



Prof Phyllis Butow AM, President, COSA

Just as I was delighted to present my first report as COSA President, I'm now filled with pride (and a little sadness) to present my last.

One of the highlights of my professional year is always the COSA ASM. As I reported last year, attending as the presiding President and having official duties kept me on my toes but didn't stop me from attending and participating in many sessions. I believe the opening ceremony set the scene for what promised to be an exciting and educational three days.

I was happy that we could recognise the legacy of Paul Katris who sadly died unexpectedly on Saturday 18 November 2017 as he was returning home to Perth after attending the COSA ASM in Sydney last year. Paul was a beloved member of the cancer community, especially of COSA. Many members of Paul's family and colleagues from Cancer Council WA attended the opening so they could witness us honouring Paul in this small way. The Governor of Western Australia, the Honourable Kim Beazley AC, officially opened the ASM and brought his personal style and rhetoric from his days as Federal Minister for Defence (1984 to 1990) and the government's

President's Report

response to the discovery of asbestos in the naval fleet. What a perfect introduction to the inclusion of mesothelioma in the COSA program. I particularly enjoyed hearing from the mesothelioma patient, Lyn David, and her struggles with her decision not to have a biopsy and what this means for her future care.

Another highlight for me was the Tom Reeve Award oration by Grant McArthur. COSA delegates will recall we usually present this award during the conference dinner. We moved it into the main program this year for two reasons: firstly, the dinner was a more casual outdoor fun event with no formalities; and secondly in recognition of the importance of the award we thought it deserved to be in the program so Grant and the audience would not be distracted.

In 2017 I invited our first non-health professional to deliver the Presidential Lecture. It was received so well I decided to do the same again this year. When Tim Hammond accepted my invitation to give his lecture on "The Politics of Cancer", he was the Federal Labor Member for Perth. When he resigned from Parliament in May (to spend more time with his young family) he confirmed his commitment to present at COSA. Before entering Parliament, Tim practised as a barrister, predominantly advising and appearing on behalf of victims of asbestos diseases. This combination of his political career and working with mesothelioma patients, made him an ideal candidate for the COSA Presidential Lecture in 2018.

Throughout the year COSA hosts multiple educational events for members, not just the ASM. In 2018 we held the Pharmacology of Chemotherapy workshop, the Advanced Trainees Oncology Meeting (ATOM), ACT and NSW Oncology Meeting (ACTNOW) and our

inaugural Breast Cancer Preceptorship. We also introduced online educational modules which we intend to expand in 2019.

The COSA Group Chairs will each feature their Group achievements in their respective reports, and I just wanted to highlight a few:

- The completion of the updated chemotherapy guidelines, launched at the 2017 ASM
- The official launch of the Exercise in Cancer position statement in May 2018
- The successful completion of the first year of the two-year pilot implementation project for the Australasian Tele-trial Model
- Record attendance and sponsorship for the Cancer Pharmacists Group courses
- COSA's work with Cancer Council Australia saw us make seven submissions to government and other bodies on important cancer control issues

Working with COSA members, the Board and Council to ensure we deliver not only the best possible outcomes for cancer health professionals in Australia, but importantly cancer patients as well, has really shown me what we can do when we come together and collaborate.

I am confident handing over the reins to your new COSA President, Nick Pavlakis, who will be ably supported by incoming President Elect Fran Boyle. I would like to thank the Board and Council for their support, advice and contributions, and especially the COSA staff for their tireless work on behalf of the COSA community.

Thanks to you all for making my COSA Presidency such a rewarding experience.

**Phyllis Butow
President**

Chief Executive Officer's Report



Marie Malica, COSA EO

2018 was another hectic year for the COSA team, and we are signing off with another bumper December edition of the Marryalyan.

2018 COSA ASM

My first COSA ASM after taking on this role was in Perth in 2011, so I feel like I've come full circle by returning to the west. 2018

has been quite different to 2011 – hopefully I've learned from the experience of having seven ASM's under my belt. In 2011 COSA partnered with ANZUP to host a conference program focussed on prostate cancer, and in 2018 we were stand alone and featured GI cancers and mesothelioma.

An ASM in Perth was always going to attract less delegates than one on the east coast, but we were pleased with the attendance numbers. And many stayed until the end for the closing plenary on exercise and the Presidential Lecture, which was another good sign of the support for the ASM. We did finish early so delegates could get flights home, and this worked well.

We held a program brainstorming meeting with the committee in October 2017 in Perth, and just from that initial meeting came away with a very clear plan for the program. It mostly came together quite quickly after that. Our loved colleague Paul Katris attended that meeting and was very excited about what we were planning. I'm sure he would have been proud of the program we delivered. He was certainly missed and in our thoughts.

You'll see from Tim Clay's convenor report on the following pages, as well as the photo spread, that it was another great conference. I would like to thank Tim, the ASM Program Committee, sponsors, COSA members and delegates, the ASN Events team and the COSA staff who all helped make the ASM a resounding success.

A full evaluation of the 2018 ASM is still underway but anecdotally the verbal feedback I've received has all been extremely positive. Colleagues from different fields expressed that it was one of the best COSA ASM's they have attended in many years. One of the media outlets attending to report on the ASM commented "This was one of our best conference experiences in Australia this year and we would sincerely like to cover future COSA meetings".

For COSA members that couldn't make it to the ASM, or if you did attend but missed some of the presentations, we recorded all the presentations delivered in the plenary hall. By the time this

is published we expect to have recordings available online for COSA members. Please visit the ASM section on the COSA website for more information.

2019 COSA ASM

12-14 November 2019. Adelaide Convention Centre. Be sure to diarise the dates now!

The 2019 Committee held their program brainstorming meeting in Adelaide on 11 September and we already have another excellent first draft.

Our theme is "Putting Precision and Personalisation into Practice". Under Bogda Koczwara, our 2019 convenor's expert guidance, COSA's 46th ASM will have a focus on urological cancers with subthemes of age and gender in cancer practice, and digital health in cancer.

Of course, we will feature prostate cancer, but also sessions on testicular and bladder cancer, as well as other related issues such as symptom control, and urological survivorship. Under the contemporary topic of "digital health" we will cover the uptake of recent technologies in healthcare and the promise (and challenges) of My Health Record. "Age and gender" in cancer is a new addition for COSA – here we will cover gender issues for both patients and health professionals, sexuality, couples, transgender issues, as well as age related matters for the very young and the very old (and some for those in between too). We will also examine some of the global issues in cancer including changes in cancer epidemiology and their interface with global economic, environmental and political changes and their impact on cancer control.

Cancer Survivorship 2019

We hope to see you at the Cancer Survivorship Conference, 28-29 March 2019, at the Rydges World Square in Sydney. For this, the fourth national survivorship conference, in 2019 we hope to be thought provoking and a bit provocative as well. And that's why we are focussing on the theme of "Future of Cancer Survivorship: Evolution or Revolution?"

Thanks and acknowledgements

In closing I must take this opportunity to thank the dedicated COSA staff. I couldn't be more proud of the team and what we achieve with limited resources.

Marie Malica
CEO

Happy Holidays 

2018 COSA ASM Convenor's Report

When Marie asked me to convene the 2018 COSA ASM, I wondered who “volunteered” me for the job, but it quickly became obvious that it's a team effort. I was fully supported by an excellent committee and the talented staff at COSA and ASN Events (our conference organisers).

We started a hectic ASM week with the Advanced Trainees Weekend on the Saturday and Sunday prior. This intensive 2-day course attracts advanced trainees in surgery, medical and radiation oncology; as well as junior medical staff and allied health professionals. This year's program was jam packed, focusing on “Everything you need to know about upper GI cancers”. Whilst the numbers in attendance were lower because of the tyranny distance to Perth, those that made it over found it very worthwhile – most even stayed until the last session on Sunday (which I'm told is quite unusual).

The ASM itself ran from Tuesday 13 to Thursday 15 November, with a number of pre-conference workshops on Monday. I attended one on “Difficult decisions and the challenging patient in cancer care – strategies for the cancer clinician”. It was great to use this workshop format to discuss the difficult issues in decision-making in the cancer setting for patients, families, staff and services including the impact of early life trauma, co-morbid personality vulnerability, substance-dependence, challenging family dynamics and alternative health belief models.

Our ASM themes of gastro-intestinal cancers, mesothelioma, technology, genomics and prevention were all featured throughout the program. The Committee ensured COSA's multidisciplinary focus was included in every session, and the speakers were of the highest calibre. Unfortunately, Dirk Arnold withdrew late due to unforeseen personal circumstances, but our national experts in GI cancer came to the fore and adeptly filled Dirk's presentations – my sincere thanks to Eva Segelov, David Goldstein, Chris Karapetis and Nick Pavlakis for their help.

Marian de van der Schueren, senior research nutritionist specialising in GI cancer from the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam; and Theodore Hong, Director of Gastrointestinal Radiation Oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology at Harvard Medical School, both ensured the GI cancer content had the multidisciplinary flavour COSA members expect from our ASM program.

Marian joined national experts and emerging leaders in nutrition and cancer to discuss the

current challenges of optimising nutrition in people with cancer in the setting of a broad spectrum of nutritional issues from malnutrition to the growing obesity crisis.

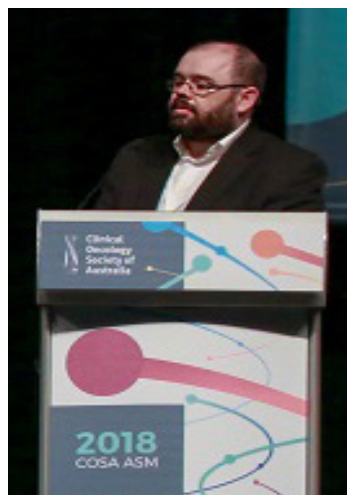
We included mesothelioma in the program as we have many talented local WA clinicians contributing to the understanding and treatment of this deadly disease. Conference presentations delved into the latest evidence on some of the critical issues, like whether all patients should be biopsied, the role of immunotherapy, and the role of genetics.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released new data to coincide with the COSA ASM and presented their report at the conference. The report shows that 5-year survival rates from the cancer remain very poor at 5.4%, Australia has one of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world and that WA has the highest rate in the country. While previously mesothelioma was a disease largely related to occupational asbestos exposure, the latest statistics also show that 94% of women and 22% of males diagnosed in 2017 were not exposed at work, suggesting some asbestos exposure is also occurring during activities like home renovations. This report shows why we need more research and better treatment options for mesothelioma. Hopefully our talented Australian researchers can continue to lead the way in this field.

We looked at the current exposures from occupational cancers and the resulting burden of disease, where there could be increased prevention efforts and compensation of those affected from the legal and medical perspective.

One of the plenaries covered aspects of the cutting edge of personalised medicine, from single cell sequencing and integration of testing in routine care, to multiplexed testing in the Australian environment and genomic directed clinical trials.

Research shows that half of Australian cancer survivors experience financial stress, and that it often impacts their treatment decisions. A recent report from the Consumer Health Forum found that half of Australians with cancer have out of pocket costs in excess of \$5000. We were honoured that Cancer Council Australia opted to present their new draft voluntary “Standard for Informed Financial Consent” at the ASM. Believed to be the first of its kind in the world, the standard was developed by Cancer Council in collaboration with Breast Cancer Network Australia, the Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia and CanTeen. This new document aims to give healthcare providers clear guidelines to reduce ‘financial toxicity’ for all Australians receiving care.



As is COSA practice we rounded out the ASM with the COSA Presidential Lecture which Phyllis has already highlighted in her report. For those that stayed for the lecture, hearing Tim Hammond speak passionately about his experience representing mesothelioma patients when practising law was the perfect end to the ASM.

My sincere thanks to the ASM Program Committee for helping to deliver another highly educational and informative COSA program. The efficient COSA staff have made the experience both enjoyable and manageable. I strongly encourage you to consider participating in the planning for future COSA ASM's. I certainly haven't been put off and hope to be invited again.

Dr Tim Clay
Convenor 2018 COSA ASM



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: John Edwards, Dean Fennell and Theodore Hong.



John Edwards

John is a Consultant Thoracic Surgeon in Sheffield, United Kingdom, covering the 1.8m population of South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire. He qualified from the University of Birmingham and has undertaken training in Bristol, Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield and the United States.

He has a major research interest in mesothelioma, covering basic science research as well as surgical and oncological management. He was awarded a PhD in Oncology from the University of Leicester for basic science and clinical studies into mesothelioma, under the supervision of Ken O'Byrne. He is committed to trials of surgery for mesothelioma and receives referrals from all parts of the UK. He regularly performs Extended Pleurectomy/Decortication and VATS Partial Pleurectomy. He is passionate about the access of patients and carers to appropriate information and advice about treatment choices.

In addition to several mesothelioma projects, he is a grant holder for studies into quality of life in patients with early stage lung

cancer, chest wall pain, chest drain systems, empyema and pulmonary metastases.

He is an enthusiast for the use of video assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS) in all forms of thoracic surgery and has adopted Uniportal VATS as his routine approach for anatomical lung resection.

John has published many articles related to mesothelioma, lung cancer and thoracic surgery in general and presented on these topics as an invited speaker all over the world. Committee memberships include: International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer Staging and Prognostic Factors Committee (Chair, R Factor Sub-Committee); EORTC Lung Cancer Group (Chair, Early Stage-Surgery); NCRI Lung Cancer Clinical Study Group, the NCRI Mesothelioma Sub-Group and the NICE Colorectal Cancer Guidelines Group. He is Chair of the Board of Trustees of the British Thoracic Oncology Group and member of the Board of Directors of the Chest Wall Injury Society.

He is an avid sailor in the International Moth class and owns a state of the art foiler as well as a classic lowrider, amongst a fleet of other sailing dinghies. He skippers a team at the front end of the annual National Health Service Regatta, but overall victory still eludes him and the hospital team.

Was this your first time in Perth?

Thankfully, no. It's my 4th visit and last time we had a month in a campervan and I stayed out for a couple of weeks hanging out with the NCARD researchers in the lab and the cardiothoracic surgeons around the city

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes. But hopefully not the last...

What was your overall impression of the ASM?

It is really quite similar to the British Thoracic Oncology Group annual meeting, with a similar broad, multidisciplinary, welcoming atmosphere. The unofficial BTOG strapline is "comfort learning". I was made very comfortable at COSA and learned plenty too!

Highlights of the meeting?

A fabulous venue, both the city and conference centre, the friendliness of the delegates, great organisation by COSA and ASN. The opportunity to make people think about the controversial issues of mesothelioma surgery and pulmonary metastases

Any other comments?

Other highlights: a few days sailing on the legendary Melville Water out of Freshies and Mounts both before and after the conference; Four Pillars gin, Picardy Pinot Noir; and choir practice...



Dean Fennell

Dean Fennell

Dean Fennell initially qualified with a first-class degree in Pharmacology followed by Medicine and Surgery from University College London. After basic specialist training at UCL, Hammersmith, Brompton, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in London he obtained Membership of the Royal

College of Physicians, followed by a PhD in Oncology as an MRC Clinical research fellow in UCL. He completed training in Medical Oncology at St Bartholomew's Hospital, and then undertook back-to-back Cancer Research UK Clinician Scientist Fellowships, until his current appointment in 2012. He was elected fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London) in 2007. He served two terms on the board of the EORTC, leads a translational research laboratory and international clinical trials portfolio focused on translating novel precision medicine strategies from the lab to the clinic. He is chief investigator for the CONFIRM, VIM and MiST trials in relapsed mesothelioma, a member of the IASLC & European mesothelioma taskforce, past IMIG president/NCRI mesothelioma CSG chair. He is currently director of the new Leicester Mesothelioma Research programme focused on advancing effective therapy for mesothelioma. Prof. Fennell has over 100 publications in journals including New England Journal of Medicine, Nature, Lancet, Lancet Oncology, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, Nature Communications, and Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Was this your first time in Perth?

Yes. Excellent direct trip from London, climate and accommodation - proximity to venue were ideal

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes



What was your overall impression of the ASM?

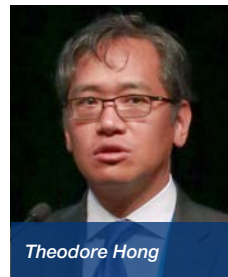
Very well organised. Excellent venue. Good programme

Highlights of the meeting?

Enjoyed the multidisciplinary discussion. Genomic session

Any other comments?

Educational and enjoyable experience



Theodore Hong

Theodore Hong

Dr Theodore Hong is the Director of Gastrointestinal Radiation Oncology and Associate Clinical Director at Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology at Harvard Medical School. He graduated from Harvard College and University of

Connecticut School of Medicine. He completed his residency in radiation oncology at the University of Wisconsin. He started at MGH in 2005, and actively sees patients in the Gastrointestinal Cancer Center. He completed the MGPO Leadership Development Course in 2009. He has been a member of the MGPO Executive Committee from 2011-2017. In 2017, he was elected to the MGPO Board of Trustees. His research interests include proton therapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy, and biomarker development for GI cancers. He is the principal investigator of the MGH-MD Anderson Proton Program Project Grant. He serves on the NCI task force for hepatobiliary cancer and colon cancer and is co-chair of the rectal-anal task force. He is the Principal Investigator of numerous investigator-initiated trials and of two national cooperative group trials: NRG GI-001, the first phase III trial specific to intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma performed by the United States cooperative group system and NRG GI-003, a randomized trial of protons vs photons in hepatocellular carcinoma. He is 2014-2016 Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center recipient of the NCI Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award and in 2017 was appointed Co-Leader of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center Gastrointestinal Malignancies Research Program.

