

## Quick Update:

- 16<sup>th</sup> COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting, 13-15 October 2024 – Save the Date!



# COGNO

COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP  
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

# Member Newsletter

Issue 44

Autumn 2024

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## Message from our Chair



Dear COGNO Member

2024 has certainly commenced under very challenging circumstances for COGNO with the very sad and unexpected passing of our deeply esteemed colleague, mentor and friend COGNO Executive Officer Ms Jenny Chow. Jenny had been instrumental in this role for 14 years. For many COGNO members, it is true to say that she herself was synonymous with COGNO. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, COGNO had the honour to join with family, friends and colleagues to pay tribute to Jenny's life and achievements. The COGNO leadership are actively discussing a means by which we can pay tribute to Jenny's enduring legacy.

I reflect on the metaphor that 'every cloud has a silver lining'. Through these events, COGNO has been incredibly fortunate to welcome our new Executive Officer, Dr Kristi Milley. Kristi brings not only significant executive skills, but also research acumen, an eye for strategic planning and has already infused her enthusiasm and innovation to the role. I know COGNO members will welcome her warmly.

Regarding our trials portfolio and broader committee activities, I am incredibly pleased to see the LUMOS2 trial in recurrent IDH1 grade 2/3 mutant glioma recruit strongly across multiple Australian activated sites, with the Canadian Clinical Trials Group progressing their start-up activities in Canada. The MAGMA trial in glioblastoma continues its all-important follow up phase.

The COGNO Outreach and Education Committee delivered a tremendous March 2024 webinar in high grade glioma with an expert panel across ANZ. The webinar was incredibly well subscribed with over 200 registrants! In addition, preparations are well underway for the 16<sup>th</sup> COGNO ASM Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in Melbourne, led by co-convenors Dr Liz Ahern and Dr Andrew Gogos. Please mark your calendars!

More than ever, I would like to express my gratefulness in leading and working with a fantastic team including COGNO Executive Officer Dr Kristi Milley, Yi Feng and Dani Massey, all the trial coordination teams (central and sites), the COGNO Management Committee and the COGNO Board.

I am excited at the strong expressions of interest to join the COGNO SAC and we welcome new members and look forward to their contribution in bringing forward new concepts as well as appraisal of proposals.

Most importantly, through the COGNO network across Australia and New Zealand, we will seize many of the exciting upcoming opportunities to build the network and help bring forth trials and research for the betterment of our patients and those affected by brain tumours. I am incredibly optimistic for all that COGNO can achieve.

With best wishes

Associate Professor Eng-Siew Koh  
MBBS FRANZCR  
Group Chair

Watch a short video [here](#) to meet our new EO, Dr Kristi Milley.

**15<sup>th</sup> COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting**  
**Bridge to the Future: Biomarkers in Brain Tumour Care**  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Hilton Sydney, NSW, Australia**

Congratulations to Dr Adrian Lee (Co-Convenor) and Dr Keryn Davidson (Co-Convenor) and the 2023 Organising Committee on a successful Annual Scientific Meeting.

COGNO thanks our sponsors for their support of last year's Annual Scientific Meeting.

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BRAIN CANCER  
RESEARCH**



**SAVE THE DATE!**



Save the date and mark your calendars, the 16<sup>th</sup> COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Melbourne, VIC on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024. We are excited to announce this year's theme - "*Precision Targets: Personalised Care in Neuro-Oncology*". Co-Convenors Dr Elizabeth Ahern, Medical Oncologist and Dr Andrew Gogos, Neurosurgeon and the ASM Organising Committee are busy planning an engaging, informative program which will include highly regarded international and local speakers. To join our mailing list for regular updates, email [ctc.cognoasm@sydney.edu.au](mailto:ctc.cognoasm@sydney.edu.au) with your interest. ASM venue, online registration and abstract submission details coming soon!

