



CREST awarded the Health Economics National Technical Service

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We are thrilled to announce that the CREST application for the Cancer Australia Health Economics National Technical Services tender was successful.

CREST will build upon its existing services in providing health and pharmaco-economic support to the 14 Cancer Cooperative Trial Groups (CTGs) from July 2025 to June 2027.

Our core services such as health

economics reviews, audits, capacity building opportunities etc. remain largely the same. In response to CTG feedback, we will extend on our enhanced services over the coming years and look forward to unveiling them.

We thank Cancer Australia and all the CTGs for their confidence in our team and look forward to working with you all!

Schematic representation of CREST HE Service to the CTGs

	CA HE Service Requirements				Additional Requirements					
	Direct CTG Engagement	Expert HE advice (protocol development)	Expert HE advice (HE analysis)	HE capacity building						
	Core Services									
CREST Executive Team	Annual Meeting with CTG Executives	Trial Protocol Audits and Reviews	CTG advice on concepts, protocols and grants, and collaboration	Introductory Workshops	Network with local and global bodies	Establish a HE resource centre	Collaborative relationship with other NTS			
	EON Workshop	CTG CDW/IGW attendance	Structured Training Opportunity	Advanced Workshops						
	CREST newsletter			Factsheets						
	Attendance at ASM									
Executive Advisory Committee	Enhanced Services									
	Webinar series									
	Advanced Workshop									
	Factsheets									
	Short Educational Videos									
	CREST HE Symposium									
	CREST co-design Consumer Workshop									
	Working Group for economic evaluations in First Nations and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse groups)									
	CREST conceptual framework									
	Expert Members									

Abbreviations: ASM = Annual Scientific Meeting; CA = Cancer Australia; CDW = Concept Development Workshop; CREST = Cancer Research Economics Support Team; CTG = Clinical Trials Group; EON = Executive Officer Network; HE = Health Economics; IGW = Ideas Generation Workshop.

ASCEND trial presents positive Cohort B results at ESMO GI

Promising preliminary Cohort B data from the [ASCEND](#) Phase 2b trial was presented at the 2025 ESMO Gastrointestinal Cancers Congress, Barcelona, in July. The findings were presented by Dr Andrew Dean, Study Chair.

The ASCEND trial is a 158-patient, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled Phase IIb clinical trial. The study investigated the activity and safety of CEND-1/LSTA1 as an addition to standard-of-care treatment for people with metastatic pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (mPDAC).

The Cohort B data corroborates preliminary Cohort A data, previously presented at the 2025 ASCO Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium. Those data showed a positive trend in overall survival, including four complete responses in the certepetide-treated group compared to none in the placebo-treated group.
[Read the media release](#)

OXTOX trial for colorectal cancer completes recruitment

We're also excited to share that the [OXTOX study](#) has reached their enrolment goal of 100 patients, and is now in follow-up.

OXTOX is a Phase II trial which investigated whether ibudilast could help patients experiencing chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) as a result of treatment – potentially preventing patients from stopping treatment early.
[Read about the OXTOX trial](#)

27th Annual Scientific Meeting, 24-27 November 2025, Tarntanya/Adelaide

We're now only weeks away from the largest GI oncology conference in the region! With your registration, you gain access to a program featuring an all-star panel of international faculty and a showcase of the latest and greatest in GI cancer research and care.



Don't miss the always-popular New Concepts Symposium, where delegates can present embryonic new ideas for discussion with the audience.

This year's theme of Transforming Trials through Collaboration highlights the significance of collaborating for greater global impact, such as reducing barriers for patients to join clinical research studies.
[View the program](#) / [Register today](#)

2025 Preceptorship in Colorectal Cancer

This year's Preceptorship took place on 29-30 August at the Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel, sponsored by Merck and Pierre Fabre. With 30 preceptees attending and presenting, the event was another resounding success.

Thank you to all preceptees and preceptors, including our convenors Professor Jeanne Tie and Professor Chris Jackson, as well as our assistant convenors Dr John Mak and Dr Derrick Siu.
[Learn more about the Preceptorship](#)

New concepts welcomed

Submitting new concepts to the AGITG is now easier than ever, using our new online Concept Proposal Form. [Find out how you can submit a new concept](#)

2025-2030 Strategy

We're proud to share the new five-year AGITG strategy – a bold, focused plan to strengthen our impact and sharpen our purpose as we work towards a better future for people with GI cancer in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Over the next five years, our strategic priorities are to:

- Lead bold, collaborative GI cancer trials
- Strengthen research impact across our region
- Build local capacity and sustainable funding
- Mobilise our diverse community

[Learn more about our new strategy](#)

Stay up to date with AGITG

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) for more updates.



2025 Preceptorship in Colorectal Cancer

Breast Cancer Trials (BCT)



A/Prof Andrew Redfern and A/Prof Nicole McCarthy

Welcoming Our New Board Members

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the Breast Cancer Trials (BCT) Board of Directors: A/Prof Andrew Redfern and A/Prof Nicole McCarthy, elected in July 2025.