Was this your first time in Perth?

Yes

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes

What was your overall impression of the ASM?

It was really terrific. The level of discourse was very high, and the people were so friendly

Highlights of the meeting?

I thought the multidisciplinary case discussions were really excellent. Great back and forth, and the panellists were so knowledgeable.

Any other comments?

This was a terrific meeting. I really enjoyed the hospitality, and Perth was amazing. It was a real honour to be invited to this meeting.

2018 Lilly Oncology Best of the Best Awards

Best of the Best Poster Oral Presentation Awards

Optimal Care Pathways and Health Services Research

Abhijit Pal
abs#225

*Repetitive blood testing in
medical oncology ward inpatients
– a retrospective six-week audit
of incidence, clinical yield and
cost in a large Sydney tertiary
referral hospital*

Translational and Clinical Research

Nicole Bartley
abs#302

*Advanced cancer patient
perspectives on consenting
to molecular tumour profiling:
A qualitative study*

Best of the Best Oral Presentation Awards

Basic & Translational

Melissa Southey
abs#53

*Precision breast and prostate
cancer risk management:
evidence-based translation of
epigenetic testing*

Clinical Research featuring Mesothelioma

Peey-Sei Kok
abs#102

*DREAM - A phase 2 trial of
DuRvalumab with first line
chEmotherApy in Mesothelioma:
Final result*

Epidemiology

Anne Cust
abs#77

*A risk prediction model for the
development of subsequent
primary melanoma in a
population-based cohort*

Gastro-Intestinal Cancers

David Wyld
abs#19

*Is survival improving for patients
diagnosed with small intestinal
neuroendocrine tumours in
Queensland?*

Health Services

Jon Emery
abs#54

*The RAGE project: a step-wedge
implementation of Rapid Access
Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
(RAGE) services in Melbourne*

Supportive Care

Samantha Korver
abs#26

*Personalised supportive care for
patients receiving 5-fluorouracil
(5-FU): Analysis of multivariate
SNP risk prediction for GI toxicity*

COSA acknowledges Lilly Oncology for their support of the Best of Best Awards

The Lilly Oncology logo features the word "Lilly" in a red, cursive script font, followed by a vertical bar and the word "ONCOLOGY" in a grey, uppercase, sans-serif font.

2018 Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care



Professor Grant McArthur was announced as the 2018 recipient of the Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care at the 2018 COSA ASM.

Professor McArthur delivered an inspiring oration on the critical role of collaboration across his career. Grant believes that advancement in cancer knowledge and treatment development comes from working together to achieve progress faster. He also emphasised the critical role of clinician-scientists like him who work in the clinic and the lab ensuring that the real experiences of patients drive what is focused on in research.

COSA 2018 Travel Grant Recipients

The following delegates received travel grants to attend either the 2018 COSA Trainees Weekend or the 2018 COSA ASM at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre:

Trainee Travel Grants

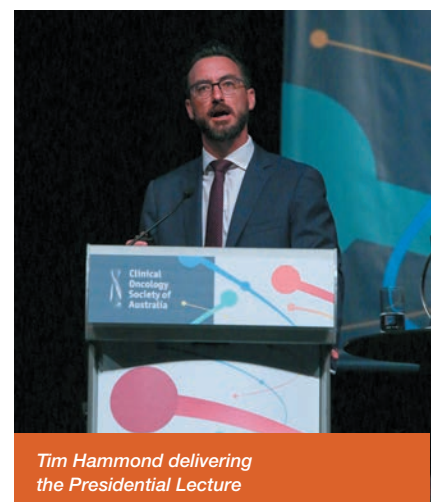
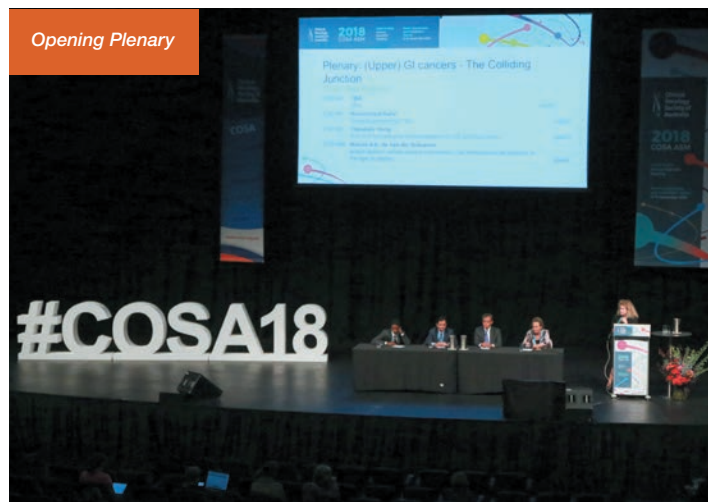
- Tamiem Adam
- Veenoo Agarwal
- Emma-Kate Carson
- Khobe Chandran
- Eunice Dai
- Ashray Gunjur
- Sean Hill
- Haakan Jakobsson
- Gabrielle Lie
- Elizabeth Lim
- Shaun Liow
- Sarah Maloney
- Claudia Morales
- Huah Shin Ng
- Bella Nguyen
- Mike Nguyen
- Abhijit Pal
- Andrew Parsonson
- Sathira Perera
- Parameswar Raccumalla
- Ajay Raghunath
- Tharani Sivakumaran

The following COSA members received travel grants to attend the 2018 COSA ASM at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre:

COSA Travel Grants

- Bryan Chan
- Rebecca Venchiarutti

2018 COSA ASM in pictures...





Always great to network!



Delicious



Paul Glare



The Spring Soiree



Grant McArthur with previous Tom Reeve recipients - Patsy Yates, Phyllis Butow and Alan Coates



The Spring Soiree



Panel discussion



Barbara van der Meij, Marian de van der Schueren, Erik ter Horst



The Spring Soiree



There's always a dance floor!



President's Dinner

COSA Group Reports

Cancer Pharmacists Group



As the end of another busy year approaches, I'd like to thank all CPG members for their continued support for and involvement in various CPG activities during 2018. From the expanded membership of our executive committee at the beginning of the year through to the enthusiastic involvement of CPG members just last week at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth, it has been an action-packed year. Several events, educational meetings and activities have occurred since the last Marryalyan report in June.

Cancer Nursing Society of Australia (CNSA) Annual Congress June 2018

This year the CPG was invited to provide education for nurses in several sessions at their CNSA Annual Congress in Brisbane from 20-23 June. Six CPG members (Daniel McKavanagh, Christine Carrington, Geeta Sandhu, Carly Dowling, Kate Ross and I) provided education over three days on drug interactions, safe prescribing practices for nurse practitioners, pharmacology and toxicities of systemic cancer therapies in addition to an overview of the pharmacological management of early stage and metastatic breast cancer. Feedback on our participation was excellent and we hope to be involved in future CNSA educational events.

CPG Advanced Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists Course 1-2 September 2018, Melbourne

In September, our 8th CPG Advanced Course was held with well over 100 attendees – another record turnout. Delegates heard about such varied content as advances in management of the big three cancers – breast, colorectal and lung cancers as well as myeloma, updates on biosimilars, the MASCC conference, workshops on acute leukaemia and immunotherapy, plus much more. Formal feedback was overwhelmingly positive with over 90% rating the course as very good or excellent. We look forward to building on this course in 2019. My thanks go to Gail Rowan, Jim Siderov and Jenny Casanova for their excellent work in organising and convening this course and in attracting a great array of presenters to impart their knowledge.

CPG Pre-ASM Clinical Development Workshop

On Monday 12 November the CPG held a Clinical Development Workshop at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, immediately prior to the 2018 COSA ASM. The program delivered some unique and interesting insights into issues of relevance to cancer pharmacists and complimented many of the themes of the COSA ASM.

Highlights of the program included:

- Therapeutic update on mesothelioma
- CAM usage in cancer patients
- Hazardous drug handling
- Updates for cancer pharmacists on recent conferences - ISOPP 2018 and World Cancer Congress
- Digital Health
- Voluntary assisted dying

- Medicinal cannabis
- An interactive workshop on chemotherapy governance

The workshop was attended by 34 cancer pharmacists from across the country and expertly organised by two of our newest CPG committee members, Courtney Oar and Kimberley-Ann Kerr (as well as Michael Cain...more on him below). Thanks to them all for convening such an interesting workshop with a lot of great interaction throughout the day. A report summarising the workshop will be made available on the COSA website soon.

COSA ASM 2018 – Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, WA – 13-15 November 2018

Another successful COSA ASM has just concluded, and many CPG members attended and were heavily involved in the meeting. A number of pharmacists were involved in the program, including in the popular Medicine Matters concurrent session with a theme of "getting the dose right" in cancer therapeutics – topics included anti-cancer therapy in the older patient, the significance of sarcopenia in drug dosing, how liver impairment influences dosing considerations and the impact of electronic medicines management in cancer therapy. Additionally, many pharmacists submitted oral abstracts or gave poster presentations outlining their research and were of a very high quality, with a number being nominated for Best of the Best poster discussion sessions. Well done to everyone involved. Special thanks go to Michael Cain (Pharmacist, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in WA) who acted as the CPG representative on the ASM organising committee and who did a great job in suggesting topics for presentations and ensuring pharmacist involvement in the program.





COSA ASM 2019 – Adelaide Convention Centre, SA – 12-14 November 2019

Next year the ASM returns to Adelaide for the first time since 2013 with the theme “Putting Precision and Personalisation into Practice” encompassing urological cancers, age and gender in cancer practice and digital health in cancer. Two of our CPG committee members from Adelaide, Jenny Casanova and Kimberley-Ann Kerr, will be the CPG representatives on the ASM organising committee. We are also very excited to announce that the CPG nominated international pharmacy speaker, Associate Professor Alex Chan from Singapore, has accepted COSA’s invitation to present at next year’s ASM and we look forward to his fascinating contribution once again.

CPG Terms of Reference – update

The terms of reference for the CPG (and executive committee) have been updated by the committee and were approved by COSA Council on 12 November 2018. All CPG members should be familiar with these, so they understand the key aims and objectives of the CPG, the responsibilities of the CPG Chair and Committee and how committee members are appointed. These newly ratified terms of reference will be published on the COSA website soon.



Other activities

Other activities have included contributions from CPG members to the PBAC consultation on immunotherapies and ongoing involvement in the newly formed ACSQHC/NCERG National Chemotherapy Governance Framework Working Group - we look forward to seeing what comes out of this group in 2019.

Plans for 2019

Next year we will be running our 12th Foundation Course in Brisbane from Friday 31 May to Sunday 2 June and our 9th Advanced Course in Melbourne in August/September (dates to be confirmed), in addition to a pre-ASM workshop in Adelaide in November. I hope to see as many of you as possible at these events. Other activities are planned so we look forward to announcing these in the coming months.

CPG Membership and Executive Committee Update

Currently our membership (either group members or those COSA members stating cancer pharmacy as an area of interest) stands at 222, which has held firm since 2017. A reminder that your CPG committee members are:

- Michael Powell (Chair)
- Daniel McKavanagh (Deputy Chair)
- Jenny Casanova
- Kimberley-Ann Kerr
- Courtney Oar

- Gail Rowan
- Geeta Sandhu
- Jim Siderov

Please ensure you keep up your membership of COSA and the CPG in 2019!

Finally, I would like to wish all CPG members a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you at one of the many COSA events planned for 2019.

With best wishes,

Michael Powell
Chair, Cancer Pharmacists Group
michael.powell@health.qld.gov.au

Clinical Trials Research Professionals Group

Executive Committee:

Dianne Lindsay, Clinical Research Consultant, Newcastle NSW (Chair); Annette Cubitt, Metro North Hospital and Health Service, QLD (Deputy Chair); Alison Richards, Flinders Medical Centre SA (Secretary); Sanela Bilic, St John of God Subiaco Hospital WA; David Mizrahi, Sydney Children’s Hospital NSW; Natasha Roberts, Metro North Hospital and Health Service QLD; Adam Stoneley, ICON QLD.

I am delighted to report that another highly successful Clinical Professional Day Workshop was held this year, 12 November in Perth prior to the Annual Scientific Meeting. A local subcommittee was formed to ensure the agenda developed was relevant to people working in clinical trials research in Western Australia and to our broader membership. The subcommittee, led by Sanela Bilic who chaired the workshop, included Tammy

Corica, Claire Howarth and Jo Youd who did a wonderful job to pull together a series of topics under the theme *"The Changing Landscape of Clinical Trials"* that were appreciated by all workshop attendees.

The Executive Committee's other key achievements during the year have been the development of an online Member Survey to obtain feedback on how to further improve the effectiveness of the CTRPG and supporting the Australasian Tele-Trials initiative by reviewing a supervision model and subcontract.

We were grateful to receive sponsorship from St John of God Subiaco Hospital and COSA to support the workshop this year. A number of stimulating and educational presentations were given by invited guest speakers who very generously contributed their time and expertise.

The first session *"Patient's Journey from Diagnosis to Cancer Treatment"* was presented by clinicians from St John of God Subiaco Hospital. Dr Tarek Meniawy, Medical Oncologist shared two patient case studies in ovarian and cervical cancer to demonstrate the link between emerging data and the real world; highlighting the importance and relevance of clinical trials in everyday practice; challenges in identifying targets, and, future directions. Dr Adeline Tan, Consultant Histopathologist, Western Diagnostic Pathology and Western Women's Pathology gave a fascinating insight into the preparation, analysis and classification of tissue samples, the provision of intraoperative diagnoses and tissue banking. The importance of frozen section diagnoses during surgery was highlighted by Dr Raj Mohan, Surgeon, who outlined pre-operative evaluation and staging procedures for ovarian cancer; including the aim to achieve optimal cytoreduction and the role of neoadjuvant chemotherapy in the treatment of advanced ovarian cancer.

Ms Annika Andrews, Senior Legal Counsel from St John of God Subiaco Hospital demystified the contractual framework of clinical trial agreements in lay terms, using

Medicines Australia templates to explain sponsorship, compensation, indemnity and the differences between general and no-fault insurance. Annika gave interesting examples of trial insurance claims and showed how Schedule 7 can be used to amend agreements. This presentation was followed by an informative talk on phase I trials by Ms Zelda Herbst from Linear Clinical Research. Positive health outcomes for patients with advanced disease have been observed; achieved through efficiency and management to accelerate the research process and provide life-changing therapies faster. Initiatives to match patients to clinical trials such as the THRIVOR application and ClinTrial Refer have been successful, and capacity is being developed to perform complex studies where patients are matched to clinical trials based on molecular profiling of their disease.

A presentation about the Australasian Health and Research Data Manager's Association (AHRDMA) was given by Adam Stoneley and Tammy Corica. The purpose of AHRDMA is to foster and promote health research and data management by providing professional development opportunities, educational activities and resource materials. Tammy is the Regional Group Coordinator and invited attendees to join a revitalised WA Regional Group.

Dr Helen Atkinson, Executive Officer from Curtin University presented an update on the WA Health Translations Network Clinical Trial and Data Management Centre, a year after it was established. The aims of the centre include acting as a central node for the conduct of national and international clinical trials; to engage with public health system researchers; to identify barriers and enablers to more efficiently manage trials in WA, and, to build capacity and support. The main lessons learned were that clinical research varies significantly and researchers do not have access to the same information or resources.

Dr Niloufer Johansen (SJOG Subiaco) and Ms Lesley Miller (University of WA) outlined the Continuous Improvement in Care-Cancer Project, concentrating on how to

implement values-based health care, which must be the central goal of every health care organisation and how to increase patient support through a more coordinated team approach.

In the final session Dr Eva Zopf, from the Australian Catholic University VIC, gave an update on exciting research about the application of exercise as medicine for cancer patients. Increasing evidence from observational studies suggest that regular exercise can reduce the risk of cancer-specific mortality and improve quality of life. A range of mechanisms may be driving this protective effect, a number of physiological adaptations occur when people exercise that may modulate tumour progression and some evidence exists that exercise may enhance a patient's ability to tolerate higher doses of treatment. Exercise improves quality of life; the ideal scenario is that cancer patients not only receive an anti-cancer plan but also a prescription to exercise.

During an Annual General Meeting members were updated about the activities of the CTRPG Executive Committee during 2018, including results from the Member Survey. A call was extended for nominations to fill a vacant committee position; people who would like further information were encouraged to contact a committee member. A number of excellent suggestions were received to guide new initiatives to be undertaken during 2019. One of these is to hold another Clinical Professional Day during the COSA ASM next year in Adelaide.

It was a pleasure to welcome all the presenters who supported the Clinical Professional Day this year and I sincerely thank Marie Malica and her wonderful team of staff at the COSA office for all their hard work to ensure the success of the workshop. We received positive feedback from attendees, such as: *"great variety, knowledgeable speakers, relevant to clinical research, well organised, well planned workshop content with a Western Australian edge"*.

I am looking forward to a busy year in 2019 and to assisting our enthusiastic CTRPG Executive Committee to continue to provide our members with high quality opportunities to enhance professional development, to network with colleagues and to promote excellence in clinical cancer research through education and leadership.

