

Quick Update:

- Membership: 816 members
- Save the Date:
 - COGNO IGW, 2021
 - 13th COGNO ASM, 2021



COGNO

COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Member Newsletter

Issue 35

Summer 2020

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Message from our Chair



Dear COGNO members,

As 2020 draws to a close, we have the opportunity to pause and reflect on the incredible events and experiences of the year. One that has been filled with so many challenges on both an individual and collective level. Despite the roadblocks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been very impressed by the COGNO community, in how this has catalysed new and innovative means of working, collaborating and indeed, continuing to accelerate the development and undertaking of clinical trials with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes for people affected by brain tumours.

I assumed the COGNO Chair role in late October 2020 and wish to take this opportunity to again thank and acknowledge the wonderful leadership of my predecessor Professor Anna Nowak. We pay tribute to Anna's vision and strategic leadership of COGNO over the last 3 years which has positioned us well for this next phase of growth, activity and impact.

The various COGNO committees and staff have been incredibly industrious throughout 2020 with progress on many fronts across our existing trial portfolio. The EORTC-led I-WOT study in lower grade glioma received competitive funding from Cancer Australia and the Australian Brain Cancer Mission. Other significant competitive grant submissions were undertaken with COGNO investigators very well represented.

Other notable trial achievements have included the successful opening of the MAGMA trial in glioblastoma patients across several states with a record 30 Australian sites planned. The LUMOS pilot study remains close to completion incorporating the pivotal Molecular Tumour Board. Brain Cancer Biobanking Australia (BCBA) continue its incredible record of achievements under the stewardship of Robyn Leonard and A/Prof Lindy Jeffree. Another significant milestone for COGNO was the attainment of our 800th member, indeed our membership now totals over 810 from across Australia, New Zealand and other international countries.

Although our annual face-to-face 2020 ASM planned for Melbourne needed to be deferred, this was counterbalanced by a very successful virtual Ideas Generation Workshop, as well as lively SAC zoom meetings, a fruitful Strategic Planning Day in October (watch this space for updates in 2021) and other virtual interactions which have enabled us to remain connected.

More than ever, in the current funding environment with the Australian Brain Cancer Mission and other funding opportunities, COGNO has an unparalleled opportunity to impact and advance outcomes for brain tumour patients, including trials of specific novel therapies, advanced imaging and supportive care research programs. An important parallel goal will be to strategically build the infrastructure that will allow high impact research and translation.

I am grateful for the positive culture of collaboration, both nationally and with our established international colleagues. COGNO has strong leadership across all of its key committees, with special note of our new COGNO Deputy Chair, A/Professor Rosie Harrup, and also our important Consumer Advisory Panel led by Mrs Desma Spyridopoulos with amazing energy and enthusiasm.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work, commitment and contribution in fostering the vision of COGNO. To the entire membership, I wish you and your families a very safe and enjoyable break this Christmas and holiday season. I am confident that COGNO is positioned for ongoing success in 2021 and look forward to working together.

Associate Professor Eng-Siew Koh
Group Chair

To watch a short 4 minute “Q&A” session with A/Professor Eng-Siew Koh, [click here](#).

SAVE THESE DATES!

- **Ideas Generation Workshop:**
Friday 7 May 2021 - further details available in 2021
- **13th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting:**
Brain Cancer 2021: Concepts to Cure
Sunday 24th October - Tuesday 26th October 2021
Melbourne, Australia

A call for abstracts will be circulated in March/April 2021 so now is a good time to start thinking about your submission.

Stay posted for further updates, or email cognoasm@ctc.usyd.edu.au to join our mailing list.

