries in the world. The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and governments from several nations have since also endorsed the declaration. **World Head and Neck Cancer Day** fell during the recent World Congress on Larynx Cancer and our Society organized a symposium during the meeting on Head and Neck Cancer awareness, screening programs and resources available to physicians and patients in Australia and New Zealand. In addition, the global impact of educational programs offered by IFHNOS was also discussed.

The ANZHNCS plans to co-ordinate future **WHNCD** events throughout Australia and New Zealand. The Day targets two main areas: firstly, advocacy for strengthening health care systems to introduce community-based approaches for awareness, risks, prevention and early detection of HNSCC; and secondly enhancing the expertise of clinicians by upgrading their knowledge and skills through CME programs. The intent is to hold conferences, seminars, courses, and CME programs around **July 27**, and well as public education and screening campaigns. Ideas for local activities on the day should be passed on to the Society or discussed with local Head & Neck multidisciplinary team members.

Preparations are also underway for the next **ANZHNCS Annual Scientific Meeting** which will be held in conjunction with the **IFHNOS 2016 World Tour** from 25 to 27 October 2016 at The Langham Auckland, New Zealand. More information can be found at www.iffhnosaukland2016.org and will be disseminated early in the new year.

Plans are also under way for a major fundraising event in Melbourne early in 2016 to formally launch the recently

established **Research Foundation of the ANZHNCs**. Please keep an eye out for details as the event develops. We would appreciate your participation and support.

Kerwin Shannon
Immediate Past President, ANZHNCs

Australian and New Zealand Urogenital & Prostate Cancer Trials Group



The last ANZUP Marryalyan report described the 2015 ASM and its outcomes. This remains a highlight of the genitourinary calendar for this region and increasingly is attracting interest elsewhere as well. Planning for the 2016 ASM (Brisbane, 12-14 July 2016) is well underway with our hardworking convening committee ably led by Ian Vela. The theme for the 2016 ANZUP ASM is "GU Cancer: Expanding Our Horizons." Horizons are loosely defined for ANZUP members as they include ones that relate to geography, disciplines, technologies, trial designs, new people and of course always new ideas. We have confirmed some outstanding international speakers not to be missed:

- Freddie Hamdy, urologist and Nuffield Professor of Surgery at Oxford;
- John Oliffe, expat Australian and Professor of Nursing at the University of British Columbia;
- Piet Oste, radiation oncologist from Belgium; and

- Dean Bajorin, medical oncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

ANZUP will once again run its MDT Masterclass and hopes to offer travel grants again for 2016 to allow attendance at this as well as the main ASM. The Community Forum was highly successful in 2015 and we wish to continue to build upon this for next year. I encourage you all to mark the ANZUP ASM dates in your diaries now and to encourage your colleagues and trainees to attend.

ANZUP continues to be highly active in many other areas also. These include (but are not limited to):

- **Clinical trials.** All our trials are recruiting very well. Our international profile continues to grow with new regions and sites coming on board ANZUP trials in Ireland, UK, Europe, Canada and the USA. We are participating in the post-first-line BL.12 bladder cancer trial led by NCIC CTG. We continue to be highly active in Australia and New Zealand and of course have a commitment to improving access to clinical trials for patients with genitourinary cancers in both countries. Others of our home grown trials, the international phase III accelerate BEP trial (Peter Grimison) and the non-muscle-invasive BCG/mitomycin bladder trial (Dickon Hayne) are also recruiting well. The Pain Free TRUS B trial (Jeremy Grummet), supported by Cancer Australia and Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, now has ethics approval and sites are being activated as I write.
- **Concept Development Workshops.** ANZUP held four highly successful half-day disease-orientated face to face CDWs in 2014, leading to new ideas for each of our disease-specific subcommittees to continue to develop. There was a huge demand for more available time so in 2015 we have run full-day CDWs for prostate, renal and bladder cancers; the germ cell subcommittee remains highly active

with current studies and chose not to hold a CDW this year. Once again the workshops were extremely successful. The agenda for each day consisted of review of concepts submitted ahead of time, followed by refinement of the ideas, brainstorming new ideas, reviewing the current trial and treatment landscape, and thought experiments to anticipate how the field might develop over the next few years. Specific time was allocated to ensure we considered trials for all stages of disease, surgical, radiation, translational, supportive care and health economic ideas. Each CDW generated a productive list of concepts and initiatives that will now continue development through working groups and the broader subcommittees. These processes are open to all interested ANZUP members and we encourage you to participate at whatever level you wish.