Dianne Lindsay
 Chair, Clinical Trials Research
 Professionals Group
 DLindsayConsulting@bigpond.com

Epidemiology Group

Pre-ASM Workshop

The Epidemiology Group organised a Pre-ASM workshop titled "Health Technology Assessment in Oncology, Challenges and Opportunities" on Monday 12 November 2018 in Perth. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research-Australian Chapter (ISPOR-AC) and was endorsed by Cancer Voices Australia with a 'Consumer Included' logo.

The workshop gave an overview of the role of health technology assessment and economic evaluation for cancer treatments in a contemporary Australian context. Challenges faced by stakeholders such as consumers, clinicians, decision makers, academics and industry were discussed as well as opportunities to improve current processes and the evidence base using real-world evidence.

The workshop was very interactive and well attended by clinicians, policy makers, epidemiologists, health economists, analysts and researchers. It was chaired by Paul Scuffham, Director of Menzies Health Institute Queensland, and had an excellent line-up of speakers representing various institutions and sectors. Speakers included Anne Cust, the University

of Sydney; Richard Norman, Curtin University; Sally Wortley, the University of Sydney; Richard De Abreu Lorenzo, University of Technology Sydney; Claire Vajdic, UNSW Sydney; Greg Cook, BMS Australia; Brian Wall, consumer representative; Sarah Norris, The University of Sydney; Danny Liew, Monash University.



New Executive Committee Members

Dr Ashley Hopkins

Ashley is a pharmacist and a National Breast Cancer Foundation of Australia Early Career Research Fellow working in the Precision Medicines Group at the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer (Flinders University). His research focus is precision oncology. He uses clinical epidemiology and pharmacometric techniques to develop clinical prediction models for advanced cancer treatments. Ashley believes that emerging data sources are opportunities to learn from past patients to improve the care of future patients, and that prediction tools can be used to facilitate shared decision making and empower cancer patients by providing realistic and accurate predictions of medicines benefits and harms.

Dr Susan Jordan

Susan is a Senior Research Fellow and head the Cancer Causes and Care group at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane. She completed her PhD in cancer epidemiology through the University of Queensland and QIMR in 2007, receiving a Deans Commendation for her work. Before moving into research in 2004, she worked in clinical medicine for >10 years in general practice in NSW and QLD. Susan leads a program of research which aims to increase knowledge of cancer causes and to investigate variations in patient care and

outcomes. Ultimately the aim is to use this new information to decrease the burden of cancer for the Australian population by facilitating its translation into clinical practice and policy. She leads projects on ovarian, kidney and thyroid cancers examining both aetiology and patterns of care in the Australian setting.

Haitham Tuffaha
 Chair, Epidemiology Group
 haitham.tuffaha@griffith.edu.au

Familial Cancer Group



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

2018 has been another active year for the COSA Familial Cancer Group (FCG). We have welcomed Kathy Tucker and Rachel Williams to the FCG Executive. Nicholas Pachter has stepped down as Chair of the FCG. We thank Nick for all his hard work and contribution, he will continue to serve on the committee. I (Lucinda Salmon) have taken over as Chair and look forward to continuing to work with this fantastic group.

The group has continued to develop resources to support the introduction of mainstream genetic testing programs into oncology clinics and coordinate clinical professional days.

The **COSA/Human Genetics Society of Australia (HGSA) Familial Cancer Clinics Clinical Professional Day (FCC CPD)** was held on Tuesday 4 September 2018, at the Mantra resort, Kingscliff, NSW. The day featured 4 sessions:

Session 1: CDH1/Hereditary Diffuse Gastric Cancer

The session featured talks from a surgeon Andrew Barber and gastroenterologist Alex Boussioutas regarding evidence and challenges in managing CDH1 related diffuse gastric cancer risks. The session included a discussion regarding the challenges in advising patients about appropriate management of their gastric cancer risks, where families are found to carry CDH1 gene mutations in the absence of a family history of diffuse gastric cancer. This is increasing in frequency due to the use of cancer gene panel testing. Mary Shanahan a genetic nurse provided insight into the need to provide age appropriate models of care for young adults with CDH1 gene mutations.

Session 2: Colorectal Polyposis

This session featured talks from Daniel Buchanan, Alex Boussioutas and Catherine Beard. Daniel provided an overview and update on the research focusing on genetics of colonic polyposis. Alex Boussioutas took us through the intricacies of endoscopic approaches for the management of patients with polyposis conditions. Catherine Beard presented a case that highlighted challenges presented in counselling families with *AXIN2* gene mutation.

Session 3: Models of care – revisiting the three P's. Patients, practitioners and panels.

Susan Dooley and Linda Warwick, COSA FCG executive members, presented feedback regarding a survey on models of care. This work provided a snap shot of the issues and challenges that FCCs and laboratories grapple with in providing services to patients and families. The survey was used to generate discussion among attendees regarding challenges, opportunities and consider new ways of working. Nicola Poplawski provided an update the effectiveness of using a direct notification by a Genetics Service for notification regarding familial cancer risk used by the South Australian FCC. The

talk highlighted how receiving notification in this way increased both notification and presentation of at risk relatives to their service compared with passive notification strategies. Emma Tudani presented on a body of work is underway to determine whether there is consensus about genes in which there is evidence for an involvement in causing a predisposition to cancer. Once this work is completed this list may provide a reference for laboratories and/or researchers.

Session 4: Breast cancer predisposition – beyond high risk genes.

This session included a talk by Antonis Antoniou who demonstrated CanRisk a new tool that is being trialed to incorporate a range of clinical and genetic testing information to generate more accurate breast and ovarian cancer risk predictions. Allison Kurian gave an overview into managing genes which are less well characterized and efforts to improve data to answer questions that are currently clinically challenging. Moving away from a monogenic focus, Tatiane Yanes and Amanda Willis, provided an insight into the patient experience of receiving polygenetic risk score information to predict breast cancer risk.

The day was well attended and received by all that attended. The Executive would like to thank all of the speakers who made it such an excellent day and the time spent in generating their talks and giving their time to attend. I would also like to thank the COSA FCC Group executive committee who gave freely of their time during the year to organize the meeting especially Nicholas Pachter who made sure we all stayed on track. We also gratefully acknowledge the support and monetary input provided by COSA and kConFab in making this day happen. We look forward to August 2019!

The COSA ASM was held very recently in Perth and the FCG conducted a session on inherited GI cancers and mesothelioma, two of the main themes of the conference. Featured speakers included;

- Dean Fennell – Genetics of mesothelioma
- Marina Wallace- Colorectal Surgeon – Management of FAP
- Mark Jenkins – Epidemiologist – Epidemiology of Inherited GI Cancer disorders
- Hooi Ee- Gastroenterologist – Surveillance of Lynch Syndrome
- Kim Hobbs – psychosocial impact of having an inherited cancer disorder

Many thanks go to Nicholas Pachter who served on the local organising committee for the ASM and those that assisted in arranging speakers.

The group has also been reviewing how the COSA FCG group works with the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA) where many genetic health professionals are members. Given a proportion of the HGSA membership has a special interest in cancer genetics, a HGSA Cancer Special Interest Group (SIG) has been recently formed. This group has significant and complementary interests and represent a common group of members, therefore the COSA FCG group and HGSA Cancer SIG executive will be amalgamating. This is a great opportunity and we look forward to sharing more details about the scope of work and efforts of this amalgamated group in future reports.

Finally, I wish everyone a happy and healthy festive season and a productive year in 2019!

Lucinda Salmon
Chair, Familial Cancer Group
Lucinda.SALMON@austin.org.au



Nutrition Group

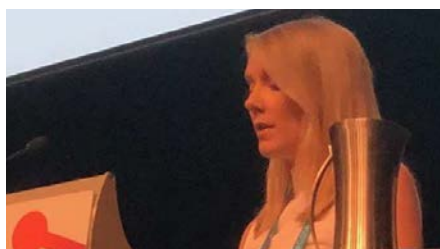
Reflecting on 2018 it has been a great year for the Nutrition Group. One of the highlights of the year was invited speaker, Professor Marian de van der Schueren from VU University Medical Centre Amsterdam, at the 2018 COSA ASM. Marian put nutrition front and centre at the ASM however, conveyed the strong message that it is with a multimodal and multidisciplinary approach that optimal nutrition (and supportive care) for people with cancer can be achieved. In the opening plenary Marian highlighted the challenges of recognising cancer-related malnutrition in the age of obesity, noting that body composition is more important than BMI or weight. She shared practical tips in Wednesday's breakfast session for optimising nutritional care, drawing on the recent European Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ESPEN) guidelines for nutrition for people with cancer. Joining Marian was Professor Stephen Clarke offering an insightful look at cancer malnutrition from the oncologists' perspective and Jane Steward who provided an overview of the impressive program of work undertaken within the Victorian Cancer Malnutrition Collaborative. This session was well attended and achieved the highest number of registrations out of the breakfast sessions offered at the ASM.



Barbara van der Meij and
Prof Marian de van der Schueren

The Nutrition Group were delighted to have the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) join COSA as an associated organisation in 2018. This partnership will support an increase in collaborative activities between the two organisations to address nutrition and cancer issues.

As a first collaborative activity, DAA funded an external research prize for the highest quality abstract presented by a dietitian at the 2018 ASM. Erin Laing was the inaugural recipient of this award for her excellent presentation and quality research into nutrition and neuroendocrine tumours. Congratulations Erin!



Erin Laing presenting at the 2018 COSA ASM

The group held their AGM at the ASM with planning for group activities for 2019 underway. The group continue to seek funding and support for a revamp of the highly successful evidence-based guidelines for nutritional management of adult patients with head and neck and this will remain a priority activity for the group. At the August COSA council meeting the group received approval to commence development of a position statement on cancer-related malnutrition and sarcopenia. Work will commence on the position statement early in 2019 including a call for expressions of interest from the broader COSA membership to be involved in its development. To support the development of the position statement the group are currently undertaking a survey of multidisciplinary cancer clinicians' awareness, perceptions and practices regarding cancer-related malnutrition and sarcopenia. Results from the survey will support identification of priority areas for the position statement. The survey will be distributed through the COSA membership and the group welcomes the input of all clinicians.

The Nutrition Group have a busy 2019 on the horizon and are excited to see our projects unfold and progress.

Nicole Kiss
Chair, Nutrition Group
nicole.kiss@deakin.edu.au

Psycho-Oncology Group

This COSA Psycho-Oncology report comes at the end of the COSA ASM which was held in beautiful Perth. The week began with an excellent pre-conference psycho-oncology workshop on making difficult decisions and managing challenging clients. It was also exciting to watch the launch of the TRIO guidelines which provide practical tips and strategies for managing challenging family interactions and promoting effective family involvement in cancer care. The conference program was dotted with fantastic psycho-oncology content.

I am looking forward to an outstanding program for COSA ASM 2019 which will be in Adelaide, South Australia where the theme is: *Putting Precision and Personalisation into Practice – Urological cancer, Age and gender in cancer practice*, and Digital health in cancer. Put the dates 12-14 November 2019 in your calendar and monitor the program development on the COSA ASM 2019 website (<http://cosa2019.org/>). We have already secured a number of exceptional international invited speakers including Professor Matt Loscalzo who has recognised expertise in gender-based medicine, strengths-based approaches to psychotherapies, problem-based distress screening and the creation of supportive care programs. In early November 2018, I was fortunate to attend the Oncology Social Work Australia conference in Canberra where Professor Loscalzo was the invited international guest who generously shared his expertise and wisdom with attendees. I know those who see Professor Loscalzo at COSA ASM 2019 will be in for a treat!

Prior to COSA ASM I had the pleasure of being one of a large contingent of Australians who attended the International Psycho-oncology Society World Congress in Hong Kong in October 2018. It was a program that was filled with high quality Australian psycho-oncology input. We

also had the privilege to watch as our respected colleague Professor Brian Kelly was presented with the International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS) Bernard Fox Award in recognition of the outstanding contribution he has made in education, research and leadership to the field of psycho-oncology.

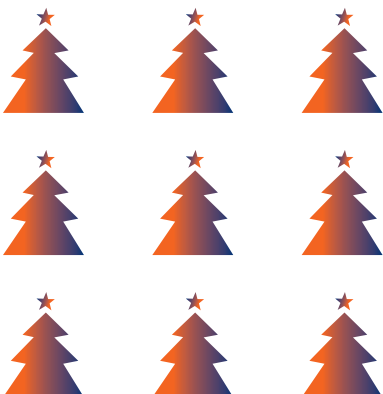


A small representation of the Australian contingent at IPOS 2018 (left to right: Maree Grier, Haryana Dhillon, Jane Turner, Laura Kirsten, Brian Kelly, Jo Shaw, Louise Sharpe, Ben Smith, Afaf Girgis, Liz Lobb)

The COSA Psycho-oncology Executive Committee is also at work in the background to identify key priorities for our group and continue to work on ensuring we meet the needs of our members and to advocate for the needs of our clients and community.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, restful and safe Christmas and New Year period. Please feel free to get in contact with me.

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



Regional and Rural Group

The Regional and Rural Group is focused on the unique issues facing cancer service delivery outside metropolitan areas. Our goals are to work at enhancing the equity of access to current best practice care, cancer services and clinical trials.

A face-to-face meeting of the Network of Directors and Clinical Leads of Regional Cancer Centres was held in Sydney on 18 May 2018. The agenda included discussion of workforce capability requirements at regional sites, defining best practice regional and rural cancer care, an update on implementation of the Australasian Tele-Trial Model, identifying areas of advocacy for regional and rural oncology, training and education initiatives, plus improving communication within the Network and with a wider audience. Key action items from the meeting were to develop a "Regional Clinical Services Report" which can be used for advocacy, a renewed focus on education and regular newsletters to engage COSA members. The day was a great success and provided an excellent forum to facilitate communication and collaboration between regional cancer centres.

The Regional and Rural Group also had a small but productive AGM at the COSA ASM with attendance from members of the Executive Committee and Regional and Rural Network, as well as a number of conference attendees based in regional areas. Progress with tele-trials was discussed, with the plan to add links and resources to the COSA Regional and Rural webpage so that any investigator in regional Australia can start the implementation process. We are trying to make it as easy as possible for regional centres to expand their clinical trial offerings. For further details on the national Tele-Trials Project please see the information under "Other Reports" in this issue of the Marryalyan.



Sabe Sabesan

The Regional and Rural Executive Committee got a fresh look in November with Sabe Sabesan ending his term as Chair of the group.

We would like to thank Sabe for his amazing efforts as Chair over the past 5 years, with particular achievements being the development of the COSA Clinical Practice Guidelines for Teleoncology and the Australasian Tele-Trial Model national implementation guide. We look forward to Sabe remaining an active member of the Regional and Rural Executive Committee.



Rob Zielinski

We would like to welcome Rob Zielinski, who is stepping up from his role as deputy chair of the Regional and Rural Executive Committee. Rob is

a medical oncologist practicing in regional NSW at the Central West Cancer Care Centre. Rob's passion is improving the disparity in cancer outcomes between rural and metropolitan patients and he is particularly keen to further open clinical trials to rural patients. And in other news,



Siddhartha Baxi

Siddhartha Baxi who is a current member of the Regional and Rural Executive Committee has been nominated and approved to take on the role

of deputy chair. Sid is a radiation oncologist who spent 8 years working in Bunbury, Darwin and Alice Springs. He has recently moved to Queensland and in his role provides support to Tweed Heads/northern NSW, Hervey Bay and Bundaberg oncology centres. We know the Regional and Rural Group will continue to make great progress under Rob and Sid's leadership.

If you would like to participate in the Regional and Rural Group or be kept informed of our activities, please login to your member profile on the COSA website and select 'Regional and Rural Oncology' as either a 'COSA Group' or 'Area of Interest'. We strongly encourage members from all disciplines to get involved with our group.

Sabe Sabesan
*Outgoing Chair, Regional
and Rural Group*

Rob Zielinski
*Incoming Chair, Regional
and Rural Group*
rob.zielinski@health.nsw.gov.au

Survivorship Group

While 2018 has been busy (and productive) throughout, the last few months of the year witnessed a flurry of activity culminating in the national patient reported outcome (PRO) Think Tank held in Sydney. The Think Tank, expertly facilitated by Dr Alison Evans, brought together 30 stakeholders with expertise and interest in PROs representing clinical, research, consumer and policy perspectives from across Australia. The Think Tank was convened to start the process of developing a roadmap to support implementation of PRO monitoring into routine clinical cancer care in Australia. Attendees had the opportunity to review available evidence, identify considerations for implementation at patient, service and policy levels, and highlight opportunities for collaboration and action. The participants developed several recommendations about how to plan a coordinated approach to PRO monitoring in cancer care as summarised in the [Think Tank report](#) (also available on our Group page at www.cosa.org.au/groups/survivorship/resources/).

Of course, a meeting is only as good as the work that follows it, and the task for the COSA Survivorship Group is to convene a small working group to develop a detailed work plan that will assist in implementation of the recommendations from the meeting and ensuring that appropriate PRO measures are embedded into the clinical care in Australia. Judging by the level of interest in this topic at the COSA ASM Symposium, PROs are clearly of great interest to cancer care professionals. If you want to contribute to this work, please contact me via email or through the COSA office.

The Survivorship Group Executive has already been working hard planning for the next year with a revision of the Group's [Terms of Reference](#) to ensure clarity of responsibilities; appointment of the Newsletter Editor, the amazing Karolina Lisy who has already produced her first newsletter; and development of a members' survey to prioritise future work. All this would not have been possible without expert support from Gillian Mackay and the COSA office who has worked diligently behind the scenes keeping everyone on track. Thank you, Gillian!

