



COSA NEWS



A/Prof Nick Pavlakis, President, COSA

President's Report

2019 has proven to be another successful year for COSA. And as always, the culmination of these successes came together at the ASM in Adelaide.

I had the honour of chairing the opening plenary which kicked off with Dr Stacy Loeb – a Professor of Urology and Public Health at NYU. Stacy opened the conference with a great presentation on the latest developments in prostate cancer surgery and active surveillance. This really set the scene for the urological oncology theme.

One of the studies which gained a lot of media attention was a ten-year project which followed men for a decade after their prostate cancer diagnosis. The study, presented by

lead researcher Associate Professor Nicholas Ralph from Cancer Council Queensland and Southern Queensland University, found men affected by prostate cancer have long-term impairments to quality of life. The study found that 35-40% of men experience poorer physical and mental health outcomes after prostate cancer treatment, especially those treated with androgen deprivation therapy and those from socio-economically disadvantaged groups. Up to one in four men experienced anxiety and up to one in five reported depression, with an increased risk of suicide. The researchers are calling for health service providers and policy makers to prioritise and fund new models of care to ensure men are not suffering in silence though their symptoms.

Our convenor, Professor Bogda Koczwara, often seems to be ahead of the game! Bogda had the forethought to include the other conference themes which were well received by delegates – age and gender in cancer practice, digital health and global oncology.

Digital health offers the promise of innovative, accessible, tailored, person-centred care with particular relevance to cancer where complex care is delivered by many providers over prolonged periods of time. The digital health theme was enhanced by having Ms Angela Ryan from the Australian Digital Health Agency present twice in the program. Angela is the Agency's Chief Clinical Information Officer, working collaboratively across the health system and promoting the adoption and meaningful clinical use of digital health services and technologies, especially the *My Health Record* system.

Bogda and her colleagues also took the opportunity to launch their *Australian Digital Health in Cancer Care Roadmap* – a strategic framework intended to identify priorities for the development, implementation and use of digital health technologies in cancer care in Australia. COSA has endorsed this valuable document, and in doing so noted it addresses an increasingly important

area of need, with the priorities identified serving as a reference to move forward in this space. The authors deliberately used the term "roadmap" as maps usually tell you where and how far you can go, but not how to get there, as you can usually get to your destination by different modes of transport.

A true ASM highlight for me was the non-lecture style COSA Presidential Lecture. Kirk Pengilly, one of the founding members of the Australian rock band INXS, engaged in a very personal Q&A session with Adam Spencer about life as a rock star and as a prostate cancer patient and survivor. It was a great way to end a busy conference and be reminded that we all share a common vision with COSA that *"All Australians receive quality multidisciplinary cancer care from supported and informed health professionals who work in a multidisciplinary manner."*

Whilst the ASM is our feature event each year, COSA does a lot more than the ASM. In an effort to meet our members' educational needs, COSA has partnered with mdBriefCase to produce online educational modules. I worked with Ben Solomon on a module on the role of immunotherapies in the treatment of NSCLC. The one-hour course is based around a set of case studies exploring the treatment pathways for the NSCLC patient. Alex Guminski and Brett Hughes were the faculty for a head and neck cancer module; Fran Boyle and Richard de Boer oversaw a metastatic breast cancer module; and Michael Boyer and Paul Mitchell ran another lung cancer module. We also have two new modules in development: one in partnership with ANZUP on renal cell carcinoma; and one on hormone receptor positive breast cancer in pre-menopausal women. All completed modules are available on the COSA website under each relevant Group Activities page. I encourage all interested members to participate. Drop the COSA staff an email if you can't find them.

Nick Pavlakis
President



Chief Executive Officer's Report



Marie Malica, CEO, COSA

COSA's breadth of activities continued to thrive throughout 2019. Once again, we are signing off the year with a bumper edition of the Marryalyan. Of course, the ASM was our feature event, and I'll briefly touch on my ASM highlights, but be sure to read more about it in Bogda's convenor report.

2019 COSA ASM

I hope you attended the ASM in Adelaide and got to experience the great vibe across the whole week. If you weren't there in person, hopefully you got to experience the conference via twitter. Haryana Dhillon did a sterling job managing the @COSAoncology twitter account during the ASM, with #COSA19 receiving almost 7.8 million impressions. What an amazing effort!

I think this tweet from COSA member Claire Kelly really summed it up:

"Thank you @COSAoncology for a truly inspiring ASM. I can't remember the last conference I attended which kept my interest & attention from the breakfast session to the last session of each day. I am inspired, encouraged & proud to be a member of this wonderful community #COSA19".

Thank you, Claire – we are inspired, encouraged and proud to have members like you!

Here are a few other tweets that stood out.

From Ben Smith @cancer_K2A from the plenary "How global health and oncology intersect":

Thank you to @COSAoncology for having a session that places #cancer in the context of the broader challenges facing our planet and the population. Thanks also to the panellists for their frank presentations on this topic. Best session of an already great conference #COSA19

And this response from one of the plenary speakers Arun Azad @AzadOncology:

Agree @cancer_K2A and on this point big shout out to @mariemalica and @COSAoncology for reducing waste (no plastic, no satchels etc) at #COSA19. Other conferences should follow suit. We all have to look after our planet!

Did you know we ditched satchels this year and instead gave every delegate a refillable water bottle?!

This tweet from Megan Varlow @mvarlow sets us up for our quality and safety theme in 2020:

Sessions at #COSA19 on #CALD #clinicaltrials #LGBTI #FirstNations #disadvantaged #AYA #older all have me thinking the same thing. Our current healthcare system is not #patientcentred. It is not culturally safe for anyone, you can't have #quality or #equity without #safety.

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 and one of the concurrent rooms. These recordings will be available online for COSA members. Please visit the ASM section on the COSA website for more information.

COSA member feature

I quoted a tweet from the ASM by Claire Kelly above, and wanted to take this opportunity to feature her a little more. Earlier this year, Claire took on the role of editor of The Coordinator which is the COSA Cancer Care Coordination Group e-newsletter.



Claire is a Cancer Care Coordinator at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane, providing psychosocial and supportive care and care coordination for complex patients within the private medical oncology setting. She has worked in cancer and palliative care nursing for almost 30 years since qualifying as an RN in

England in 1990. Her roles in the specialty have included numerous clinical roles in haematology, oncology and palliative care in addition to strategic, managerial and quality improvement roles within both oncology and palliative care in both UK and Australia.

Claire loves being in a diverse and dynamic coordination role that provides an opportunity to influence patient outcomes through direct patient care, research and quality improvement. She is passionate about the delivery of compassionate, patient-centred holistic care within the context of a multidisciplinary team and is deeply aware of the challenges faced by Cancer Care Coordinators, as they adapt

to an ever changing and challenging patient care environment. She is deeply aware that there are many Cancer Care Coordinators making a huge impact on patient care across the country, often in very demanding and isolated roles. She recognises that there is so much excellent work happening that makes a real difference to patients, communities and organisations and she believes that we can all benefit from sharing our experiences. Through *The Coordinator* Claire wants to highlight some of the excellent work taking place within the context of care coordination and articulate the significant value of Care Coordinators within the cancer care workforce.

If you don't already subscribe to *The Coordinator* and you are interested in care coordination activities, I encourage you to sign up.

COSA Staff

I reported in June that we welcomed Lisa Meldrum a to a newly created Administration Officer role. Unfortunately, Lisa was only with us for a short time as her personal circumstances changed and she had to resign. We were lucky to recruit Peter Robinson to the team to fill this vacancy. Peter started with us in mid-October and had a baptism of fire attending his first COSA ASM in Adelaide! With his administration, editing, copywriting and design background, Peter brings valuable skills to the team. Peter will be helping with general administration, member communications and the co-ordination of COSA events. We're very excited to have him on the team.

Marie Malica
Chief Executive Officer



Free and complete online access to
Asia-Pacific Journal of
Clinical Oncology
for COSA members

COSA members can access your official journal for FREE through the member's section of the COSA website.

www.cosa.org.au

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

- Full search capabilities
- Free email table-of-contents alerts
- OnlineEarly alerts
- All available in email or RSS and Atom formats

Discover more with Wiley-Blackwell.



COSA 2019 Travel Grant Recipients

The following delegates received travel grants to attend either the 2019 COSA Trainees Weekend or the 2019 COSA ASM at the Adelaide Convention Centre:

Trainee Travel Grants

- Chloe Lim
- Wendy Huang
- Julia Chen
- Sruti Pillai

The following COSA members received travel grants to attend the 2019 COSA ASM at the Adelaide Convention Centre:

COSA Travel Grants

- Prachi Bhawe
- Emma Kemp
- Tam Bui
- Jenelle Loeliger
- James Fletcher
- Karin Reid
- Gabriel Gabriel
- Xue Quin Yu

2019 COSA ASM Convenor's Report

The COSA ASM really is one of the best conferences to attend each year – and I say that not just as a Past President of COSA and this year's convenor – I truly believe it! And after this year's ASM, I have the evidence to show it too!

The meeting theme of "Putting Precision and Personalisation into Practice" focused on urological cancers, age and gender in cancer practice, digital health, and global oncology. Where else would you see such a diverse and inclusive program? The presentations were thought-provoking, the sessions multidisciplinary, our speakers outstanding, and the delegate engagement exceptional.

The Program Committee agreed early on that it was important for us to identify the most pressing issues for COSA's membership that go beyond just delivering a particular cancer treatment. This is what COSA has become well known for, therefore it was imperative that we delivered the same in Adelaide.

Some of the topics covered things that COSA hasn't grappled with before, especially the global oncology subtheme. The Tuesday afternoon plenary "How global health and oncology intersect" encouraged us all to think about our work beyond our own practices. Michael Barton opened with a forward thinking and stimulating presentation on meeting the global demand for oncology care in 2040. Michael told us that by 2040 there will be 26 million new cancer cases every year, and that nearly 70% will occur in low- and middle-income countries. He estimates that it will cost \$184 billion to scale up access to radiotherapy in these countries. Worldwide the demand for chemotherapy clinicians will increase from 65,000 to 100,000 by 2040. Cancer control does not happen in isolation and requires functional government, health services, pathology and diagnostics.

We all know the Australian health care system has its challenges too, including the need to address access to care in rural in remote communities, overcome disparities and increase digital inclusion. Australia is leading the world in telemedicine, and teleoncology, and we also have the COSA tele-trial model, yet there is still more to be done in addressing the impact of rurality and remoteness. Speakers in the "Tyranny of distance" session discussed a range of issues covering improving outcomes for rural cancer survivors, contemporary cancer care coordination and access to technology. We witnessed the launch of the Australian Digital Health in Cancer Roadmap, endorsed by COSA and many other cancer organisations, in a session with joint presentations from cancer consumers, researchers and representatives of the Australian Digital Health Agency.

The subtheme of gender in cancer practice was covered from many angles. Invited speaker Dr Stacy Loeb, a urologist from the United States is a very accomplished clinician, researcher and charismatic presenter who, by her mere presence, showcased how much has changed in recognition of role models in medicine. As well as working in the very male field of prostate cancer treatment, Stacy runs a radio program on men's health, is particularly active on social media and is currently involved in researching the use of digital technology in communications in prostate cancer.

A highlight of the meeting for me was seeing Ian Olver receive the Tom Reeve Award. Ian has been a colleague of mine for many years, and hearing him recognise the people who have impacted his career – colleagues, friends and importantly family – was a wonderful reminder for all of us of what really matters.

I hope you enjoyed the casual "festival" format. The entertainers were so much fun – fire twirlers, stilt walkers and hula hoppers – interacting with the crowd and getting us warmed up for a fun evening. The removal of formalities from the dinner created a relaxed atmosphere and meant people could come and go as they pleased. If need be, you could sneak away early to ensure you got a good night's sleep before a breakfast session the following day. Not everyone wants to dance until 11pm, but those that do certainly can (and did I hear!)

We always aim to finish on a high note, and I think this year we reached the pinnacle. As one delegate tweeted:

"Damn, just when you think #COSA19 can't get any better Adam Spencer and Kirk Pengilly are on stage" (thanks Kath Dower).

I hope you all enjoyed the 2019 ASM as much as I did. See you next year in Brisbane. Over to you Bryan Chan...

Bogda Koczwara AM
Convenor, 2019 COSA ASM



Prof Bogda Koczwara opening the 2019 COSA ASM

International Speaker Profiles



Alex Chan

A/Prof Alex Chan

**National University
of Singapore and
Duke-NUS Medical School,
Singapore**

Associate Professor Alex Chan is a Deputy Head (Clinical) and a tenured Associate Professor at Department

of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore (NUS) and Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore. He is also co-appointed as a Specialist Pharmacist at National Cancer Centre Singapore, and he serves as the program director for the national PGY-2 Hematology/Oncology residency program in Singapore. A board-certified specialist in Pharmacotherapy and Oncology Pharmacy, Alex has authored recertification learning material for ambulatory care and pharmacotherapy specialists in Ambulatory Care Self-Assessment Program (ACSAP) and Pharmacotherapy Self-Assessment Program (PSAP). He has also authored several textbook chapters for the recent editions of *Pharmacotherapy: A Pathophysiologic Approach*.

As a clinician scientist, Alex has published over 160 full-length peer-reviewed manuscripts in a wide array of 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. He is also interested in pharmacoepidemiology and clinical pharmacy-related research. He provides research supervision to PharmD students, PhD students and fellows, and his research program has attracted over USD \$3.0 million of competitive funding support from numerous agencies and pharmaceutical companies.

Alex is an elected Fellow of American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), and he is currently serving as the President-Elect for International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP). He is also an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice*. Alex has received numerous prestigious awards; he was a recipient of the Young Scientist Award at National University of Singapore in 2013, and a recipient of the Steven M. Grunberg Memorial Award from Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) in 2015.

Was this your first time in Adelaide?

AC: No, this is not my first trip to Adelaide. I visited Adelaide the very first time in 2013 when I presented for that year's COSA conference. After that, I have been to Adelaide on three other occasions (between 2013 and 2019).

Was this your first COSA conference?

AC: Although this is not my first COSA conference, I attended it as if this is my first meeting. I am particularly impressed how the meeting has evolved over the years. (e.g. the self-registration process).

What was your overall impression of the ASM?

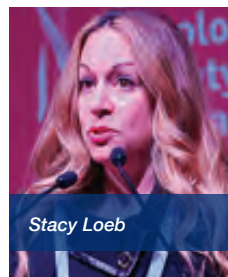
AC: This is a very high-quality meeting and I particularly like the fact that it is very multidisciplinary. It does bring the different stakeholders of cancer care together to learn about the forefront of clinical oncology.

Highlights of the meeting?

AC: The Festive Dinner is certainly a highlight to me. The Pharmacy contingent was big, and we certainly had a fun time on the dance floor!

Any other comments you'd like to add?

AC: Thanks COSA for having me a second time - I really enjoyed all the interactions that I received within the meeting. I am starting a new job in a few months (at University of California, Irvine, USA) so the COSA meeting has certainly given me an opportunity to connect with my Australian colleagues prior to my big move! I look forward to contributing to the COSA program again in the near future!



Stacy Loeb

Dr Stacy Loeb

New York University (NYU), USA

Dr Stacy Loeb is an Assistant Professor of Urology and Population Health at New York University (NYU) and the Manhattan Veterans Affairs Medical Center, specializing in prostate cancer. Dr Loeb completed her urology residency training

at Johns Hopkins and subsequently completed a Masters of Science in Comparative Effectiveness Research at New York University. She currently has a K07 Career Development Award from the National Cancer Institute to study active surveillance and a Young Investigator Award from the Prostate Cancer Foundation to study digital communications in prostate cancer.

Dr Loeb has published more than 290 peer-reviewed articles and 10 book chapters, primarily on prostate cancer, men's health and social media. She is on the Editorial Board for the British Journal of Urology International, Journal of Clinical Oncology, European Urology, Urology Practice, Reviews in Urology, Nature Reviews in Urology and Urology Times. She also authored the chapter on Early Detection, Diagnosis, and Staging of Prostate Cancer for Campbell-Walsh Urology, the primary textbook in the field.

Dr Loeb hosts the Men's Health Show on Sirius XM 110 US/ Canadian satellite radio on Wednesdays from 6-8pm EST. She frequently gives international lectures and courses on prostate cancer, men's health and social media.

Dr Loeb is an active participant in social media and has received multiple awards from the BJU International for her contributions to social media in medicine. Dr Loeb is Chair of the American Urological Association Social Media Work Group, and a member of the European Association of Urology Guidelines Office Social Media Committee.

Was this your first time in Adelaide?

SL: No

Was this your first COSA conference?

SL: Yes

What was your overall impression of the ASM?

SL: This was a fantastic inter-disciplinary program.

Highlights of the meeting?

SL: The highlight of the meeting was the emphasis on digital technology and the many ways that can enhance cancer care.

Any other comments you'd like to add?

SL: This was an extremely well-organized conference with a very innovative program and multi-disciplinary participation.

Loscalzo was the President of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society and the Association of Oncology Social Workers. He is highly recognized and sought after for his strategic mentorship of leaders across disciplines. Professor Loscalzo has focused pain and palliative care, the implementation of problem-based screening programs, gender-based medicine and problem-solving therapies. Along with James Zabora, ScD, they created the first prospective universal clinical biopsychosocial screening program in the United States.

Professor Loscalzo has held leadership positions at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center, the Rebecca and John Moores Cancer Center at the University of California at San Diego and is now in his 10 year at City of Hope-National Medical Center. He has created a number of highly integrated interdisciplinary biopsychosocial programs based on a unique staff leadership model.

In 2010, he received the Outstanding Education and Training Award Recipient from the American Psychosocial Oncology Society. In October 2014, Professor Loscalzo was recognized for a lifetime achievement award in clinical care with the Noemi Fisman Award for Lifetime Clinical Excellence from the International Psycho-Oncology Society. In August 2015, he received the Jimmie Holland Lifetime Leadership Award from the American Psychosocial Oncology Society. In 2016 Professor Loscalzo received the Harold Benjamin Innovation Award, Cancer Support Community and in August of 2017, he was the recipient of the Arthur M. Sutherland Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Psycho-Oncology, International Psycho-Oncology Society.

