

Quick Update:

- Membership: 749 members
- 12th COGNO ASM: Registration and call for abstracts now open



COGNO

COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Member Newsletter

Issue 30

Winter 2019



Message from our Chair

Dear COGNO members,

Welcome to the COGNO Winter newsletter. Since the last newsletter, we've held one of COGNO's flagship events, the Ideas Generation Workshop. Kathryn Field and Ben Chua did a wonderful job pulling together a full day program, including six proposals and a number of inspirational talks and discussions. I would encourage members to start thinking about next year's ideas - whilst the Australian Brain Cancer Mission is underway, we will have so many more opportunities to obtain funding for clinical trials in neuro-oncology.

It was also serendipity that I was in Sydney that day, as I was privileged to be a guest at a retirement function for Dr Helen Zorbas, outgoing CEO of Cancer Australia, that was held at Admiralty House and hosted by the Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove. COGNO has worked closely with Cancer Australia since its inception, much of that time under Helen's guidance. I am sure all COGNO members will join me in acknowledging and honouring Helen's dedication and leadership during her time at Cancer Australia.

We are about to farewell our COGNO clinical lead, Mustafa Khasraw, who has been an exceptional COGNO contributor over a number of years. From his beginnings as a winner of the Hubert Stuerzl Memorial Educational Award, through to his key COGNO roles as principal investigator of NUTMEG and VERTU, and his time as chair of the International Clinical Research Subcommittee (ICRS), it's now hard to imagine COGNO without Mustafa's energy and commitment. I wish him well for his move to Duke University and we will all value his ongoing involvement in COGNO as a member - although no longer the chair - of the ICRS and as he continues to steer NUTMEG and VERTU to completion.

Continuing the theme of farewells, this is also an opportunity to thank Kerrie McDonald and Danette Langbecker for their longstanding and significant involvement in COGNO leadership, as they both move to very different roles.

Kerrie has recently commenced as the new CEO of Cure Brain Cancer Foundation, and as such, will relinquish her COGNO committee membership on the SAC and ASM organising committee. Kerrie's commitment to and understanding of clinical trials, in the context of her work as a translational scientist, has been of immense value to COGNO since our beginning.

Danette moves to the Department of Human Services in Canberra on an Australian Science Policy Fellowship and will no longer be working in neuro-oncology. Danette has also been a longstanding SAC member who has so willingly contributed her expertise in psycho-oncology and supportive care over a number of years.

Sincere thanks to both Kerrie and Danette and best wishes as you transition to your new roles. These losses will leave gaps on the SAC so please make your interest known if you are a translational scientist or psycho-oncology researcher who would like to become more involved.

Finally, I attended ASCO in Chicago a few weeks ago, with brief glimpses of COGNO colleagues during the busy week. The annual CODEL/CATNON face-to-face meeting with EORTC and Alliance is a regular fixture in my ASCO calendar, and it's wonderful to see the commitment which so many investigators bring to these two trials and to the collaboration between Europe, the USA and Australia.

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Further data from the CATNON trial was presented in the oral neuro-oncology session, from the second interim analysis. These intriguing results deserve a more detailed discussion than in this newsletter, but certainly underscore the importance of collecting tissue in clinical trials. COGNO sites rallied to the call for additional samples from CATNON patients to be sent to Europe, and without these additional samples the CATNON trial correlative science would not have been able to present results that were so relevant to our current understanding of anaplastic astrocytoma.

See you in Sydney for the ASM!

Professor Anna Nowak
Group Chair

THANK YOU TO DR ELIZABETH HOVEY, PAST SAC CHAIR (2014-2018)



On behalf of the Scientific Advisory Committee members, the COGNO membership and staff overall, we would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr Liz Hovey, who has stepped down from her role as SAC Chair, having served in this position for close to five years from March 2014 to December 2018.