COGNO Annual General Meeting

The COGNO Annual General Meeting was held virtually on 20 October 2020. COGNO membership approved the revised COGNO Articles of Association (available on the COGNO website [member portal](#)) and ratified the incoming [Management Committee](#):

	NAME	DISCIPLINE	STATE	G
VIA ELECTION PROCESS	A/Professor Eng-Siew Koh (Chair)	Radiation Oncologist	NSW	F
	A/Professor Rosemary Harrup (Deputy Chair)	Medical Oncologist & Haematologist	TAS	F
	Professor Georgia Halkett (Treasurer)	Psychosocial	WA	F
	A/Professor Elizabeth Hovey (Secretary)	Medical Oncologist	NSW	F
	Professor Meera Agar	Palliative Medicine Physician	NSW	F
	Ms Marcia Fleet	Care Coordinator	VIC	F
	Professor Terry Johns	Scientist	WA	M
	Dr Ganessan Kichenadasse	Medical Oncologist	SA	M
	Professor Anna Nowak	Medical Oncologist	WA	F
	Dr Jonathon Parkinson	Neurosurgeon	NSW	M
	Dr James Whittle	Medical Oncologist	VIC	M
	EX OFFICIO	Ms Desma Spyridopoulos	Chair, Consumer Advisory Panel	NSW
Professor Hui Gan		Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee	VIC	M
A/Professor Zarnie Lwin		Chair, International Clinical Research Subcommittee	QLD	F
Ms Robyn Leonard		Brain Cancer Biobanking Australia	NSW	F

COGNO Strategic Planning Day

A very positive COGNO Strategic Planning Day was held virtually on Monday 19 October 2020 with the theme of 'Contemplate, Co-design, Contemporary'. Facilitated by A/Professor Eng-Siew Koh and Professor Anna Nowak, the program included a mini SOAR (strengths, opportunities, aspirations) analysis as well as discussion on topics such as governance, strengthening and expanding COGNO's core research base and trials portfolio, translational science activity, funding opportunities/financial security, international and national collaborations/relationships, membership engagement, and public profile. A report is in preparation.



Some participants at the Strategic Planning Day

COGNO Systematic Reviews Workshop

A very successful virtual Systematic Reviews Workshop was held on Monday 23 November 2020. Topics covered included steps of a systematic review, PICO and eligibility criteria, and systematic reviews to justify your grant application. Additional Systematic Reviews Workshops are planned for 2021 - details will be circulated in early 2021.

STUDY & TRIAL UPDATES

LUMOS (COGNO 19/05, CTC 0267): *Low & Intermediate Grade Glioma Umbrella Study of Molecular Guided Therapies - Pilot Study*

The LUMOS pilot study has activated all the five study sites as on 30-Sep-2020. LUMOS has achieved 80% of its recruitment target within four months of its opening. The study has screened 13 patients and registered 08 patients into the study as on 18th Nov 2020. The tumour tissue of six out of the eight registered patients have been tested for Molecular Tumour Profiling. LUMOS is hopeful to achieve its recruitment target within the next six months as per the current recruitment rate. The LUMOS Trial Coordinator is more than happy to provide any information that you may require on this study, please email lumos@ctc.usyd.edu.au with any queries.

No.	Site Name	State	Principal Investigator	Site Status	Site Activation	# Patients Registered
1	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney	NSW	Hao-Wen Sim	Start-up	16-Sep-2020	-
2	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre	VIC	Mark Rosenthal	Active	18-May-2020	02
3	Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research and Wellness Centre	VIC	Hui Gan	Active	21-Apr-2020	03
4	Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	QLD	Zarnie Lwin	Active	29-Jun-2020	02
5	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	WA	Anna Nowak	Active	24-Jul-2020	01
Total Recruitment						08

ACED: Acetazolamide plus Dexamethasone versus dexamethasone alone in recurrent and/or progressive HGG

The ACED data was presented in poster form as well as a 5 minute pre-recorded presentation at the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) Virtual Meeting on 19-21 November 2020. Analysis of the study data was completed. Two manuscripts are currently in progress and we hope to provide further updates soon. Site close-out activities are underway and a member from the ACED study team will be reaching out to Site Coordinators in the near future. Many thanks, as always, to all participants, their families and site personnel for their contributions to the study!