His clinical interests are gender-based medicine, strengths-based approaches to psychotherapies, problem-based distress screening and the creation of supportive care programs.

Was this your first time in Adelaide?

ML: Yes, first time

Was this your first COSA conference?

ML: No this was my third

What was your overall impression of the ASM?

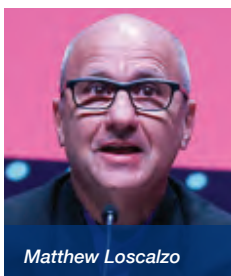
ML: I was truly amazed by the level of thought and organization at every level. As a visitor the processes could not have been easier. It was a pleasure and an honour to participate.

Highlights of the meeting?

ML: Careful integration of disciplines and of the varied talks, awards and panels. It was all extremely well implemented.

Any other comments you'd like to add?

ML: I go to many meetings and the COSA ASMs are by far the best coordinated and integrated. The conferences are always cutting edge and with a level of respect, camaraderie and warmth that is unique to the COSA ASM. As an aside, the food was absolutely excellent.



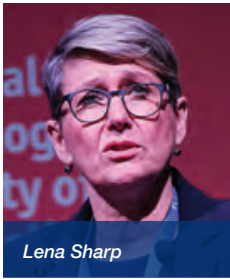
Prof Matthew Loscalzo

City of Hope National Medical Center, California, USA

Matthew J Loscalzo is the Liliame Elkins Professor in Supportive Care Programs in the Department of Supportive Care Medicine and Professor in Department of Population Sciences. He is also

the Executive Director of the Department of Supportive Care Medicine and the Administrative Director of the Sheri & Les Biller Patient and Family Resource Center at the City of Hope-National Medical Center, Duarte California, USA.

Professor Loscalzo has over 38 years' experience in caring for cancer patients and their families. He is recognized internationally as a pioneer in the clinical, educational, and research domains of psychosocial aspects of cancer. Professor



Dr Lena Sharp

Regional Cancer Centre, Stockholm-Gotland, Sweden

Lena Sharp, RN, PhD, is the president of the European Oncology Nursing Society. She is the Head of the Regional Cancer Centre, Stockholm-Gotland, in Sweden. She has been a cancer nurse

since 1985 and has extensive experience in clinical cancer nursing, leadership, teaching and research. Prior to taking up her post at the Regional Cancer Centre, Lena Sharp was the chief nursing officer and patient safety coordinator at the Department of Oncology at Karolinska University Hospital. Her main focus in research is patient safety, communication, leadership and cancer care organization.

Was this your first time in Adelaide?

LS: Yes, I have been to Sydney before but never to Adelaide. Very nice city and I wish I could have stayed a bit longer.

Was this your first COSA conference?

LS: Yes, this was the first COSA meeting for me.

What was your overall impression of the ASM?

LS: I think it was a great meeting! Very interesting sessions and active discussions.

Highlights of the meeting?

LS: To lift just a few, I would say the session on the global view and also the patient case discussion.

Any other comments you'd like to add?

LS: I would sincerely like to thank you for the great hospitality and excellent planning! It was a fantastic event to take part in as an invited speaker. Everything just worked perfect!

2019 Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care

Professor Ian Olver AM was announced as the 2019 recipient of the Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care on the Wednesday afternoon of the ASM.

One of his nominators for the award stated, "Professor Olver is a national leader who has made a significant contribution to cancer care over the past 38 years, making him a very worthy recipient of this prestigious award. He is a renowned oncologist, cancer researcher, bioethicist, and leader of cancer-control organisations. Professor Olver's contribution to oncology has spanned clinical and administrative leadership in the government, not-for-profit, and university sectors, as well as community service and research, shaping numerous aspects of cancer care and prevention at a national and international level."



Professor Olver delivered a moving oration acknowledging the great support he has had from his family and faith throughout his life. Professor Olver also spoke about the importance of building strong relationships with colleagues – emphasising that's what one remembers most from one's career.

Prof Ian Olver AM with previous Tom Reeve Award recipients, Prof Alan Coates AM and Prof Phyllis Butow AM and COSA President A/Prof Nick Pavlakis



2019 COSA Psycho-Oncology Awards

Australia has a proud history of excellence in psycho-oncology care and research. The Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) and the Psycho-Oncology Cooperative Research Group (PoCoG) have fostered the field and ensured its place as part of multi-disciplinary cancer care. Consequently, our organisations are strong with many dedicated individuals contributing to ongoing development and excellence in the field. The Australian Psycho-Oncology Award and New Investigator in Psycho-oncology Award recognise outstanding contributions to psycho-oncology from amongst our members.

This year COSA acknowledged our colleague, peer and good friend Melanie Price and named the Australian Psycho-Oncology Award in her honour.

2019 recipient of the Melanie Price Psycho-Oncology Award was Kim Hobbs

Kim holds a master's degree in social work and has a long career in oncology social work; currently working at Westmead Hospital in the Department of Gynaecological Oncology.

Building upon a solid base of clinical care, Kim advocates for improved psychosocial support services for all people with cancer and their families, friends and caregivers. She believes that psychosocial care should be an integral component of comprehensive cancer care for throughout treatment and recovery.

Kim has been involved in the development of educational resources for both clinicians and consumers.



Kim Hobbs receiving her award from Nick Pavlakis and Andrew Price, brother of Melanie Price

2019 recipient of the New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award was Ben Smith

Ben is the Co-Deputy Director (Policy and Practice) at the Centre for Oncology Education and Research Translation, Ingham Institute and University of New South Wales. Ben's PhD focused on testicular cancer survivorship and he is currently working on several digital health interventions to increase the reach and accessibility of psychosocial cancer care.



Ben Smith receiving his award from Nick Pavlakis

2019 COSA Best of the Best Awards

Best of the Best Poster Oral Presentation Awards

Epidemiology and Health Services

Nathan Dunn abs#216

*Colorectal cancer in older adults:
frequency of major resection and
surgical outcomes*

Translational and Clinical Research

Prachi Bhawe abs#296

*Toxicity of combination
immunotherapy in the elderly*

Best of the Best Oral Presentation Awards

Basic and Translational Research

Normand Pouliot abs#19

*Efficacy of neratinib neoadjuvant
therapy in a pre-clinical model
of HER2⁺ breast cancer brain
metastasis*

Health Services

Luc te Marvelde abs#26

*Alignment with indices of a
care pathway is associated
with improved survival - An
observational population-based
study in colon cancer patients*

Digital Health

Ivana Durcinoska abs#50

*Feasibility of collecting patient
reported outcomes (PROs) from
CALD populations: Experience of
Arabic immigrants with cancer*

Urological Oncology

Luc te Marvelde abs#76

*A comparison of treatment for
prostate cancer between patients
diagnosed in public and private
hospitals in Victoria, Australia*

Epidemiology

Vanessa Beesley abs#79

*Does physical activity improve
chemotherapy completion in
women receiving chemotherapy for
ovarian cancer?*

Supportive Care

Cindy Tan abs#106

*Do cancer survivors change their
diet after cancer diagnosis?*

Education

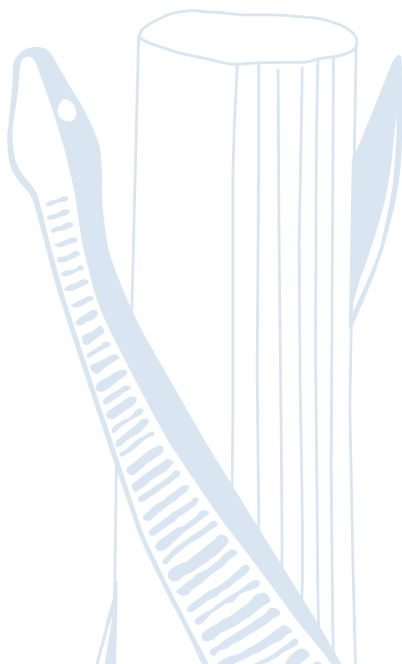
Michelle Peate abs#99

*Development and pilot testing of
a low-literacy decision aid about
reproductive choices for younger
women with breast cancer*

Clinical Research

Jayesh Desai abs#123

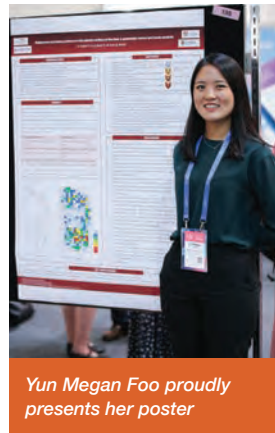
*BEACON CRC: a randomized,
3-Arm, phase 3 study of
encorafenib (ENCO) and
cetuximab (CETUX) with or without
binimetinib (BINI) vs. choice of
either irinotecan or FOLFIRI plus
cetuximab in BRAF V600E-mutant
metastatic colorectal cancer*



2019 COSA ASM in pictures



Hands up if you exercise every day



Yun Megan Foo proudly presents her poster



Pre-conference workshops are always popular



Lots of interesting things on offer at the welcome function



The COSA MDT



Nick Pavlakis
- COSA
President or
Adam Ant's
after ego



Full house in the plenary hall



Kirk Pengilly gives an intimate performance just for COSA



COSA President's dinner



Bryan Chan and Curtis Forbes getting tips for 2020 planning



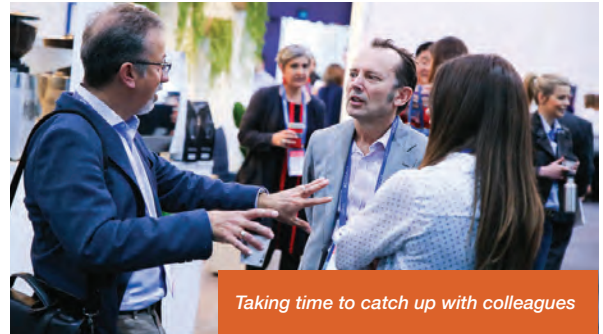
Haryana Dhillon always has thought provoking questions



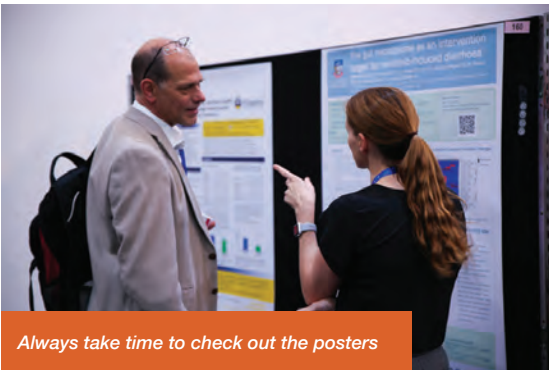
Taking time to catch up with colleagues



What session next?



Taking time to catch up with colleagues



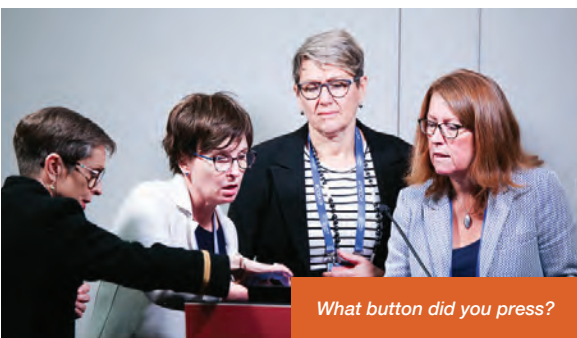
Always take time to check out the posters



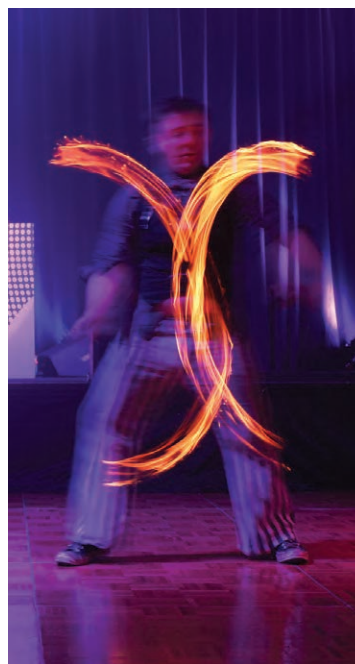
Uncle Moogy welcomes COSA delegates to his country



Take a load off in the delegate lounge



What button did you press?



Stilt walkers and fire twirlers kept everyone entertained at the dinner



COSA loves to dance

COSA Group Reports

Cancer Care Coordination Group

The 2019 COSA ASM has just concluded in Adelaide, and the program delivered many sessions of interest to care coordination. The themes of the conference included urological cancers, age and gender and digital health. The importance of care coordination was a recurring theme. In the opening plenary session, I had the opportunity to present findings from the Movember funded TrueNTH survivorship program for men with prostate cancer. I was able to present data which highlighted that a key factor to the success of the program is good care coordination, as men had multiple needs which required access to multiple service providers over the course of their journey.

There was also a fascinating session on how global health and oncology intersect. Dr Lena Sharp (the invited nursing speaker from Sweden) provided an interesting presentation on cancer and equality. The session reminded me how important effective coordination of care is to ensure optimal use of resources and reduce disparities. A number of the presentations on digital health also highlighted the enormous potential provided by digital technologies to improve safety and quality of care for our patients. I was very impressed with the wide range of presentations on supportive care developments and innovations in health services. I took away many insights into how to improve patient experience.

We were also pleased to view Liz Zwart's poster at the 2019 COSA ASM:

"Click-Connect-Converse-Collaborate: Extending the reach of education and professional development opportunities through webinar series".

Liz Zwart has led the delivery of the webinar program for our group and shared the key message that webinars are an accessible and time-effective way to meet the professional development needs of cancer care coordinators. In July 2019 we hosted our fourth webinar – "Connecting cancer care using digital tools" – which provided care coordinators with evidence and practical information about digital innovations in cancer care to assist them in their role in caring for cancer patients. We were once again pleased with the level of engagement and positive evaluations supporting the value of this program.

During 2019 include we conducted a national survey of COSA members to scope cancer care coordination activities. We are now planning to extend the reach of this study and have gained ethics approval to survey both CNSA and MOGA members in early 2020. These perspectives will provide us with valuable insights into the changing nature of the cancer care coordination environment and the professional development needs of health professionals in dedicated coordination roles. This data will also help us update COSA's Position Statement on Care Coordination and inform future professional development activities for our members.

We are now already turning our thoughts to the 2020 COSA ASM that will be held in Brisbane, with the idea of planning a pre-conference workshop for cancer care coordinators. I encourage anyone who would like to help develop this concept, or participate in any other activities, to get in touch. Please contact Gillian Mackay, COSA Project Manager, at gillian.mackay@cancer.org.au.

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

Cancer Pharmacists Group



A busy few months for the CPG round out another year of numerous educational and other activities in which the Group has been involved. In this my last Marryalyan article as chair of the CPG, I will briefly summarise our activities since the June edition.

CPG Advanced Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists Course

31 August–1 September 2019, Melbourne

Our 9th CPG Advanced Course attracted 89 delegates with over 50% of participants attending for at least the second time, demonstrating the ongoing value of this course in the education of more experienced practitioners. The meeting feedback report showed over 80% of attendees rated the course as very good or excellent, with the wide variety of topics covered proving highly popular. Updates on gynaecological cancers, sarcoma, small cell and neuroendocrine tumours, myeloproliferative neoplasms and the current biosimilar landscape with specific relevance to the cancer pharmacist were presented, as well as interactive sessions being held on immunotherapy, digitally enhanced models of cancer pharmacy, bone marrow transplants for non-malignant diseases and a workshop on building resilience.

My thanks go to Gail Rowan, Jim Siderov and Courtney Oar for their hard work in putting together such a fantastic course.

CPG Pre-ASM Clinical Development Workshop

Adelaide, 11 November 2019

On Monday 11 November the CPG held a Clinical Development Workshop at the Adelaide Convention Centre, immediately prior to the 2019 COSA ASM. The program delivered some unique and interesting insights into issues of relevance to cancer pharmacists and complimented many of the themes of the COSA ASM. Our invited international speaker, renowned pharmacist Associate Professor Alex Chan, also accepted our invitation to speak in several sessions on the day.



CPG workshop

Highlights of the program included:

- Clinical update on current and emerging treatments for renal cancer
- Real-world data and real-world evidence
- “Personalisation versus generalisation” in cancer drug dosing, with sessions on flat dosing of biologics and immunotherapy agents, dosing in obesity, therapeutic drug monitoring in paediatric cancer therapies and an overview of pharmacokinetic changes in the elderly cancer patient
- Practical considerations in the implementation and use of biosimilars for pharmacists

- Update on the ISOPP/BOPA conference held in London in October 2019
- An overview and interactive discussion on pharmacist credentialing, training and emerging roles for pharmacists from the public hospital perspectives in South Australia and Queensland, the private sector and internationally from Singapore

The workshop was attended by 28 cancer pharmacists from across the country and organised by CPG committee members Kimberley-Ann Kerr and Jenny Casanova – thank you both for convening such an interesting workshop. A report summarising the workshop will be made available on the COSA website soon.

COSA ASM 2019

Adelaide Convention Centre, SA, 12–14 November 2019

Another ASM has just come and gone and with over 700 attendees this year, it continues to deliver excellent content and ground-breaking Australian cancer research. Pharmacists continue to be at the forefront in these areas and several cancer pharmacists presented their research during the conference – I would like to congratulate them for their work. Kimberley-Ann Kerr and Jenny Casanova were both heavily involved in the organisation of this year’s conference and deserve our thanks for their contributions.

