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CREST member survey - what do you have to say about CREST?

CREST has been providing health economics support and advice to the Cancer Australia Cooperative Clinical Trial Groups (CTGs) since 2010.

This year we decided to seek your feedback on:

- our services to date,
- the current levels of awareness about health economics within the CTGs,
- the need for health economics services in the future, and
- the types of services that we could develop in the future.

Across the CTGs, most respondents thought that there was a lot/a great deal (53%) or moderate (42%) awareness of health economic considerations for inclusion in the development and analysis of clinical trials. 79% of respondents declared that there was a high or very high need for ongoing health economics advice and support for their CTG. All respondents thought that the health economics services provided by CREST equalled or exceeded expectations.

Our Introduction to Health Economics workshops were considered the most useful! Followed by our webinars and joint quality of life workshops. We are pleased to say we will continue these services in 2024.

Across the service suite 67% of members found them very or extremely useful, while 23% found them moderately useful. 92% of respondents thought our newsletters were moderately/very useful and 56% thought our factsheets and websites were very useful. All respondents considered CREST presentations at scientific meetings very or extremely useful.

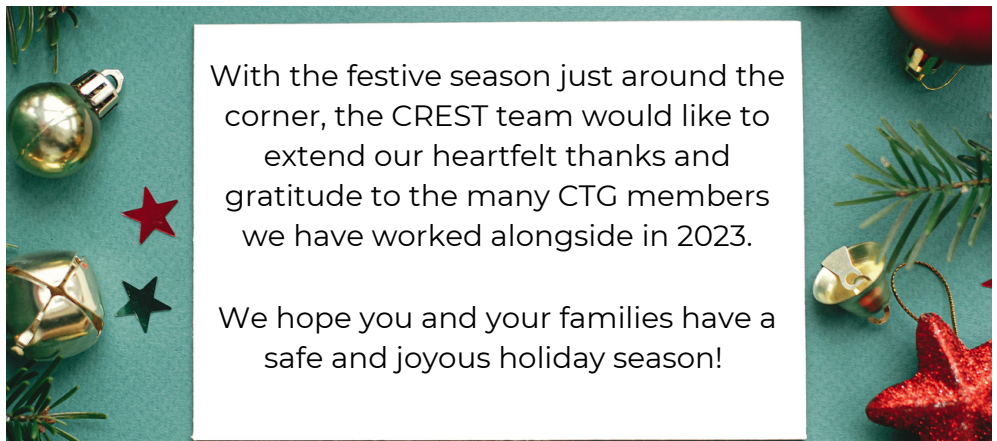
When asked about future services, our respondents expressed a need for the following topics:

- measuring and valuing health outcomes,
- priority setting and funding decisions,
- patient and consumer preferences,
- costing methods, and
- the link between intermediate clinical endpoints and final outcomes.

We are excited to think of how we might incorporate these topics into our suite of services next year!

We thank all our members for taking the time to complete the survey.

Information from this survey was reported to Cancer Australia in an aggregate form only.



With the festive season just around the corner, the CREST team would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the many CTG members we have worked alongside in 2023.

We hope you and your families have a safe and joyous holiday season!

Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP)

Some recent ANZUP news highlights

ANZUP's trial portfolio continues to grow. We currently have 5 ANZUP-led and 1 co-badged trial in recruitment, as well as 17 in follow-up. We also have a number of new trials ready to open in the coming months. You can [read more about our trials on our website here](#).

ESMO Congress – October 2023

In October 2023 at the ESMO Congress in Madrid, ANZUP's Phase 2 ENZA-p (ANZUP 1901) study was selected as a Proffered Paper session, sharing the interim results which showed the rate of progression was slowed by 58% for people who received enzalutamide in combination with Lutetium-177 PSMA, versus enzalutamide alone. You can [read more about the results on our website](#).

ANZUP also presented two posters at ESMO:

- **KEYPAD:** [Denosumab and pembrolizumab in advanced clear cell renal carcinoma: KeyPAD \(ANZUP 1601\)](#)
- Presented by Dr Carole Harris.
- **ENZAMET:** [Effects of enzalutamide on overall survival ± early docetaxel, in participants aged less than 70 yrs versus greater than or equal to 70 yrs in ENZAMET \(ANZUP 1304\)](#)
- Presented by Professor Lisa Horvath.

Best of GU Oncology Evening Symposium

We held our Best of GU Evening Symposium on Wednesday 15 November in Brisbane. The Best of GU is a collaboration between ANZUP and the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ).



It featured highlights from 2023 meetings, including the latest management, and clinical trials research in urogenital and prostate cancers. Henry Woo was the Convenor with a fantastic line up of speakers including Renu Eapen, Louise Emmett, Ananya Choudhury, Dave Pryor, Ian Davis and Aaron Hansen covering all aspects of GU cancer research. Many thanks to our sponsors who these events would not be possible without: Astellas, AstraZeneca, Bayer, BMS, Eisai, Merck, MSD and Telix.