2020 SNO Virtual Meeting
November 19-21, 2020

Category: QoL and palliative care
Tumor Type: General neuro-oncology

Phase II randomised placebo-controlled double-blind study of acetazolamide versus placebo for cerebral oedema in recurrent and/or progressive high-grade glioma requiring treatment with dexamethasone

Electronic Poster Presenter(s)

Meera R. Agar
Staff Specialist, Professor of Palliative Medicine
Liverpool Hospital, & University of Technology Sydney
Liverpool, New South Wales, Australia

https://www.eventscribe.net/2020/SNO/PosterSpeakers_AGAR_ACED_trial

MAGMA (COGNO 19/03, CTC 0252): Multi-Arm Glioblastoma Australasia trial

MAGMA is a multi-arm multi-stage, multi-centre, phase III platform trial that aims to assess hypotheses against a common standard-of-care control arm for the management of people with glioblastoma. Initial questions of interest are:

1. whether to give temozolomide as soon as possible following surgery prior to chemoradiotherapy
2. whether to give a plan for 6 cycles of standard schedule adjuvant temozolomide chemotherapy after chemoradiotherapy, or continue temozolomide until progression.

This trial aims to recruit 300 patients for the first 2 questions across up to 27 sites in Australia. The trial is currently open at nine locations with more sites to open in the next few months. We thank the **17 participants** that have joined the study to date!

Locations: Calvary Mater Newcastle, St George Hospital, Concord Repatriation General Hospital (NSW); ICON Cancer Centre Gold Coast, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, Townsville University Hospital (QLD); Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (WA); Royal Hobart Hospital (TAS).

The MAGMA trial coordinator is more than happy to provide any information that you may require on this study, please email magma@ctc.usyd.edu.au if you have any queries.

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).

We are continuing to follow participants in the follow-up phase of the study until all study endpoints have been reached.

Thank you to all sites who have answered their remaining open queries and for updating the database for the patients remaining on trial. A gentle reminder to sites with remaining open queries and overdue forms to please check the database and enter data regularly. Reminders will be sent via email for overdue data. We are also beginning our preparation for site close-out and will be in touch with sites soon. We thank you for your assistance!

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.

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

The NUTMEG trial aims to recruit 102 patients across up to 20 sites. All of the 20 selected sites have now opened to recruitment, with **80 patients randomised** onto the NUTMEG trial across all sites as of the 17th of November 2020.

Since the last update, we welcome **Dr Margaret Johnson** and her team at **Duke University** who opened to recruitment in October 2020.

The recruitment target for NUTMEG of 102 randomised patients is to be completed in the coming months. Thank you to all site personnel for their ongoing diligence in screening and enrolling patients onto and to all participants and their families for their participation and contributions to the NUTMEG trial to date.

Although recruitment has remained stable over the past couple of months with an average of 3 patients randomised per month, we are hoping that with the addition of Duke University we will be able to recruit 4-5 patients per month for the remainder of recruitment.

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	24	20
2	Prince of Wales Hospital	NSW	Elizabeth Hovey	Active	04/09/2018	4	3
3	Chris O'Brien Lifehouse	NSW	Hao-Wen Sim	Active	29/06/2018	8	7
4	Wollongong Hospital	NSW	Daniel Brungs	Active	24/01/2020	0	0
5	Gosford Hospital	NSW	Matthew Wong	Active	18/09/2018	6	6
6	Campbelltown Hospital	NSW	Annette Tognela	Active	19/02/2018	8	8
7	Port Macquarie Hospital	NSW	Stephen Begbie	Active	21/01/2019	5	3
8	Newcastle Private Hospital	NSW	Craig Gedye	Active	27/03/2018	1	1
9	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre	VIC	Kathryn Field	Closing	28/08/2018	1	1
10	Epworth Healthcare	VIC	Ross Jennens	Active	10/09/2018	6	6
11	Austin Hospital	VIC	Hui Gan	Active	22/07/2019	2	2
12	Monash Medical Centre	VIC	Andrew Strickland	Closing	17/06/2019	0	0
13	Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	QLD	Zarnie Lwin	Active	19/02/2018	12	7
14	Princess Alexandra Hospital	QLD	Katharine Cuff	Active	28/05/2018	4	4
15	ICON Cancer Foundation	QLD	Paul Eliadis	Active	26/11/2019	0	0
16	Royal Adelaide Hospital	SA	Hien Vinh Le	Active	22/1/2019	4	3
17	Flinders Medical Centre	SA	Anna Mislang	Active	12/06/2019	4	4
18	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	WA	Anna Long	Active	05/04/2019	7	5
19	Royal Hobart Hospital	TAS	Rosemary Harrup	Active	31/05/2018	0	0
20	DUKE University Medical Centre	USA	Margaret Johnson	Active	20/10/2020	0	0
Total recruitment						96	80

