

I am delighted to introduce the **researchER** bi-annual Newsletter. This is just another step in our strategy to keep our supporters informed and up to date on ANZGOG and its work.

Inside is a snapshot on the support we have from our community ambassadors and fundraisers. We have also included a summary of our 2013-2018 Strategy Objectives developed by the Board, members and other stakeholders.

ANZGOG's strength comes from its supporters, its passionate and focused investigators, and dedicated research staff. This year, we successfully secured grant funding for the OUTBACK trial, ICON 8 and REZOLVE. Our congratulations to the REZOLVE Trial research team which received funding for its pilot study late in the grant round. A summary of current ANZGOG trials and hospital sites is included.

Public donations are becoming more crucial in the current competitive funding climate. I would like to congratulate our NSW City2Surf Team ANZGOG for tackling 'Heartbreak Hill' on route to Bondi Beach. ANZGOG Members Martin Stockler, Anne Long and Dirkje Sommeijer ran like champions on 11 August to raise funds for gynaecological cancer research – thank you. It's still not too late to show your support by making a donation via Everyday Hero - just type Team ANZGOG in your web browser.

I hope you enjoy reading this first issue of **researchER**. Please let us know what you would like to see in upcoming editions, email researcher@anzgog.org.au.

As always, thank you for your continued support.



Dr Alison Brand | ANZGOG Chair



New Research Fund on Target

Established to provide much needed funds for trials in development, our goal is to raise \$500,000 for the New Research Fund, to help get new clinical trials started. It can take two years to develop new concepts to fully fledged trials when active recruitment can start.

Each year the ANZGOG Directors assess which new research could most benefit from start-up funding, that does not come from government or corporate grants, to progress the work. For example in 2013, the Symptom Benefit trial was solely funded by public donations.

The New Research Fund has grown this year from the initial \$15,000 donated by the Brown Forman's GROW group. Two bequests have been added - the \$174,000 Ann Moran Bequest and the \$50,000 Fotene Cossenias bequest. Our heartfelt thanks to all our donors.

We are now almost 50% of the way to our initial goal of \$500,000. Regular reports on the fund and its use is distributed annually. Help develop new research for women with gynaecological cancer - use the donor information form overleaf or donate online at www.anzgog.org.au.



Looking to 2018

ANZGOG Strategic Plan & Action

Chair, Alison Brand and ANZGOG Directors met with a representative group of members in May 2013 to develop a strategic plan which looks forward five years to 2018. This plan has now been confirmed and is being communicated to members and ANZGOG supporters.

We will be reporting regularly on our steps towards achieving our goals – through newsletters, on our website and at meetings and events.

ANZGOG Five Year Strategic Goals

1. Undertake a diverse portfolio of clinically important research in gynaecological cancer that has the greatest potential to improve patient outcomes including:
 - Pilot, early Phase and large Phase III clinical trials of interventions, including surgical, medical and radiation oncology
 - Translational research
 - Quality of life and symptom benefit studies
 - Rare tumours research
2. Build capacity for translational research in gynaecological cancer through the development of a national gynaecological cancer biobank.
3. Build capacity for gynaecological cancer research in Australia through collaboration with relevant national and international groups with a focus on Asia.
4. Recognised as the leader in gynaecological cancer research in Australia and New Zealand by clinicians, consumers and cancer organisations.
5. Become a financially sustainable organisation, not reliant on grant funding for core business by 2018.



Michael Quinn, Danny Richin, Michael Friedlander and Linda Mileschkin at the 2013 Strategy Day

If you would like to know more about the ANZGOG strategic goals and how you can participate, please call Alison Evans on 0400 333 118 or email alison.evans@anzgog.org.au.

ANZGOG Trials

and participating centres

NSW NCCI - Port Macquarie, Royal Hospital for Women, NCCI Coffs Harbour, Wollongong, Newcastle Private Hospital, Lismore Base Hospital, Tamworth Base Hospital, Armidale Base Hospital, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Calvary Mater Newcastle, The Tweed Hospital.
VIC Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Ballarat Oncology & Haematology, Bendigo Base Hospital, Border Medical Oncology, The Royal Women's Hospital.
TAS Launceston General Hospital, Royal Hobart Hospital.
ACT The Canberra Hospital.
QLD Greenslopes Private Hospital, Cairns Base Hospital, Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital.
NZ Christchurch Hospital, Waikato Hospital.