During her tenure as SAC Chair, Liz, as always, has brought great energy, commitment and dedication to this position. She has been integral to the evolution and maturation of SAC processes including concept proposal and review by clinicians, researchers and the Consumer Advisory Panel for local, national and international studies. She has overseen the development and expansion of SAC with multi-disciplinary membership. In her role as SAC Chair, she has both directly mentored and facilitated the mentoring of junior colleagues of various disciplines. Her professional links to EORTC, NCIC and the US ALLIANCE trials groups have resulted in key collaborations for COGNO. Liz has helped steward and

provide key input into many studies from concept to protocol and successful competitive funding including CODEL, ACED, PersoMed-I (medulloblastoma) and MAGMA studies, amongst many others.

We thank Liz for her very successful leadership of the SAC and for always championing COGNO as an organisation.

A/Prof Hui Gan (SAC Chair) and Dr Eng-Siew Koh (SAC Deputy Chair)

MSD HUBERT STUERZL MEMORIAL EDUCATIONAL AWARD REPORT



L-R: Ms Dorit Becher (MSD), Dr James Whittle, Mrs Wendy Stuerzl & Prof Mark Rosenthal at the 2017 ASM

I am writing in follow-up to thank all those involved in this generous award. Professor Rosenthal has often emphasised the legacy that Hubert Stuerzl left for Neuro-Oncology in Australia and I am grateful to MSD for their ongoing commitment.

My intention was to use the financial support afforded by the award to set up the next stage of my career in Neuro-Oncology. I elected to attend the 2018 Society of Neuro-Oncology annual meeting in New Orleans, so that I could be updated with the latest translational research. As with COGNO, I was immediately impressed with the camaraderie amongst the clinicians / scientists and industry who are all working towards the common goal of improving outcomes for patients with brain tumours. There were several highlights throughout the conference. Of particular interest was Professor Timothy Cloughesy's keynote presentation on novel clinical trial design and Professor John Sampson who outlined the current challenges and path forward for immunotherapy in glioma. I am also in awe of Professor Sampson, who as a MD PhD, and Professor of Neurosurgery, has had time to complete a MBA!

Book ending the SNO annual meeting I spent four weeks visiting and interviewing for post-doctoral fellowships at a number of institutes across the USA. At each site I was warmly welcome and given the opportunity to see the depth and breadth of research, as well as the potential for further collaborations. Subsequently, I have returned to Boston for a series of formal interviews and have accepted a position at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Here, I aim to further develop skills utilising pre-clinical models of glioma and advanced personalised medicine approaches for patients with brain tumours. I hope this training will provide the foundation to return to Australia and set up as an independent clinician scientist that will allow me to provide a lasting contribution to Neuro-Oncology in Australia.

Many thanks to COGNO and MSD for continuing to support this award and the legacy of Hubert Stuerzl.

From Dr James Whittle, recipient of 2017 MSD Hubert Stuerzl Memorial Educational Award

2019 AUSTRALIAN FLEECE COMPETITION



Gil Cochrane

COGNO is the beneficiary of this year's Australian Fleece Competition thanks to the generosity of the late Gil Cochrane, and his family and friends. Gil was a successful sheep farmer in Victoria who was diagnosed with GBM in 2017 and before he passed away in 2018, decided with his wife Tess and friends to raise funds for COGNO through the Australian Wool Show Fleece Competition. Gil had entered and donated many merino fleeces in this competition since the Show's inception in 2000, and was keen to support brain cancer research.

To honour Gil's memory, Tess and Gil's friends successfully nominated COGNO to be the 2019 beneficiary of the Australian Fleece Competition. The Competition was held during the Australian Wool Show in Bendigo in late July, with COGNO represented by Dr Kathryn Field. The auction of the donated fleece will be held in August to raise funds for COGNO research.

COGNO is immensely grateful to Gil and Tess Cochrane and their friends and family for their generous support of COGNO's brain cancer research.



