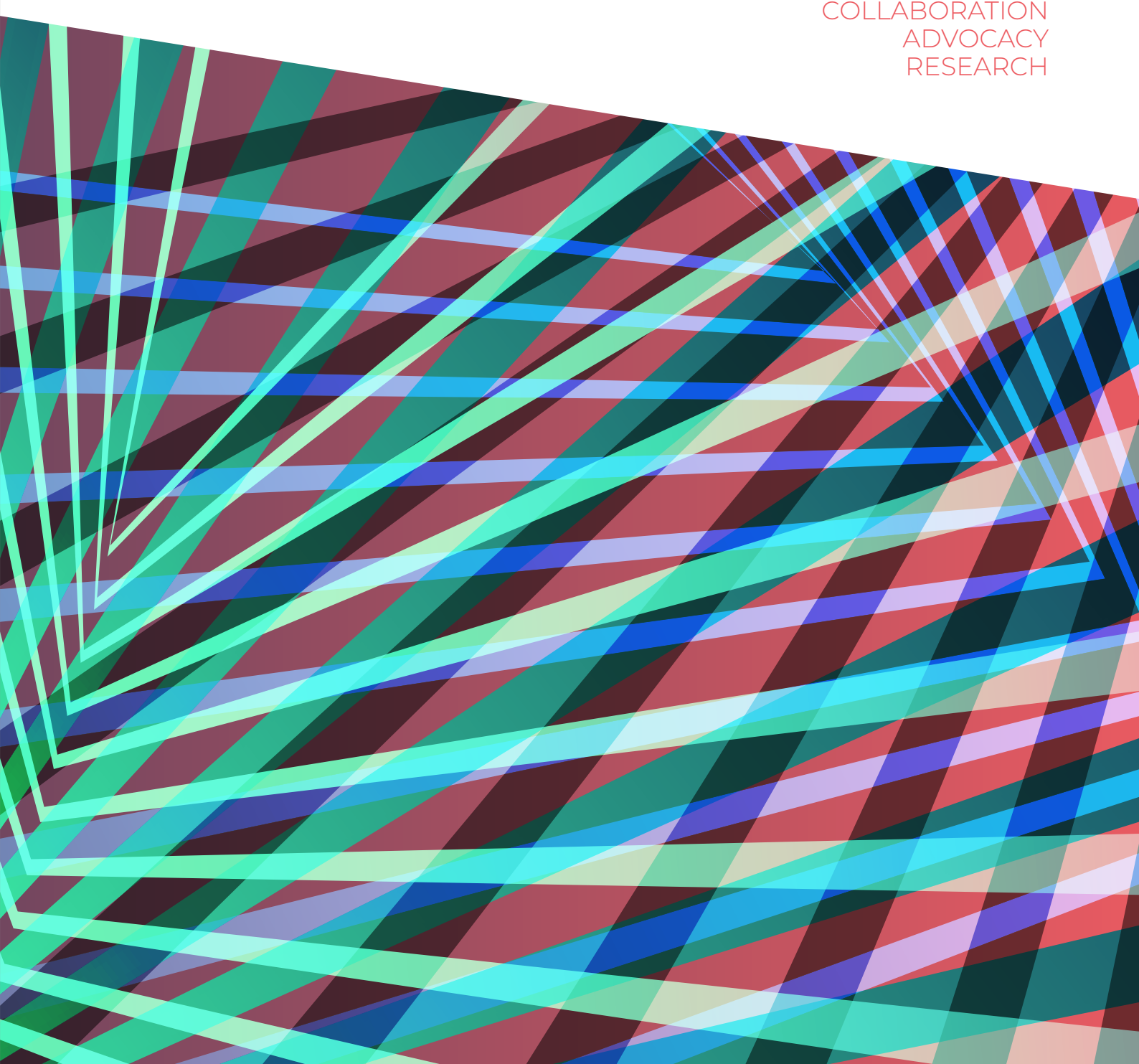




Clinical  
Oncology  
Society of  
Australia

# COSA ANNUAL REPORT 2023

EDUCATION  
COLLABORATION  
ADVOCACY  
RESEARCH





# PRESIDENTS OF COSA

1973–1976	<b>Mr WB Fleming AM</b>	MBBS FRACS FRCS(Eng) FACS	(Deceased)
1976–1979	<b>Professor L Atkinson</b>	FRCS FRACS FACR	(Deceased)
1979–1981	<b>Dr RP Melville</b>	MBBS FRCS FRACS FACS	(Deceased)
1981–1983	<b>Professor MHN Tattersall AO</b>	MA MD MSc FRCP FRACP	(Deceased)
1983–1985	<b>Professor GJ Clunie</b>	CHM(Ed) FRCS(Ed) FRCS FRACS	(Deceased)
1985–1987	<b>Dr JVM Coppleson AO</b>	MBBS(Hons) MD FRCOG FRACOG	(Deceased)
1988–1989	<b>Dr JA Levi</b>	MBBS FRACP	
1990–1991	<b>Professor RM Fox AM</b>	BSc(Med) PhD MBBS FRACP	
1992–1993	<b>Professor WH McCarthy AM</b>	MEd FRACS	
1994–1995	<b>Professor AS Coates AM</b>	MD FRACP	
1996–1997	<b>Professor RJS Thomas OAM</b>	MBBS MS FRACS FRCS	
1998–1999	<b>Professor H Ekert AM</b>	MBBS MD FRACP FRCPA	
2000–2001	<b>Professor J Zalcborg OAM</b>	MBBS PhD FRACP GAICD MRACMA	
2002–2003	<b>Professor L Kenny AO</b>	MBBS FRANZCR	
2004–2005	<b>Professor S Ackland</b>	MBBS FRACP	
Jan 2006–Jul 2006	<b>Professor D Currow</b>	BMed FRACP MPH	
Jul 2006–2008	<b>Professor D Goldstein</b>	MBBS FRACP FRCP	
2009–2010	<b>Professor B Mann</b>	MBBS PhD FRACS	
2011–2012	<b>Professor B Koczwara AM</b>	BM BS FRACP MBioethics FAICD	
2013–2014	<b>Professor SV Porceddu</b>	BSc MBBS (Hons) MD FRANZCR	
2015–2016	<b>Professor M Krishnasamy</b>	BA RGN DipN MSc PhD	
2017–2018	<b>Professor P Butow AM</b>	BA(Hons) Dip Ed MCLinPsych MPH PhD	
2019–2020	<b>Professor N Pavlakis</b>	BSc MBBS MMed (ClinEpi) PhD FRACP	
2021–2022	<b>Professor F Boyle AM</b>	MBBS FRACP PhD	
2023–2024	<b>A/Professor Dion Forstner</b>	MBBS (Hons) FRANZCR	

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# COSA VISION AND MISSION

## QUALITY MULTIDISCIPLINARY CANCER CARE FOR ALL

The overarching mission of COSA is to improve cancer care and control through collaboration.

### COSA achieves this by:

- supporting the professional and educational needs of cancer health professionals
- enhancing cancer care and control through network development
- advocating for improvements in cancer care and control
- facilitating research across the spectrum of cancer



**COSA is the national oncology community bringing together multidisciplinary health professionals across all cancers to advance care and improve outcomes.**

As a COSA member, you will have opportunities to connect with oncology leaders, build networks and collaborations, access professional development and education, drive advocacy, and facilitate research.

# COSA MEMBERSHIP

### Member types:

Advanced Trainee Member	45
Allied Health Member	532
Honorary Member	22
Medical Member	228
Nursing Member	117
Retiree Member	2
Student Member	66
Co-opted Directors & Council Representatives	5

As at 31 December 2023 there were 1017 registered members of COSA. Members are from many disciplines in healthcare that are engaged in cancer treatment and from associated research, patient care and support areas. They are from universities, private practice, government and private laboratories, and other health services.

### There are two types of COSA membership:

#### Individual membership

– COSA members

#### Organisational membership

– Affiliated and Associated Organisations

### The categories of COSA membership are:

#### Individual Members

A person with a specific interest in oncology and professional qualifications relating to the vision and mission of COSA is eligible for admission as an individual member. Only COSA Individual Members residing in Australia are eligible to vote at Annual General Meetings.

#### Medical members

Qualified clinical practitioners or scientists who hold a postgraduate degree or fellowship from a recognised College or Society.

#### Allied Health members

Health professionals or non-medical professionals, for example exercise physiologists and physiotherapists, pharmacists, etc.

#### Advanced Trainee members

Advanced trainees are eligible for this member type for the duration of their traineeship in medical, radiation and surgical oncology.

#### Nursing members

Registered nurses such as breast care nurses, clinical nurse consultants, nurse practitioners, etc.

#### Student members

Students undertaking full time undergraduate or postgraduate studies with a stream of cancer care in an Australian Institution are eligible for student membership. Documented evidence is required on application annually and membership is subject to Board approval. Student members are not entitled to vote at Annual General Meetings.

#### Retiree members

A person who has retired from professional employment, who has held COSA membership for 10 years prior to retirement, and who has continued personal interest in oncology, is eligible as a retiree member, subject to Board approval.

#### Honorary members

A person who has made significant and sustained contributions to COSA or to cancer care in general is eligible for admission as an honorary member. This membership category is offered to past Presidents of COSA and nominees and must be approved by the COSA Board.

#### Organisational members – Affiliated and Associated Organisations

Not-for-profit companies, institutions or organisations that have a similar vision to COSA are eligible to be admitted as an Affiliated or Associated organisation.



# COSA BOARD



**A/Professor  
Dion Forstner**  
President



**Professor Sabe  
Sabesan**  
President-Elect



**Mr Peter Hooker**  
Co-opted Director



**Dr Malinda Itchins**  
COSA Council  
Elected Director



**Ms Sandie Angus**  
Co-opted  
Director



**Professor  
Judy Bauer**  
COSA Council  
Elected Director



**Professor  
Michael Jefford**  
COSA Council  
Elected Director



**Professor  
Timothy Price**  
COSA Council  
Elected Director



**Professor  
Tanya Buchanan**  
Cancer Council  
Australia Nominated  
Director



**Clinical A/Professor  
Merran Findlay**  
COSA Council  
Elected Director  
(Appointed March  
2023)



**A/Professor  
Christopher Steer**  
COSA Council  
Elected Director



**Ms Marie Malica**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
ex-officio

Council comprises the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Chair of each COSA Group, the nominee of each Affiliated Organisation, and other appointed positions.