- **A Little Below the Belt.** In consultation with the ANZUP CAP, we have created a magazine expressly for consumers. A Little Below the Belt is produced twice a year and features stories of patients on ANZUP trials, hot topics in urogenital and prostate cancers, definitions that would be of interest to patients and the latest ANZUP trials. Each issue of the magazine has a focus directed by consumers. We featured regional and remote patient stories and discussed issues that mainly affect these patients. Our next issue, due out in late December, focuses on our recent CDW's, the recently announced Below the Belt Research Fund and explores the role immunotherapy in upcoming trials. The magazine can be found on the ANZUP website www.anzup.org.au or alternatively we can send you hard copies to make available for your patients in your rooms and/or cancer centres.

- **Below the Belt Pedalthon.** This extraordinary event is now in its second year and looks set to become a regular fixture, particularly since it is now a Cycling Australia sanctioned event. We had a record number of teams and riders, and fantastic support from sponsors, donors, volunteers and everyone involved. The Pedalthon resulted once again in outstanding publicity and improved awareness of these diseases and of the importance of clinical trials.



- **Below the Belt Research Fund.** It was a great pleasure to be able to announce at the Pedalthon that the ANZUP Board had approved the use of funds generated from this event to support up to four concepts to a total value of up to \$150,000. This drove home the message that the donated funds were being ploughed directly back into supporting clinical trials research. The Below the Belt Research Fund will enable concepts to move through proof-of-principle and be able to be translated into future ANZUP clinical trials and to help improve the prospect of full funding support and completion. This represents another key step towards achievement of one of ANZUP's aspirational goals: support for its own trials. More information on this is available through the ANZUP web site www.anzup.org.au.
- ANZUP GU Preceptorship in Prostate Cancer. We have unashamedly stolen this idea from the highly successful preceptorships convened by Eva Segelov for AGITG and ALTG previously. The concept involves trainees selecting key papers in various aspects of prostate cancer, with oversight by the

preceptors; and then preparing them for detailed presentation and discussion over a 1.5 day program. The preceptors are senior clinician-researchers who help the delegates go through the papers in detail and work through issues of trial design, study strengths and weaknesses, and placing the research into the clinical context. There was rapid uptake of available spaces by trainees and great involvement by the preceptors with support from our sponsors and the ever-energetic Eva Segelov, preceptorship guru.

- **Best of ANZUP.** A meeting was held in Brisbane on 21 October 2015 where key presentations given at the ANZUP ASM were reprised for the benefit of those unable to attend. Declan Murphy outlined the brilliant talks given by Bertrand Tombal and I tried to do some form of justice to the gold that was given us by Chris Sweeney and Brian Rini. Mohamed Khadra gave a fantastic and well-received talk on innovation and dissemination of information and research findings. This also looks to become a regular event on the ANZUP calendar.
- **Membership.** Our membership continues to grow and possibly by the time you read this we will have cracked the 1000 member mark. It is great to have such numbers and interest in what we do, but it is even better that so many members contribute actively to the organisation in so many ways. If you wish to become more involved then it is very easy: you are welcome to participate in the various subcommittees, trials, education and training events, and the ASM. Let us know if you would like more information about how to do this.

Don't forget to download our ClinTrial Refer ANZUP App. The app gives you all up to date information you need about ANZUP clinical trials, including the details of the trial, recruiting status, eligibility information, lay summaries and links to trial registries. It is fully searchable and is already making it easier for both clinicians and the general

community to identify and find clinical trials that might be suitable for them. The app is available at:



Apple iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/clintrialrefer-anzup/id894317413?mt=8>

Or

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.lps.anzup&hl=en>

ANZUP is pleased to be an Affiliated Organisation to COSA. It is a voice for you on COSA Council and through COSA to government and other key bodies. ANZUP membership is open to people involved in the care or research of genitourinary cancers. Your free ANZUP membership gives you members' rates for the ANZUP ASM and a 10% discount on your COSA membership which if taken gives you members' rates for the COSA ASM. Joining ANZUP is very easy; why would you not want to be a member?

I look forward to seeing you at future ANZUP and COSA events.

Ian Davis
Chair, ANZUP

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia



While we often see activity in many organisations slow down towards the end of the year, the CNSA remains very active, with many high quality educational and networking activities organised by various Regional Groups and Specialist Practice Networks.

At the last CNSA Congress, the National Executive Committee (NEC) acknowledged the tremendous growth in membership over recent years. It is clear that we need to continue to consolidate this growth and continue to strengthen our partnership with a number of like-minded organisations. Over the past two months, we have been focussing our efforts on establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the McGrath Foundation and the Australia and New Zealand Lung Cancer Nurses Forum (ANZ-LCNF). I am certain that these partnerships will result in fruitful outcomes for our members as well as our patients.

I am pleased to report that, in November 2015, I represented CNSA at the Asian Oncology Nursing Society (AONS) Conference, held in Seoul, Korea. At this conference, I focussed on establishing new strategic links with our partners in Asia, as well as continuing our conversations with Professor Margaret Barton-Burke (ONS President) regarding the potential of sharing educational resources between the ONS and CNSA. At this conference, I presented on "Building Capacity for Research and Knowledge Translation at the Organisational Level", and Professor Patsy Yates presented on "Nurses' Contribution to Improved Outcomes in Survivorship". I am very pleased with the Australian representation at this year's AONS Conference, as well as the new partnerships formed during this conference.

