



A/Prof Nick Pavlakis, President, COSA

President's Report

I am pleased to present my first Marryalyan report as COSA President, and am honoured to be stepping into the role following Phyllis Butow. All Presidents before me have ensured COSA flourishes and I plan to make sure that continues.

Bogda Koczwara's challenge was redefining COSA's governance structure as we moved to become a company limited by guarantee – supported by a strong team, she really set the organisation up for success. Sandro Porceddu's task was implementing that new structure and embedding the necessary structures – this was also achieved with great success. Sandro also had a focus on improving COSA's communications, which I believe he and the team succeeded in as well. Phyllis Butow and her predecessor Mei Krishnasamy paved the way as the first allied health professionals to be President of COSA. Both Phyllis and Mei worked tirelessly to engage all professions and disciplines, not just their own, and focused their efforts on growing and maintaining COSA's relevance to our multidisciplinary membership.

So now, with myself at the helm, I would like to focus on a number of different activities, the first being to build stronger alliances with our Affiliated Organisations, especially the cancer cooperative trials groups (CCTGs). As President of the Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group (ALTG) I have first-hand experience of the challenges some of the CCTGs face. With COSA's support, together we can present a united and strong voice to funders, government and other stakeholders. COSA has a solid history in facilitating collaboration with the CCTGs, and with the introduction and growth of the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) it's more important now than ever that we continue to work together and build on the strength and successes of cancer trials.

As you will read in the following pages, COSA has many other Affiliated Organisations including the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) and the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA), both of which provide strong and mutually beneficial alliances. Originally established in 1978 under the inaugural chairmanship of Martin Tattersall, the Australian Society of Medical Oncology became a formal group within COSA in 1979 and changed its name to MOGA. In 1980 COSA formed an Oncology Nursing Group which really cemented COSA's multidisciplinary focus. In 1998 CNSA was officially established and members held a joint membership with COSA. As their society grew it was strategic for them to stand on their own feet and in 2012 CNSA formalised their independence from COSA. While MOGA and CNSA have gone on to become the leading professional groups for medical oncologists and cancer nurses respectively, COSA remains the only national group that brings all the key cancer professional disciplines together. Maintaining COSA's medical and nursing members through our relations with MOGA and CNSA is an important focus for our shared goals of quality cancer care for all.

We were all aware of the promises made in relation to health, particularly cancer, by both sides of government during the recent federal election campaign. COSA applauds and supports any commitment from the government to fund and improve cancer services for Australians with cancer, however, cancer policies should be bipartisan. At the time of the election the COSA Board agreed on the following priorities for the next government to action:

- Make clinical trials activity a performance indicator in Government appraisal of excellence and quality in cancer care delivery by cancer health facilities
- Ensure patients being treated on clinical trials can claim for any standard treatment costs incurred whilst on the trial
- Agree and implement standards for informed financial consent for cancer treatment

- Ensure the implementation of the MBS review recommendations does not create any payment gaps
- The elimination of out-of-pocket expenses for cancer patients
- Lead a federal response to inequitable patient travel and accommodation schemes
- Ensure the proposed change to the telehealth item number (ie, removal of item number 112 from the MBS) does NOT proceed
- Coordinated care for all cancer patients
- Funding for dedicated exercise professionals in all major cancer centres

If you would like to read more about this, COSA's full election priority document is available on the COSA website under "Publications".

Personally, I see COSA as a leading national cancer organisation, bringing together like-minded professional groups for a greater common purpose – the fight against cancer and the pursuit of

excellence in cancer care and research promotion. COSA's strength is its focus on integrated multidisciplinary cancer care. We are respected by many stakeholders, especially government agencies, and we will continue to speak on important issues relevant to our membership, and cancer patients and services. If you have a pressing issue you would like COSA to consider, the best avenue is through your relevant COSA Group Chair who represents your interests on COSA Council. Their contact details are included at the end of their individual reports on the following pages. If they haven't provided a report, the team in the COSA office will happily connect you. This year we will be seeking nominations to renew group Chair positions with new term durations in order to maintain a vibrant and active membership.

I look forward to working with the COSA membership for the next 18 months during my Presidency.

Nick Pavlakis
President

Australia Day Honours

COSA congratulates the following members of the oncology community who were recognised in the 2019 Australia Day Honours List.

Professor David Ball AO

For distinguished service to medicine in the field of radiation oncology, to medical education, and to professional bodies.

Dr Bronwyn King AO

For distinguished service to community health, particularly through advocacy for institutional investment strategies.

Mrs Lyn Swinburne AO

For distinguished service to women's health through advocacy roles, to public health governance, and to the community of Melbourne.

Professor Melanie Wakefield AO

For distinguished service to medical research in the fields of population health and cancer prevention, and as a mentor.

Professor Sanchia Aranda AM

For significant service to community health, particularly to cancer control and nursing.

Dr Andrew Brooks AM

For significant service to medicine, and to medical education, in the fields of urology and oncology.

Dr Nathan Cherny AM

For significant service to medicine, and to education, in the fields of palliative care and medical oncology.

Dr Katharine Drummond AM

For significant service to medicine in the field of neuro-oncology, and to community health.

Dr Judith Dwyer AM

For significant service to education in the field of health care management, and to medical administration.

Professor Afaf Girgis AM

For significant service to medicine, and to medical education, in the field of cancer control and psycho-oncology.

Professor Maria Kavallaris AM

For significant service to medicine, and to medical research, in the field of childhood and adult cancers.

Ms Karen Livingstone AM

For significant service to community health as an advocate for ovarian cancer research.

Ms Julie McCrossin AM

For significant service to the community, particularly through LGBTIQ advocacy roles, and to the broadcast media.

Professor Matthew Peters AM

For significant service to thoracic medicine, to medical education, and to professional organisations.

Mr Jim Siderov AM

For significant service to oncology pharmacy as a clinician, and to professional associations.

Professor David Whiteman AM

For significant service to medical research in the field of cancer epidemiology.

Mrs Susan McCullough OAM

For service to community health.

Mr Max Shub OAM

For service to the community health.

Chief Executive Officer's Report



Marie Malica, CEO, COSA

We've had a great start to 2019. Of course, the Cancer Survivorship Conference was a highlight, and you can read about that in Bogda's report, but that's not all we've been focussed on.

ATOM 2019

COSA has been hosting the Advanced Trainees Oncology Meeting (ATOM) for several years. In recent times it has grown in appeal and attendance. With sponsorship from Roche, we have been able to expand this event to invite trainees from every state, whereas the original event only included those from NSW. This year we hosted over 80 delegates in Sydney in March, with a packed program covering topics such as Phase I trials, fertility preservation for males and females, and the management of sarcoma, CUP, GBM and CNS disease. Feedback from the trainees was very positive with comments such as "Thank you very much for the invite, I took a lot out of the sessions and would definitely recommend it (and others) to my colleagues."

2018 COSA ASM

While numbers were expectedly lower due to the distance for the majority of our east coast members to travel to WA, those who did attend were engaged and had positive feedback on the program.

"For me the standout sessions were 'lung cancer screening session' and 'financial health'. They seemed well coordinated, each speaker was passionate yet evidence based, they contained components relevant to all disciplines and they led to important discussions." and

"Fantastic conference with very high-quality speakers. Loved the way the speakers acknowledged ALL the people who participated in their research or projects."

We often receive comments on some matters which are beyond our control, such as the distance for people to walk between sessions and the exhibition area. Due to the size of the COSA ASM, we must hold it on convention centres – hotels just aren't big enough for us – and whilst we do everything to select suitable venues, sometimes a little walk is necessary. And considering each session is 90 minutes, a walk between them helps us all reach our step goal!

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. These recordings are now available online for COSA members. Please visit the ASM section on the COSA website for more information. (<https://www.cosa.org.au/events/2018-asm-videos/cosa-2018-asm-videos/>)

2019 COSA ASM

Another thing people sometimes provide feedback on is the provision of backpacks. One delegate commented in the 2018 evaluation survey "Water fountains provided instead of a backpack maybe a keep cup would be better for the environment". I'm pleased to say this year in Adelaide we will be providing a refillable water bottle instead of a satchel or backpack, and there will be refill stations located throughout the exhibition hall.

This year's program is looking great, and by the time of publication I expect the detailed program will be available online. To ensure we are up to date with recent advances in cancer, not just treatment focussed, we've added some contemporary topics such as age and gender in cancer practice and global oncology. We will cover gender issues for both patients and health professionals, sexuality, couples, LGBTIQ+ issues, as well as age related matters for the very young and the very old. In a plenary on global health, one of our invited international speakers, Lena Sharp, will present the "global view on cancer and equity". She will be joined by Michael Barton presenting on "Cancer Care 2040 – meeting the global demand" and Hubertus Jersmann addressing "The impact of environmental changes on cancer".

Be sure to check the ASM website <http://cosa2019.org/> for all the up to date information on the program, key dates, registration and abstract instructions.

Submissions

So far this year we have made three submissions on different and important topics:

1. A response to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) National Clinical Trials Governance Framework Consultation in partnership with the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups
2. Feedback on the report from the Specialist and Consultant Physician Consultation Clinical Committee of the Medicare Benefits Scheme Taskforce in partnership with Cancer Council Australia

- A response to the ACSQHC draft National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards User Guide for Medication Management in Cancer Care

COSA Staff

In May the COSA team welcomed Lisa Meldrum to a newly created Administration Officer position. Lisa's background is in Customer Relations and Administration. Her role is to work closely with Fran and Project Management team to ensure we can effectively meet the requirements of our members. Lisa will be helping with general administration, member communications and the co-ordination of COSA events. We're very excited to have her on the team.

Marie Malica
Chief Executive Officer

Save the date!



Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia

COSA'S 47TH
ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC
MEETING

11-13 November 2020

**Brisbane Convention &
Exhibition Centre, QLD**

For more information please visit
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COSA Travel Grants

COSA is pleased to call for travel grant applications from financial Society members to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Adelaide from 12-14 November 2019. Each grant will be up to the value of \$1,000.

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

COSA Trainee Travel Grants

COSA trainee travel grants aim to assist oncology trainees in medical, surgical or radiation oncology to attend the ASM or the Trainees Weekend in Adelaide, 9-10 November 2019.

All travel grant applications close: Friday 16 August 2019

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

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

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social media?



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CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

FUTURE OF CANCER SURVIVORSHIP
EVOLUTION OR REVOLUTION?

28-29 MARCH 2019

Rydges World Square | Pitt St Sydney | NSW 2000



With the theme of “Future of cancer survivorship: evolution or revolution?” the 4th Flinders Survivorship Conference and the second in partnership with COSA was destined to be a bit of a breakthrough! And indeed, it was.

For starters, the meeting was oversubscribed! Time for a bigger venue in 2021! With 321 registrations, we had to close the books 2 weeks before the conference opened. We also had to have 2 shifts on poster boards to accommodate 116 abstracts, all of excellent quality.

Like before, the conference offered a diverse range of topics presented in close partnership with people affected by cancer including patients and carers. A frank, passionate and open discussion on the experience of surviving cancer was led by Julie McCrossin and Ben Bravery who set the tone for the rest of the meeting and compelled those of us who are health professionals to raise the bar on the quality of survivorship care now and into the future.

Discussions on cost of cancer care included a presentation by the very engaging and thought provoking Yousuf Zafar from Duke University and Australia’s own Sanchia Aranda who is leading the way in the area of financial disclosure in cancer.

A session on cardiovascular disease and cancer saw attendances from clinicians who never attend cancer meetings – we had a few cardiologists and cardiac nurses sneak in and lend their perspectives into this important topic which generated a lot of passionate discussion during and after.

And then there was art, living with advanced cancer, digital technology, sexuality and communication issues and many more topics.

A highlight of the last day was the Ashley Moore oration delivered by Professor Richard Cohn – a giant of paediatric oncology who leads the way in care for young cancer survivors. A very fitting tribute to a year of excellence in care and research and very well deserved.

Once again the meeting exceeded all expectations and prompted us to do more, try harder, reach higher! There is so much more to be done! We are already brainstorming ideas for 2021 – this time the meeting will return back to Adelaide only to hit the road again in 2023. If you have any suggestions on issues that the conference should focus on, please email be on bogda.koczwara@flinders.edu.au.

Bogda Koczwara
Conference Convenor



Haryana Dhillon and Judith Lacey



Catering to all



Bogda Koczwara with 2019 Ashley Moore recipient Richard Cohn



Arterie artwork on display



Some of the wonderful consumers in attendance



Julie McCrossin presenting



Posters on display

The Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care

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

Nominations are now open for the 2019 Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care, closing Monday 22 July 2019.

To be eligible nominees must:

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

Each nomination should include:

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

The successful nominee will be presented with a Gold Marryalyan at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in November at which he/she will deliver an address highlighting appropriate aspects of their area of professional interest, which will also be published in the Society's journal Cancer Forum.

Nominations and supporting documentation should be sent to cosa@cancer.org.au by Monday 22 July 2019.



Prof Grant McArthur 2018 Tom Reeve Award recipient with past recipients: Patsy Yates, Phyllis Butow AM and Alan Coates AM

Previous recipients of the Tom Reeve Award

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

COSA Group Reports

Cancer Care Coordination Group

The COSA Cancer Care Coordination Group plans for 2019 include a national survey of COSA members to scope cancer care coordination activities, an update of our position statement published in 2015, and continued hosting of our webinar series.

The national survey will build upon a previous survey that was distributed to our Group ten years ago. We expect the results will provide insights into the changing nature of the cancer care coordination environment and the professional development needs of health professionals in dedicated coordination roles. The data gathered will support our advocacy efforts to improve coordination of care at system, service and individual patient level. It will also provide important data to update COSA's Position Statement on Care Coordination in 2019 and develop professional development activities for our members.