## PRESIDENT

A/Professor D Forstner  
MBBS (Hons) FRANZCR

## PRESIDENT-ELECT

Professor S Sabesan  
BMBS PhD FRACP

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Professor F Boyle AM  
MBBS FRACP PhD

## COSA GROUP AND APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES

### ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Chair: Dr W Nicholls  
MBChB FRACP

### BREAST CANCER GROUP

Chair: Dr S Fraser  
MBBS FASBP

### CANCER BIOLOGY GROUP

Chair: Professor N Zeps  
BSc(Hons) PhD

### CANCER CARE COORDINATION GROUP

Chair: Distinguished Professor P Yates AM  
BA MSocSci PhD RN FAAN FACN FAAHMS

### CANCER GENETICS GROUP

Chair: Mr S Troth  
BSc Grad Dip Genetic Counselling FHGSA

### CANCER PHARMACISTS GROUP

Co-Chairs:  
Mrs M Ryan  
BPharm MHLthMgt GradDipClinPharm PhD  
candidate  
Dr G Sandhu  
BPharm(Hons) DipClinPharm PhD

### CANCER PREVENTION

Chair: Professor B Stewart AM  
BSc (Hons 1) MSc PhD FRACI DipLaw  
DipLegalPract

### CLINICAL TRIALS RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS GROUP

Chair: Mr A Stoneley  
B.Bus HIM

### EPIDEMIOLOGY GROUP

Chair: Dr A Hopkins  
BPharm (Hons) PhD

### EXERCISE AND CANCER GROUP

Chair: Dr D Mizrahi  
PhD MSc BExPhys

### GASTROINTESTINAL ONCOLOGY GROUP

Chair: Dr C Diakos  
BSc(Hons) PhD MBBS FRACP

### GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY GROUP

Chair: Professor M Agar  
MBBS FACHPM FRACP MPC PhD

### GLOBAL ONCOLOGY GROUP

Chair: Professor D Yip  
MBBS FRACP

### GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY GROUP

Chair: Professor L Mileshkin  
MBBS FRACP MD Mbioeth(Mon)

### INTEGRATIVE ONCOLOGY GROUP

Chair: A/Professor J Lacey  
MBBS FRACGP FACHPM (FRACP)

### LUNG CANCER GROUP

Chair: Dr M Itchins  
BMedSci MBBS (Hons1) FRACP PhD

### MELANOMA AND SKIN GROUP

Chair: (Jan-Mar) A/Professor A Menzies  
BSc(Med) MBBS(Hons) FRACP PhD  
(Dec): Dr D Kee  
MBBS DMedSc FRACP

### NEUROENDOCRINE TUMOURS GROUP

Chair: Dr D Chan  
BSc(Med) MBBS ClinDipPallMed FRACP PhD

### NEURO-ONCOLOGY GROUP

Chair: A/Professor ES Koh  
MBBS FRANZCR

### NUTRITION GROUP

Chair: (Jan-Apr) Clinical A/Professor M Findlay  
PhD AdvAPD  
(Apr-Dec) Ms J Loeliger  
AdvAPD PhD candidate

### PALLIATIVE CARE GROUP

Chair: Professor J Phillips  
BSc PGDip PhD RN FACN FPCNA

### PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY GROUP

Chair: Dr L Kirsten  
BSc(Psych) MappSc(Beh Hlth Sc)  
DPsych(Clinical) PhD

### RARE CANCERS GROUP

Chair: Professor C Scott AM  
MBBS PhD FRACP FAHMS

### REGIONAL AND RURAL ONCOLOGY GROUP

Chair: Dr WS Lam  
MBBS FRACP MHA

### SURGICAL ONCOLOGY GROUP

Chair: Dr S Nightingale  
MBChB MS FRACS

### SURVIVORSHIP GROUP

Chair: (Jan-Nov) Professor R Chan  
RN PhD GAICD FACN NHMRC  
Investigator Fellow  
(Nov-Dec) A/Professor N Hart  
PhD AES CSCS ESSAF NHMRC  
Investigator Fellow

### UROLOGIC ONCOLOGY GROUP

Chair: A/Professor A Azad  
MBBS PhD FRACP

### FIRST NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE

Professor G Garvey AM  
BEd MEd PhD

### ADVANCED TRAINEE REPRESENTATIVE

(Jan-Mar) Dr A Knox  
BSc MBBS  
(Apr-Dec) Dr P Viray  
MBBS

### CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES

Ms K Bell  
BA(Hons) GradCertHealthEcons MPH GAICD

Ms L Young  
Duniv



# COSA COUNCIL CONT.

## AFFILIATED ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES

### AUSTRALASIAN GASTRO-INTESTINAL TRIALS GROUP

Professor T Price  
MBBS DHlthSc (Medicine) FRACP

### AUSTRALASIAN LEUKAEMIA & LYMPHOMA GROUP

Professor J Trotman  
BHB MBChB FRACP FRCPA PostGrad Cert Clin  
Res (Oncology)

### AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND SARCOMA ASSOCIATION

Professor A Hong  
MBBS MMed PhD FRANZCR

### AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY GROUP

Professor C Scott AM  
MBBS PhD FRACP FAHMS

### AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND CHILDRENS HAEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY GROUP

Professor N Gottardo  
MBChB FRACP MPH

### AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND HEAD & NECK CANCER SOCIETY

Dr T Fua  
MBBS FRANZCR

### AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND UROGENITAL & PROSTATE CANCER TRIALS GROUP

Professor I Davis  
MBBS (Hons) PhD FRACP FACHPM FAHMS  
GAICD

### AUSTRALIAN PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

Ms G Tan  
BPhysio

### BREAST CANCER TRIALS

Professor S Lakhani  
BSc MBBS MD FRCPATH FRCPA

### CANCER NURSES SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

(Jan-Mar) Ms G Vigar  
BN PG Dip Onc Nurs MNsc (Onc Nurs) RN  
CHIA

(Apr-Dec) Professor D Kirk  
DNP FNP-BC NP-C AOCN FAANP

### CANCER SYMPTOM TRIALS

Dr RS Moussa  
BMsci(Honl) PhD

### COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

A/Professor ES Koh  
MBBS FRANZCR

### FACULTY OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Dr G Adams  
BSc (Hons) MBChB FRCR FRANZCR

### HUMAN GENETICS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Mr S Troth  
BSc Grad Dip Genetic Counselling FHGSA

### MEDICAL ONCOLOGY GROUP OF AUSTRALIA

(Jan-Aug) Dr D Karikios  
BSc MBBS FRACP PhD  
(Aug-Dec) A/Professor M Eastgate  
MBBS FRACP

### MELANOMA AND SKIN CANCER TRIALS LIMITED

Professor M Shackleton  
MBBS PhD FRACP

### ONCOLOGY SOCIAL WORK AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Ms K Hobbs  
MSW MAASW

### PRIMARY CARE COLLABORATIVE CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS GROUP

(Jan-Jul) Dr C Ee  
MBBS FRACGP BAppSci (Chinese Medicine)  
Grad Cert Med Acup MMed PhD

### PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH GROUP

A/Professor J Shaw  
BAppl Sc BPsych(Hons) PhD

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS OF AUSTRALASIA

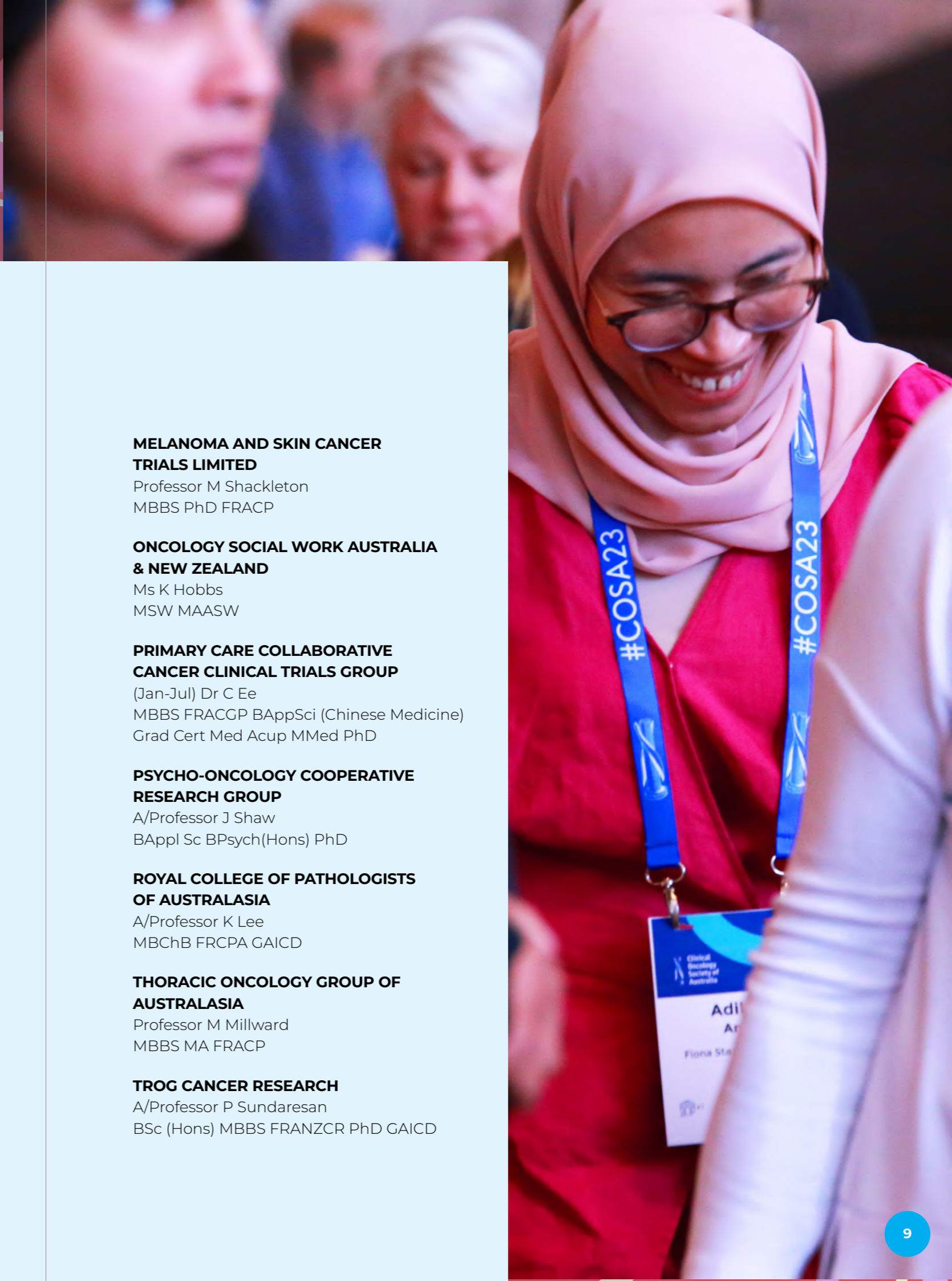
A/Professor K Lee  
MBChB FRCPA GAICD

### THORACIC ONCOLOGY GROUP OF AUSTRALASIA

Professor M Millward  
MBBS MA FRACP

### TROG CANCER RESEARCH

A/Professor P Sundaresan  
BSc (Hons) MBBS FRANZCR PhD GAICD





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It seems strange that this is my first contribution to the COSA Annual Report as COSA President. As many would know I stepped in for outgoing President Professor Fran Boyle at the end of 2022 when she had to undergo emergency back surgery. So it feels like I've been in the role for a while now, and I'm shocked that my term will end after the 2024 ASM.