GU Cancer Rapid Fire Program

On Friday 24 and Saturday 25 November 2023 we held our GU Cancer Rapid Fire in Melbourne. The meeting was developed to facilitate further understanding of contemporary oncology management through advances in clinical trials and will cover landmark clinical trials in GU cancer, whilst providing mentorship for trainees from experts in the field. The Co-Convenors were Ciara Conduit and Andrisha Inderjeeth. The mentors (Ian Davis, Anna Kuchel, Haryana Dhillon, Dickon Hayne, Andrew Weickhardt, Chris Oldmeadow, Carole Harris and Shankar Siva) were from all disciplines and provided invaluable insights for the trainees. Thanks to our sponsors: Astellas, AstraZeneca, BMS, Merck and MSD.



Sydney Below the Belt Pedalthon

The Sydney Pedalthon again returned to Eastern Creek on Tuesday 31 October. The Below the Belt Pedalthon was founded in 2013 to increase awareness of below the belt (testicular, prostate, bladder, penile and kidney) cancers and raise vital funds to improve the lives of so many patients through clinical trials research.

This year's event has raised over \$80,000 to date with donations still coming in. We are incredibly grateful to the riders, donors and supporter of our Below the Belt Pedalthon which has raised over \$2million since its inception in 2014. 100% of these funds are directed to our Below the Belt Research Fund which provides much needed seed funding to support ANZUP members to progress new trial ideas to the point of becoming full scale studies. Thanks to our Silver sponsors Gallagher, Janssen and Perpetual, as well as all our supporters who help make this event a success.

Save the date: on Sunday 21 April 2024, our Pedalthon will also return to Melbourne.



#ANZUP24 – 21-23 July 2024 – Save The Date!

Our 2024 ASM is being held in the Gold Coast from 21-23 July 2024 with the convening committee, ably led by Matt Roberts and Aaron Hansen. Our theme for 2024 is **"Making Waves"**. We look forward to seeing you in the Gold Coast! You can [find more on our website](#).

Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG)

ANZGOG Trial Update

ANZGOG is fortunate to have active and engaged members working locally and globally to bring new trials to Australia and New Zealand for our community with a lived experience of gynaecological cancer. **ANZGOG clinical trials open to recruitment:**

- Ovarian cancer trials:
 - I. HyNOVA** in collaboration with the NHRMC Clinical Trials Centre and
 - II. ROSELLA** a global study sponsored by Corcept Therapeutics with local sponsor, George Clinical managing the study.
- Endometrial cancer trials:
 - I. ENDO-3** in collaboration with Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer and
 - II. ADELE** in collaboration with the University of Sydney, NHRMC Clinical Trials Centre.
- Combined ovarian + endometrial cancer trials:
 - I. PARAGON II** in collaboration with the University of Sydney, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre and
 - II. EPOCH** in collaboration with Imperial College London, UK and Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Canada.
- Quality of life/end of life study:
 - PEACE** in collaboration with the Nordic Society of Gynaecological Oncology – Clinical Trial Unit.

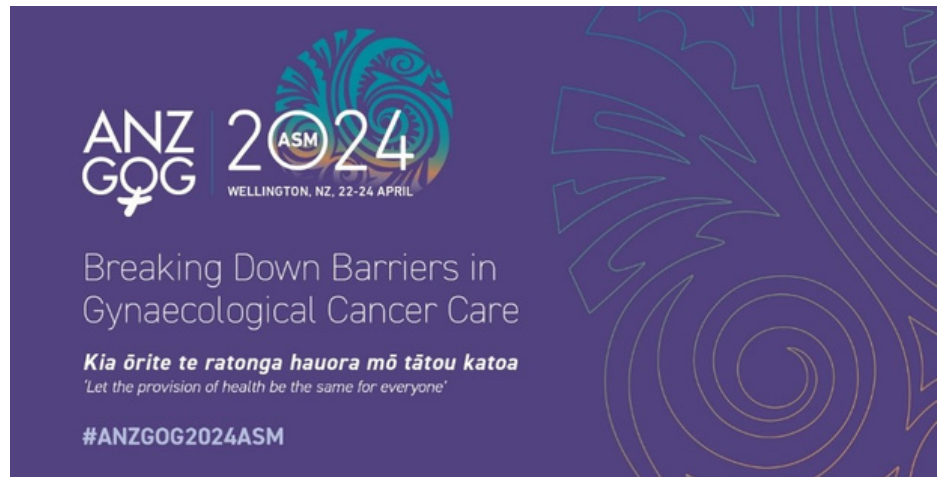
ANZGOG clinical trials in start-up:

- Three endometrial cancer trials: **DOMENICA**, **XPORT-EC-42** and **TAPER**
- one survey study: **EXPRESSION IX**

For more information on ANZGOG's trials, please visit [our website](#).