The Annual Congress Committee has been busy developing the scientific program for the CNSA 2016 Annual Congress (12-14 May 2016, Cairns). Given disparity in outcomes remains a topical and important issue, the theme will be: Bridging the Gap: Distance, Culture, Workforce and Knowledge. It gives me great pleasure to announce that one of the international keynote speakers will be Professor Margaret Barton-Burke, President, Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) and Director of Nursing Research, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, New York, NY. Professor Barton-Burke will be presenting her research on improving

outcomes in black American women. Also of note is Jocelyn Grecia Hill, St Paul's Hospital for Providence Health Care, Vancouver, Canada. Our local Australian speakers will be:

- Professor Sanchia Aranda, Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Council Australia;
- Associate Professor Sabe Sabesan, James Cook University;
- Professor William Runciman, Professor in Patient Safety and Healthcare Human Factors, University of South Australia;
- Dr. Rachel Hughes, Lead Clinician, WA Youth Cancer Service, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital; and
- Associate Professor Gail Garvey, Menzies School of Health Research.

In the New Year, the CNSA will be farewelling a number of members who have made significant contribution to both the profession and to the CNSA. In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Sandy McKiernan (Immediate Past President), Anne Mellon (CNSA Secretary) and Angela Mellerick (VIC Representative). During Sandy's term as President on the NEC, she has been an exceptional leader and a great mentor to many. Anne Mellon has been a strong pillar for CNSA; her wisdom and support has definitely been well appreciated. Kylie Ash and Carmel O'Kane will be joining the NEC as Queensland and Victoria representatives respectively. I look forward to working with them.

Associate Professor Raymond Chan
CNSA President

Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group



Engaging Members in Research Development

ANZGOG held its 3rd Annual Development Day in Sydney on the 15th of October. This is an initiative to engage members in ongoing research development, to identify gaps in current research and to recommend options for future studies. ANZGOG's Ovarian, Cervical and Endometrial Tumour Type Working Groups and the Research Advisory Committee came together for these discussions. The ANZGOG Development Day also provided an opportunity for the Study Coordinator Committee to workshop ways to enhance the research harmonization processes, while the Consumer and Community Committee participated in a concept development workshop.

ANZGOG also held its Annual General Meeting on the 15th of October. Over 60 members attended the AGM which was followed by a complimentary lunch. ANZGOG Financials and the Board of Directors were ratified and Committee Chairs shared their activities and achievements over the last 12 months.

Funding New Research

As part of our vision for the future, earlier this year we launched the ANZGOG New Research Fund. The New Research Fund is designed to foster new research ideas that will lead to new trials that will benefit women with gynaecological cancer here in Australia and NZ and elsewhere. This fund, established with monies raised by ANZGOG from corporate, philanthropic and community donations, as well as bequests, is open to all ANZGOG members who wish to apply for support for their research projects. In its first funding cycle, seven applications were received for New Research Fund grants and three projects were identified for funding.

ANZGOG Annual Scientific Meeting 2016

'New Targets and Better Outcomes for Women with Gynaecological Cancer' is the theme for our ASM next year which will be from the 13th to the 16th of April at the Intercontinental Double Bay in Sydney. We have an impressive line-up of distinguished international keynote speakers:

- Dr Christian Marth, Gynaecological Oncologist, Austria
- Dr Anuja Jhingran, Radiation Oncologist, Texas, USA
- Dr Michael Birrer, Medical Oncologist, Boston, USA
- Dr Susana Banerjee, Medical Oncologist, UK

The ANZGOG ASM 2016 program will include two and a half days of scientific sessions focusing on current research practices, innovative new research ideas, target therapies, a quality of life session

and a pure science session just to name a few. There will also be an afternoon of germane workshops for research nurses, study coordinators, investigators and consumers. The ASM promises to be an opportunity to network, share knowledge and foster new collaborations.

Raising Funds for ANZGOG Research

GO step for Gynae is an ANZGOG fundraising initiative now in its second year. This year we had over 245 steppers taking on the challenge of 10,000 steps a day for 30 days! With their amazing efforts we surpassed our goal of \$50,000 in leaps and bounds and raised close to \$64,000!! On behalf of ANZGOG, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of these remarkable supporters for their drive and commitment.

ANZGOG hosted the *2015 Comedy for Cancer Downunder* at the fabulous Fairground Follies in Sydney on 26th September raising over \$60,000 for

ANZGOG's research. It was a spectacular night of entertainment and laughter with some of Australia's best-known comedians, including Jean Kittson, Tommy Dean, Rebecca De Unamuno and Mark Humphries. I would like to thank the comedians, crew, raffle and auction prize donors for their support of ANZGOG.