Speaking of the COSA ASM, I was so impressed by the attendance and engagement at the 2023 COSA ASM in Melbourne. We had record attendance for a stand-alone event, and remarkable support not just from our members but also from our trade partners. Our 2023 convenor Belinda Yeo and the Program Committee did a stellar job in delivering an excellent program that really helped us celebrate COSA's 50th anniversary ASM.

## Achievements in 2023

Some of our notable achievements throughout 2023 include:

- A very successful ASM (as mentioned above)
- Increase in overall membership
- 2023 financial year resulted in an improvement on the budgeted deficit
- Webinars held in partnership with the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre, Cancer Council and Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
- Nine submissions to government and other inquiries
- Continued advocacy work on e-cigarettes, lung cancer screening, and teletrials
- Financial Toxicity think tank held in May 2023, with the resulting "roadmap" now in development

- Launch of the Neuroendocrine Neoplasms (NENs) guidelines in November 2023 to replace the 2010 Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETs) guidelines

## Governance

COSA's governance matured some years ago with a modern structure that is serving us well. I recognise that key responsibilities of the Board led by the President are to set the strategy, ensuring a strong financial future for the organisation, compliance with COSA's legal obligations and to oversee the secretariat.

We were delighted to appoint A/Professor Merran Findlay to the Board in March 2023. Merran filled the vacancy created when Professor Sabe Sabesan stepped into the President Elect. At that time Merran also stepped down as Chair of the COSA Nutrition Group, with Jenelle Loeliger taking over the reins.

The COSA Board oversees the running of the organisation and is focussed on governance, strategy and finance. The Board held six virtual and one in person meeting in 2023, with the in person meeting being an extraordinary one to discuss strategy and member engagement, retention and attraction.

The Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, a subcommittee of the Board, met five times in 2023.

I extend sincere thanks and appreciation to our co-opted directors, Ms Sandie Angus and Mr Peter Hooker, for their unwavering dedication and valued expertise. With the majority of the COSA directors being health professionals, it is important we have their independent expertise in legal issues, corporate governance and financial management available to us.



A/Professor  
Dion Forstner  
President

COSA Council, our main Clinical and Scientific Advisory Group, consists of the COSA Group Chairs and a representative from each of the Affiliated Organisations. COSA Council provides a body of expertise to respond to national cancer control policy and advocacy issues, and we continue to have excellent engagement and multidisciplinary discussions on diverse cancer care and control matters. Council met twice in 2023, once virtually and once in person on 31 October 2023 prior to the ASM.

## Multidisciplinary membership

A big part of the enjoyment of my clinical work is the provision of care within the multidisciplinary teams I work – predominantly as a head and neck radiation oncologist and as director of a cancer service. COSA is the only professional cancer care organisation that brings so many cancer care providers from such broad areas of practice together. Its vision and mission remain very relevant.

I was really impressed by the quality and quantity of applications in response to our call for expressions of interest for our new Membership Committee. Sadly, we just could not appoint everyone, but we do hope to engage those that were unsuccessful on this occasion in other related activities.

The Membership Committee is representative of COSA's multidisciplinary membership, aiming to identify member needs and opportunities, and recommend development of resources, activities and services to meet these needs, among other responsibilities.

- Committee Chair: Prof Michael Jefford, COSA Director, and Director, Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre

- A/Prof Christine Carrington, Senior Consultant Pharmacist, Princess Alexandra Hospital
- A/Prof Bryan Chan, Senior Medical Oncologist, Sunshine Coast University Hospital
- Ms Cassandra Dickens, Nurse Practitioner, Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service
- Dr Caitlin Fox-Harding, Edith Cowan University
- Dr Christelle Greeff, General Practitioner and Senior Medical Officer, Sunshine Coast HHS
- Mr Peter Hooker, COSA Director, Your Culture Strategy
- Miss Kirsten Oataway, Nurse Unit Manager Radiation Oncology, Austin Health
- Mr Lachlan Roth, Senior Cancer Pharmacist, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Nambour Hospital, Gympie Hospital

## Thank you

In closing I extend my thanks to the COSA Board and Council for their continued guidance and support. Thanks also to the wonderful COSA staff – it is very unusual to have such a dedicated and long-standing team in an organisation like ours – we are lucky to have them! And lastly an enormous thanks to our members and stakeholders, without whom we could not continue to do what we do.

I look forward to seeing you all at the 2024 COSA ASM on the Gold Coast.

**Dion Forstner**  
**COSA President 2023-2024**

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

2023 was an exceptional year for COSA and also for me personally. I was fortunate to take some much overdue leave, and was very confident leaving the organisation in the capable hands of Acting CEO, Fran Doughton and the COSA team. I am indebted to Fran for her continued passion for COSA and her proficiency in leading us through those few months unscathed!

## Cancer Survivorship 2023

In March 2023, ten years after the very first Cancer Survivorship Conference was held in Glenelg, a greatly expanded group met in Adelaide over two jam packed days for the 2023 COSA-Flinders Cancer Survivorship Conference. This conference is now the longest running cancer survivorship conference in the world and was well attended with more than 250 delegates.

Convenor Professor Bogda Koczwara and the Program Committee delivered one of the very few medical conferences where current and former patients help drive the program and make up a substantial portion of the delegates. The theme of solidarity in survivorship was a message that came across in all sessions and presentations, especially evidenced by the consumer experiences at the centre of the program, and driven by their principle of “nothing about us, without us”.

## Advocacy

One of COSA's principal activities is to advocate for improvements in cancer care, and a large part of that is making submissions to help shape government policy. With input from COSA members, we often make submissions in collaboration with Affiliated Organisations and external experts to ensure the highest standards of recommendations. It is a time-

consuming and exacting process, but it is also the most viable way to achieve progress. We are grateful for the leadership of our friends at Cancer Council Australia, particularly Kate Whittaker, who often takes the lead on preparing these. In 2023 we made nine submissions. In response to our joint CCA submission to the Inquiry into equitable access to diagnosis and treatment for individuals with rare and less common cancers, including neuroendocrine cancer, we were pleased to be invited to give evidence at the January 2024 public hearing (we will report on those outcomes in next year's Annual Report).

## What was new in 2023

We welcomed the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) as a new Affiliated Organisational member of COSA in March 2023. We welcomed Germaine Tan – National Chair of the APA Cancer, Palliative Care and Lymphoedema Group – as the APA representative on COSA Council. Germaine has already proven an excellent contributor, and we look forward to building these collaborations to work more with physiotherapists and encourage more to join COSA.

## Membership

In early 2023 we appointed a new Member Engagement Officer, Maryanne Doherty. This new position was approved by the Board dedicated to building more value into COSA membership.

The Board approved 358 new members in the 2022/23 financial year and 227 members did not renew from the 2022 year. Overall membership has seen an 87 per cent retention rate and 33 per cent growth since 2022 with our total membership over 1000 for the first time since 2015. This is a wonderful result, despite only a slight decrease in members not renewing compared to last year, and we continue to encourage members to renew and retain their COSA membership.

There were several new appointments to COSA Council in 2023:

COSA Groups	Outgoing Chair	Incoming Chair
Advanced Trainee representative	Dr Andrea Knox	Dr Paul Viray
Melanoma and Skin Cancer Group	A/Prof Alexander Menzies	Dr Damien Kee
Nutrition Group	A/Prof Merran Findlay	Jenelle Loeliger
Survivorship Group	Prof Michael Jefford	A/Prof Nicolas Hart
Affiliated Organisations	Outgoing Representative	Incoming Representative
Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group (ALLG)	Prof Peter Mollee	Prof Judith Trotman
Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA)	N/A (new member)	Germaine Tan
Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA)	Gabrielle Vigar	Prof Deborah Kirk
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists, Faculty of Radiation Oncology (FRO)	Dr Keen Hun Tai	Dr Gerry Adams
Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA)	Dr Deme Karikios	A/Prof Melissa Eastgate

A new Nursing member category was introduced in March 2023. This has been well taken up by existing members of COSA, attracting new and rejoining members with promotion at the CNSA Congress in June 2023. Despite existing members changing from Allied Health to Nursing members, Allied Health membership did not decline but saw a growth rate of 13 per cent.

In our inaugural membership survey, we found that overwhelmingly 80 per cent of members surveyed heard about COSA from their colleagues. Similarly, 80 per cent indicated they were likely to recommend COSA to a friend or colleague. In order to grow in 2024 and beyond, we encourage members to continue referring COSA to their friends and colleagues so they too can collaborate with COSA's multidisciplinary community and participate in driving advocacy and research in cancer care.

The survey affirmed that members join COSA for opportunities to network, attend educational and professional development opportunities including the ASM, and to receive updates, information, research and resources. Responses indicated that COSA was relevant to their position, that they shared COSA's vision and mission, and that COSA is simply “the organisation” to join. We were pleased to see that 76 per cent of members surveyed said they were satisfied or very satisfied that COSA membership was meeting their needs.

A Membership Committee has been established after a successful call for expressions of interest in November 2023. This new Board subcommittee will commence meeting to support our member engagement strategy in early 2024.

## Thanks and acknowledgements

In closing, I thank the hard working and dedicated COSA team for their continued efforts and commitment to COSA. I have already mentioned the exceptional efforts Fran Doughton and Maryanne Doherty, and this report would not be complete without also acknowledging our Project Management team – Rhonda DeSouza, Hayley Griffin, and Gillian Mackay. Sadly, our Communications Manager, Rosannah Girdlestone is not returning from parental leave in 2024 as she has accepted a new and challenging role which will surely progress her career. Roger Falconer-Flint did a sterling job filling in for Rosannah, but will leave COSA at the end of March 2024, perhaps to actually enjoy an early retirement as he had planned previously.