(Updated terms of reference available: www.cosa.org.au/groups/survivorship/about/)

So, as you start slowing down for your well-deserved rest, keep in mind the wealth of activities for 2019 (you will need rest to prepare for 2019). The preparations for the Flinders COSA Survivorship conference are well in place and the program looks like the best one yet – we have received over 100 outstanding paper submissions covering such diverse topics as financial toxicity, carers' support and cardiac disease after cancer

(www.survivorship2019.org). The COSA ASM 2019 program is also well positioned to cover topics relevant to survivorship, especially digital health and gender issues in cancer (www.cosa2019.org). And that is just the meetings. Knowing how engaged, insightful and proactive our members are, that is not even half of the story.

Wishing you and your loved ones a peaceful Festive Season and here's to a great 2019!

Bogda Koczwara AM
Chair, Survivorship Group
bogda.koczwara@flinders.edu.au



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Happy New Year

CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

FUTURE OF
CANCER SURVIVORSHIP
EVOLUTION OR REVOLUTION?

28-29 MARCH 2019

Rydges World Square | Pitt St Sydney | NSW 2000

Dear Friends

I am delighted to welcome you to the fourth national Cancer Survivorship Conference.

In 2019 we hope to be thought provoking and a bit provocative as well! And that's why we are focussing on the theme of "Future of Cancer Survivorship: Evolution or Revolution?" The last 20 years have witnessed a significant evolution of the field of survivorship. But is it enough? Are there aspects where a revolution is in the making? We recognise of course that revolutions are not usually designed – they are often spontaneous, arising in response to pressing challenges that cannot be solved in a traditional way – but aren't these just the challenges that cancer survivors grapple with?

So come and be part of the revolution for better cancer survivorship! Join us for the deliberations, contribute to the discussion and help us make this meeting even better than the last one.

We look forward to seeing you in Sydney next March.

Bogda Koczwara AM | Conference Convenor



"I thoroughly enjoyed the conference, keep doing what you're doing!!"

2017 delegate

"The unique aspects such as music therapy section, and chat section about sexual health. I enjoyed all of the content but these sections also spoke to people in general. These sessions are great to remind professionals of the importance of mindfulness and the self." 2017 delegate

"Well done to coordinate all the speakers and participants to provide a very informative conference."

2017 delegate

Invited international speaker

In addition to the expert national speakers featured in the program, we are delighted to have Dr Yousuf Zafar from Duke Cancer Institute in North Carolina, USA join us for the conference.

Dr Zafar is a gastrointestinal medical oncologist and healthcare delivery researcher. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Public Policy at the Duke Cancer Institute and Sanford School of Public Policy. Dr Zafar's research explores ways to improve cancer care delivery with a primary focus on improving the affordability of cancer treatment. He approaches this issue from both patient-focused and policy perspectives. He has over 80 publications in top peer-reviewed journals including the New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of Clinical Oncology, and JAMA Oncology, and his work has been featured in Forbes, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, NPR, and Washington Post.



For more information
please visit www.survivorship2019.org
or call us on (02) 8063 4100



CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

FUTURE OF
CANCER SURVIVORSHIP
EVOLUTION OR REVOLUTION?



28-29 MARCH 2019

Rydges World Square | Pitt St Sydney | NSW 2000

Program highlights

THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2018

A pacifist's guide to starting a survivorship revolution

The opening plenary will take a broad lens view of the challenges and opportunities of surviving cancer from the individual, professional and societal levels.

Financial toxicity

This session will focus on the Australian and international challenges of financial toxicity and how to address them. We will also look at the disparities in the costs of cancer drugs.

What's app doc? Life in the digital world and disparities

This session will explore the impact of living with cancer in the digital age, the plethora of information online, social media and the introduction of My Health Record.

Carers and families: perspectives from the front line

Carers in this session will discuss the firsthand practicalities, responsibilities and realities of caring for someone across the cancer continuum – work, life, relationships, grief, transitions, and so on.

Wellness and wellbeing for the mind, body and soul!

Presentations in this session will include: Something for the body – tailoring exercise to people who don't wear lycra. Something for the mind and soul, such as art therapy programs. And wellness through connections such as peer support programs – face-to-face and online.

WELCOME RECEPTION

FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2018

Ashleigh Moore Award Oration

The 3Cs of Life: How Cancer, Cardiovascular disease and Co-morbidity collide

Presentations in this session will explore the broad spectrum of cardiovascular disease in cancer survivors, and the emerging field of cardio-oncology. A panel discussion will focus on building awareness of cardiac health amongst patients, carers, primary care and other related health disciplines.

Oh Lord, please don't let me be misunderstood

This session will focus on language and cultural considerations from the perspectives of health professionals and survivors, including the significance of culture and language in the pursuit of person-centred care, and how to navigate the health system when English isn't your first language.

Love and other things: Managing sex expectations after cancer

This session will feature some of the important matters often not spoken about including where to get useful information and resources on some of the "kinky stuff", rekindling sexual communications, and addressing sexual concerns of LGBTIQ cancer survivors.

Communication matters: conquering stigma, marginalisation and fear

The final session aims to highlight the challenges in having conversations with marginalised cancer patients such as children, LGBTIQ patients and people with cancers associated with stigma such as lung cancer in non-smokers.

"Excellently run conference. I really liked hearing from the survivors also. It took courage for them to get up and tell their story."

2017 delegate

"Congratulations on an excellent, informative and relevant conference."

2017 delegate

"It's really the only conference in Oz in which those of us working in cancer survivorship can get quickly up to speed with the work being done across the country as well as networking with those most relevant to this work."

2015 delegate

"This was a great conference, on a really important topic. I hope that we see the conference go from strength to strength!"

2015 delegate

For more information
please visit www.survivorship2019.org
or call us on (02) 8063 4100



Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia



Flinders Centre
for Innovation
in Cancer

Other Reports

The COSA Tele-Trials Project - A Pilot Implementation of the Australasian Tele-Trial Model



The tele-trials project completed its first year in August. One year into this two-year project at lot has been achieved. We are very pleased to announce that the first commercially sponsored tele-trial in Australia is open in Queensland and has recruited three patients. The Eli Lilly Monarch E study is open in the 'Northern Tele-Trials Cluster' which has Townsville as the primary and Cairns, Mackay and Mt Isa as the satellites. One patient has been recruited at Mackay and two at Cairns. The patient enrolled at Mackay Hospital has avoided a monthly 7 hour round trip to Townsville Hospital by participating in the Monarch E study as a tele-trial. This is a perfect example of how the tele-trial model can transform cancer care for patients in regional and rural Australia.

The Monarch E study will also be opening in the Gold Coast cluster which has Gold Coast Hospital as the primary working with Wide bay Hospital as the satellite and several other commercially and

cooperative group sponsored trials are also planned in Queensland.

The AGITG ASCOLT study which has been open as a tele-trial between Orange and Dubbo hospital in NSW since December 2017 also continues to recruit patients with 3 patients currently participating.

The tele-trials project is funding staffing of one day per week per site over two years to assist with implementation of the model at 5 primary sites, two sites in NSW, two in Victoria and one in Queensland. As mentioned in the last Marryalyan these primary sites have established tele-trial clusters and these clusters are now working towards opening tele-trials including investigator initiated, industry and cooperative group sponsored trials. Several of these trials are scheduled to open within the next few months.

Queensland Health in collaboration with COSA have finalised and released key documents for implementation of the tele-trial model. These include the Australian ICH GCP (including Tele-trials) SOPs and supervision plan template; a Tele-Trials Subcontract for use between primary and satellites sites and a revised SSA form incorporating tele-trial sub forms.

The project continues to engage key stakeholders through four advisory groups; the Department of Health Project Advisory Group, the Medicines Australia (MA) Industry Advisory Group, the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups Advisory Group and the Tele-Trials Project Steering Committee.

The MA Industry Advisory Group have developed Clauses to be added to Schedule 7 of the standard MA CTRA for tele-trials. This was approved by the MA Research and Development Taskforce and has been submitted to the South

Eastern Border States review committee for approval together with the subcontract for use between primary and satellite sites based on the Queensland Health subcontract. It is hoped that once these templates are approved a standardised national approach to contracting within the Tele-Trial model can be achieved.

Stakeholder engagement through presentations at conferences and meetings continues. Most notably the Australasian Tele-Trial Model and the Tele-Trials project have been presented at several major conferences including ARCS, the Australasian Ethics Network Conference and the Cancer Institute Innovations Conference. We will continue to actively engage key stakeholders and promote the Tele-Trial Model in 2019.

**Professors Sabe Sabesan and John Zalberg OAM
Co-Chairs, The COSA Tele-Trials Project**

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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. The AGITG membership encompasses a wide range of medical specialists, scientists, nurses, allied health professionals and consumers involved in all aspects of GI cancer research.

Some of our recent and forthcoming efforts:

MASTERPLAN trial using stereotactic body radiotherapy in addition to modern chemotherapy to treat pancreatic cancer

\$1.5 million in funding has been awarded to the AGITG via the University of Sydney by the Australian Government Department of Health as part of an investment in rare cancer research under the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) for the MASTERPLAN Study: mFOLFIRINOX And STereotactic body Radiotherapy (SBRT) for Pancreatic cancer with high-risk and Locally Advanced disease (MASTERPLAN): a multicentre, randomised phase II study. The study investigates whether SBRT in addition to modern chemotherapy is superior to the

current standard of chemotherapy alone in both the neoadjuvant and definitive setting. An important component of MASTERPLAN is to incorporate high quality tissue collection to facilitate future molecular and genetic research. MASTERPLAN is a major multidisciplinary collaboration of Australia's leading pancreatic clinicians and scientists in the context of a multicentre phase II trial sponsored by AGITG, conducted by NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, University of Sydney. The study will open to patient accrual in Q1 2019.

Submission to AMRAB re MRFF priorities consultation

The AGITG made a submission to the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board relating to the development of the second set of Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities for 2018–2020, requesting that gastro-intestinal cancer research be made a priority for 2018-2020.

AGITG Trials Open to Recruitment (current as at 8 November 2018)

ACTICCA-1: Adjuvant chemotherapy with gemcitabine and cisplatin compared to standard of care after curative intent resection of cholangiocarcinoma and muscle invasive gallbladder carcinoma.

ASCOLT: Aspirin for Dukes C and High-Risk Dukes B Colorectal Cancers. An International, Multi-centre, Double Blind, Randomised Placebo Controlled Phase III Trial.

CONTROL NETS: Capecitabine ON Temozolomide Radionuclide therapy Octreotate Lutetium-177 NeuroEndocrine Tumours Study.

DYNAMIC III: Circulating Tumour DNA Analysis Informing Adjuvant Chemotherapy in Stage III Colon Cancer.

DYNAMIC-Rectal: Circulating Tumour DNA Analysis Informing Adjuvant Chemotherapy in Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer.

INTEGRATE II: A Randomised Phase III Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Study of regorafenib in Refractory Advanced Gastro-Oesophageal Cancer.

LIBERATE: A study evaluating liquid biopsies to profile metastatic colorectal cancer.

MODULATE: Modulation of the tumour microenvironment using either vascular disrupting agents or STAT3 inhibition in order to synergise with PD1 inhibition in microsatellite stable, refractory colorectal cancer.

MONARCC: A randomised phase 2 study of panitumumab monotherapy and panitumumab plus 5 fluorouracil as first line therapy for RAS and BRAF wild type metastatic colorectal cancer.

NABNEC: A Randomised Phase II Study Of nab paclitaxel In Combination With Carboplatin As First Line Treatment Of Gastrointestinal Neuroendocrine Carcinomas.

TOPGEAR: Trial of Preoperative Therapy for Gastric and Esophagogastric Junction Adenocarcinoma. A randomised II/III trial of preoperative chemoradiotherapy versus preoperative chemotherapy for resectable gastric cancer.

SPAR: A randomized, placebo-controlled phase II trial of Simvastatin in addition to standard chemotherapy and radiation in preoperative treatment for rectal cancer.



AGITG
AUSTRALASIAN GASTRO-INTESTINAL TRIALS GROUP

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2019

Convened by Dr Lorraine Chantrill
Adelaide Convention Centre
21–23 August 2019
gicancer.org.au

ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

- Best New Concept Award to Dr Lorraine Chantrill for “A pilot feasibility and discovery study of neoadjuvant FOLFIRINOX followed by immunotherapy for resectable adenocarcinoma of the pancreas”;
- New Concept Runner-Up Award to Dr Wee Loon Ong for “Using the CancerAid® mobile app to collect toxicity and quality of life data to improve the efficiency of trial data collection”;
- Best Poster to Dr Belinda Lee for “Pancreatic Cancer: An analysis of ‘Real-World’ stent-related morbidity in the palliative setting”;
- Best Fast Forward Award to Dr Hui-Li Wong for “Biomarker testing and biomarker-directed treatment utilisation for metastatic colorectal cancer in Australian practice” and
- The AGITG 2018 Outstanding Site Award to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Wellness & Research Centre.

Meetings and Events

AGITG 20th Annual Scientific Meeting: Brisbane 31 October - 2 November 2018

The AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting is the premier meeting in the GI cancer research space. The three-day meeting program for 2018 consisted of keynote sessions featuring international guest speakers, plenary and symposia sessions, trials presentations, poster session, new concepts symposium and workshops.

A number of awards were presented at the Meeting:

- The John Zalcborg OAM Award for Excellence in AGITG Research to Professor John Simes in recognition of his significant and outstanding leadership contribution to AGITG research. His involvement commenced in 1991 when the AGITG was a network of interested Investigators that came

together to develop and conduct clinical the first trial in gastro-intestinal cancer, operating under the auspices of the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre at the University of Sydney. He was a founding member of the AGITG Board and has served on many committees;

- The AGITG Innovation Fund grant of \$200,000 to Professor Janette Vardy and co-investigators for “Oxtox: Can Oxaliplatin dose reduction and neurotoxicity be reduced with ibudilast in people with metastatic colorectal cancer – a phase II randomised study”, award accepted by Dr Christina Teng;
- The Merck-AGITG Kristian Anderson Award, to Dr Rosemary Habib, receiving one year’s funding for her PhD research project entitled “Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cells Targeting Colon Cancer”;



Professor Eva Segelov was acknowledged as the outgoing Convenor of the Meeting and for her leadership in the planning of the 2015-2018 annual meetings.



CommNETs Clinical Trial Workshop: Hong Kong 8-9 December 2018

The Commonwealth Neuroendocrine Tumour Group (CommNETs) formed in 2015 and brings together NETs researchers, clinicians and consumers from Australia, New Zealand and Canada under one umbrella to encourage the development of clinical trials in neuroendocrine cancers.

Operating within the Australasian Gastro-intestinal Trials Group and Canadian Cancer Trials Group, CommNETs has successfully conducted annual meetings, and produced several projects and publications.

Gutsy Challenge

From 4-17 November, two teams of trekkers took on Tasmania's 60km Overland track to raise awareness and much-needed funds for GI cancer research.

In 2019, trekkers will take on the Cape to Cape walk along the Western Australian coastline – find out more at www.gicancer.org.au/gutsychallenge.

Invitation from the AGITG Chair, Professor Tim Price

I invite colleagues who are not currently members of the AGITG to join our 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, trial coordinators and allied health specialists.

Membership is free. To apply for membership or refer a colleague visit agitg.org.au or contact the Chief Executive Officer, Russell Conley at russell@gicancer.org.au.

Tim Price
Chairperson, AGITG

Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group



Mr Peter Terence KEMPEN - HONORARY MEMBER IN THE GENERAL DIVISION (AM)

On Monday 11 June, the Chairman of the ALLG, Mr Peter T Kempen was announced as an honorary Member (AM) in the general division of the Order of Australia honours for significant service to the community through executive roles with a range of health organisations, to education, and to the accountancy profession.

One of the most prestigious honours, the Order of Australia is the principal means of recognising outstanding members of the community at a national level and nominations are encouraged from all members of the Australian public.

Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG) CEO, Delaine Smith said that our organisation wholeheartedly supported the nomination, and believe that Mr Kempen deserved this recognition for his outstanding record and contribution to the field of clinical trials and blood cancer research.



"On behalf of the Board and Members of the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG), I would like to congratulate Mr Kempen on being announced as an honorary Member (AM) in the Order of Australia honours."

"In the opinion of the ALLG, Mr Kempen's level of service qualifies as meritorious by all means and definitions", said Ms Smith.

ALLG and MRFF via CanTeen launch new clinical trial to improve the lives of young Australians with leukaemia

On Wednesday 25 July, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt announced \$3.2 million in funding to four clinical trials that will give adolescent and young adult cancer patients access to cutting-edge treatment.

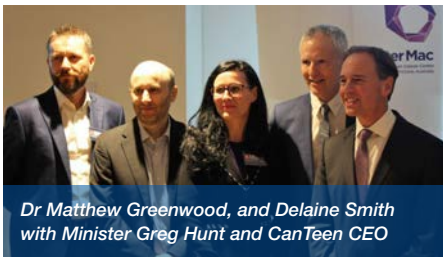
The Australian Young Cancer Patient Clinical Trials initiative, which has been made possible through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), has the ultimate aim of pursuing research breakthroughs that change lives.

With the support of the MRFF via CanTeen, ALLG launched a new clinical trial (ALL9), which aims to improve outcomes in Adolescent and Young Adult patients with B-lineage Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia by incorporating a novel immune based therapy into the BFM-2000-based standard treatment schedule for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia.

