

Hello from ANZGOG

I am very glad to say that ANZGOG raised the bar when it comes to community engagement and fundraising in 2014.

We launched the dynamic 'GO for Gynae' campaign to become financially sustainable in the future and already have an impressive list of accomplishments under our belt including the Australian premiere screening of the documentary 'No Evidence of Disease'; a reinvigorated Comedy for Cancer Downunder; our *Women of the Roundtable* series and the launch of 'GO step for Gynae'.

As this edition of ResearchHER attests, 2015 is proving to be another exciting year.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our ANZGOG members for their continued community for its commitment to high quality research as we continue to undertake new clinical trials and encourage novel new research ideas.

As always, thank you to our donors and wider community for your continued support.



Dr Alison Brand | ANZGOG Chair

ANZGOG Annual Scientific Meeting 2015



Prof Charlie Gourley



Survivorship & Genetics panelists



Dr Bryony Simcock

Contemporary Management of Gynaecological Cancer was the focus of the ANZGOG's Annual Scientific Meeting 2015, held from 25–28 March on the Gold Coast.

Over 170 medical oncologists, gynaecological oncologists, radiation oncologists, cancer researchers, study coordinators, nurses and consumers came together from across Australia and New Zealand to consider the current trends in research and treatment of gynaecological cancers.

International keynote speakers, Dr Keiichi Fujiwara (Japan) and Professor Charley Gourley (Edinburgh) gave well received presentations on the management of ovarian cancer.

Leading local medical, gynaecological and radiation oncologists also steered

a stimulating and insightful discussion on contemporary management of endometrial cancer.

A highlight of this year's meeting was the inaugural 'Pure Science Symposium'. Other scientific sessions included 'Survivorship and Genetics' and 'Bench meets Bedside'.

Every year, at the ANZGOG Scientific Meeting, researchers are encouraged to submit their clinical trial concepts for review by the ANZGOG Research Advisory Committee for consideration as future ANZGOG trials. Fifteen new trial concepts were submitted and 11 were presented at conference.

Learn more about clinical trials in Australia at the Australian Clinical Trials Registry <http://www.anzctr.org.au/>.

Purely purple for International Women's Day

Raising awareness about ANZGOG on the Gold Coast



Charlie Brown, Julijana Trifunovic and Jean Kittson at the Purely Purple Lunch on the Gold Coast in March

International Women's Day is a day to celebrate and honour women whose vision, passion, business acumen and community engagement has taken them on a journey to the global stage.

On Friday, 8 March at the Hilton Gold Coast, *Women at Work* congratulated local business women and presented them with awards for service at their 'Purely Purple Lunch'. They also wanted to raise awareness about gynaecological cancer and the need for support.

Jean Kittson, a supporter of ANZGOG and guest speaker at the event, inspired those who attended with her commitment and advocacy to women's health and gynaecological cancer research.

Women of the Roundtable Ambassador and fashion designer Charlie Brown also spoke about her interest and offered long-term support of ANZGOG's work.

ANZGOG is grateful for the support from Josephine Tobias who organised the event.



Guys riding 1,500 kms for research



Previous ANZGOG Chair, Professor Michael Quinn, AM, and 17 of his friends are cycling the length of the UK – Land's End to John O' Groats – to raise funds for ANZGOG's gynaecological cancer research.

The **Guys GO ride for Gynae** team is taking on this 1,500 km challenge from 14-27 June and aim to raise \$100,000 for ANZGOG's New Research Fund to promote innovative new research projects.

A seasoned adventurer and fundraiser, Michael was gently persuaded to tone-down the intensity of his annual quest this year. "After my last little adventure in the Himalayas, when I got altitude sickness then had to come down in a blizzard, my wife recommended that perhaps I not try this again."

"She came up with the wonderful suggestion that I should involve my friends

and do the bike ride from Land's End to John O' Groats."

The 'Guys', who hail from Australia, Canada and the US and whose ages range from 59 to 72, are all thrilled to be supporting awomen's cancer research cause.

"Those of us in good health have a responsibility to support medical research," says team member David Levin. "We particularly need to research those insidious cancers which are not observable until they are too advanced to be treated effectively."

The team is giving up their weekends to a training regime preparing for the 14-day challenge.

They have also begun fundraising, and with nearly 4 weeks still to go, have raised over \$36,000 towards their goal.

Each of the 'Guys' is financing his own trip to the UK including expenses, so all funds raised will go directly to ANZGOG's research.

To support **Guys GO ride for Gynae** visit everydayhero.com.au/event/GuysGOride.