A/Prof Redfern is a Medical Oncologist and Associate Professor at the University of Western Australia. He also holds leadership roles at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, Fiona Stanley Hospital, and Linear Clinical Research, with a focus on translational oncology and early phase trials.

A/Prof McCarthy is a Medical Oncologist who completed her training in Brisbane before undertaking a fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in the USA. She brings extensive clinical and research experience and is a long-standing leader in the field of oncology. We look forward to their valuable contributions as they help guide BCT's mission to improve outcomes for people affected by breast cancer.

Free Online Q&A - Side Effects of Breast Cancer Treatment

Breast cancer treatment can be lifesaving, but it can also bring life-changing side effects. From fatigue and joint pain to emotional and cognitive challenges, the impact of treatment is different for everyone. As research evolves, so too does our understanding of how to reduce, manage, and prevent these side effects.

Join us for our next free online Q&A event moderated by Author and Journalist, Annabel Crabb, where our panel of leading researchers, clinicians, and patient advocates will discuss the latest in clinical trials and emerging



treatments that aim not only to improve survival, but also enhance quality of life during and after treatment.

[Click here to register.](#)

2025 ASM Award Recipients

The 2025 Breast Cancer Trials (BCT) Awards were presented to recipients at the 46th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Hobart, Tasmania.

Congratulations to our 2025 award winners:

- The Alan Coates Award: Professor Bruce Mann.
- The Robert Sutherland Award: Professor Sarah-Jane Dawson.
- The John Collins Fellow Medal and Travel Grant: Dr Sia Kim.
- The Study Coordinator Prize: Ms Amy Wallace.

The awards and travel grants recognise the valuable contribution of BCT members to the Group's clinical trials research program; provide professional development opportunities for members; and recognise outstanding achievements by researchers, clinicians and scientists in their particular field.

Save the Date - 47th Annual Scientific Meeting

Our 47th ASM will be held in Brisbane, QLD, Australia from 29-31 July 2026, and we have a number of speakers confirmed, including:

- **Professor Jana De Boniface:** General surgeon specialising in oncoplastic surgery. The seat of her clinical activities is Capio St Görän's Hospital, one of the three large Breast Centers in Stockholm in Sweden.

- **Dr Sara Hurvitz:** Medical oncologist and clinical research leader who is senior vice president of the Clinical Research Division at Fred Hutch and head of the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the University of Washington Department of Medicine in the United States.

We are currently working on the 2026 ASM website, which will be up and running by the end of October and will include information about awards, sessions, and speakers.

EXPERT Recruitment Milestone Achieved!

We're thrilled to announce that the EXPERT clinical trial has successfully reached its target of 1,170 participants. This global study involves participants from eight countries across Europe, Asia, and South America, and is led by BCT researchers in collaboration with the Breast International Group (BIG).

The trial is investigating how a genomic test can help personalise radiation therapy for women with early breast cancer - identifying those who can safely avoid it and its potential side effects.

A huge thank you to all participants, researchers, clinicians, and trial site teams who made this milestone possible. We look forward to the important insights EXPERT will deliver to improve breast cancer care.



Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association (ANZSA)

The countdown is on for the 2025 ANZSA ASM

Our Annual Scientific Meeting is just a few months away! This year, we'll gather in Hobart to share expertise, foster collaboration, and drive innovation in sarcoma care and research.

Event Details:

- **When:** Friday 10th - Saturday 11th of October 2025
- **Venue:** Crowne Plaza, 110 Liverpool Street, Hobart Tasmania 7000

This is a chance to hear from researchers and sarcoma specialists - from Australia and New Zealand as well as from around the world - about the most up-to-date multidisciplinary research in the sarcoma field.

Theme: **United Against Sarcoma: Collaboration and Innovation**

We are thrilled to welcome International Guest Speaker, Prof. Jason Yustein, paediatric oncologist and physician-scientist at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Emory University. His research focuses on metastasis and therapeutic resistance in sarcomas, using cutting-edge models and genomic techniques to develop new treatment strategies.

Join us for an inspiring meeting as we advance knowledge and improve outcomes for those affected by sarcoma.

[View the full scientific program for meeting details](#)

[Secure Your Spot](#)

Sarcoma Community Connection

We are excited to host our second Community Connect alongside the Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart. This free, one-hour session will take place at the Crowne Plaza on Saturday, 11 October, starting at 1:30 PM.

This invitation is open to sarcoma patients, carers, families, and survivors for a chance to connect, share experiences, and engage with the broader sarcoma community.



Topics:

- Learn about the Consumer Advisory Panel
- Strategies for coping with fear of recurrence
- Latest on immunotherapy for liposarcoma
- Connect with the Sarcoma Community

[Register to attend the Sarcoma Community to Connect.](#)

Sarcoma Awareness Month webinars

During Sarcoma Awareness Month, ANZSA collaborated with the VCCC Alliance to host two educational webinars featuring updates from sarcoma specialists and consumer representatives, sharing multidisciplinary expertise across radiation oncology, medical oncology, and surgery.