ALLG CEO, Delaine Smith said the new clinical trial will have a 'significant impact' and will be one of the first trials in the world incorporating this level of treatment for young Australians suffering leukaemia.

"ALL9 is the only proposed Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia trial option in Australia for young people and is specifically designed to address the issues that result in low survival rates", said Ms Smith.

The trial Chief Investigator, Dr Matthew Greenwood said that this important new trial will lead to a better understanding of how to successfully incorporate immune based therapy into treatment of Australian adolescents and young adults with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia, as well as having a significant impact on the outcomes of young patients with this type of leukaemia.



Dr Matthew Greenwood, and Delaine Smith with Minister Greg Hunt and CanTeen CEO

“ALL9 will give at least 47 young Australian ALL patients, and at least 29 aged 15-25 years, access to novel immunotherapy in induction.”

“This should translate to improved long term outcomes that results in fewer patients requiring bone marrow transplant, which can expose patients to long term illness and reduction in quality of life”, said Dr Greenwood.

Blood Cancer Awareness Month

September is ‘blood cancer awareness month’, and we had the opportunity to take part in a number of conferences, workshops and summits to raise awareness of who we are and to promote our work in blood cancer clinical trial research.

ACTA

Earlier in September, the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance held their annual one-day forum in Melbourne titled **Optimising the Value of Clinical Trials: Impact and Implementation**. The forum was tailored to trialists involved in protocol design and optimising evidence uptake in Australia’s healthcare system and included a keynote presentation from leading international implementation

scientist, **Professor Jeremy Grimshaw**, whose research focuses on the evaluation of interventions to disseminate and implement evidence-based practice. There was also be presentations on trials and implementation from the crucial perspective of policy-makers and research funders.

Professor Judith Trotman presented a 15min discussion outlining blood cancer and the role of the ALLG in running high-impact clinical trials. Her discussion centred on new, emerging ideas and the level of collaboration required to run good quality clinical trials. Judith also discussed the international lymphoma collaboration for the PRIMA NHL16 study PET analysis led in establishing PET as the gold-standard response assessment modality in Follicular Lymphoma, the acute myeloid leukaemia study AMLM12, the acute promyelocytic leukaemia APML4 trial and CML6 TIDEL I for chronic myeloid leukaemia. She finished her discussion by pointing out how the rapid pace of developments in haematology combined with slow recruitment can limit the clinical applicability of some ALLG trials and the challenges for trial funding and recruitment on the outcomes for clinical trials in Australia.

National Blood Cancer Conference

The Leukaemia Foundations’ National Blood Cancer Conference was held in September 2018, and brought the public and specialists together to discuss blood cancer research, treatment, and share their knowledge and expertise in a national conference designed for people living with blood cancer. With over 300 attendees, the 2018 conference saw a change in format to previous years, consolidating previous state-based events into one national conference held in Melbourne to ensure the highest calibre of speaker and most important research is available to the public.

Delaine Smith, Professor Andrew Roberts and Dr Gareth Gregory represented the ALLG and were invited to speak and lead a panel discussion on current clinical trials and the way to access information. During

their Clinical Trials Symposium, Delaine explained what clinical trials were, how they progressed from an idea to a scientific study, and the rigorous ethical standards needed to run clinical trials in Australia.

Myeloma Workshop

Mid-September, Myeloma Australia hosted their second workshop for clinicians and researchers on the pathophysiology, treatment and new ideas in multiple myeloma. Some of the key guest speakers included Professor Leif Bergsagel – Mayo Clinic, Professor Kwee Yong – University College London and Associate Professor Saar Gill – University of Pennsylvania.

Along with the Myeloma Registry and AMARC, the ALLG set up a display table outlining our most recent Myeloma clinical trials. A/Professor Hang Quach, the ALLG Myeloma Group Chair, presented on behalf of the ALLG. In her presentation, she discussed the current Myeloma clinical trials MM18/AMN02, MM19, MM20 and MM21. Hang ended her discussion by explaining the purposed for the Myeloma Disease group and the professional benefits of becoming a member of the ALLG.

If you would like to know more about the ALLG, please visit the ALLG website (www.allg.org.au).

Delaine Smith
CEO, ALLG



Enjoy the
festive season



Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group



Since June this year, ALTG collaborative group has continued to remain very active and connected in the lung cancer clinical trials environment.

NEW Clinical Trials

Recruitment has commenced for the new ETOP STIMULI study which is exploring the value of maintenance Nivolumab and Ipilimumab after standard chemotherapy / radiotherapy for patients with limited stage Small Cell Lung Cancer.

The ILLUMINATE trial will determine the tolerability and effectiveness of combining Durvalumab and Tremelimumab to Chemotherapy in patients with metastatic EGFR non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) after they have progressed on EGFR Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors.

For further information regarding these trials please email: STIMULI@ctc.usyd.edu.au; illuminate@ctc.usyd.edu.au.

Our study in first line mesothelioma the DREAM trial had results read out at ASCO and WCLC. This was a huge achievement for the team with very promising results. Congratulations to PI A/Prof Anna Nowak who presented on behalf of the collaborative group. The follow-on Phase III DREAM3 trial is in the pipeline and should open sometime early next year.

Staffing changes

Since June the ALTG program has seen some staff changes. Valerie McCool and Sara Corcoran our Research Coordinator and Program Manager respectively have moved on. I want to take the time to thank

them both for their valuable contributions to the program over the past 12 months. Janet Moore General Manager Research at Lung Foundation Australia is currently managing this portfolio until replacement staff can be found.

Events

- 4th Preceptorship in Melbourne was held in August. Over 40 trainees and junior specialists attended and, for the first time, nursing and consumer representatives were in attendance.
- 3rd Annual Symposium was held in October with 110 delegates registered. We had a comprehensive program, with a diverse range of excellent international and local speakers.
- New for 2018 were our Speaker Tours which were held in the lead up to the annual symposium. There were two events held – one in Brisbane and one in Melbourne and through the theme of Evolving Role of Immunotherapy in the Management of Lung Cancer, it was a great way for our local and international experts to connect with local clinicians, researchers and community and provide the most up to date information fresh from the World Lung Cancer Conference. With over 80 delegates in attendance across both events, this is certainly something that ALTG will look to continue into the future.

2019 Events

The ALTG collaborative network will continue to host our principal events – the Lung Cancer Preceptorship and its Annual Symposium in 2019. Dates are yet to be confirmed, but I would encourage you to all keep your eyes on our ALTG website for further details. The Annual Symposium is in evolution to a dedicated 2 day Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in 2019 aiming to allow abstracts and to involve both an educational symposium and ALTG trials workshops. IN 2020 this ALTG ASM is anticipated to be run concurrently with the Australian Lung Cancer Conference (ALCC).

Please feel free to contact email enquiries@altg.com.au for information.

Nick Pavlakis
President, ALTG

Australasian Sarcoma Study Group



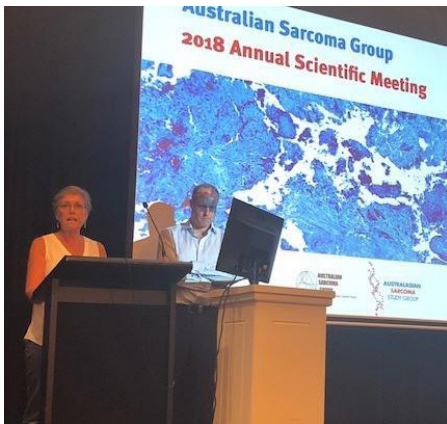
Merger of Australian Sarcoma Group (ASG) and Australasian Sarcoma Study Group (ASSG)

Over the last year, the Australian Sarcoma Group (ASG) and Australasian Sarcoma Study Group (ASSG) have been working towards a proposed merger of the two organisations.

Members and the board of directors of ASSG and the ASG approved the merger with a new constitution and name, at our recent meetings in Perth. The new organisation will be known as the 'Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association Limited' (ANZSA).

ANZSA will remain a non-profit charitable organisation, with the purpose of improving the outcomes of patients affected by sarcoma and related tumours through research, education and advocacy.

We look forward to the transition to our new name and to sharing our new logo in the coming months. We are excited by the strength of the united group and the increased ability to better serve the sarcoma community.



Australian Sarcoma Group 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting

The Australian Sarcoma Group 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting was held 12-13 October 2018 at the Pan Pacific, Perth. The theme for the meeting was: *Collaboration and Innovation: The multidisciplinary approach to sarcoma care*. The meeting brought together clinicians and researchers of all disciplines, as well as scientific and allied health sarcoma experts.

The two international guest speakers were Robin Jones, The Royal Marsden (UK) who is medical oncologist with a specialist interest in bone and soft tissue sarcomas and Rob Pollock, Royal National Orthopedic Hospital (UK), a consultant sarcoma surgeon who specialises in hip and knee surgery as well as bone and soft tissue tumours.



ASSG turns 10!

ASSG celebrated 10 years in 2018 and this remarkable milestone was marked with a celebration and reflection on 10 August 2018 at the Kinghorn Cancer Centre in Sydney. ASSG has indeed come a long way in its first decade with much gratitude to the vision and leadership of inaugural Chair David Thomas and our second Chair Jayesh Desai and the wonderful support from Executive Officer Denise Caruso who is in her eighth year at ASSG this year.

ASSG took this opportunity to announce an annual award in honour of Professor David Thomas and Dr Jayesh Desai and to acknowledge some significant contributors for their outstanding support and service to the ASSG and sarcoma research: Prof Martin Tattersall, Mr Geoff McKinnon and Mr Marcus Boyson.

New ASSG Sponsored Research Studies Open

SARC032 - A Phase II Randomized Controlled Trial of Neoadjuvant Pembrolizumab with Radiotherapy and Adjuvant Pembrolizumab in Patients with High-Risk, Localized Soft Tissue Sarcoma of the Extremity.

NORTH - A Phase II Study of Panobinostat in Paediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult Patients with Solid Tumours Including Osteosarcoma, Malignant Rhabdoid Tumour/Atypical Teratoid Rhabdoid Tumours and Neuroblastoma.

rEECur - International Randomised Controlled Trial of Chemotherapy for the Treatment of Recurrent and Primary Refractory Ewing Sarcoma.

Denise Caruso
Executive Officer, Sarcoma.

Australia and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group

ANZMTG Australia and New Zealand
Melanoma Trials Group

2018 has been another busy year for the Australia and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group (ANZMTG), with 268 clinicians, researchers and consumers signing up as new members (the most ever in a single year). We have 12 trials active with over 250 patients recruited so far in 2018, and an unprecedented 28 new research concepts were submitted to the group just in this year alone.

To ensure the highest quality and scientific rigour of our research, I am delighted to confirm that the Executive Committee have now implemented a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) structure (mirroring other groups) that will eventually – and for the first time in ANZMTG's history – distinguish



Have a wonderful year ahead



the governance and scientific roles as well as encourage engagement in ANZMTG decision making from our membership across Australia and New Zealand.

These new tiers of oversight have been developed in response to the growth of the group and to meet the challenges of a more complex clinical research environment in melanoma and skin cancer. The SAC consists of 21 members, including relevant experts, consumers, and stakeholders representing major institutions across Australia and New Zealand. The SAC is supported by five Discipline-Specific Advisories (DSAs) and two Priority Research Interest Groups (for Merkel cell carcinoma (AMIGOs) and Ocular melanoma (AOMA)). More than 50 expert ANZMTG members have been active participants in our DSAs, indicating increasing and dynamic involvement in the activities of the group.

It is notable that, under the supportive culture that the executive committee have tried to foster, along with implementation of the DSA structures, ANZMTG members have received the highest ever volume of new research ideas (e.g. 2017 – 11, 2018 – 28). Many individuals with new research ideas, including from centres that have not traditionally been focused on melanoma and skin cancer, are nowadays approaching ANZMTG for support, which we endeavour to offer at least in the initial development of ideas towards eventually taking them to the SAC for formal endorsement and work up to full protocol and funding applications.

Most pleasingly, ANZMTG helped secure in 2018 the highest ever volume and number of successful, large-scale peer-reviewed grants to support the research of our investigators. This is a remarkable achievement that will be hard to match in 2019 – but we will try! It is wonderful that more funding is coming into the national melanoma and skin cancer research community, as patients will ultimately benefit from this.

In conjunction with the Australasian Melanoma Conference in Melbourne in October, we convened our Annual General Meeting where members had the opportunity to hear about the many research highlights including:

Final analysis for ANZMTG 01.07 WBRTMel trial (CIA: Prof Gerald Fogarty)

Funded by Cancer Australia, the ANZMTG 01.07 WBRTMel trial (NCT01503827) is a randomised phase III trial, comparing whole brain radiotherapy versus observation post local treatment of melanoma brain metastases. This trial, which commenced in 2009, is currently undergoing the final analysis. During the trial, it became increasingly apparent that collection of health economics data would be vitally important in assessing how the trial outcomes might change health care practice. At two monthly follow up visits and at disease progression, patients were asked to provide data about the frequency and types of visits to health professionals, inpatient and outpatient procedures and to describe how their diagnosis had impacted their working life and income. In conjunction, patients completed quality of life questionnaires, which included the EQ-5D-5L instrument. Using this data, the study team are now evaluating the incremental cost effectiveness ratio (ICER, in Australian dollars) per distant intracranial failure avoided at 12 months, per life year gained (LYG) and per quality-adjusted life year (QALY) gained.

ANZMTG 02.18 MelMarT-II Trial in development (CIA: Prof Marc Moncrieff (UK Lead), CIA: Prof Michael Henderson (AU Lead))

Funded by Cancer Council NSW and the Friends of the Mater Foundation, the ANZMTG 03.12 MelMarT pilot trial (NCT02385214) is a large, phase III, international, randomised controlled trial, which randomised 400 patients with a

primary cutaneous melanoma >1mm Breslow thickness to a 1cm versus 2cm wide local excision margin. Patients were recruited from 19 sites in Australia, Canada, Sweden, the UK and the USA between January 2015 and June 2016. The publication of 12 month follow up data for ANZMTG 03.12 MelMarT pilot trial is available online in the Annals of Surgical Oncology: <https://doi.org/10.1245/s10434-018-6470-1>.

We are hopeful that a full study cohort of 2,998 patients in ANZMTG 02.18 MelMarT-II Trial will expand on the results of the 03.12 MelMarT pilot trial for patients with Stage II (AJCC IIA-IIC, pT2b-pT4a) primary cutaneous melanoma.

A Consumer initiated collaboration, ANZMTG 06.17 iMOVE (CIA: Dr Donna Milne)

Funded by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation, the ANZMTG 06.17 iMOVE pilot study, led by Dr Donna Milne, Clinical Nurse Researcher at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and developed in collaboration with Melanoma Patients Australia aims to assess the safety, efficacy and acceptability of an exercise program as a means of reducing immunotherapy-related fatigue, as well as the feasibility of a full-scale, nationwide trial. As immunotherapy is becoming a more common treatment option in many types of cancer, this research has the potential to be applied broadly across the oncology sector and improve the quality of life of numerous patients.

New Project in Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC), ANZMTG 10.17 GoTHAM (CIA Dr Shahneen Sandhu)

Funded by the Medical Research Futures Fund, ANZMTG 10.17 GoTHAM, led by Dr Shahneen Sandhu of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, is the first ANZMTG/AMIGOs trial in Merkel cell carcinoma to be awarded funding.

The GoTHAM trial is an adaptive, biomarker-driven, signal-seeking, three-arm clinical trial to evaluate the novel combination of avelumab (anti-PD-L1) with either radiotherapy or 177Lu-DOTATATE (a type of peptide receptor radionuclide therapy that delivers radiation directly to sites of disease expressing SSTR). GoTHAM will open to recruitment in early 2019.

The ANZMTG team are continuing ebulletin and newsletter correspondence with our members however behind the scenes they are also developing new websites which are designed to support the ANZMTG, AMIGOs and AOMA networks and patients. I look forward to launching these new websites and sharing them with COSA members shortly.



It is an exciting time for ANZMTG, propelled by the breathtaking advances in treatment of melanoma and skin cancer over the past decade. I sincerely thank our members, our funders (particularly Cancer Australia) and most importantly our stellar management team, led by Libby Paton. We look forward to continuing to deliver on the vision of the group to improve outcomes for melanoma and skin cancer patients and their families by conducting impactful research, particularly clinical trials. On behalf of the ANZMTG Executive Committee and Team, I wish you a healthy and prosperous 2019.

For any enquiries please contact the ANZMTG team: anzmtg@melanoma.org.au.

Mark Shackleton
Chair, ANZMTG

Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society



The Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer society held a successful meeting this July in Melbourne in conjunction with the International Society for Maxillofacial Rehabilitation. A large number of delegates from both societies learnt from a range of key note speakers and free papers with a particular theme of rehabilitation and reconstruction. A topic which is at the forefront of our mind when dealing with the most visible part of the body.

Like many cancer societies in Australia the ANZHNCs and its clinicians are grappling with the integration of immunotherapy into our treatment regimens. Patients and families are often rightly excited by the media stories and successes in other cancer streams and navigating that enthusiasm, with the need for evidence and funding in head and neck cancer is proving challenging for many clinicians. It is of course a time of great promise with a new addition to our standard armamentarium of surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

A generous donation of time and expertise by "One Fell Swoop" allowed a total revamp of the ANZHNCs online presence with a ground up rebuild of our website. We are currently fine tuning content but our gratitude goes to the team at "One Fell Swoop".