Dr Kathryn Field (front left) and Mrs Tess Cochrane (front right) at the competition launch in March



12th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting *The Neuro-Oncology Picture: Now and The Future*

Sunday 27th October - Tuesday 29th October 2019
International Convention Centre Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

We are pleased to announce the launch of the 2019 ASM website! Registration for the ASM is now open as is the call for abstracts.

We draw your attention to these important dates:

Early Bird Registration Closes	9 Aug 2019
Abstract Submission Deadline	9 Aug 2019
Young Investigator Award Submission Deadline	9 Aug 2019
Abstract Presenters Notified	Sep 2019
Deadline for Abstract Presenters to Register	27 Sep 2019
Online Registration Closes	11 Oct 2019
COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting	27-29 Oct 2019

Take advantage of the early bird registrations and [register now](#).

Please note accommodation is not included in your registration and must be booked directly with the hotel of your choice. Special rates have been negotiated for delegates at a number of hotels near the International Convention Centre Sydney. Further details are available on the [accommodation page](#).

The organising committee have developed an outstanding program with keynote international speakers:



Prof Colin Watts MBBS PhD FRCS(SN)

Professor of Neurosurgery
Chair Birmingham Brain Cancer Program
University of Birmingham
Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences
College of Medical and Dental Sciences
UK



A/Prof Helen Shih MD MS MPH

Chief, CNS & Eye Services, Department of Radiation Oncology
Medical Director, MGH Proton Therapy Centers
Director, Proton Therapy Fellowship
Massachusetts General Hospital
USA



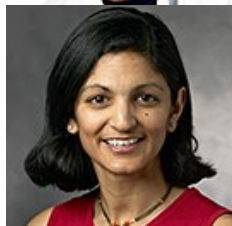
Prof Benjamin Ellingson PhD MS

Professor of Radiology and Psychiatry
Director, UCLA Brain Tumor Imaging Laboratory (BTIL),
Center for Computer Vision and Imaging Biomarkers (CVIB)
Dept. of Radiological Sciences
David Geffen School of Medicine
University of California Los Angeles
USA



Prof Ian Law MD PhD DMSc

Professor, University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences
Chair of the Neuroimaging Committee, EANM
Chief Physician, Dept of Clinical Physiology, Nuclear Medicine & PET
Rigshospitalet
Denmark



A/Prof Seema Nagpal MD

Clinical Associate Professor of Neurology
Division of Neuro-oncology
Stanford University
USA

A preliminary program is available on the [program page](#). We hope to see you in October!

STUDY & TRIAL UPDATES

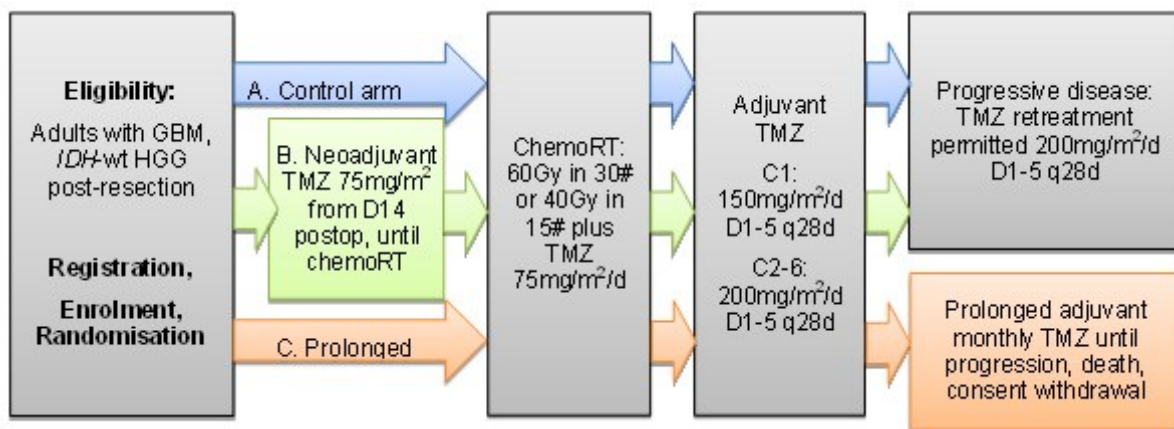
MAGMA: *Multi-Arm Glioblastoma Australasia trial*