Symptom Benefit

Initiated in Australia | Recruiting
 A prospective observational cohort study in women with platinum resistant / refractory ovarian cancer who are about to commence chemotherapy. The study is being conducted in 2 stages. Stage 2 of the study is now open to recruitment in sites in Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. This is a large international study that will recruit 800 patients from around the world and is being carried out by many of the GCIG trials groups.

ICON 8

Initiated Internationally | In start-up
 An international Phase III randomised Intergroup trial led by the MRC (UK) of dose-fractionated chemotherapy compared to standard 3 weekly chemotherapy, following immediate primary surgery or as part of delayed primary surgery, for women with newly diagnosed epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer.

Sites open to recruitment shortly.
 See www.anzgov.org.au for latest details.

NSW Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Royal North Shore Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital/Royal Hospital for Women, Liverpool Hospital, Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, Coffs Harbour Health Campus, Lismore Base Hospital, Calvary Mater Hospital, Port Macquarie Hospital, Riverina Cancer Centre, Newcastle Private Hospital.
VIC Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Frankston Hospital, Monash Medical Centre, Border Medical Oncology, Royal Women's Hospital, Mercy Hospital for Women.
QLD Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.
TAS Royal Hobart Hospital.
NZ Christchurch Hospital.

PARAGON

Initiated in Australia | Recruiting
 A Phase II study of anastrozole in women with potentially hormone sensitive recurrent gynaecological cancers. This study is being led by ANZGOG but also being carried in the United Kingdom and other groups have also expressed interest in joining.

Portec-3

Initiated Internationally | Recruiting
 A prospective, multicenter, randomized Phase III Intergroup trial led by the Dutch Cooperative Gynecologic Oncology Group. The trial aims to determine overall survival and failure-free survival of patients with high-risk and advanced stage endometrial carcinoma, treated after surgery with concurrent radiotherapy and chemotherapy, followed by adjuvant chemotherapy, in comparison with patients treated with pelvic radiation alone.

NSW Royal North Shore Hospital, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Westmead Hospital, Wollongong Hospital.
VIC Monash Medical Centre, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.
QLD Mater Adult Hospital, Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital.
NZ Wellington Hospital, Auckland City Hospital, Christchurch Hospital, Palmerston North, Waikato.

Sites open to recruitment shortly.
 See www.anzgov.org.au for latest details.

REZOLVE

Initiated in Australia | In start-up
 A Phase II study to evaluate the safety and potential palliative benefit of intraperitoneal bevacizumab in patients with symptomatic ascites due to advanced chemotherapy resistant ovarian cancer.

OUTBACK

Initiated in Australia | Recruiting
 A prospective, multicenter, randomized Phase III Intergroup trial led by ANZGOG. The trial aims to establish overall survival and failure-free survival of patients with high-risk and advanced stage cervical carcinoma, treated after surgery with concurrent radiotherapy and chemotherapy, followed by adjuvant chemotherapy, in comparison with patients treated with pelvic radiation alone.

NSW Liverpool Hospital, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Royal Hospital for Women/Prince of Wales, Calvary Mater Newcastle.
VIC Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Monash Medical Centre.
QLD Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, Townsville Hospital, Mater Adult Hospital.
SA Flinders Medical Centre.
NZ Wellington Hospital, Auckland City Hospital, Christchurch Hospital.

NSW Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.
VIC Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.
QLD Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital.
NZ Christchurch Hospital.

ANZGOG-1103

Initiated in Australia | Recruiting
 Phase I BNC105P combination study in partially platinum sensitive ovarian cancer patients in first or second relapse (ANZGOG-1103) which was open in Australia, New Zealand and the US.

Brown-Forman GROW hosted a golf day in September 2012 which raised \$15,000. Another GROW fundraiser is planned for October 2013.