The ANZHNCs research foundation goes from strength to strength under the stewardship of Mr David Wiesenfeld as chairman of the foundation. Last year

was a very successful year in terms of donations and grants awarded in an ever competitive field for research funding.

Finally, our Annual Scientific meeting in 2019 will be held in Adelaide from September 19-21. We would welcome all COSA members with an interest in the management of Head and Neck Cancer.

Martin Batstone
Immediate Past President, ANZHNCs

Australian and New Zealand Urogenital & Prostate Cancer Trials Group



As our 10th anniversary year draws to a close, ANZUP is looking towards what the next 10 years might bring as we continue to build on a solid foundation largely thanks to the expertise and dedication of our 1450+ members.

ANZUP's Annual Scientific Meeting, held in Sydney in July, gave us a glimpse into what the future holds with the introduction of ANZUPx – a fast-paced and topical presentation segment. All seven of our national and international guests took to the stage to deliver engaging and thought-provoking talks relating to our ASM theme "Putting People First".

Over the course of the 3 days we saw a program that was engrossing entertaining, and full of treats. I was amazed by the science and by the humanity of what we do and who we are. We went home buzzing, needing a rest but at the same time energised.



The feedback from our delegates as well as our international faculty was extremely positive with much anticipation for next year's ASM under the leadership of David Pryor. Make sure you save the date to join us in Brisbane 21 – 23 July 2019.

The second half of 2018 has seen many exciting developments as current ANZUP studies come into their own. August 2018 saw the launch of TIGER, a randomised phase III trial comparing standard-dose combination chemotherapy against high-dose combinations chemotherapy and stem cell transplant in treating patients with returned or non-responsive testicular cancer. TIGER is now open at 3 sites nationally and more internationally.

Other trials including TheraP, UNISoN and KEYPAD continue on their trajectory of strong recruitment against projections and at time of writing, bladder cancer trial PCR MIB has reached 255 of its recruitment target. Pain-Free Trus B is heading toward its recruitment target with New Zealand patients coming on board. As of early November 2018, proPMSA has reached its recruitment target of 302 patients and will move into its follow-up phase.

After the successful launch of the Pedalthon in Melbourne in March of this year, the foundation Sydney Pedalthon, in its fifth year, moved the needle yet again for vital research funds.

More than 200 riders took to the track Eastern Creek, riding a combined 12,812 kilometres and helping us take the Below the Belt Research Fund to around \$215,000, every cent of which goes back into these studies. 33 teams

including teams from our event sponsors Morton Real Estate, GenesisCare, Pfizer Oncology, Bayer and Thirdi Group raced for top honours, but first place was taken by the team from Norton Rose Fulbright on the day.



Every cent raised by the Below the Belt Pedalthon goes into the Below the Belt Research Fund, providing seed funding to progress new trial ideas that have the potential to become fully-fledged studies in the future. In 2018, we added another eight studies to the ten already underway.

Not only do our Below the Best Fund studies provide a launch pad for future trials, they provide vital insights in the short term that can translate into positive outcomes for patients, particularly in terms of Quality of Life research.

The Below the Belt Pedalthon, along with the studies it funds, is one of the many ANZUP success stories that we aim to extend further in 2019, with Melbourne scheduled for 17 March 2019 and Sydney scheduled for 10 September 2019. We encourage you to visit www.belowthebelt.org.au for more details and news.

With so much going on, we are as ever optimistic about the research our studies will yield and the results we may achieve as a group. With announcements imminent of several new trials, the future at ANZUP is bright.

Ian Davis
Chair, ANZUP



Breast Cancer Trials



New Clinical Trials – DIAMOND and CHARIOT

Breast Cancer Trials (BCT) recently opened two new studies called DIAMOND and CHARIOT, which are world-first immunotherapy breast cancer clinical trials developed by Australian researchers. The DIAMOND clinical trial aims to improve outcomes for patients with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer. It will investigate whether the combination of Herceptin with two monoclonal antibodies (durvaluman and tremelimumab), will reactivate the patient's anti-tumour immune response and improve clinical outcomes. CHARIOT is open to patients with early stage triple negative breast cancer and aims to identify a new treatment that is safe and effective for tumours that are resistant to traditional chemotherapy. The purpose of the study is to see if using two immunotherapy drugs (nivolumab with ipilimumab) together with standard chemotherapy (paclitaxel) is safe and effective in treating breast cancer before surgery, and if continuing treatment with one of these drugs (nivolumab) after surgery keeps the immune system active. The Study Chair for both clinical trials is Professor Sherene Loi. For more information about these clinical trials, visit www.breastcancertrials.org.au.

41st Annual Scientific Meeting

BCT's 41st Annual Scientific Meeting will be held from 24-26 July 2019 at The Hilton Adelaide, South Australia. Registration for the ASM will open in the new year.

2018 Breast Cancer Trials Awards

The following awards were presented during BCT's 40th Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney this year:

- The **Alan Coates Award for Clinical Trials Research** was presented to Professor Fran Boyle AM. This award recognises a member of BCT who has made an outstanding contribution to BCT's clinical trials research program. Professor Boyle is a Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Sydney and the Director of the Patricia Ritchie Centre for Cancer Care and Research, at the Mater Hospital in Sydney. Fran has been involved with BCT for almost 20 years and has held a number of positions within the organisation. She was the Chair of the Board of Directors from 2012 to 2015, she Chaired the Scientific Advisory Committee from 2005 to 2010, she is a member of the Communications and Fundraising Committee, and is the Deputy Chair of the CHARIOT clinical trial. She has participated in many of the ground-breaking trials conducted by BCT, including HERA and POEMS, and she also serves on the IBCSG Foundation.



- The **Robert Sutherland Award for Excellence in Translational Research** was presented to Professor Carlos Arteaga. This award recognises Translational Researchers and their achievements and contributions to improved patient outcomes and is open to Translational Researchers worldwide.

Professor Arteaga is the Director of the Harold C Simmons Cancer Center and Associate Dean for Oncology Programs at UT Southwestern Medical Center.



- The **John Collins Medal and Travel Grant** was awarded to Dr Synn Lynn Chin. This award was established to encourage potential academic Breast Cancer Surgeons and Registrars to become involved in clinical trials research. Dr Chin is a Breast Oncoplastic Surgery Fellow at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.
- The **Study Coordinator Prize** was presented to Ms Victoria Sproule. This prize acknowledges outstanding commitment to the BCT's clinical trials research program by a Study Coordinator. Ms Sproule is a Nurse at Genesis Cancer Care.
- **Avon Travel Grants** were awarded to Sharon Clark, Jasmine Hee, Anita Krishnan, Lyndsey Grollman, Deepti Pandey, Angela Benson, Hollie Ritchie, Dr Sarah Khan and Dr Sara Wahlroos.

Clinical Trial Awareness Campaign

BCT teamed up with the Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP) this year to promote the importance of clinical trials research and participating in clinical trials. Supported by Tonic Media, an ad was played throughout the months of July and August to TV screens in more than 1,900 GP waiting rooms. The ad features Professor Fran Boyle AM and former member of the BCT Consumer Advisory Committee, Ms Cheryl Grant, who discuss

the benefits of participating in a clinical trial and the improvements that have been made to cancer treatments as a result of clinical trials research. A second round of advertising will occur in GP waiting rooms throughout December and January. To view the ad, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT70gF0XEcQ>.

Bruce Mann
Chair, Breast Cancer Trials

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia



This has been a busy and exciting year for CNSA.

We published the first **CNSA Annual Report** and held the first Annual General Meeting since registration of the organisation as a company limited by guarantee in September 2017.

The 2018 CNSA Annual Congress, themed "Science, Symptoms and Service Delivery" and held in Brisbane from 21-23 June, attracted 686 delegates. Seven pre-congress symposia covered a variety of exciting topics, including breast care, advanced care planning, vascular access devices, radiation therapy, getting started in research, improving patient care, as well as a masterclass in cardiac and respiratory assessment in cancer patients.

At the International Conference on Cancer Nursing (ICCN) held in New Zealand in September, CNSA and the New Zealand Nurses Organisation Cancer Nurses College co-hosted a joint plenary session on "Global Diversity: Equity and Access". CNSA was also delighted to support

ICCN registration for Ms Patience Mbozi from the Zambia Oncology Nursing Society. Patience presented on equity and access in cancer control in developing nations in Africa.

In recent months, CNSA provided feedback to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce regarding the Reports of its Oncology Clinical Committee and the Diagnostic Imaging Clinical Committee – to help ensure that all Australian cancer patients will have access to the best possible diagnostic procedures and cancer treatment options, and thus the best possible health outcomes.

CNSA was pleased to have a booth at COSA's 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth in November, and we congratulate all involved in this very successful event.

CNSA's Regional Groups and Specialist Practice Networks also hosted many professional development / networking events for cancer nurses in 2018, attracting more than a thousand attendees.

Strategic Plan

Much effort is still being ploughed into finalising the new CNSA strategic plan, as well as developing the governance framework and support systems that will underpin the implementation of the plan by CNSA's Committees, Regional Groups and Specialist Practice Networks. The new strategic plan – which we hope to launch early next year – will include a consumer-focused vision for the organisation, and will also guide the Board and volunteer members towards achieving the strategic priorities and promoting excellence in cancer care and control through the professional contribution of cancer nurses.



CNSA Life Fellowship Award

At our Congress this year, CNSA granted Life Fellowship to Professor Mei Krishnasamy – who is only the sixth member to receive this honour. Mei is an internationally renowned cancer researcher with a strong commitment to the dissemination of cancer nursing knowledge in a variety of areas, whose continued engagement with CNSA at many levels is a testament to her dedication to the society and to cancer nursing as a profession. Like me, many CNSA members draw inspiration from Mei's achievements, as well as from the work she has done and continues to do.



CNSA President Lucy Patton and Professor Mei Krishnasamy

Radiation Oncology

CNSA has been invited to participate in the Radiation Oncology Roundtable – which has been established to provide a forum for collaboration and discussion between the Australian Government and the radiation oncology sector on matters concerning the delivery of radiation therapy services. The CEO, Sonja Cronjé and I represented CNSA at a Roundtable meeting in Canberra on 29 October, which covered topics ranging from national planning and access to radiation therapy services, radiation oncology funding, including the Radiation Oncology Health Program Grants (ROHPG) scheme and the review of the MBS, the introduction of particle therapy to Australia, and quality and safety topics such as the Radiation Oncology Practice Standards and the Australian Clinical Dosimetry Service. CNSA is

pleased that the nurse voice is part of these discussions, to help improve the outcomes and experiences for patients who receive, or would benefit from, radiation therapy.

CNSA also supports men approaching curative treatment for prostate cancer having access to information regarding all treatment types provided, wherever possible, by the most relevant specialist. Therefore, we have endorsed the Faculty of Radiation Oncology's position statement on *"Informed Decision Making in the Management of Localised Prostate Cancer: A Patient-focused Perspective"*.

Distinguished Merit Award to Letitia Lancaster

CNSA Life Fellow Tish Lancaster received a Distinguished Merit Award from the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC) at the ICCN – in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the global cancer care community.

CNSA-Sosido initiative recognised

The CNSA-Sosido online knowledge sharing and networking community for Australian cancer nurses, made possible through Roche Australia and Swipe Health, was shortlisted as a finalist in the 'Excellence in Patient/Customer Support Award' category in this year's PRIME Awards – an industry award designed to recognise and reward excellence within healthcare communications in Australia.

Sosido provides an effective way for CNSA to communicate important announcements and keep members updated with the latest research impacting their practice, whilst fostering a community where members can crowdsource information, discuss trending topics and network with peers. The Q&A forum enables insightful discussion, bringing the vast community of cancer nurses closer together despite the challenges of geography.

Adolescents and Young Adults

CNSA's AYA Specialist Practice Network became operational in April this year, in recognition of the limited gains in this cohort of cancer patients. CNSA is proud to sponsor a workshop in conjunction with the 3rd Global AYA Cancer Congress. Titled "Nursing AYAs with Cancer: An interactive workshop exploring lessons from international nursing practice, leadership, innovations and opportunities in AYA cancer nursing", this event will include content relevant to anyone working in the AYA nursing field, or those with an interest in the ongoing development of this specialist role in the AYA multidisciplinary team.

CNSA Congress 2019

The 2019 CNSA Annual Congress will be held in Melbourne from 20-22 June 2019. The theme "The Complexity of Cancer Care: What will the future of cancer nursing look like?" promises to be relevant to oncology nurses, policy makers, researchers, educators, health service and program managers.

More information is available from <http://www.cnsacongress.com.au/>.

Lucy Patton
President, CNSA



Merry
Christmas

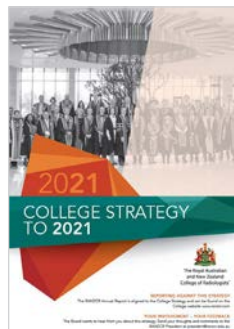


Faculty of Radiation Oncology



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

In the blink of an eye, 2018 is almost over. The Faculty of Radiation Oncology (FRO) has had another productive year. Between drafting responses to reports from the various Clinical Committees of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review and meeting with stakeholders, we focussed on implementation of the



RANZCR Strategy to 2021, which is underpinned by five key pillars - Engagement, Advocacy, Education, Clinical Excellence and Organisational Governance and Sustainability.

Advocating for Radiation Oncology

Advocacy efforts remain a key focus of the FRO. Representatives of the radiation oncology sector, including FRO, continue to meet on a biannual basis with senior Commonwealth Department of Health officials.

In June, FRO published the *Informed Decision Making in the Management of Localised Prostate Cancer* position statement. This is an excellent advocacy tool for change and I would encourage you to read this statement (available from the RANZCR website) if you have not already. We look forward to working with COSA and other organisations to ensure patients are adequately informed of treatment options. It is our strong view status quo does not meet community expectations.



At the end of November, FRO hosted the annual Industry Roundtable. This provides an opportunity for FRO and industry stakeholders to come together and be updated on relevant items of interest.

Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review

Oncology Clinical Committee

As part of the MBS Review, FRO submitted a radical change to the radiation therapy section of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). Should our recommendations be approved by the Minister, we will see a shift to complexity-based funding. FRO are in a strong position to see through a major reform of the schedule over the next year.

Urology Clinical Committee

Following on from the FRO position statement released in June, we have advocated for a change to the radical prostatectomy items of the schedule. Our recommendation is small but will hopefully lead to significant cultural change. We have recommended an addition to the explanatory notes that encourages all men approaching active treatment to see both a urologist and a radiation oncologist – and for any refusal to be documented in the patient's medical record.

Targeting Cancer: Radiation Therapy for Cancer Treatment

www.targetingcancer.com.au

The Targeting Cancer campaign, which aims to promote the safety and value of radiation therapy, has celebrated its fifth

anniversary. A lot has happened in this time, and I am grateful to A/Prof. Sandra Turner (Westmead Hospital) who has been such a passionate clinical lead. One of the very special attributes of Targeting Cancer is that it is truly clinician led—this is a model that is gaining significant attention from some of our overseas colleagues.

2019 will see further growth in Targeting Cancer as the focus shifts from prostate to palliative. Our team has already begun to plan for this transition and I eagerly await to see the next developments of the campaign.

I encourage all readers to support the campaign, whether encouraging colleagues or patients and their families to the website or following and engaging with #targetingcancer on social media.

Final Words

This is my last report for the *Marryalyan* as Dean of the Faculty of Radiation Oncology. It has been a privilege to serve as Dean, and member of the COSA Council, for the last few years. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr Madhavi Chilkuri, a Townsville-based radiation oncologist, as the next Dean (2019-21). Under Madhavi's leadership, the collaborative relationship between the Faculty and COSA will continue to be fostered.

Dion Forstner
Dean, Faculty of Radiation Oncology

Medical Oncology Group of Australia



The Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA), the professional organisation for medical oncologists and the profession in Australia, plays a leading role in the national oncology sector and, is looking forward to celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2019.

2019 will be a landmark occasion for the Association and our profession. It is hard to imagine that we will be celebrating four decades as the national professional body and the medical oncology profession in Australia. This will be a timely opportunity for the members of the profession to reflect on the evolution of our professional organisation, Australian medical oncology and the changing paradigms in clinical practice, research, patient care and training along that historic pathway. It will also afford us an opportunity as a profession to consider the contemporary and future challenges for medical oncology at home and abroad.

Education in Medical Oncology

A major event on the 2019 calendar will be the 40th Anniversary Annual Scientific

Meeting to be held at the National Convention Centre Canberra from 14 – 16 August 2019. The meeting being convened by **Professor Desmond Yip**, is entitled ***Leading the Way in Medical Oncology Education, Research and Clinical Practice***. At this time the scientific program is still in development, but we plan for the focus to be on the latest advances in medical oncology practice, research and education in gastro-intestinal, breast, head and neck cancers as well as neuro-oncology amongst other tumour streams. Additional sessions that are being planned will cover immunotherapy, survivorship and changing models of care, molecular profiling in cancer of the unknown primary, new technologies in oncology, genomic testing and voluntary assisted dying.

The Association's annual ***Immuno-Oncology Forum*** to be convened by **Associate Professor Victoria Atkinson** will be held in the national capital on 17 August and will feature a number of international experts.