Big impacts can come from small actions. This is the hope of the MAGMA trial. As announced in the Autumn COGNO Newsletter, the MAGMA trial (Multi-Arm Glioblastoma Australasia trial) was successfully funded \$2.5M over five years from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). A nationwide team of COGNO members led by A/Prof Craig Gedye have been working to develop the protocol, to be finalised by Q3 of 2019.

MAGMA is a randomised, multi-arm, multi-stage phase III clinical trial. The study will focus on two aims to start and further questions and arms will be added as the trial progresses. The MAGMA trial will be designed to fit easily into your routine practice, with simple interventions and parsimonious data capture. The two initial arms are to:

1. Assess the efficacy of neoadjuvant (pre-radiation) TMZ compared with standard chemoradiotherapy in GBM and IDH-wildtype high grade glioma
2. Assess the efficacy of prolonged (treatment-until-progression) adjuvant TMZ chemotherapy compared with standard chemoradiotherapy in GBM and IDH-wildtype high grade glioma

Study schema:



Patients will be randomized upon receipt of histopathological confirmation of eligibility. The planned initial sample size (for these first 3 arms) of 300 patients can be recruited nationally in 3 years.

The key inclusion criteria are as follows:

1. Adults, aged 18 years and older, with newly diagnosed histologically confirmed grade 4 malignant glioblastoma or IDH-wildtype grade 3 high grade glioma
2. Adequate recovery from surgical resection
3. ECOG performance status of 0-2

Please email magma@ctc.usyd.edu.au if you have any queries.

A registry from the VCCC is also in development, EX-TEM. Sites are encouraged to participate in both MAGMA and the EX-TEM registry. Unlike EX-TEM, participants are recruited to MAGMA at the time of diagnosis and we recognise this may not be possible for every patient. We believe it is important that our patients be given the opportunity to participate in either MAGMA and/or EX-TEM - our patients inspire us to undertake research and giving every opportunity for participation in important.

For further information on EX-TEM visit <https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=12618001944224>.

LUMOS: *Low & Intermediate Grade Glioma Umbrella Study of Molecular Guided Therapies*

Low and intermediate grade brain tumour are universally fatal brain tumours with almost no access to clinical trials. LUMOS is a comprehensive Australian trials program for these patients. We will match tumours on a molecular level with the best treatments. We will assist in accessing these drugs, including creating trials of new treatments. Lastly, we will collect an invaluable set of tissue and blood before and after treatment for future research into better treatments.

Please email lumos@ctc.usyd.edu.au if you have any questions.

NUTMEG (COGNO 16/01): A Randomised Phase II Study of *Nivolumab* and *TeMozolomide* vs *TeMozolomide* alone in newly diagnosed Elderly patients with Glioblastoma

The NUTMEG trial aims to recruit 102 patients across 19 sites. Currently 14 out of the 19 selected sites have opened to recruitment, with 33 patients randomised onto the NUTMEG trial across all sites as of the 31st of May 2019.

Recruitment is improving after some quite months at the start of the year, with May having the highest amount of newly registered patients (7 patients) since the start of the trial and equal highest amount of newly randomised patients since September 2018 (6 patients). This is very promising and a direct reflection of all staff's efforts. Thank you all.

The NUTMEG trial met the criteria of the interim analyses in April 2019; analysis is due to start shortly and the safety data for the first 10 evaluable patients on the experimental arm will be reviewed by an independent data safety monitoring committee (DSMC) in due course. The results of the Interim analysis will be provided to sites when available.