Our next webinar is currently being planned and will be based on the digital health session delivered at the 2018 COSA ASM. This webinar will aim to provide care coordinators with the evidence and practical information about digital innovations in cancer care that will assist them in their role in caring for cancer patients. We will keep Group members updated on registration details for this event, so please make sure you have selected 'cancer care coordination' as a group or area of interest under your COSA membership profile.

Claire Kelly from Mater Health Services Brisbane has joined our executive team and will oversee the development of our biannual newsletter, The Coordinator. The first edition of the newsletter was distributed in March and included a range of updates, including stories and case studies relating to care coordination, as well as updates on recent reports and research on cancer care coordination. Please contact us if you would like to contribute to a future issue.

We are looking forward to the 2019 COSA ASM in Adelaide. There are a number of sessions that will be relevant to those with an interest in improving care coordination. I encourage you to review the program and consider attending the meeting. If you are involved in activities and research that you would like to share, I also encourage you to consider submitting an abstract for a poster or oral presentation.

As always, we are interested to hear from any members of the Group who would like to participate in our activities. Please contact Gillian Mackay (COSA Project Manager, gillian.mackay@cancer.org.au).

Patsy Yates
Chair, Cancer Care Coordination Group
p.yates@qut.edu.au

Cancer Pharmacists Group



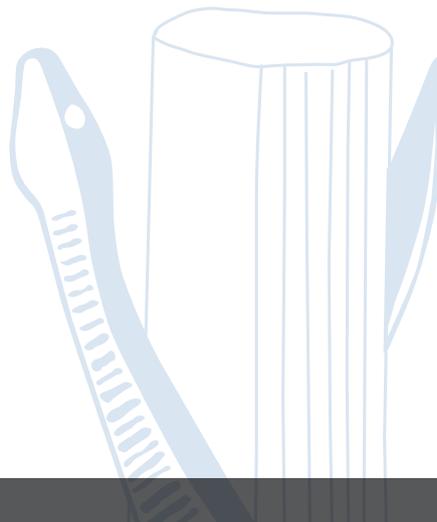
A great start to 2019 for the Cancer Pharmacists Group, and I'd like to thank all CPG members for their continued support for and involvement in various CPG activities so far this year. Whilst only a few CPG-led events have occurred since the December 2018 Marryalyan report, the CPG committee has been working furiously in the background readying for the Foundation and Advanced seminars, as well as the ASM in November.

Pharmacology of Cancer Chemotherapy for Advanced Trainees Workshop 16 February 2019 Melbourne

Krissy Carrington and I ran this workshop as a single event in Melbourne, rather than the previous Sydney/Brisbane/Melbourne locations. This format was hugely successful with 70+ medical oncology/haematology trainees attending.

CPG Foundation Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists Course 31 May - 2 June 2019 Brisbane

Again, the Foundation course has reached capacity (100 attendees) and by the time this report goes out the 12th iteration of the course will have



been delivered. Additional workshops have been added to the program this year that focuses on the essential clinical knowledge and skills required for cancer pharmacists. Thank-you to the CPG members who present at this course every year (Jim Siderov, Gail Rowan, Marissa Ryan, Geeta Sandhu, Krissy Carrington) as well as Courtney Oar who is stepping in this year. Thanks also to the fantastic sponsors who support the course.

CPG Advanced Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists Course 31 August - 1 September 2019 Melbourne

Planning is underway for the 10th CPG Advanced Course. Gail Rowan, Jim Siderov and Courtney Oar have commenced program and speaker coordination, so watch this space for details on this top-quality educational event. If there are any particular topics you're keen to see at the course, please get in touch.

CPG Pre-ASM Clinical Development Workshop 11 November 2019 Adelaide

The CPG are committed to holding a Pre-ASM Clinical Development Workshop on Monday 11 November. CPG members Jenny Casanova and Kimberley-Ann Kerr are also coordinating the program for this workshop, so keep an eye on the COSA website for once

2019 COSA ASM 12 - 14 November Adelaide Convention Centre

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, are the CPG representatives on the ASM organising committee. There are many fantastic pharmacist-containing sessions, have a look at the COSA ASM website for more details. The Medicines Matter session this year is on Wednesday 13 November, with a health literacy focus. Just a reminder 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.

Other activities

Huge kudos to Krissy Carrington and Jim Siderov for their ongoing involvement in the drafted ACSQHC/NCERG National Chemotherapy Governance Framework Working Group – this Guide was recently out for feedback (thank-you to those who submitted feedback), and we look forward to the final publication.

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 205, 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

See you all at the various education CPG-led educational events this year, and of course at the Adelaide COSA ASM.

Dan McKavanagh
Deputy Chair,
Cancer Pharmacists Group
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Clinical Trials Research Professionals Group

Members of the CTRPG Executive Committee (EC) represent regional and metropolitan clinical trials research organisations across Australia. Our current committee members are: Annette Cubitt, Clinical Trial Manager, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, QLD (Chair); Dianne Lindsay, Clinical Research Consultant, Newcastle, NSW (Deputy Chair); Alison Richards, Clinical Trials Manager, Flinders Medical Centre, SA (Secretary); Joanne Benhamu, Senior Research Nurse, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, VIC; Natasha Roberts, Research Coordinator, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, QLD; and, Adam Stoneley, Clinical Trial Operations Manager, ICON Cancer Foundation, Brisbane, QLD.



Annette Cubitt

We welcomed Joanne Benhamu as a member of the committee this year; Joanne brings new skills and is already making a strong contribution during our regular meetings held by teleconference. There are currently opportunities for two people to join the committee and nominations from COSA members are welcomed. Anyone who is keen to be involved and would like more information can contact us; our email addresses are at the end of this article.

It is pleasing to report that during the first half of the year significant progress has been made on our project plan for 2019/20. Our overall aim is to improve quality standards of research within the scope of clinical trials management. Examples of activities underway this year include:

- Developing a stimulating agenda and approaching experienced presenters for a Clinical Professional Day Workshop on Monday 11 November prior to the COSA Annual Meeting in Adelaide. An application for funding to support this workshop was submitted in May;
- Submitted a response to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care National Clinical Trials Governance Framework Consultation, in liaison with Cancer Cooperative Trials Group Chairs and members of the Executive Officers Network;
- Continued to serve as a reference group for COSA. The CTRPG Executive Committee is keen to assist with projects initiated by other COSA Groups, allied cancer cooperative Groups and organisations that aim to facilitate clinical trials research.

Last year an exciting and engaging Clinical Professional Day Workshop was chaired by Sanela Bilic, a member of the Executive Committee who recently stepped down. Sanela worked very hard to develop an informative agenda and

was assisted by a small subcommittee based in Perth. The workshop was very well received, with increased numbers attending and we were encouraged to receive positive feedback: *“topics presented were comprehensive, sessions well designed, relevant, questions were encouraged, presenters were experienced, really enjoyed presentations about a patient’s cancer journey”*.

We hope to build on this success by organising another workshop this year, with the theme of “Making a Difference – Trial e-file Systems and Patient Reported Outcomes”. The agenda will be based on topics suggested by members that they considered to be relevant for their continuing professional development, particularly topics where limited opportunities are available to achieve training updates.

During the morning session we plan to explore the benefits and challenges of implementing electronic site files, providing an understanding of the key considerations when setting up a system. There will be interactive discussion sessions and case studies to demonstrate the issues associated with electronic filing as well as help participants to identify the significant benefits and develop preventive solutions to overcome common challenges. An experienced presenter has been identified to lead this session and trial coordinators who have recently implemented trial e-filing systems will share their experiences.

Patient Reported Outcome (PRO) research provides unique information on the impact of cancer and cancer treatment from the patient’s perspective. The afternoon session will address all aspects of PRO research from inclusion in trial protocols to the implementation of PRO tools and data collection in site practice to optimise data quality and minimise missing data. Attendees will gain technical and practical skills to more efficiently and effectively integrate PRO research into everyday workflow

and should be prepared to share their own challenges and bring along questions.

The CTRPG pages of the COSA website have been updated and aim to enable people to easily locate guidance on day to day issues relating to clinical trials research with links to educational resources and national and international organisations. The “Discussion” tab on the Group area of the COSA website can be used by members who are seeking advice about clinical trials management, ethics and governance issues or training opportunities. Enter a query and members of the CTRPG Executive Committee will do our best to provide a prompt and informative response.

While much progress has been achieved, we are keen to continue our efforts to ensure that cancer clinical trials research in Australia improves outcomes for patients. The aim of the CTRPG is to support this process by doing all that we can to foster high quality clinical trials and research processes. Please do not hesitate to contact members of the committee for help with any queries; our contact details are available on the COSA website. We look forward to the opportunity to meet and network with colleagues during the next COSA Clinical Professional Day Workshop and the Annual Scientific Meeting in November in Adelaide.

Annette Cubitt, Chair
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Integrative Oncology Group

Integrative oncology is a rapidly growing field in comprehensive cancer care worldwide. In keeping with the times, the long established and well supported COSA Complementary and Integrative Therapies (CITs) Group has changed its name to the Integrative Oncology (IO) Group as we develop to become an integral part of a rapidly developing worldwide trend in holistic supportive cancer care. The Society of Integrative Oncology (SIO) was established in 2003 with a clear mission: to advance evidence-based, comprehensive, integrative health care to improve the lives of people affected by cancer. In November 2017 this definition was formally released as “integrative oncology”. Published in JNCI, the definition process was described and the following definition published: ⁽¹⁾

“Integrative oncology is a patient-centered, evidence informed field of cancer care that utilises mind and body practices, natural products and/ or lifestyle modifications from different traditions alongside conventional cancer treatments. Integrative oncology aims to optimise health, quality of life, and clinical outcomes across the cancer care continuum, and to empower people to prevent cancer and become active participants before, during and beyond cancer treatments.”

With the development of cancer treatments, many people with a diagnosis of cancer, whether considered curable or incurable will be receiving therapies with the aim to prolong survival and improve quality of life. Furthermore, newer therapies are now seeing people living with a cancer and often receiving ongoing treatments to control their disease. These treatments all carry their own toxicities and benefits. In order to live the best quality of life with a cancer

diagnosis, the care for the whole person and the effect on physical, psychological and social wellbeing is very important. Management of many cancer related symptoms requires a comprehensive integrated approach, which increasingly includes evidence-based, non-invasive complementary therapies. Therapies such as massage, yoga, mindfulness meditation, and acupuncture coupled with good holistic medical care, nutritional support and exercise have been shown to be beneficial for managing common cancer related symptoms (eg: fatigue, nausea, pain, neuropathy) as well as improving quality of life of people with cancer. There is a distinct difference between complementary and integrative therapies (CIM) and alternative therapies for people living with cancer. Complementary therapies are provided alongside standard cancer therapies NOT in place of them (alternative).

As a COSA Group, our aim is to continue to develop this field and to create a space for safe, evidence informed integration of selected complementary therapies to strive towards the ongoing improvements of supportive cancer care for Australian patients. Ongoing research in this field is growing rapidly and services are developing in most cancer centres worldwide. COSA and SIO (International Integrative Oncology Group) both support the importance of research, education and improving communication between practitioners for safe integration of complementary therapies in the cancer space.

COSA IO Group Objectives

The COSA IO Group Executive Committee recently met to revise our Terms of Reference with the revised objectives of the Group being to:

- Provide a voice for COSA members interested or engaged in the provision of evidence based complementary and integrative therapies in cancer care

- Advocate for equity of access for all Australians with cancer and their carers to integrative oncology
- Foster interdisciplinary collaboration to promote integrative models of care
- Raise awareness of the contribution of integrative oncology in improving cancer outcomes
- Advocate for improved standards in professional development and resources related to integrative oncology
- Advocate for research into integrative oncology
- Provide educational opportunities for health professionals related to integrative Oncology

Recent Activities

On 1 May 2019, an inaugural education symposium ***Integrative Oncology: Changing the Face of Cancer Care*** was held in Sydney at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, followed by a roundtable research strategy meeting. It was booked out with over 85 attendees from all around Australia.



The event was a collaboration of Chris O'Brien Lifehouse and NICM Health Research Institute with Judith Lacey as convenor and world expert in integrative oncology Moshe Frenkel the keynote speaker. Dr Frenkel is a clinical Associate Professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch and founder of the Integrative Medicine Clinic, at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston Texas.



Integrative oncology is a fast-evolving field as more patients seek a holistic approach to their disease and symptoms. Dr Frenkel was one of the earliest leaders in the field and instrumental in setting up the MD Anderson program. He contributed significantly to the SIO and to much of the literature in the field. The symposium explored the past, present and future of integrative oncology and how it is changing the way we care for people with cancer and their families. We looked at models of services from around the globe and also where we are at in Australia. COSA IO Group Executive Committee member, Dr Suzanne Grant gave an overview of the services nationally and representatives from Peter Mac, Bloomhill, Oasis, NICM and Chris O'Brien Lifehouse presented their models of service delivery from around Australia.

The research strategy round table was well attended and a robust discussion chaired by Prof Alan Bensoussan was very constructive. Members of the COSA IO Group and other interested parties discussed the role of the COSA IO Group as a national peak body to represent integrative oncology in the global space. The Group will work towards writing a

white paper on integrative oncology and propose a formal relationship with the international peak body SIO.

This is an exceptionally exciting time to be involved in integrative oncology in supportive cancer care and we look forward to moving this field forward, together as a united and dynamic group.

Reference:

1. Claudia M. Witt Lynda G. Balneaves Maria J. Cardoso Lorenzo Cohen Heather Greenlee Peter Johnstone Ömer Küçük Josh Mailman Jun J. Mao A Comprehensive Definition for Integrative Oncology. JNCI Monographs, Volume 2017, Issue 52, 1 November 2017, lgx012, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jncimonographs/lgx012>

Judith Lacey

Chair, Integrative Oncology Group

Judith.Lacey@lh.org.au



Epidemiology Group

Personalised risk-based cancer screening and prevention programs are critical to reduce overdiagnosis and improve the balance between the benefits and harms of screening. Such targeted programs will avoid unnecessary health costs and improve patient experience and outcomes.