The **2018 ACORD Workshop** was successfully delivered in early September with a record number of participants and Faculty attending. The Workshop is an intensive, interactive learning experience in clinical trials research design and development for early career clinicians from all disciplines involved in cancer clinical trials and research. Convenor, Professor Martin Stockler once again gathered a stellar international Faculty with representatives from major global agencies such as the US National Cancer Institute and the American



ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2019
14 - 16 AUG
IO FORUM
17 AUG

**CONVENTION CENTRE
CANBERRA, ACT**

WWW.MOGA.ORG.AU

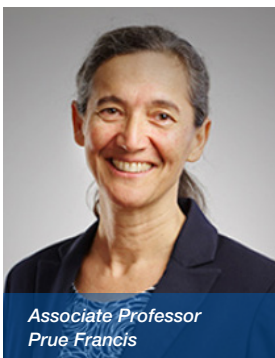
Society for Clinical Oncology: including Professor Joanna Dewar and Professor Chris Karapetis representing the MOGA Executive.

The **Annual Sciences of Oncology Program**, Convened by Professor Mark Shackleton, was presented in mid-November and attracted more than forty trainees to the 1.5 day professional development program. This program provided young medical oncologists with an educational program that explored the scientific basis of cellular mechanisms and treatments used in oncology, to form a solid understanding of treatments and clinical trials.

Our Members, Our Workforce

MOGA continues to play a leading role in representing the interests of Australian medical oncologists in various arenas.

Associate Professor Prue Francis will serve as the Association's representative on the new Expert Group for the Cancer Australia Statement - Influencing best practice in metastatic breast cancer.



Associate Professor
Prue Francis

Professor Stephen Ackland, Staff Specialist in Medical Oncology, Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital, Professor, Faculty of Health & Medicine, University of Newcastle, Director, Hunter Cancer Research Alliance and Editor-in-Chief, Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology was awarded the Medical Oncology Group of Australia - Novartis Oncology **Cancer Achievement Award 2018**. Professor Ackland was nominated for his meritorious contribution as a medical oncology

clinician, clinician-researcher, editor, leader and mentor. He is an eminent Australian clinician and scientist who has made important contributions to cancer research and patient care during the course of his career. His pioneering activities in anticancer pharmacology and advocacy for oncology treatments have contributed to improvements in patient outcomes. He has also played a significant role in shaping the face of medical oncology in Australia through his role in mentoring young investigators and members of the profession. Professor Ackland is one of Australia's most respected and dynamic medical oncologists.



Professor Steve Ackland -
2018 Cancer Achievement
Award Recipient

Oncology Drugs and Treatments

In addition to developing submissions regarding oncology drugs and therapy issues that arise as part of the national regulatory process, MOGA has recently commenced work with the Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) on a new project to address national drugs shortages. Over the last decade we have experienced a number of shortage situations in the oncology sector. MOGA was therefore pleased to join forces with the TGA in early November as part of the new medicines shortages strategy. The TGA administers the Medicine Shortages Information Initiative. Currently, notification of shortages to the TGA is voluntary for sponsors of prescription medicines. However, legislation has now passed through both Houses of Parliament and mandatory reporting will begin in January 2019.

With the implementation of the new system, medicine shortage reports will be sent to the TGA prior to the shortage occurring, providing valuable time to develop a strategy to address the shortage. This could involve TGA approving the import and supply of alternative medicine and providing information to health professionals and consumers on actions they should take as a result.

The planned strategy also involves contacting specialist practitioners in the event of a critical patient impact shortage, to provide advice the TGA on such matters as alternative medicinal products/therapies that will assist TGA in developing the management strategy for the shortage.

MOGA has nominated **Associate Professor Gary Richardson** to represent the Association and our speciality in providing advice to assist the TGA in managing relevant shortages in the above situations, including the development of the strategy for managing that shortage.

Chris Karapetis
Chair, MOGA

Oncology Social Work Australia



Almost 100 delegates, including four of our New Zealand colleagues, gathered in Canberra for the 13th Annual OSWA conference which had a theme of *"The Things We Don't Talk About: Psychosocial Challenges in Oncology Social Work"*. The theme left a great deal of scope for creativity and many abstracts were submitted. In a very full program there was a range of thought-provoking presentations, including Indigenous health, breaking bad news, death and dying and issues for cancer in the LGBTIQ

community. OSWA members will find most presentations uploaded to the website www.oswa.net.au in the near future.

Our Invited Speakers included two Australian identities, Mr Dion Devow, a local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander man who was ACT Australian of the Year in 2018, and Elisabeth Shaw, CEO of Relationships Australia. Our International Invited Speaker was Professor Matthew Loscalzo from City of Hope in California. The 2019 conference will be held in Hobart from 7-9 November. Newly inducted OSWA President Nick Hobbs is already working with his small team to put together another stimulating program.

The 45th COSA ASM has just concluded in Perth. This year's theme was "*Mesothelioma and Gastro-Intestinal Cancers: Technology and Genomics*". Kim Hobbs presented in a session on Family Cancer Syndromes on the psychosocial impact of heritable cancers. OSWA members may wish to start forward planning for the 2019 ASM which will be held in Adelaide from 12-14 November. The themes are urological cancers, age and gender in cancer practice and digital health in cancer. Professor Matthew Loscalzo is confirmed as a speaker for the 2019 meeting.

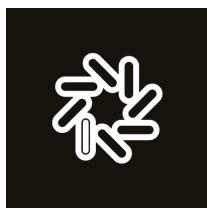
Data collection is now complete, and analysis is underway for our research project, "Social Work Interventions in Cancer Care: a Quality Assurance Project" under the stewardship of Dr Rosalie Pockett from the University of Sydney. The preliminary results were presented at the Canberra conference and it is anticipated that a more detailed analysis will be presented in Hobart. A manuscript is in preparation.

With thanks to our legal colleagues at Slater and Gordon the OSWA Constitution has been amended to enable the inclusion of our New Zealand colleagues in a combined organisation. The new Constitution was ratified at the AGM and in due course the name of our organisation will change to OSWANZ. We welcome

our New Zealand counterparts and look forward to a mutually productive working relationship. Justin Gulliver and his predecessor Sue Wragg were the main driving forces on the other side of the Tasman and we thank them for their enthusiasm and perseverance. In Canberra we farewelled our last outgoing OSWA President (OSWANZ henceforth), Ray Araullo and thanked him for his tireless work over the two-year term. We will continue to have the benefit of Ray's input as we continue the OSWA tradition of having the immediate past president remain on the committee. A welcome was extended to Nick Hobbs from Royal Hobart Hospital who becomes the inaugural OSWANZ President.

Kim Hobbs
COSA Council Representative, OSWA

Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative and Cancer Symptom Trials



The establishment of the Cancer Symptom Trials (formerly Cancer Supportive Care Clinical Studies Collaborative) is now well underway with the first report on activities to the funding body, Cancer Australia provided. Professor Meera Agar is the inaugural Chair of Cancer Symptom Trials (CST) and is leading a range of start-up activities including developing the CST governance structure, membership criteria, setting up the website, liaising with a range of collaborating partners, and engaging new staff to attend to the day to day operational activities.

CST and PaCCSC are co-located within the Centre for Improving Palliative, Aged and Chronic Care through Clinical Research and Translation (IMPACCT) based at UTS. Whilst the two trials groups have many synergies, they have separate Management Advisory Boards and Scientific Advisory Committees recognising the different stakeholder bodies and expertise needed to provide strategic oversight and scientific rigour to their individual programs of research. Membership for CST is now in place available online. If you have any interest in cancer symptom trials, please visit www.uts.edu.au/CST and become a member of this new trials group.

Conference Wrap

The annual scientific meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM) provides PaCCSC and its members an opportunity to touch-base, network, share ideas and update on what is happening locally, nationally and internationally in clinical research in palliative care. PaCCSC are lucky to have members who are actively engaged in their own programs of research as well as contributing to efforts of the Collaborative through various means including the RAPID program, various other research projects and correlative work, and through the committee structure including the seven symptom node subcommittees. There were a number of members presenting their work at ANZSPM and we are very grateful for the continuing support of our members in promoting PaCCSC research.



From 2-5 October, the PaCCSC/CST national manager and PaCCSC Chief Investigator, along with a number of PaCCSC/CST members attended the 22nd International Congress on Palliative Care Palais des Congres, Montreal, Canada. There was a strong Australian contingent on the podium throughout this meeting, demonstrating the active research culture we are very fortunate to have in this country. A number of PaCCSC members presented on PaCCSC related work and their own research programs.



PaCCSC Chief Investigator, Professor David Currow, was an invited speaker at the Congress. David gave the opening plenary on the final day titled Research Collaboratives and Clinical Trials Groups: Keys to success and avoiding pitfalls. He commenced the presentation with a discussion on the Half-life of knowledge: being the amount of time that has to elapse before half of the knowledge in a particular area may be superseded or be shown to be untrue (Fritz Machlup, 1962; Knowledge Production and Distribution in the United States. Princeton University Press) and similarly the Half-life of facts: the time for half the facts in a discipline to become obsolete (Samuel Arbesman, 2012; The Half-Life of Facts: Why Everything We Know Has An Expiration Date). These two concepts apply to everyone's learning and provides encouragement for us all to update our knowledge and facts regularly to stay in step with the latest evidence underpinning everyday clinical practice. David also talked about trials being fun for the patient; feasible, PaCCSC have proven that; and that trials offer us the ability to future proof our care, keeping us ahead of the curve and delivering care on a personalised

basis. Our congratulations and thanks to all those members who presented at the Congress. The full program can be viewed at http://www.palliativecare.ca/pdf/PAL2018_Onsite_booklet.pdf.

Concept Development Workshops

In order to encourage new ideas, PaCCSC, CST and a number of other Collaborators are running concept development workshops. CST, Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE) and the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG) conducted the first of these workshops in Haematological Cancers in September, taking advantage of having Associate Professor Tom LeBlanc from Duke University in America. The workshop attracted 25 individuals from various career stages and disciplines and has resulted in a new RAPID Series taking off which will look at tranexamic acid for bleeding to provide preliminary data for a larger phase study in time. A further workshop was held in Cognitive and Neurological Disorders with guest speaker Professor Matthew Kiernan from the University of Sydney. A final workshop for 2018 will be held on Breathlessness in late November.

RAPID Program

By collecting information about the benefits and harms of medicines and non-pharmacological interventions that are commonly used in cancer and palliative care, the RAPID Program allows a range of clinical units and practitioners from around the world to participate in clinical research and contribute to this international community of practice.

The RAPID Program commenced in 2011 and now has 35 active sites from 16 countries that are participating. The Program has expanded to include a medication Series across a range of symptom areas; multiple Series on non-pharmacological interventions; and is now looking at the prescribing of Cannabis

and Methadone in people with advanced cancer and palliative care.

Utilising this methodology, RAPID has successfully completed five medication series, two non-pharmacological intervention series, and has published 10 papers.

Current open Series include: Amitriptyline for pain; NSAIDs for pain; Benzodiazepines for breathlessness; Macrogol for constipation; Cyclizine for nausea; midazolam for agitation; and Mirtazapine for Appetite. Visit the RAPID website to find out more and get involved www.uts.edu.au/RAPID.

Annual Scientific Meeting – 1st Annual Research Forum CST & 10th Annual Research Forum PaCCSC – Joint meeting

We are excited to announce that the first joint Annual Research Forum of the Cancer Symptom Trials and the Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative will take place on Thursday 14 March at the Aerial Conference Centre, UTS. Guest speakers have been announced and more information, including registration, can be viewed on the website www.uts.edu.au/paccsc/annual-research-forum.

Linda Brown
National Manager, PaCCSC/CST



*Happy
Holidays*



Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group



We have had a successful final half of 2018!

New Committee members

We welcome new Advisory Committee members Dr Jennifer Walker, Senior research fellow and Deputy Lead Primary Care Cancer Research Group at the University of Melbourne; Amanda Piper, Head of Cancer Strategy at the Cancer Council Victoria and Barbara Irwin, Victorian Quality and Liaison Manager Bowel Cancer Screening, Department of Health and Human Services in Victoria.

Joining our Scientific Committee is Dr Rebecca Bergin, Senior Research Officer at Cancer Council Victoria, whose research interests are cancer diagnosis, rural cancer disparities, policymaking, health services research and mixed methods. Associate Professor Anne Cust, Head of the Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Research Group at the University of Sydney School of Public Health, joins the Scientific Committee with her interests including melanoma and skin cancer, cancer prevention, causes, early detection and survivorship, genomics and precision public health. Dr Neli Slavova-Azmanova, a Research Associate of the Cancer and Palliative Care Research and Evaluation Unit at the University of Western Australia joins the Advisory Committee. We would like to also thank our past Scientific Committee members for their contribution

and expertise during their years of committee membership.

Podcasts

We were very excited to launch a new initiative that integrates PC4's strategic aims and our commitment to support and promote the development of leading cancer research in primary care. With podcast listenership increasing by 56% from 2016 in Australia, we decided to embrace the new media channel to share research, educate and entertain. We launched two podcast series *Research Round-up* and *Cheers with Peers*.

Research Round-up

Dr Kristi Milley and Sophie Chima deep dive into current cancer research and how this impacts primary care, in our monthly podcast. It is a fascinating insight into current and historical contexts of cancer in primary care literature. Previous interviews have included CanTest's Professor Yoryos Lyratzopoulos and Professor Willie Hamilton, and Professor Mark Nelson discussing their recently released research.

Available on **iTunes**, **Soundcloud** and your favourite podcast players. **Visit our website** for show notes.



PC4 SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

4TH APRIL 2019, MELBOURNE



A DECADE OF PUTTING PRIMARY CARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF CANCER RESEARCH



pc4tg.com.au/Symp2019

@pc4tg



Cheers with Peers

Our commitment to our Early Career Researchers ignited the concept behind our monthly podcast, Cheers with Peers. Cheers with Peers is hosted by **Sibel Saya**, who guides Early Career Researchers through the maze that is primary care research. What's the difference between a mentor and a sponsor in academia? How does an Early Career Researcher make those connections to collaborate with international researchers? Sibel sits down with mid to senior researchers and talks about issues that are important to Early Career Researchers. She finds out about things you wished you knew and things you didn't know about being an Early Career Researcher.

Available on **iTunes**, **SoundCloud** and your favourite podcast players. **Visit our website** for show notes.

PC4 Scientific Symposium – Thursday, 4 April 2019

Save the date!

We are proud to announce our **2019 Scientific Symposium** will be held on **Thursday 4 April** at the **Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Melbourne**.

The symposium is a multidisciplinary meeting with invited speakers to cover the primary care spectrum of cancer research. The symposium will cover cancer prevention and diagnosis, survivorship, and cancer palliative care.

Our key note speaker is Professor Ross Lawrenson, Professor of Population Health, The University of Waikato, New Zealand.

Visit our **website** for more information or keep updated by following us on **Twitter** or **LinkedIn**.

Become a member

Are you interested in joining PC4? PC4 membership is free and open to all researchers, health professionals as well as members of the public with an interest in cancer research in primary care.

Visit **pc4tg.com.au** for more information.

1. ABC Podcast Survey 2017. Retrieved from **<http://www.abc.net.au/xmlpublic/radio/podcasts/Podcast-Survey-2017-Final-External.pdf>**.

Kristi Milley
National Manager, PC4



Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group



The last year was busy and productive for the Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG) as we continued in our mission of improving the psychological wellbeing of cancer patients through our diverse program of research. We're proud to report that in the last 12 months we contributed to the development and conduct of 17 supported studies, while a further 13 were administered directly through the PoCoG Executive Office.

In addition to launching new research in fear of cancer recurrence earlier this year, we have been hard at work developing a range of collaborative new research streams based on feedback and input from our Scientific Advisory Committee and wider membership. This includes work in the field of multi-morbidity, brain cancer and patient reported outcomes.

Earlier this year we hosted a multi-disciplinary meeting to explore gaps in research and collaborative opportunities related to multi-morbidity. This productive meeting identified future priorities specifically related to psycho-oncology. Another growing area of interest for PoCoG is brain cancer and in August we hosted an initial scoping meeting across a number of cancer trials groups to discuss research priorities and common interests

Progress on our Flagship Program of Work: *Transforming Psychosocial Care of Patients in Australia: Implementation of a Comprehensive Training and Service Delivery Program*, continued

and expanded in 2018. This ambitious program of work is evaluating new models of care delivery for patients with the most prevalent psychiatric disorders met in cancer care - Depression, General Anxiety and Adjustment Disorder and it aims to build the psycho-oncology workforce and provide greater access to psycho-oncology services across Australia.

This work complements the Cancer Institute NSW Translational Program Grant ADAPT Program (2015-2020), which achieved a huge milestone in 2017 by implementing the Clinical Pathway for identification and management of anxiety and depression in cancer care in the first of 12 cancer services.

The ADAPT Cluster RCT, the final phase in the **ADAPT Program** which has developed resources and strategies to support implementation of the Clinical Pathway, is now underway in 12 cancer services across NSW. These services are supported to introduce the Clinical Pathway recommendations with staff and patients using the ADAPT portal to identify and respond to the psycho-oncology needs of cancer patients.

Findings from the ADAPT Program and the current cluster RCT will provide valuable research data to inform future implementation in cancer services as well as report capacity and uptake of cancer services to identify and respond in line with evidence based guidelines.

We have been fortunate to welcome a few new faces to our Scientific Advisory Committee in the last few months. Dr Lisa Beatty from South Australia was promoted to the position of Deputy SAC chair while Professor Louise Sharpe and Dr Dan Costa from the University of Sydney and Dr Amanda Hutchinson from the University of South Australia were appointed as ordinary members. In addition, two new early career researchers joined the SAC; Camille Short from the University of Adelaide and Gemma Skaczkowski from La Trobe University will be mentored and will progress to ordinary

membership after completing their ECR terms in three years.