The NUTMEG Trial Coordinator is more than happy to provide any information that you may require on this study. Please email nutmeg@ctc.usyd.edu.au if you have any queries.

NUTMEG - PARTICIPATING SITE STATUS							
No	Site name	State	Principal Investigator	Site status	Site activation	# Patients registered	# Patients enrolled
1	Royal North Shore Hospital	NSW	Michael Back	Active	22/02/2018	17	14
2	Prince of Wales Hospital	NSW	Elizabeth Hovey	Active	04/09/2018	1	1
3	Chris O'Brien Lifehouse	NSW	Hao-Wen Sim	Active	29/06/2018	2	1
4	Wollongong Hospital	NSW	Daniel Brungs	Start up	Pending	N/A	N/A
5	Gosford Hospital	NSW	Matthew Wong	Active	18/09/2018	2*	1
6	Campbelltown Hospital	NSW	Annette Tognela	Active	19/02/2018	4	4
7	Port Macquarie Hospital	NSW	Stephen Begbie	Active	21/1/2019	1	0
8	Newcastle Private Hospital	NSW	Craig Gedye	Active	27/03/2018	1	1
9	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre	VIC	Kathryn Field	Active	28/08/2018	1	1
10	Epworth Healthcare	VIC	Ross Jennens	Active	10/09/2018	4	3
11	Austin Hospital	VIC	Hui Gan	Start up	Pending	N/A	N/A
12	Monash Medical Centre	VIC	Sagun Parakh	Start up	Pending	N/A	N/A
13	Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	QLD	Zarnie Lwin	Active	19/02/2018	6	4
14	Princess Alexandra Hospital	QLD	Katharine Cuff	Active	28/05/2018	2	2
15	ICON Cancer Care Wesley	QLD	Paul Eliadis	Start up	Pending	N/A	N/A
16	Flinders Medical Centre	SA	Ganessan Kichenadasse	Start up	Pending	N/A	N/A
17	Royal Adelaide Hospital	SA	Hien Vinh Le	Active	22/1/2019	0	0
18	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	WA	Anna Nowak	Start up	05/04/2019	2	1
19	Royal Hobart Hospital	TAS	Rosemary Harrup	Active	31/05/2018	0	0
Total recruitment						43	33

*Includes patient's transferred from other sites

ACED (COGNO14/02): *Acetazolamide* plus *Dexamethasone* versus *dexamethasone* alone in recurrent and/or progressive HGG

Many thanks to the staff at Liverpool Hospital, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and Royal Hobart Hospital for recruiting one participant each in May/early June to bring us to 30 participants!

We will be holding a teleconference to touch base with Investigators and Site Coordinators soon. We look forward to catching up with you.

Screening and recruitment are ongoing. Please email aced@ctc.usyd.edu.au if you have any queries.

Continued page 7.

ACED – PARTICIPATING SITE STATUS						
No	Site Name	State	Principal Investigator	Site Status	Site Activation	# Patients randomised
1	Liverpool Hospital	NSW	Eng-Siew Koh	Active	24-Jun-2016	14
2	Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	QLD	Zarnie Lwin	Active	30-Sep-2016	4
3	St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne	VIC	Anthony Dowling	Active	14-Nov-2016	3
4	Epworth Healthcare	VIC	Ross Jennens	Active	20-Feb-2017	0
5	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	WA	Anna Nowak	Active	04-Apr-2017	3
6	Royal Hobart Hospital	TAS	Rosemary Harrup	Active	28-Aug-2017	3
7	Prince of Wales Hospital	NSW	Elizabeth Hovey	Active	16-Nov-2017	1
8	Chris O'Brien Lifehouse	NSW	Hao-Wen Sim	Active	12-Dec-2017	2
9	Flinders Medical Centre	SA	Ganessan Kichenadasse	Active	17-Jan-2018	0
10	St George Hospital	NSW	Tracey Dunlop	Active	14-Feb-2018	0
11	St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney	NSW	Cecelia Gzell	Active	20-Dec-2018	0
Total Recruitment						30

