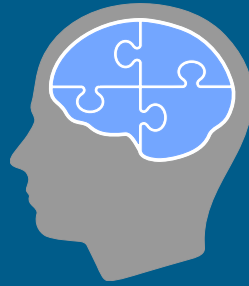


Quick Update:

- Membership: 353 members
- Very successful 2013 ASM



COGNO

COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Member Newsletter

Issue 16

Summer 2014



Message from our Chair

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2014. It includes lots of COGNO related information ranging from our recent ASM, to membership to trials and to staff.

My personal thanks to Dr Eng-Siew Koh, convenor of the 2013 ASM; considered a resounding success. It was our first “stand-alone” meeting and the number of registrants was significant and the quality of the meeting outstanding. As usual, our international guest speakers threw themselves into the meeting and the wine tasting

with gusto and the relaxed, informal approach at the COGNO ASM ensured plenty of discussion and interaction.

Our membership numbers continues to rise and I’m particularly pleased that there is now expanded representation from nursing, allied health and consumers. Indeed, the Management Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee is being expanded to ensure broader representation and we are working to create a stronger consumer presence.

As for clinical trials, COGNO is facing the same challenges as other cooperative trials groups. We are searching internationally and nationally for ideas and concepts that might translate into clinical trials. Indeed one of the strategies for COGNO is to attend meetings held by the large international brain cooperative groups (NCIC, EORTC, RTOG) and your executive are flying to all parts of the world in an attempt to bring home some large international trials. Pleasingly, COGNO has an established international reputation and the large international groups are seeking our participation.

I feel that this is a critical period for COGNO. We have had great success in establishing the group, conducting some important trials, creating an international profile and obtaining funding renewal. However, we need to attract some new trials and work towards consolidating our organisation.

All the best for the coming year.

Mark Rosenthal
Group Chair

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SAVE THE DATE: 7th COGNO ASM

Friday 24th - Saturday 25th October 2014, Melbourne, Australia

Plans are already underway for the 2014 ASM, with 2 confirmed international guest speakers:

- **Prof Lisa M DeAngelis MD**
Chair, Department of Neurology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, USA
Lillian Rojzman Berkman Chair in Honor of Dr. Jerome Posner
Co-Executive Director, MSKCC Brain Tumor Center, USA
- **Prof Minesh P Mehta MB ChB, FASTRO**
Medical Director, Maryland Proton Treatment Center, USA
Associate Director of Clinical Research, Department of Radiation Oncology,
University of Maryland School of Medicine, USA

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SAVE THE DATE: 7th COGNO ASM
Friday 24th - Saturday 25th October 2014, Melbourne, Australia

(continued from page 1)

Co-convenors Dr Mustafa Khasraw and Dr Zarnie Lwin, along with the members of the organising committee, are busy developing an outstanding scientific program with the theme of “*Translating science to patient centred trials*”.

6th COGNO ASM - ‘NEURO-ONCOLOGY IN THE YOUNGER ADULT’
Friday 25th - Saturday 26th October 2013, PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia

Congratulations to Dr Eng-Siew Koh (Convenor) and the 2013 organising committee on an extremely successful Annual Scientific Meeting held on 25th and 26th October at the PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, Sydney. The quality and calibre of the 4 international guest speakers:

- **Professor Mitchel Berger MD**
Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of San Francisco, California, USA
- **Professor Jan Buckner MD**
Professor of Oncology, Chair, Department of Oncology, Deputy Director for Clinical Practice, Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, Rochester, Minnesota, USA
- **Professor Peter C. Burger, MD**
Professor of Pathology, Neurological Surgery and Oncology, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Maryland, USA
Cure For Life Foundation Brain Cancer Research Visiting Academic at the UNSW Lowy Cancer Research Centre, Australia
- **Associate Professor James R. Perry, MD, FRCPC**
Head, Division of Neurology
Tony Crolla Chair of Brain Tumour Research
Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

along with a number of Australian experts, ensured an excellent scientific program, and made COGNO’s inaugural stand-alone ASM the most successful one yet.

Selected filmed sessions from the ASM are available for viewing on the members section of the COGNO website (<http://www.cogno.org.au/member/default.aspx> then log in as a member) and also on the Medical Update armchairmedical website (<http://www.armchairmedical.com/cogno-2013/>, log in with the password **COGNO2013**).

A copy of the 6th COGNO Conference Review, published on Research Review Australia, is also available on the COGNO website (<http://www.cogno.org.au/news.aspx?NewsID=37>).