Prof Michael Quinn, AM, 'Guys GO ride' Team Leader



Taking a 'mate's rest' from training at 'Mait's Rest' in Vic



Team member David Levin

GO step for Gynae 2015 - registrations now open!



ANZGOG members 'stepping out' for GO step for Gynae 2015 at the Annual Scientific Meeting in March

GO step for Gynae is not just a great fundraising activity for ANZGOG but also raises the awareness about the importance of keeping fit for your good health, particularly as research has shown the link between obesity and the increase in endometrial cancer.

We are asking 'GO steppers' to take 10,000 steps a day for 30 days in September during Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month.

All you have to do is register and fundraise. It costs only \$25 to register and you receive a pedometer and log book to

record your progress. You can register as a group or as an individual. You can raise funds by asking friends, family and work colleagues to sponsor you.

We are looking for 100 participants nationally this year to collectively raise over \$50,000.

Register today at: <http://www.everydayhero.com.au/event/GOstepforGynae2015>

For information about sponsoring this program please contact Julijana at partnerships@anzgog.org.au

Women leaders making a real difference

ANZGOG's *Women of the Roundtable* series has been a successful initiative by bringing together women leaders to help make a difference for women with gynaecological cancer.

It's a forum to share their ideas, knowledge and experiences and has enabled ANZGOG to explore new avenues for awareness and fundraising.

The inaugural Queensland event was held in March at the Sofitel Gold Coast with 23 inspiring women who are now organising an event in June to raise funds and awareness for gynaecological cancer research.

If you are interested in participating in *Women of the Roundtable* contact Anthea Jackson at partnerships@anzgog.org.au or 02 8071 4883.

The Commonwealth Bank is a proud partner of *Women of the Roundtable*.

CommonwealthBank

Current ANZGOG trials open to recruitment and featured trials

For more information go to the 'Clinical Trials' section at www.anzgow.org.au

REZOLVE (Ovarian)

REZOLVE aims to evaluate the safety and potential palliative benefit of intraperitoneal bevacizumab (chemotherapy treatment) in patients with symptomatic ascites due to advanced chemotherapy resistant ovarian cancer.

PenTAGOn (Quality of Life)

A nurse-led psychosocial intervention with peer support to reduce the needs in women being treated with radiotherapy for gynaecological oncology: a RCT.

OvQuest (Quality of Life)

This online study aims to fill the gap in research to better understand the health related quality of life in ovarian cancer survivors, as well as their specific symptoms and concerns, physical activity levels and the relationship between physical activity and symptoms. Open to women diagnosed with ovarian cancer more than six months ago who have received chemotherapy.

Paragon (Rare Tumours)

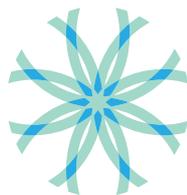
To see if anastrozole (an aromatase inhibitor, also known as Arimidex®) which is a hormonal or anti-oestrogen therapy will help reduce the size of tumours and delay the time to progression, as well as improve symptom control and quality of life, in women with potentially hormone responsive recurrent gynaecological cancers.

Outback (Cervical)

The Outback trial will test the value of giving women with locally advanced cervical cancer, adjuvant chemotherapy following completion of standard chemo-radiation treatment. It aims to improve survival rates for these women, many of whom have a 40% or greater chance of their disease relapsing after treatment.

feMME (Endometrial)

This trial accesses a new approach to the treatment of endometrial cancer, thus sparing women major surgery. Our aim is to find out the effectiveness of Mirena® (a hormonal intrauterine device), Mirena® with Metformin (an oral antidiabetic drug), and Mirena® with weight loss at getting rid of endometrial cancer and endometrial hyperplasia with atypia.



CART-WHEEL
Center for Analysis of Rare Tumors

The CART-WHEEL rare tumor database exists to address some of the barriers facing effective research into rare types of tumors and rare subtypes of common cancers. The website is designed to collect information from people who have a rare tumor to be used for research.

Research in rare cancers is challenging due to difficulty in finding cases. Individually rare cancers affect small numbers of patients but when put together they make up over 20% of all cancers diagnosed each year. Yet they receive only about 5% of research funding and attention.

Using the CART-WHEEL website - www.cart-wheel.org - people from all over the world are able to register and fill out a privacy-protected, internet-based questionnaire which covers information ranging from their type of tumor and treatment received, to aspects of their family history.

Participants have control over their personal details by providing consent for different uses of their entered data. This ranges from storage of de-identified data to being contacted for participation in a relevant clinical trial.

If you, or someone you know, have had a rare tumour and are interested, please visit the CART-WHEEL website, fill in the consent form and enter your information. All patient consent forms must be posted - for details www.cart-wheel.org/page/29/participant-consent-forms. Even if you think your tumor is not rare, we would still appreciate you completing the questionnaire to help us better understand your tumor type.