COSA ASM 2020

Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre, QLD, 11–13 November 2020

Next year the ASM returns to Brisbane for the first time since 2012, with three main themes – quality and safety, implementation science and cardio-oncology. Former CPG chair Dr Christine Carrington will be the CPG representative on the ASM organising committee. Please mark this conference in your calendars and make

every effort to attend. We also plan to hold a pre-ASM cancer pharmacy workshop on 10 November – more information to follow soon.

Plans for 2020

Next year we will be running our three-day Foundation Course in Brisbane from 17–19 April and our Advanced Course in Melbourne from 12–13 September, in addition to a pre-ASM workshop in Brisbane as mentioned above. We hope to see as many of you as possible at these events – please spread the word far and wide. Other activities are planned and we look forward to announcing these in the coming months.

CPG Membership and Executive Committee Update

Currently our membership (either group members or those COSA members stating cancer pharmacy as an area of interest) stands at 186, which has dropped since this time last year. Please encourage your colleagues to join COSA and the CPG and ensure you keep up your membership in 2020!

On a final note, this Marryalyan edition marks my last as CPG chair after four years in the position and eight years on the committee. I would like to thank all CPG members and specifically past and present CPG committee members for their help and support over that time. I look forward to re-joining the membership ranks and seeing the CPG continue to grow from strength to strength in the coming years. Congratulations to Daniel McKavanagh who has been nominated as Chair for 2020 – a fantastic advocate of cancer pharmacy and who is sure to lead the CPG well going forward. We are currently in the process of seeking nominations from the CPG membership to join the committee with one vacancy to be filled – we look forward to announcing our new committee member soon.

I would like to wish all CPG members a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you at one of the many COSA events planned for 2020.

With best wishes

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

Epidemiology Group

The Epidemiology Group members were active and well represented at the COSA's 46th Annual Scientific Meeting sessions in Adelaide. These include Best of the Best Orals – Epidemiology and Best of the Best Posters – Epidemiology and Health Services Research.

In addition, the Epidemiology Group organised a session titled Personalising cancer prevention and screening. The session was chaired by Jon Emery and Claire Vajdic and it featured four excellent presentations by multidisciplinary speakers. Anne Cust from the University of Sydney presented on risk-stratified melanoma prevention and screening; Michael O'Callaghan from Flinders University discussed prostate cancer screening; Sanchia Aranda from Cancer Council Australia presented a policy perspective of cancer screening and Jonathan Karnon also from Flinders University discussed the challenges in demonstrating the value of cancer screening.



Sanchia Aranda, Anne Cust, Jonathan Karnon and Michael O'Callaghan speaking at the COSA ASM

The session was well-attended and the panel discussions at the end of the session were very rich and interactive.

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

Exercise and Cancer Group

Firstly, on behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous chair of the Exercise and Cancer Group, Prue Cormie, for all her hard work over the past four years. Her leadership and passion have led the way in progressing a national approach to the implementation of exercise in cancer care and I look forward to carrying on this work with the wider group.

2019 has been a busy year with the continued promotion of the Exercise and Cancer Position Statement through publications, the media and a number of national conferences focussing on the message that exercise should be prescribed as part of routine cancer care. The infographic below is a key resource which has been developed to raise awareness.

The Implementation Working Group was also established earlier this year, chaired

by Professor Christine Paul from the University of Newcastle. The group is comprised of 17 clinicians from a range of disciplines across Australia with the vision of developing "nationally consistent referral pathways for personalised exercise plans". The group's first meeting was held in August 2019 and was a very successful and productive day. Smaller groups are now compiling information on patient pathways, staff types and messaging for three phases of care (pre-treatment, active treatment and post-treatment). This will form the basis of an Implementation Plan which also identifies target stakeholders, facilitators and barriers and required resources.

The focus of the Exercise Group activities in 2020 will be the updating of the COSA Exercise and Cancer Position Statement because of new guidelines released by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA). This has become necessary based on the exponential growth in research that has evaluated the role of exercise pre, during and post-cancer treatment and will see the current COSA position statement undergo some revisions. Also, the Executive Committee, working alongside the Implementation Group, will continue to pursue educational avenues that continue to promote the group's work along with advocating for changes in policy and practice.



COSA POSITION STATEMENT ON EXERCISE IN CANCER CARE

Governed by Medical Knowledge Group for Australia, Cancer Council Australia, Exercise and Sports Science Australia, and Australian Physiotherapy Association

EXERCISE SHOULD BE PRESCRIBED AS PART OF ROUTINE CANCER CARE

All health care professionals involved with the care of people with cancer should:

- DISCUSS EXERCISE AS AN ADJUNCT TREATMENT FOR CANCER
- PRESCRIBE EXERCISE TO ALL PEOPLE WITH CANCER
- REFER PATIENTS TO AN EXERCISE SPECIALIST WITH EXPERIENCE IN CANCER CARE.





Exercise Booth

The Exercise and Cancer Group was well represented at COSA 2019 ASM with a number of activities and presentations including:

- COSA exercise booth: COSA, Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) and ESSA joined forces to promote the message of exercise in cancer care to delegates, in particular the role Physiotherapists and Accredited Exercise Physiologists (AEP) have in supporting patients across the cancer continuum. The booth also provided a perfect research opportunity (led by Dr David Mizrahi) that looked at assessing the fitness and physical activity referral patterns of healthcare professionals who have the opportunity to promote exercise to patients. A big thank you to all the Physiotherapists and AEPs who helped on the booth and assisted in completing the assessment measures for the study along with promoting COSA, APA and ESSA.
- Soapbox session (Wednesday morning tea): Professor Janette Vardy (Medical Oncology), Ms Sharni Quinn (Physiotherapist) and Morgan Atkinson (AEP) took to the stage to discuss the COSA Position Statement on Exercise in Cancer Care. It provided a wonderful opportunity for each discipline to provide their perspective on the statement and the role all healthcare professionals have in promoting and providing individualised exercise programs for cancer patients.

- Personalised, pragmatic and precision exercise prescription for cancer patients, chaired by Diana Adams (Tuesday afternoon): Shona Edwards opened the session with a patient perspective on exercise in cancer care.

Shona provided a wonderful and moving insight to her ongoing rehabilitation program, along with the importance of tailored and personalised exercise prescription. Other presentations in the session included:

- o “Exercise and nutrition to treat adverse musculoskeletal effects of hormone therapy in prostate cancer” (Steve Fraser)
- o “The cardio-oncology burden is ever-present, so how can we affordably and feasibly assess cardiorespiratory fitness in every patient” (David Mizrahi)
- o “It’s not all face to face: digital delivery of exercise oncology” (Michael Marthick)

There was also a range of other exercise related research presented at the conference, available on the website and conference app.

The Exercise and Cancer Group have a busy 2020 planned and are excited to see our projects unfold and progress. If you would like to participate in the Exercise and Cancer Group please login to your member profile on the COSA website and either select Exercise as a COSA Group or Area of Interest. We encourage members from all discipline areas to be involved in our group.

Andrew Murnane
Chair, Exercise and Cancer Group
Andrew.Murnane@petermac.org

Familial Cancer Group



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

2019 has been another active year for the COSA Familial Cancer Group (FCG). The group has continued to develop resources to support the introduction of mainstream genetic testing programs into oncology clinics and coordinate clinical professional days. The COSA/ Human Genetics Society of Australia (HGSA) Familial Cancer Clinics Clinical Professional Day (FCC CPD) was held on Tuesday 27 August 2019, at the Mantra resort, Kingscliff, NSW. The day featured 4 sessions:

Session 1: Melanoma

The session featured talks from epidemiologist Prof Graeme Mann, Dr Aideen McInerney-Leo and Sebastian Walpole. The presentations of Prof Graeme Mann and Dr Aideen McInerney-Leo highlighted the latest evidence and progress in developing melanoma risk prediction tools using family history information and evidence for melanoma surveillance for CDKN2A gene mutation families. Sebastian Walpole provided an update on the evolving evidence regarding the clinical phenotype of BAP1-tumour predisposition syndrome.

Session 2 & 3: Pediatric cancer and Li Fraumeni Syndrome

This session included a review of the Zero childhood cancer project, an innovative Australian child cancer research project that is developing a comprehensive precision medicine platform for children with high risk

cancer. The presentation by Vanessa Tyrell gave an overview of the project's work so far and demonstrated the high quality innovative and vital translational cancer research that will improve outcomes for children with cancer. Meera Warby a Genetic Counsellor at the Prince of Wales Hereditary Cancer Centre presented on the evolving need for genetic health professional involvement in paediatric and adolescent cancer care and consideration for providing care to this group of patients. Dr Eveline Bleiker and Dr Mandy Ballinger presented on international and Australian respective experiences of the use of whole body MRI in the surveillance of cancers associated with Li Fraumeni Syndrome. Psychosocial researcher Rowan Forbes-Shepherd shared his qualitative research findings exploring the adolescent and young adult experience of genetic testing for Li Fraumeni Syndrome. Dr David Malkin presented on the effect of modifying factors that may play a role in the variability of cancer penetrance in Li Fraumeni Syndrome.

Session 4: Familial Leukemia and Managing Variants of Uncertain Significance

Dr Anna Brown gave an update on progress from the Australian Familial Haematological Cancer Study, including genetic interpretation and therapeutic considerations. Dr Nicola Poplawski presented case examples featuring utility and other considerations when offering germline genetic testing for AML/MDS in the clinic.

Prof Heather Hempel and Rita Schmutzler shared international experiences and approaches to managing variants of uncertain significance.

The day was well attended and positively received by all that attended. The Executive would like to thank all the speakers who made it such an excellent day. I would also like to thank the COSA FCC Group executive committee who gave freely of their time during the year to

organise the meeting, especially Rachel Williams who finalised the program. We also gratefully acknowledge the financial and administrative support by AstraZenca, COSA and kConFab in making this day happen. We look forward to September 2020!

The COSA ASM was held very recently in Adelaide. Featured speakers included:

- Nicola Poplawski – The clinical benefits of germline genetic testing for a cancer patient
- Karin S Kassahn – Benefits and limitations of NGS testing
- Debra Trott – Closing the loop: managing the patient and the family

Many thanks go to Debra Trott and Nicola Poplawski who served on the local organising committee for the ASM.

An online education tool to support oncology teams to upskill regarding mainstream genetic testing is now live. The module can be accessed via the following site mainstreamgenetictesting.com.au/. We thank the efforts of the steering committee, which comprised Margaret Gleeson, Maria Kentwell, A/ Prof Kathy Tucker, Dr Yoland Antil and Dr Helen Mar Fan who led and the development of this module. We acknowledge the financial support of AstraZeneca and medical writing and digital development provided by The Med Collective and JHL Digital.

A membership survey has identified the need to offer some new educational and peer support initiatives. We hope to provide more detail about this in 2020.

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

Lucinda Salmon
Chair, Familial Cancer Group/HGSA
Cancer Genetics Special Interest Group
lucinda.salmon@austin.org.au

Integrative Oncology Group

Over the past number of years Integrative Oncology has gone from strength to strength, with cancer centres throughout Australia looking to and incorporating Integrative Oncology services within their comprehensive cancer care delivery. This is a growing global trend.

In May this year our executive team met at a roundtable discussion organised by Chris O'Brien Lifehouse and NICM Health Research Institute to discuss our primary aims and objectives within the Integrative Oncology space. COSA representation was present, and attendance was excellent. Despite the desire to incorporate these services into mainstream best supportive cancer care, the funding model is not as yet sustainable and multiple barriers still exist. For many years complementary therapies and research have been siloed as outside of the standard best cancer care, but as time and cancer care moves forward a new focus on wellness is upon us and we need to deliver Integrative Oncology services within comprehensive cancer care with the best acceptable evidence based and evidence informed approach.

In October 2019 MSKCC hosted the Society of integrative Oncology 19th Annual International Conference in New York. Over 500 participants from more than 29 countries attended. The focus was on the substance of evidence based Integrative Oncology: lifestyle change, nutrition, health coaching, exercise, survivorship, the use of selected integrative therapies, research and education to manage the most stubborn and burdensome symptoms patients experience during and after cancer therapy. The half-day pre-conference workshops were very well attended and included two main themes: sleep disturbances and cancer related cognitive impairment,

the latter of which I was honoured to co-chair. The conference also included a global stream - looking at what countries around the world are doing and achieving in the Integrative Oncology space. It was in this context that Australia and our collective achievements were able to shine. It was again an honour to present at a number of forums, including the leadership council meeting, and have my team members present at the poster session, clinical practice and research forums, with regard to where we are at in terms of service delivery, embedding of PROMs into clinical practice, building of evidence maps and the process of service delivery research.

Today we are a united and strong executive representing services from most states of Australia. We chose COSA and the IO special interest group as our base to develop a strong executive of like-minded and driven individuals. We are working in a unique space across the continuum of cancer care: from diagnosis, during treatment and into both survivorship as well as supporting patients with advanced cancer, independent of the stage of their disease or prognosis. We are building strategies to ensure safety and to evaluate the efficacy of specific therapies. We are aware of the overlap with survivorship and palliative care services and exercise and nutrition programs and are looking towards developing strategies to enhance these programs. Integrative Oncology is an exciting and growing field in the supportive cancer care space. We look forward to updating COSA members as our initiatives progress in the near future – watch this space!

The COSA Integrative Oncology Group supports the integration of selected, safe, evidence-informed complementary therapies to benefit all Australians with cancer. We have developed clear objectives as part of our terms of references, presented and approved by

the COSA council. We decided our first strategy as an executive was to work on the development of a White Paper. But why a White Paper? The COSA Integrative Oncology Executive agreed the development of a White Paper is required to advance and communicate the Integrative Oncology and wellbeing model of care, and clearly articulate the demand and evidence-base for IO.

We are currently working on the most cost-effective and efficient strategy to move this forward and thank the COSA board for their support. We look forward to updating COSA members soon. These are exciting times in this rapidly evolving and innovative space in cancer supportive care. If this is an area of interest, please contact me via email or join our group.

Judith Lacey
Chair, Integrative Oncology Group
Judith.Lacey@lh.org.au

Neuro-oncology Group

The neuro-oncology community of healthcare practitioners, consumer advocates and researchers across Australia and New Zealand continues to be a growing and vibrant group with strong links to relevant international networks. Brain Cancer Awareness Week was held from 1 to 7 May 2019, with several patient education forums held across states and territories.

Brain Tumour Alliance Australia (BTAA) was successful in 2016 in being awarded co-funding for a project to develop new brain tumour resource materials, including for languages other than English. This important project has led to the development and release in 2019 of multi-cultural support resources, including the translation of important support publications - the new Pathway document, the booklet It's OK to Ask,

and the BTAA information brochure. These can be located via the following link <https://btaa.org.au/resources/languages>.

COGNO, the Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-oncology, held its 12th Annual Scientific Meeting, from Sunday 27 to Tuesday 29 October 2019, at the International Convention Centre Sydney, New South Wales. It was convened by Neurosurgeon Dr Jonathon Parkinson, with the theme of "The Neuro-Oncology Picture: Now and The Future". This was a very successful meeting with the programme including five international experts spanning neuro-imaging, neuro-oncology, neurosurgery and radiation oncology, as well as key national experts. A patient support and education forum facilitated by the Cancer Institute NSW Neuro-oncology Group and BTAA was also held alongside the main Scientific Meeting program.

Research has been significantly bolstered by the Australian Brain Cancer Mission, initially announced in October 2017, which represents a total investment of \$124.7m achieved through co-investment by the Australian Government's MRFF and significant donations from other funding partners. The Mission has the goal of doubling survival rates and improving the quality of life of people living with brain cancer over the decade to 2027, with the longer-term aim of defeating brain cancer.

It has been a great pleasure to Chair the COSA Neuro-oncology Group.

Eng-Siew Koh
Chair, Neuro-oncology Group
EngSiew.Koh@health.nsw.gov.au



MERRY
Christmas

Nutrition Group

Cancer-related malnutrition and sarcopenia (low muscle mass) have severe negative consequences, including poorer survival, for people living with and recovering from a cancer diagnosis. With as many as 1 in 3 people with cancer experiencing malnutrition and/or sarcopenia there is a substantial impact at an individual level for people with cancer and their families, as well as for the health care system as a whole.

Over the duration of 2019 the Nutrition Group have been developing a position statement on cancer-related malnutrition and sarcopenia for all health professionals working in oncology. In April, a 22-member multidisciplinary working group was formed, consisting of dietitians, nurses, exercise physiologists and medical practitioners, to commence work on the position statement. A draft of the position statement was recently presented at COSA Council and will shortly undergo a consultation process with COSA members, followed by external organisations. The position statement contains summaries of the evidence for the recognition, assessment and treatment of cancer-related malnutrition and sarcopenia, as well as the important role of the multidisciplinary team. Implementation tips are included in order to assist organisations in adopting the recommendations stated in the position statement. The Nutrition Group aims to have the final position statement available early in 2020 and will be commencing work on an implementation and promotion strategy.

Nutrition was again on the agenda at the 2019 COSA ASM, with a hot topic discussion on “As health professionals, do we practice what we preach?” revealing the poor adherence of attendees to cancer prevention recommendations, particularly those

around diet. The session on “Exploring age and media in onco-nutrition: assets or liabilities?” was insightful. The session covered broad and topical areas in oncology nutrition including the impact of sarcopenia on cancer outcomes, digital health as a platform for nutrition interventions and the benefit of combining exercise and nutrition interventions for optimal outcomes in men with prostate cancer. The Nutrition Group were delighted again to offer the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) the external conference research prize at the ASM and congratulate Merran Findlay as the very worthy 2019 recipient for her excellent presentation and quality research on sarcopenia in people with head and neck cancer.

The Group welcomed Dr Brenton Baguley as editor of the quarterly Nutrition Group e-news, which is distributed to Group members. Brenton’s assistance has been invaluable in ensuring we can keep members up to date with the latest developments in onco-nutrition.