A deep dive on liposarcoma webinar: learn about multidisciplinary insights and emerging therapies in liposarcoma care.

[View the webinar](#)

Molecular sequencing and sarcoma webinar: learn about precision medicine in paediatric sarcoma.

[View the webinar](#)

Exciting ANZSA Research Launch: FLORRAL Study

We are proud to announce the launch of FLORRAL: Risk Stratification for Patients with First Local Recurrence of Retroperitoneal Liposarcoma, a new

retrospective data collection study led by ANZSA Director Prof David Gyorki, in collaboration with ANZSA colleagues worldwide.

This international, ANZSA-led study aims to characterise the anatomical location of first local recurrence in patients with retroperitoneal sarcoma, as well as to understand recurrence patterns and explore the various treatment approaches. The study reflects a strong collaborative effort, with more than 20 national and international sites already shown interest in contributing to this valuable data.

Our Sarcoma research grant recipients

Every year, ANZSA is proud to support Australian researchers through its Sarcoma Research Grant Program, with the aim of improving early diagnosis, expanding treatment options, and enhancing outcomes and quality of life for sarcoma patients.

This year, we are delighted to announce two successful recipients of the grant.

Dr Paul Daniel, a postdoctoral fellow, specialises in low-survival adult and paediatric solid cancers. His project, "Development of CD70-targeted Antibody-Drug Conjugates for Sarcomas", builds on the Childhood Cancer Model Atlas (CCMA), an international collaboration using lab-grown models to study childhood cancers and explore new treatments. [Learn more about Paul's Project.](#)

Dr Cui Tu (Maxine), an early-career cancer immunologist at the Frazer Institute, University of Queensland (UQ), focuses on the tumor microenvironment (TME) in hard-to-treat childhood cancers.

Her research addresses a key challenge: Rhabdomyosarcoma is often a "cold" tumour, meaning immune cells that normally fight cancer struggle to infiltrate and attack the tumour. [Learn more about Maxine's Project.](#)



SABR Versus Radiofrequency Ablation and Cryoablation for Primary Renal Cell Carcinoma: An Economic Evaluation of the FASTRACK II Trial

Patients with renal cell carcinoma are not always able to undergo partial or total nephrectomy due to age or comorbidities. Recently, alternative treatments for these ineligible patients have been studied, such as radiofrequency ablation (RFA), cryoablation (CA), and stereotactic ablative body radiotherapy (SABR).

The FASTRACK II was a phase II international, non-randomised, clinical trial conducted in 7 centres in Australia and 1 in the Netherlands, showing that SABR is a safe and effective treatment option for renal cell carcinoma. In this context, Vargas et al. (2025) set out to explore the cost-effectiveness and impacts on health-related quality of life (HRQoL) of SABR compared to RFA and CA from the Australian health system perspective.

SABR cost-effectiveness was evaluated by developing a Markov model to represent renal cell carcinoma progression, which integrates progression-free survival, overall survival (OS), HRQoL, and costs and extrapolates them over 10 years. SABR inputs were sourced from FASTRACK II, whereas RFA and CA from the published literature. Figure 1 illustrates the model structure.

Health benefits were assessed by combining HRQoL and OS, generating quality-adjusted life years (QALYs). Costs were reported in 2022 AUD and included medicines (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme), medical and diagnostic services (Medicare Benefits Schedule), and other hospitalisation services.

Base case results showed that SABR was less costly and more effective than both RFA and CA, gaining on average 0.927 QALYs while reducing costs by \$3,947. Results of the probabilistic sensitivity analysis, which varies all parameters simultaneously, recreating the results over 10,000 iterations, showed that SABR was more effective and less