ANZGOG 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting

We are holding our first Annual Scientific Meeting in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2024 on April 22-24. The program will shine a light on the cultural, socioeconomic and regional diversity of our patients and how through research into treatments and health practice, we can overcome the increasing cancer burden, inequities of access to care and outcomes for our patients.



Bringing an international focus to the theme of "Breaking Down Barriers in Gynaecological Cancer Care" are three distinguished international speakers:

- Prof Emma Crosbie (Gynaecological Oncologist from the UK)
- Prof Akila Viswanathan (Radiation Oncologist from the USA)
- Prof Isabelle Ray-Coquard (Medical Oncologist from France)

The meeting is attended by over 300 delegates (close to a third of ANZGOG membership).

The popular first day is a series of specialty workshops providing education and insight into various areas of gynaecological cancer care. A high of this day is the Pure Science Symposium a forum for scientists and clinicians to learn about the cutting-edge research and developments in the pre-clinical and translational space.

We look forward to seeing you in Wellington for a landmark meeting.

Register now - <https://www.anzgogasm.org.au/>

ANZGOG holds Research Development Day

Over 80 ANZGOG members across Australia and New Zealand met in Sydney to take part in ANZGOG's Ideas Generation workshop. The workshop allows members to bring a clinical trial idea to the meeting and utilise the multidisciplinary skillsets of those in attendance to finesse the idea into a formal concept for further development.



This year saw several ideas presented across each of ANZGOG's three Tumour Working Groups (TWGs) – ovarian, uterine, and cervical/vulval/vaginal. The ideas presented covered a range of research areas, from prevention all the way through to post-treatment Quality of Life. Encouragingly, many of those presenting ideas were early career researchers who were able to harness the clinical trial prowess of ANZGOG's senior members to ensure each aspect of clinical trial design was considered to progress each idea towards a fully-fledged trial concept.



Prof Clare Scott AM
MB BS PhD Melbourne FRACP
Chair | ANZGOG



Incorporating interventions' effects on family members or carers in economic evaluations

Economic evaluations of healthcare interventions traditionally assess the health benefits of individuals, including those impacted by cancer. However, not only patients are impacted by cancer, but also their families or carers. This is especially true in most severe or terminal cases where quality of life decreases dramatically, while at the same time patients' dependence increases.

Effects of interventions borne by patients' families or carers are usually described as 'spillover effects'. These spillover effects can impact physical health or psychological well-being, both directly relevant to health-related quality of life. Including these effects in economic evaluations can potentially capture the impact from a broader perspective. These spillover effects have typically been measured and reported inconsistently.

The Spillovers in Health Economic Evaluation and Research (SHEER) task force developed guidance to incorporate spillover effects in economic evaluations, namely cost-effectiveness and cost-utility analyses. The SHEER task force recommends:

- Spillovers should also be included in economic evaluations from a societal or public sector perspective.
- Health spillovers related to displaced/foregone activities could also be considered.
- Consider distributional consequences of including (or omitting) spillovers.
- Measure over a time horizon long enough to capture all relevant impacts.
- Adhere to local guidelines on outcome measurement unless demonstrated that other methods are more appropriate.
- Consider using the same measure for spillover and patient outcomes. Otherwise, conduct a cost-consequence analysis.
- Prefer primary data sources. Otherwise, consider secondary data sources.
- Estimate spillovers from relevant carers or family members or closest or second closest network member.

- Estimate spillovers from relevant carers or family members or closest or second closest network member.
- Aggregate QALYs by additive summation.
- Conduct sensitivity analyses.
- Give equal weighting to all QALYs regardless of whom these were accrued by.
- Discuss double counting as a potential source of uncertainty or bias.
- State spillovers assumptions.
- Characterise and present uncertainty around spillover estimates.

As ageing, chronic diseases, and cancer prevalence continue to increase, the need for support provided by family members or carers will follow a similar trend. Considering spillover effects in economic evaluations has the potential to represent the impact of healthcare interventions more comprehensively. Providing this information to policymakers will allow for better informed decisions for the future of cancer patients in most need. Nonetheless, this information can only be valuable if appropriately collected. The SHEER task force consensus recommendations can shed light on this purpose.

Contributed by: Antonio Ahumada-Canale

Reference: Henry E, et al. Recommendations for Emerging Good Practice and Future Research in Relation to Family and Caregiver Health Spillovers in Health Economic Evaluations: A Report of the SHEER Task Force. *Pharmacoeconomics*. 2023 Dec 2. doi: 10.1007/s40273-023-01321-3. Epub ahead of print.