Some of our heroes...



Team ANZGOG at the 2013 City2Surf


communitycrew@albury

communitycrew@albury
 made a generous
 \$5,000 donation in 2013



Penny Kemp from PK&BEAN
 Movie night in September 2013



Ange & Rob Delauney in the 2013
 Blackmores Half Marathon



Deann Gilliver's High Tea Fundraiser October 2013

For more information about our trials type 'ANZGOG clinical trials' in your web browser or email Sarah at development@anzgov.org.au

PeNTAGOn trial in focus

The PeNTAGOn trial aims to improve psychosocial outcomes for women receiving radiotherapy for gynaecological cancer.

Background

PeNTAGOn (Peer and nurse support trial to assist women in gynaecological oncology) is a national, multi-centre study supported by ANZGOG and PoCoG (Psycho-oncology Co-operative Group). Funding for the study is from National Health & Medical Research grant and Cancer Australia/ Beyond Blue Project Grant. The study protocol is for a randomised controlled trial.

The results of this research will help us better understand the challenges facing women receiving radiotherapy, and ways to assist them.

Peer and Nurse Support

The intervention is a support program that includes four consultations with a specially trained nurse before treatment, in the middle of treatment, at the end and 2-weeks post radiotherapy. This is combined with four telephone calls from a trained peer volunteer (a woman who herself has experienced radiotherapy for gynaecological cancer).

All participants complete sets of questionnaires measuring psychosocial needs, quality of life and physical and psychological well-being.

PeNTAGOn is currently being run at sites in **New South Wales**: Royal

Prince Alfred, Camperdown; Prince of Wales/Royal Women's Hospital, Randwick; Westmead. **Queensland**: Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Princess Alexandra, Mater. **Victoria**: Peter MacCallum, East Melbourne, and Peter MacCallum, Moorabbin.

Associate Professor Penny Schofield, PhD

Principal Investigator for the PeNTAGOn Trial is Associate Professor Penny Schofield, PhD, Scientific Director and NHMRC Fellow, Department of Cancer Experiences Research, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia. Penny is a behavioural scientist, supported by a National Health and Medical Research Council Career Development Research Fellowship.



Associate Professor Penny Schofield
PeNTAGOn Principal Investigator

Eligible patients will have a diagnosed gynaecological cancer, be scheduled to receive curative pelvic radiotherapy, are over 18yrs old and can speak and read English. Women who are receiving brachytherapy only are now eligible. If you are interested in participating in this the study, please request further information from:

Zahava Wolfowicz | Research Assistant
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
T | +61 3 9656 5836 E | zahava.wolfowicz@petermac.org



Engaging the community

We videotaped our latest consumer engagement session, 'Living with Gynaecological Cancer' and will have extended its reach from the guests at the Park Royal in Parramatta to remote and regional areas and cities across Australia. You can now login to view.

Professor Michael Friedlander, ANZGOG Director of Research, gave insight into ANZGOG's clinical trials, the different trial phases and how to participate. Dr Alison Brand, ANZGOG Chair opened the event with an overview of ANZGOG. Alison and Michael joined Dr Fiona Naumann

(Exercise Physiologist, UNSW Cancer Survivors Centre), Kim Hobbs (Specialist Clinical Social Worker, Westmead Hospital) and Dr Robyn Cheuk (Radiation Oncologist, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital) for a panel discussion on 'Living with Gynaecological Cancer'. Our Consumer and Community Committee's Vice-Chair, Helene O'Neill was an outstanding MC as always.

To view the session online go to www.anzgowg.org.au and click on the 'WEBCAST Living with Gynaecological cancer' button on the homepage.

ANZGOG's Consumer & Community Committee - carers and survivors of gynaecological cancer - developed this event to provide the latest information on gynaecological cancer research and open up the dialogue about this prevalent, yet rarely discussed disease. For more information about the Consumer & Community Committee contact Sarah Hope on +61 2 8071 4885.

GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER FACTS

In 2012 Cancer Australia published its first national report focusing on gynaecological cancers in Australia. It is a comprehensive summary and the statistics refer to 2010 or earlier as data takes some time to be processed fully and released.

On average, 12 women are diagnosed with gynaecological cancer every day

In 2008, a total of 4,534 new gynaecological cancers were diagnosed in Australia; this equates to an average of 12 females being diagnosed with this disease every day. Overall, gynaecological cancers accounted for 9% of all reported cancers in females,

with the majority of cases diagnosed in women aged 60 and over.

The most commonly diagnosed was uterine cancer with 2,016 cases in 2008, followed by ovarian cancer (1,272), cervical cancer (778), vulval cancer (282), cancers of other female organ and placenta (116) and vaginal cancer (70).

On average, 4 women died from a gynaecological cancer every day

A total of 1,502 women died from gynaecological cancer in 2007. This means that on average, four women died from this disease every day.

Gynaecological cancers accounted for 9% of all cancer deaths in women and 2% of all deaths in women in 2007.

Ovarian cancer was the most common cause of gynaecological cancer deaths in 2007 (848), followed by uterine (338) and cervical cancer (208).

Survival from ovarian, uterine and cervical cancer has improved

In the period 2006-2010, the 5-year relative survival was 82% for uterine cancer, 72% for cervical cancer and 43% for ovarian cancer.

The reasons for the lower survival outcomes for ovarian cancer include the relatively high proportion of diagnoses at an advanced stage, attributable to the non-specific nature of the symptoms of this cancer and the lack of effective tests available for population-based screening.

Cheryl's Journey

After invasive surgery and 8 cycles of chemotherapy, Cheryl Waller has been in remission from ovarian cancer for more than ten years. A woman with many interests – she's been with the Girl Guides for 40 years and loves travelling around Australia in her Winnebago with long-time partner Rhonda and their three dogs – Cheryl is also an active member of ANZGOG's Consumer & Community Committee. Cheryl shares her cancer journey...

"I was diagnosed with Stage III Ovarian Cancer on 26th June 2003 and was rushed into surgery at Westmead Hospital the next day. The surgery involved a radical hysterectomy and removal of a secondary cancer from around my stomach lining. Chemotherapy started twelve days later – a treatment that took up to 8 hours a session – and was followed by 7 more cycles. I had problems with my blood count so the entire chemo treatment took 6 months to complete.

The treatment made me weak and I experienced painful nerve damage in my feet. This, coupled with nausea and vomiting, made the chemo experience overwhelming. I found that acceptance and taking each day, one day at a time, was the best way to deal with what was happening to me mentally and physically.

One of the nurses at Westmead approached me prior to leaving hospital about joining one of ANZGOG's trials. She explained the process thoroughly and left me material to read and her number just in case I had any questions.

I was offered random selection on GOG182 - a trial which compared the efficacy of four experimental chemotherapy regimes individually against a control arm - and was thrilled to have the opportunity to participate. Cancer is rife in my family so anything I could do to assist future generations and other families was a no brainer.

My trial experience was a truly positive one, and I thoroughly recommend it to anyone who is eligible to participate.

Since being given the all-clear I have been actively involved in helping and supporting cancer sufferers when and how I can. Last year I joined ANZGOG's Consumer & Community Committee (CCC) and have spoken at ANZGOG events, as a consumer (a cancer survivor), and found the experience very uplifting. I also represent the CCC on the Cancer Trials Consumer Network, a group of consumers representing a range of cancer clinical trials groups who focus on educating consumers about the benefits of participating in clinical trials."



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I do not wish to be contacted regarding ANZGOG activities.

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ANZGOG
REPLY PAID 86707
CAMPERDOWN NSW 1450

T | +61 2 8071 4880 F | +61 2 8071 4888 E | enquiries@anzgog.org.au

ABN: 69 138 649 028 ACN: 138 649 028



Improving life for women through research

Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group
92-94 Parramatta Road CAMPERDOWN NSW 2050 T | +61 2 8071 4880 F | +61 2 8071 4888 www.anzgog.org.au