There is no doubt that ANZGOG is an organisation that is continuing to grow and develop. We were just 400 strong three years ago, and now we have 710 members. The challenge for us now is how to involve every single one of those members in the work of ANZGOG.

Alison Brand
Chair, ANZGOG

Faculty of Radiation Oncology



Funding for Radiation Oncology

Advocacy for sustainable appropriate funding for radiation oncology has been a priority work area for the Faculty this year. There are a number of significant potential changes that the Faculty is very concerned could impact on affordable timely access to radiation therapy in Australia.

Following an announcement by the federal government in April this year, a review of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) is currently underway. The Faculty welcomes the establishment of the MBS Taskforce as a clinician-led initiative, and fully supports the proposed MBS Review Process in principle – to help improve the value derived from MBS expenditure. The Review is an excellent opportunity to revise



ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
13-16 APRIL 2016
Intercontinental Double Bay, Sydney



OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Christian Marth
Gynaecological Oncologist
Innsbruck Medical University, Austria



Anuja Jhingran
Radiation Oncologist
University of Texas



Susana Banerjee
Medical Oncologist
Royal Marsden, London



Michael Birrer
Medical Oncologist
Massachusetts General Hospital

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and modernise the current MBS, to bring it in line with current best practice. The Faculty has nominated representatives for a few relevant MBS Review Taskforce Clinical Committees, and submitted a response to the MBS consultation paper. The Faculty will continue to participate in activities related to the MBS Review.

In the meantime, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) has undertaken a performance audit of the Radiation Oncology Health Program Grants (ROHPG) Scheme, which provides capital funding to both public and private facilities delivering radiation oncology services. The Faculty is of the opinion that ROHPGs have ensured ongoing modernisation of equipment—which is evident in that linear accelerators significantly older than 10 years are now rare, in contrast to the situation prior to the implementation of the ROHPG scheme. The Faculty awaits the results of the performance audit.

In the 2014-15 Budget, the Government announced a new Medicare Safety Net to be introduced on 1 January 2016, subject to the passage of legislation – which would introduce a cap on benefits. The Faculty has real concerns about this issue, based on the principle of ensuring affordable and timely access to radiation therapy for all cancer patients in

Australia. Given that about 40% of radiation therapy treatments are currently delivered in the private sector, these proposed changes could mean that those patients paying for private radiation therapy services may face significant out of pocket costs. The Faculty has written to the Minister of Health and Ageing, the Shadow Minister of Health, as well as a number of Senators to highlight these concerns. We

have also had a number of conversations with Department of Health representatives on this issue. Representatives from the Faculty participated in the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee hearing on Monday 16 November to raise our concerns, in addition to a written submission to the Committee.

Radiation Oncology Targeting Cancer Campaign

To help address the current underutilisation of radiation therapy in Australia, raising awareness of radiation oncology remains a major priority for the Faculty.

The website of our Targeting Cancer Campaign (www.targetingcancer.com.au) has been revamped and the new site was launched in late October 2015. The new website contains more tumour site-specific content and videos, as well as information specifically targeted at General Practitioners (GPs). We hope the website will become the most trusted source of information about radiation therapy for cancer patients and their families, as well as for GPs and other health professionals.

GPs play a crucial role at every stage in the management of a patient diagnosed with cancer. Targeting Cancer Campaign's GP Oncology Education Evenings provide GPs with the opportunity to learn about the role of radiation therapy for their patients. Fifteen radiation oncology departments across Australia and New Zealand have hosted such events over the last 12 months. Almost 200 GPs have attended, all of whom reported that the session significantly improved their understanding of radiation therapy, and they would recommend such sessions to their colleagues.



Targeting Cancer has also produced a number of articles to enhance GPs' knowledge of modern radiation therapy. These articles have been published in *Australian Doctor* and *Australian Family Physician*, and are available for download from the **Targeting Cancer website**. In September 2015, two radiation oncology modules were also included in CHECK, an independent learning program produced by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners for GP trainees and continuing professional development.

Please like **Targeting Cancer** on Facebook, or follow **@targetingcancer** on Twitter, and help us promote radiation therapy as a safe and cost-effective cancer treatment option.

Quality Assurance for Radiation Therapy Services

The Faculty has recently developed a number of key position papers, in line with our commitment to quality and best practice:

- Quality Guidelines for Volume Delineation in Radiation Oncology
- Position Paper on Particle Therapy
- Position Paper on Imaging Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) 2015

These documents can be accessed from the College website at <http://www.ranzcr.edu.au/about/faculty-of-radiation-oncology/178-about-ranzcr/faculty-of-radiation-oncology/899-faculty-publication>.