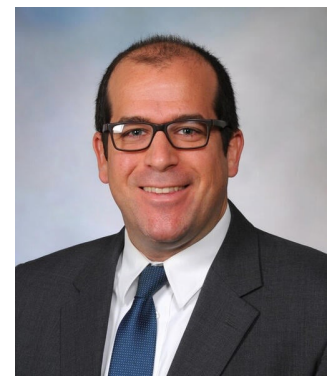
**Confirmed International Speakers**



**Professor Shawn Hervey-Jumper**  
MD FAANS  
COGNO supported faculty



**Dr Erin Dunbar**  
MD  
Courtesy of Brain Tumour Alliance  
Australia (BTAA)



**Professor Daniel Trifiletti**  
MD  
Courtesy of Stereotactic Interest Group  
of Australasia (SIGA)

## TRIAL UPDATES

### LUMOS2 has now opened to recruitment

LUMOS2 is now open in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland with additional sites across Australia in different stages of activation.

The first study participant was enrolled at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in September 2023. To date we have 9 sites activated in Australia with 16 patients enrolled and 8 patients allocated to their treatment arm. We look forward to further recruitment in 2024.

Progress in Canada via the CCTG continues, with plans for rollout and activation of Canadian sites commencing in 2024.

### NUTMEG: Main results are now published

The results of the NUTMEG trial, a randomised phase II study of nivolumab and temozolomide versus temozolomide alone in newly diagnosed older patients with glioblastoma, have recently published in the journal [Neuro-Oncology Advances](#).

We are continuing to follow up patients and we look forward to updating the COGNO members on the ongoing work in the translational and MRI sub-studies, in the near future.

### PersoMed-I Trial - Recruitment halt






On the 14th of March 2024, we were informed that the EORTC leadership, as the global sponsor, and the Brain Tumor Group Officers have made the difficult decision, that based on current recruitment rates they are unable to continue to support the trial, as it is unlikely that the trial will be completed within a reasonable timeframe.

As a consequence, recruitment has been halted and all start-up/regulatory processes are currently paused for PersoMed-I trial. Patients currently undergoing treatment or in follow-up, will continue to be treated as outlined in the protocol and further guidance will be provided.

The NHMRC CTC/COGNO team would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our sites who have invested significant time and energy supporting this study across Australia.






Whilst this is incredibly disappointing news for us all, we will wait to hear from EORTC as to next steps, including exploring all possible options to continue the trial in some capacity.

### NUTMEG

-  GBM;  $\geq$  65 years
-  18 sites
-  103 patients
-  102 patients (Aust & USA)
-  Status: **Follow Up / publication/ Close out**

[ACTRN12617000267358](#)






### VERTU

-  GBM; unmethylated MGMT
-  17 sites
-  125 patients
-  125 patients
-  Status: **Close out**

[ACTRN12615000407594](#)






### NEW

### LUMOS2

-  G2/3 Recurrent IDH Mutant Glioma
-  Aus—12 Sites; 9 open  
Canada – TBC
-  16 patients (Australia)
-  19 patients per treatment arm (57 total)
-  Status: **Recruiting**

[ACTRN12623000096651](#)

### MAGMA

-  GBM or glioma with molecular features of GBM
-  28 sites
-  338 patients
-  300 patients (for the initial 2 Questions)
-  Status: **Follow up**

[ACTRN12620000048987](#)






### CATNON

-  Non-1p/19q deleted anaplastic glioma
-  13 sites
-  82 patients (Australia)
-  751 (internationally)
-  Status: **Follow Up**

[ACTRN12609000485235](#)

### NEW

### PersoMed

-  Medulloblastoma; post-pubertal
-  11 sites; 8 open (Aus)
-  1 patient (Aus)
-  33 patients (Aus) 205 worldwide)
-  Status: **On hold**

[NCT04402073](#)

## NEW CONCEPTS / TRIALS IN DEVELOPMENT

### Do you have an idea for a potential study?

The COGNO SAC (Scientific Advisory Committee) meets four times a year to assist with developing trial concepts. The next opportunity to present new concepts to SAC is on Thursday 20 June 2024. Concepts are due four weeks prior to each meeting. The concept submission form can be found on the COGNO website ([www.cogno.org.au](http://www.cogno.org.au)). During the SAC meeting, new protocols are presented by the proposer, and feedback is provided by clinical, translational, 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 that 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 [ctc.cogno@sydney.edu.au](mailto:ctc.cogno@sydney.edu.au).