The Group held its AGM at the COSA ASM, with planning for Group activities for 2020 underway. The Group was delighted to receive a small amount of funding from Goldman Sachs to support an update of the highly successful evidence-based guidelines for nutritional management of adult patients with head and neck cancer. Preliminary discussions were held regarding ideas for implementation and dissemination of the cancer-related malnutrition and sarcopenia position statement.

The Nutrition Group has a busy 2020 on the horizon and is excited to see our projects unfold and progress.

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

Psycho-Oncology Group

The COSA Psycho-Oncology Group had a very busy and engaging COSA ASM in Adelaide this year. This ASM was particularly full, with a Professional Day, the program content and presentation of the Psycho-Oncology Awards.

On Monday 11 November 2019 we held our Psycho-Oncology Professional Day, which was supported by the Psycho-Oncology Co-operative Group (PoCoG). The Professional Day was titled “Let’s Talk About Sex” and started with our invited international speaker, Professor Matt Loscazlo, discussing open communication and gender considerations in psycho-oncology.

We had a very practical and educational workshop with Jessica Medd, Senior Clinical Psychologist, on Managing Sexual Dysfunction, where Jessica generously shared her expertise in managing sexual difficulties in a cancer setting. This was followed by a detailed and informative update by Dr Michelle Peate, Senior Research Fellow, on oncofertility - clinical implications of existing guidelines and future directions.

The day ended with a lively discussion of complex clinical cases which was chaired and facilitated by Professor Jane Turner with the expert panel comprising our speakers for the day and Dr Lisa Beatty, Senior Clinical Psychologist. The considerable expertise of the participants in the room added to the panel’s consideration of clinical management of sexual dysfunction, relationship issues and fertility challenges.





Psycho-Oncology Group members at the 2019 COSA ASM

At COSA ASM 2019 the New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award was given to Dr Ben Smith. This was in recognition of his research achievements and ongoing contribution to the discipline of psycho-oncology in Australia. Congratulations to Ben.

The COSA 2019 ASM saw the launch of the Inaugural Melanie Price Psycho-Oncology Award which recognises the highest level of contribution to psycho-oncology from among the membership of COSA and PoCoG. This award was named in honour of our dear colleague, Dr Mel Price, who died in late 2018. Mel's brother, Andrew, flew from Sydney to present the Award to our well-deserving colleague, Kim Hobbs, Senior Social Worker. Congratulations to Kim.

The themes of the conference were "Putting Precision and Personalisation into Practice: Urological cancer, Age and gender in cancer practice, and Digital health in cancer." All topics were of interest to Group members. There were many highlights, which included Professor Matt Loscalzo's engaging and informative presentations and breakfast session; the plenaries on "How Global Health and Oncology Intersect" and "Clinical Oncology in the Digital Age"; and the many sessions with high quality content from our international speakers and also our Australian colleagues. The grand finale of COSA 2019 was a discussion hosted by the talented Adam Spencer with guest Kirk Pengilly from INXS. Kirk closed COSA with a moving performance of some classic INXS tunes. It was sensational!

So, after a jam-packed COSA ASM, I would like to wish you all a relaxing, happy, healthy, and safe Christmas and New Year period. Please feel free to get in contact with me at the address below.

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

Regional and Rural Group

This Regional and Rural Group report comes at the end of another informative and successful COSA ASM. A particular highlight was the multi-disciplinary session organised by our own Dr Kate Gunn on "The Tyranny of Distance". We heard from several speakers how you cannot just apply rules that work in the city to a rural landscape.

Kate spoke about strategies she researched overseas during her Churchill Fellowship that may help to improve outcomes for rural people affected by cancer in Australia. She also urged researchers to consider doing rural/urban comparisons where possible, to improve understanding about the mechanisms that explain rural cancer patients' survival disadvantage, and thereby help inform the development of new, targeted systems and interventions to address these issues.

Sabe Sabesan presented some pragmatic tips on how to implement and scale teleoncology and overcoming barriers.

Michael Penniment shared lessons from the establishment of the Alan Walker Cancer Centre in Darwin and insights into the work he is leading in establishing Australia's first proton therapy centre in Adelaide (The Australian Bragg Centre), which will provide care to patients from all over Australia.

Peggy Briggs presented on "Contemporary Cancer Care Coordination: Better rural patient outcomes". An outline of the size and population of Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS) was given to set the scene, followed by an overview of the four strategic directions the WACHS Cancer Strategy 2017-2022 is addressing to improve cancer services for country people. This includes the introduction of TeleChemotherapy services in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions of Western Australia. Peggy presented her role which is to help the very remote cancer patients of WA, where she used some incredibly complicated patient journeys to highlight the challenges facing rural patients which are just unfathomable to contemplate by city clinicians. These included up to 51hrs hours of travel by people in remote areas of the Kimberley to attend a comprehensive cancer centre in Perth for investigation, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Some this is the equivalent of travelling from Perth to Melbourne every 2-3 weeks for cancer treatment or for a 5 minute consult. WACHS is now utilising Telehealth to facilitate care closer to home, where safe and appropriate.

Another wonderful session at the ASM was the Best of the Best Epidemiology presentations. A Townsville researcher, Sebastian Kang, presented some positive data on the safety of delivering immunotherapy in a rural setting using teleoncology models. We also heard from Penny Mackenzie about the divides existing in outcomes for radiation services in the geriatric rural population.

At the Regional and Rural Group AGM, a small but passionate group met to discuss ideas and collaborations. Of particular interest were Cancer Rehabilitation services and how they should be better integrated into care pathways. There were also some useful insights given by a regional psychiatrist on the model of care he was delivering in Victoria. Attendees were interested to receive more frequent communication in the form of newsletters and discussed starting a WhatsApp group to create an online forum to share rural problems and solutions. Regional members were also encouraged to add their patients to the existing national databases for pancreatic and prostate cancer in order to collect the granular detail that might help explain why rural patients do not do as well.

Please ensure you keep up your membership of COSA and the Regional and Rural Group in 2020. If you would like to participate in the Regional and Rural Group or be kept informed of our activities, login to your member profile on the COSA website and select Regional and Rural Oncology as either a COSA Group or Area of Interest. We strongly encourage members from all disciplines to get involved with our Group.

Rob Zielinski
Chair, Regional & Rural Group
Rob.Zielinski@health.nsw.gov.au

Survivorship Group

The Survivorship Group enjoyed a very productive year in 2019, culminating in the COSA ASM with many sessions relevant to survivorship care as outlined in the Convenor Report on page 4. One important highlight of the ASM was a presentation by Afaf Girgis on evidence for the use of PRO in clinical care, which eloquently summarised why progressing this topic should be a priority for the Survivorship Group. The PRO Implementation Working Group has had two meetings now and has developed a clear working plan with the focus on the priorities of drafting a call to action and engaging with consumers to make a strong advocacy case.

We held our Group Annual General Meeting at the 2019 COSA ASM, which provided an opportunity to update members on our recent and ongoing activities. The Group has a detailed 3 year Strategic Plan, which was developed after consultation with members, and will help guide our forward directions over the coming years. Main priorities include enhancing engagement and communication with members, building survivorship care and research capacity, and progressing work in Patient Reported Outcome (PRO) activity. The full Strategic Plan is available via our Group page at www.cosa.org.au.

One of the key priorities has been implementation of the COSA Survivorship Model and the first step in that process is the dissemination of the Model beyond the COSA members – we are pleased that the paper on the Model has been published in the December 2019 edition of the Australian Journal of General Practice www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/2019/december/.

In line with the Strategic Plan, we have continued to issue a regular newsletter under the skilful editorial oversight of

Karolina Lisy. The newsletter provides more details on the state of survivorship care and research in Australia. For the latest issue see cosa.org.au/groups/survivorship/resources/. We have also expanded membership of the Group Executive to increase the diversity of skills, interests and regions and promote greater engagement with members. We are pleased to welcome John Boyages, Mahesh Iddawela and Elysia Thornton-Benko, who join our continuing Executive members Ray Chan, Richard Cohn, David Joske, Karolina Lisy, Michael Jefford and Janette Vardy. Michael will be taking over from me as a Chair of the Group bringing with him incredible knowledge, and track record of leadership in survivorship nationally and internationally. I have no doubt that the Group will flourish under his leadership.

I will remain ex-officio to complete the plans of the PRO working group. I will also keep in touch with you all as we plan our next Flinders COSA survivorship conference, to be held in Adelaide from 18 to 19 March 2021. The meeting will continue to reflect the latest developments in research and care relating to cancer survivorship. At the 2021 conference we again hope to advance the field, with particular focus on skill building and partnerships across disciplines in Australia and beyond. I, as always, would value your feedback on topics to focus on or any other suggestions on how the meeting can be more relevant and impactful.

Before Adelaide, we will also have a chance to focus on survivorship topics in Brisbane at the COSA ASM in November 2020. I am pleased that the topic of cardiooncology we focused on at the last Flinders COSA survivorship meeting in March 2019, will make it into the plenary at the 2020 COSA ASM. I hope to see many of you in Brisbane.

As I finish my last report as Chair of the Group, I look back at the incredible



progress in this field over last few years, and the incredible leadership that Australian COSA members have demonstrated in this space. How lucky are we! Thank you to the incredible Executive Team – smart, collegial and not afraid of pushing the envelope where needed. Thank you to Gillian Mackay for your incredible support on so many levels – we could not have done it without you. Thank you to all of our members across Australia for making survivorship your core business. It has been a great year. As you take a moment for a well-deserved rest, I wish you a happy and safe festive season and I look forward to a great 2020.

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




18-19
March
2021

20 CANCER SURVIVORSHIP 21


SAVE THE DATE

Adelaide
Convention
Centre

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



**Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia**



Flinders Centre
for Innovation
in Cancer

Other Reports

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



There are now more than 58 patients participating in tele-trials nationally. Nine tele-trials are open, two are closed to recruitment and a further nine tele-trials are pending. Tele-trials are open in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. In Western Australia, a project to pilot implementation of the Tele-Trial Model has commenced and the project is actively seeking a suitable trial to pilot their first tele-trial.

Regulatory reform is critical to enable the adoption of the Tele-Trial Model nationally. The Australian ICH GCP (including Tele-trials) SOPs and supervision plan template, both developed by Queensland Health in collaboration with COSA, and the Tele-Trials Subcontract for use between primary and satellite sites are all currently being considered for National Mutual Acceptance (NMA). These documents are expected to be approved by the end of the year for use nationally. NMA working groups, with representation from Queensland, NSW

and Victoria, are also considering and addressing insurance and indemnity arrangements for the Tele-Trial Model.

The project's advisory groups - the Department of Health Advisory Group, MA Industry Advisory Group, the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups Advisory Group, and the Tele-Trials Project Steering and Executive Committees - continue to meet regularly and provide important strategic advice to the project. An Investigational Medicinal Product (IMP) in Tele-Trials Advisory Group has also been convened to address issues with IMP transport and management at primary and satellite sites.

Several checklists and templates are now available to facilitate adoption of the Model by sponsors and sites. These include Supervision Plan templates, Steps to establish a Tele-Trial cluster, Post approval steps for tele-trial amendments and documents, Question and Answer documents for sponsors and sites and a checklist of documents for RGO submission at Primary and Satellite Sites. A Tele-Trial IMP Management SOP for Primary Sites is currently under development. These documents will soon be available on the COSA website.

Stakeholder engagement through presentations at conferences and meetings continues. The Tele-Trials Model and Project have been presented at the following conferences:

- ARCS Annual Conference – two oral presentations
- ACTA International Conference – oral presentation
- ASCO Breakthrough Summit, Bangkok – oral presentation
- COSA ASM – oral presentation

We are also pleased to inform you that a supplement to the Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology – the Australasian Tele-Trial Model: Lessons from Practice – has been published on the Wiley Blackwell Online Library and printed copies were made available at the COSA ASM. A copy of the supplement on the Wiley Online Library can be found at onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17437563/2019/15/S8.

In our last report we confirmed the project will be extended for a further year. The project will now be completed on 30 September 2020. We would like to take this opportunity to thank MTPConnect who provided matched funding for the first two years of the project and our funding consortium partners for this project: Rare Cancers Australia, Cancer Voices NSW, Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine, The Garvan Institute of Medical Research, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Icon Group, St John of God Hospital, Medicines Australia, AbbVie, Jansen, Novartis and Pfizer. We would also like to thank BMS, AstraZenca and MSD who have joined our funding consortium for the extension phase of the project.

**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. There have been a number of developments in AGITG research in recent months. In October, the MASTERPLAN phase II trial for pancreatic cancer patients opened at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Queensland. It is investigating mFOLFIRINOX and stereotactic radiotherapy (SBRT) for patients with high risk and locally advanced disease.



LIBERATE has reached its target of 100 patients and is now in follow-up, investigating the accuracy of liquid biopsies as a method of cancer screening for tumour mutation status.

In June, the preliminary results of the ALT-GIST clinical trial were released at the ASCO Annual Meeting. This phase II trial examined whether an alternating

regimen of two drug therapies, imatinib and regorafenib, was safe and active as a first line treatment for metastatic gastro-intestinal stromal tumours (GIST). It found no meaningful difference for patients between the two treatment regimens after nine months of treatment.

A number of awards and opportunities coming up in 2020 are now open for submissions. The AGITG will offer an additional Innovation Fund grant in 2020, with a total of two grants of up to \$200,000 each available for AGITG-sponsored research projects. Applications are now open for the Merck-AGITG Clinical Research Fellowship during 2021-22 at Royal Marsden Hospital in London, providing early career researchers the opportunity to work at the busiest GI clinic in the UK. This two year Fellowship is generously supported by Merck. Find out more at gicancer.org.au/Awards.

Following the success of the AGITG Idea Generation Workshop this year, the 2020 Idea Generation Workshop will be held on Friday 26 June in Sydney. It will be targeted at identifying areas of unmet need in relation to gastro-intestinal clinical trials in Australia and globally. More information is available at gicancer.org.au/igw.

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 pancreas cancer: A multi-centre 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.

MASTERPLAN: A randomised phase II study of mFOLFIRINOX and stereotactic radiotherapy (SBRT) for pancreatic cancer with high risk and locally advanced disease.

MODULATE: Modulation of the tumour environment 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 gastro-intestinal 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.

Detailed information about these trials is available at gicancer.org.au/clinical-trial/status/open.

Annual Scientific Meeting: 21-23 August 2019

The AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting is the premier meeting in the GI cancer research space in our region. The 2019 Meeting explored the theme “Challenging the enigmatic nature of GI cancers”. A dedicated trainee workshop and study coordinator day was held on 20 August, covering a range of topics which were presented by experts in each field.

In addition to updates on current AGITG trials, a number of annual AGITG awards were presented:

- The **AGITG Innovation Fund** grant of \$200,000 was awarded to Professor Peter Gibbs and co-Investigators for “An organoid sensitivity testing driven umbrella study of patients with chemorefractory metastatic colorectal cancer”
- The **John Zalcborg OAM Award for Excellence in AGITG Research** was presented to Professor Val GebSKI for his outstanding contribution to the AGITG as Head Statistician

- The **Merck-AGITG Kristian Anderson Award** was presented to Dr Ryan Cohen, and will fund the first year of Dr Cohen’s PhD at the University of Western Australia
- The **Best of New Concepts Award**, sponsored by Specialised Therapeutics, was presented to Dr Mark McGregor for “A phase II study of oncolytic immunotherapy of metastatic neuroendocrine tumours using intralesional rose Bengal disodium in combination with pembrolizumab”
- The **Best of the Best Posters Award**, sponsored by GenesisCare, was presented to Dr Swetha Sridharan for “Palliative oesophageal chemoradiotherapy: A phase I clinical trial”
- The **Best Fast Forward Award**, sponsored by GenesisCare, was presented to Dr Simon Wilkins for “The effect of oversewing double stapled anastomoses in oncological colorectal surgery”



Professor Peter Gibbs, recipient of the 2019 AGITG Innovation Fund grant

Save the date for the 22nd AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting, to be held at Sofitel Melbourne on Collins on 25-28 August 2020.

The Gutsy Challenge

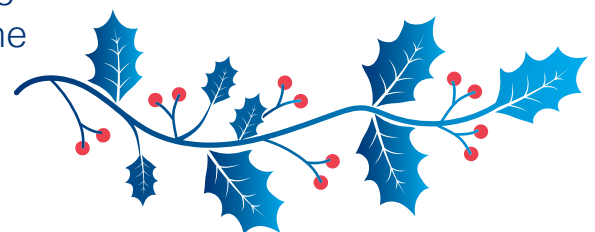
Funds raised through the Gutsy Challenge support the AGITG Innovation Fund grants, facilitating the development of improved treatments for GI cancer. The people who take on the Gutsy Challenge raise funds for vital research to find a cure for the 28,900 Australians diagnosed each year.

Two teams have taken on Gutsy Challenge Adventures in 2019. In September, a team led by Dr Lorraine Chantrill trekked Western Australia’s Cape to Cape track, walking over 100km. The first Trans-Tasman Gutsy Challenge Adventure took place in November, with a team led by Professor Tim Price trekking over 70km through New Zealand’s Southern Alps.

There are four Gutsy Challenges coming up in 2020 that will be led by AGITG members.

- **Kakadu:** a 40km trek through the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park led by A/Prof Nick Pavlakis
- **Bungle Bungles:** A 40km trek through the stunning Bungle Bungles in Western Australia led by Katie Benton and Belinda Steer
- **Treasure Road:** A family friendly Gutsy Challenge, where families take on a four-day road trip with a twist
- **Mt Himlung Himal:** In this extreme Gutsy Challenge, a team of six led by A/Prof Niall Tebbutt will ascend to extraordinary heights, scaling the 7,126m mountain Mt Himlung Himal in Nepal

Find out more at gicancer.org.au/gutsy.