Radiation Oncology Techniques and Technologies: 2015 Horizon Scan

The aim of the Faculty's regular Horizon Scan is to inform cancer professionals, health professionals, health administrators, consumers and interested individuals about the techniques and technologies used for safe delivery of high quality radiation therapy. It is an important

advocacy tool and also provides the Faculty's position on emerging techniques and technology.

The Horizon Scan was updated this year with latest data and evidence, the format has been simplified and the two versions for Australia and New Zealand were merged into one. The final document is available from the **College website**, with the next update planned for 2017.

Faculty of Radiation Oncology Annual Industry Roundtable and Innovation Summit

The Faculty's annual Industry Roundtable was held on 9 October, with over 20 representatives from the industry, consumer organisations and radiation oncology professions attending. The Industry Roundtable was well received as usual, and provided an opportunity for industry stakeholders to meet, provide feedback on the draft Horizon Scan, and discuss current issues in radiation oncology.

The Faculty convenes an Innovation Summit with key stakeholders every 12-18 months. The 2015 Innovation Summit was held on 6 November in Old Parliament House in Canberra, attended by representatives from Federal and State Governments in Australia, cancer peak bodies, consumer organisations and medical professions. Key issues around the profile of radiation oncology, technologies and techniques, research and innovation in our sector were discussed at the Summit.

We will continue to actively engage with governments and stakeholders in the broader cancer arena to advocate for radiation oncology as an essential pillar of cancer control.

Highest College Honours awarded to Prof Michael Barton

The Gold Medal is the highest accolade to be awarded by the College, and is only awarded on rare occasions for exceptional and outstanding contributions.

In 2015, the Gold Medal was awarded to Professor Michael Barton for his enormous contribution to oncology, particularly in the area of health services research. Professor Barton is internationally recognised for his work in establishing the proportion of cancer patients who should receive radiation therapy – which has informed oncology services planning across the globe, in both developed and developing countries. Professor Barton has been an inspiration and mentor to many radiation oncologists and the College is proud to recognise his achievements.

Dion Forstner

Dean, Faculty of Radiation Oncology

Medical Oncology Group of Australia



As the peak professional organisation for medical oncologists in Australia and, a speciality society of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, MOGA takes pride in having a diverse, proactive and ever-expanding professional brief. The 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting, **Pathways in Medical Oncology-The Path Less Travelled**, held in early August in Hobart featured an innovative and novel scientific program that explored the contemporary challenges and advances in medical oncology research, discovery and clinical practice.

The development of oncology specific education programs for members of the profession that focus on key developments in oncology research and practice has always been a priority for MOGA. Now

in its tenth year, the 2015 **Sciences of Oncology Program** convened by Dr Mark Shackleton, attracted 50 medical oncology trainees from around Australia over the weekend of 7-8 November and, was sold-out within 24 hours of registrations opening. This popular but challenging program allows trainees to learn about important emerging and new scientific issues that are crucial to maintaining state of the art clinical practice.

More than 120 MOGA consultants and trainee members participated in MOGA's inaugural **Immuno-Oncology Forum-Insights and Advances** in Melbourne on Saturday-Sunday 24-25 October. The planning committee for this new educational program, led by Convenor, Professor Michael P. Brown, was able to bring together a group of distinguished international and Australian experts, to provide insights on advances in immuno-oncology. The scientific program featured presentations on the **cancer immunity cycle and cancer immuno-editing; infiltrating lymphocytes and PD1-PDL1 interactions; mutational load and tumour neoepitopes; good and bad actors in the immune system; immunogenomics**. The program also included presentations on immuno-oncology advances in **melanoma, breast, genitourinary, lung, head and neck, and other cancers**. A highlight of the 2 day program was the forum dinner with distinguished international immuno-oncology experts, Professor Kim A. Margolin and Professor Alan J. Korman, presenting on their ground-breaking research. **The Future Treatment Landscape** session allowed delegates to learn about the pipelines plans of the event platinum sponsors Bristol Myers Squibb and Merck Sharp and Dome, both leaders in the immuno-oncology space globally. To round out the Forum a **Stump the Professors: Panel Discussion** provided an opportunity for presenters and delegates to engage each other in open case-based discussion. The Program brought together an impressive group of thought-leaders who have unparalleled experience in immuno-oncology and

MOGA hopes to present the important program in future years to ensure that Australian clinicians can stay abreast of global developments in this rapidly expanding area of oncology :-

International presenters: Professor Alexander Eggermont, Institut Goustave-Roussy, France; Dr Matthew D. Hellman, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA; Professor Alan J. Korman, Bristol-Myers Squibb Biologics Discovery, USA; Professor Kim A. Margolin, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, USA; and Assistant Professor Tanguy Seiwert, The University of Chicago Medicine, USA. Australian presenters: Professor Stephen Clarke; Professor Ian Davis; Professor Jonathan Cebon; Dr Thomas John; Associate Professor Sherene Loi; Dr Alexander Menzies; Professor Mark Smyth (QMIR); Associate Professor Ben Solomon; and Professor David Thomas.