VERTU (COGNO 14/01): Veliparib, Radiotherapy and Temozolomide trial in Unmethylated MGMT Glioblastoma. A Randomised Phase II study of veliparib + radiotherapy (RT) with adjuvant temozolomide (TMZ) + veliparib versus standard RT + TMZ followed by TMZ in patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma (GBM) with unmethylated O (6)-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase (MGMT)

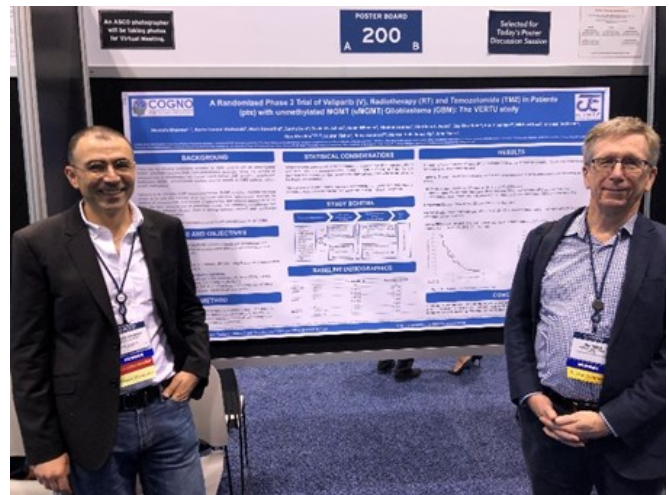
Recruitment for the VERTU study closed on 17th of October 2018 with 128 participants randomised onto the trial across Australia. We recruited over the recruitment target of 120 participants to cover some ineligible patients.

Preliminary results for the Primary Endpoint (6mPFS) and some Secondary Endpoints (Toxicity and QOL outcomes) were recently reported in a poster discussion (6mPFS and Toxicity) and a poster (QOL outcomes) at the 2019 ASCO 55th Annual Meeting in Chicago on Sunday June 2nd. A big thank you to all site staff for providing and entering the VERTU data in the lead-up to this meeting and to Dr Khasraw and Dr Sim for presenting these preliminary results.

VERTU posters at ASCO 2019



Anna Nowak and Hao-Wen Sim



Mustafa Khasraw and John Simes

We are continuing to follow participants both on treatment and in the follow-up phase of the study until all study endpoints have been reached. The VERTU Trial Coordinator is more than happy to provide any information that you may require on this study. Please email vertu@ctc.usyd.edu.au if you have any queries.

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

Recruitment for the CATNON study closed on 17 Sep 2015 with 751 patients randomised internationally (1407 registered), and 82 randomised in Australia (191 registered); this represents approximately 11% of total trial accrual and is a great contribution to the global effort.

Martin van den Bent presented on the 3rd June at ASCO 2019 as an oral presentation on the 'Second interim and 1st molecular analysis of the EORTC randomized phase III intergroup CATNON trial on concurrent and adjuvant temozolomide in anaplastic glioma without 1p/19q codeletion'. Thank you to all sites involved in resolving the recent EORTC data queries and biospecimen acquisition for the subset of patients with depleted samples to undergo the translational work to be included in these results.

We are continuing to work with the EORTC during the long-term follow-up phase until all study endpoints are reached. The CATNON Trial Coordinator is more than happy to provide any information that you may require on this study. Please email catnon@ctc.usyd.edu.au with any queries.

NEW CONCEPTS/TRIALS IN DEVELOPMENT

Do you have an idea for a potential study?

The COGNO SAC (Scientific Advisory Committee) meets via teleconference 3 times a year, and hosts an open, face-to-face meeting during the COGNO ASM. During the SAC meeting, new protocols are presented both by the proposer and also by the COGNO-appointed scientific and consumer reviewer/s before a wider discussion by the Committee.