AGITG
AUSTRALASIAN GASTROINTESTINAL TRIALS GROUP

**AGITG
22nd ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

25–28 August 2020 • Sofitel Melbourne on Collins
asm.gicancer.org.au

Invitation from the AGITG Chair, Professor Tim Price

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

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

Tim Price
Chair, AGITG

Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group



ALTG celebrates 15 years

This year, the Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group (ALTG) has celebrated its 15th year. Since its inception, the membership has grown from 70 founding members to over 850 members, representing the full range of professional disciplines involved in caring for patients with lung cancer, clinical trial professionals and consumer representatives. One of the strengths

of the ALTG is its strong, collaborative and multidisciplinary membership with a strong group emphasis on member engagement and participation.

During the 15 years, the ALTG has completed 7 trials and 3 pilot studies and also reached the milestone in 2019 of 1000 participants recruited to ALTG-led trials. Through study endorsement, ALTG members have helped accrue patients to 11 trials led by other groups, primarily the Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG) and the Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG). The ALTG currently has approximately 7 trial concepts in development. Completed trials have been either published in scientific journals or presented at leading conferences, with publications of the BR.26 and MATES trial in *The Lancet* and an oral presentation at ASCO 2018 for the DREAM trial as particular highlights.

Successful international collaborations for clinical trials have been established in North America, Asia and Europe, and ALTG has led the development of the Thoracic Alliance for Clinical Trials (TACT), an international non-profit umbrella organisation for worldwide academic groups dedicated to thoracic oncology research. The ALTG has a long-standing collaboration with the National Health and Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Centre (NHMRC CTC) that has provided exemplary conduct of their clinical trials both locally and internationally.

Clinical Trial Program

The ALTG clinical trial program has continued to expand, with trials spanning early and advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), small cell lung cancer (SCLC), mesothelioma, other thoracic malignancies and supportive care. Selected highlights of the trial program are listed below.

DREAM3R

The ALTG has secured funding for an international multi-centre Phase III trial evaluating upfront immunotherapy (durvalumab) in mesothelioma, DREAM3R, led by Professor Anna Nowak, in collaboration with the leading US trials group, PrECOG. The trial is expected to open during the first half of 2020.

PEARL

Currently open to recruitment, PEARL, led by A/Prof Linda Mileshkin and in collaboration with The Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative (PaCCSC), examines the efficacy of early referral to palliative care for improving quality of life and health care resource use following recent diagnosis of advanced thoracic malignancies. The clinical trial is supported by successful NHMRC and Cancer Australia grant applications and is expected to complete recruitment in December 2020.

ALKTERNATE

ALKTERNATE is a single arm Phase II trial in ALK-rearranged NSCLC alternating lorlatinib with crizotinib after progression on first line crizotinib. The trial, led by Dr Malinda Itchins, opened mid-year after successfully receiving funding from Fight on the Beaches.

ILLUMINATE

ILLUMINATE, led by Dr Chee Koon Lee, is a Phase II, single arm trial to assess the efficacy and tolerability for patients with the use of durvalumab

and tremelimumab with chemotherapy in metastatic EGFR NSCLC following progression on EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitors. The trial will expand ALTG's international collaborations in the Province of China and Taiwan.

We encourage submission of research concepts to the ALTG for consideration. For more details go to <https://altg.com.au/research-overview/trial-development-process/>.

Events

The ALTG also hosts a series of educational and networking events throughout the year. The principal education event is the lung cancer preceptorship, which was run for the 5th consecutive year in 2019. The two-day workshop is an intensive and active learning program for medical trainees, fellows, consumers and nurses interested in developing their clinical knowledge and expertise in lung cancer management. Under the mentorship of a preceptor, each attendee conducts a critical appraisal of evidence from a published paper that has contributed to current treatment of lung cancer. The program is interspersed with opportunities for networking and career development. In 2019 the event focused on the critical appraisal of key practice-changing clinical trials across the spectrum of thoracic cancers, with a discussion of the latest advances in the treatment of lung cancer. In feedback obtained after the event, 100% of attendees stated that they would

recommend this event to others and both attendees and ALTG preceptors commented on the high standard of presentations.

In July 2019, the ALTG hosted the Annual Scientific Meeting, its fourth lung cancer symposium and focusing on the theme of "Delivering Precision Medicine for Lung Cancer". The two-day program featured local and international experts delivering presentations on patient-focused care, survivorship and host factors for immunotherapy and targeted therapy. Highlights included presentations by Dr Alexander Drilon from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre on "Precision medicine in lung cancer" and "RET/NTRK targets in lung cancer", and by Professor Jolie Qing Zhou from Guangdong Lung Cancer Institute, Guangdong General Hospital and Guangdong Academy of Medical Sciences on "EGFR sequencing in the context of resistance". Ninety-five percent of feedback respondents felt the event improved their knowledge of precision medicine in lung cancer and would recommend the event to others.

During 19-21 February 2020 the ALTG will host its annual scientific meeting in Melbourne, in conjunction with Lung Foundation Australia and Australia and New Zealand Lung Cancer Nurses Forum (ANZ-LCNF) as part of the Australian Lung Cancer Conference 2020. This combined forum is inspired by the theme "A Time of Hope in Lung Cancer" and represents the strategic objectives of Lung Foundation Australia,



5th ALTG Lung Cancer Preceptorship

Australian Lung Cancer Conference 2020

19 - 21 February | Melbourne



ANZ-LCNF and ALTG. The event will bring together health professionals, researchers and consumers to provide valuable insight into local and international advances in lung cancer across the full range of disciplines involved in care of lung cancer patients. Notable speakers include Dr Marina Chiara Garassino and Dr Federico Cappuzzo. View the program at <https://alcc.lungfoundation.com.au/program/>. Further details and registration details can be found at <https://alcc.lungfoundation.com.au/>.

If you would like to know more about the ALTG, please visit the website <https://altg.com.au/>.

A/Prof Nick Pavlakis
President, ALTG

Australasian Metastasis Research Society

The Australasian Metastasis Research Society (OzMRS) held its 4th biennial symposium on 30 October at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) in conjunction with the 6th Thomas Ashworth 2019 Symposium (TAS 2019) on CTC and Liquid Biopsy, and the 12th Annual Scientific Meeting of the

Cooperative Trial Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO). The meeting, featuring a morning session dedicated to brain metastasis, followed by three sessions covering various aspects of metastasis, provided a conducive environment for networking and for establishing new collaborations for the 46 participants.

We heard inspiring talks from our national and international plenary speakers. Dr Eng-Siew Koh (Liverpool Hospital, NSW, Australia) discussed current challenges of personalised therapy for brain metastases and elaborated on clinical trials and tribulations. In particular, she highlighted the distinct properties of primary tumours, de novo metastases and sequential metastases, and challenged our “one size fits all” approach to the treatment of advanced metastatic cancer. Dr Seema Nagpal (Stanford Cancer Centre, California, USA) discussed the benefit of systemic

tyrosine kinase inhibitors to improve survival outcomes in patients with CNS involvement beyond that achieved by standard whole brain radiation therapy (WBRT). She pointed out that, due to branch evolution, CNS disease may be distinct from the primary tumour or extracranial metastases and is likely to require tailored therapy. Given the difficulty of obtaining brain biopsies, she advocated for the implementation of clinical trials to assess the relationship between cell-free DNA detected in blood or cerebrospinal fluid and brain metastases. Dr. Helen A. Shih (Harvard Medical School, Boston MA, USA) discussed new advances in the field of radiation therapy including proton therapy and the increasing use of stereotactic radiosurgery even in patients with multiple brain lesions. She reported on the benefit of Memantine, a NMDA receptor antagonist, along with hippocampal avoidance (NRG-CC001 phase III trial) to help reduce cognitive



Attendees at the 2019 OzMRS Symposium

dysfunction and improve quality of life in patients treated with WBRT. Prof Raghu Kalluri (MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas, USA) once again delivered a stimulating talk highlighting the power of genetically engineered mouse models to study the molecular complexity of cancer and identify new matrix-related therapeutic targets.

Metastasis research experts from the Australasian region also presented a broad variety of highly innovative research. Among these, the important role of the stromal microenvironment, extracellular matrix proteins and their receptors in regulating tumour progression and treatment resistance featured abundantly (Dr. Normand Pouliot, Dr. Thomas Cox, Prof. Marie Ranson). We also heard about powerful new technologies such as single cell transcriptomic (David Gallego-Ortega), cellular barcoding (Dr. Delphine Merino), NanoString (Prof. Marie Ranson), Genome-wide Argonaut-CLIP analysis (Dr. Philip Gregory) that can be harnessed to identify key drivers of cancer metastasis and therapeutic targets or to elucidate the molecular heterogeneity of cancer metastases with an unprecedented depth. Dr. Elizabeth Williams reported on the molecular profiling of circulating tumour cells from patient-derived xenografts and how this analysis can inform on the contribution of epithelial-mesenchymal plasticity to prostate cancer metastasis. A/Prof. Caroline Ford described exciting new research and planned clinical trials on ROR1 and ROR2 tyrosine kinase receptors as therapeutic targets in ovarian and endometrial cancer. Dr. Richard Redvers discussed the emerging role of the long non-coding RNA, NEAT1, as a master regulator of breast cancer metastasis. Dr. Adrian Wiegman presented new evidence implicating RAD51 and high fidelity homologous recombination in chemotherapy-induced adaptation of triple negative breast cancer. Dr. Luize Lima, discussed how tumour-derived

cytokines may influence exosome uptake by specific cell populations and dictate organotropism of metastases. The program also provided an opportunity for our future leaders (Michael Papanicolaou, Elyse Filipe, Jessica Chitty, Max Nobis, Charlett Guiliani) to report on their ongoing research through a series of Flash Talks.

The scientific meeting concluded with the OzMRS annual general meeting and election of directors which saw organisational changes with incoming and outgoing members of the board. Kevin Spring stepped down as committee member and Elizabeth Williams stepped down from her role as President. We thank Kevin and Elizabeth for their contribution and leadership and look forward to Elizabeth's continued involvement on the committee. Normand Pouliot takes over from Elizabeth as President, in addition to his position as OzMRS representative on the COSA Council, while Carmela Riccardielli retains her position as Treasurer. Maree Bilandzic takes on new responsibilities as Vice-President and will retain her role as Secretary, a role to be shared with newly elected Co-Secretary Delphine Merino. This shared responsibility reflects the increasing reach of OzMRS and activities planned for 2020. Thomas Cox, Kelly Kiejda and Adrian Wiegman remain on the OzMRS committee for another term. We also welcome the arrival of new committee members, Paul Timpson, Frederic Hollande, Jacinta Simmons and Philip Gregory. Robin Anderson and Rik Thompson remain as ex officio.



Enjoying refreshments at the symposium

The past year has seen a significant increase in OzMRS membership through active recruitment. The OzMRS is now a > 200-member strong organisation and growing. Among activities planned in the coming year, the 2020 International MRS Congress in Buenos Aires (7-10 November 2020) has been confirmed and preparations by the OzMRS committee to encourage participation of Australasian researchers through travel/registration fellowships are well underway. This will ensure a good representation from the Australasian region. To cater for the increased membership, the OzMRS website (www.ozmrs.com) was recently updated to provide members with up to date information on ongoing metastasis research and upcoming events. The committee also intends reinstate its quarterly newsletter (OzMRS: metastasis research downunder) and to increase OzMRS's presence on social media through its Facebook page (ozmrs1) and Twitter (@OzMRS1). Together, these initiatives will help showcase OzMRS members and their recent publications.

Selected recent publications from OzMRS members:

Nagpal A. et al. (2019). *Neoadjuvant neratinib promotes ferroptosis and inhibits brain metastasis in a novel syngeneic model of spontaneous HER2+ve breast cancer metastasis*. Breast Cancer Res., 21:94.

Merino D. et al. (2019). *Barcoding reveals complex clonal behavior in patient-derived xenografts of metastatic triple negative breast cancer*. Nature Commun 10 (1): 766.

Vennin C. et al., (2019). *CAF hierarchy driven by pancreatic cancer cell p53-status creates a pro-metastatic and chemoresistant environment via perlecan*. Nat Commun., 10(1):3637.

Normand Pouliot
Council Representative, OzMRS

Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association



2019 has shaped up to be a fruitful year for ANZSA, as we wind down for the year-end break. The successful merger between the Australasian Sarcoma Study Group (ASSG) and Australian Sarcoma Group (ASG) has allowed us to go through a rebranding exercise for the organisation while our sarcoma research endeavours continue to expand.

New website

Since the unveiling of our new logo, we have now launched our new website www.sarcoma.org.au. This user-friendly website has been designed to cater to the whole sarcoma community. Whether you are a health professional or a consumer (patient, family and friends, carer or patient advocate), this website has all the information you are looking for.

- About ANZSA – who we are and what we do
- About Sarcoma – what is sarcoma, life after treatment, seeking second opinion, finding a sarcoma specialist
- Our Sarcoma Research – clinical trials and studies, ANZSA Sarcoma Research Grant Program, Frequently Asked Questions, publications
- Support Us – all the info you need to support our work through your donations

- Events and News – stay updated with what we are working on
- Membership – apply for your ANZSA membership to enjoy some benefits

Sarcoma Awareness Month

In July, we ran a successful awareness campaign for Sarcoma Awareness Month in support of the sarcoma community. This year we asked Australians to “Go Yellow Anywhere for Sarcoma Awareness” as we wanted to highlight the word “anywhere” because sarcoma is a unique cancer that can form anywhere in the body.

We had simple activities for the public to participate in, and we were delighted with the response we received throughout the month from politicians and the public. Using traditional media and social media such as Facebook,

we were able to educate the public about sarcoma through our “Sarcoma of the Week” initiative. We also developed some collaterals such as a sarcoma fact sheet with useful bite-size information for the public to download. The ANZSA team had the opportunity to present about sarcoma at the Victoria Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) where medical professionals such as nurses attended.



The ANZSA Team Going Yellow For Sarcoma Awareness in July



sarcoma.org.au
Go yellow anywhere for sarcoma awareness
 ANZSA Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association
 #ANZSA #SarcomalsCancer #SarcomaAwarenessMonth

ANZSA Research

ANZSA's research aims continue to be the main focus of our activities. We look forward to opening a study with our Dutch colleagues soon, and three other clinical trials are in development for the next 12 months. To keep updated with our clinical trials and studies portfolio or if you want to be involved, visit our website or write to us at

contact@sarcoma.org.au.

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 with the Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration (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 13 sites – Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (VIC), Chris O'Brien Lifehouse (NSW), Royal Adelaide Hospital (SA), Princess Alexandra Hospital (QLD), Monash Children's Hospital (VIC), Starship Children's Hospital (NZ),

Sydney Children's Hospital (NSW), Queensland Children's Hospital (QLD), Christchurch Hospital (NZ), Royal Children's Hospital (VIC), Perth Children's Hospital (WA), Children's Hospital Westmead (NSW) and Royal Hobart Hospital (TAS).

- **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), Prince of Wales Hospital (NSW), Sydney Children's Hospital (NSW), Starship Children's Hospital (Auckland, NZ), Perth Children's Hospital (WA), Queensland Children's Hospital (QLD), Christchurch Hospital (NZ), Princess Alexandra Hospital (QLD).

For more details about the projects or if you want to be involved in the patient recruitment process, write to us at contact@sarcoma.org.au.

2019 ANZSA Annual Scientific Meeting

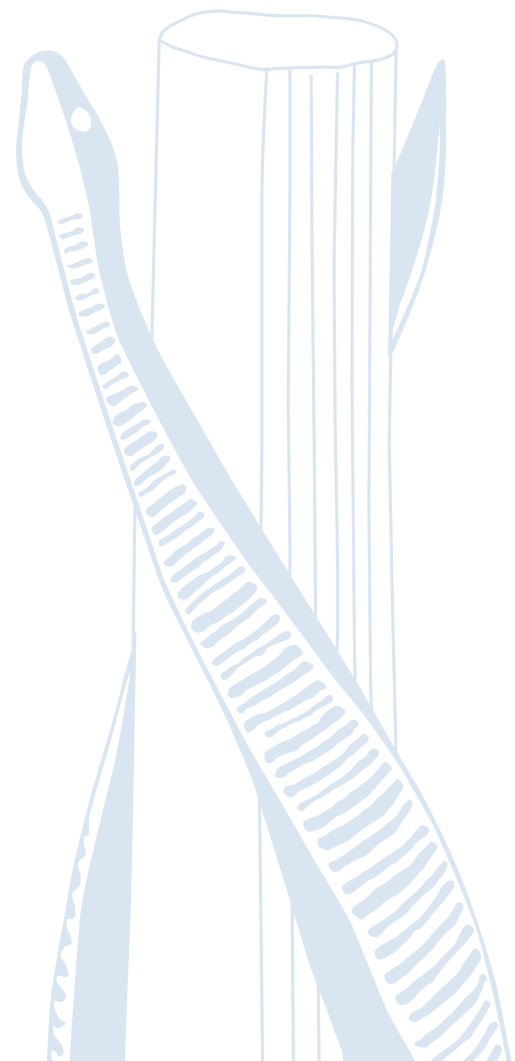
We were extremely pleased with how our 2019 ANZSA ASM turned out. Over 100 sarcoma specialists and consumers came together to discuss the latest diagnostic methods and treatment for sarcomas. We were honoured to have two-esteemed international guest speakers join us at the ASM – Prof Francis Hornicek (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). They shared about their experience in treating sarcoma

patients and their involvement in clinical trials that may bring positive outcomes for patients.

Additionally, we had separate meetings with sarcoma nurses, the consumer advisory panel and the scientific advisory committee at the ASM. As a result of these meetings, there will be some exciting initiatives that we plan to do to benefit the sarcoma community, especially from the consumer cohort. Watch this space!

As we close the year, 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. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas in advance!

Denise Caruso
CEO, ANZSA





Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology Oncology Group

With the successful conclusion of our 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting in Christchurch, we are gearing up for our 2020 ASM, to be held in Melbourne (11-13 June 2020). With the theme of "Clinical decision-making in a time of precision, hope and uncertainty", this broad topic will encompass the increasingly complex decision-making needed as precision medicine and advanced genomics/epigenomics expand at a breathtaking pace, and our need to be mindful of the hope and uncertainty this creates for families and clinicians.