Professor Michael P. Brown
Convenor, Immuno-Oncology Forum:
Insights and Advances



MOGA recently opened the online application process for the **2016 Australia and Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development 2016 Workshop (ACORD)** being convened by Professor Martin Stockler <http://acord.org.au/>: Applications can be submitted from 6 November 2015 to 26 February 2016. Junior clinicians and early stage researchers across all oncology and allied health disciplines in the Asia-Pacific region are invited to apply for a place on this career-enhancing education program in clinical trials design and development. The Workshop, to

be held at Magenta Shores on the New South Wales Central Coast of Australia, is a 7 day residential educational program (11-17 September 2016) in clinical trials design and development. Around 72 junior clinicians and early stage researchers from the Asia-Pacific and a world class faculty of international leaders in cancer research, will come together for this unique oncology training program to develop clinical trials



Professor Martin Stockler
Convenor, ACORD

Workforce Group has finalised a qualitative pilot study in New South Wales and have been developing a national survey instrument designed to gather data to assist with workforce planning at both state and national levels. It is noteworthy that Australia is one of a small number of countries that has undertaken work on the medical oncology workforce and our efforts have been noted. Recently, Professor Michael Green, Director of Cancer Services at Western Health in Victoria, who has been appointed as the regional representative for the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO), attended the ESMO October meeting in Vienna where he presented information on MOGA's medical oncology workforce activities.

In 2015 the Association's oncology drugs and treatment advocacy has continued to grow in direct correlation to the large number of submissions for oncology drugs and treatments that are coming through the regulatory system; and, the increasing number of related enquiries, reviews and committees such as this year's Senate enquiry into high cost drugs and the Medicare Benefits Schedule review. For the November Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee meeting MOGA provided a detailed submission on drugs

and treatments in thyroid cancer and a number of submissions relating to areas of high clinical need in Australian cancer care.

Rosemary Harrup
Chair, MOGA

Oncology Social Work Australia



The very successful 10th National OSWA Conference, was held in Sydney from 10th to 12th September. More than 100 delegates registered to participate in an interesting and stimulating program addressing each of our conference themes, "Critical Conversations in Oncology Social Work: Sex, Death and Taxes". Our Invited International Speaker, Dr Sage Bolte was sensational. Our National Speakers also performed to a very high standard. Formal evaluations were very positive, as were informal comments made to several members of the Organising Committee. Thanks are due to our hard working committee of 15 who utilised all of their talents to bring together a great program. A standout for many was the very creative video introduction created by Jessica Sowden, with input from other committee members. All speakers were agreeable to having their presentations uploaded to the OSWA website (www.oswa.net.au) and this will happen in the near future. Members will be notified when presentations are available.

The bar has been set very high for next year. Our Victorian colleagues have picked up the baton and we are looking forward to an equally successful program in Melbourne in 2016. Dates are not yet finalised, but members will be notified as early as possible. For those who really like to plan ahead, the 2017 conference will be held in Perth. Start planning those projects

and developing abstracts for reporting in the next two years.

One of the advantages of assembling as a large group, is the enthusiasm generated that invigorates the organisation as a whole. Several members have put up their hands to join the committee. We thank them for their participation and look forward to new ideas.

By the time this goes to press, the COSA ASM in Hobart will have been and gone. OSWA members Alison Hocking, Carrie Lethborg and Kim Hobbs were all Invited Speakers. The next edition of The Marryalyan will see a full report on the ASM. As we will be assembled in Hobart there is an excellent opportunity to engage with our Tasmanian colleagues. Slater and Gordon, through National Manager of Social Work Services, Olga Gountras, have generously agreed to help us to run a one day workshop for local social workers. Interest has been high, and we look forward to a productive day together.

Kim Hobbs
Council Chair, OSWA

Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group



TROG 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting

Registrations for the 28th TROG Annual Scientific Meeting are now open. The meeting will be held at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre from March 14-17, 2016 and will feature the return of our full-day, interactive Research Workshops.

The TROG 2016 ASM theme is, 'Value for money in oncology research' and we are excited to announce that meeting highlights will include international guest speakers Dr Antonio 'Tito' Fojo and Professor Dirk De Ruyscher. Our 2016 meeting will also feature Subspecialty breakout sessions, and opportunities to relax and network at our social afternoon, Brainlab Welcome Dinner and Elekta Black Tie Gala Dinner.

TROG is offering travel grants to assist **affiliate** members attending the TROG 2016 ASM. Through the generous sponsorship of Varian Medical Systems and TROG Cancer Research, nine travel grants are available to a value of \$1,700 each.