The Epidemiology Group is organising a session on Personalising Cancer Prevention and Screening during the 2019 COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide. This multidisciplinary session will feature an excellent line-up of speakers who will present and discuss current personalised cancer screening approaches from a clinical, epidemiological, health economics and policy perspectives. The session will be co-chaired by Professor Jon Emery from the University of Melbourne and Associate Professor Claire Vajdic from the University of New South Wales.

Confirmed Speakers:

- A/Professor Anne Cust- University of Sydney- Melanoma Prevention and Screening.
- Dr Michael O'Callaghan- The University of Adelaide-Prostate Cancer Screening.
- Professor Sanchia Aranda - Cancer Council NSW- Cancer Screening: a Policy Perspective
- Professor Jonathan Karnon – Flinders University- Value-based Cancer Screening

The session will be held from 11:00am - 12:30pm, 14 November 2019 at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, SA.

Haithum Tuffaha

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

Exercise and Cancer Group

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

New Executive Committee Members

The Exercise and Cancer Group warmly welcomes the new members to the executive committee who bring a wide range of experience and expertise:

- David Mizrahi: Exercise Physiologist and Researcher, University of New South Wales and Kids Cancer Centre, Sydney Children's Hospital
- Tina Skinner: Exercise Physiology Researcher, University of Queensland
- Elysia Thornton-Benko: Cancer Specialist General Practitioner
- Sara Wahlroos: Medical Oncologist and Researcher, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney and Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Additionally, existing committee member Andrew Murnane, Exercise Physiologist at Peter

MacCallum Cancer Centre has been appointed as the Group's Deputy Chair. Thank you all for volunteering your time to contribute to the Exercise and Cancer Group.

Implementation Working Group

The work of the Exercise and Cancer Implementation Working Group has kicked off. The working Group consists of 18 professionals representing many different discipline groups in cancer care and implementation science. The working Group has a vision of developing "Nationally consistent referral pathways for personalized exercise plans (which take into account different locations, resources and patient needs)". These pathways will guide the development of an implementation strategy to integrate exercise within routine cancer care. A face-to-face workshop is planned for 30 August 2019 to progress this work.

Action Plan for 2019 - 2020

The Executive Committee is working on a plan for continued progress towards the Groups vision. The Group will embark on a suite of activities focused on increased awareness of the role of exercise in cancer care; education across all stakeholder groups about the evidence underpinning the COSA position statement and practical strategies to help facilitate exercise engagement; as well as advocating for changes in policy and practice.

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

Prue Cormie
Chair, Exercise and Cancer Group
prue.cormie@acu.edu.au

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Familial Cancer Group

The Familial Cancer Group executive committee is currently finalising the 2019 Familial Cancer Clinics Clinical Professional Day (FCC CPD) to be held on Tuesday 27 August 2019, at the Mantra resort, Kingscliff, NSW.

Sessions will focus on Melanoma, Familial Haematological Cancer, Li Fraumeni Syndrome and Paediatric Oncology. Sessions will provide research updates from the following studies; Australian Familial Haematological Cancer Study, Zero Childhood Cancer Program and Surveillance in Multi Organ Cancer (SMOC) prone syndrome study.

Confirmed international speaker Professor David Malkin from Sick Kids Toronto will be presenting regarding Li Fraumeni Syndrome. Local speakers include Professor Graham Mann, Dr Anna Brown, Dr Nicola Poplawski, Dr Mandy Ballinger, Rowan Forbes Shepherd and Vanessa Tyrrell.

The FCC CPD is held the day before the Familial Aspects of Cancer (FAC) Research and Practice meeting arranged by kConFab and both meetings are informative and clinically relevant to those working in the area of Familial Cancer. However, all COSA members are welcome to attend. See link for more details (www.kconfab.org).

The FCG has also provided input into content to be presented at the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA) conference to be held in Wellington on 3-6 August 2019. The program features a session dedicated to cancer genetics and will feature presentations from A/Prof Kathy Tucker on mainstreaming and cancer genetics, Dr Robert Weinkove on Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cells and Dr Finlay Macrae on CAPP3 Study and risk management in Familial

Colorectal Cancer. For further details see www.hgsa.org.au.

We are currently preparing a session for the 2019 COSA ASM, details will be provided in further reports or can be found at www.cosa.org.au.

We are also working on updating prescribing guidelines for the use of SERMS to lower breast cancer risk, which when finalised can be found on the COSA website. The Mainstream Genetic Testing Working Party on behalf of the FCG are also finalising an e-learning module for upskilling health professionals on ordering genetic testing in oncology so stay tuned for further details on this.

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

Psycho-Oncology Group

COSA's Annual Scientific meeting will be in Adelaide this year. The themes for this year's conference are Putting Precision and Personalisation into Practice: Urological cancer, Age and gender in cancer practice, and Digital health in cancer. I anticipate that the themes for this conference are likely to be of particular interest to the wider Psycho-oncology group.

Professor Matt Loscalzo from City of Hope, California, has been confirmed as an international speaker for COSA 2019. Matt has a particular interest in gender and cancer and in 2018 published Gender in Psycho-oncology alongside Professor Youngmee Kim. Undoubtedly Matt will provide a stimulating perspective on psychosocial care in cancer and gender.

The psycho-oncology content of COSA 2019 promises to meet the expectations of our members with Professor Bogda

Koczwara AM as conference convenor and Dr Lisa Beatty representing psycho-oncology on the COSA organising committee. Key dates for COSA 2019 are 5 July: Symposia submissions close, 9 August: Abstract submissions close, 13 September: Early bird registration closes and 12 November: COSA ASM 2019 commences.

I look forward to seeing you in Adelaide in November. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with me at laura.kirsten@health.nsw.gov.au if you have any ideas you would like to share.

Laura Kirsten
Chair, COSA Psycho-oncology Group / Australian Psycho-Oncology Society
laura.kirsten@health.nsw.gov.au

Regional and Rural Group

New Executive Committee Member

We would like to welcome Dr Kate Gunn to the Regional & Rural Executive Committee as a new allied health representative. Kate is a research fellow at the University of South Australia Cancer Research Institute/Institute for Choice/Department of Rural Health. Her background as a PhD trained psychologist enables her to conduct high quality, partnered psycho-oncology, rural health and mental health-focused research that has real-world impact. She has a specific interest in the unique needs of cancer patients and survivors from rural and indigenous backgrounds.

Submission to MBS Review Committee

Telehealth is vital to providing multidisciplinary cancer care close to home for rural and remote patients. COSA was alerted to a proposed change

to telehealth item numbers as part of the review by the Medicare Benefits Scheme taskforce. On behalf of the Regional & Rural Group, COSA and Cancer Council Australia developed a joint letter to provide feedback on the report.

The proposed removal of MBS item numbers 99 and 112 would increase out of pocket costs for patients in telehealth consultations and, in some cases, could lead to the cessation of this important service delivery. COSA has suggested a model of care approach to telehealth using the established Townsville teleoncology model and Queensland Remote Chemotherapy Supervision (QReCS) model as successful examples.

A copy of the joint COSA and CCA letter can be viewed on the COSA website under submissions.

Election Priorities

COSA's recommended priorities for the 2019 Federal Election include ensuring that the proposed change to telehealth item numbers (i.e. removal of item number 112 from the MBS) does not proceed. COSA has suggested a model of care approach to telehealth to support service arrangements focusing on patient needs.

Further details are available at:

<https://www.cosa.org.au/publications/2019-federal-election-priorities/>

Rob Zielinski
Chair, Regional and Rural Group
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Survivorship Group

The first half of 2019 has been a busy and productive time for the Survivorship Group. In late March, the Flinders COSA Survivorship Conference was held again, for the first time away from Adelaide continuing the partnership between the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer and COSA. The Sydney location and the diverse program built around the theme of "Future of cancer survivorship: evolution or revolution?" delivered record registrations and abstracts. For full report on the conference see page 5.

Alongside this conference, the Survivorship Executive also held strategic planning discussions, informed by feedback provided by many of you in our recent member survey. Thirty-two members responded to the survey and identified priority areas for future work. Based on this feedback and the Executive discussions, the key areas of work for the Group in 2019 include 1. models of care implementation, 2. patient reported outcomes (PROs) implementation, 3. research capacity building, 4. advocacy for better survivorship services and 5. member engagement.

Over the forthcoming months we will be reaching out to our members to better understand how they deliver survivorship care (or not) and how we can better support them in clinical practice and/or research along these priority themes.

To deliver on our work in these areas and to ensure that the Group is broadly representative of diverse regions and craft groups, we will be calling for expressions of interest from members

to join the Group Executive Committee to add their perspectives and insights. This is particularly important as we say good-bye to an amazing champion of cancer survivorship, Haryana Dhillon, who has now stepped down from the Executive. Hary was the inaugural lead of the Group responsible for shaping the survivorship agenda and almost single handedly developing the COSA Survivorship Model of Care and spearheaded many of the new survivorship initiatives such as the PRO Think Tank. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Hary for her generous input, wise insights, and warm collegial support offered at all hours to me and the rest of the Executive team.

I would also like to acknowledge Karolina Lisy who has been outstanding in her work as an Editor of the Survivorship Newsletter. Look out for it in early July to give you more detailed update on what is ahead in the survivorship space.

Lastly, it is now time to plan for survivorship sessions at the Adelaide ASM in November. This year's focus is on urological oncology with some excellent survivorship topics already in the program. Also, digital technology, gender issues and perhaps some hands on exercise sessions to tempt you... It is going to be an awesome 2019! See you in Adelaide!

Bogda Koczwara AM
Chair, Survivorship Group
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Other Reports

COSA Tele-Trials Project - A Pilot Implementation of the



Australasian Tele-Trial Model

The tele-trials project was originally scoped as a two-year project due for completion by 30 June 2019. We are pleased to inform you that we have successfully secured funds to extend the project by another year. The project has achieved many of its milestones including development of tele-trial SOPs and streamlined governance approval processes in Queensland, establishment of steering committees/ working groups in VCCC, Queensland, NSW and WA, and activation of industry and investigator – initiated tele-trials in Queensland, Victoria and NSW with more than 16 patients recruited.

The project extension will allow time for increased recruitment to a greater number of clinical trials at project sites to fully test processes and integrate the Model into sites particularly in NSW and Victoria. The extension will also allow ongoing support of sites outside the project funded sites and continued engagement of sponsors through the project's Cancer Cooperative Trials Group and Medicines Australia Industry Advisory Group to coordinate

adoption of uniform processes and facilitate problem solving as the Tele-Trial Model is rolled out.

Governance and process reforms are critical to the implementation of the Tele-Trial Model and this is a key activity of the project. The project extension will also allow continued engagement with the Departments of Health (DOH) at State and Federal level through the project DOH Advisory Group to ensure tele-trials remains firmly on the agenda at State and Federal level and to provide ongoing project support for the National Mutual Acceptance process for tele-trial SOPs, Supervision Plans and sub-contracts.

Since our last report two project sites have opened tele-trials in Victoria and NSW and commenced recruitment. An investigator - initiated tele-trial is open at the VCCC with Peter Mac as the primary site and Albury and Bendigo as satellites. Six patients have been recruited at Albury and Bendigo and VCCC plan to open two more tele-trials with the inclusion of at least one more regional site in Victoria soon. St Vincent's Hospital are treating a patient on an ALLG Multiple Myeloma trial using the tele-trial model. The patient lives over 500km from St Vincent's Hospital and was hesitant to participate due to the distance. The patient now has their clinical trial therapy at his local treatment centre in Wagga Wagga. An international lung screening trial which is being run as a tele-trial between St Vincent's in Sydney and Dubbo is also open and is estimated to give access to lung cancer screening to over 100 patients within the next 6 months.

The Eli Lilly adjuvant breast cancer study - Monarch E in Queensland which opened as a tele-trial in two 'clusters' is now closed to recruitment. The two tele-trial clusters were: Townsville as

the primary site working with Cairns, Mackay and Mt Isa as satellites; and Gold Coast as the primary site working with Hervey Bay as a satellite site. Four sites were activated as part of the trial, eight extra staff received GCP training, 11 patients were consented from satellites and 9 were randomised. The interim monitoring reports have not identified any protocol violations.

Also in Queensland, a Roche adjuvant lung cancer study ALINA is open as a tele-trial between Princess Alexander Hospital as the primary site and Cairns, Townsville and Toowoomba as the satellites. A Novartis tele-trial is also open between Cairns as the primary and Mackay and Townsville as the satellites.

The AGITG ASCOLT study which has been open as a tele-trial between Orange and Dubbo hospital in NSW since December 2017 continues to recruit patients. Another AGITG trial the MONARCC Study for colorectal cancer will open as a tele-trial between Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and North Lakes imminently.

Stakeholder engagement through presentations at conferences and meetings continues. A tele-trials forum will be held in collaboration with VCCC at ARCS this year, and an abstract will be submitted for the ACTA International Clinical Trials Conference in October. We will also be presenting tele-trials in a concurrent session 'Tyranny of distance for patients and health professionals' at the COSA ASM this year in Adelaide.

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

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

In March, the RENO study officially opened and enrolled its first patient. RENO is studying the 'Watch and Wait' strategy for patients with rectal cancer who have developed a clinical complete response with concurrent chemo-radiotherapy.

The first AGITG trial site in Japan has opened as part of the INTEGRATE II study. INTEGRATE II is a randomised phase III trial investigating the treatment of gastro-oesophageal cancer with regorafenib. The opening of the site, which is being led by Dr Shitara, represents a significant collaborative relationship with Japanese investigators for the AGITG.

Excellence in GI cancer research and treatment was recognised on the Australia Day 2019 Honours list, with two GI surgeons receiving medals. Associate Professor Jaswinder Samra received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to medicine as a pancreatic specialist. An OAM was also awarded to Professor Jeffrey Hamdorf for significant service to medical education and medicine in the bariatric surgery.