COGNO awarded a total of 7 travel grants, including 3 for consumers: Alison White (WA), Jessica Hammersley (TAS), Joel Collins (QLD), Violet Mukaro (VIC), Miklos Kerecz (NSW), Kay Duffy (NSW) and Robyn Leonard (NSW).



Left to right: Consumer Travel Grant recipients Kaye Duffy, Miklos Kerecz and Robyn Leonard



Left to right: Traci-Jo Barrett (MSD rep), Alison White, Violet Mukaro, Jessica Hammersley and Adam Whibley (MSD rep)

Congratulations to Kerrie McDonald, awarded the best oral presentation prize (\$500); and Wafa Trad and Brian Day who shared the best poster prize (\$250 each).



Kerrie McDonald with Mark Rosenthal



Wafa Trad and Bryan Day with Mark Rosenthal



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6th COGNO ASM - 'NEURO-ONCOLOGY IN THE YOUNGER ADULT'
Friday 25th - Saturday 26th October 2013, PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia

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Left to right: Mitchel Berger, Peter Burger, James Perry, Mark Rosenthal, Eng-Siew Koh, Liz Hovey, Jan Buckner, John Simes.

Left to right: 2013 COGNO ASM Organising Committee Marcia Fleet, Jenny Chow, Po-Ling Inglis, Zarnie Lwin, Mustafa Khasraw, Eng-Siew Koh (convenor), Yi Feng, Brett Stringer, Brindha Shivalingam



COGNO thanks the following for their support of the 2013 ASM.



Gold Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



Travel Grants Sponsor



Travel Grants Sponsor



STUDY & TRIAL UPDATES

SEED Study: *Self-reported evaluation of the adverse effects of dexamethasone*

The SEED study team are currently in the process of cleaning the SEED data in preparation for the final analysis. All queries have now been placed on the data within OpenClinica and the site study coordinators are busy answering the queries. The study was formally closed to recruitment on 31 October 2013 with the following recruitment figures:

SEED Recruitment by Site (current as at 19 November 2013)							
No.	Site name	State	Principal Investigator	Date activated	No. of patients registered	No of PBT Patients Registered	% of Patients with PBT
1	Liverpool Hospital	NSW	Dr Eng Siew Koh	23 Sep 2011	23	10	56.5%
2	Sacred Heart Hospice	NSW	A/Prof Richard Chye	22 Aug 2011	27	7	26%
3	Braeside Hospital	NSW	A/Prof Meera Agar	5 Jul 2011	8	2	25%
4	Prince of Wales Hospital	NSW	Dr Elizabeth Hovey	13 Nov 2012	5	2	40%
5	Greenwich Hospital	NSW	Dr Melanie Lovell	1 Sep 2011	3	1	33.3%
6	Calvary Mater Newcastle	NSW	Dr Katherine Clark	5 Jul 2011	0	0	0%
Total Number of Active Sites					6		
Total Number of Patients Registered					66 (25 PBT)	25	37.87%

The training for the Open Clinica database has been rolled out to the Study Coordinators at each site and hopefully we can have the SEED Investigators on board within the next month, if you have not yet completed the training please do so.

Given patient recruitment has now ended, the focus for the SEED team at the CTC is now data cleaning in preparation for statistical analysis and publications. The team would like to thank sites in advance for their cooperation with this process, and for timely responses to data queries.

As always, the SEED Coordinating Centre welcomes all suggestions and queries - we are happy to provide any assistance we can. Please don't hesitate to contact the team at seed@ctc.usyd.edu.au.

STUDY & TRIAL UPDATES

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

Following the presentation of preliminary progression-free survival data at ASCO 2013, the CABARET team are focusing on final data cleaning in preparation for analysis. The central radiology review of MRI scans has been completed for all patients who have ceased treatment.

Analysis of the tumour and blood samples collected from patients who participated in the translational sub-study has also commenced, and we look forward to results of these analyses becoming available in 2014.

In regards to the current status of CABARET patients, the majority of patients are now deceased, with only 4 remaining on treatment (Part 1) and 4 patients in follow-up. No patients are currently on Part 2 treatment. A summary of the current status of patients on the trial is to the right.

As always, a huge thank you to everyone involved in CABARET for making the study run so smoothly. Our success to date is a reflection of your dedication and commitment. For more information or queries, please contact the team on cabaret@ctc.usyd.edu.au.