Visit **TROG2016.com** to view the preliminary program and register now to receive the early bird registration rate.

TROG Consumer Advisory Panel

TROG Cancer Research is looking for members of the community who have had an experience with cancer to become part of TROG as a Consumer Representative, to help shape the future direction of our clinical trials. Consumer knowledge and advice can have a real impact on those facing a similar journey, leading to better treatments and outcomes for cancer patients.

TROG will hold a Consumer Training Workshop in April 2016 to provide training on the basics of radiation therapy and clinical trials, as well as how consumers can be involved in TROG – as a member of our board; part of our research team; by joining our **Consumer Advisory Panel**; cancer advocacy; fundraising for TROG; or by sharing their story.

From the discussions on these topics during the workshop, TROG will develop online consumer learning modules. These modules will be used in conjunction with the Cancer Australia eLearning website to provide relevant information

to all consumers interested in Radiation Oncology clinical trials.

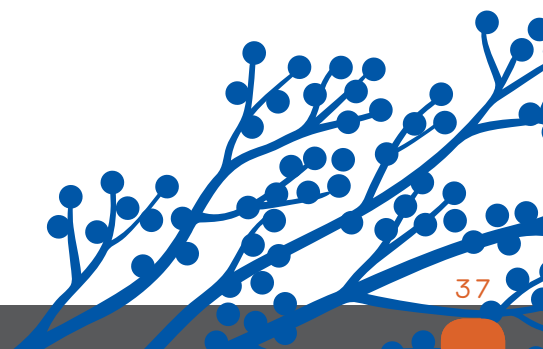
In other news, 2015 saw breakthrough results for the TROG 03.06 TOAD prostate cancer and TROG 03.05 (MA.20) breast cancer trials, as well as the launch of the pioneering TROG 13.01 SAFRON II trial and the TROG 14.03 head and neck cancer trial.

We recently launched campaigns to support both breast cancer awareness month in October and lung cancer awareness month in November. This was to honour the thousands of patients who have participated in our clinical trials and to acknowledge the TROG researchers who are working to find more effective radiation therapy treatments for all cancers. As TROG's profile in the community continues to grow, you may have seen our television advertisement which is currently on air as a Community Service Announcement. We have also launched the 2015 TROG Giving Season Appeal for people to donate and make a difference - visit trog.com.au to find out more.

It has been another eventful and prosperous year for TROG Cancer Research and we look forward to further positive developments in 2016.

Sandro V Porceddu
President, TROG

*Merry
Christmas*



Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
2015		
8-12 December	38th Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium www.sabcs.org/	Texas, USA
18-21 December	ESMO Asia Congress 2015 www.esmo.org/	Singapore
2016		
22-23 January	2016 Progress and Controversies in Gynecologic Oncology Conference www.primeoncology.org/live-education/solid-tumor/gyn-congress-2016/	Barcelona, Spain
11-13 February	28th Lorne Cancer Conference www.lornecancer.org/	Lorne, Victoria
26-28 February	Pathology Update 2016 www.rcpa.edu.au/Events/Pathology-Update	Melbourne, Victoria
3 March	PaCCSC 7th Annual Research Forum www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/2479/Default.aspx	Sydney, NSW
9-11 March	10th European Breast Cancer Conference www.ecco-org.eu/Events/EBCC10	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
13-16 March	Australian Pain Society 36th Annual Scientific Meeting www.dccconferences.com.au/aps2016/	Perth, Western Australia
14-17 March	TROG Annual Scientific Meeting www.trog.com.au/page32396/ASM-2016.aspx	Brisbane, Queensland
12-14 April	World Indigenous Cancer Conference www.menzies.edu.au/page/News_and_Events/Events_Seminars/Current/WICC2016/	Brisbane, Queensland
13-16 April	ANZGOG Annual Scientific Meeting www.anzgog.org.au/	Sydney, NSW
13-16 April	8th General Assembly & International Conference of the Asian Pacific Organisation for Cancer Prevention www.apocp8.org/	Brisbane, Queensland
13-16 April	6th European Lung Cancer Conference (ELCC) www.esmo.org/Conferences/ELCC-2016-Lung-Cancer	Geneva, Switzerland
17-20 April	International Symposium on Oncology Pharmacy Practice www.isopp.org/isopp-symposia/isopp-2016	Santiago, Chile
28-30 April	2nd World Congress on Controversies in Multiple Myeloma (COMy) www.comtecmed.com/comy/2016	Paris, France
2-6 May	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting 2016 www.surgeons.org/	Brisbane, Queensland
3-6 May	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au/events.html	Adelaide, South Australia
6 May	Fertility Preservation Summit	Melbourne, Victoria
12-14 May	CNSA Annual Congress www.cnsa.org.au/	Cairns, Queensland
26-28 May	Asia Pacific Lymphology Conference www.lymphoedema.org.au/	Darwin, Northern Territory
3-7 June	ASCO 52nd Annual Scientific Meeting www.asco.org/	Chicago, USA
12-15 June	17th International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-Oncology www.ispno2016.com/	Liverpool, UK
23-25 June	ANZCHOG 2016 ASM www.anr2016.org/anzchog/	Cairns, Queensland