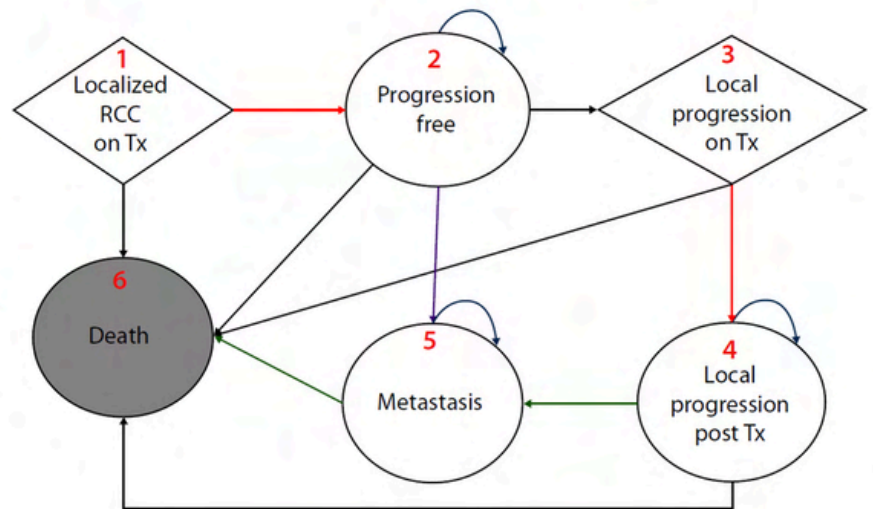


Figure 1: Model structure

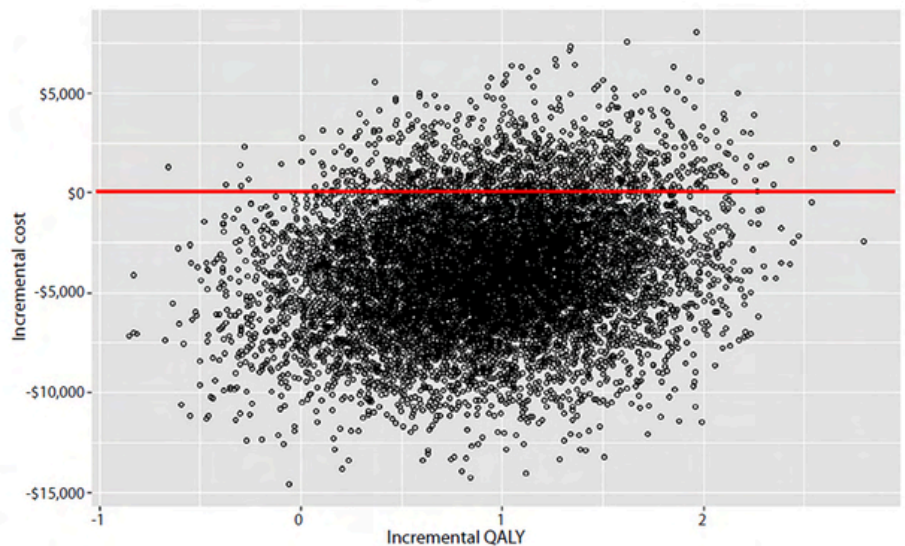


Figure 2: Probabilistic sensitivity analysis.

costly than the comparators in over 90% of iterations (Figure 2).

These results suggest that SABR may be a viable option offering value for money for the Australian healthcare system.

(See TROG update on p.11 for more)

Contributed by:
Antonio Ahumada Canale

Reference:
Vargas C, Carrello J, Bressel M, Sidhom M, Lin C, Vanneste B, Moon D, Appu S, Swaminath A, Ruben J, Pryor D, Higgs B, Davey R, Hardcastle N, Montgomery R, Siva S, Lourenço RA. SABR Versus Radiofrequency Ablation and Cryoablation for Primary Renal Cell Carcinoma: An Economic Evaluation of the FASTRACK II Trial. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*. 2025 Jun 25:S0360-3016(25)03910-0

Thoracic Oncology Group Australia (TOGA)



TOGA's 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting

A Recap of TOGA's 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting

Held from July 30th to August 1st at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, TOGA's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) brought together over 400 professionals from across the lung cancer community. This year's meeting, a collaborative effort between TOGA, convenor [A/Prof Bryan Chan](#), and the Local Organising Committee, focused on the central theme: *Implementing Change in Thoracic Cancer Care Through Multidisciplinary Innovation*.

The meeting drew a diverse crowd of influential professionals from the lung cancer community including respiratory medicine, medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgery, nursing, allied health, and patient involvement.

TOGA was privileged to host several distinguished international speakers in person. This included **Professor Solange Peters**, the Oncology Director at Lausanne University Hospital. Her Plenary outlined recent advances in SCLC—historically a disease with limited treatment progress. Additionally, **Mr. Kelvin Lau**, a Consultant and Lead Thoracic Surgeon from St Bartholomew's Hospital in London gave a Plenary talk on the benefits of advanced bronchoscopic technologies including navigation systems, robotic control, and image guidance—that enable precise access to small peripheral lung tumours.

With Australia's [National Lung Cancer Screening Program](#) now underway, attention is turning to optimising early-stage diagnosis and treatment. Dr Tracy Leong presented practical guidance for

nodule assessment, while Peter Bligh ([NACCHO](#)) and Ewan Wylie (Heart of Australia) shared models for delivering screening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and rural and remote communities.

In addition to the main program, the conference featured a number of meetings and activities, including:

- **Optimal Care Pathway workshop:** The workshop was held to give a comprehensive overview of the lung cancer diagnosis journey, tracing the path from a general practitioner's office to the multidisciplinary team.
- **Oral abstracts and posters:** We congratulate Ms Elizabeth Zemek on her oral presentation and Ms Jazmin Mireya Guayco Sigcha & team on their win for Best Poster.
- **Conference reception:** A networking event to celebrate the achievements of the membership from the past year and to catch up with friends and colleagues.
- **Life Member awards:** TOGA recognised the profound impact of three individuals and their contribution to thoracic cancer care: Prof Ken O'Byrne, Prof Michael Millward, and Ms. Joanne Wade.
- **Translational Researcher speed dating:** A networking session for laboratory, translational, and early career researchers to spark collaboration.



