

Quick Update:

- Membership: 211 members
- COGNO ASM 2011: 6 and 7 August
- 1st publication for COGNO!

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COGNO

COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Member Newsletter

Issue 9

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Message from our Chair

Welcome to another COGNO newsletter.

I'm pleased to report that the Group continues to expand its membership and activities. We now have 211 Members embracing all facets of neuro-oncology care and research - COGNO really is a national multi-disciplinary organisation. The membership support a variety of COGNO committees ranging from the Operations Executive that meets fortnightly to the broader Management Committee, Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Organising Committee for the Annual Scientific Meeting (see below).

The clinical trials portfolio is expanding and we are likely to be major contributors to the EORTC CATNON study. Further, our home grown CABARET study is just getting started and is likely to accrue quickly. Importantly, the CABARET study has included a number of novel endpoints (biomarkers, and cognitive outcomes) that will take it to the world stage. I'm also excited by a number of clinical trial proposals that have appeared at recent meetings of the SAC.

Finally, I encourage you all to consider attending the COGNO ASM. Our previous meetings have proved to be very worthwhile and are structured so as to engender plenty of discussion and perhaps some controversy!

Mark Rosenthal

COGNO 4th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Saturday and Sunday, 6 & 7 August 2011
MGSM Conference Centre, 99 Talavera Road, Macquarie Park (Sydney)

COGNO is pleased to announce that the 2011 COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) will be held in conjunction with the Macquarie Neurosurgical Research and Clinical Symposium at Macquarie University, Sydney.

The Macquarie Symposium will be held on 5 & 6 August - their morning session on 6 August has been designed with a particular focus on brain tumours, ranging from translational science, clinical management updates and emerging technology.

The COGNO ASM follows immediately after, from lunchtime on 6 August through to lunchtime 7 August. The COGNO ASM sessions include management of glioblastoma in the elderly, a forum to meet and hear from key translational scientists undertaking glioma research, updates on the status of current and emerging clinical translational research being conducted nationally, and the challenges of clinical endpoints selection in neuro-oncology trials. A preliminary program appears on the next page.

Eminent clinician and neuro-oncology researcher, Dr Annika Malmstrom, from University Hospital Linköping, Sweden, has been confirmed as an international speaker; with an international neurosurgical speaker to be announced in the near future.

Also, the COGNO SAC meeting on Friday 5 August is open to all COGNO members, as is the COGNO AGM on Saturday 6 August.

So save these dates in your diary, and keep an eye out for our email updates to members. Updates will also be posted on the COGNO website (www.cogno.org.au).

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Friday 5 August : Pre-ASM Meetings – Stamford Grand North Ryde		
TIME	MEETING	CHAIR
12.30-1.30	Lunch	
1.30-3.30	Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting – open to COGNO members	Prof Mark Rosenthal
3.30-4.00	Afternoon Tea	
4.00-5.00	Management Committee Meeting	Prof Mark Rosenthal
Saturday 6 August : Day 1 – Macquarie Graduate School of Management		
TIME	SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS	CHAIR/S
8.30-10.20	MACQUARIE NEUROSURGICAL RESEARCH & CLINICAL SYMPOSIUM: SESSION V - Tumours	TBC
10.20-10.50	Morning Tea	
10.50-12.40	MACQUARIE NEUROSURGICAL RESEARCH & CLINICAL SYMPOSIUM: SESSION VI - Tumours	TBC
12.45-1.45	Lunch	
1.45-1.50	Welcome and day 1 program overview - Dr Vanessa Estall (Co-Convenor)	
1.50-3.15	Session 1 – The Elderly and Glioblastoma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Annika Malmström: Update on clinical trials in elderly Glioblastoma patients • Dr Claire Phillips: NCIC-TROG Elderly GBM study • Dr Annika Malmström: Focus on protocol design, recruitment issues in elderly glioma trials. • Question time 	Dr Gail Ryan
3.15-3.45	Afternoon Tea	
3.45-5.15	Session 2 – Translational Scientists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Bryan Day, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Queensland • A/Prof Alex Dobrovic, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Victoria • Dr Keith Giles, Laboratory for Cancer Medicine, UWA, Western Australia • Dr Nick Gottardo, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Western Australia • A/Prof Terry Johns, Monash Institute of Medical Research, Victoria • Dr Kerrie McDonald, Lowy Cancer Research Centre, New South Wales 	Dr Elizabeth Hovey
5.15-5.45	COGNO AGM	Prof Mark Rosenthal
7.00 -	COGNO Dinner – venue to be advised	
Sunday 7 August : Day 2 – Macquarie Graduate School of Management		
8.45-8.50	Welcome and day 2 program overview – Dr Vanessa Estall(Co-Convenor)	
8.50 – 10.30	Session 3 – Updates on Current Trials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CABARET – Dr Kathryn Field • CATNON – Prof Anna Nowak • SEED and F/U RCT Study – A/Prof Meera Agar • EORTC-NCIC-TROG Low Grade Glioma – Dr Gail Ryan • NCIC-TROG Elderly GBM – Dr Claire Phillips • Discussion and Question Time 	Dr Kathryn Field
10.30 – 11	Morning Tea	
11 – 12.30	Session 4 – Endpoints in Neuro-Oncology Clinical Trials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker TBC: Neuro-oncology Imaging • Dr Annika Malmström: Incorporating QOL and Cognition in Glioma trials • A/Prof Meera Agar: Palliative/Supportive Care Trials in Glioma • Panel Discussion 	Prof John Simes (TBC)
12.30 – 1.30	Close and Lunch	



SEED: Self-reported evaluation of the adverse effects of Dexamethasone

COGNO has now finalised site selection and anticipate on recruiting from 5 sites across NSW. COGNO is busy working with sites on start-up activities with the first site ready to recruit patients in May 2011. The recruitment target over 12 months is 100 participants in total (comprising 50 patients and their 50 associated caregivers). The members of the Study Management Committee consist of A/Prof Meera Agar (study chair), clinicians and members from the NHMRC CTC coordinating centre. This committee will provide oversight for the conduct, recruitment, data collection, management and statistical analysis for the study.