The local organising committee is developing an exciting program which will appeal to a diverse audience, with a number of international speakers to be announced in the coming weeks. For all the latest 2020 ASM information, please visit our dedicated ASM website to register your interest at events.catalystevents.com.au/website/6604/.

ANZCHOG and international trial collaboratives

Over the last two years, ANZCHOG has been very successful in securing competitive funding to open international clinical trials at Australian and New Zealand paediatric oncology centres. As a result, this year has been incredibly busy in the ANZCHOG office, as we expand to centrally manage the activation and coordination of clinical trials across our diverse tumour portfolio. Our success in securing trial and infrastructure funding has enabled ANZCHOG to further develop its capacity as a highly competent and professional trials partner for international trial consortiums. We are actively building our reputation and expanding our collaborative networks to include a variety of trial groups in the UK, Europe, USA and Canada.

Our recent grant through the Australian Brain Cancer Mission has provided much needed support to enable ANZCHOG to actively engage and build our relationships with international paediatric neuro-oncology clinical trials groups. Our newest partners include two newly established brain cancer trials groups, Collaborative Network for Neuro-oncology Clinical Trials

(CONNECT) and the Pacific Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Consortium (PNO). Both groups have a large number of early phase trials in development and we expect to access a proportion of these trials in the coming years, significantly increasing the number of paediatric brain cancer trials available in Australia and New Zealand.

This enhanced trial activity within ANZCOG is building momentum to leverage further trial opportunities and support, ultimately providing more access to the latest therapies for children with cancer.

New ANZCHOG website

We have launched our new website at www.anzchog.org! You can find information about our mission, get to know our Board and office staff, and see the latest ANZCHOG news and clinical trials. We are continuing to build additional content, so please check back regularly.

Chris Fraser
Chair, ANZCHOG





AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
HEAD & NECK
CANCER SOCIETY



NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION
of Plastic Surgeons
Te Kahui Whakamohou Kiri

JOINT SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2020
ANZHNCs and NZAPS
Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society and the New Zealand Association of Plastic Surgeons

Innovation through collaboration

5-9 August 2020 | QT/Rydges Lakeland Resort | Queenstown

Australian and New Zealand Head & Neck Cancer Society



AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
HEAD & NECK
CANCER SOCIETY

The vision of the Australian and New Zealand Head & Neck Cancer Society (ANZHNCs) is to promote quality care for all head and neck cancer patients. Through leading a multi-disciplinary approach to education, research, care and advocacy we aim to minimize the impact of head and neck cancer.

The main activity of our annual calendar is the Annual Scientific Meeting which was held in Adelaide this year. The theme of the conference was “New Science, Better Treatments” with a particular focus on recent advances in head and neck cancer treatments, including immunotherapy and proton beam therapy. We had four outstanding keynote speakers from the USA, UK and Hong Kong. During the meeting, Dr Brian Stein, Medical Oncologist, Adelaide, assumed the Presidency of the Society and Dr Tsien Fua, Radiation Oncologist, Melbourne, has stepped into the role of Vice-President.

Next year, our ASM will take place in Queenstown, New Zealand, 5-9 August, in conjunction with the New Zealand Association of Plastic Surgeons. This

promises to be a great event. We warmly welcome any members of COSA who are interested to join us. Information regarding our next ASM can be found on our website at www.anzhncs.org. Updates will be posted regularly, so please look out for them.

Supporting research continues to be another important focus of the ANZHNCs and is represented through the Research Foundations in both Australia and New Zealand. Up until September this year, the Australian Research Foundation was chaired by A/Prof David Wiesenfeld. David has held this role since 2015 and he has been very successful in fund raising and establishing partnerships. Over \$100,000 has been raised this year alone. At our ASM this year, \$84,900 worth of grants were awarded to members after peer review from the Scientific Committee. We will all look forward to hearing about the results from these research grants at future meetings. Dr Kerwin Shannon has been appointed the new chair of the Australian Research Foundation. The New Zealand Foundation is chaired by Professor Swee Tan and the financial donations towards the New Zealand Foundation are also steadily rising.

Disbursements of \$30,000 towards research in New Zealand were made during the ASM this year. The Foundation Boards and their chairpersons should be congratulated for continuing to enable the Foundations' researchers to gain important preliminary data – as a result, crucial seed funding or top up funding has been obtained. We remain

very confident that significant future competitive research grants will flow as a result of these early opportunities.

With regard to education and advocacy, this year our non-member Executive colleague, Mr Rod Wellington, and I met with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), with the aim of beginning a collaboration to examine the rates of head and neck cancer retrieval from rural and remote areas in Australia. Over a continuous 3 year period there were 53 retrievals, most frequently related to laryngeal disease and subsequent airway difficulties. The RFDS is currently implementing community oral health programs. As a result, we are looking at ways to collaborate with the RFDS to seek opportunities to assist, particularly in the management of difficult cases via telehealth. Our members will also be able to provide education to the RFDS staff with regard to head and neck cancer screening. Additionally, we have ensured that the HPV vaccine has been added to their list of vaccination compliance initiatives to check-off when they perform health screening.

This year, the ANZHNCs also offered a Developing Nations Grant and a Travelling Lectureship Grant as part of its educational activities for those countries with limited financial resources. This year we were delighted to host Dr Bandana Khanal from Nepal and Dr Rajesh Gunasingham from India. Both visitors spent valuable time at our ASM, and then visited prominent Australian Head and Neck Cancer units at the conclusion of the meeting.

The next Australian Chris O'Brien Travelling Fellowship has just been awarded to Dr Julia Crawford, a Head and Neck Surgeon from Sydney. Dr Crawford will attend the American Head and Neck Society (AHNS) annual meeting next year in Chicago, and will then spend time visiting leading American Head and Neck Cancer units furthering her knowledge and collaborations in the fields of robotic surgery and the management of HPV-related head and neck cancer. I warmly congratulate Dr Crawford on her achievement.

World Head and Neck Cancer Day was proclaimed in New York as 27 July 2014, during the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) meeting. The number of activities on this day are increasing each year, and this year there was a great deal of activity across Australia and New Zealand. These important activities were all advertised on our website and through IFHNOS. We are hoping to create a unified national screening activity under the banner of ANZHNCS, and we are currently consulting with others about how to best implement this initiative.

In summary, 2019 has proved to be a busy year for the ANZHNCS and we are looking forward to continuing with many well-planned activities for 2020.

Julia Maclean
Immediate Past President, ANZHNCS

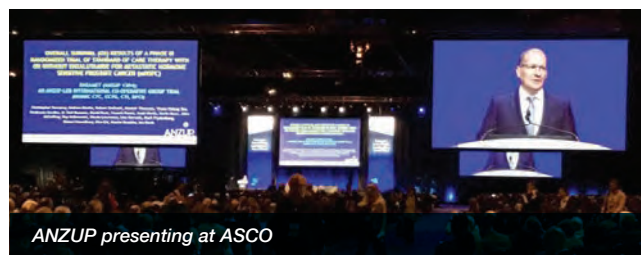


Australian and New Zealand Urogenital & Prostate Cancer Trials Group



It certainly has been an exciting six months at ANZUP.

In June 2019, ANZUP's ENZAMET clinical trial (ANZUP 1304) featured in the ASCO main plenary session, with Chris Sweeney presenting the results. A great achievement as only the top four abstracts of more than 6,200 submissions are selected.



These practice changing results, which were concurrently published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, showed a 33% improvement in overall survival and a 60% improvement in progression-free survival, for men who received enzalutamide.

This achievement certainly put ANZUP on the international stage, generating worldwide interest both through extensive media coverage and the medical community.

Another important consideration for ANZUP researchers in the ENZAMET trial was the health-related quality

of life of ENZAMET participants. ANZUP evaluated aspects of health-related quality of life such as comfort, happiness, and well-being in men who received enzalutamide, comparing their experience with men who received standard anti-androgen drug. In September these results were presented as a poster discussion at ESMO.



ANZUP's Annual Scientific Meeting, 'Making Connections', was held in Brisbane in July and was yet again a hugely successful three days. We were treated to the most up to date scientific presentations from our impressive national and international faculty, including Kelly Parsons, Phuoc Tran, Alison Birtle, Catherine Paterson and Betsy Plimack who shared their insights and experience with close to 400 attendees! Our largest contingent yet!

Make sure you save the date and join us at our 2020 ASM with the

theme 'Clear Vision'. The ASM will be held in Adelaide from 19-21 July, ably led by our 2020 convener A/Prof Nick Brook. We have an exciting international faculty confirmed including Sima Porten, Cristiane D Bergerot, Karen Knudsen, Heather Payne, Matthew Galsky, Chris Sweeney and Bertrand Tombal.

ANZUP's trial portfolio continues to expand. We currently have 6 ANZUP-led and 3 co-badged active and recruiting trials. In the past six months we also saw 3 trials reach recruitment, and we have 7 trials in development, including two that are due to open in early 2020.

In September we were excited to announce that two of our trials reached recruitment – TheraP (ANZUP 1603) and UNISoN (ANZUP 1602). And in early November Pain-Free TRUS B (ANZUP 1501) recruited their final patient.

On Tuesday 10 September the last patient (number 200) was randomised to ANZUP's TheraP trial, five months earlier than expected. Our Study Chair Prof. Michael Hofman, led this important prostate cancer study and ANZUP is proud to be at the cutting edge of this research and we look forward to sharing the results in the new year.

A week later, on Thursday 19 September, the final patient was recruited to our UNISoN trial, nine months ahead of the planned recruitment timeline. Congratulations to A/Prof Craig Gedye, our Study Chair, and all the investigators and dedicated trial staff across Australia have done an amazing job to get the trial to this point.

On 5 November the final patient (number 420) was recruited to our Pain-Free TRUS B Phase 3 double-blind placebo-controlled randomised prostate cancer trial. Thanks to Study Chair Dr Nick Buchan and everyone involved in the study for reaching this significant milestone.

We also have three new studies due to open in the New Year – including DASL-HiCaP (ANZUP 1801), ENZA-p (ANZUP 1901) and #UpFrontPSMA (ANZUP 1904).

DASL-HiCaP is an ANZUP-led randomised phase 3 trial of adding darolutamide to androgen deprivation therapy and definitive or salvage radiation in high risk, clinically localized prostate cancer. Study Co-Chairs are Prof Chris Sweeney and A/Prof Tamim Niazi and the study aims to recruit 1,100 patients from close to 100 sites across Australia, New Zealand, US, Canada, UK and Ireland.

ENZA-p is an ANZUP-led randomised phase II trial using PSMA as a therapeutic agent (Lutetium -PSMA) and prognostic indicator (PSMA-PET) in men with metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer treated with enzalutamide (ANZUP 1901). This study is being led by A/Prof Louise Emmett from St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney. The study aims to recruit 160 patients across 12 sites.

#UpFrontPSMA is an ANZUP-led Randomised Phase 2 Study of Sequential ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA617 and docetaxel versus docetaxel in metastatic hormone-naïve prostate cancer. This study is being led by Prof. Michael Hofman and the study aims to recruit 140 patients across 11 sites.

This year marked the 6th year of the Below the Belt Pedalthon in Sydney and our second Pedalthon in Melbourne. Since 2014 we have raised over \$1.65 million which has helped support 24 Below the Belt Research Fund Projects. Not only do our Below the Best Fund studies provide a launch pad for future trials, they provide vital insights in the short term that can translate into positive outcomes for patients.

The Below the Belt Pedalthon, along with the studies it funds, is one of the many ANZUP success stories that we aim to extend further in 2020, with Melbourne scheduled for 15 March 2020 and Sydney scheduled for 15 September 2020. We encourage our Melbourne colleagues to consider joining us at Sandown for a fabulous day. You can visit www.belowthebelt.org.au for more details and news.

As this decade comes to a close, and we reflect on all the achievements ANZUP has made over the past ten years, it's important to remember all this progress would not be possible without our dedicated and committed membership, of which we now have close to 1,700. These people all take time out of their busy work and personal

lives to help support ANZUP and make a difference to the lives of people affected by GU cancers.

We are eternally grateful for both their ongoing support and dedication to helping ANZUP get to where we are today.

Ian Davis
Chair, ANZUP

Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group



Engaging members in research development

ANZGOG held its annual Research Development Day in October 2019 in Sydney, engaging members in ongoing research development - identifying gaps in current research and recommending options for future studies. Many members attended the day from across Australia and New Zealand.

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) reviewed 14 new concepts and the OASIS group discussed funding strategies. The ovarian, uterine and cervical tumour type working groups also met to discuss new projects and strategic opportunities.

The Consumer Research Panel (CRP) were present throughout the day contributing feedback to the three tumour type working groups as well as the RAC. The Study Coordinator

ANZ
GOG ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING **2020** | 25-28 March
Crown Promenade
Melbourne

From Research to Clinical Practice –
*Patient Reported Outcomes in
Gynaecological Cancers*

ANZ
GOG | Celebrating
20 years

Committee spent the majority of the day workshopping ways ANZGOG can facilitate the proposed Tele-Trials model and also finalised a fantastic program for the 2020 ASM. The committee is looking forward to welcoming more Study Coordinators through a soon-to-be announced scholarship program for the ASM.

ANZGOG's Annual General Meeting also took place on this day during the lunch period. Our five year strategic goals were reviewed from our achievements in the last 12 months and opportunities were highlighted for moving forward in the future.



ANZGOG ASM

TR-ANZGOG

A facilitated TR-ANZGOG consensus workshop was held in November 2019 to reach agreement on key governance and process issues for TR-ANZGOG. It was well attended by a balanced representation of clinical, scientific, operational, ethical, consumer and legal expertise from across Australia and New Zealand. Focus areas of discussion included consent guidelines, data management, biospecimen collection, custodianship of data and specimens, and laboratory network considerations. ANZGOG is fortunate to have the quality of contribution by attendees to create such robust foundations for TR-ANZGOG and its activities going forward, ready for implementation in 2020.

Fund for New Research

ANZGOG received 14 applications for the Fund for New Research program, all of a high-standard, with an even split of both pre-clinical and clinical concepts. These applications were peer reviewed and discussed at the RAC. Applications were also received for donor funded projects including the Judith Meschke Memorial Grant and the Rochelle Fisher Grant.

Publications of Interest

2019 has been a year of significant publication for ANZGOG clinical trials. These publications and abstracts are available on our website at <https://www.anzgowg.org.au/research/publications/>.

ANZGOG Annual Scientific Meeting 2020

2020 marks ANZGOG's 20th anniversary of conducting clinical trials to improve life for women through cancer research. The Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne will be an immensely rewarding experience, featuring important scientific content and three international keynote speakers:

- Dr Amit Oza (Head of Division of Medical Oncology & Haematology and Director of Clinical Research at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Canada)
- Dr Wui-Jin Koh (Senior Vice President/Chief Medical Officer at the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, USA)
- Professor Nicoletta Colombo (Director of the Ovarian Cancer Centre at IEO, Italy)

The theme will be "From Research to Clinical Practice – Patient Reported Outcomes in Gynaecological Cancers", and the meeting will be held at the Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne on 25-28 March 2020. ANZGOG continues its popular series of specialty workshops with Radiation Oncology, a Cervical and Vulval Cancer Preceptorship, and education workshops for Study Coordinators, Consumers and Gynaecological Cancer Nurses.

Registrations are now open, and so are abstract and concept submissions. Please visit our 2020 ASM website at <http://anzgog-2020.w.yrd.currinda.com/> for more information. We look forward to welcoming you to Melbourne for a stimulating, educational and rewarding meeting.

As we approach the New Year, ANZGOG is preparing to celebrate 20 years of research since our founding

in 2000, with our membership of 1,000 members. It really is heartening to know that we have grown that much since our beginning, knowing that more and more people want to get involved.

ANZGOG has conducted 45 studies in the last 20 years, with 1597 women recruited to 16 trials in the last five years. We are very positive about the future of gynaecological cancer research and the contribution that ANZGOG and its members can make to this.

Philip Beale
Chair, ANZGOG

Breast Cancer Trials



The BRCA-P Clinical Trial

Breast Cancer Trials (BCT) has opened the BRCA-P clinical trial, a world-first study to prevent breast cancer in women with the BRCA1 gene mutation. The study will investigate if using Denosumab is a safe and effective way of preventing breast cancer. Denosumab is an antibody that switches off a molecule called RANK ligand. It is currently used to strengthen the bones of people with osteoporosis (weak bones) and reduce bone complications for women whose breast cancer has spread to bone. Recent studies suggest that switching off RANK ligand with Denosumab can also inhibit the cells that cause breast cancer in women with a BRCA1 mutation.

BRCA-P will be open to women aged between 25 and 55, with a known

BRCA1 gene mutation, no current or previous breast cancer diagnosis, and not planning to have, or have not already completed surgery to remove both breasts.

The trial will be coordinated in Australia by BCT in partnership with the Austrian Breast and Colorectal Cancer Study Group. It aims to enrol 2,918 women from seven countries, including 300 women from Australia. The trial will be open at 15 hospitals in Australia. The BCT Study Chair of BRCA-P is Professor Geoffrey Lindeman.

To find out more information, visit the BCT website at www.breastcancertrials.org.au.

New Board Members

Breast Cancer Trials has welcomed two new Board Members to our team – Ms Fiona McPhee and Mr Luke Bugden. Ms McPhee is a fundraising and marketing specialist providing coaching, consulting and training to fundraisers and not-for-profit leaders and her speciality areas are fundraising strategy development, donor acquisition and retention, regular giving, bequests and integrated communications programs. Mr Bugden is Partner of professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), with over 21 years of experience providing advice to a wide range of public and private entities in a number of different sectors including, infrastructure, manufacturing, utilities, financial services, services, not-for-profit and pharmaceutical.