Thoracic Oncology Group Australasia

The success of this year's ASM could not have been achieved without TOGA's conference convenor A/Prof Bryan Chan and the Local Organising Committee for their efforts to this successful event. We look forward to having all attendees and more back at the 2026 ASM in Melbourne.



Upcoming Events and Education

TOGA always has upcoming events both online and in-person. Join us for at next education event:

Conversations in Lung Cancer Podcast

A go-to podcast for in-depth insights into lung cancer. Tune in for conversations with leading experts, inspiring stories, and the latest updates on clinical trials. Stay informed and empowered in the fight against lung cancer.

Listen on [Apple](#) or [Spotify](#).

Preceptorship

A two-day workshop with an intensive and active learning program for medical trainees, fellows and nurses interested in developing their clinical knowledge and expertise in lung cancer management.

28-29 November 2025
Melbourne | Free for TOGA Members*
[Register your interest](#) by 30 September

*[Memberships](#) can be attained by applying here. Memberships fees for trainees are waived.

See all events [here](#).



Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group (ALLG)

ALLG BM12 CAST Trial Changes 40 Years of Practice

ALLG's BM12 CAST trial, led by ALLG member Professor David Curtis (Alfred Hospital & Monash University) is set to change 40 years of standard practice globally for stem cell transplants in leukaemia.

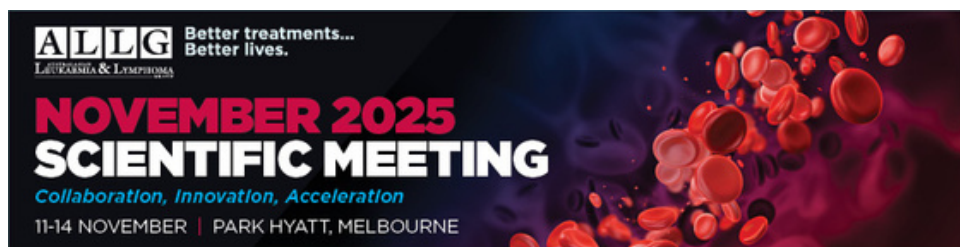
The new treatment triples the chance for patients being alive, healthy and free of life-threatening complications such as Graft Versus Host Disease (GVHD) three years after transplant.

Led by Australian and New Zealand ALLG researchers, the success of the trial has immediate implications for clinical practice in the management of blood stem cell transplants. The simplicity and effectiveness of the new treatment, which uses an existing, affordable drug called cyclophosphamide in combination with cyclosporin, is set to become the new standard of care in GVHD prevention in matched sibling transplants.

The BM12 CAST trial was conducted across eight major hospital sites in Australia and New Zealand over five years.

The results from this "game-changing" study were presented at the European Hematology Association (EHA) Conference held in Italy from June 12-15, 2025, published in the prestigious [New England Journal of Medicine](#) and received extensive news coverage.

Professor David Curtis discussing results of BM12 CAST



ALLG's Trials Presented at Leading International Conferences

ALLG congratulates members who presented ALLG trials at significant global haematology events, including EHA and International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma (ICML). Accepted abstracts are considered the best out of thousands submitted worldwide and represent high impact and groundbreaking novel research in the field. The most significant moment was the presentation of the game changing results of the BM12 CAST trial to an audience at full capacity by Chief Investigator, Professor David Curtis in the Plenary Session.

Congratulations to the following ALLG members who presented at EHA and ICML 2025:

EHA 2025, 12 – 15 June, Milan, Italy

- Professor Andrew Wei & Associate Professor Rachel Thijssen AMLM25 INTERVENE - Oral Presentation
- Professor Chan Cheah NHL34 GOLDILOX - Oral Presentation
- Dr Aleece MacPhail & Professor Zoe McQuilten SUPPORTIVE CARE - Poster Presentation

ICML 2025, 13 – 19 July, Lugano, Switzerland

- Associate Professor Matthew Ku & Professor Mats Jerkeman NHL39 POLAR BEAR – Oral Presentation
- Professor Michael Dickinson NHL37 GOLDILOX - Poster Presentation
- Professor Mark Hertzberg HD10 / GHSG HD21 - Poster Presentation

ALLG November Scientific Meeting

Our biannual ALLG Scientific Meeting is coming up from 11-14 November 2025 at the Park Hyatt Melbourne. This exciting conference is free to attend for ALLG Members, providing updates on new blood cancer clinical trial concepts and haematology research.

Attend to connect and collaborate with local and global haematology experts, share ground-breaking advancements and hear updates across ALLG's portfolio of 75+ active clinical trials in leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

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](#).

For More Updates Follow us on

- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [X](#)



Better treatments...
Better lives.

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, as well as many currently in development. We opened one new trial during the quarter: our Phase 2 prostate cancer trial [DARO-Lipid](#) and our bladder cancer study G-DISCO and testicular cancer study CLIMATE both reached full recruitment. You can [read more about our trials on our website here](#).