Professor Chris Karapetis, Principal Investigator of the RENO trial.

AGITG Trials Open to Recruitment

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.

DYNAMIC-III: Circulating tumour DNA analysis informing adjuvant chemotherapy in stage III colon cancer: A multi-centre phase II/III randomised controlled study.

DYNAMIC-PANCREAS: Circulating tumour DNA analysis informing adjuvant chemotherapy in early stage pancreatic cancer: A multicentre randomised study.

DYNAMIC-RECTAL: Circulating tumour DNA analysis informing adjuvant chemotherapy in locally advanced rectal cancer: A multicentre randomised study.

INTEGRATE II: A randomised phase III double-blind placebo-controlled study of regorafenib in refractory advanced gastro-oesophageal cancer.

LIBERATE: A phase II 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 II 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.

RENO: A prospective study of 'Watch and Wait' strategy in patients with rectal cancer who have developed a clinical complete response with concurrent chemo-radiotherapy.

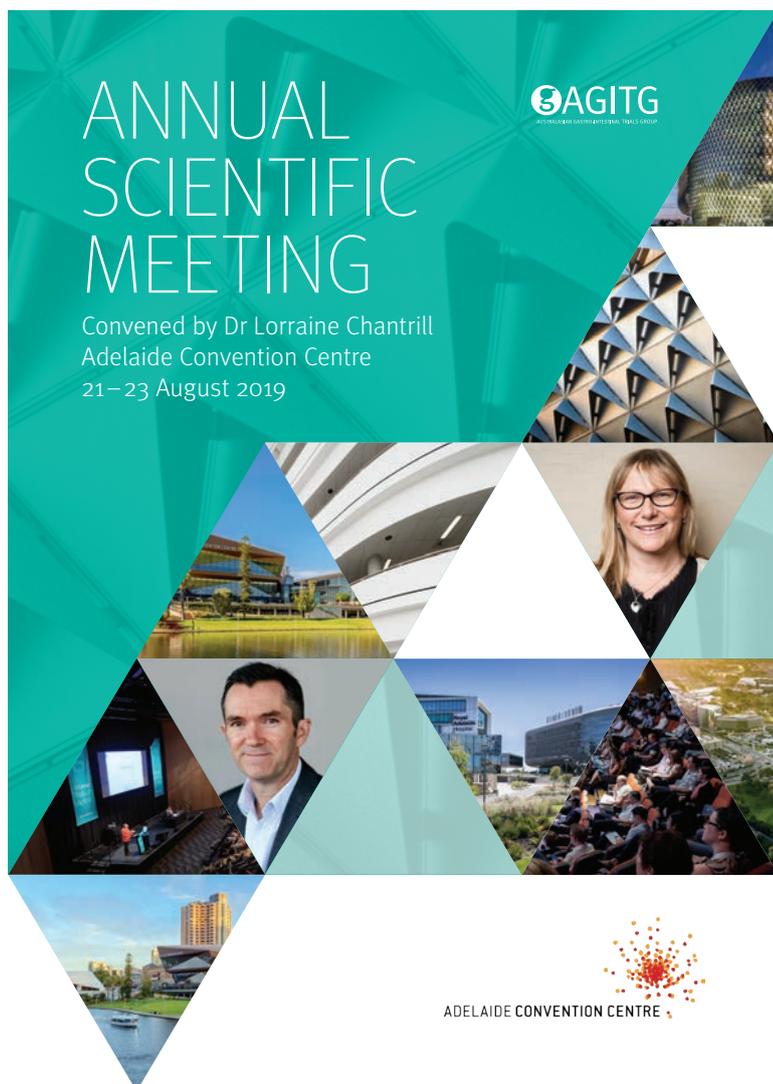
SPAR: A randomised, placebo-controlled phase II trial of simvastatin in addition to standard chemotherapy and radiation in preoperative treatment for rectal cancer.

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.

Meetings and Events

Idea Generation Workshop

The AGITG Idea Generation Workshop was an opportunity for our members to identify key areas for future GI oncology research. Members met on 21 June to discuss ideas from a variety of disciplines and identify how they could be developed into AGITG trials in the future.



**Annual Scientific Meeting: 21-23
August 2019, Adelaide Convention
Centre**

Widely known throughout Australasia as the premier meeting in the gastro-intestinal (GI) cancer space, the AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting provides a forum where, on behalf of GI cancer patients, the enigmatic nature of gastro-intestinal cancer is challenged. The three day program and shared exchange of knowledge is designed to uncover the mysteries of the many cancers that are GI cancer and meet the challenges facing health professionals in the treatment for this group of cancers.

For more information or to register, go to www.asm.gicancer.org.au.



Developing your research with the AGITG

We encourage investigators to bring research concepts forward through the various avenues and opportunities offered by the AGITG. All concepts are reviewed by either the Upper or Lower GI Working Parties or the Consumer Advisory Panel. To learn more about developing your research with us, go to www.gicancer.org.au/research/developing-our-research/.

The Gutsy Challenge

The people who take on the Gutsy Challenge raise much-needed funds for vital research to find a cure for Australians diagnosed with a GI cancer. There are

two massive Gutsy Challenges coming up in 2019:

- Cape to Cape: A 135km trek through Western Australia's Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park;
- Southern Alps: A trek through over 70km of the stunning Southern Alps in New Zealand.

If you're looking for a challenge and would like to make a difference for people with GI cancers, there are limited places available in both teams. Find out more at www.gicancer.org.au/getinvolved.

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.



Professor Jaswinder Samra OAM, recognised in the 2019 Australia Day Honours List for his work as a pancreatic surgeon.

Tim Price
Chairperson, AGITG

Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group



MRFF Supporting ALLG Clinical Researchers

Last year, the Liberal National Government announced that they will provide \$38.6 million to support 23 new clinical trials to improve treatments and discover cures for debilitating and deadly rare cancers and rare diseases.

The Rare Cancers, Rare Diseases and Unmet Need Clinical Trials program focuses on clinical trials that address areas of health burden and unmet need including blood cancer.

This funding, through our Government's landmark Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), aims to enhance clinical trial activity, treatments, cures, and extend and improve quality of life for Australians living with devastating conditions.

On 15 February, it was announced that funding was allocated to the following ALLG Members:

- **Prof Judith Trotman's** clinical trial was awarded \$787,000. The clinical trial will evaluate PET-guided, response-adapted therapy in patients with newly diagnosed advanced follicular lymphoma;
- **A/Prof Andrew Wei's** clinical trial was awarded \$1,380,297.60. The clinical trial will test different treatment options aimed to improve the lives of older patients with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia; and

- **Prof Maher Gandhi's** clinical trial was awarded \$3,596,966.90. The clinical trial will incorporate early application of CAR-T Cells for Primary Refractory Aggressive Lymphoma.

This is the third round of grants announced the under Rare Cancers, Rare Diseases and Unmet Need Clinical Trials program taking the total funding announced under this program to \$75 million.

Building on more than \$36 million already announced under the Rare Cancers, Rare Diseases and Unmet Needs Clinical Trial program, the increase of funding was launched in January 2018.

The \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund was established as an endowment fund to provide a sustainable source of funding for vital medical research. It is the single largest boost in health and medical research funding in Australia's history.

Congratulations to the three ALLG Members who have been awarded funding from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) to improve treatments and discover cures for rare cancers and rare diseases. Also, a big thank you to the Medical Research Future Fund, clinical trials like these will bring hope and save lives.

AML in 2019 and Beyond

On 21 March 2019, the ALLG in conjunction with the VCCC hosted 'AML in 2019 and Beyond' at Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

The event centred around current research in AML and future directions with special guest Prof Bob Lowenberg from the Netherlands (founder of HOVON and current Editor of Blood journal), who offered invaluable insight into abnormal biological features of leukaemia.

Hosted by Prof Andrew Roberts and A/Prof Andrew Wei, the event consisted of five distinct sessions, and included specific ALM disease forums, including an ALLG -HOVON discussion, and

whether the AML trials are answering the right questions.

Over 160 Haematologists, Scientists and Research Fellows attended the event with many suggesting that the day be expanded to all blood cancer disease groups.

An event feedback form was completed by a number of attendees with 100% saying the meeting met their expectation with over 50% giving an 'Excellent' rating of each of the five sessions. With almost 100% of responders suggesting holding the event again in 2020, they also suggested to hold similar events for MDS, ALL, paediatric AML. The venue and event organisation rated mostly 'excellent', with a few 'good' and a couple of 'average and 'poor' ratings.

Some of the feedback included comments such as "I enjoyed everything, it was a fantastic program", "There was a good balance of lab and clinical research", and "Great job, I enjoyed it very much! Thanks for all of the hard work that went into this."

During the event, Andrew Wei offered a number of insights as to the treatment landscape for acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) – and hopefully patient outcomes in Australia over the next decade. He stated, "I believe that treatments for AML are expected to change significantly over the next couple of years. There is enthusiasm to determine how the new drugs could best be used in clinical practice and what impact they will have on the biology of AML and patient outcomes." "We're likely to see several of the other drugs come to Australia over the next couple of years so the implication of that is the treatment landscape will change quite dramatically over the next two or three years in this country." "There will be a greater level of personalisation of therapy because several of these medications are targeting specific mutations. Patients will need to have the mutation identified and then they will get a specific drug." "We are moving more into a precision

medicine era whereas for the last 50 years we were basically just using the same chemotherapy drugs for everyone”, said Andrew.

An important theme to come out of the day was acknowledging what the next challenge in AML is, and how can we make further improvements in the outcome?



May 2019 Scientific Meeting featuring Delaine Smith (ALLG CEO) and Prof Anne Kelso (NHMRC CEO)



AML day featuring the keynote speakers, with Prof Bob Lowenberg

ALLG Members Scientific Meeting

We recently held our biannual Scientific Meeting for our members in Sydney. Over 300 Doctors, nurses, scientists and professional staff attended the event.

Throughout the course of the 4-day meeting we heard from A/Prof Andrei Shustov (Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, United States) discuss novel therapies at The Lymphoma Clinical Research Workshop. We discussed the planned MRFF funded CAR T-cell clinical trial which featured across many of the sessions, and the plans to expand the number of hospitals participating in the NHL32, PETReA study.

Thank you to all that attended, and we look forward to the next Scientific Meeting. **If you would like to know more about the ALLG, please visit the ALLG website (www.allg.org.au)**

Delaine Smith
CEO, ALLG

Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group



The Lung Cancer Group activities summarised below are activities undertaken by the ALTG. Opportunity exists for lobbying by COSA on behalf of its Lung Group in support of the lung cancer community in general to reduce stigma and raise the profile of lung cancer in pursuit of funding.

ALTG Activity

Since the last reporting period, I, as ALTG President together with ALTG members and the lung cancer clinical community, have been active in supporting Lung Foundation Australia's (LFA) Free From Stigma (FFS) campaign designed to challenge the perceptions of the Australian public, including policy & decision makers, funding bodies and

general community and advocate that people living with lung cancer deserve equity of treatment, care and support as people living with other chronic illnesses. FFS is the second phase of the LFA stigma campaign and has generated millions of media mentions and never-before-seen engagement with both major political parties around lung cancer funding and policy.

I also attended the Canadian Cancer Trials Group Spring meeting in Toronto (1-3 May 2019) as a valuable partnership building exercise. This builds on past trial collaborations (BR24, BR31, B#34) between the two groups in pursuit of opportunities to collaborate in future trials.

Upcoming Events

The ALTG has several events on the calendar in 2019 for participation by COSA Lung Group members:

ALTG ASM: Delivering Precision Medicine for Lung Cancer – 18 - 19 July 2019 (Sydney)

ALTG's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) (previously the ALTG Symposium) brings together leading Australasian cancer health professionals for a 2-day experience unlike any other, providing access to the most up-to-date advances in lung and thoracic cancers. ALTG is delighted to host Alexander Drilon (Clinical Director, Early Drug Development Service from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center New York USA) as a special international guest speaker at the ASM. Event program, registration and abstract submission details can be accessed via: <https://altg.com.au/event/altg-annual-scientific-meeting/>. Abstracts are invited and there will be a prize for best poster and best oral abstract presentation. In addition, attendees and ALTG members are invited to submit new study concepts for protocol development, the best of which will be presented for open discussion in order to take forward.

Consumers in Research Workshop – 17 July 2019 (Sydney)

Engaging capable consumers in research is critical and benefits both the quality and the direction of research. As part of the ASM program, the ALTG Consumer Advisory Panel will host a full-day workshop designed to educate and activate patients living with or impacted by lung cancer to participate in research initiatives, including clinical trials. Included in this workshop will be presentations from Cancer Australia's National Technical Services including the Health and pharmaco-economic services and Quality of Life office. Other topics will include the role of consumers in research, introduction to clinical trials (phases and processes), and how to become a "capable consumer" in research. 10 travel grants are also available to support attendance from interstate patients. Workshop program and registration details can be accessed via: <https://altg.com.au/event/altg-consumer-education-workshop/>.

5th ALTG Preceptorship in Lung Cancer – 18 - 19 October 2019 (Melbourne)

This intensive and active learning program over 1.5-2 days targets early career researchers, registrars, junior consultants and health professionals interested to develop their clinical knowledge and expertise in lung cancer through critical appraisal of key literature and introduces a process for study concept development. Registrations will open soon – please check the ALTG website for more information <https://altg.com.au/event/5th-altg-preceptorship-in-lung-cancer/>.

Concept Development Workshop / Think Tank – TBA in Q4 2019

The ALTG is seeking new ideas for clinical trials / prospective studies in lung cancers aimed at improving overall lung cancer patient health and

wellbeing. If you have ideas relating to areas of unmet need, gaps in current knowledge, or ideas for future clinical trials in thoracic oncology, we would like to hear from you. Submissions (up to 1 paragraph) are welcome from all disciplines and at any stage of development. Members are encouraged to submit an idea even if they do not wish to drive the concept themselves. Ideas are welcome anytime and a one-day Idea Development Workshop is planned later in 2019.

Nick Pavlakis
President, ALTG

Australian & New Zealand Children's Haematology Oncology Group



Our 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting is rapidly approaching! This year we will be holding our ASM in Christchurch on 13 - 15 June 2019. Our local organising committee has put together an exciting scientific program around our 2019 theme of "Families and Cancer", with a dual focus on childhood cancer predisposition syndromes as well as the impact diagnosis and treatment have in a family context. For all the information on the keynote speakers, session details and a great social line-up, visit our **ASM website**.

At ANZCHOG, we are committed to providing access to the best care and treatment for children diagnosed with cancer. Our philosophy is to offer treatment on a clinical trial to as many patients as possible because

we understand that this is the best way to improve cure rates and often the best way to ensure access to new and promising therapies. We continue to work across a range of initiatives to build our clinical trial portfolio including:

- **Building ANZCHOG's Groups:** effectively harnessing knowledge, expertise and collaborative networking in specific tumour types and/or disciplines. These groups are continuing to gain momentum, with the development of several new multi-site national trials and the ability to coordinate national responses to upcoming trial opportunities.
- **Continuing to develop our relationships with international trials groups:** these relationships are essential to facilitate Australian and New Zealand participation in the planning and conduct of international trials. We have strong ties with established trial consortia, both in Europe and North America, and are continuing to build relationships with emerging trial groups, particularly in the area of neuro-oncology. Our close relationships with these groups have directly influenced our ability to gain access to new therapies and opportunities to take part in the latest, most innovative research.
- **Expanding trial capacity within the ANZCHOG Office:** centralised monitoring, quality assurance and trial coordination activities are now offered centrally at the ANZCHOG office, reducing the resource burden at participating sites and ensuring standardised, high-quality trial conduct across all Australian centres.
- **Securing funding to support trial activities from a range of government and philanthropic sources.** In particular, we would like to acknowledge new and on-going support from Australian Brain Cancer Mission, The Kid's Cancer Project, Cure Brain Cancer Foundation, Marcus



and Isabella Foundation, Australian Government (through Cancer Australia, Medical Research Future Fund, NHMRC and Department of Health), Children's Cancer Foundation, My Room, Robert Connor Dawes Foundation, Carrie Bickmore's Beanies for Brain Cancer, and Financial Markets Foundation for Children.

ANZCHOG always welcomes new members. Please visit our website (www.anzchog.org) for more information about ANZCHOG and membership application.

Chris Fraser
Chair, ANZCHOG

Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association



The start of 2019 has been busy yet exciting for the Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association (ANZSA) team. Now operating as ANZSA since the merger of the Australasian Sarcoma

Study Group (ASSG) and the Australian Sarcoma Group (ASG), the organisation has expanded the team to oversee its clinical trials and research projects, and branding and communications work.

New Logo

In the first of many updates, we are excited to unveil ANZSA's new logo. Simple in nature, the logo represents the organisation's key brand attributes. The contrast between the rounded and pointed edges symbolises our approach to being professional and science-focused yet friendly and approachable to our consumers (patients and their family members, sarcoma advocates, etc.).

While new in look, however, we pay homage to the past by retaining the double helix and colour of its identity in the logo. We are currently working on our new website, and we look forward to updating you about it in the next report.

ANZSA Sarcoma Research Grant Program

In April 2019, we announced the funding of \$130,000 to four Australian researchers under the annual ANZSA Sarcoma Research Grant Program. These four research projects will focus on understanding the genetics of sarcoma tumours and investigate new diagnostics and treatment options for sarcoma patients.

1. The Hannah's Chance Sarcoma

Research Grant was awarded to Dr Cristina Vargas. Her research title: Metastatic and recurrent soft tissue sarcomas – investigation of DNA methylation changes and their contribution to sarcoma progression.

2. The Johanna Sewell Sarcoma Research Grant was awarded to Dr Willen Joost Lesterhuis. His research title: Local peri-operative immunotherapy for soft tissue sarcoma.

3. The Leon Stone Sarcoma Research Grant was awarded to Dr Belinda Kramer. Her research title: Mass cytometry to characterise sarcoma targeted CAR T cells and inform clinical trial design.

4. The Xavier Krikori Sarcoma Research Grant was awarded to A/ Prof Evan Ingley. His research title: Dedifferentiation of MDM2 amplified low-grade liposarcoma: Comparative genomics and transcriptomics to determine the mechanisms of tumour progression and precision targets.

The ANZSA Sarcoma Research Grant Program is funded by the generous sarcoma charitable foundations that were established by friends and families in memory of their loved ones who have passed on due to sarcoma.

Since the formalisation of the ANZSA Sarcoma Research Grant Program in 2011, the organisation has awarded more than 30 local researchers with

grants worth over \$1.2 million. For more details about the individual grant projects or interested in applying for a grant, write to us contact@australiansarcomagroup.org.

Clinical Trials

Since its inception in 2008, ANZSA has been involved in more than 30 sarcoma-related studies and clinical trials, both locally and internationally. We are pleased to share some updates on our ongoing projects:

- **SARC032** – A Phase II randomised controlled trial of neoadjuvant pembrolizumab with radiotherapy and adjuvant pembrolizumab in patients with high-risk, localised soft tissue sarcoma of the extremity. This is a collaboration between the sarcoma cooperative clinical trial groups in the USA and SARC and is now open for patient recruitment in three sites in Australia – Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (VIC), Chris O'Brien Lifehouse (NSW) and Princess Alexandra Hospital (QLD).
- **NORTH** – A Phase II study of panobinostat in paediatric adolescent and young adult patients with solid tumours including osteosarcoma, malignant rhabdoid tumour and neuroblastoma. This clinical trial is funded by the NH&MRC and jointly run with ANZCHOG. It is now open for patient recruitment in four sites – Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (VIC), Chris O'Brien Lifehouse (NSW), Royal Adelaide Hospital (SA) and Princess Alexandra Hospital (QLD).
- **rEECur** – International randomised controlled trial of chemotherapy for the treatment of recurrent and primary refractory Ewing sarcoma. This clinical trial is funded by a grant from CanTeen and is now open for patient recruitment in both adult and paediatric sarcoma centres across ANZ. The participating sites are Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (VIC),

Monash Children's Hospital (VIC), Royal Children's Hospital (VIC), Children's Hospital at Westmead (NSW), John Hunter Children's Hospital (NSW), Prince of Wales Hospital (NSW), Sydney Children's Hospital (NSW), Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (QLD), Women's and Children's Hospital (SA), Starship Children's Hospital (Auckland, NZ).

For more details about the projects or want to be involved in the patient recruitment process, write to us contact@australiansarcomagroup.org.

2019 ANZSA Annual Scientific Meeting

Save the date! The 2019 ANZSA ASM will be held on 11-12 October 2019 in The Canberra Rex Hotel. We are pleased to announce that two esteemed international sarcoma specialists will join us as our international guest speakers at the ASM. They are **Prof Francis Hornicek** (Professor and Chief Orthopaedic Oncologist, UCLA, Los Angeles) and **A/Prof Neeta Somaiah** (Assistant Professor, Department of Sarcoma Medical Oncology, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas).

The theme for this year is "Individualised Care for Sarcoma Patients". The ASM will bring well over 120 clinicians, researchers, scientific and allied health sarcoma experts. Express your interest through <http://sarcoma.aoa.org.au/>. If you are an ANZSA member, you are entitled to a great deal, so don't miss out. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you are not a member yet, we highly encourage you to join us. We have introduced new membership categories – Ordinary Member, Associate Member, Life Member and Corresponding Member. Should you be interested, write to us contact@australiansarcomagroup.org.

As we prepare for another eventful half of the year ahead, we would like to thank all

our partners, sponsors and members for their continued support, generosity and trust in us and the work we do.

Denise Caruso
CEO, ANZSA

Australian and New Zealand Urogenital & Prostate Cancer Trials Group



It certainly is an exciting time at ANZUP! Earlier this month we announced our ENZAMET trial (ANZUP 1304) will feature in the ASCO 2019 main plenary session, with Chris Sweeney presenting the results and with a simultaneous publication in the New England Journal of Medicine. This is a great achievement as only the top four abstracts of more than 6,000 submissions are selected. We acknowledge and thank the patients for their participation in the study; and the principal investigators, co-investigators, and study coordinators at the 83 centres across Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom and Ireland for their dedication and enthusiasm. ENZAMET is a result of a highly successful collaboration between ANZUP and our friends and colleagues at the Canadian Cancer Trials Group, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Cancer Trials Ireland and the University of Sydney's NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre.

But it doesn't stop there! We also have 9 active trials across the cancers we represent, a number in follow up, some exciting trials in development, submitted 2 NHMRC grant applications and just



ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

21-23 JULY 2019 • HILTON, BRISBANE



completed five Concept Development Workshops where over 30 concepts were presented to our multidisciplinary members. It is wonderful to see these workshops continue to grow and foster a pipeline of innovative ideas to be considered and prioritised with support from ANZUP over the next 12 months.

The ANZUP membership has grown to over 1,550 members across more than 20 disciplines showing we remain relevant and useful to our members. We could not achieve what we do without the commitment and the generosity of our members and supporters, as well as our Board, SAC and Subcommittees.

Our 2019 ANZUP ASM will be held at the Hilton in Brisbane from 21-23 July. This year's theme "Making Connections" revolves around how we can improve patient and care givers access to the right information, supportive care and clinical trials while encouraging links between the various health disciplines, researchers and cross border collaborations. We will also explore strategies for connecting under-represented populations to clinical trials (eg rare cancers, geriatrics, rural and remote populations).

We have confirmed a superb international faculty including Kelly Parsons, Phuoc Tran, Alison Birtle, Catherine Paterson and Elizabeth Plimack. Delegates will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from both our international experts as well as our numerous national leaders in the management of GU cancers.

The MDT Masterclass will once again challenge our multidisciplinary panel and educate all with real-life clinical challenges. The ANZUP PCFA Nurses Symposium will provide opportunity for GU Nurses from around the country to meet and network. Our annual free Community Engagement Forum will be held on Sunday 21 July.

We look forward to welcoming you to Brisbane for an exceptional educational event. For more information visit - <https://anzup.org.au/content.aspx?page=asm-news>.

We continue to have an ANZUP presence at a number of international and local meetings—including Ian Davis presenting at ASCO GU in San Francisco in February. We also held a very successful Clinical Trials Workshop at the recent USANZ meeting in Brisbane led by Martin Stockler with support from Ian Davis, Shomik Sengupta and Henry Woo.

In March on a picture perfect Autumn day we held our second Below the Belt Pedalthon at Melbourne's Sandown, and what a fantastic day we had! Now in its 6th year the Pedalthon has raised close to \$1.5 million and supported 18 Below the Belt projects with a view to becoming ANZUP trials. So to all our Sydney members why not mark Tuesday 10 September in your diaries and join us out at Eastern Creek. Whether you're an avid cyclist, new to the sport or just looking for a challenge, we invite you to

ride to help us to continue to improve outcomes for below the belt (testicular, prostate, kidney, penile and bladder) cancer. Register now <https://www.belowthebelt.org.au/>.

Margaret McJannett
CEO, ANZUP

Breast Cancer Trials



2019 Annual Scientific Meeting

The Breast Cancer Trials 41st Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at the Hilton Adelaide, South Australia, from 24-26 July 2019. The extensive program will include a full day for the Trials Coordination Forum and two days of scientific sessions covering timely reviews of breast cancer clinical trials, discussion of new protocols, future clinical trials research and other research developments. Delegates include leading Australian and New Zealand medical practitioners and clinicians, and clinical trials management personnel.

Our international guest speakers are:

- Professor Julia White – Professor of Radiation Oncology at Ohio State University, United States
- Associate Professor Aleix Pratt – Head of Medical Oncology at the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, Spain
- Dr Stuart McIntosh – Clinical Senior Lecturer in Surgical Oncology at Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland

For more information or to register, please visit the ASM website at www.bct2019.org.



Research Update

Breast Cancer Trials (BCT) currently has six clinical trials open, with the PROSPECT trial about to close having met its recruitment target:

- The CHARIOT clinical trial has been developed by BCT researcher and Study Chair Professor Sherene Loi to evaluate whether the addition of two immunotherapy drugs (ipilimumab and nivolumab) to standard treatment can improve the survival of women and men with high risk triple negative breast cancer. The main aim of the trial is to ascertain whether using these two drugs together with standard chemotherapy before surgery is safe and effective in treating early breast cancer. We are also keen to determine whether

continuing immunotherapy treatment after surgery can keep the immune system active. CHARIOT is currently open at eight Australian BCT sites, with five additional sites to be activated soon.

- Professor Loi also developed the DIAmOND clinical trial which aims to identify a new immunotherapy treatment option for patients diagnosed with metastatic HER2 positive breast cancer. The trial will investigate the addition of two immune monoclonal antibodies (durvalumab and tremelimumab) to Herceptin. This drug combination has been given previously to people with lung cancer and this is the first clinical trial that will test the combination of these two drugs in people with breast cancer. BCT investigators from 10 Australian sites are working with Study Chair, Professor Loi and the BCT Trials team to recruit 50 participants to the study over the next 18 months.
- The EXPERT clinical trial has now surpassed 15% of the total accrual goal (1170 patients) with 177 patients randomised. This trial is investigating whether a genomic test of breast cancer tissue can be used to identify women with early breast cancer who can safely avoid radiation therapy after breast cancer surgery and the potential side effects of this treatment. This is the first trial developed by BCT researchers that BCT will be coordinating internationally. The Study Chair is Professor Boon Chua.
- The PATINA clinical trial aims to find out if people with metastatic breast cancer could benefit from the addition of the drug, palbociclib, when given in combination with anti-HER2 therapy (trastuzumab and pertuzumab) and endocrine therapy. The study will investigate if the addition of palbociclib to first-line treatment of HER-2 positive breast cancer will delay the onset of therapeutic resistance and prolong

survival, as well as find out more about the side effects, safety and effectiveness of the drug combination. The Study Chair is Associate Professor Elgene Lim.

- The POSNOC clinical trial is investigating axillary (armpit) treatment in women with early stage breast cancer who have metastases in one of two sentinel nodes. Prior research suggests that it may be possible to avoid removal of all axillary nodes or radiotherapy to the armpit. It is hoped that patients may be spared the potential side effects of having extra treatment to the armpit including lymphoedema. The Study Chair is Professor Bruce Mann.
- PROSPECT has reached its recruitment milestone of 200 patients and will close to recruitment soon. This clinical trial uses breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), in combination with a review of pathological features of the breast tumour, to identify women who might safely avoid radiotherapy because their risk of local recurrence is very low. If it is found that radiotherapy can be omitted without compromising local recurrence, it could significantly alter the management of women with early breast cancer as well as decrease costs to the health care system. The Study Chair is Professor Bruce Mann.

Q&A Event with Moderator Mia Freedman

BCT will be hosting a Q&A event on Wednesday 24 July in Adelaide, which is free to the public and will be broadcast live on Facebook. Called 'Directions in Breast Cancer Research: Ask the Experts', the Q&A will be moderated by Mamamia founder, Mia Freedman.

The event will involve a panel of world leading breast cancer researchers and clinical trial participants who will discuss and answer questions about



current breast cancer research and clinical trials, research trends and developments, and what can we expect in breast cancer research in the future. Our six panellists are:

- Associate Professor Prue Francis – Chair of the BCT Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)
- Ms Leslie Gilham – Chair of the BCT Consumer Advisory Panel
- Professor Sunil Lakhani – BCT Board Director
- Dr Stuart McIntosh – International guest speakers at the BCT ASM
- Associate Professor Nicholas Wilcken – BCT Board Director and Deputy Chair of SAC
- Dr Nicholas Zdenkowski – BCT Medical Advisor

To register to attend the event or for more information, please visit the BCT website at www.breastcancertrials.org.au.

The Breast Cancer Trials Podcast

BCT has launched our own podcast, to help build awareness about the importance of clinical trials research and associated topics. The podcast features interviews with BCT researchers, stories from our clinical trial participants and is an opportunity to further explore popular breast cancer topics. To access, just search 'Breast Cancer Trials' on the **Apple Podcast App, Spotify** or where ever you get your podcasts.

Bruce Mann
Chair, BCT

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia



A Time of Transition

CNSA has had a period of self-reflection over the last year, resulting in several organisational changes being implemented in recent months, to help ensure good governance and organisational sustainability. These include:

- The development and finalisation of a new CNSA Strategic Plan – including a consumer-focused vision, revised organisational values and four strategic priorities (Our Learning, Our Voice, Our Members and Our Organisation) – to be officially launched at CNSA's Annual Congress in June 2019.
- Development of a **new organisational structure** – including the allocation of portfolios to Board Directors,

a **position description for each Director portfolio**, and the establishment of new Board sub-committees and standing committees to help achieve our strategic priorities.

- A change in the business support model, and contracting with an association management organisation to provide membership services, secretarial and operational support, as well as Executive Officer and Company Secretary services.
- Development of templates for committees' terms of reference and annual work plans to better guide committees to undertake their core business.
- A review of CNSA's current policies and guidelines and identifying policy and procedure priorities.

CNSA Membership & Benefits

CNSA's membership and financial year runs from 1 April - 31 March, so we have also been busy with membership renewals, annual financial statements and preparations for the annual audit, as well as budgeting for the year ahead.

CNSA has introduced several member benefits in 2019, including:

- Two more years of access to Sosido – allowing cancer nurses to communicate important announcements, keeping CNSA 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.
- In partnership with the World Continuing Education Alliance, CNSA members now have access to a Continuing Nursing Education Portal where they have world class



continuing professional development at their fingertips (e.g. >900 free nursing CPD courses available 24/7, a free CPD tracker and ability to accrue CPD hours from the comfort of their home).

- The **Australian Journal of Cancer Nursing** will now be published on-line, with CNSA members able to 'opt in' if they want to also receive a hard copy.

CNSA Grants & Scholarships

CNSA has also awarded the following grants and scholarships in recent months:

- 9 x professional development grants (up to \$1500 each) – to support members attending national/international professional development events.
- A research grant of \$15,000 to support a project exploring "Specialist Cancer Nurses' Engagement in Clinical Supervision".

CNSA 22nd Annual Congress – Melbourne 20-22 June 2019

The 2019 CNSA Annual Congress will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 20-22 June 2019. The theme is "The Complexity of Cancer Care: What will the future of cancer nursing look like?"

More information is available from <http://www.cnsacongress.com.au/>. CNSA is delighted to be welcoming Dr Linda Watson the current President

of the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO) as our keynote speaker. Dr Watson has held a variety of nursing and inter-professional leadership roles within the CancerControl Alberta (CCA) provincial program and is currently the Scientific Director of Applied Research and Patient Experience within the Cancer Research and Analytics division.

Faculty of Radiation Oncology (FRO)

The Faculty of Radiation Oncology (FRO) of The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR), the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT), the Australasian College of Physical Scientists and Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM), and the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) (the 'constituent bodies') have agreed to establish the Radiation Oncology Alliance (ROA) to advance the joint interests of the constituent bodies through a range of strategies including:

- addressing issues of common interest and/or concern;
- making representations to Governments and other relevant bodies;
- releasing consensus statements and other information on relevant matters; and
- providing advice to medical and other bodies upon request.

This is an exciting opportunity for the CNSA to meaningfully contribute in an intercollegiate environment to improve outcomes for people affected by cancer.



Winding Down

Sonja Cronjé finished in her role as the Chief Executive Officer on Friday 3 May. Sonja has contributed significantly to the advancement of CNSA and shown professionalism and passion in advocating for the vision of the society.

Lucy Gent (formerly Patton)
President & Board Chair, CNSA

Cancer Symptom Trials



Inaugural Annual Research Forum

Our Inaugural Annual Research Forum was held on 14 March 2019. The Forum was held in conjunction with the Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative (PaCCSC) annual scientific meeting which this year celebrated its 10th Annual Research Forum.

The program included presentations by Professor Anna Nowak, University of Western Australia and Chair of the Cooperative Trials Groups for Neuro-Oncology; Professor Bogda Koczwara, Director, Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer, Flinders University; and Professor Christine Jenkins, George

Institute for Global Health, University of Sydney. The program also featured member presentations and presentations of new studies. This was an excellent opportunity for networking and collaboration with colleagues, members and the clinical research community.

Concept development workshops

In 2018, we established a concept development workshop schedule within our annual events calendar. PaCCSC and CST hosted a Nausea concept development workshop on 1 March in Brisbane. Participants were invited to submit new concept ideas for presentation at the workshop and supported to progress their ideas.

Research Program

Our research program has been focussed on seven symptom nodes or research foci areas and we have recently added a new symptom node to investigate the impact of sleep. Our Scientific Advisory Committee met on 19 March and endorsed a new study looking into insomnia.

Membership

We have developed a membership communications plan which includes a presentation for current members to use in their local forums (available on our website), invitations to key stakeholders to apply for membership including professional bodies and university research centres. Membership is being promoted through established networks of colleagues, associates and consumer groups and is available for both individuals and organisations.

Researcher resources

We support our research community through our activities and collaborations. In addition, we have provided access to range of resources via our website including the development of our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

A new SOP has been written specifically to support new study ideas and proposals in the cancer population. We have also written two process manuals to guide coordinating and principal investigators through the clinical trial process.



Palliative Care
Clinical Studies
Collaborative (PaCCSC)

PaCCSC update

Tenth Annual Research Forum

Our 10th Annual Research Forum was held on 14 March 2019. The Forum was held in conjunction with Cancer Symptom Trials (CST) inaugural annual scientific meeting. This year we celebrated PaCCSC being a world leader in palliative care clinical trial research. We look forward to building collaborations into the future and working closely with CST to set goals for the next ten years. Read more about the annual research forum on our website: <https://www.uts.edu.au/paccsc/events/annual-research-forum-2019>.



Other events

The 16th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care is being held in Berlin from 23 - 25 May 2019. PaCCSC has several members who will present work of the Collaborative at this ASM and the national office offers its sincere thanks in advance.

In January 2019, we ran the IMPACCT Research Summer School, an intensive and interactive learning forum for Higher Degree Research students. IMPACCT students, academics, UTS professional staff and consumers met for four days to contribute to session focused on a range of research methodologies and processes relevant to palliative, aged and chronic care.

Our people

We are pleased to welcome Sandra Kent and Sarah Nestor to the PaCCSC team. Sandra is a Research Assistant-Writer working with our clinical trial researchers to develop new study concepts into full clinical trial protocols, grant applications and ethics submissions. Sarah is Research Assistant-Trials and will be assisting in the coordination of clinical trials, providing infrastructure support for clinical trials across multiple sites.

We also welcome Irina Kinchin, Health Economist and Senior Research Fellow, who has commenced a joint appointment with Improving Palliative, Aged and Chronic Care through Clinical Research and Translation (IMPACCT) and the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE). Through this joint appointment, Irina's work will maximise the likelihood of good evidence-based decisions about the adoption of new health technologies.

Concept Development Workshops

The first workshop for 2019 was a partnership with Cancer Council WA, IMPACCT, CST and PaCCSC. This workshop was held on Friday 8 February in Perth. The workshop included general clinical trial discussions, a panel session looking at the challenges of conducting clinical trials in palliative care and cancer symptom management and included the presentation of a number of new study concepts. Our sincere thanks to our colleagues at Cancer

Council WA for partnering with us and those individuals who presented on the day from the WA trials community.



RAPID Program

The RAPID program is progressing well. We now have 44 participating sites collecting data from Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, Germany, Malaysia, Ireland, Singapore and India.

The RAPID non-pharmacotherapeutic review includes a hypodermoclysis series which was completed in 2018 and a paper is not be drafted for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

The extraordinary series includes oxycodone/naloxone de-prescribing in pain manager, which commenced in 2017, with a paper due to be submitted to the Journal of Palliative Medicine. The nursing interventions for noisy secretions series commencing in April 2019 with current baseline data complete on 12 patients, with 11 patients reaching T1 and 6 patients reaching T2.

Current open series include: Anamorelin for cachexia; Benzodiazepines for breathlessness; Cyclizine for nausea;

Macrogol for constipation; Midazolam for agitation; Mirtazapine for appetite; Nursing interventions for noisy secretions. Visit the RAPID website to find out more and get involved www.uts.edu.au/RAPID.

Linda Brown
National Manager, PaCCSC/CST

Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology



COGNO has been busy in the past 6 months, most recently (like many others) preparing and submitting for grants.

Grants and Trials

- COGNO was successful in previous Medical Research Futures Fund (MRFF) grant rounds, and these 2 trials are now in development:
 - o MAGMA (Multi-Arm GlioblastoMa Australasia) trial – funding of \$2.5M over 5 years from the Medical Research Futures Fund (MRFF). Led by A/Professor Craig Gedye, MAGMA is a randomised, multi-arm, multi-stage phase III clinical trial. It examines the current timing and delivery of chemotherapy and radiation to brain cancer sufferers to determine if improvements can be made.
 - o PICCOG (PARP and Immune Checkpoint inhibitor Combination for relapsed IDH-mutant high-grade Glioma) – funding of \$1.5M over 5 years from the MRFF. Led by Dr Hao-Wen Sim, PICCOG is a phase

12th COGNO ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday 27th - Tuesday 29th October 2019
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Confirmed International Speakers:

Prof Colin Watts MBBS PhD FRCS(SN)

A/Prof Helen Shih MD MS MPH

A/Prof Benjamin Ellingson PhD

For more information or to register for updates visit www.cogno.org.au



COGNO
COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

II, single-arm, multicentre, open-label study to assess the safety and efficacy of rucaparib (600 mg PO bid) plus nivolumab (480 mg IV q28d) in patients with relapsed IDH-mutant high-grade glioma.

- VERTU (VElparib, Radiotherapy and Temozolomide trial in Unmethylated MGMT Glioblastoma) – hard work by our trials team has resulted in two poster presentations at the upcoming 2019 ASCO.
- CATNON (Phase III trial on Concurrent and Adjuvant Temozolomide chemotherapy in non-1p/19q deleted anaplastic glioma. The CATNON Intergroup trial.) – oral presentation at 2019 ASCO.

12th COGNO ASM, Sydney, 27-29 October

Save the date and register for updates on the ASM email cognoasm@ctc.usyd.edu.au. An outstanding scientific program is in development, with confirmed international speakers to date including:

- Prof Colin Watts MBBS PhD FRCS(SN) - Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences, and Chair of the Brain Cancer Program, University of Birmingham
- A/Prof Helen Shih MD MS MPH – Medical Director, Proton Therapy Centers, Massachusetts General Hospital
- A/Prof Benjamin Ellingson PhD – Brain Research Institute, UCLA.

2019 MSD Hubert Stuerzl Memorial Educational Award

COGNO is pleased to continue its partnership with MSD on this prestigious award, generously funded by MSD and its staff. The award encourages education and training in Neuro-Oncology and provides up to \$15,000

to the successful recipient to attend an international Neuro-Oncology scientific meeting and undertake a Neuro-Oncology preceptorship during 2019-2020. Applications close with COGNO on Friday 5 July 2019 – further details available on www.cogno.org.au.

Anna Nowak
Chair, COGNO

Faculty of Radiation Oncology



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

It is my pleasure to have taken over as Dean of the Faculty of Radiation Oncology (2019-20) from A/Prof. Dion Forstner. I am honoured to have been appointed by the Faculty of Radiation Oncology Council; however, must acknowledge that the undertaking of this position cannot be done without the support of family, departmental colleagues, professional colleagues, and College staff.

Our committees have ambitious work plans ahead and, as with many of our organisations, the work cannot be done without significant input from volunteers. I would like to thank everyone who volunteers their time to further improve the work we do for patients.

Advocating for Radiation Oncology

In the leadup to the Federal budget and subsequent election announcement, RANZCR's advocacy team were extremely busy extolling the benefits of radiation therapy and the importance of imaging in the treatment of cancer. An election survey was sent to the four key parties, with representation

in both houses. The survey sought to get commitment in relation to RANZCR's specialties. The Coalition committed \$63.4 million for radiation therapy centres in regional Australia and supported the introduction of a national incident reporting and learning system to improve the overall safety and quality of radiation therapy. The Coalition also committed to working with RANZCR on the implementation of several MBS Review recommendations, including modelling for the new radiation oncology schedule and the radical prostatectomy guidance note in Medicare. Finally, RANZCR received support from all major and minor parties for development of a nationally coordinated plan for particle therapy, to encourage strong collaboration between States and Territories and ensure access to eligible patients.

Faculty of Radiation Oncology Facilities Survey

The Faculty undertakes a survey of all radiation therapy centres across Australia and New Zealand every two years. We are in the process of getting the data in from centres now. This data is extremely valuable in our advocacy efforts as it covers machines, treatments, and workforce and is used to inform our policies and positions. With a 100% response rate, we can confidently say that our data covers both public and private sectors.

Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review

The Faculty was pleased to see that the Oncology Clinical Committee of the MBS Review Taskforce recommended significant changes to the radiation oncology schedule. These changes will modernise the funding of radiation oncology services, recognising the importance of planning. Although not yet signed off by the Minister, the Faculty has been asked to assist in the modelling of the new schedule and will

continue to advocate for the schedule to be piloted before implementation. There is still much to be done; however, thanks to the work of many, we are closer to a schedule that better reflects current practice.

Targeting Cancer: Radiation Therapy for Cancer Treatment

The Faculty's forward-facing campaign, Targeting Cancer, continues to promote the value of radiation therapy. The Targeting Cancer website contains information for both patients and health professionals, covering a range of tumour sites and treatment techniques, as well as patient stories.

COSA members can help spread the word of the campaign by engaging with #targetingcancer on social media or recommending the website as a resource to colleagues and patients.
www.targetingcancer.com.au

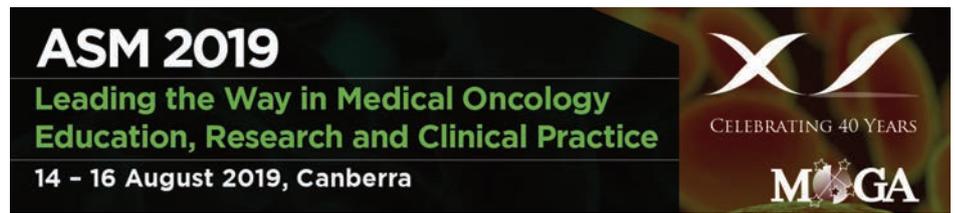
I look forward to engaging with members of COSA throughout my tenure as Dean. I can be contacted via faculty@ranzcr.com.

Madhavi Chil kuri
Dean, Faculty of Radiation Oncology

Medical Oncology Group of Australia



The Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) is the national, professional body for Australian medical oncologists and the profession and a speciality society of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP). As committed specialist clinicians responsible for the care and management of cancer patients



in both the public and private sectors, the Association welcomed the focus on cancer that both major parties articulated as part of the recent Federal election and is pleased to share some elements from our new Position Statement on a National Cancer Strategy for Australia.

MOGA is committed to partnering with the Federal government in formulating this Strategy and to provide professional advice on this strategy to benefit Australian cancer patients, their families and clinicians. MOGA welcomes open dialogue with all Australian political parties and our professional colleagues, regarding the current and future provision of national cancer care, services, research and training. Given the growing cancer burden and the many concomitant issues for the Australian Health System, MOGA believes the best course of action is to adopt a realistic approach, taking into consideration the fact the national health dollar will always be subject to limitations and must be strategically applied to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients and clinicians.

The Association proposes a range of key issues be addressed including the provision of publically funded, universal genomic and precision testing for cancer patients where clinically appropriate; evidence based medicine and substantiating investigations that lead to cost minimisation; and clarity and transparency in all clinician and patient communications to ensure that patients are fully aware of their treatment options and are fully informed about the financial considerations around those options.

In April MOGA contributed to a number of important consultations including the Australian Medical Association's (AMA)

Consultation on Informed Financial Consent-Collaboration between Doctors and Patients. MOGA supported the call for united action on out of pocket costs and informed financial consent, with the aim of improving the health financial literacy of our patients; and also endorsed the position that the medical profession needs to be "on the front foot" about informing patients and consumers about the wide ranging factors that contribute to out of pocket costs and, the need for transparent and informed financial consent between physicians and their patients. Cancer treatment and management is a complex and often lengthy pathway. MOGA's submission highlighted the specific areas where cancer patients can incur significant costs in requiring assistance from multiple health professionals and multiple visits to each professional, pathology and imaging tests, radiation therapy, surgical procedures, chemotherapy and other medications.

Over the last few months MOGA has worked closely with our professional colleagues, to develop a response to the Specialist and Consultant Physician Consultation Clinical Committee Report from the MBS Review Taskforce. The proposed overhaul of MBS items for specialists will see a reduction in more than 60% of attendance items and these will be replaced with new time-based standard attendance schedule fees. The Review has recommended a move away from initial and subsequent consultations, differential rebates for specialists and consultant physicians and additional payments for complex planning, to a time-based structure similar to that applied in general practice. Among the recommendations is a higher schedule fee for items



on a parallel structure of attendance covering acute, urgent and unplanned attendances outside consulting rooms. This consultation is still in progress and will be closely monitored.

MOGA also contributed to the consultation on Tackling Mental Ill-Health in Doctors and Medical Students – A National Framework and supported the need for an Australian framework and a reform agenda which positions the wellbeing of the medical profession as a national priority. The Framework details a number of valuable steps and actions but it is clear that a major part of the solution is the need for substantive structural change.

MOGA was an active partner in the development of the new Australian Consensus Statement and its recommendations for the management of hepatitis B during cancer therapy that were launched in April. Given the number of people undergoing cancer therapy and the burden of hepatitis B in Australia, several thousand people are likely to be at risk of hepatitis B reactivation each year. This important consensus statement will directly benefit Australian cancer patients. One of the key recommendations is to “test all” patients scheduled to undergo cancer treatment for hepatitis B to ensure that no cases of infection are missed and they are not put at risk.



Professor Desmond Yip
Convener - ASM 2019

ASM 2019
14-16 August
Canberra Convention Centre



Associate Professor Victoria Atkinson
Convener - Immuno-Oncology Forum 2019

IO FORUM 2019
17 August
Canberra Convention Centre

In 2019 MOGA is proud to be celebrating forty years of Medical Oncology in Australia and the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) and Immuno-Oncology Forum (Convener: A/Professor Victoria Atkinson), to be held in Canberra from 14-17 August 2019, will be a major focus of our commemorations. A challenging and robust scientific program exploring advances in lung, genitourinary and gastrointestinal cancer, cancer of unknown primary and rare cancers, brain metastasis, renal cell carcinoma, survivorship, germline genetic testing, cancer cachexia, CRC sub-typing, molecular profiling, end of life legal training and, has been put together by the ASM Convener, Professor Desmond Yip, Clinical Director and Senior Staff Specialist in Medical Oncology, Canberra Hospital and Professor, ANU Medical School. International guest speakers will include Professor Sabine Tejpar (Belgium), Professor Stephen Liu (USA), A/Professor Sumanta K.Pal (USA) and Dr Harpreet Wasan (United Kingdom). Distinguished Australian medical oncology experts from around the nation will also join past MOGA Chairs from 2009-2019 at this landmark meeting to reflect on and review the achievements of the Australian medical oncology over the last four decades. This year's Immuno-Oncology Forum will provide a timely opportunity for our profession to focus on the future of our rapidly evolving speciality over the next ten years.

Chris Karapetis
Chair, MOGA

Oncology Social Work Australia New Zealand



It's now official! The new name for our organisation is OSWANZ which formalises the inclusion of our New Zealand colleagues as ratified in our newly approved Constitution. To coincide with this new beginning, the website is undergoing a major redevelopment with a promise of greater functionality. Members will be advised in the near future when it is up and running.

Planning for the 14th National Conference, to be held in Hobart from 21-23 November 2019, is well underway thanks to a small but active and enthusiastic local committee; ably assisted by the Executive Group from the mainland. The conference theme is 'Unique footprints: recognising the biopsychosocial implications of the cancer site' and abstracts close on Monday 3 June 2019. For further information and updates go to www.oswa.net.au. In breaking news, the 2020 conference will be held in Sydney, with dates and theme yet to be determined.

Analysis of our ongoing research project, "Social Work Interventions in Cancer Care: a Quality Assurance Project" under the stewardship of Dr Rosalie Pockett from the University of Sydney is continuing. A comprehensive report will be made available to the OSWANZ membership, along with an anticipated journal paper that is currently in preparation. The research Group was the successful recipient of a small grant from the Australian Association of Social Workers, and this has been

helpful in accessing more sophisticated data analysis. An abstract updating the findings and recommendations from the study has been submitted for the Hobart conference.

In other news, the collaboration of OSWANZ as an Affiliated Organisation of COSA has recently enabled some productive partnerships to be formed to work with other key stakeholders in addressing matters of concern in the 'big picture' of cancer care. With input from the membership and the committee OSWANZ has been fortunate to join with Cancer Council Australia in making contributions to important issues including an ongoing body of work in financial toxicity and financial consent, as well as a joint submission to the Australian Public Service review. Most recently, OSWANZ has accepted the invitation of Cancer Council Australia to nominate a representative to its Health Services Advisory Committee. Kim Hobbs will join this committee on behalf of OSWANZ.

The OSWANZ Executive and Management Committees continue to be the dynamic forces behind the day to day administration of the organisation. Monthly teleconferences are lively and well attended. I would like to acknowledge in particular, our current president Nick Hobbs, our immediate past president Ray Araullo, our treasurer Kate Lindberg and our tireless secretary Olga Gountras. Along with state representatives and sub-group chairs, there is a wealth of talent which will see the organisation continue to grow and prosper. As a group we look forward to a continuation of the fruitful collaboration with COSA and with our colleagues from all disciplines.

Kim Hobbs
Council Representative, OSWANZ

Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group



The Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4) has continued to support the advancement of high-quality cancer research in primary care. The past six months we have been very busy with implementing our support services for our members.

Cancer in Primary Care Articles database

We've updated our cancer in primary care articles database to assist those researching cancer in primary care articles for concept developments and papers. If you are looking for a quick way to scope cancer in primary care literature, our database covers publications from 2013 onwards. You can sort by keyword, research area, author, cancer site, country and year. Visit online at pc4tg.com.au/articles

Scientific Symposium

We held our sixth Scientific Symposium in Melbourne at the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre on 4th April. The Symposium highlighted our objectives of nurturing research collaboration and developing new primary care research. The Symposium also celebrated the 10th anniversary of PC4. It was an informative day, driving discussions around current research, highlighting initiatives designed to reduce health disparities, pathways and new methodologies.

The Symposium provided the prospect of engaging with professionals, and consumers to share ideas on increasing studies that focus on the role of primary care in cancer. You can read our conference summary [here](#).

Peer Review Workshop

We held our Peer Review Workshop in March in Melbourne and reviewed 3 concepts. It was a great opportunity for our Scientific Committee and PC4 members to come together and discuss future funding applications.

Rising Star Awards

The goal of the Lyndal Trevena and Geoff Mitchell Rising Star Awards is to recognise promising early and mid-career investigators who have significantly advanced the field of cancer in primary care research. These Awards are competitively awarded by the PC4 Scientific Committee. These awards have been created to honour the significant contribution of two of PC4's founding investigators – Lyndal Trevena and Geoff Mitchell. It has been through their dedication and hard work that PC4 has supported the development of high-quality cancer in primary care clinical trials. The Awards will be announced at the PC4 Scientific Symposium in 2020.



Lyndal Trevena and Geoff Mitchell

Podcasts

Cheers with Peers Season 2 – Coming July 2019

Cheers with Peers Season 2 is hosted by Dr Jennifer Walker and she interviews senior researchers about issues and challenges that face mid-career researchers.

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

Research Round-up Season 2

In March our podcast Research Round-up was nominated as a finalist in the Australian Podcast Awards. We were extremely excited to be nominated alongside All in the Mind, In Situ Science, MediTalk, Think: Health and Science Friction. Our Sound Recordist, Arch Cuthbertson attended the evening and it was a great success. Season 2 sees Dr Kristi Milley return with special guest host Dr Rebecca Bergin talk to authors of current research in cancer in primary care.

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

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/join-us for more information.

Jon Emery
Chair, PC4



Royal College of Pathologists



The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) principle objectives are to train and support pathologists and senior scientists to improve the use of pathology testing utilising the highest quality evidence and expert collaboration.

Pathology Update Conference & Exhibition 2019

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) annual scientific meeting, Pathology Update, was held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre 22-24 February 2019.

The conference was highly successful with 1,370 delegates who attended scientific presentations in the disciplines of Anatomical, Chemical, Forensic, Genetic, General, Haematology, Immunopathology and Microbiology.

Supervision of Molecular Testing

The revised National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) Requirements for Supervision in the Clinical Governance of Medical Pathology Laboratories, for non-genetic pathologists with designated clinical governance responsibility for supervising molecular testing in their own discipline now have access to certification through a standard training and assessment pathway or through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Included are Anatomical Pathology, Chemical Pathology, Haematology, Microbiology, Immunopathology and General Pathology disciplines.