Calendar of Events (continued)

Date	Event	Venue
23-26 June	MASCC/ISOO Annual Scientific Meeting www.mascc.org/annual-meeting	Adelaide, South Australia
10-12 July	ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting www.anzup.org.au	Brisbane, Queensland
16-20 July	AHNS 9th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer www.ahns2016.org	Seattle, USA
3-5 August	MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting www.moga.org.au/news-events/events/moga-annual-scientific-meeting-2015	Gold Coast, Queensland
6-9 August	HGSA 40th Annual Scientific Meeting www.hgsa.org.au/about/40th-annual-scientific-meeting	Hobart, Tasmania
18-20 August	6th Australian Lung Cancer Conference www.alcc.net.au/	Melbourne, Victoria
21-26 August	International Congress of Immunology http://ici2016.org/	Melbourne, Victoria
11-17 September	ACORD Workshop 2016 http://acord.org.au/	Magenta Shores, NSW
11-15 September	9th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting www.cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm-home2016	Sydney, NSW
14-16 September	AGITG 18th Annual Scientific Meeting http://agitg.org.au/agitg-trials-in-action-2/	Melbourne, Victoria
16-20 September	16th biennial Metastasis Research Congress www.2016mrsmeeting.org/oc20/cms/category/38	Chengdu, China
22-23 September	Sydney Cancer Conference http://sydneycancerconference.com.au/	Sydney, NSW
7-11 October	ESMO Congress 2016 www.esmo.org/Conferences/ESMO-2016-Congress	Copenhagen, Denmark
10-11 October	Australian Gastroenterology Week Satellite Symposium 2016 www.agw2016.org.au/	Adelaide, South Australia
11-14 October	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au/events.html	Sydney, NSW
13-16 October	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists' Annual Scientific Meeting www.ranzcr.edu.au/news-a-events/asm	Gold Coast, Queensland
15-16 October	The Annual Sarcoma Conference www.australiansarcomagroup.org/	Sydney, NSW
17-21 October	18th IPOS World Congress www.iposdublin2016.com	Dublin, Ireland
25-27 October	ANZHNCs Annual Scientific Meeting & IFHNOS 2016 World Tour www.anzhncs.org	Auckland, New Zealand
29-31 October	16th Biennial Meeting of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society http://igcs2016.com/	Lisbon, Portugal
31 Oct – 3 Nov	UICC World Cancer Congress www.worldcancercongress.org	Paris, France
15-17 November	COSA's 43rd & ANZBCTG's 38th Annual Scientific Meetings 2016 www.cosa.org.au	Gold Coast, Queensland
17-19 November	SIOG Annual Conference www.siog.org	Milan, Italy
17-20 November	Society for NeuroOncology (SNO) Annual Meeting www.soc-neuro-onc.org	Arizona, USA
4-7 December	17th World Conference on Lung Cancer www.iaslc.org/events/17th-world-conference-lung-cancer	Vienna, Austria

SAVE THE DATE

 Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia

 Australia & New Zealand
Breast Cancer
Trials Group

15-17

NOVEMBER 2016

COSA^S

ANZBCTG^S

43RD 38TH

ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC
MEETINGS

Gold Coast
Convention
and Exhibition
Centre

COSA is proud to announce that the 43rd ASM will be held on the Gold Coast in partnership with the ANZ Breast Cancer Trials Group, obviously with a focus on breast cancer.

I am delighted to accept the invitation to act as joint convenor for COSA and the ANZBCTG. As many COSA members will know I am an active member of both organisations and have been involved in planning their conferences previously.

COSA's last breast cancer themed ASM was in 2010 when we also partnered with the ANZBCTG. The meeting was held in Melbourne, at their newly renovated convention centre. During the planning of the meeting, and with the interest from members, more sessions were added to the joint program, which meant the conference was extremely busy. Whilst we are planning for another full event, we expect the format of the

Gold Coast venue will allow us to deliver a cohesive, vibrant and welcoming program.

Breast cancer themed meetings are always bumper events for COSA and we hope the partnership with the ANZBCTG will ensure even greater attendance and success next year. We are already planning the sessions and sending invitations to international leaders in the field to confirm their participation with plenty of notice.

So be sure to diarise 15-17 November 2016 now. We look forward to seeing you on the Gold Coast then.

Fran Boyle
Joint Convenor,
2016 ASM for COSA
and ANZBCTG

For more information please visit www.cosa.org.au or call us on (02) 8063 4100