ANZUP Publications

We had a number of papers published during the quarter:

- The latest results from the ENZA-p study were published in [The Lancet Oncology](#)
- [Lutetium-177-PSMA-617 or cabazitaxel in metastatic prostate cancer: circulating tumor DNA analysis of the randomized phase 2 TheraP trial](#) was published in Nature Medicine
- [Association of the circulating lipid panel, PCPro, with clinical outcomes in metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer: post hoc analysis of the ENZAMET phase III randomised trial \(ANZUP 1304\)](#) – published in Annals of Oncology

ASCO 2025 Annual Meeting

In June 2025 at the ASCO Annual Meeting - ANZUP had a record showing with four oral presentations and four posters:

ORALS:

- **ENZA-p:** Predictive and prognostic value of baseline PSMA-PET total tumor volume and SUVmean within ENZA-p, a randomised phase II trial of enzalutamide versus enzalutamide plus [¹⁷⁷Lu] Lu-PSMA-617.
- **EVOLUTION:** ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA-617 with ipilimumab (ipi) and nivolumab (nivo) in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC): an investigator-initiated phase 2 trial
- **BCG+MM:** Mitomycin plus BCG as adjuvant intravesical therapy for high-risk, non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer: a randomised phase 3 trial.



2025 ASCO Annual Meeting

- **TheraP:** Clonal hematopoiesis (CH) in participants with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) receiving ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA-617 or cabazitaxel: an exploratory post-hoc analysis of a randomized phase II trial.

POSTERS: ENZAMET:

- 8-year outcomes of enzalutamide (ENZA) versus a non-steroidal anti-androgen (NSAA) for metastatic, hormone-sensitive prostate cancer (mHSPC).
- Association of circulating immune and metabolic markers with clinical outcomes in the ENZAMET trial.
- Identifying PSMA-PET prognostic criteria in metastatic hormone sensitive prostate cancer in mHSPC using an ENZAMET trial sub-cohort.

PCR-MIB: Long term follow up of secondary endpoints of efficacy including overall survival of the PCR-MIB phase II clinical trial.

#ANZUP25 ASM

The 2025 ANZUP ASM was held in Sydney in July, led by Co-Convenors Carole Harris and Laurence Krieger. The ASM provided a platform to discuss and present the latest updates in GU cancer treatment, research and supportive care and to learn more about existing and planned ANZUP trials.

Many thanks also to our [wonderful sponsors](#) – without them this event would not be possible!

Our #ANZUP26 ASM is being held in Adelaide in June 2026, ably led by Lisa Butler and Craig Gedye. Registrations will open in early 2026.



APCC group photo

ANZUP APCCC Satellite Symposium – September 2025, Singapore

The Symposium brought together close to 30 experts from 14 APAC countries to discuss the real-world application of consensus statements from the APCCC held in 2024. A paper is being drafted by Dr Alison Evans, based on the summary of the discussions at the Symposium with input from our experts, and will be submitted for publication.

Best of GU Oncology Evening Symposium

Wednesday 12 November, Adelaide Oval
The Best of GU Evening Symposium is a collaboration between ANZUP and the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand ([USANZ](#)). It features highlights from the ANZUP ASM and other GU meetings during the year, including the latest management, and clinical trials research in urogenital and prostate cancers. Registration is **FREE** for ANZUP or USANZ members, [register online here](#).

2025 Annual Report

Our ANZUP 2025 Annual Report was released in July, reflecting on our activities and achievements of the past year. [Read the report online here](#).

Reporting harms more transparently in trials of cancer drugs

Studies of cancer drugs often use terms that downplay the seriousness of adverse events. Often adverse effects are described as 'acceptable', 'manageable', or 'tolerable' irrespective of whether the toxicities were increased or decreased. Vague and subjective terms can lessen the perception of harm and influence decisions about treatment. These perceptions are critical, both in communicating treatment effects to patients, but also in considerations of value as are undertaken as part of health technology assessment processes.

Gyawali and colleagues investigated how publications of cancer drug trials downplayed harms (Table 1). They examined all phase II and phase III randomised trials published during 2016 in the five major medical journals based on their impact factors. The New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet, Lancet Oncology, Journal of the American Medical Association, and Journal of Clinical Oncology were chosen as these five journals capture most randomised trials of new cancer drugs, and almost all trials of new cancer drugs that get approved and make it to the market.

The authors found that 53 of 122 trials (43%) contained terms that downplayed harms using terms such as 'favourable' and 'tolerable'. This is despite the rates of severe adverse events being 77% higher, serious adverse events being 84% higher and deaths being 66% higher of trials, in the experimental arm than in the control arm. Fourteen of the 53 studies did not report any data on severe adverse events, 22 had no data on serious events, and two had no data on deaths.

Gyawali and colleagues call for greater clarity and transparency when it comes to reporting harms. This can be achieved by:

1. Avoiding vague and subjective terms to describe the harms of interventions.
2. Reporting numbers and incidences of severe, serious, and fatal adverse events.
3. Asking patients whether they consider the toxicities acceptable or tolerable.
4. Reporting on patients' quality of life.