If you have a great idea you are welcome to contact the COGNO SAC to discuss how we can assist in concept development.

If you become aware of a funding opportunity during the year which might be of relevance to COGNO, or for which you would like to involve COGNO in your application, please do let us know! Under these circumstances, we can facilitate urgent COGNO SAC review and COGNO input to assist you in refining your proposal, building your team, and hopefully improving your chances of a successful application.

If you require any further information please email candace.carter@ctc.usyd.edu.au.

A/Prof Hui Gan and Dr Eng-Siew Koh, on behalf of the COGNO SAC and COGNO community

COGNO IDEAS GENERATION WORKSHOP

Our annual Ideas Generation Workshop was held in Sydney on Friday 24 May 2019.

Congratulations to co-convenors, Dr Kathryn Field and Dr Benjamin Chua on a great program which included sessions on discipline perspectives on unmet needs and opportunities for change in CNS oncology; opportunities for funding and collaboration; and discussion of 6 ideas. A report on the outcome of discussions is being prepared for the SAC.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bike Ride for Brain Cancer

In March this year Brain Cancer Biobanking Australia (BCBA) raised an incredible \$200,000 through a two-day 240km fundraising bike ride from Sydney to the Hunter Valley.

The Bike Ride for Brain Cancer, now in its second year, had 48 riders taking on the challenge and raising vital funds to support BCBA in advancing brain cancer research.

This year saw the inclusion of a finishing line long lunch at Calais Estate Winery, welcome relief for riders who endured 41 degree heat on their 100km final day journey. The luncheon was hosted by ride ambassadors, SBS Cycling's Mike Tomalaris and ABC Grandstand Radio host, Niav Owens.

The ride is the initiative of BCBA Founder and Director Robyn Leonard, who lost her daughter Lucie at age 34 to brain cancer. The weekend coincided with the celebration of what would have been Lucie's 41st birthday.

BCBA was established in 2015 with a coalition of brain cancer clinicians and researchers and brings together 18 biobanks across Australia in a virtual hub, giving researchers easy access to the amount, quality and type of tissue and associated data they need to accelerate both paediatric and adult brain cancer research.

The Bike Ride for Brain Cancer will take place again in April 2020 and BCBA is hoping to see more cyclist from the clinical and research community join the three neurosurgeons who hit the road in this year's event.

To register your interest visit: www.bikerideforbraincancer.com.au.

To learn more about the BCBA visit: www.bcba.org.au.





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COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

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Mrs Merryn Hall
Dr Mustafa Khasraw
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CREST Workshop: Understanding health economics in cancer research

Liz Barnes, biostatistician, was the COGNO representative at this workshop.

I attended the "Health Economics in Cancer Research" workshop run by CREST (Cancer Research Economics Support Team) at the University of Technology Sydney in April. This was a one-day workshop presented by Richard De Abreu Lourenco, Rosalie Viney and Oona Reardon. Attendees included consumer representatives, researchers and cancer co-operative group staff, I was the only statistician.

The workshop covered the basics of health economics and why it often differs from other areas of economics, why we need economic evaluation, the different types of evaluation and the advantages of running them alongside clinical trials and the details of what data to collect and how to interpret results. There was plenty of discussion and interaction during the talks and in breakout sessions where we split into three groups to each discuss a published research paper. It was an interesting and very rewarding workshop that I would highly recommend it to those interested in being gently introduced to this important component of oncology research.

Cancer Australia: national data released on stage at diagnosis and survival for childhood cancers

Cancer Australia has released updated [national data on childhood \(paediatric\) cancer stage at diagnosis and survival for the period of 2006-2014](#), using more detailed staging systems intended for well-resourced cancer registries. These data cover sixteen major cancer types, which represent approximately three-quarters of all childhood cancers diagnosed in Australia and other high-income countries.

