

## MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL: Wednesday 2 November 2022

# Lung cancer trial provides equal access to comprehensive genomic testing, a “key part of precision medicine”

*Multidisciplinary cancer health professionals will hear the latest results from the ASPiRATION study today at the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia’s Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane.*

The ASPiRATION trial, developed by Thoracic Oncology Group of Australasia (TOGA) in partnership with Omico Australia and the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre at the University of Sydney, is the first of its kind in Australia designed to generate high-quality, real-world data about the impact and value of comprehensive genomic profiling (CGP) in delivering precision medicine and personalised healthcare for people with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

Lung cancer accounts for more cancer-related deaths than any other cancer type in Australia or worldwide. In adenocarcinoma, the most common subtype of NSCLC, the identification of genomic alterations that drive tumour growth enables the cancer to be treated with targeted therapies. Patients on these treatments can live for many years, with milder and very manageable side effects.

Professor Nick Pavlakis, medical oncologist, TOGA Board of Directors Chair and Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) Past President said “Once we’ve identified these genomic alterations, we can present our patients with the opportunity to receive targeted treatments, specific to their genomic alterations, thus personalising their treatment to get the best outcome.”

“This type of precision medicine can save lives. The more we know about a tumour, the better we can treat it,” he said.

“We’ve already seen the tremendous benefit of ASPiRATION. Through CGP, we successfully identified eight RET fusion patients and many KRAS G12C patients and were able to direct them to highly-effective treatments that wouldn’t have been options for them otherwise,” said Prof Pavlakis, adding “The ASPiRATION trial demonstrates the value of trials designed by a dedicated membership group of expert lung cancer clinicians and patient representatives.”

Professor Solomon, medical oncologist, TOGA Board of Directors Scientific Chair and ASPiRATION study co-chair will present the preliminary findings from the study today at COSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting, as part of their *Equitable care for all* theme.

“Unfortunately, before this trial, not everyone with NSCLC had access to this type of molecular testing,” he said.

“Inequities exist for patients in regional versus metropolitan centres, as well as between those who can, and can’t, pay for testing,” said Prof Solomon.

The ASPIRATION trial will provide 1000 newly diagnosed lung cancer patients access to CGP, regardless of where they live in Australia.

“It’s breaking down barriers to access and ensuring all Australian patients with NSCLC are given the same treatment opportunities,” he said.

“So far we have 500 patients who have consented for the study and 17 hospitals from around Australia involved,” said Prof Solomon.

For more information on the trial including recruitment pathways visit [the TOGA website](#).

ASPIRATION is accompanied by clinical trial substudies that enable access to targeted therapies not yet available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Additionally, patients whose CGP results identify NSCLC mutations not encompassed by these substudies, may be able to access targeted therapies through other programs and clinical trials.

## Session details

<b>Session:</b>	Lung cancer genomics
<b>Presentation:</b>	Delivering precision medicine for non-small cell lung cancer: the ASPIRATION trial
<b>Speakers:</b>	<a href="#">Professor Benjamin Solomon</a> ( <i>only in Brisbane Wed AM</i> )
<b>When:</b>	Wednesday 2 November 11:00am-12:30pm
<b>Where:</b>	Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
<b>Twitter:</b>	#COSA22 @COSAOncology

A PDF of embargoed abstracts are available. For inquiries, interviews or to seek media accreditation, contact:

**Rosannah Girdlestone on 0439 428 004 or [Rosannah.Girdlestone@cancer.org.au](mailto:Rosannah.Girdlestone@cancer.org.au)**

## Trial information

The ASPIRATION program is a pioneering partnership between government, industry and academia. The study is led by Thoracic Oncology Group of Australasian (TOGA), Omico Australia (Australian Genomic Cancer Medicine Centre) and the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre at the University of Sydney. The program is supported by funding from the federal government’s Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) and Roche Products Pty Ltd. This project has been approved by St Vincent’s Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee, reference number: [2019/ETH03114](#).

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## About COSA

The Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) is Australia’s peak multidisciplinary society for health professionals working in cancer research, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. COSA is recognised as an activist organisation whose views are valued in all aspects of cancer care. We are allied with and provide high-level clinical advice to Cancer Council Australia.

For more information about COSA, [see our website](#).

## About the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting

The COSA Annual Scientific Meeting is Australia's premier cancer meeting, and unlike other meetings, it brings together all health professionals who work in cancer care and control – oncologists, nurses, pharmacists, allied health professionals, scientists, policy makers and more.

In 2022, the event will focus on equitable cancer care for all: gender, identity, culture, geography, and disease should not matter. Top multidisciplinary national and international speakers will present the latest research and developments in cancer to more than 800 delegates, with a focus on the science, education, health services, treatments, supportive care, and epidemiology.

2-4 November 2022  
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre  
[Program](#) | [Invited Speakers](#)