Patient Status	
On Part 1	4
On Part 2	0
In follow-up	4
Deceased	113
Withdrawn consent	1
Total	122

Randomisation Numbers	
Randomised to Part 1	122
Randomised to Part 2	48

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

Since the last newsletter, the CATNON study has reached over 50% of the target accrual for Australian sites, and registered its 1,000th patient internationally on 8 November 2013. This is a major milestone, and the international sponsor the EORTC are confident that with the 9 - 10 patients being randomised globally each month, CATNON will successfully complete enrollment in two years from now. To date we have activated 12 Australian sites and work is continuing to activate Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

The CATNON team at the CTC are working to transition to site-performed registrations and randomisations in 2014. This will streamline the process and improve time efficiency for both site staff and the team at the CTC.

The site coordinators continue to do a fantastic job in

submitting the case report forms and responding to queries. The high standard of data from Australian sites continues to be acknowledged by the EORTC.

Joe Levitt will no longer be the CATNON Trial Coordinator effective 9 December 2013. He would like to thank everyone on the CATNON team for their help and support during his time in this role, particularly Kate Sawkins, Project Manager. Joe has enjoyed his time working with the team and wishes them every success going forward. Joe will be replaced by Lisa Bailey, who is returning to the CTC following maternity leave.

As always, the CATNON Coordinating Centre welcomes all suggestions and queries - we are happy to provide any assistance we can. Please drop us an email at catnon@ctc.usyd.edu.au.

CATNON Recruitment by Site							
No	Site name	State	Principal Investigator	Date activated	No. of patients registered	No. of patients deemed ineligible	No. of patients randomised
1	Royal North Shore Hospital	NSW	Helen Wheeler	20-Aug-10	34	17	17
2	Royal Hobart Hospital	TAS	Rosie Harrup	8-Sep-10	10	4	6
3	Austin Health	VIC	Lawrence Cher	21-Jun-10	13	11	2
4	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	WA	Anna Nowak	29-Sep-10	19	10	9
5	The Alfred	VIC	Sanjeev Gill	31-Aug-11	19	11	7
6	St. Vincents Hospital Melbourne	VIC	Anthony Dowling	22-Mar-11	15	9	6
7	Royal Melbourne Hospital	VIC	Mark Rosenthal	3-Sep-10	12	6	5
8	Flinders Medical Centre	SA	Ganessan Kichenadasse	26-Jul-11	7	5	2
9	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	NSW	John Simes	11-Mar-11	4	1	3
10	Princess Alexandra Hospital	QLD	Katharine Cuff	14-Dec-11	5	3	2
11	Westmead Hospital	NSW	Najmun Nahar	23-Jul-13	1	1	0
12	Prince of Wales Hospital	NSW	Elizabeth Hovey	30-Oct-13	0	0	0
Current as at 19 Feb 2014				Total	139	74	59

STUDY & TRIAL UPDATES

Patterns of Care Study of Adult Medulloblastoma

In collaboration with other clinicians, the COGNO clinical research fellow, Dr Rasha Cosman, undertook a survey of patterns of care in adult medulloblastoma. This was launched internationally in November 2012 and the results were presented, in poster format, at the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting in Chicago in June 2013. This was also presented during COGNO's 2013 ASM session addressing challenges of neuro-oncology in the young adult. This is currently being prepared for publishing.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

COGNO has 353 members - an increase of almost 21% in the past 12 months. The geographic spread of our membership is also increasing -

Australia: NSW (161), VIC (64), QLD (55), WA (19), SA (14), ACT (10), TAS (10) and NT (1);

International: NZ (7), Singapore (3), Canada (3), Ireland (2), India (1), Sweden (1), Switzerland (1) and USA (1).

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

NEW CONCEPTS

Since the last newsletter, three new concepts have been considered by the COGNO Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) with consensus that all three be either further developed or proceed as a study -

- Microglia: a new treatment target in gliomas (*further development*)
- How do people with recurrent glioma and their partners sleep? (*further development*)
- Remembering in patients with brain tumours and metastases: what tools do health professionals use when communicating with patients (*study to proceed*).

During the recent COGNO ASM, SAC held a face-to-face meeting which was open to COGNO members. Members attending had the opportunity to hear about COGNO's studies (including co-badged studies), previously approved concepts, as well as non-COGNO neuro-oncology projects. The SAC meeting benefited greatly from the contribution and insights of the four ASM international guest speakers, Professors Peter Burger, Mitch Berger, Jan Buckner and A/Prof James Perry.

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. If you would like to propose a concept or have an amazing idea for a COGNO clinical trial, please contact us on cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au or call and chat to Kate Sawkins, Associate Oncology Program Manager, on 02 9562 5374. The SAC meets quarterly and Kate and the team can assist you to develop and progress your idea or assist you with completion of the Trial Concept Outline form available at www.cogno.org.au.