CREST UPDATES

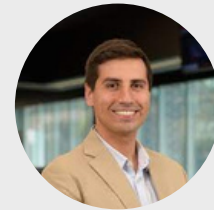
CHRISTMAS BREAK

CREST will observe a soft closure between Monday 18 December to Friday 22 December and Tuesday 2 January to Friday 5 January. There may be limited support during this time.

In addition, the CREST team will be on break during Monday 25 December to Friday 29 December.

Please continue to send any requests to crest@uts.edu.au during this time.

WELCOME ANTONIO



Dr Antonio Ahumada Canale recently joined the CREST team, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience with him. He has a keen interest in health economic evaluation, decision modelling and equity considerations. Welcome to the team, Antonio!

CONGRATULATIONS PROFESSOR RICHARD DE ABREU LOURENCO



Congratulations to Dr Richard De Abreu Lourenco on his recent promotion to Professor! This well-deserved promotion is a testament to his commitment and contribution to both research and teaching. Well done and congratulations on this significant milestone, Professor.

Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials (MASC Trials)

Upcoming events

2024 AOMA Virtual Summit

We are excited to announce 2024 Australasian Ocular Melanoma Alliance (AOMA) Virtual Summit will be **Saturday, 15 June 2024**. Registrations will open in February 2024.

The 2023 AOMA Summit was broadcast to 19 countries, indicating the success of the virtual format in reaching people all around the world who are interested in learning more about ocular melanoma. View the session recordings from the [2023 AOMA Virtual Summit](#).

2024 Annual Scientific Meeting

The 2024 Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Annual Scientific Meeting will be held as a satellite meeting of the Australasian Melanoma Conference at the Hyatt Regency, Sydney. The full-day program will cover our clinical trials, consumer participation, and explore new collaborations.

Key dates:

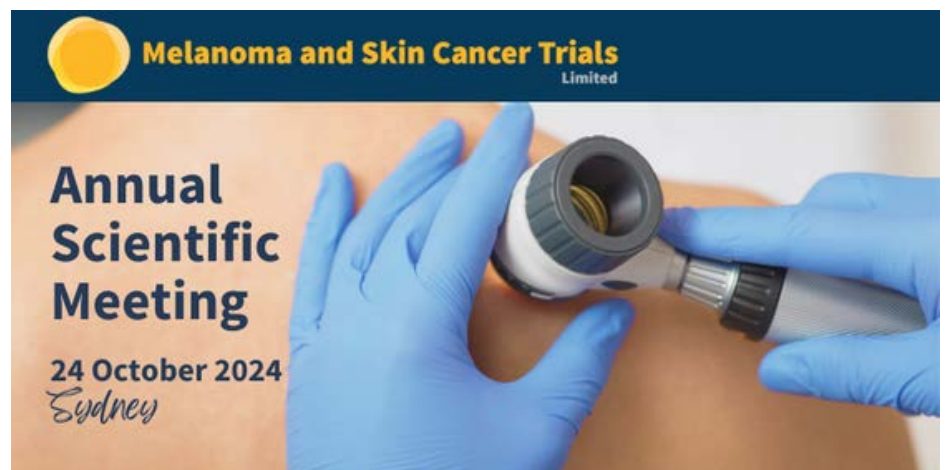
- 24 October 2024 - Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Annual Scientific Meeting
- 25 – 26 October 2024 - Australasian Melanoma Conference

[Learn more](#)

EAGLE FM trial presented at ESSO

Spread of metastatic melanoma to the groin lymph nodes is a common event for patients with melanoma. EAGLE FM is an international multicentre randomised clinical trial, led by our Board Deputy Chair, Professor Andrew Spillane from Melanoma Institute Australia. The trial is gathering critical evidence from melanoma treatment centres worldwide for appropriate management of metastatic melanoma in the groin.

Now in follow-up, the trial compares the effect of inguinal lymphadenectomy and Ilio-inguinal lymphadenectomy on stage III melanoma patients. Dr Mike Russell presented subgroup analysis at the recent European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) Conference in Florence, Italy.



Dr Russell's analysis assessed the accuracy of the PET/CT modality in the diagnosis of pelvic metastases in patients with groin lymph node involvement.



Melanoma trial offers hope for beloved stock and station agent

Soon after his 60th birthday, John was diagnosed with stage IV melanoma. John didn't hesitate to say yes when offered a clinical trial, and he was thrilled to hear he could access the treatment in Bendigo. [Read more.](#)

Become a member

Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials membership is open to anyone interested in our clinical research, from healthcare professionals to consumers. Applying is simple and free.

As a Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials member, you will join our network of over 2,400 professionals and consumers who are committed to reducing the toll of melanoma and skin cancer through clinical research. Learn more about membership benefits and [apply here](#).