For more information or queries, please contact the team on seed@ctc.usyd.edu.au.

CATNON (EORTC 26053-22054): Phase III trial on concurrent and adjuvant Temozolomide chemotherapy in non-1p/19q deleted anaplastic glioma.

We are glad to bring great news regarding the recruitment rate for the CATNON trial. Recruitment activities have been more than satisfactory in Australia since the trial opened in August 2010. The CATNON trial has now registered 28 patients and randomised 13 patients in total from 7 active sites, with the rate of recruitment expected to increase as more sites are activated.

By now, all active sites are well aware that the process from identification to administration of trial treatment in this study requires careful attention as it involves a number of steps including the shipment and testing of tumours to the EORTC in the Netherlands, and keeping within the timelines needing to be met. We would like to acknowledge and thank all the trial team members at each active site for their efforts and hard work in making the process as smooth as possible.

A special mention to A/Prof Michael Back and Dr Helen Wheeler and team at the Royal North Shore Hospital (NSW) for leading the current figures for both registration and randomisation.

We continue to collaborate closely with other sites in Australia with their local ethics and research governance submissions, and other logistical requirements prior to activation and we hope to activate most of the sites by mid-2011.

As always, the CATNON Coordinating Centre welcomes all queries and any assistance we can provide at catnon@ctc.usyd.edu.au.

CATNON Sites Activated and Patients Registered (as of 29 March 2011)						
Site Name	State	Principal Investigator	Date Activated	Number Registered	Number deemed ineligible for randomisation	Number Randomised
Royal North Shore Hospital	NSW	Helen Wheeler	20-Aug-10	13	5	7
Royal Hobart Hospital	TAS	Rosie Harrup	8-Sep-10	3	1	2
Royal Melbourne Hospital	VIC	Mark Rosenthal	3-Sep-10	2	1	1
Austin Health	VIC	Lawrence Cher	21-Jun-10	7	5	1
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	WA	Anna Nowak	28-Sep-10	3	1	1
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	NSW	John Simes	11-Mar-11	0	0	0
St. Vincents Hospital Melbourne	VIC	Anthony Dowling	22-Mar-11	0	0	1
Total				28	13	13



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STUDY & TRIAL UPDATES cont.

CABARET Study: A randomised phase II study of Carboplatin and Bevacizumab in Recurrent Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM)

The CABARET study has made significant progress since the last issue of the COGNO Newsletter, with the first site activated and the first patient recruited to the study. In November Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney was activated as a pilot site for the study. Five patients have now been randomised and commenced study treatment at that site.

Ethics and governance submissions are currently underway at sites across the country, with the aim of activating many of these sites early in 2011. Currently we have five sites activated across the country.

The Investigator Meeting for the CABARET study was held on the 9 December at the Stamford Plaza Hotel, Sydney Airport. The CABARET team were very pleased with the large turn-out and success of the event and would like to thank all of those who attended.

We look forward to activating more sites as the year progresses and further expanding the study. For more information or queries, please contact the team on cabaret@ctc.usyd.edu.au

1st COGNO Publication: "Phase 2 Trial of Temozolomide and Pegylated Liposomal Doxorubicin in the Treatment of Patients with Glioblastoma Multiforme following concurrent radiotherapy and chemotherapy" was accepted in February 2011 for publication in the Journal of Clinical Neuroscience.

COGNO TEAM UPDATE

We sadly farewell Dr James Chen as COGNO Research Fellow, but happily James continues to be involved with the Group on a number of projects.

We would also like to welcome Bea (Bernadette) Tomes, who has joined COGNO as a Clinical Trials Assistant. Bea is currently completing her final semester of a Bachelor of Clinical Sciences.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that we now have **211** members!

Help us expand our Group's expertise and networking capacity. If you know someone who would like to join, you can now refer prospective members to our online membership application on our website (www.cogno.org.au) or to the COGNO Coordinating Centre on cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au

NEW CONCEPTS

DO YOU HAVE A NEW CONCEPT? COGNO is always looking to develop new studies—from inception through to full protocol development and managing feasibility and operational issues. We aim to help progress and support development of important clinical trial questions. So if you would like to propose a concept for a COGNO clinical trial, please contact us on cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au or complete and return our Trial Concept Outline form available on www.cogno.org.au

REMINDER: The NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre is holding a one-day Clinical Trial Concept Development Workshop for Investigators on Friday 20 May 2011, at the University of Sydney. **COGNO members with a concept outline for a study or a protocol currently being written are encouraged to attend.**

Where possible, COGNO will assist with travel, accommodation and registration costs. If you wish to attend the workshop and would like some assistance with these costs, please complete the COGNO Trial Concept Outline form available on www.cogno.org.au and return to the COGNO office (cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au or fax 02/9562-5094) **no later than 20 April** advising that you wish to seek assistance to attend the workshop. Please contact the COGNO office if you have any queries.