Our Joint Consumer Advisory Group, the group of consumer representatives we share with PC4, also grew this year with the appointment of two new members Louise Bailey and Jason White. The JCAG are currently collaborating with PoCoG and PC4 to develop an educational resource for early career researchers exploring how consumers can support ECRs in their research work and collaborate meaningfully to study design discussions.

Our combined two-day concept development workshop and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting at the end of November was a great way to wind up what has been a busy year for PoCoG. The SAC worked with concept authors and a team of invited experts to polish and refine six concepts and we look forward to further supporting these concepts in the coming months.

If you are interested in learning more about PoCoG or would like to join be sure to visit <http://www.pocog.org.au/> or email our office at pocog.office@sydney.edu.au.

Joanne Shaw
Executive Director, PoCoG

Royal College of Pathologists



Advancing Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer

Pathology reports for cancer are increasing in complexity. From simple narratives with relatively few elements in the 1950's, a current pathology report on a tumour specimen is a complex

document covering many more elements necessary for treatment and prognosis. A study by Markel and Hirsch in 1991, reported that surgeons complained that essential information was missing from the pathology report when it was, in fact, present. The traditional narrative format was failing to support the accurate and effective communication of the increased volume and complexity of information in a modern pathology report. In response, a synoptic or structured checklist approach to reporting evolved and has been widely proven to improve quality as well as completeness of pathology reports.

The RCPA has progressed a number of strategies to advance the adoption of Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer (SPRC) in Australia over the past few years, including incorporating SPRC into the Anatomical Pathology curriculum, publishing policy statements endorsing implementation of SPRC and lobbying the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC), who is responsible for the development and maintenance of standards and guidelines for pathology practices in Australia, to include SPRC as a standard for cancer reporting. Recently the college has put forward a recommendation to the Medical Service Advisory Council (MSAC) to include a SPRC fee in MBS items of level 6 & 7 complexity. The matter is currently under review.

Molecular pathology practice

NPAAC will shortly be publishing a standard on the supervision of molecular testing in laboratories. This new standard has prompted months of discussion and planning regarding the recognition of molecular qualifications amongst Anatomical Pathologists (AP). The planned approach will be two-fold – firstly the curriculum for AP's will be updated to include specific molecular modules and secondly a process is being defined to 'recognise prior learning' in those pathologists who meet appropriate criteria to enable them to be able to supervise molecular pathology in their discipline.

National Structured Pathology Reporting Project (NSPRC)

<http://www.rcpa.edu.au/Library/Practising-Pathology/Structured-Pathology-Reporting-of-Cancer/Cancer-Protocols>.

The National Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer (NSPRC) Project, has recently published 7 new, and 5 updated, genitourinary protocols. A further 9 protocols are in progress for cancers of the head and neck. Each protocol to be developed or updated incorporates the 8th edition of TNM staging as well as the internationally agreed standards from the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR). www.ICCR-cancer.org.

HER2 testing for breast cancer guidelines

The first set of Australian HER2 testing guidelines has been developed by the HER2 Testing for Breast Cancer Working Party, following the July 2018 CanSAC meeting. These guidelines address important issues that were resolved in the 2018 ASCO/CAP focused update and summarise considerable valuable input from Australian experts in breast pathology.

Key features include the recommendation to now perform routine ISH testing only on cases showing 2+ or 3+ HER2 IHC, adoption of five subgroups of dual probe HER2 ISH classifications, standardisation of pre-analytical factors, clarification of the IHC 2+ 'equivocal' category and discretionary repeat HER2 testing.

Pathology Update

Each year, the RCPA holds the **Pathology Update Conference and Exhibition**.

<http://www.rcpa.edu.au/Events/Pathology-Update>.

This conference is a significant event on the pathology calendar. The next conference will be at the Melbourne

Convention and Exhibition Centre from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th February 2019.

Kenneth Lee
COSA Council Representative, RCPA

Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group



TROG ASM 2019 Speakers Announced

TROG Cancer Research is pleased to announce Dr Nicholas van As will be the keynote speaker for the 2019 Annual Scientific Committee Meeting (ASM) to be held from 12-15 March in Melbourne. Dr van As is Medical Director of The Royal Marsden, Consultant Clinical Oncologist in the Urology Unit, and a Reader at the Institute of Cancer Research. He leads a number of clinical trials, most notably he is chief investigator for the international clinical trial PACE, comparing SBRT to image-guided radiotherapy and surgery for treating localised prostate cancer.

TROG is also excited to announce Dr Rebecca Howell will speak at the TROG Cancer Research ASM. Dr Howell is a tenured Associate Professor at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and a Fellow of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. Dr. Howell is certified by the American Board of Radiology and has more than 15 years of clinical experience.

The TROG Cancer Research ASM 2019 will be held at the Melbourne Cricket

Ground. The program includes four days of collaborative workshops, scientific sessions showcasing clinical trials, discussion of new clinical trials, future research directions and other research developments. Find out more at www.trog2019.com.



Dr Nicholas van As



Dr Rebecca Howell

Clinical Interventional Oncology Symposium

As part of the TROG 2019 ASM, a Clinical Interventional Oncology Symposium will be held on 14-15 March 2019. This symposium will focus on all aspects of clinical oncology relevant to interventional radiologists.

The interventional radiology specific program will bring together interventional radiologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, pathologists and researchers to focus on the clinical aspects of Interventional Oncology practise. Teaching will include overviews of tumour biology, pathology, treatment options, clinical algorithms and the critical role that Interventional Oncology has to play in cancer care including diagnosis, biopsy and management. Sessions will also focus on clinical skills including procedural sedation, post-procedure analgesia, and future research areas.

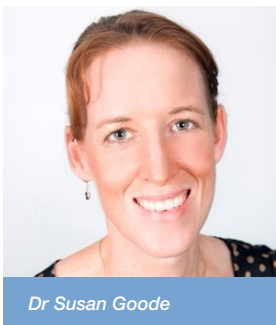
Interventional radiologists of any career stage are encouraged to attend and learn more about these important concepts in clinical oncology for the modern Interventional Radiologist. This symposium is also highly recommended to registrars who are interested in a future career in interventional radiology.

Guest speakers include Dr Costi Sofocleous from the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, Professor Andy Adam from the Guys and St Thomas' Hospital and Professor Prof Liz Kenny from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Find out more about this symposium at www.trog2019.com.

New CEO Appointed

The board of TROG Cancer Research is pleased to announce the appointment of Susan Goode as the new TROG Chief Executive Officer. Susan is formerly the Centre Manager for the Hunter Cancer Research Alliance at the University of Newcastle.

In this role, she was key player in a strategic expansion of the Newcastle-based cancer research infrastructure. She has also worked to diversify the Hunter Cancer Research Alliance revenue sources from government funding to a mixed portfolio.



Dr Susan Goode

Susan has more than 12 years' experience in clinical and health services research and has been providing strategic

support to the Hunter New England Clinical Cancer Research Network. In addition, Susan has a strong medical research background having worked as a trial co-ordinator, project officer, program co-ordinator and research manager.

Successful Cancer Australia Grant for TROG Cancer Research

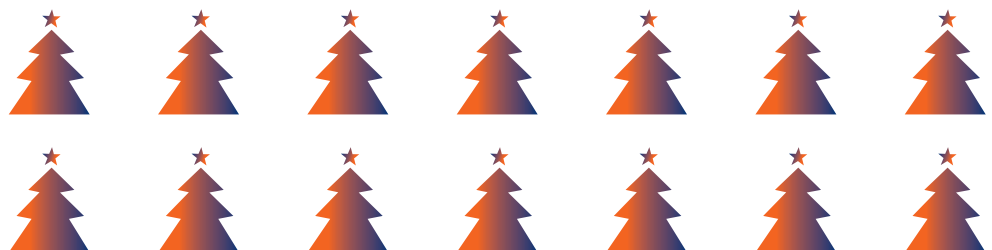
TROG Cancer Research has been successful in being awarded a \$1.5 million grant (2018-2020) under the Cancer Australia Support for Cancer Clinical Trials Program.

The funding from Cancer Australia provides essential infrastructure for TROG to build our capacity to undertake cancer clinical trials. TROG's primary business is the conduct of clinical trials involving radiation therapy to establish whether new cancer therapies or new ways of using existing treatments are effective and safe for patients.

The Support for Cancer Clinical trials program will allow TROG to increase the number of cancer clinical trials conducted in Australia and increase the participation in clinical trials by people affected by cancer. The program also provides opportunities for more clinicians, researchers and patient advocates to participate in the development of cancer clinical trials.

TROG Cancer Research CEO Susan Goode said the grant received enables TROG Cancer Research to continue to develop industry-independent clinical trials, increase the number of trials open for patients and to increase clinical trial participation.

"We are very pleased to continue our association with Cancer Australia. All of these activities make a significant contribution to improving patient outcomes and quality of life of people affected by cancer."



Tour De Cure Grant funds secondary analysis

TROG Cancer Research has been successful in being awarded a \$10,000 grant under the Tour de Cure Local Cancer Project Funding Program. The funding will provide information technology solutions to improve access to TROG clinical trial data for the purpose of secondary analysis. Data types, processes and formats have changed significantly over time, in particular radiation therapy imaging data.

TROG has a range of radiotherapy imaging data formats that need to be converted into accepted standards so that it can be utilised via modern software. As part of this process, the imaging data must be coded with trial identifiers and all patient identifiable data removed. The grant will be used to develop software tools which will convert this information into a usable format for our members and other researchers.

Secondary analysis offers unique and cost-effective methods of gaining new knowledge. Through the development of computer software tools, we can ensure past trial data is used to its full capacity and will continue to facilitate secondary analysis of high quality and comprehensive radiation therapy imaging data held in TROG's data repository. For more information on secondary analysis of TROG held data please email TROG@trog.com.au.

Farshad Foroudi
President, TROG Cancer Research

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
2019		
25-26 January	Progress and Controversies in Gynecologic Oncology: 2019 prIME Oncology Conference www.primeoncology.org/live-events/oncology/gyn-conference-2019/	Barcelona, Spain
16 February	COSA Pharmacology of Cancer Chemotherapy https://www.cosa.org.au/events/trainee-events/	Melbourne, VIC
22-24 February	Pathology Update Conference and Exhibition www.rcpa.edu.au/Events/Pathology-Update	Melbourne, VIC
8-10 March	11th ARGANZ Meeting www.arganz.org/index.php/meeting-2019/home.html	Auckland, New Zealand
12-15 March	TROG 31st ASM www.cmnzl.co.nz/trog-2019-asm/	Melbourne, VIC
16 March	COSA Advanced Trainee Oncology Meeting (ATOM) https://www.cosa.org.au/events/trainee-events/	Sydney, NSW
20-23 March	ANZGOG ASM www.anzgog.org.au/	Sydney, NSW
28-29 March	Cancer Survivorship 2019 www.survivorship2019.org/	Sydney, NSW
4-5 April	Skin Cancer 2019 www.skin-cancer2019.com/	Vienna, Austria
7-10 April	2019 Australian Pain Society 39th Annual Scientific Meeting http://www.dconferences.com.au/aps2019/	Gold Coast, QLD
7-10 May	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au/health-professionals/meetings-events/	Melbourne, VIC
9-10 May	Victorian Integrated Cancer Services Conference 2019 https://vics2019.org/	Melbourne, VIC
31 May-2 June	12th COSA CPG Foundation Course http://cosacpgcourses.org.au/	Brisbane, QLD
31 May-4 June	ASCO 2019 https://am.asco.org/	Chicago, USA
13-15 June	ANZCHOG ASM https://etm.eventsair.com/quickeventwebsiteportal/anzchog2019/website	Christchurch, New Zealand
21-23 June	MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting https://masccmeeting.org/2019/Pages/default.aspx#.W_d7tegzZaR	San Francisco, USA
22-24 June	CNSA 22ndst Annual Congress www.cnsacongress.com.au/	Melbourne, VIC
18-20 July	Japanese Society of Medical Oncology Annual Meeting www.congre.co.jp/jsmo2019/en/	Kyote, Japan
21-23 July	ANZUP ASM www.anzup.org.au/content.aspx?page=asm-news	Brisbane, QLD
24-26 July	Breast Cancer Trials ASM www.breastcancertrials.org.au/2019-annual-scientific-meeting	Adelaide, SA

Date	Event	Venue
3-6 August	42nd HGSA Annual Scientific Meeting www.hgsa.org.au/about/43rd-annual-scientific-meeting	Wellington, New Zealand
14-16 August	MOGA ASM – 40th Anniversary www.moga.org.au/conference/annual-scientific-meeting	Canberra, ACT
21-23 August	AGITG ASM https://gicancer.org.au	Adelaide, SA
24-26 August	Asia Pacific Prostate Cancer Conference http://prostatecancerconference.org.au/	Melbourne, VIC
31 August-1 September	COSA CPG Advanced Course http://cosacpgcourses.org.au/	Melbourne, VIC
12-14 September	ECCO 2019 – European Cancer Summit www.ecco-org.eu/Events/ECCO-2019	Brussels, Belgium
19-21 September	ANZHNCs ASM https://anzhncs.org/other-meetings/anzhncs-asm-2019/	Adelaide, SA
7-10 September	IASLC 19th World Conference on Lung Cancer www.iaslc.org/events/iaslc-20th-world-conference-lung-cancer-wclc19	Barcelona, Spain
10-13 September	Oceanic Palliative Care Conference https://oceanicpallcare.com/	Perth, WA
15-18 September	ASTRO Annual Meeting www.astro.org/Meetings-and-Education/Live-Meetings/2019/2019-ASTRO-Annual-Meeting	Chicago, USA
27 Sept-1 Oct	ESMO 2019 Congress www.esmo.org/Conferences/ESMO-2019-Congress	Barcelona, Spain
9-11 October	ESSO 39 www.essoweb.org/events/esso39/	Rotterdam, The Netherlands
17-20 October	RANZCR 70th Annual Scientific Meeting www.ranzcr.com/whats-on/annual-scientific-meetings	Auckland, New Zealand
25-27 October	8th International Congress on Cancer Metastasis https://cancermetastasis.org/	San Francisco, USA
7-9 November	OSWA National Conference 2019 http://oswa.net.au	Hobart, TAS
12-14 November	COSA's 46th Annual Scientific Meeting 2019 'Save the Date' www.cosa2019.org	Adelaide, SA
12-15 November	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au/health-professionals/meetings-events/	Adelaide, SA
10-14 December	San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium 2018 www.sabcs.org/	San Antonio, USA
2020		
19-21 July	ANZUP ASM www.anzup.org.au/content.aspx?page=asm-news	Adelaide, SA
15-18 October	RANZCR 71st Annual Scientific Meeting www.ranzcr.com/whats-on/annual-scientific-meetings	Melbourne, VIC
19-22 October	World Cancer Congress www.worldcancercongress.org/	Muscat, Oman
11-13 November	COSA's 47th Annual Scientific Meeting 2020 'Save the Date' www.cosa.org.au	Brisbane, QLD

COSA'S 46th
Annual Scientific Meeting
12-14 November 2019
Adelaide Convention Centre

Urological cancers,
Age and gender
in cancer practice,
Digital health in cancer

**PUTTING
PRECISION AND
PERSONALISATION INTO
PRACTICE**

**SAVE
THE DATE**



**Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia**

**2019
COSA ASM**

**COSA is pleased
to announce the
ASM is heading back
to Adelaide in 2019.**

COSA's 46th ASM will focus on urological cancers, including but certainly not limited to prostate cancer. Our diverse sub-themes will focus on age and gender in cancer – for patients and health professionals – global oncology and digital health in cancer. The program will capture the most innovative work being undertaken across these highly topical themes.

It's my pleasure to convene this important national multidisciplinary oncology meeting and welcome you to my home city of Adelaide.

Together with a very engaged committee, I am confident we will deliver another exciting and educational COSA program which, like our city will be full of surprises to entice all your senses and leave you informed, engaged, entertained and most importantly, well equipped to address the modern challenges of cancer control in Australia and beyond.

COSA's 46th ASM will focus on urological cancers – of course we will feature prostate cancer, but also sessions on testicular and bladder cancer, as well as other related issues such as symptom control, and urological survivorship. The contemporary topic of "digital health" will be featured in plenary and concurrent sessions, when we will cover the uptake of recent technologies in healthcare and the promise (and challenges) of My Health Record. "Age and gender" in cancer is a new addition for COSA – here we will cover gender issues for both patients and health professionals, sexuality, couples,

transgender issues, as well as age related matters for the very young and the very old (and some for those in between too). Lastly, we will examine some of the global issues in cancer including changes in cancer epidemiology and their interface with global economic, environmental and political changes and their impact on cancer control. I am particularly excited about these subthemes and hope you are as well.

As always, we intend to deliver you a scientific program that is as diverse as the COSA multidisciplinary membership. And if you have a moment to spare after all the sessions, we present you our amazing city with its outstanding art, fantastic food scene and the best coffee this side of the Equator! Please join me for the outstanding week in November 2019!

Be sure to diarise 12-14 November 2019 now.
See you in Adelaide!

**Bogda Koczwara AM
2019 COSA ASM Convenor**



For more
information please visit
www.cosa2019.org
or call 02 8063 4100