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 to assist with developing trial concepts. Concepts are due three weeks prior to each meeting. The concept submission form can be found on the COGNO website. During the SAC meeting, new protocols are presented both by the proposer and feedback is provided by clinical, consumer and scientific members of 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 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 kirston.barton@ctc.usyd.edu.au.

Prof Hui Gan and Prof Bryan Day, on behalf of the COGNO SAC and COGNO community

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

COGNO now has 816 members. Help us expand our 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). Membership is free.

COGNO DONATIONS

Brain cancer patients are in desperate need of major research breakthroughs, yet brain cancer remains one of the most underfunded and under researched of all the cancer groups. Your donation will help COGNO bring clinical trials to more people with brain cancer.

Online donations can be made via https://www.braincancercollective.com.au/donations_cogno
A special thanks to Brain Cancer Collective (BCC) for facilitating donations on COGNO's behalf.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

New Guidance for the management of early breast cancer to drive the delivery of optimal care

Cancer Australia has released a new evidence-based resource for health professionals to guide the management of patients with early breast cancer in Australia. *Guidance for the management of early breast cancer* (the Guidance) comprises approximately 200 recommendations and practice points underpinned by the current evidence-base to assist health professionals and patients engage in shared decision-making and support the delivery of best practice patient-centred care for people with early breast cancer. To view the Guidance, visit guidancebreastcancer.gov.au.

REMINDERS

- 26 February 2021, 9-3.30pm AEDT: GCCTI Grant Development Workshop, Online, further details closer to the time
- 11 - 12 March 2021: PaCCSC and CST Annual Research Forum, Online, <https://www.uts.edu.au/about/faculty-health/events/paccsc-and-cst-annual-research-forum-2021>
- 10 - 12 June 2021: ANZCHOG Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne, <https://anzchog.org/asm/>
- 12 - 15 October 2021: AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne, <https://asm.gicancer.org.au/>
- 24 - 26 Oct 2021: 13th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne, <https://cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm-home>

Please note the COGNO office has closed and will re-open on Monday 11 January 2021.
Wishing everyone a Happy Festive Season and New Year.



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A/Prof Eng-Siew Koh (Chair)
 A/Prof Rosemary Harrup (Deputy Chair)
 A/Prof Georgia Halkett (Treasurer)
 A/Prof Liz Hovey (Secretary)
 Prof Meera Agar
 Ms Marcia Fleet
 Prof Hui Gan
 Prof Terry Johns
 Dr Ganessan Kichenadasse
 Ms Robyn Leonard
 A/Prof Zarnie Lwin
 Prof Anna Nowak
 Dr Jonathon Parkinson
 Mrs Desma Spyridopoulos
 Dr James Whittle

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 Prof Bryan Day (Deputy Chair)
 Prof Terry Johns (Translational Science Lead)
 Prof Meera Agar
 Ms Liz Barnes
 Dr Kirston Barton
 A/Prof Ben Chua
 Prof Kate Drummond
 Dr Kathryn Field
 A/Prof Craig Gedye
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 A/Prof Lindy Jeffree
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 Prof Anna Nowak
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 A/Prof Mark Pinkham
 A/Prof Michael Rodriguez
 A/Prof Jeremy Ruben
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 Mrs Desma Spyridopoulos
 Dr Annette Tognela
 A/Prof Helen Wheeler

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