*Prof Hui Gan, on behalf of the COGNO SAC and COGNO community.*

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

COGNO now has 999 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](http://www.cogno.org.au)) or office ([cogno@cogno.org.au](mailto:cogno@cogno.org.au)).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### **Australian Cancer Plan: Delivering world-class cancer outcomes and experiences for all**

The Australian Government has released the landmark [Australian Cancer Plan](#), which aims to improve prevention, screening, treatment and management of all cancers for all people in Australia regardless of their background or where they live. The Plan covers all cancer types, across the whole cancer journey, from prevention and early detection to recovery, treatment, survivorship and end of life care. Achieving equity for First Nations people is an urgent priority for the Australian Cancer Plan. First Nations people are 14% more likely to be diagnosed with cancer and 45% more likely to die from cancer than non-Indigenous people. Implementation of the Plan is a shared responsibility across the entire sector and important partnerships have already commenced.

If you wish to contribute to the Australian Cancer Plan Implementation Plan, please contact [australiancancerplan@cancer australia.gov.au](mailto:australiancancerplan@cancer australia.gov.au)

To view the Australian Cancer Plan visit [www.australiancancerplan.gov.au](http://www.australiancancerplan.gov.au)

## REMINDERS

- 14 - 18 Aug 2024: The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology (ASNO 2024), Singapore, <https://www.ssno.sg/asno2024>
- 14 - 16 Aug 2024: Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) 2024 ASM, Sydney, <https://www.moga.org.au/2024-asm>
- 13 - 17 Sep 2024: European Society For Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress, Barcelona Spain, <https://www.esmo.org/meeting-calendar/esmo-congress-2024>
- 13–15 Oct 2024: Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO) Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne, <https://www.cogno.org.au/>
- 17 - 20 Oct 2024: European Association of Neuro-Oncology (EANO) 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, Glasgow Scotland, <https://www.eano.eu/eanomeetings/future-eano-meetings/>
- 18 - 21 Nov 2024: Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG) 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, Brisbane, <https://asm.gicancer.org.au/>
- 21 - 24 Nov 2024: Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) Annual Meeting, Houston USA, [https://www.soc-neuro-onc.org/WEB/Events/SNO\\_Annual\\_Meetings/WEB/Event\\_Content/Annual\\_Events.aspx?hkey=f9b4fed1-3f51-4083-adfa-bf69de5fd450](https://www.soc-neuro-onc.org/WEB/Events/SNO_Annual_Meetings/WEB/Event_Content/Annual_Events.aspx?hkey=f9b4fed1-3f51-4083-adfa-bf69de5fd450)

## The BRAINS Program – February 2024 Update

The **B**rain cancer **R**ehabilitation **A**ssessment **I**ntervention for Survivorship **N**eed**S** (BRAINS) Program aims to deliver better survivorship and supportive care to people affected by brain cancer.

We are funded by the MRFF Brain Cancer Survivorship Mission. Our work is a collaboration between Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG), Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO), Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4), Cancer Symptom Trials (CST), community organisations, and institutions across Australia.

### Open studies

These studies are open for recruitment:

#### [BRAINS ADAPT](#)

We are looking for adults who have been diagnosed with brain cancer, adults who care for someone diagnosed with brain cancer, and health care professionals to pilot an online portal to support those affected by brain cancer.

Carers: Target: 10, Need: 6

#### [Beyond Brain Cancer](#)

We are looking for anyone aged 15-40 who has experienced brain cancer and has finished treatment that was successful in treating, controlling, or removing brain tumour to help us improve an online group-based support program. We also want to hear from carers/family members and health professional who support this population.

AYAs aged 15-40 Target:15, Need: 14

Carers Target: 10, Need: 8

HCPs Target: 10, Need 5

#### [Brain Cancer Care Coordination](#)

We are looking for healthcare professionals active in caring or coordinating care for adults with primary brain tumours to help us better understand educational, support, training and resources needs.