Sign up for eNews

Stay up-to-date with the latest Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials news and events. Sign up for our monthly [eNews here](#).

www.masc.org.au



Journal of Medical Radiation Sciences (JMRS) invites authors to submit articles to a special themed issue on Value Based Medical Radiation Sciences

BACKGROUND

Value based healthcare is ensuring healthcare is delivered to maximise outcomes that matter the most to the people receiving and delivering the healthcare, and balancing the costs to achieve those outcomes. A value based approach is not about "budget-cutting" but rather focussed on ensuring that the care we provide is of value to patients, health care professionals and the health system. The demand for medical radiation sciences (MRS) services, including medical imaging and radiation therapy, is expected to rise as advances in medicine has led to earlier disease detection and treatment. Coupled with the continued introduction of new MRS technologies, increased demand has implications on experiences in delivering and receiving care as well as costs. Value based MRS practices can ensure that we maximise the resources available to deliver care that meets the needs of the patient/population, and the health services/systems. This special edition will explore value based MRS practices through the perspectives of the patient, MRS professional and the health system.

THEME

MRS professionals play a significant role in the healthcare system and it is important that we look for ways to provide care that is valuable to the patient, health professionals, and the health system. Value based MRS provides a broad scope of possible avenues to explore and report on. Both quantitative and qualitative work will be sought for inclusion to present an issue that encompasses a wholistic view of value in MRS.

TOPICS

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Assessing the value of new technologies, compared to standard practices (e.g. use of AI-enabled diagnostic imaging equipment to reduce repeated images, decreasing both dose and time for the patient)
- Patient-centred initiatives (e.g. evaluating and incorporating patient preferences in MRS departmental planning)
- Improvements in care delivery (e.g. a dedicated radiation therapist coordinator role to increase patient understanding and compliance)
- Changes in education programs and professional practices (e.g. advanced practice roles impacting value-based care through increased patient throughput; or virtual simulation in the university sector preparing MRS students for real-world scenarios)

All manuscript types will be considered, including original research articles, review papers and case studies. Before submission, authors should carefully read over the Journal's Author Guidelines, which are available at: www.jmrsjournal.com

On the cover page/letter, please state that your manuscript is to be considered for the special themed issue.



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To find out more and contribute to this special edition visit jmrsjournal.com

Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG)



A new focus on equity, diversity and inclusion in GI cancer clinical research

This year, the AGITG embarked on a journey to look inward and reaffirm our commitment to the realising equity, diversity and inclusion in GI cancer clinical research. Our aim is to ensure that our research is relevant for as many people in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand as possible, including population groups who are often left with less access to clinical trials.

With this focus, the AGITG held our 25th Annual Scientific Meeting in Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand for the first time on 13–16 November, centred on the theme of 'Navigating Pathways to Equity in GI Cancer Research'. Convened by Dr Ben Lawrence and Professor Stephen Ackland, the thought-provoking program presented all-too-common problems of access and equity in GI oncological research and practice to over 350 delegates.

We would like to thank the ASM's International Invited Faculty:

- Prof Marc Besselink, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam
- A/Prof Bishal Gyawali, Queens University, Kingston
- Prof Laura Dawson, University of Toronto, Toronto
- A/Prof Katherine Garman, Duke University, Durham
- Prof Leonard Saltz, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York
- Prof Diane Simeone, New York University, New York

We would also like to thank Prof Suzanne Pitama for graciously sharing the Meihana Model with attendees of the ASM. The Meihana Model is a clinical assessment framework to guide culturally safe care for Māori.



Congratulations to all winners of the 2023 AGITG awards! [Read the awards recap.](#)

We invite all colleagues to listen to *The Oncology Podcast's* ASM wrap-up episode, featuring Dr Ben Lawrence and A/Prof Katherine Garman. [Listen to the Meeting wrap-up.](#)

The AGITG would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our 2023 Meeting Sponsors for enabling us to deliver such a successful program.

The AGITG is proud to note increasing international interest in the clinical research we lead. [Results for INTEGRATE IIa](#), a gastro-oesophageal cancer study, was presented at ASCO GI. Posters for [PALEO](#), an oesophageal cancer study, and [ASCEND](#), a pancreatic cancer study, were accepted at ASCO 2023.

Our next Idea Generation Workshop is on 17 May 2024 and will focus on addressing anal cancer. We welcome all ideas to address gaps in current knowledge of this disease. [Submit an idea or register to attend.](#)

Research news

[View all open AGITG trials](#)

Stay up to date with the AGITG

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or [@GICancer](#) on Twitter/X for more updates.



Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group (ALLG)

In 2023, the Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group (ALLG) is celebrating its 50th anniversary and marking [five decades of impact](#) in blood cancer clinical trial research.

Our recent October 2023 Scientific Meeting for ALLG Member clinicians, scientists, registrars and trial staff was held in Sydney from 24 – 27 October. Featuring a strong scientific program, esteemed international and local guest speakers and a showcase of the ALLG's achievements over the last 50 years, the meeting was a great success.