Acceptable	Acceptable to whom? Were the patients asked if the toxicities were acceptable to them?
Manageable	Serious events and deaths can never be considered manageable. Even manageable toxicities incur burden and decrease patients' quality of life.
Feasible	What is the threshold for feasibility of a treatment? Will the mention of "the treatment is feasible" be enough to obtain patient's consent to a treatment?
Favourable toxicity profile	Favourable compared with what? The threshold for enduring toxicities, and thus favourability, is different from patient to patient.
Tolerable or well tolerated	Only the patient can decide whether any side effect is tolerable.
Safe	Any cancer treatment that has resulted in a treatment related death cannot be considered safe.

Table 1: Terms used to downplay the harms of cancer drugs and reasons for avoiding them.

Contributed by: Lutfun Hossain

Reference:

Gyawali, B., Shimokata, T., Honda, K., & Ando, Y. (2018). Reporting harms more transparently in trials of cancer drugs. *Bmj*, 363

CREST Virtual Workshop

Registrations are now open!

**CREST Virtual Workshop:
Understanding health economics in
cancer research**

Date: Monday, 10 November 2025

Time: 9 AM - 12 PM AEDT

[Event and registration page](#)

Have you wanted to attend our in-person health economics workshop, but a whole day wasn't possible?

Well, our half-day, virtual workshop might just be what you're looking for!

In this workshop we'll take you through the role of health economics in cancer research, covering topics such as:

- study design
- identifying, valuing and measuring outcomes and costs
- interpreting results
- QALY and ICER calculations



Before you attend the workshop, you'll receive a suite of learning materials including videos and slides that will help you get the most out of the workshop.

On the day, our team will take you through a number of practical exercises you can use in your own research.

Questions?

Get in touch at crest@uts.edu.au

Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG)

To mark Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month this September, ANZGOG has released the Gynaecological Cancer in Australia 2025 Overview —the most up-to-date, evidence-based analysis of the size, scale and impact of gynaecological cancers nationwide.

Read the full report at www.anzgog.org.au or via ANZGOG's [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#).



Gynaecological cancers in Australia 2025: AN OVERVIEW

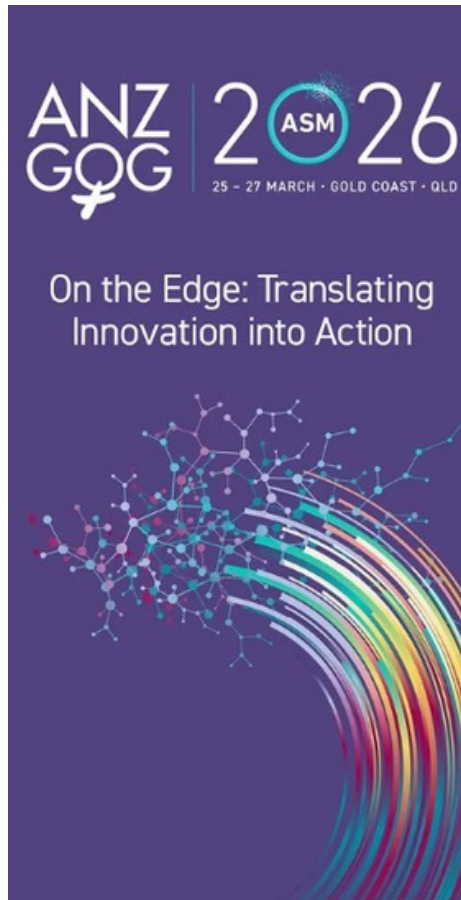


2025 PRECEPTORSHIP

Providing ongoing educational opportunities to Fellows, Trainees, Registrars, and early career clinicians and nurses, ANZGOG will be hosting an online Preceptorship focused on survivorship and quality of life, titled 'Thriving, not just Surviving, after Gynaecological Cancer'. More information and to register, [click here](#).



[#AdvancingResearchSavingLives](#)



REGISTRATIONS OPEN: ANZGOG's 2026 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

"On the Edge: Translating Innovation into Action"

- **Dates:** Wednesday 25 March – Friday 27 March 2026
- **Location:** Gold Coast, QLD

Building on the momentum and near-record attendance of our landmark 25th Anniversary ASM in 2025, the 2026 ASM invites us to shift our focus forward. It's a call to action: to ask what's next, to push boundaries, and to translate today's innovation into the impact of tomorrow.

The 2026 ASM will be a dynamic forum for bold thinking, practical collaboration, and action-oriented discussion about the future of gynaecological cancer research.