Target: 20, Need: 5

#### [Delphi Study: Optimal Model of Brain Cancer Care Coordination](#)

The Delphi Survey Round 1 is now complete. A total of 40 participants responded, consisting of 34 professional (medical, health or research) experts and 6 consumers involved in community support organisations. The average length of experience in neuro-oncology care or support/advocacy was 8 years. Of 140 items presented on the definition, objectives, components and indicators of neuro-oncology care coordination, the consensus was achieved on 97 items in Round 1. Delphi Survey Round 2 will open in mid-February to the participants.

For more information on our studies please visit our website: <https://bit.ly/brainsopenstudies>

For any BRAINS related general enquiries please contact us at: [pocog.brains@Sydney.edu.au](mailto:pocog.brains@Sydney.edu.au)





### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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 A/Prof Liz Hovey (Secretary)  
 Prof Meera Agar  
 Ms Narelle Dickinson  
 Ms Marcia Fleet  
 Prof Hui Gan  
 Dr Adrian Lee  
 Dr Jonathon Parkinson  
 Dr James Whittle

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 Prof Hui Gan  
 Ms Merryn Hall  
 Dr Ben Kong  
 Dr Kristen McParland  
 Dr Kristi Milley  
 A/Prof Hao-Wen Sim

### COGNO CONTACTS

**COGNO Coordinating Centre**  
 NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre  
 Locked Bag 77  
 Camperdown NSW 1450  
 T: +61 2 9562 5000  
 F: +61 2 9562 5094  
 E: [ctc.cogno@sydney.edu.au](mailto:ctc.cogno@sydney.edu.au)

**Kristen McParland**  
 COGNO Research Development Lead  
 E: [kristen.mcparland@sydney.edu.au](mailto:kristen.mcparland@sydney.edu.au)  
 T: (02) 9562 5268

**Merryn Hall**  
 COGNO Clinical Trial Operations Lead  
 (Mon-Thurs)

**MAGMA Project Manager**  
**NUTMEG Project Manager**  
**VERTU Project Manager**  
**CATNON Project Manager**  
**PICCOG Project Manager**  
**LUMOS Project Manager**

**Lauren Fisher**  
 PersoMed Project Manager  
 (Mon-Thurs)

**Patrick Wheeler**  
 LUMOS2 Project Manager

**Laurence Ralston**  
 LUMOS2 Project Manager

**If you have any trial specific questions, please feel free to contact the study team via the trial mailbox listed below.**

[magma.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:magma.study@sydney.edu.au)  
[persomed.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:persomed.study@sydney.edu.au)  
[piccog.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:piccog.study@sydney.edu.au)  
[lumos2.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:lumos2.study@sydney.edu.au)  
[nutmeg.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:nutmeg.study@sydney.edu.au)  
[catnon.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:catnon.study@sydney.edu.au)  
[aced.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:aced.study@sydney.edu.au)  
[vertu.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:vertu.study@sydney.edu.au)  
[lumos.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:lumos.study@sydney.edu.au)

**Hao-Wen Sim**  
 CTC Clinical Lead for COGNO &  
 CTC Group Coordinator for COGNO  
 E: [hao-wen.sim@sydney.edu.au](mailto:hao-wen.sim@sydney.edu.au)

**Ben Kong**  
 COGNO Research Fellow  
 E: [ben.kong@sydney.edu.au](mailto:ben.kong@sydney.edu.au)

**Kristi Milley**  
 Executive Officer  
 E: [kristi.milley@sydney.edu.au](mailto:kristi.milley@sydney.edu.au)  
 T: +61 411 873 253

**Yi Feng**  
 Project Officer  
 E: [y.feng@sydney.edu.au](mailto:y.feng@sydney.edu.au)  
 T: (02) 8036 5238

**Danielle Massey**  
 Project Officer  
 (Mon-Thurs)  
 E: [danielle.massey@sydney.edu.au](mailto:danielle.massey@sydney.edu.au)  
 T: (02) 8036 5267