The meeting also featured a Gala dinner event to showcase and celebrate the achievements of the group over the last fifty years in pursuit of our mission, *Better Treatments, Better Lives*. Guests heard reflections from current ALLG Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Chair Professor Judith Trotman, along with prior SAC Chairs Professor John Seymour, Professor Mark Hertzberg and Associate Professor Peter Mollee.

The evening also successfully raised funds for the ALLG HSNZ Clinical Trial Fellowship, to accelerate research impact and provide outstanding early-career researchers a pathway to a career in clinical trial research. The Fellowship will open for applications in the first half of 2024, with the inaugural Fellow commencing in early 2025. [Learn more](#).

The following ALLG members were honoured at the Meeting's Life Membership Awards ceremony to acknowledge their sustained and significant contributions to the ALLG:

- Ms Michelle Gambrill, Haematology Trials Office Manager and Clinical Nurse Consultant at Calvary Mater Hospital;
- Professor Mark Hertzberg, Professor of Haematology at University of NSW and Senior Staff Specialist at Prince of Wales Hospital;
- Professor Andrew Grigg, Head of Clinical Haematology at the Austin Hospital;
- Professor Paula Marlton, Director of Haematology and Head of Leukaemia at Princess Alexandra Hospital and Professor at University of Queensland;



L-R: New ALLG Life Members Prof Mark Hertzberg, Prof Paula Marlton, Michelle Gambrill, Prof Andrew Grigg and Prof Andrew Roberts.

- Professor Andrew Roberts AM, Cancer Theme Co-Leader at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Metcalf Chair of Leukaemia Research at the University of Melbourne and Clinical Haematologist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital / Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

The ALLG also launched its 2023 Annual Review at the Meeting, available to download at www.allg.org.au.

Scientific Meetings are for ALLG Members. We welcome new and current haematologists and professionals to join the activities of the ALLG. [Learn more about ALLG's Scientific Meetings](#) and how [to join ALLG](#).



**Better treatments...
Better lives.**

DID YOU KNOW?

CREST RESOURCES

Did you know we have a dedicated section on our website full of resources to help investigators incorporate health economics and pharmacoeconomic analyses into trial protocols?

On our page we have available:

- Proforma documents for conducting an economic evaluation
- How to collect data
- How to estimate QoL scores
- Various factsheets and templates
- Video recordings of past workshops and webinars such as using Medicare data and HTA
- A number of useful links

If you have any suggestions for resources, please feel free to discuss with us by emailing crest@uts.edu.au

[Resources](#) >

Using carer health-related quality of life in HTA

The carer perspective is generally under-represented in health technology assessment (HTA). Carer's health and well-being have a direct impact on the patients for whom they care for. Conversely, interventions that improve patient's health with also have impacts on a carer's health. Using carer's health outcomes, including informal carers such as parents, can change the results and conclusions of economic evaluations, in some cases increasing the incremental quality adjusted life years (QALYs – a standard metric in cost-utility analysis) or reducing the incremental cost effectiveness ratio (ICER – the outcome of economic evaluations).

Across the world, NICE (England and Wales), HAS (France), HIQA (Ireland) and ZIN (Netherlands) were all clear in indicating that carers' health related quality of life (HRQoL) should be included in the reference case analysis of cost-effectiveness. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) in Australia made it clear that their health care system perspective includes health and health-related outcomes that are associated with the patient. Carers' HRQoL should only be included as supplementary analyses.

In a review of 5 case studies, Pennington et al found that in most cases, the incremental carer QALYs were positive, so there is a benefit to carers from the intervention, with one exception where improving patient survival had a negative impact for carers. This finding is due to the use of carer disutilities linked to patient health states. In other words, the gain in carer QALYs from improving the patient's health was less than the loss in carer QALYs from the patient living longer.

The disutility approach considers the detrimental impact of caring on HRQoL, and the extent to which this is relieved or exacerbated when the patient's health changes.



The utility approach includes carers as a separate entity, whose HRQoL is included as an additional utility that can change as patients' health changes. However, there it still an outstanding issue about whether, and how, carers should still be included in the model once the patient dies, and the time frame to use. Removing the disutility implies that the carers' HRQL improves when the patient dies, while data suggests that a bereavement effect exists and carer's prefer that their patients don't die!

There does not appear to be an obvious answer as to which approach is superior, and overall the investigators found that there was inconsistency in the appraisal of carer HRQoL data by the HTA bodies across different interventions. There also appears to be la ack of consensus for how carers' HRQoL should be included in terms of the methods and data to be used.

To improve the quality and transparency of how carers' HRQoL is included in HTA, the authors recommend the following:

1. Clearly justify whether, and why, carers' HRQoL is included in the economic evaluation.
2. Where possible, provide evidence of carers' HRQoL for the population under consideration.
3. If carers' HRQoL is informed by data from a different disease area and/or country, justify its use and discuss its limitations.

4. Where cross-sectional data informs carers' HRQoL, justify the choice of external data used to derive comparisons.

5. Carefully consider the implications of the modelling approach and be explicit about the assumptions made.

6. Present disaggregated results for patients and carers, using sensitivity analysis to include/exclude carers.

Read more [here](#).

Contributed by: Lutfun Hossain

Reference: Pennington, B. et al. (2022) Carers' health-related quality of life in Global Health Technology Assessment: Guidance, case studies and recommendations, *PharmacoEconomics*, 40(9), pp. 837–850. doi:10.1007/s40273-022-01164-4.

Psycho-oncology Cooperative Research Group (PoCoG)



It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces at our recent Scientific Meeting in Melbourne, and special thanks to CREST's A/Professor Richard De Abreu Lourenco, who joined our speaker panel and gave an engaging and very informative presentation on discrete choice experiments.

Around 80 people joined us for the meeting which focused on sustainability strategies for psycho-oncology. The program sessions considered:

- Community models of care and how they are changing
- The role of new interventions in optimising cancer care
- Tailored versus general models of care

The meeting also provided a forum for researchers to present their work, in the form of 10-minute oral abstracts, rapid fire abstracts and posters. It was gratifying to see this work presented to such an engaged and supportive audience and a testament to the impressive body of work happening in our discipline.

With the Scientific Meeting all wrapped up we are not looking forward to the last weeks of 2023 and planning for the new year.

In December we will host our last concept development workshop for the year. This is an open call, which means researchers working in any area of psycho-oncology or supportive care are welcome to submit their research idea.

This Zoom based series of 90-minute workshops offers members the opportunity to receive intensive input on study design and methodology from our Scientific Advisory Committee, Community Advisory Group and invited content experts.

Concepts developed in these workshops often progress to become PoCoG supported studies and receive ongoing support from our brains trust. There's more information on our [website](#).

Finally, a reminder about the range of special interest group (SIG) PoCoG supports to facilitate collaborative

research among members with shared interests. We recently added a SIG for clinicians and researchers with an interest in cancer carers.

As we know, providing care and support to a family member or friend with cancer is a significant responsibility, which can impact patient outcomes, health service provision and the wellbeing of carers themselves.

This new SIG brings together professionals with an interest in cancer carers to increase networking, build and share knowledge and form collaborations to progress cancer care research.

The Cancer Carers SIG joins our other groups for Clinicians in Research, Early Career Researchers, End of Life care, Fear of cancer Recurrence, Implementation Science and Cancer Prevention. Learn more [here](#) and if you're a member who'd like to join one or more of these groups email pocog.office@sydney.edu.au and we will add you to the list.

Cancer Quality of Life Expert Service Team (CQUEST)



Adding value to Phase I and II Trials with Qualitative Sub-studies Wednesday, 3 April | 4 – 5 pm AEDT

This one-hour workshop is a collaboration between CQUEST and the Cancer Symptoms Trials (CST) Group / Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative (PaCCSC) Qualitative Research Subcommittee, and will introduce the benefits of including a qualitative sub-study in early phase trials, along with some practical considerations. Expressions of interest will be invited for attending a further, more in-depth workshop helping you develop a qualitative sub-study for your particular trials.

[Register today](#)



Innovations in Measuring Quality of Life in Cancer Trials, Thursday, 2 May 2024 | 1 - 2 pm AEST

The increasing emphasis on PROs and methodological advancements in recent years have driven significant development in methods to effectively measure quality of life in healthcare. These include the use of computer adaptive testing, short-forms and the PRO-CTCAE. This one-hour online workshop will introduce and explore these methods in the context of cancer clinical trials.

[Register today](#)

Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association (ANZSA)



sarcoma specialists from various disciplines and researchers sharing case studies. Discussions were held around current sarcoma research and developments and there was strong audience engagement in Melbourne.

This year, we were joined by two esteemed international guest speakers – Professor Ajay Puri (Mumbai, India) and Dr. Jason Hornick (Boston, USA).

Attending the ASM in-person, Prof. Puri provided our audience with a review into the past 20 years of innovation in sarcoma research and participated in a lively debate with A/Prof. Peter Grimison looking into whether clinical trial data reflects real life.

While Dr. Hornick was unable to join us in-person, he led the Martin Tattersall Lecture focusing on The Contemporary Role of Molecular Immunohistochemistry in Sarcoma Diagnosis as well as providing an engaging discussion surrounding the PEComa family of tumours.

Congratulations to Dr. Serena Duchi, the winner of the 2023 Choong-Dickinson Poster Prize Award, for her presentation on the role of cell dose in the treatment of osteosarcoma using stem cells as drug delivery therapy. A special mention to all who submitted an Abstract/ePoster for the event.

ANZSA would like to extend a big thank you to all of our guest speakers who contributed to the event and all of our members who presented during the meeting. We would also like to thank Dr. Grant Pang and the entire ASM Organising Committee who worked tirelessly to secure our guest speakers and made sure the event ran smoothly.

Thank you to all of the members who attended, and we look forward to welcoming you back next year in Brisbane for the 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting.

It was great to have such a favourable turnout of our members – both in person and online - at the 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting. The meeting was held in Melbourne with the theme focusing on **Using Data to Improve Outcomes: Lessons Learnt and Future Directions.**

Overall, we had over 150 registrants for the meeting - an amazing attendance. In addition to our registrants, we also had over 70 international attendees who were given the opportunity to attend for free to access information that they would otherwise not be able to, taking our total number of registrants to over 220!

Across the two days of the ASM, we heard from local and international

Cancer Symptom Trials (CST)



Facing Fatigue seminar series Building researcher capacity in cancer fatigue

Earlier in the year, Cancer Symptom Trials (CST) began hosting national and international presenters with expertise in fatigue as part of the Facing Fatigue Seminar Series. This seminar will continue through to June 2024.

This free, online seminar series aims to build researcher and clinician capacity to better manage fatigue for people living with, or after cancer.

Sign up to one or more sessions in the series – it's up to you! Find out more and register: uts.edu.au/facingfatigue

The poster features the UTS Cancer Symptom Trials (CST) logo on the left. On the right, a circular image shows a person sitting on a bed, looking thoughtful or distressed. The main text reads: **Facing Fatigue**, Building researcher capacity in cancer fatigue. Below this, it says: Virtual Seminar Series | Commencing July 2023. At the bottom, the website uts.edu.au/facingfatigue is listed. A small accreditation number 'CRCOS Provider No. 90898P | TEGSA' is visible in the bottom right corner.

TransTasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG)

TROG 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting 12th – 15th of March

After a successful meeting in Adelaide this year, the 36th TROG Cancer Research Annual Scientific Meeting is set to return to Newcastle for the first time since 2015.

The ASM Program Committee – led by Dr Jane Ludbrook & Prof. Joerg Lehmann - is developing a diverse and innovative program which will include collaborative workshops, scientific sessions, showcasing ongoing clinical trials, discussions of new clinical trials and future research strategies.

Early bird registrations for the event are now open! Register before the 25th of January to secure your early bird prices. <https://www.trogasm.com.au/registration>

Venue

TROG Cancer Research is excited, not only to host the 2024 TROG ASM in our hometown of Newcastle but to welcome delegates to the historic Newcastle City Hall! It's a space full of history and prestige with old-world charm and classic architecture which has hosted every kind of social gathering since it was built in 1929.

The Newcastle City Hall operates on the grounds of the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples and has flown the Aboriginal flag since 2003. <https://www.trogasm.com.au/location>

Workshops - 12th of March

Clinical Research Education Workshop (CREW)

The Clinical Research Education Workshop (CREW) is a highly successful TROG Cancer Research initiative that provides an inclusive forum for professional development for all TROG members including trial coordinators, data managers, research nurses and research managers. This full-day workshop provides an opportunity to increase the knowledge base of our membership and equip all TROG members with the tools to conduct



high-quality research and excellent data management, whilst ensuring that the utmost care is provided to patients and consumers.

Each year this workshop has been growing in popularity among the membership and we expect to attract a multidisciplinary audience of approximately 80 members at the TROG 2024 ASM.

Technical Research Workshop (TRW)

The TRW is a highly successful TROG Cancer Research initiative that provides a forum for the professional development of radiation therapists, medical physicists and radiation oncologists with a strong interest in the technological and technical issues at the forefront of cancer research.

The workshop attracts a multi-disciplinary audience with more than 80 delegates attending. Topics that have been discussed previously include MR-only Simulation, Deformable Image Registration, Patient Outcomes and Quality of Life (QoL), Particle Therapy as well as clinical trial updates and knowledge-based planning.



TRAINING & MENTORING

CREST STRUCTURED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Being hands on is a great way to build skills and knowledge. This applies to building skills in the use of **health economics methods** for the analysis of clinical trials and similar projects.

To facilitate that learning, CREST has a program of Structured Training Opportunities available to CTG members.

You will receive:

- Guidance from a CREST health economist for your eligible project
- 30 to 40 hours of mentoring (typically across a 3 month period)
- Face-to-face session at the CREST office (complemented by online, phone and email contact)

If you are a member of a CTG, have a project with a health economics component, and are interested in discussing whether it might be suitable as a Structured Training Opportunity project, please contact us: crest@uts.edu.au.

Please note: CREST is unable to sponsor individuals for participation in these training opportunities.