The release of these data on stage at diagnosis for childhood cancers marks a significant advance in the reporting of national cancer data.

These data, collected through collaboration between Cancer Australia and the Cancer Council Queensland and with involvement of all states and territories and major paediatric hospitals, can be viewed by tumour type, and provides information on [stage distribution](#) as well as [5-year survival by stage at diagnosis](#).

Visit childrenscancer.canceraustralia.gov.au.

Update from QoL Office

The Quality of Life (QOL) Office is supported by Cancer Australia to provide the QOL Technical Service to staff and members of the Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Groups.

As part of this service, we develop and maintain resources freely accessible to all members:

- New and updated responses to [Frequently Asked Questions](#):
 - ["What can I do about missing patient-reported outcome \(PRO\) data?"](#)
 - ["How is health related QOL typically measured?"](#)
- Our [QOL Resources page](#) includes guidance and downloadable checklists for:
 - [What to include in the PRO sections of Protocols \(SPIRIT-PRO\)](#),
 - [Administering PROMs in clinical trials](#).
- Please remember, staff at the QOL Office are available to answer any [online queries](#) regarding the QOL/PRO aspects of your clinical research.

For those attending the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Quality of Life Office staff will be co-facilitating a pre-conference workshop, "Making a Difference - Trial e-file Systems and Patient Reported Outcomes," on Monday 11th November 2019, 9:00am - 5:00pm. Follow this link for more information: <http://cosa2019.org/pre-conference-workshops/>

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

COGNO now has 749 members! 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).

COGNO STAFF UPDATE



We welcome Ben Kong as a COGNO Clinical Research Fellow.

Ben is a medical oncologist with particular interests in clinical trials and immunotherapy in neuro-oncology, melanoma and genitourinary cancers. He is currently completing his PhD at the ANZAC Research Institute, examining the pre-clinical immunology of dendritic cell vaccination for GBM. He was the recipient of a Sydney Catalyst Top-Up Scholarship, a University of Sydney Merit Award as well as a Sydney Catalyst Pilot and Seed Grant (\$32,500).

He trained in general medicine at Concord Hospital and medical oncology at Westmead Hospital, where he was the clinical trials registrar involved in both early and late phase immunotherapy trials. He has recently worked as a consultant at Concord Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital and Melanoma Institute Australia.

In his spare time, he enjoys cycling and playing jazz piano.

REMINDERS

- 14 - 16 Aug 2019: MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting, National Canberra Convention Centre <https://moga.org.au/conference/annual-scientific-meeting>
- 21 - 23 Aug 2019: AGITG 21st Annual Scientific Meeting, Adelaide Convention Centre, <https://asm.gicancer.org.au/>
- 16 - 17 Sep 2019: VCCC Research Conference, Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, <https://www.viccompccancerctr.org/events/vccccon19/>
- 19 Sep 2019: Sydney Catalyst International Translational Cancer Research Symposium, The Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney, <https://www.sydneycatalyst.org.au/events/syd-cat-upcoming-events/2019-international-translational-cancer-research-symposium.aspx>
- 26 Sep 2019: CINSW Innovations in Cancer Treatment and Care Conference, Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/2019-innovations-conference>
- 2 - 5 Oct 2019: ACTA International Clinical Trials Conference, ICC Sydney, <https://www.clinicaltrialsconference.com.au/>
- 27 - 29 Oct 2019: 12th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting, International Convention Centre Sydney, <https://cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm-home>
- 12-14 Nov 2019: COSA Annual Scientific Meeting, Adelaide Convention Centre, <http://www.cosa2019.org/>
- 20 - 24 Nov 2019: SNO Annual Meeting, JW Marriott Desert Ridge, Phoenix, USA, <https://www.soc-neuro-onc.org/SNO/2019Annual/2019AnnualHome.aspx>



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