WORKING GROUPS

The following working groups continued to progress, with the support and assistance of COGNO clinical research fellow, Rasha Cosman:

- CALD study - With the recognition of the challenges that health professionals meet with in delivering health services to patients of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background, the working group has focussed on better understanding these challenges and in particular those impeding participation in clinical trials. A manuscript is under way.
- Exercise study - The role of exercise in improving outcomes for patients suffering from cancer is increasingly being studied. Aiming to define its role in the management of brain cancer patients, a trial concept is being developed to investigate this.
- Sleep study - a systematic review of sleep disorders in adult patients with brain tumours is being undertaken. It is hoped that this will assist in identifying areas in need of further investigation where COGNO can contribute to the global body of knowledge in this topic.

COGNO TEAM UPDATE

We farewell Joe Levitt (CATNON trial coordinator), Beau Salwin (SEED trial coordinator), Bea Tomes (CABARET clinical trials assistant) and welcome Hannah O'Riley, Cathy Boreham and Lisa Bailey to the COGNO team.

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COGNO TEAM UPDATE

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Hannah joins the COGNO team as a part-time administrative assistant. Originally from Geelong, Hannah completed a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne, with an exchange year in the UK, before moving to Sydney five years ago. She is now working on a PhD on heavy metal drugs in the School of Chemistry at the University of Sydney, and is very excited at the prospect of finishing her thesis in the next year. Her research is on ruthenium anti-cancer drugs, and has focused on understanding the structure activity relationships of various compounds, which has sparked her interest in drug development. When she is not writing or culturing cells, she coordinates a Saturday school for refugees and plays roller derby. She is a keen traveller and most recently has been exploring Iceland, Greenland and Vietnam.



Cathy grew up in Canberra and has been living in sunny (and warm!) Sydney for the past 9 ½ years. Having worked for many years in the pharmaceutical industry, Cathy is enjoying working for academia. Currently studying part-time for a Bachelor of Social Science, Cathy has a keen interest in QoL and mental health and aims to progress to postgraduate studies in these areas. As well as study coordinator for the SEED study, Cathy also works on the site close-out activities for the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, and when not working or studying enjoys dancing and holidaying in tropical islands.



Lisa has worked as a trial coordinator at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre since 2008. She began working on AGITG and ANZGOG trials and has recently returned to work part time for COGNO after taking maternity leave. After completing a Bachelor of Applied Science (Orthoptics) at the University of Sydney she worked as an ophthalmic assistant before changing careers and working in the clinical trials industry. This is a change she is glad she made. In her spare time Lisa enjoys spending time with her family, swimming, baking and decorating cupcakes, holidaying overseas and eating out.

Welcome Hannah, Cathy and Lisa!

We also farewell COGNO clinical research fellow, Dr Rasha Cosman, who has contributed much during her 2 year term, working on a number of projects with COGNO's executive and various working groups as well as being COGNO's designated delegate on quality of life issues. One of Rasha's main areas of interest is quality of life aspects of patients with brain tumours and she has attended various workshops held by the Quality of Life Office and represented COGNO in a number of inter trial groups meetings, addressing various aspects of quality of life assessment in clinical trials, from concept development, conduct, to data analysis and reporting. We wish Rasha well in her new clinical endeavours.



We welcome Dr Mustafa Khasraw as the new COGNO clinical research fellow. Based in Melbourne, Mustafa is the clinical lead of the haematology-oncology clinical trials unit at the Andrew Love Cancer Centre in Geelong, and a consultant medical oncologist at Geelong and Royal Melbourne Hospitals as well as a senior clinical lecturer at Deakin University School of Medicine. And Mustafa is also co-convenor of the 2014 COGNO ASM!

REMINDERS

- 11 April 2014 - NHMRC CTC Concept Development Workshop, Medical Foundation Building, Sydney, <http://www.ctc.usyd.edu.au/education/short-courses-and-workshops.aspx>
- 30 May - 3 June 2014 - ASCO, McCormick Place, USA, <http://am.asco.org/>
- 11-14 Sept 2014 - ASNO, Conrad Istanbul Hotel, Turkey, <http://www.asn-o.com/>
- 14 Sept - 20 Sept 2014 - ACORD Workshop, Palmer Resort Coolool, Sunshine Coast, <http://www.acord.org.au/>
- 24 & 25 October 2014 - 7th COGNO ASM, Melbourne, <http://www.cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm-home>