For more information and early-bird registration, visit: www.anzgogasm.org.au

ANZGOG Trial Update

ANZGOG is proud to have active and engaged members bringing both local and global 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: RAMP 301** an ENGOT option C collaborative study sponsored by Verastem in collaboration with ANZGOG, European Network of Gynaecological Oncological Trial Groups (ENGOT), and GOG Foundation.
 - **Combined ovarian + endometrial cancer trials: PARAGON II** in collaboration with the University of Sydney, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre.
 - **Gynaecological clear cell carcinoma trials: DOVE** a global study led by Yonsei University, in collaboration with ANZGOG, European Network of Gynaecological Oncological Trial Groups (ENGOT) and Asia-Pacific Gynecologic Oncology Trials Group (APGOT).
 - **Vulval cancer study: STRIVE** is a collaborative study with the Canadian Clinical Trials Group (CCTG), recruiting from NZ only at present.
 - **Recurrent Malignant Ascites: REZOLV3R** in collaboration with the University of Sydney/NHMRC Clinical Trial Centre
 - **Quality of life/end of life study: PEACE** in collaboration with the Nordic Society of Gynaecological Oncology – Clinical Trial Unit.
- Endometrial cancer trials:**
- **ENDO-3** in collaboration with Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer.
 - **ADELE** in collaboration with the University of Sydney, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre.
 - **XPORT-EC-42** a global study led by Karyopharm Therapeutics (Global Sponsor), in collaboration with ANZGOG, European Network of Gynaecological Oncological Trial Groups (ENGOT) and GOG Foundation.
 - **EN.10/TAPER** a global study led by Canadian Cancer Trials Group (CCTG) (International sponsor) in collaboration with ANZGOG.

For more information visit [our website](#).

The Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG)



TROG Cancer Research 2026 ASM: Registration and abstract submissions now open

Early Bird Registration is now open for the TROG Cancer Research 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting, being held 17-20 March 2026 at the Pullman Albert Park in Melbourne, Victoria.

The meeting is themed '*Driving Intelligent Trials: Smarter designs, empowered consumers, AI-driven insights, and strong trial systems for better research outcomes*'.

The exciting program will explore the latest developments in clinical trials, innovation in practice, and the future of radiation oncology.

Submit your abstract now: Showcase your research to the radiation medicine community by submitting your abstract before 3 October 2025 : [Abstracts — TROG 2026 ASM](#)

Registrations are also open for our two full-day workshops on Tuesday 17 March –the **Technical Research Workshop (TRW)** and **Clinical Research Education Workshop (CREW)**.

The TRW will provide valuable insights into research opportunities at TROG, discuss new radiation therapy technologies and explore the intricacies of complex clinical trials.

CREW provides an inclusive forum for professional development for all TROG members. In 2026, the workshop will host a specialised TransCelerate accredited training program, focusing on the latest revision of ICH GCP E6 (R3). This course will be led by Eleanor Allan from Caledonian Clinical Training, a respected leader in clinical research education who has been delivering high-quality training for over 25 years.

Register for the ASM and the workshops at: www.trogasm.com.au

Economic analysis sheds light on cheaper, more effective radiation therapy option for kidney cancer

A new economic analysis of data from an important TROG trial reveals that treating inoperable kidney cancer with Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy (SABR) is both more effective and less expensive than traditional ablative therapies in the Australian context.

The **TROG 15.03/ANZUP 16001 FASTRACK II** trial found that SABR is an effective treatment strategy for kidney cancer in cases where surgery is not an option, with an acceptable side-effect profile and no observed local failure or cancer-related deaths.

The new economic analysis of data from the trial investigated whether SABR was cost-effective compared with current ablative therapies – radiofrequency ablation (RFA) and cryoablation (CA).

While there was a reduction in post-treatment quality of life among patients undergoing SABR due to factors like fatigue and shortness of breath (dyspnea), the new study found SABR was cheaper and overall, more effective (dominant), than RFA and CA in patients with localised kidney cancer who were not eligible for surgery, based on Australian healthcare costings. Findings were published in the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics (Red Journal)*.

[Read more](#)



TROG Staff at the inaugural WRAD

TROG celebrates inaugural World Radiotherapy Awareness Day

TROG Cancer Research celebrated the inaugural [World Radiotherapy Awareness Day](#) (WRAD) held on 7 September, helping to spread the word about the critical role of radiation therapy in cancer care.

WRAD is the brainchild of a committee of radiation and clinical oncology professionals, patients and campaigners dedicated to launching a new worldwide movement to draw attention to lifesaving radiotherapy in cancer care. The annual event highlights the need to improve access to radiotherapy globally, to recognise the need for an adequate and skilled radiotherapy workforce, and to educate healthcare professionals, patients and policymakers about the importance of radiotherapy.

TROG staff marked the event in a range of ways including joining in a social media campaign and enjoying a team lunch complete with radiation therapy trivia quiz.

TROG Head of Operations, Research and Quality Assurance, Alisha Moore, commented: "I'm supporting World Radiotherapy Awareness day because I've dedicated the last 20 years of my career to radiotherapy and radiotherapy research because it's integral to cancer care, patient outcomes and quality of life for those affected by cancer."





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DECEMBER 1-2, 2025
9AM TO 4PM



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JULY 1, 2025



REGISTRATION OPEN
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<https://events.humanitix.com/advancing-patient-centred-research-down-under>

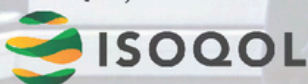
Abstracts:



Panels:



Endorsed by the International Society
for Quality of Life Research



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