Fiona McPhee



Luke Bugden

BCT Discretionary Funding

Breast Cancer Trials has awarded discretionary funding to a new research project that will investigate the feasibility of prescribing vaginal oestrogen for women with breast cancer, to reduce genitourinary symptoms. The study will be conducted by Dr Antonia Pearson, with Dr Belinda Kiely, and has been awarded \$100,000 over two years. The aim of this study is to determine the feasibility of giving women on adjuvant aromatase inhibitors a 12-week course of vaginal oestradiol tablets (Vagifem), to manage their genitourinary symptoms and ultimately improve the supportive care and outcomes of women. If successful, the treatment will fill a need in the management of patient-reported symptoms that are distressing and a reason for reduced adherence to optimal endocrine therapy.

60 patients will be enrolled in the study over two years.

Congratulations Prue Francis



A/Prof Prue Francis

Chair of the Breast Cancer Trials Scientific Advisory Committee, Associate Professor Prue Francis, was recently made

a Fellow of the Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. A/Prof Francis is the BCT Study Chair of the TEXT and SOFT clinical trials, and Co-Chair of the ELIMINATE clinical trial. She is the Head of Medical Oncology in the Breast Service at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and is a consultant Medical Oncologist at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne.

42nd Annual Scientific Meeting

Breast Cancer Trials (BCT) 42nd Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 22-24 July 2020. Registration will open at the end of the year, with early bird registration rates for BCT members. To find out more visit www.bct2020.org.

Podcasts

Stay up to date with research news and breast cancer topics by listening to the Breast Cancer Trials Podcast. You can search for BCT podcasts on Apple Podcasts or Spotify, or they are available on our website at www.breastcancertrials.org.au.

Bruce Mann

Chair, Breast Cancer Trials



42nd Annual Scientific Meeting

Auckland, New Zealand • 22-24 July 2020

**Early bird registration
before 31 March 2020**

bct2020.org

**BREAST
CANCER
TRIALS**



Cancer Symptom Trials



Funding

We are pleased to share that we have received funding from Cancer Australia for another 12 months to continue work developing a clinical research program in cancer symptom management and supportive care.

CST Annual Research Forum 2020

The CST Annual Research Forum 2020 will be held on 18 February 2020. We are pleased to confirm the keynote speaker is Professor Vickie Baracos from the Department of Oncology, Division of Palliative Care Medicine, University of Alberta.



Prof Vickie Baracos

The opening address will be given by Professor Dorothy Keefe, CEO Cancer Australia and we will hear from invited speaker, Associate Professor Richard De Abreu Lourenço from the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE).

The program includes a panel discussion on medication repurposing with invited experts Professor David Currow, PaCCSC Chief Investigator, Professor Richard Head, Emeritus Professor, Division of Health Sciences, University of South Australia Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO, and Associate Professor Nikola Bowden, Co-Director of the University of Newcastle Centre for Human Drug Research. There were also a consumer panel with representative from 4 Cancer Clinical Trial Groups, who will discuss *why cancer symptom trials matter*. Registration is via the CST webpage.

Fatigue workshop

During July 2019 a concept development workshop was held on fatigue, an important symptom for people with palliative, supportive and cancer care needs. The workshop was facilitated by a multi-disciplinary team of experts from Cancer Symptom Trials (CST) at UTS and the Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG) based at the University of Sydney.

The workshop was attended by medical, nursing and allied health researchers from a range of disciplines who commented on the fantastic and supportive environment to facilitate collaboration as researchers, as well as the fresh insights and ideas provided by the well-informed speakers.

Across the two days, delegates heard from presenters including from UTS, Professor Meera Agar, CST Chair, and Dr Richard De Abreu Lourenço from CHERE. In addition, there were presentations from Dr Brenton Baguley, Institute for Physical Activities and Nutrition, Deakin University, Dr Donna Milne, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Dr Chrystal Yates, Centre for Sleep Research, University of South Australia, and Dr Rachel Campbell, Quality of Life Officer, University of Sydney.

Our people

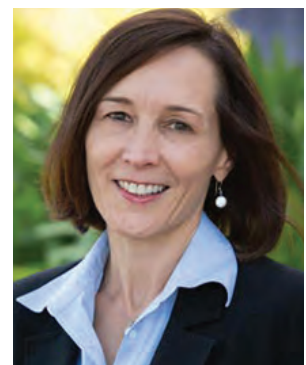
Dr Rayan Saleh Moussa recently commenced as Cancer Symptom Trials (CST) Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Rayan is responsible for the development of relationships, collaborations and partnerships with a view to conducting preliminary work to underpin a pipeline of developing work in cancer symptom therapeutics. Rayan's research aims to identify cancer symptoms interventions that may benefit people living with cancer.

Dr Vanessa Yenson has joined Cancer Symptom Trials (CST) as a Research Assistant-Writer. Vanessa assists CST clinical trial researchers to develop clinical trial protocols, generate literature reviews, and prepare grant applications and ethics submissions. She provides research, writing and editing support to help convert new study ideas into clinical trials.

PaCCSC update

PaCCSC Annual Research Forum 2020

The PaCCSC Annual Research Forum 2020 will be held on 12 March 2020. We are pleased to confirm the keynote speaker is Professor Christine Ritchie, Minaker Chair in Geriatrics and Director of Research for the Division of Palliative Care and Geriatric Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital.



Prof Christine Ritchie

Invited speakers include Dr Jane Fischer, Chair of Palliative Care Australia, Professor Andrew Hayen, Professor of Biostatistics and Acting Lead, Discipline of Public Health, UTS and Professor Patsy Yates, Head, School of Nursing, Queensland University of Technology. Registration is via the PaCCSC website.

Oceanic Palliative Care Conference

IMPACCT and PaCCSC staff had reason to celebrate at the Oceanic Palliative Care Conference (OPCC) in September. Nicole Heneka was awarded a National Palliative Care Award in the category of Individual Award – Emerging Researcher and Professor Meera Agar was recognised with the Outstanding Teamwork Award for her work in the PEACH Program Care Team at South Western Sydney LHD.

The biennial OPCC is the pre-eminent event in the Oceanic region for anyone interested in quality palliative care at the end of life. Held at the Perth Exhibition Centre, PaCCSC and IMPACCT had a strong presence with a well-attended stand, posters and presentations.

13th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference

Professor David Currow and Professor Meera Agar attended the 13th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference in August in Surabaya, Indonesia. Professor Currow presented an update on chronic breathlessness in a 'meet the expert' session and Professor Agar facilitated a scientific session on the role of antipsychotics in delirium.

Workshop: Building Palliative Care Research in New Zealand

On 14 February 2020, Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative (PaCCSC) in collaboration with Capital and Coast District Health Board is

running a multidisciplinary workshop to introduce clinical research to new and experienced researchers in New Zealand. Registration is online via the PaCCSC webpage.

Our people

Jessie Lourdesamy commenced as Research Assistant-Trials in November. She assists with the coordination of Phase II and Phase III clinical trials conducted across multiple sites within Australia. She undertakes study monitoring, provides central trial support and assists with the development of eCRFs.

Charmain Strauss, Research Assistant-Trials also commenced in November. She supports the National Project Officer with the provision of coordinated trial management and processes including the development of clinical trial implementation resources, providing education and study protocol training to clinical sites, and monitoring.

PBS support for breathlessness treatment

The Minister for Health, The Hon Greg Hunt, announced via a media release a new treatment for breathlessness that will now be available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Professor David Currow, PaCCSC Chief Investigator, led research that contributed to Kapanol® being registered on the PBS post the world-first registration of the medication for chronic breathlessness.

NHMRC collaborative research grant for breathlessness study

PaCCSC has been awarded an NHMRC grant to fund participation in an international, multi-disciplinary consortium researching better treatments for breathlessness in palliative care.

The BETTER B study will investigate whether mirtazapine, currently used as an antidepressant, is an effective treatment for chronic breathlessness.

Linda Brown

National Manager, PaCCSC/CST

Medical Oncology Group of Australia



It is with great pride that I assumed the role of Chair of the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) in August this year, after serving as Deputy Chair for the past three years to Professor Chris Karapetis. Chris will remain on the Executive as the past Chairman and, continue to lend his well-honed skills to help guide MOGA's activities. Dr Deme Karikios is the new Deputy Chair and Chair designate in addition to his activities as Chair of the Oncology Drugs Working. Professor Desmond Yip, Clinical Director, Medical Oncology, The Canberra Hospital and Dr Peter Manders, Staff Specialist Medical Oncologist and Senior Lecturer, Clinical Medicine, University of Queensland, also joined the Association's governing body at the Annual General Meeting in Canberra. Dr Tharani Krishnan, a Medical Oncology Registrar at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, was appointed to the executive committee as the new National Trainee Representative.

Dr Prunella Blinman, presenting on MOGA's new Diversity Policy at the 2019 40th Anniversary Meeting in Canberra



The Association's 40th Anniversary Annual Scientific Meeting in Canberra, **Leading the Way in Medical Oncology Education, Research and Clinical Practice** (14-16 August) had many highlights. These included a standing ovation for Professor Martin Tattersalls AO, the founding Chair of the Association and a key figure in the development of medical oncology in Australia, who opened the meeting with in conjunction with Professor Ian Olver AM; and, a session entitled **Pathways Past, Present and Future** that featured a series of entertaining and enlightening presentations from past chairs of MOGA. The scientific program featured an extraordinary group of international guest speakers Professors Sabine Tejpar (Belgium), Jeffrey Gregg (USA), Stephen Liu (USA) and Harpreet Wasan (United Kingdom). Professor Chikashi Ishioka, Director of the Medical Oncology Department at Tohoku University Hospital and President of the Japanese Society for Medical Oncology and Dr Elaine Lim Hsuen, Vice President of the Singapore Society for Oncology also joined us for this historic meeting.

Professor Martin Stockler was the recipient of the 2019 MOGA – Novartis Oncology Cancer Achievement Award. Martin is Professor of Oncology and Clinical Epidemiology, University of Sydney, Oncology Co-Director at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre and Consultant Medical Oncologist at the Concord Repatriation General Hospital and the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse. Since 2008, Prof Stockler has also been the Convenor of the Australia Asia-Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development Initiative (ACORD) that advances training and education in clinical trials design and development in the Asia-Pacific region. In announcing the Award, Professor Chris Karapetis, said, "Martin is an outstanding clinician, researcher, publisher, teacher, mentor, scientist and professional champion.

I have always been impressed by his boundless passion and enthusiasm for not only our profession but contemporary clinical practice, research and patient management. He has made a substantial contribution to the advancement of oncology in Australia, both as a medical oncologist and as a leader in clinical trials and research, and in supporting and mentoring young investigators and members of the oncology profession."



Professor Martin Stockler received the 2019 Cancer Achievement Award

Over the last quarter, MOGA has been involved in considerable activity across many domains including the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) review through to Informed Financial Consent and Out of Pocket Costs submissions to Government. MOGA is participating in ongoing discussions with the Department of Health about the implementation of the oncology items from the MBS Review. One significant task ahead is to assist in the submission of the proposed oral chemotherapy item number to the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC). Because this is a new item number, rather than a revision of existing item numbers, it requires approval by MSAC prior to implementation. The Association also contributed a detailed submission to the Australian Medical Association's Informed Financial Consent consultation, highlighting specific areas where cancer patients may experience additional out of pocket expenses.

I represented MOGA at the inaugural **ASCO Breakthrough Meeting** in Bangkok, Thailand from October 11-13. *ASCO Breakthrough* was a global summit for clinicians, researchers, and people with an interest in health technology with the key focus on innovations in cancer care. MOGA was a regional collaborator with the meeting along with many other regional oncology societies in Asia. Topics covered included artificial intelligence, the next generation of immunotherapy, the microbiome and cancer, e-health, robotic surgery and many more. ASCO is very keen to continue the meeting in Asia every two years. In early July MOGA Executive member, Dr Adrian Lee represented the Association at the Best of ASCO meeting hosted by the Singapore Society of Oncology. Professor Karapetis represented MOGA at the ESMO 2019 Congress in Barcelona and at the ESMO Asia Congress as part of the **National Societies Group** that monitors and responds to global health issues.

Plans for the Australia Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) 2020 Workshop (27 September-2 October, Crowne Plaza, Hunter Valley, NSW) are underway with applications open online from 4 November through to COB on 24 February, 2020. As an ACORD Alumnus, I strongly encourage all oncology trainees, newly qualified consultants and allied health professionals to apply to this career-changing workshop. To apply, you need to a brief concept outline of a study that you can develop into a research protocol at the workshop. MOGA is committed to fostering and supporting a strong research culture in the Australian oncology sector and places great value on participation in ACORD as part of a productive research career. In the lead-up to the opening of applications for the 2020 ACORD Workshop, the convenor, Professor Martin Stockler,

has conducted a series of one-day protocol development workshops in India, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia to encourage applications and share research expertise.

The Association has recently commenced planning for our 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting and Immuno-Oncology Forum (Perth, 12-14 August) under the leadership of Convenor, Dr Andrew Dean. We are looking forward to working with our colleagues from Western Australia on a range of important educational activities and membership services, including the provision of complimentary childcare services to registrants. Please ensure you save the dates.

Prunella Blinman
Chair, MOGA

Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group



Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group

It's been a huge few months for the Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG) as we continue our mission provide an interdisciplinary network of researchers, consumers and clinicians to undertake scholarly work addressing the broad psychosocial issues relevant to all aspects of cancer: prevention, early detection, treatment and survivorship, recognising the importance of research addressing the individual affected by cancer as well as family, caregivers and health care professionals and health systems.

In November we hosted the second PoCoG Scientific Meeting at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute in Adelaide. Eighty members and colleagues from a range of multi-disciplinary backgrounds heard Australia's leading psycho-oncology and health researchers address the theme "Revolutionising Access to Psycho-oncology". The event provided a fertile meeting ground for people working in and/or interested in psycho-oncology and was a great start to COSA week for many of our delegates.

Our work in multimorbidity has cemented a collaboration with the Primary Care Cancer Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group, as well as emerging research examining the burden of cardiovascular disease among cancer survivors and the related psychosocial issues.

We have progressed an important body of work focussed on the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with research addressing burden of cancer and multimorbidity in this population.

To further our expertise in the area of cancer related fatigue we hosted a joint concept development workshop with the Cancer Symptoms Trials Group (CST) in July. Facilitated by a multi-disciplinary team from the CST and PoCoG, this workshop offered participants a valuable opportunity to develop their own concepts as well as work with fatigue experts to identify gaps in current knowledge and key research questions. PoCoG and CST will continue to develop this program of work in 2020.

These programs exist alongside our ongoing work in the following areas: collaboration in cancer genomics research; our internationally recognised work in addressing the fear of cancer recurrence; research in collaborative care programs for depression among people with cancer; research examining clinical practice in response to anxiety

among patients with advanced cancer; and the ADAPT program.

The ground-breaking ADAPT program continues to meet all its ambitious milestones. Of the 12 cancer services in NSW participating in the ADAPT cluster RCT, six have completed their initial 12 months recruitment and moved into the sustainability phase of the project and a further 5 due to complete the initial 12 months early in 2020. The ADAPT team are now hard at work analysing the large volumes of qualitative and quantitative data arising from the study. The study has already confirmed routine systematic screening and delivery of evidence-based psychosocial interventions to people with cancer in urban and rural areas is feasible and sustainable in cancer care.

Our strategic planning workshop held earlier this year also identified steps to enhance engagement of PoCoG members nationally, building on the strong growth of our existing national network; and to support the growth of our early career researcher group. As a result, new initiatives have been launched: the formation of Special Interest Groups in Implementation Science (to drive research focussed on practice change and implementation of evidence-based psycho oncology interventions); Cancer Prevention and End of Life Care.

As we tumble headfirst towards the end of the year, we have one final concept development workshop scheduled for December. While we have made an open call for concepts to this workshop, we have a special interest in research projects with a focus on multi-morbidity.

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

Joanne Shaw
Executive Director, PoCoG

Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group



The Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4) continues to support the advancement of high-quality cancer research in primary care. The past six months we have implemented new support services for our members, welcomed Paige Druce to the role of Research Coordinator supported 21 new projects, and begun planning our Scientific Symposium in May 2020. We also launched our Annual Report which included reflections and data on our successes over the last 10 years of being a leader in cancer in primary care research.



Website

We were excited to launch our new “For Members” area on our website, pc4tg.com.au, in October. This is an exclusive member only area. Our current resources include our research suite which provides advice on protocol development, budget tracking, ethics, recruitment and data management. We’ve begun curating a set of complementary instructional videos. We’ve released the first of these videos which shares top tips and advice on how to recruit General Practice clinics. We hope to continue to meet the needs of our member base and add value to

their PC4 membership. Our starting point for reinvigorating the website was feedback gathered from our Member Survey at the end of 2018. Our members spoke and we got into action! Our goal was to provide members with clearer and simpler navigation.

Workshop and conferences

Our new Research Coordinator, Paige Druce, has been flying all over Australia for the past six months! This included our Peer Review Workshop in Melbourne in October and our Concept Development Workshop in Brisbane in November. The Concept Development Workshop reviewed five new concepts from SMS messaging in general practice to Pathology Service Patient-Reported Outcome Monitoring Systems. You may have met Paige at the ACTA International Clinical Trials Conference, the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Research Conference VCCC, GIN & JBI conference, GP19 or at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in

November. If you’d like to keep up with Paige - she is active on social media and you can connect with her on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Save the date! PC4 Scientific Symposium Friday 29 May 2020, Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre

Save the date for Australia’s premier cancer in primary care event. The Symposium is a multidisciplinary meeting that not only showcases PC4 supported research, but also the best primary care and cancer research from around Australia. The symposium will cover the cancer continuum, including prevention and early diagnosis; shared care and survivorship; and palliative care. This year our theme is “Shaping Optimal Care Pathways around Australia”.