ANZGOG Member Associate Professor Clare Scott, is the Principal Investigator overseeing the CART-WHEEL study.



Assoc Prof Clare Scott
CART-WHEEL Principal Investigator

OVAR 2.21 Chemotherapy trial for recurrent cancers

OVAR 2.21 will evaluate whether the addition of bevacizumab to (PLD)/carboplatin is superior to bevacizumab combined with gemcitabine/carboplatin in patients with recurrent ovarian, fallopian tube or peritoneal cancer sensitive to platinum-based treatment.

The trial, which is led out of Germany by the ENGOT/GCIC, has been open to recruitment in Australia since mid-2014 with 19 sites open. It currently has 592 (54 in Aus) patients participating in the trial.

Australia's Principal Investigator and ANZGOG Member, Dr Catherine Shannon, is pleased with the recruitment numbers so far. "Australia is off to an impressive start with respect to our participation in OVAR 2.21. Internationally, 592 patients have been randomised and recruitment is tracking ahead of targeted projections."

The trial is currently being conducted in sites in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.

To be eligible for the trial, participants must be 18 years or over, with a histologically confirmed diagnosis of recurrent ovarian, fallopian tube or peritoneal cancer with first platinum sensitive occurrence.

For full details about the trial, eligibility and participating sites go to the clinical trials section at www.anzgow.org.au.



Dr Catherine Shannon
OVAR 2.21 Principal Investigator

MEMBER PROFILE

Dr Vivek Arora, Gynaecological Oncologist, Melbourne



What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about excellence in patient care and excellence in medical training. All through my training I have worked with people who have dedicated their careers to research in the field of gynaecological cancer and have made a significant contribution to improving our approach to management of gynaecological cancer.

Research is the only way to question the wisdom of established practice and ensure the provision of the best possible health care for women.

What trials have you been working on?

I have been involved with the Cervical Cancer Tumour Type Working Group, an initiative of ANZGOG. We have been working on the concept of neo-adjuvant chemotherapy followed by surgery for cervical cancer diagnosed in young women. The aim of the study is to investigate treatment options that may allow fertility preservation in a subset of patients who previously required treatments resulting in loss of fertility. There has been considerable interest in the study both from Australia and overseas.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I would like to see the new gynaecologic oncology service that I am setting up in the western suburbs of Melbourne

take on a major role in providing care to the women from that region. I'd like to think that the exciting research projects mentioned above would be well underway or better still we would have seen the results for some of them.

Anything else you would like to add?

Having trained and worked four different countries across three different continents, I can safely say that Australia has one of the best training programs in the world in gynaecological oncology. This, coupled with a philosophy of patient focused medical care and ongoing research, provides a world-class patient care.

We are lucky to have a collaborative group like ANZGOG which is so proactive in maintaining high standards of research in the field of gynaecological oncology and in providing opportunities to younger professionals in the field.

Inaugural Ambassador Induction Day



ANZGOG Ambassadors coming together in February

Nine inspiring gynaecological cancer survivors and carers from around Australia came together to share their stories and discuss the importance of research at ANZGOG's inaugural Ambassador Induction Day in February.

The Ambassadors all had very different cancer journeys – from gynae cancer type to diagnosis, treatment and survivorship – however there was a strong feeling of empathy and commonality amongst the group. The discussion validated just how unique the gynae cancer experience is.

ANZGOG Ambassadors help us extend our reach within the community, building awareness of gynaecological cancers and clinical trials research by speaking to groups in their local area. They also help to raise funds to further ANZGOG's important research.

If you are interested in becoming an ANZGOG Ambassador, or would like one of our Ambassadors to speak to a group or at an event, contact Sarah on 02 8071 4885 or development@anzgog.org.au.

GROW raises the bar to fund new research



Taking it back to the 80s at the GROW trivia night

Brown-Forman's GROW group (Growing Remarkable and Outstanding Women) recently held a GROW Trivia Night - a celebration of all things 70's through to the 00's. The event raised an outstanding \$3,615 via raffle tickets, the trivia, cocktail sales and a silent auction.

This is yet another magnificent contribution that GROW has made to ANZGOG's New Research Fund. Over the years GROW has held an array of fundraisers - from gold coin collections to cocktail events - raising over \$24,000 to fund new and exciting research.

Our warmest thanks to Shelly Silberman, Sarah Nichols and the GROW group for their ongoing support.

Make a donation to ANZGOG's research

Click here or go to www.goforgynae.org.au to access our secure online donation form.



Raising funds to improve life for women through research

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