RCPA Cancer Services Committee

One of the key mechanisms for raising the standard of pathology and cancer information is through the work of the Cancer Services Advisory Committee (CanSAC). CanSAC is a multidisciplinary committee which has oversight for all cancer related activities within the RCPA.

CanSAC also provides an important link to other external cancer related organisations such as the Cancer Monitoring Advisory Group (CMAG), the Intercollegiate Committee on Cancer (ICC), Cancer Australia as well as COSA, providing pathology expertise to these organisations as well as providing a conduit for cancer related information into the college.

Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer Project

The work of the Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer (SPRC) project continues with a number of Structured Protocols available for review and feedback over the next 6 months available on the RCPA website.

<https://www.rcpa.edu.au/Library/Practising-Pathology/Structured-Pathology-Reporting-of-Cancer/Public-Consultation>

It is the result of diverse and independent peer review that ensure the quality of Structured Reporting Protocols is continually maintained and improved. These protocols are authored by a volunteer group of expert pathologists, clinicians and scientists and are made free to access on the RCPA website. Structured Pathology Reporting Protocols serve as a vital resource and are accessed by the majority of pathology laboratories in Australasia, including under-resourced laboratories.

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

International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting

The International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) project has also produced standardised reporting templates for cancers available to all countries of the world. As a result of translating existing English datasets into French, Spanish and Portuguese – more than 2 billion people now have access to the structured pathology reporting templates globally.

International terminology standardisation

The Pathology Information, Terminology and Units Standardisation (PITUS 18-20) Project commenced with the inaugural Steering Committee meeting in August 2018. Five working groups are helping to work on the following key pathology concepts: Information structures, Common terminology, Common understanding, and Behavioural alignment.

The project aims to align terminology development and cancer dataset development efforts to create truly computable, interoperable cancer reporting tools.

In addition, the ICCR, of which RCPA is a sustaining member, has agreed to collaborate on an international effort to ensure terminology is developed for cancer reporting such that it meets the needs of the clinical care teams, national registrars and cancer researchers around the world. The international group includes the colleges of the United States of America, United Kingdom and Canada as well as many other interested parties around the world such as Sweden, New Zealand, Malaysia, Spain, and The Netherlands.

Kenneth Lee
Council Representative, RCPA

Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group



Precision radiotherapy delivers survival gains in inoperable lung cancer

A new clinical trial by TROG Cancer Research has shown for the first time that a new radiotherapy technique produced greater survival rates in early stage inoperable lung cancer patients, compared to conventional radiation treatment.

The TROG 09.02 CHISEL study aimed to investigate if Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy (SABR) is more effective than standard radiotherapy for patients with non-small cell lung cancer (early stage lung cancer).

SABR is a new, highly-targeted technique for delivering very high radiotherapy doses targeted at a patient's tumour. The high doses ensure patients complete their treatment sooner than for conventional radiotherapy, as the required dose can be given over fewer trips to hospital.

The CHISEL study was a Phase III clinical trial involving 101 patients with inoperable early-stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, from Australia and New Zealand, and who were randomised to receive either SABR or conventional radiotherapy.

Professor David Ball, who headed the trial, said the results were practice-changing. "Our trial found that for patients with early-stage lung cancer, SABR was more effective in controlling

cancer growth, resulting in longer life expectancy and is just as safe as traditional radiotherapy. We found that 89% of cancers were controlled two years after SABR treatment and this compared to 65% for conventional radiotherapy, and there was also a clear benefit in overall survival."

After two years, 77% of the patients who received SABR treatment were surviving compared to 59% of those who received conventional radiotherapy.

Conventional radiotherapy for this cancer requires the patient to return to hospital regularly over six or seven weeks to receive their required radiation dose in small amounts. With SABR, the same treatment is delivered in a more concentrated dose – and in a highly-targeted way – requiring only three to four visits to hospital over around two weeks.

"As the SABR technique is much more precise, only the cancer is treated and the surrounding healthy tissue is unaffected," Professor Ball said. "Not only is the treatment more effective, but it is more convenient with fewer hospital attendances which is a significant bonus."

The trial, which began in 2010, is the first to demonstrate a survival benefit from SABR in non-small cell lung cancer.

This trial was a collaboration involving TROG Cancer Research and the Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group (ALTG). The trial was funded with grants from Cancer Australia, The Cancer Society of New Zealand and the Cancer Research Trust New Zealand.

Ten year prostate cancer trial proves optimal treatment duration

Results from another TROG trial have identified the best treatment regime for men suffering from newly-diagnosed aggressive but localised prostate cancer. The RADAR study, which is Australia's and New Zealand's biggest cancer trial



Professor Ball with patient Maureen Chrul who volunteered to participate in the CHISEL trial.

to date compared the use of hormone treatment (longer versus short term use) coupled with radiation therapy.

This trial enrolled 1,071 men with locally advanced prostate cancer at 23 treatment centres across Australia and New Zealand, who were monitored over a 10-year period. The results of this longitudinal study were recently published in the prestigious journal, *The Lancet Oncology*.

During the trial all men received six months of testosterone suppression therapy, using the drug leuprorelin, followed by radiotherapy. Participants were then randomly allocated to have either an additional 12 months of testosterone suppression therapy (18 months in total) or no further treatment.

The trial found that 18 months testosterone suppression therapy option plus radiotherapy emerged as the most effective, compared to the six month time period.

Professor Jim Denham, who headed the landmark trial, said these findings showed a 30% reduction in deaths due to prostate cancer as well as a 40% reduction in cancer spreading (metastases) to other areas of the body.

“We also found that the men who received the 18 months of treatment did not experience more side effects or impaired quality of life factors than those who received the six months of hormone treatment.”

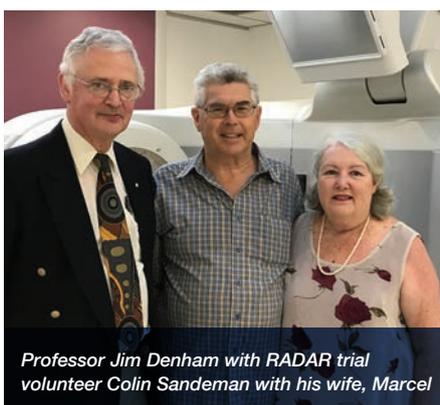
“The confirmation that quality of life in men treated on the RADAR trial was not inferior to quality of life outcomes in Australian men of the same age, 10 years after treatment, came from the 421 men who participated our ‘Life ten years after prostate cancer treatment’ sub-study,” said Professor Denham.

“Around 17,000 Australian men each year are diagnosed with prostate cancer and we are constantly looking at ways to beat this disease which sees so many men go undiagnosed for a long period of time.

“Thanks to this trial men with newly-diagnosed aggressive but localised prostate cancer can be spared the many long-term side effects associated with longer durations of testosterone suppression (28 to 36 months), which have commonly been used in conjunction with radiotherapy around the world.”

Colin Sandeman was one of the men who volunteered to participate in the trial. “I didn’t even hesitate when my doctor asked if I wanted to participate in this clinical trial. I had the 18 months of hormone treatment and the impact on my life was minimal.” Today, at the age of 75 he has returned to his normal life. He’s back into sailing and canoeing and to tending his beloved bees. “I don’t think about having prostate cancer now. It’s in the past. I’m normal, and so many other blokes are too – they’re curing a lot of people,” Colin said.

Farshad Foroudi
President, TROG



Professor Jim Denham with RADAR trial volunteer Colin Sandeman with his wife, Marcel



Breakthrough

A Global Summit for Oncology Innovators

October 11-13, 2019

Centara Grand at
CentralWorld
Bangkok, Thailand

ASCO
Cohosted by:
Thai Society of Clinical Society

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
2019		
21-23 June	MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting https://masccmeeting.org/2019/Pages/default.aspx#.W_d7tegzZaR	San Francisco, USA
22-24 June	CNSA 22nd Annual Congress www.cnsacongress.com.au/	Melbourne, VIC
18-19 July	ALTG Annual Scientific Meeting https://altg.com.au/event/altg-annual-scientific-meeting/	Sydney, NSW
18-20 July	Japanese Society of Medical Oncology Annual Meeting www.congre.co.jp/jsmo2019/en/	Kyote, Japan
19-22 July	5th Singapore Breast Oncoplastic Surgery Symposium (SBOSS) / 2nd BreastDay https://breastday.net/	Singapore
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
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
4-6 September	5th World Congress on Controversies in Breast Cancer (CoBrCa) https://cobrica.org/	San Francisco, USA
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
11-14 September	Advances in Thoracic Surgery, Oncology and Pulmonology (ASTOP) https://atsop.sg/	Singapore
12-14 September	ECCO 2019 – European Cancer Summit www.ecco-org.eu/Events/ECCO-2019	Brussels, Belgium
15-18 September	ASTRO Annual Meeting www.astro.org/Meetings-and-Education/Live-Meetings/2019/2019-ASTRO-Annual-Meeting	Chicago, USA
19-21 September	ANZHNCs ASM https://anzhncs.org/other-meetings/anzhncs-asm-2019/	Adelaide, SA
24-26 September	IPOS https://ipos2019.com/	Banff, Canada

Date	Event	Venue
27 Sept-1 Oct	ESMO 2019 Congress www.esmo.org/Conferences/ESMO-2019-Congress	Barcelona, Spain
2-5 October	ACTA International Clinical Trials Conference https://www.clinicaltrialsconference.com.au/	Sydney, NSW
9-11 October	ESSO 39 www.essoweb.org/events/esso39/	Rotterdam, The Netherlands
11-12 October	Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association (ANZSA) http://sarcoma.aoa.org.au/	Canberra, ACT
11-13 October	Breakthrough: A Global Summit for Oncology Innovators https://meetings.asco.org/breakthrough/welcome	Bangkok, Thailand
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
27-29 October	12th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting https://www.cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm-home	Sydney, NSW
1-2 November	The Alfred General Surgery Meeting 2019 https://surgeons.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/alfred2019/alfred19	Melbourne, VIC
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		
25-28 March	ANZGOG ASM https://www.anzgog.org.au/	Melbourne, VIC
13-15 July	4th Global AYA Cancer Congress https://www.ayaglobalcancercongress.com/	London, UK
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 Membership

COSA memberships are now open for renewal!

Don't forget the price of a COSA membership is significantly less than the difference between the member and non-member rate to register for the Annual Scientific Meeting – why wouldn't you renew or join?

To renew your membership please log onto www.cosa.org.au, if you are due to renew you will be directed straight to the membership renewal page.

The membership categories and prices are listed below:

COSA – medical (1 year)	\$230
COSA – non medical (1 year)	\$135
COSA Student member (1 year)	no charge
COSA Retiree member (1 year)	\$65

Please note: Medical Oncology Advanced Trainees are eligible to join COSA at the non-medical rate for the duration of their training.

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

COSA affiliate/associate* members medical (1 year)	\$210
COSA affiliate/associate* members non-medical (1 year)	\$125

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

Automated renewal feature

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

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

Things you need to know:

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

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

For more information regarding Affiliated or Associated Organisation Memberships please contact COSA cosa@cancer.org.au.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your membership, please do not hesitate to contact the COSA office on 02 8063 4100 or email cosa@cancer.org.au.

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**

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.



**Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia**

**2019
COSA ASM**

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!

Key dates:

Symposium submission deadline:

5 July 2019

Abstract submission deadline:

9 August 2019

Travel grant applications close:

16 August 2019

Early bird registration closes:

13 September 2019

**Bogda Koczwara AM
2019 COSA ASM Convenor**



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

INVITED SPEAKERS

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

A/Prof Alex Chan

A tenured Associate Professor at the Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore and Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore. He is widely published in cancer supportive care and survivorship topics, including cancer-related fatigue, chemotherapy-associated cognitive impairment, chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, myelosuppression and chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting.

Dr Stacy Loeb

An Assistant Professor of Urology and Population Health at New York University (NYU) and the Manhattan Veterans Affairs Medical Center, specializing in prostate cancer. She is currently studying active surveillance and digital communications in prostate cancer. Dr Loeb hosts the Men's Health Show on US/Canadian satellite radio and is an active participant in social media.

Prof Matthew Loscalzo

A Professor in Supportive Care Programs in the Department of Supportive Care Medicine and Professor in Department of Population Sciences at the City of Hope National Medical Center, California. He is internationally recognised as a pioneer in the clinical, educational, and research domains of psychosocial aspects of cancer, and is highly sought after for his strategic mentorship of leaders across disciplines. Professor Loscalzo's work focuses on pain and palliative care, the implementation of problem-based screening programs, gender-based medicine and problem-solving therapies.

Dr Lena Sharp

The Head of the Regional Cancer Centre, Stockholm-Gotland Sweden, and president of the European Oncology Nursing Society. She has been a cancer nurse since 1985 and has extensive experience in clinical cancer nursing, leadership, teaching and research. Her main focus in research is patient safety, communication, leadership and cancer care organisation.

AUSTRALIAN SPEAKERS

These world-renowned experts will be joined by an esteemed Australian faculty including Peter Allcroft, Sanchia Aranda, Arun Azad, Michael Barton, Lisa Beatty, Phyllis Butow, Jenny Casanova, Anne Cust, Marcus Dreosti, Merran Findlay, Hubertus Jersmann, Michael Osborn, Kevin O'Shaughnessy, David Roder, Sabe Sabesan, Tim Shaw, Ben Tran, Debra Trott, Sandra Turner, Sina Vatandoust, and Patsy Yates just to name a few.

Full details of speakers, the program, abstract submission guidelines and registration information is available on the conference website www.cosa2019.org.

Thanks to our major sponsors

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A/Prof Alex Chan



Dr Stacy Loeb



Prof Matthew Loscalzo



Dr Lena Sharp