We’ll keep you updated on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

**PC4
SCIENTIFIC
SYMPOSIUM**

- Shaping Optimal Care Pathways
- Cancer research
- Highlighting the role of primary care

SAVE THE DATE!
29 MAY 2020

Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre
305 Grattan Street, Melbourne, VIC

pc4tg.com.au/Symp2020

Podcasts

Cheers with Peers Season 2 concentrates on all things mid-career researcher. **Dr Jennifer McIntosh** and her very select guests, discuss the challenges faced by mid-career researchers and share experiences that helped shape their careers. Highlights of the season include a deep dive with Professor Meredith Temple-Smith into being a great supervisor and a discussion with Professor Lyndal Trevena about managing clinical practice and a research career.

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. Our members access exclusive resources online to guide and support their research.

Visit pc4tg.com.au/join-us for more information.

Kristi Milley
National Manager, PC4




Registration now open

Measuring PROs "Down Under"

Day 1 - ISOQOL's Intro to Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs) course

Day 2 - Conference on Measuring PROs in Research and Clinical Practice

Day 3 - Advanced Workshops

A conference supported by



22-24 July, 2020




THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

More information here



@SydneyQOL0 #PROMS2020

Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia



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. Recently, the RCPA celebrated the importance of pathology at International Pathology day, and recognised the prodigious work of pathology trainees, Fellows and scientists through the College Awards. The RCPA continues to progress pathology in Australasia with action and education in the areas of genomics, health data standardisation and promoting evidence-based best practice.

International Pathology Day

International Pathology Day (IPD) is an annual awareness day dedicated to highlighting the fundamental role of pathology in addressing global health challenges and improving the health outcomes of communities around the world. This year's RCPA IPD event, held at the RCPA headquarters in Sydney on 11th November 2019, was hosted by Sophie Scott, National Health Reporter for the ABC, and was livestreamed. This year's topic was HPV-related head and neck cancer, and the RCPA welcomed guest patients, Julie McCrossin AM, TV presenter and media personality and Archibald prize-winning artist Nicholas Harding, who shared their personal stories with the disease.

Anatomical pathologist, A/Prof Ruta Gupta presented her insights as a head and neck cancer specialist, along with surgeon Prof Jonathan Clark AM, who is also the Chairman of Beyond Five, Australia's head and neck patient education website. A/Prof Gupta said: "Head and neck cancers are very serious cancers, but unfortunately are one of the most under-supported, under-researched and under-funded cancers worldwide."

During the event, A/Prof Bruce Latham, President of the RCPA, said: "There is an increasing trend amongst the general public, and also amongst our colleagues, to not understand that pathology is a medical specialty. IPD is an opportunity to remind our colleagues that when they send tissue to a laboratory, it is looked at by a medical specialist. It does not go into a machine which prints out the answer. As we've said often before, 70% of medical diagnoses, and 100% of cancer diagnoses rely on pathology, and what we as pathologists do is really important in a multi-disciplinary team."

All over Australasia and the world, IPD activities were held to highlight the important role of pathology. From open days, guided laboratory tours, conferences and exhibitions; from places such as England, Germany, India and Zimbabwe – the global importance of pathology was recognised and celebrated.



(L-R): A/Prof Bruce Latham, Nicholas Harding, A/Prof Ruta Gupta, Julie McCrossin AM, Dr Debra Graves, Sophie Scott, Prof Jonathan Clark AM

The range of clinical decisions determined by genomic test results continues to expand rapidly. In response to the growing need for pathologists to understand the practical applications of genomic and molecular technologies, and the implications of these for their disciplines, the RCPA offered an introductory course tailored to early stage pathology trainees and Fellows.

The course included sub-discipline specialty streams including Introductory Short Courses in Genomics and Molecular Pathology for Genetic and Chemical Pathology, Anatomical Pathology, Haematology and Immunopathology.

Feedback received from the 190 attendees and 41 speakers was excellent. This popular course will be held again in 2020.

College Awards 2019

The RCPA would like to congratulate all the award winners for this year's College awards. Dr Charles George (Microbiology Fellow) received the prestigious RCPA Foundation Bev Rowbotham Pathology Leaders Award. Dr Gerard Cadden, was recognised as an Honorary Fellow, and Prof Sally Bonar, A/Prof Elizabeth Salisbury and Dr Dominic Spagnolo were awarded Distinguished Fellow Awards. The Meritorious Service Award was presented this year to A/Prof Morris Odell. The Prof Konrad Muller Outstanding Teaching Award for a Pathologist, was presented to Dr Genevieve Bennett and Dr Geoffrey Strutton. The Outstanding Teaching Award for a Scientist was awarded to Mr Jimmy Ng.





Pathology Update Conference & Exhibition 2020

The RCPA annual scientific meeting, Pathology Update, will be held at the International Convention Centre, Sydney on 20-22 March 2020. The conference will feature 10 extraordinary international speakers who are leaders in their fields, and over 140 Australasian speakers in the disciplines of Anatomical, Chemical, Forensic, Genetic, General, Haematology, Immunopathology and Microbiology. <https://www.rcpa.edu.au/Events/Pathology-Update/>

Advancing Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer

There is a growing wealth of scientific evidence to show that a structured checklist approach to pathology reporting improves completeness, comprehensibility, conformance with agreed standards, and improves patient outcomes.

The Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer (SPRC) Project aims to advance the adoption of structured reporting in Australasia. To date the SPRC Project has produced 40 structured protocol templates and associated resources to support the implementation of internationally recognised evidence-based best practice reporting standards.

SPRC protocols are the result of expert multi-disciplinary input and independent peer review, and are authored by a volunteer group of expert pathologists, clinicians and scientists. The resources and protocols are made free to access on the RCPA website: <https://www.rcpa.edu.au/Library/Practising-Pathology/Structured-Pathology-Reporting-of-Cancer/>

Pathology Terminology and Information Standardisation

The RCPA's national project for standardising Pathology Information, Terminology and Units Standardisation (PITUS) has been working hard to encourage standardised pathology information structures and terminologies adoption, to optimise systems for recording, decision support, communication and analysis, to improve healthcare for all.

The National Clinical Terminology Service (NCTS) published the latest updates to the RCPA Standards for Pathology Informatics in Australia (SPIA) terminology reference sets on 24 September 2019, on the NCTS portal website. This interim Release incorporated 518 updates to new or existing terms plus 209 new requesting terms for allergens.

The PITUS Systems Design and Compliance Working Group, in collaboration with the Australian Digital Health Agency has completed a significant body of work with the transformation of all published RCPA SPIA information models and terminology reference sets into Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR), making it easier for implementation and ongoing maintenance. FHIR is a healthcare interoperability standard used to describe data formats and elements published by Health Level 7. The terminology work was facilitated by the CSIRO, and now means the RCPA SPIA information models and terminology reference sets and related knowledge are available via the NCTS.

Kenneth Lee
Council Representative, RCPA



2020 TROG Sydney

16-19 March | Annual Scientific Meeting | International Convention Centre



TROG
CANCER
RESEARCH

TROG Cancer Research



TROG Cancer Research celebrates 30 years of outcomes through collaboration

TROG Cancer Research are this year celebrating three decades, during which the organisation has facilitated hundreds of clinical trials for cancer patients. Over 30 years, both the team based in Newcastle and their members who are found worldwide, have contributed tremendous breakthroughs in the way radiation therapy is used to treat and improve quality of life for different cancers.

TROG Cancer Research's clinical trials have been run in more than 200 hospitals and cancer centres in urban hubs and regionally around the world.

CEO, Susan Goode, said it was hard to believe that 30 years has passed since the organisation was founded in 1989. Susan acknowledged the unwavering support of the medical and

Australian/New Zealand community in particular, as a significant contributor to the organisation's success. Susan continued:

"We've come a long way since our humble beginnings in 1989 when members of seven radiation therapy centres across Australia and New Zealand formed a clinical trial group to advance the study of cancers that could be treated with radiation therapy.

"Today we have medical professionals approaching us from around the world with new ideas on how to use radiation therapy to improve quality of life and treatment of a specific cancer disease. One in two cancer patients will benefit from radiation therapy, so the research we conduct is vital.

"By collaborating and bringing to life these concepts in a managed environment, we've been able to achieve great advancements in cancer patient care and outcomes that have changed the way patients are treated worldwide."

Tapping into the world brain for improved outcomes

Radiation Oncologist and Associate Professor, Jarad Martin, is one of many long-term TROG Cancer Research members who have had a significant impact on cancer treatment worldwide through radiation therapy research.



Prof Jarad Martin

Jarad has contributed to research into an approach that has improved options for patients with prostate cancer. Jarad's findings are now being used by medical facilities globally and have resulted in a reduction of treatment time from eight weeks to just four weeks with five medical visits for prostate cancer patients.

"There's a real legacy from what TROG Cancer Research has achieved over thirty years. Their approach to clinical trials that focuses on collaboration over competition is being emulated by other organisations.

"TROG encourages and harnesses new ideas and brings people together virtually from around the world so we can tap into what I call the world brain to produce real results for patients."



Congratulations goes to the TROG Cancer Research community

- TROG Cancer Research recently welcomed Medical Physicist Professor Annette Haworth and experienced CEO and practiced Accountant Denis Byron to their Board.
- TROG Cancer Research member Professor Paul Keall was highlighted in the ASTRO Fellow designation and ASTRO's 61st annual meeting.

TROG Cancer Research's 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting – registration open

TROG is holding its 32nd ASM from 16-19 March 2020 at the International Convention Centre, Sydney.

The 2020 ASM will host a number of internationally and nationally renowned keynote speakers alongside key TROG cancer researchers and clinicians. More than 300 delegates attend the meeting including leading Australian and New Zealand radiation oncologists, radiation therapists, interventional oncologists, medical physicists and clinical trials personnel. The three-and-a-half-day program incorporates collaborative workshops, scientific sessions showcasing radiation oncology clinical trials, discussion of new trial concepts, future research directions and technological advancements.

Amongst the workshops over the course of the event is the Clinical Research Education Workshop (CREW) and Technical Research Workshop, which covers advanced planning, contouring accuracy, technology-driven clinical trials, AI and machine learning, image registration, advanced

imaging, quality assurance, and motion management. To register visit <https://www.trog.com.au/Annual-Scientific-Meeting>.

TROG Cancer Research Excellence Awards

Nominations for the annual TROG Cancer Research Excellence Awards are now open.

For the 2020 TROG Cancer Research Excellence Awards, nominees can enter the categories: Lifetime Member, Outstanding Contribution, Trial Excellence, Emerging Clinical Researcher, and Peer Recognition.

To read more on the awards visit <https://www.trog.com.au/Grants-and-awards>.

Farshad Foroudi
President, TROG Cancer Research

The 3rd Victorian Cancer Survivorship Conference: Building on learnings ... partnering for success



12-13 March 2020
Crown Convention
Centre, Melbourne

www.survivorshipconference.com.au



#Survivorship2020

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
2020		
24-25 January	Progress and Controversies in Gynecologic Oncology: 2020 prIME Oncology Conference www.primebymedscape.org/live-events/oncology/gyn-conference-2020/	Barcelona, Spain
18 February	CST Annual Research Forum 2020 https://events.humanitix.com.au/cancer-symptom-trials-cst-annual-research-forum-2020	Sydney NSW
19-21 February	Australian Lung Cancer Conference https://alcc.lungfoundation.com.au/	Melbourne, VIC
12 March	PaCCSC Annual Research Forum https://www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/impacct/palliative-care-clinical-studies-collaborative/events-0	Sydney, NSW
12-13 March	3rd Victorian Cancer Survivorship Conference https://www.survivorshipconference.com.au/	Melbourne, VIC
16-19 March	2020 TROG ASM www.trog.com.au/Annual-Scientific-Meeting	Sydney, NSW
20-22 March	Pathology Update Conference and Exhibition www.rcpa.edu.au/Events/Pathology-Update	Sydney, NSW
25-28 March	ANZGOG ASM http://anzgog-2020.w.yrd.currinda.com/	Melbourne, VIC
28-29 March	ARGANZ 2020 Meeting www.arganz.org/index.php/events/arganz-upcoming-meeting.html	Brisbane, QLD
2-3 April	Skin-Cancer2020 2nd World Congress skin-cancer2020.com/	Berlin, Germany
5-8 April	2020 Australian Pain Society 40th Annual Scientific Meeting www.dconferences.com.au/aps2020/	Hobart, TAS
17-19 April	12th COSA CPG Foundation Course cosacpgcourses.org.au/	Brisbane, QLD
12-15 May	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au/health-professionals/meetings-events/	Melbourne, VIC
29 May	PC4 Scientific Symposium http://pc4tg.com.au/how-we-can-help/scientific-symposium-2020/	Melbourne, VIC
29 May-2 June	ASCO 2020 am.asco.org/	Chicago, USA
11-13 June	ANZCHOG ASM events.catalystevents.com.au/website/6604/	Melbourne, VIC
18-20 June	CNSA Annual Congress www.cnsacongress.com.au/	Brisbane, QLD
25-27 June	MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting 2020.masccmeeting.org/	Seville, Spain

Date	Event	Venue
13-15 July	4th Global AYA Cancer Congress www.ayaglobalcancercongress.com/	London, UK
19-21 July	ANZUP ASM www.anzup.org.au/content.aspx?page=asm-news	Adelaide, SA
22-24 July	Measuring PROs "Down Under" sydney.edu.au/science/our-research/research-areas/psychology/sydney-quality-of-life-office.html	Sydney, NSW
22-24 July	Breast Cancer Trials ASM www.breastcancertrials.org.au/2020-annual-scientific-meeting	Auckland, New Zealand
1-4 August	44th HGSA Annual Scientific Meeting aacb.eventsair.com/hgsa-44th-annual-scientific-meeting/	Adelaide, SA
5-9 August	ANZHNCs ASM anzhncsnzaps2020.w.events4you.currinda.com/#	Queenstown, New Zealand
9-12 August	IASLC 2020 World Conference on Lung Cancer wclc2020.iaslc.org/	Singapore
12-14 August	MOGA ASM www.moga.org.au/conference/annual-scientific-meeting	Perth, WA
21-23 August	Asia Pacific Prostate Cancer Conference prostatecancerconference.org.au/	Melbourne, VIC
25-28 August	AGITG ASM gicancer.org.au	Melbourne, VIC
12-13 September	10th COSA CPG Advanced Course cosacpgcourses.org.au/	Melbourne, VIC
18-22 September	ESMO 2020 Congress www.esmo.org/Conferences/ESMO-Congress-2020	Madrid, Spain
25-28 September	ASTRO Annual Meeting www.astro.org/Meetings-and-Education/Live-Meetings/2020/Annual-Meeting	Miami Beach, USA
13-16 October	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au/health-professionals/meetings-events/	Brisbane, QLD
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
21-23 October	ESSO 40 esso40.org/	Lisbon, Portugal
11-13 November	COSA's 47th Annual Scientific Meeting 2020 www.cosa.org.au	Brisbane, QLD
8-12 December	San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium 2020 www.pr-medicevents.com/congress/sabcs-2020/	San Antonio, USA
2021		
18-19 March	2021 COSA Flinders Cancer Survivorship Conference www.cosa.org.au	Adelaide, SA

COSA20 ASM20

COSA'S 47TH ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC MEETING

SAVE
THE DATE

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY

11 - 13
NOVEMBER
2020

I am extremely humbled and honoured to be convening the 2020 COSA ASM in Brisbane. As convenor I'm following in the footsteps of COSA doyens, including COSA Presidents past and present, so I feel expectations are high. However, I am confident that together with an excellent committee, we will deliver an exciting and highly educational program.

In 2020 we are moving away from COSA's tradition of focussing on one or two cancers, and featuring **Quality & Safety, Implementation Science** and **Cardio-oncology** as program themes – something for everyone in our multi-disciplinary membership!

Quality & safety was a subtheme for the 2017 COSA ASM in Sydney. Feedback on that program was excellent, with many asking for it to be included again, so the time is now! The translation of research into practice combines the dissemination of evidence and the implementation of it into clinical practice. **Implementation science** is currently recognised as a significant gap in research and practice, and delays in the translation of evidence into practice lead to inferior outcomes for patients and increased costs of care. Value-based care and optimised care strategies are rapidly emerging in this era of ever-increasing costs in oncology. The themes of Quality & Safety and Implementation Science complement each other perfectly. In addition to didactic sessions there will also be hands-on opportunities to enable you to better understand these expanding fields, and provide you with some valuable tools and resources to assist you to implement evidence-based practices in your workplace.

The cardiovascular health of cancer patients is a very significant issue for patients and survivors, where gains in survival may be countered by increased mortality and morbidity due to cardiovascular (CV) toxicity.

Cardio-oncology is an emerging discipline that identifies, prevents and treats CV disease related to cancer therapies. Potential toxicities have moved beyond traditionally acknowledged anthracycline-related toxicity and effects after intra-thoracic radiotherapy, to the appreciation of the risks of immunotherapy agents and targeted therapies. There can also be synergistic impacts on CV health due to the interaction of a patient's pre-existing risk factors and co-morbidities, as well as cancer treatment exposures. As such, CV toxicity is relevant across the age spectrum in cancer patients and across multiple tumour sites- allowing us to feature many cancers in the ASM program. Whilst cardio-oncology has progressed as a field internationally, with dedicated services, research and training programs; in Australia, progress has been constrained by a lack of clinical services and limited research collaboration between cardiologists and cancer professionals. The 2020 COSA ASM is one step to addressing this gap and will hopefully also attract some new delegates.

We warmly welcome you all and hope that you can join us in Brisbane, 11-13 November 2020 for this stimulating conference. Please note the dates carefully – the main program will run Wednesday 11 to Friday 13 November (with pre-conference workshops on Tuesday 10 November).

Bryan Chan
2020 COSA ASM Convenor



QUALITY AND SAFETY
IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE
CARDIO-ONCOLOGY

BRISBANE CONVENTION
AND EXHIBITION CENTRE
QUEENSLAND



Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia