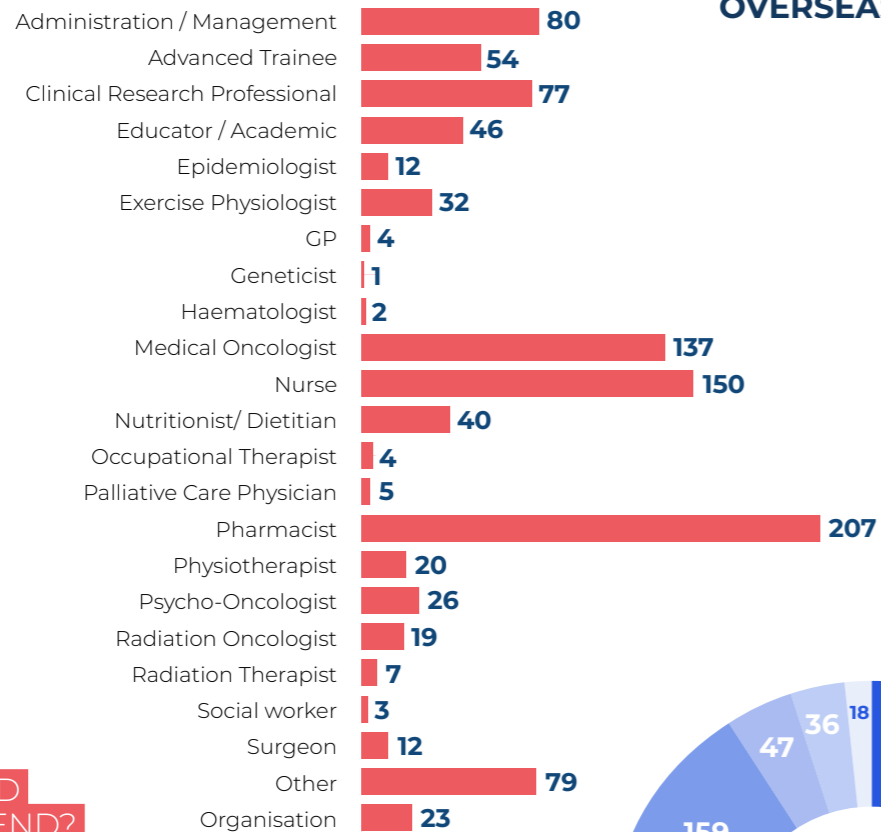
**Marie Malica**  
Chief Executive Officer



# COSA SNAPSHOT

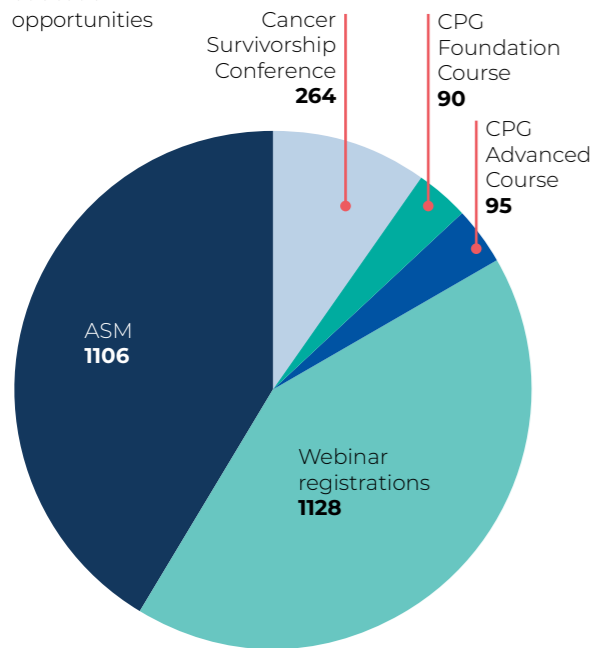


## WHO ARE YOU?



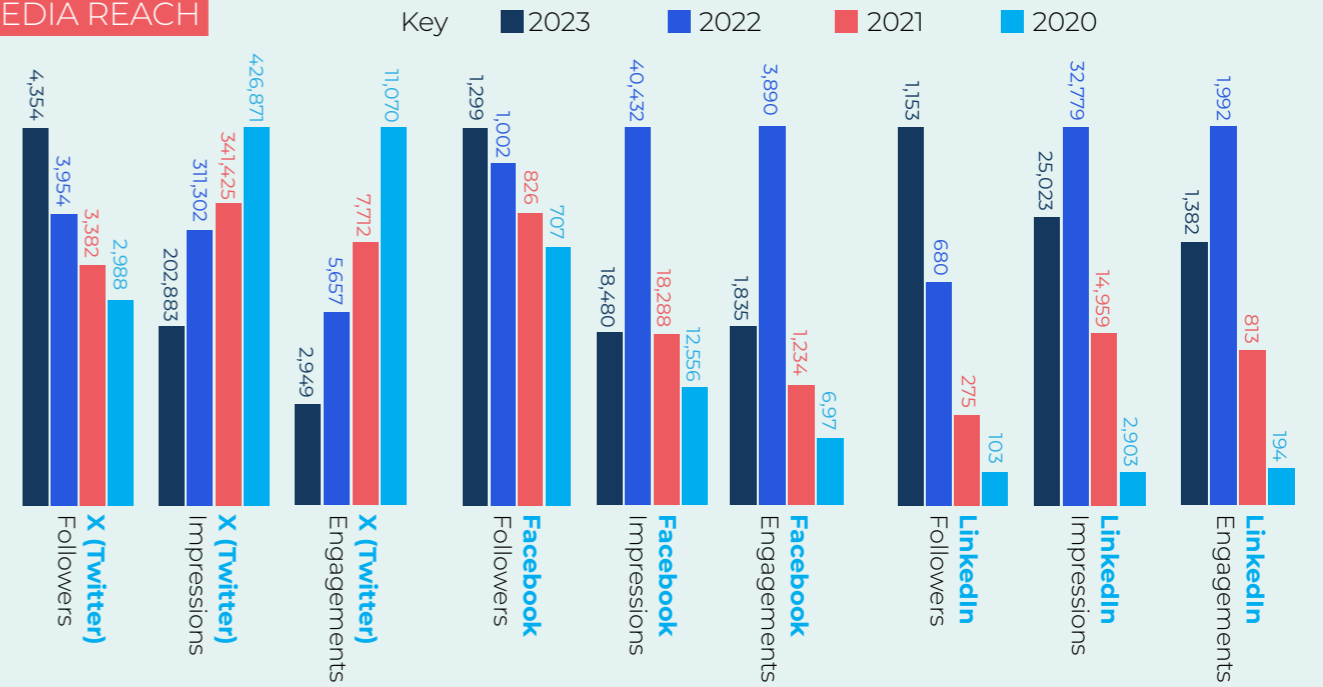
## WHAT DID YOU ATTEND?

2023 COSA education opportunities

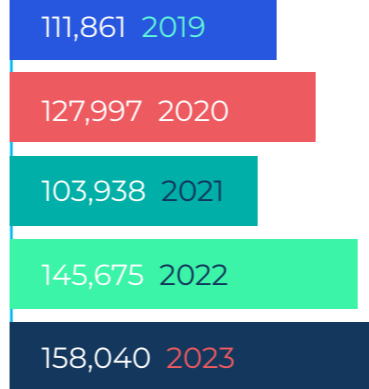


- 356** Fear of Cancer recurrence
- 309** Cancer-Related Neuropathic Pain
- 203** Falls, ageing and cancer: system-level improvements to minimise falls in the older person with cancer
- 159** Optimising care for the older patient with cancer receiving radiotherapy
- 47** Nourishing Narratives: Exploring the Nutrition Pathways in Oncology Care
- 36** Best of CAPHo Conference 2023
- 18** 2022 COSA ASM - CPG highlights

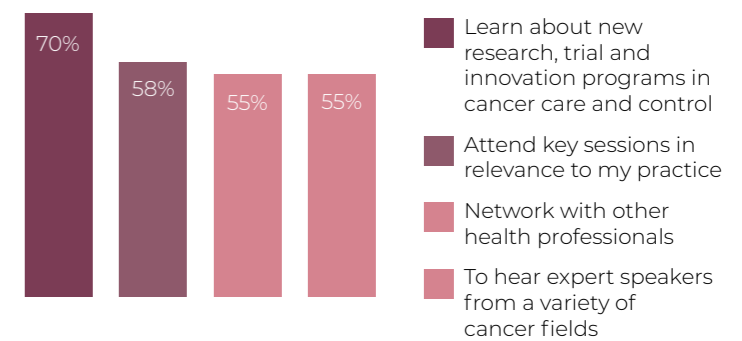
## SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



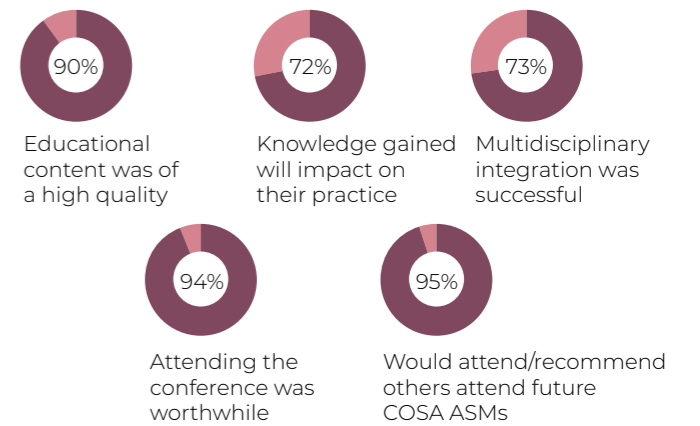
## COSA.ORG.AU PAGE VIEWS



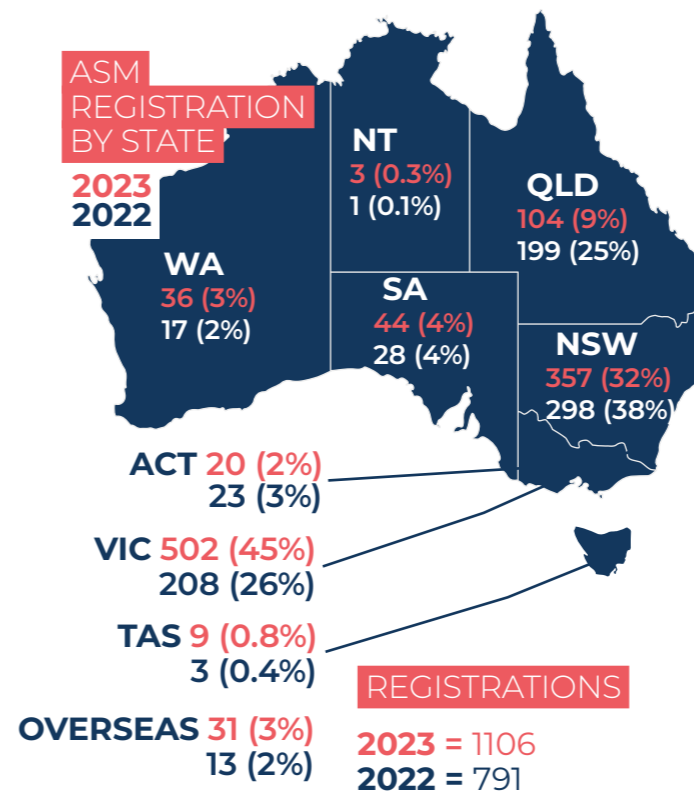
## WHY ATTEND THE ASM?



## ASM POSITIVES



## ASM REGISTRATION BY STATE



#COSA23 tweets almost 2000

#COSA23 impressions 7.2 million



# CONVENOR'S REPORT

It was my absolute pleasure and honour to convene the 2023 COSA ASM in Melbourne, 1-3 November 2023.

What a treat to see so many colleagues, peers and friends together in one place – over 1100 of you in fact – helping COSA celebrate its 50th ASM.

Our theme of **“50 years of innovation in cancer care: Learning from the past to inspire the future”** really came to fruition. We kicked off three jam packed days with the opening plenary “50 years of cancer care: the past, present and future”. Delegates reported this as their favourite plenary in the evaluation survey, which pleased me no end especially as I had the joy of hearing two of my mentors present, Professors Michael Friedlander and Bruce Mann.

Chairing the metastatic breast cancer plenary and the MDM case discussions were also personal highlights for me. They were almost as much fun as COSA's 50th birthday party! If you didn't attend, you really missed out on a fun night. I think it's great that COSA has moved away from a formal, sit-down dinner with speeches, in favour of a more relaxed and fun event.

The COSA ASM has a special place in my heart. To think I attended the 2010 ASM as an advanced trainee and now 13 years later I convened a breast cancer themed COSA ASM blows me away. But it's testimony to the strength of COSA as truly being THE national oncology community bringing together multidisciplinary health professionals across all cancers, and the COSA ASM being THE premier Australian cancer conference.

Together with the Program Committee, we developed an exciting and educational program that had something for everyone. Some of my other favourite sessions included:

- Answering those age-old questions in Geriatric Oncology
- Cervical elimination strategy – an Australian success story inspiring global action
- Decarbonising oncology in Australia
- The Advanced Trainee Dinner, which covered all aspects of high-risk early breast cancer, and was specifically set up to be a multi-disciplinary event, allowing the trainees to meet associates across disciplines

In my role as 2023 ASM Convenor, I had the honour of working closely with Marie Malica and Fran Doughton and their colleagues at ASN Events, our Professional Conference Organisers. Here's a shout-out to the team for their passion, skill, and the huge effort they made to bring the meeting together. Thank you also to our outstanding Program Committee, as well as all our speakers and presenters. I hope everyone who attended found it as valuable and enjoyable as I did. I hope to see even more of you at the 2024 ASM on the Gold Coast.



**Belinda Yeo**  
2023 COSA ASM  
Convenor





# TOM REEVE AWARD

for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care



**Emeritus Professor  
Tom Reeve AC CBE**

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Emeritus Professor Tom Reeve AC CBE in August 2023. Born in November 1923, Prof Reeve was only three months away from his 100th birthday! A great man who achieved an enormous amount in his lifetime.

Tom grew up in Canberra in the 1920s and 30s and experienced the grief associated with friends dying from diseases such as polio and diphtheria. For him, there was no choice but to pursue a career in medicine. That decision began a journey that led him to complete a medical degree at the University of Sydney, graduating in 1947, he then entered General Practice in North Queensland. In July 1950, he went to Albany Medical College in upstate New York and completed training in General and Thoracic Surgery. This turbulent period coincided with the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the Korean war. During his time there he learnt the art of surgery from leaders in the field, when he was exposed to the powerful way in which academic surgery could transform patient care. Tom had other great moments in Albany too – he met and married Mary Jo, his beloved companion for over sixty years. They returned to Sydney in 1956, and set up their home in Sydney's northern suburbs, where Tom went on to have a stellar career starting at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Tom retired as Professor of Surgery at the University of Sydney in 1988, and did his last operation just before his 70th birthday. But some may say that it was his work in the years after his alleged retirement that has had the greatest impact.

In late 1993, well after his "retirement", Tom was appointed Executive Officer of the Australian Cancer Network – a program under the Australian Cancer Society which we now know as Cancer Council Australia. There Tom led the development of clinical practice guidelines in Australia, many of which have been translated into other languages.

In 2005, COSA established the Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care, to formally acknowledge Tom's remarkable efforts. The award is presented annually, and recognises a national leader who has made significant contributions to cancer care through research, clinical leadership and/or community service.

We are sure every recipient of this award is honoured to receive an award named after the auspicious Professor Tom Reeve AC CBE, including Dr David Speakman OAM.

For many years Dr Speakman was a member of COSA Council as Chair of the COSA Melanoma and Skin Cancer Group. He still acts as an expert adviser to COSA on melanoma, skin cancer, and surgical oncology matters.

As one of his nominators said, David "...has consistently displayed exceptional dedication, expertise, and commitment to advancing the field of cancer care through his remarkable



**Dr David Speakman OAM**

*contributions in clinical leadership, community service and support for research.... His passion for improving the lives of cancer patients is evident in his unwavering commitment and leadership in delivering the highest standard of care, employing cutting-edge techniques, and striving for continuous innovation in the field."*

David is a practicing surgical clinician working in the Breast and Melanoma and Skin services at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, and in private practice.

He was appointed as Chief Medical Officer at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in 2013, having previously held positions there as Executive Director Clinical Services and Director of the Melanoma and Skin Service. He was intimately involved in the conception, design and build of Peter Mac's Melbourne headquarters, helping to deliver a purpose-designed facility for patients with cancer. He is also the State Clinical Director of BreastScreen Victoria and Chair of BreastScreen Victoria's Quality and Accreditation Committee.

David is actively involved in teaching programs for medical, nursing and allied health students from undergraduate to postgraduate levels. He sits on numerous government advisory, NHMRC guideline, and optimal cancer care pathway committees and is currently Deputy



Chair of the NHMRC non-melanoma skin cancer guidelines committee.

In 2022, David received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to medicine, particularly cancer treatment. Now he can add the Tom Reeve Award to his list of achievements and recognitions for a life dedicated to cancer care.

Dr Speakman was presented with the Tom Reeve Award and delivered his oration at the 2023 COSA ASM. In his oration David emphasized the importance of effective communication skills for patient-centred care. He poignantly stated "Whenever a member of our community interacts with our service, they should not only **receive exemplary clinical care** but also feel that their concerns and feelings are listened to and addressed. In other words, from the patient's perspective, "**what matters to you**" is equally important as "what is the matter with you".



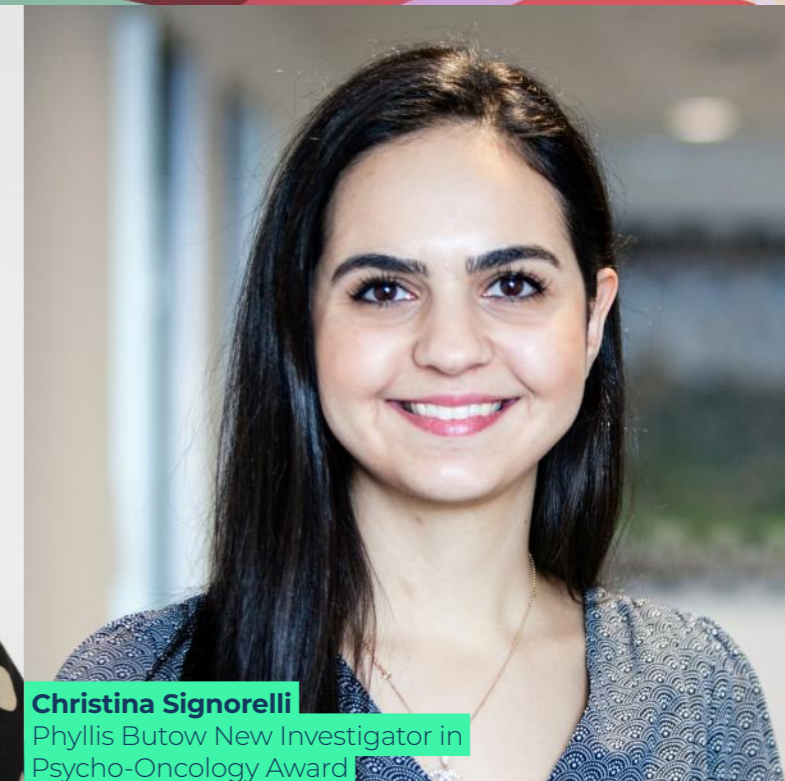
# 2023 COSA PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY AWARDS

We were delighted to acknowledge the 2023 recipients of the COSA Psycho-Oncology Awards at the ASM.

Australia has a proud history of excellence in psycho-oncology care and research. COSA and the Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG) have fostered the field and ensured its place as part of multi-disciplinary cancer care. Consequently, our organisations are strong with many dedicated individuals contributing to ongoing development and excellence in the field. These Awards, generally offered every two years, recognise outstanding contributions to psycho-oncology from among our members.



**Haryana Dhillon**  
Melanie Price Australian  
Psycho-Oncology Award



**Christina Signorelli**  
Phyllis Butow New Investigator in  
Psycho-Oncology Award

## **Melanie Price Australian Psycho-Oncology Award**

Haryana Dhillon, Associate Professor of Psychology at University of Sydney, was named as the recipient of the 2023 Melanie Price Psycho-Oncology Award.

This Award recognises the highest level of contribution to psycho-oncology from amongst the membership of COSA and PoCoG. In 2019, following her passing, we acknowledged our colleague, peer and good friend Melanie Price and named the Australian Psycho-Oncology Award in her honour.

## **Phyllis Butow New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award**

The Phyllis Butow New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award for 2023 was awarded to Dr Christina Signorelli, post-doctoral Research Fellow at UNSW Sydney and Sydney Children's Hospital.

This Award recognises research achievements and potential for an ongoing contribution to the discipline of psycho-oncology in Australia. In 2021 we were pleased to name the New Investigator Award in the honour of Professor Phyllis Butow AM in recognition of her leadership and generous mentoring of so many psycho-oncology researchers in Australia and internationally.



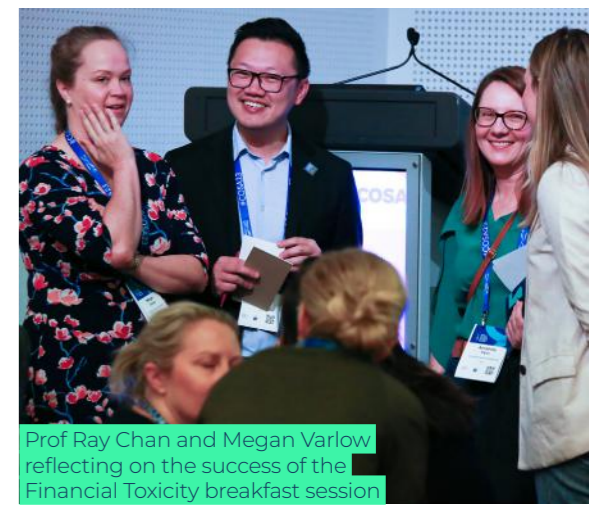
# 2023 COSA ASM IN PICTURES



Prof Bogda Koczwara AM delivering the 2023 Presidential Lecture



A/Prof Judith Lacey asks a question from the audience



Prof Ray Chan and Megan Varlow reflecting on the success of the Financial Toxicity breakfast session



COSA members reuniting following some challenging years



Prof Dorothy Kee launches the Australian Cancer Plan at the 2023 COSA ASM



Dr Michael Krasovitsky answering those age-old questions in Geriatric Oncology



What do you call a group of Psycho-Oncologists?



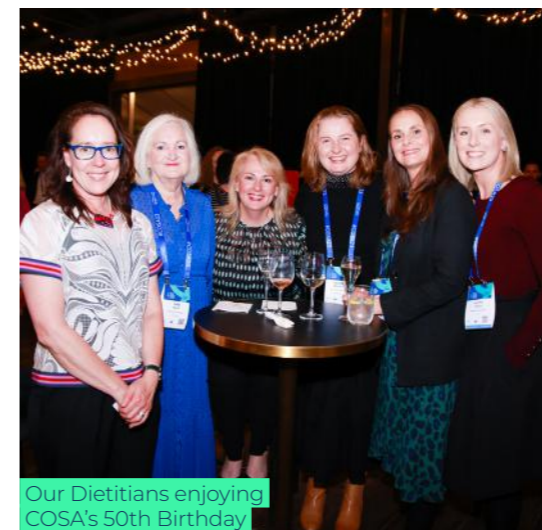
Party celebrations with Cassie Dickens and A/Prof Bryan Chan



COSA President A/Prof Dion Forstner and Immediate Past President Prof Fran Boyle cut COSA's 50th Birthday cake



Dr Darren Brenner from the University of Calgary



Our Dietitians enjoying COSA's 50th Birthday



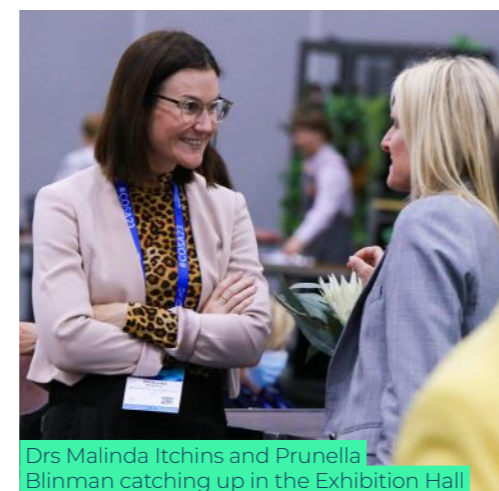
You can't have a party without the COSA CPG, joined by international guest Faye Coe



2023 ASM Convenor Dr Belinda Yeo, her husband Alban, Kirsten Pilatti and Prof Michael Friedlander (L-R)



A thumbs up from COSA President Elect Prof Sabe Sabesan



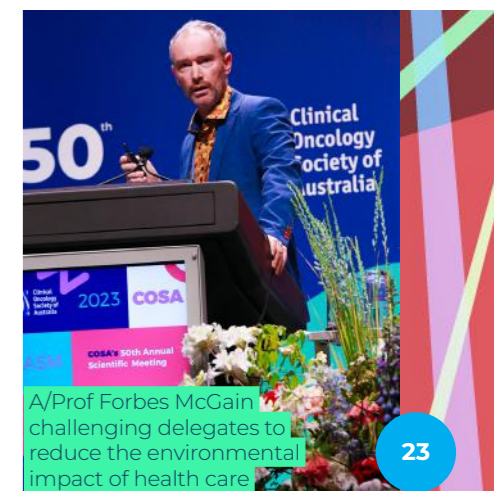
Drs Malinda Itchins and Prunella Blinman catching up in the Exhibition Hall



Long time COSA member Prof Bernard Stewart AM



COSA delegates, Diane Davey, Nicole Kinnane, Tracy Mander and Jemma Still (L-R)



A/Prof Forbes McGain challenging delegates to reduce the environmental impact of health care



# COSA GROUP REPORTS

## CANCER CARE COORDINATION GROUP

The importance of coordination in cancer care continues to be evident in many national and local policies.

The Cancer Care Coordination Group was represented in an Issues Based Forum on navigation in cancer care that was held to inform the development of Cancer Council Australia's National Cancer Care Policy. We also actively contributed feedback in many forums to the development of Australia's first National Cancer Plan. Many of the actions in the Plan are underpinned by the need to ensure optimal coordination across the system. The inclusion of a strategic objective specifically targeted at achieving *integrated, coordinated, data-driven, high-quality health service systems that consistently deliver optimal cancer care and excellence in outcomes* is welcomed.

In November we were also delighted to see the Australian Government's announcement to establish the Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation program which aims to ensure all people with cancer have access to high quality and culturally safe care, irrespective of their cancer type or location. This program includes multiple components to achieve this aim, including: The Cancer Navigation Service; All-cancer nurse service; Child and Youth Cancer Hub; and Specialist telehealth service. (See the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care [website](#) for further information.

We look forward to contributing to these important policy and program developments in 2024.

As always, the 2023 COSA ASM was a great opportunity to learn more about the latest evidence to inform our efforts to improve cancer care coordination. The opening plenary session focused on 50 years of cancer care and provided a fantastic overview of how far we have come as well as what role data and analytics will play in the future (including how we can use data to improve patient experience across the system). There were also several abstracts providing data on patterns of care, and some great concurrent session on models of care that reflected the integral role that multidisciplinary and coordinated approaches to care play in cancer.

I would like to thank members of the Cancer Care Coordination Group for their ongoing interest and support. I would also like to thank Marie Malica and the COSA Team for their leadership, as well as COSA Council members for their collaborative approach to addressing issues of common interest to our Group.



**Patsy Yates AM**  
Chair, Cancer Care Coordination Group

## CANCER GENETICS GROUP



*This report is also on behalf of the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA)*

The COSA Cancer Genetics Group comprises members of COSA and the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA). Our members are from a broad range of professional backgrounds with a special interest in cancer genetics including, Clinical Geneticists, Genetic Counsellors, Oncologists, Scientists, Researchers, Nursing, and Allied Health.

In the past 12 months, there have been several changes to the Groups Executive Committee. We would like to thank Lucinda Salmon, Mark Cowley and Sarah O'Sullivan who have been Executive members for several years and have now chosen to step down from their roles. The Group would like to welcome new Executive Committee members Jan Wakeling, Vrunda Sane and Cassandra Nichols.

We have seen an increase in membership in 2023. The majority of the new members are HGSA affiliated members, but we have seen an increase in COSA affiliated members. As of 23 August 2023, there were 232 HGSA affiliated members, and 80 COSA affiliated members. We welcome new members with a special interest in germline (familial) or somatic genetics to the Group and encourage any

COSA members who would like to join the Executive to contact us.

We continue to manage the needs of our members working in somatic and germline cancer genetics by planning educational events and contributions to various policies and guidelines, and on various projects. Much of the Executive Committee's work has been on providing education to our members in 2023. The Group contributed to the following conferences, educational events, and projects in 2023.

### **Conferences and educational activities:**

#### Familial Cancer Clinical Professional Day

The COSA/Human Genetics Society of Australia (HGSA) Familial Cancer Clinical Professional Day was held in Kingscliff on Tuesday 29 August 2023. The meeting was held in-person and virtually, allowing for a larger audience. We were happy to report a large number of in-person attendees, showing the need for face-to-face education and networking.

The day featured four sessions on haematological malignancies, psychosocial aspects of genetic counsellor, genotype directed therapy and risk mitigation, and variant curation. The haematological malignancy session provided education on the psychosocial aspects of genetic counselling on hereditary predisposition to haematological malignancies, germline predisposition in paediatric haematological malignancies, and guidelines for surveillance, management, and genetic testing. The psychosocial session focused on motivational interviewing, the return of incidental findings and parents' perspectives and experiences of germline



genomic sequencing paediatric malignancies. The third session focused on replication repair deficiencies and the treatment and of malignancies associated with Von Hippel-Lindau disease. The final session provided a detailed overview and panel session on germline variant curation.

We also contributed to the planning and content of the 2023 COSA Annual Scientific Meeting, and the HGSA meetings held in 2023.

#### Webinars

A key part of meeting the needs of our members has been the delivery of webinars on topics relevant to both somatic and germline cancer. In 2023 webinar topics included,

- Birt-Hogg-Dube and MDT care for hereditary kidney cancer disorders.
- Hereditary diffuse gastric cancer.
- Tumour profiling to improve the diagnosis of Lynch syndrome.
- Homologous Recombination Deficiency: Biology, Measurement, and Clinical Utility.

We would like to thank all the speakers who gave their time. We also acknowledge the support provided by COSA and HGSA to support the registration and running of the various events.

#### **Additional activities**

In 2021 we introduced professional grants available to members of the Cancer Genetics Group to attend a conference or educational event either in person or virtually. In 2023 three grants were awarded for members to attend an in-person conference, and two were accepted.

We supported the update of the Shariant project to expand to somatic tumours, this included hosting a webinar for the project and inviting members and relevant stakeholders.

We continue to support the development of an Australian and New Zealand consensus meeting and guideline development for hereditary haematological malignancies. As part of this support, the Group hosted a haematological malignancy predisposition workshop.

The Executive Committee has supported the update and reviewed changes to the patient and clinician resource Medications to Lower the Chance of Breast Cancer (SERM Guideline). The Executive Committee would like to thank Dr Kelly Phillips who has been instrumental in the development and ongoing review of these guidelines.

We recognise a need for the development of somatic cancer next generation sequencing (NGS) guidelines. Using survey responses and data from the Shariant project we are working towards either the development of a guidelines or position statement.

We look forward to delivering on education and projects for our members in 2024. We encourage any member of COSA with a special interest in somatic or familial cancer to join the Group.



**Simon Troth**  
Chair, Cancer  
Genetics Group



#### **CANCER PHARMACISTS GROUP**

It was another successful year for the Cancer Pharmacists Group (CPG) with our membership being actively involved in delivering continuing education events, COSA-related activities and cancer pharmacy advocacy. The CPG Executive Committee would like to express our thanks to CPG members for their engagement with the CPG and through their attendance at CPG and COSA events during the year and to Marie, Fran and COSA team for their support in helping the CPG execute our deliverables.

#### **CPG Membership and Committee**

Currently our membership is at 175 pharmacists, up 16 per cent from 137 members since the start of last year. With regards to the CPG Executive Committee members, Sonia Cuan has stepped down from the Committee (December 2023). We thank Sonia very much for her contributions. As of January 2024, the CPG Executive Committee consists of the following members:

- Marissa Ryan (Co-Chair)
- Geeta Sandhu (Co-Chair)
- Kimberley-Ann Kerr (Deputy Chair)
- Chi Hao La
- Neil Lam
- Courtney Oar

- Gail Rowan
- Kate Wright
- Marliese Alexander (currently on Maternity Leave)
- Zainab Reslan (currently on Maternity Leave)

#### **Educational events**

In 2023, the CPG held three face-to-face educational activities: Foundation Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists, Advanced Clinical Practice Seminar, and a COSA ASM Pharmacist Dinner.

#### **Foundation Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists Course, 24-25 June 2023**

The 15th Foundation Course was held in Sydney (convened by Geeta Sandhu, Courtney Oar, and Marissa Ryan) and was attended by 78 pharmacists from Australia, New Zealand and Fiji who were new to the area of cancer care. Attendees were provided with mix of pre-recorded video lectures in advance of the course, which was further consolidated during a weekend of face-to-face interactive workshops and panel discussions. Invited expert cancer pharmacy speakers were Jim Siderov, Christine Carrington, Gail Rowan, Chi Hao La, Daniel McKavanagh, Kimberley-Ann Kerr, Geeta Sandhu, Courtney Oar, and Marissa Ryan.

#### **Advanced Clinical Practice Seminar, 16-17 September 2023**

The 11th Advanced Clinical Practice Seminar (convened by Kimberley-Ann Kerr, Gail Rowan, Neil Lam, and Kate Wright) was held in Melbourne and attended by 72



cancer pharmacists from around Australia. Program highlights included: application of the International Consensus Guideline for Anticancer Drug Dosing in Kidney Dysfunction (ADDIKD), role of the pharmacist in inpatient chemotherapy for acute leukaemia, clinical updates on genitourinary cancers and multiple myeloma, and multidisciplinary workshops on complex cases in lung cancer and multiple myeloma. Invited speakers from medical, nursing and pharmacy included Peter Thannhauser, Emily Harding, Mitchell Dyer, John Coutsouvelis, Geeta Sandhu, Kimberley-Ann Kerr, and Kate Wright.

**Pharmacist Dinner, 1 November 2023**

Congratulations to Chi Hao La, Marliese Alexander, and Sonia Cuan for organising the first Pharmacist Dinner held during the COSA ASM. This alternative to the CPG’s usual pre-COSA ASM workshop attracted 62 registrants including health professionals from other disciplines. The topic was “*Moving towards pharmacist prescribing: Meeting the needs of our patients*”, with insightful presentations by Faye Coe on her pharmacist prescribing experience in the UK with pharmacist-led clinics, and Gail Rowan who spoke about Partnered Pharmacist Medication Charting (PPMC). Marissa Ryan and Kimberley-Ann Kerr who were co-chairing the evening facilitated the healthy discussion from the audience, an indication of the enthusiasm for pharmacist-led prescribing in the cancer landscape in Australia.

**COSA ASM, 1-3 November 2023**

Thank you to CPG members Chi Hao La and Marliese Alexander who were part of COSA’s 50th ASM Program Committee. CPG members also were involved in chairing sessions, delivery of presentations, showcasing of

posters, and judging abstracts. The CPG-led Medicine Matters session chaired by Chi Hao La comprised four presentations: “*Average duration of prior treatment lines predicts clinical benefit to eribulin chemotherapy to patients with metastatic breast cancer*” by Faye Coe, “*New and emerging antibody drug conjugates in breast cancer*” by Gail Rowan, “*Harnessing the immune system in breast cancer*” by Peter Savas, and “*Medicines and the microbiome*” by Olivia Smibert. Kimberley-Ann Kerr participated in the multidisciplinary panel for the Geriatric Oncology session.

**CPG Collaboration**

One of the CPG’s goals of 2023 was to increase our collaborations within other COSA Groups and internationally with cancer pharmacy organisations. Some of our achievements in this area include:

- COSA’s Geriatric Oncology Group Committee – Kimberley Ann Kerr
- COSA’s Global Oncology Group – Marissa Ryan, Geeta Sandhu, Jim Siderov, Bharti Taylor, Grand Partridge and Michael Powell were involved in mentoring pharmacists in Fiji and Papua New Guinea as part of broader work being done with the Global Oncology Group, to improve the healthcare worker capability in low- and middle-income countries. As a result of this, COSA and CPG helped to facilitate our first delegate from a low- or middle-income country, Tehniyat Nida from Fiji, to attend the CPG Foundation Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists Course.
- British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA), International Society of Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP), and The Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology (CAPHO) joint education webinars available

on the COSA CPG web page and involving talks from several CPG members including Jim Siderov and Kate Wright. Thank you to Neil Lam for his efforts organising these.

- BOPA educational podcast episode, “Let’s Talk About Anticancer Drug Dosing in Kidney Dysfunction” with Geeta Sandhu and renal pharmacist Carla Scuderi.
- Reciprocal complementary registration between BOPA-COSA ASM – attendance at 2023 BOPA Symposium in Cardiff, Wales by CPG members, Bronwyn Andrews and Mao Mao Yu.
- International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners Global Leaders Group – Marissa Ryan and Geeta Sandhu

**Safe handling of monoclonal antibodies in healthcare settings update**

After the “COSA Position Statement: 2022 update to the safe handling of monoclonal antibodies in healthcare settings” written by Marissa Ryan, Neil Lam, Kate Wright, and Jim Siderov was endorsed by COSA’s CPG and the COSA Council in late 2022, an article version was published in the [Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology](#) in March 2023.

**Medicines Access Program portal**

CPG were successful in lobbying for pharmacist access to the Medicines Access Program Portal, to which pharmacists were granted access to in April 2023. This enables better communication on compassionate access programs nationally and improves accessibility for medicines for patients in challenging disease states.



**Marissa Ryan**  
Co-chair, Cancer Pharmacists Group



**Geeta Sandhu**  
Co-chair, Cancer Pharmacists Group



## CANCER PREVENTION

This year, COSA has maintained its recognition of prevention as central to cancer control as evidenced by initiatives taken by Council and through presentations at the Annual Scientific Meetings.

### E-cigarettes as a carcinogenic hazard

Tragically, in Australia as in many countries, tobacco smoking remains entrenched as the major preventable cause of premature death and, as determined by population-attributable data, the major known cause of cancer. Following an earlier initiative in relation to smoking and nicotine addiction – namely publication of the Position Statement [Smoking Cessation in Cancer Patients](#) – COSA Council established a working party to develop a Position Statement in relation to e-cigarettes and cancer.

The initiative for COSA to assess the carcinogenicity of e-cigarettes and their role, in any, in smoking cessation by cancer patients followed COSA endorsement of the Cancer Council statement [E-cigarette use in young people – urgent action needed to avert a public health crisis](#). This statement outlines, among other things, acute injury and non-malignant respiratory disease attributable. However, as early as 2009 or before, health authorities worldwide were notifying concern that users of e-cigarettes may be at increased risk of cancer.

Shortly after being introduced to the market, aerosols generated by e-cigarettes and inhaled by users were shown to contain known carcinogens including formaldehyde, acrolein, 2-naphthylamine and the nitroso-derivatives of nicotine and nornicotine. Since then, a huge body of research and professional assessment of any risk of cancer inherent in e-cigarette usage has been published. Some studies have involved comparison with smoking-related data in an attempt to inform the notion that e-cigarettes may be recognized as presenting a lesser risk. Public health investigators now recognize that the central issues to be addressed is the specification of any risk of cancer that e-cigarettes present in their own right.

This year, COSA Council appointed a Working Party to report on e-cigarettes and cancer through the drafting of a Position Statement. Members of the Working Party were invited and then appointed following engagement with multiple Groups and Affiliated Organisations on Council. These included Council members representing Epidemiology, Cancer Biology, Cancer Nursing, Lung Cancer, Head and Neck Cancer, Psycho-Oncology and Cancer Pharmacists: a scope of participation epitomising the breadth of COSA membership

and expertise, and not immediately available in any other national context. Progress on the Position Statement on *E-cigarettes and Cancer* is regularly reported to COSA Council.

### The elimination of cervical cancer

In Australia and similar countries, the greatest success in cancer prevention in the past decade has involved vaccination against human papilloma virus. The progress that has been made, as well as the perspective that now pervades this means of cancer control, was indicated by the 2023 COSA ASM session title *Cervical cancer elimination strategy: an Australian success story inspiring global action*. Multiple issues relevant to achieving the final goal of cancer elimination in this context indicated the leadership that may be shown by implementation and monitoring of vaccination in Australia. An immediate issue is the manner that vaccination may complement population-based screening. Particularly relevant in this context, and as discussed in the COSA session under consideration, is awareness of particularly vulnerable populations which, in Australia's case, include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

### Complex aspects of cancer prevention

The complex relationship between diet, exercise and overweight/obesity as risk factors for multiple tumour types, including endometrial cancer, continues to be explored as providing opportunities for cancer prevention. Particularly of note in this context is increasing survival of those diagnosed with such cancers. Clinical trials involving dietary intervention, exercise and avoidance of weight gain and obesity among, for example, breast cancer survivors, often provide insights relevant to reducing cancer incidence in the wider community. These perspectives were to the fore in a discussion session titled *Innovations in*

*implementing nutrition and exercise evidence to enhance cancer care and outcomes* at the COSA ASM in Melbourne.

Not surprisingly, therefore, diet and exercise were also to the fore in a session this year's COSA conference titled *What are we doing to reduce risk?* More broadly, at this session and generally, behavioural change is recognized as fundamental to cancer prevention. Speakers addressed a range of practices which increase cancer incidence as being unlikely to change short of targeted media campaigns. Complicating community recognition of proven options to prevent cancer is a focus by web-based and traditional media alike on cancer 'scares'. The Cancer Council website [iHeard](#) continues to address speculation concerning unproven hazards, with material provided or reviewed by COSA members.



**Bernard W Stewart AM**  
Cancer Prevention  
Representative



**EPIDEMIOLOGY  
GROUP**

As another year draws to a close, it's time to reflect on the milestones and achievements of the COSA Epidemiology Group in 2023.

We begin by extending our gratitude to Professor Haitham Tuffaha, who has been an integral part of our Group for over eight years, including a tenure of over four years as the Group chair. His contributions have been invaluable, and while he is leaving the Executive Committee, his impact will continue to be felt.

During 2023 we were delighted to welcome Dr Amelia Smit to our Executive Committee. Her expertise and enthusiasm are a significant addition to our team, and we look forward to her contributions.

This year marked a significant milestone with the celebration of COSA's 50th Annual Scientific Meeting, held from 1-3 November at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The event was a resounding success, showcasing numerous outstanding presentations that underscored the vibrant intellectual environment of our community.

Special congratulations are in order for Jin Quan Eugene Tan, whose presentation on 'Patterns of cardiovascular medication utilisation in people with cancer: the Australian National Health Survey linked data analysis' earned him the 2023 Best of the Best Epidemiology Oral Presentation Award. Additionally, Professor Euan Walpole's work on 'Benchmarking statewide cancer data: A comparison of breast and gynaecological cancer care indicators between Victoria and Queensland' was deservedly recognised with the Best of the Best Epidemiology Poster Oral Presentation Award.

A special note of thanks goes to A/Professor Brigid Lynch for her representation of the COSA Epidemiology Group on the ASM Program Committee throughout 2023. Her efforts in organising insightful sessions and plenary presentations were instrumental in the success of the meeting. In particular, the plenary talk by A/Professor Darren Brenner on 'How can we improve future cancer outcomes with big data and analytics?' provided thought-provoking insights into the evolution of cancer care and how epidemiology research can drive these improvements.

The COSA Epidemiology Group Executive Committee, consisting of Natansh D. Modi, Rebecca L. Venchiarutti, Amelia K. Smit, and Harindra Jayasekara, has been tireless in their efforts throughout the year. This includes the publication of three Epi Group eNewsletters, conducting four meetings, and a notable co-authored publication titled 'A 10-year update to the principles for clinical trial data sharing by pharmaceutical companies: perspectives based on a decade of literature and policies' in BMC Medicine.

As we look ahead to 2024, we are excited for the continuing involvement and contributions of all our current members. Their dedication and passion for epidemiology play a critical role in advancing our understanding of cancer and improving patient care.



**Ashley Hopkins**  
Chair, Epidemiology  
Group

Exercise and Cancer Group meet at the 2023 COSA ASM



**EXERCISE AND CANCER  
GROUP**

2023 was a huge year for the COSA Exercise and Cancer group. We have seen many exercise-oncology clinical and research activities.

**2023 COSA ASM**

Members of the COSA Exercise and Cancer Group were well represented at the COSA 2023 ASM in Melbourne with a number of excellent podium and poster presentations. This conference was also a great opportunity for many Early-Career Researchers and postgraduate students to showcase their work.

**Executive Committee Updates**

The Exercise and Cancer Executive Committee had a very productive 2023. They met every two months, and in that time there were numerous initiatives covering advocacy all the way through to COSA research initiatives (covered below). I have great appreciation for the contribution of Executive Committee members and have been really impressed with the drive and enthusiasm of everyone involved.

**2023 activities and 2024 plans**

The Exercise and Cancer Group met for the AGM on 1 November 2023 to overview the year and discuss plans for 2024 (picture below). These include:

- **Education:** Numerous seminars were held on exercise-oncology in 2023. One key highlight was the sold-out full day Exercise Oncology pre-conference workshop held at the 2023 COSA ASM in Melbourne. There were fantastic presentations on behaviour change, bone metastases and geriatric oncology, among other important topics on the role of exercise in cancer care.
- **Exercise-Nutrition Fellowships:** The inaugural Exercise-Nutrition Fellowships were established, leading to a competitive process for selecting the inaugural Exercise Fellow, Dr Kim Edmunds from University of Queensland. Kim will work on a project that will aim to develop a value-based framework for exercise oncology programs, supervised by Professor Sandie McCarthy, Dr David Mizrahi and Professor Haitham Tuffaha.
- **Exercise Implementation Working Group:** This working group has been reignited after being paused during the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been some changes



since the fantastic initial work, chaired by Professor Christine Paul, who has now stepped down. There are a number of new members, including new chair Dr Lisa Guccione from Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, as well as Dr Brenton Baguley (Deakin University), Ria Joseph (Flinders University), Dr Mary Kennedy (Edith Cowan University), Dr David Mizrahi (University of Sydney), Dr Camille Short (University of Melbourne), and Professor Nigel Spry (Edith Cowan University), and I am very excited for this working group to progress this field in 2024.

- **Research:** There were great research achievements in 2023 by COSA members in the exercise-oncology field including high-impact research publications, new fellowships, grants and conference presentations. In 2023, there were numerous surveys advertised to COSA members about exercise oncology across different topics, including on bone metastases (international investigators), adherence to the exercise position statement recommendations and a planned survey regarding a health economic analysis in 2024.
- **Advocacy:** In 2023, our Group was consulted for numerous advocacy efforts, including liaising with Exercise and Sport Science Australia (ESSA) on calls to integrate more Accredited Exercise Physiologists into hospitals.

As a reminder, here is a [link](#) to the COSA Position Statement on Exercise in Cancer Care.



**David Mizrahi**  
Chair, Exercise  
and Cancer Group



## GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY GROUP

The Geriatric Oncology Group has enjoyed a busy and productive year. We were pleased to welcome four new members to our **Executive team** – Dr Kim Edmunds, Dr Kimberley-Ann Kerr, Dr Elise Treleaven and Professor Shalini Vinod – and we thank outgoing members Professor Jane Phillips and A/Professor Timothy To for their valuable contributions to our work.

We also co-opted Dr Paul Viray to the Executive to chair our **Community of Practice** initiative. This continues to build momentum from our earlier work, as we aim to unite the community of clinicians already involved in, or trying to develop, functional geri-onc models of care in whatever health system or infrastructure they are working within. We hope to offer a way to connect services and clinicians to allow sharing of knowledge and experiences to improve the access and optimised management of older adults with cancer. We thank all our members who provide their time and expertise to support our initiatives and who are contributing to our geriatric oncology community.

We have continued our discussions in preparation for the implementation of the **Australian Cancer Plan**, and we welcome Older Australians being recognised as a priority population for achieving equitable cancer outcomes. We believe that systemic reform of cancer care to directly address the needs of Older Australians will be transformative for all Australians with cancer.

**Geriatric Oncology Emerging Experts and Researchers – GOEER**, an initiative led by Dr Michael Krasovitsky, brings together an interdisciplinary range of emerging experts and researchers from across Australia.

GOEER has a number of active research and educational projects underway, and we congratulate the GOEER team for achieving the inclusion of two geriatric oncology indices on eviQ – the [Vulnerable elders survey-13](#) which utilises a function-based scoring system that considers ages, self-rated health, physical limitations, and functional disabilities; and [the Geriatric 8 \(G8\) screening tool](#) which identifies patients who could benefit from comprehensive geriatric assessment.

We thank Dr Domenica Disalvo for helping drive the development of our Australian **Geriatric Oncology Guidelines**, and we have been pleased with the level of engagement from a broad range of interdisciplinary clinicians from across Australia to support this work. Our paper on [comprehensive geriatric assessments and chemotherapy decisions](#) has been published and this adds to our previous work on [screening tools for identifying older adults with cancer who may benefit from a geriatric assessment](#). Teams working on the radiation and surgical guidelines are making great progress and these are nearing completion.

We continued our **collaborative webinar series** with the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia under the leadership of Dr Polly Dufton, with the aim of helping to increase knowledge and provide practical guidance to enhance the skills required to advance care and improve outcomes for older adults with cancer. We delivered two webinars in 2023 and these were very well received: [Falls, ageing and cancer](#); and [Optimising care for the older patient with cancer receiving radiotherapy](#).

We had the opportunity to connect with many colleagues at the **2023 COSA ASM** in Melbourne, including at an informal Group Meeting. We thank Dr Paul Viray for



his representation on the ASM Program Committee, and for leading the plenary with A/Professor Christopher Steer: [Answering those age old questions in geriatric oncology](#). We were fortunate to have Professor Etienne Brain, from L'Institute Curie, France, join these discussions which emphasised the importance of geriatric assessment and care in the management of older patients with cancer. Dr Michael Krasovitsky and Dr Paul Viray led a highly engaging and inspiring geriatric oncology breakfast session, [Age is just a number](#), where a multidisciplinary panel and consumer representative discussed optimising the care of older individuals with breast cancer. We thank all our members who contributed a geriatric oncology perspective at the 2023 COSA ASM, and whose work was presented.

**GO eNews** continues to provide our members with excellent updates about national and international initiatives in geriatric oncology, and we circulated two editions in [February](#) and [August](#). We are grateful to our co-editors Dr Kheng Soo and Dr Polly Dufton for leading this work.

Many of our Group members are well linked with other **national and international geriatric oncology initiatives**, enabling us to collaborate and share learnings on issues of mutual interest. Several Executive Committee members played key roles leading and developing the [ANZSGM position statement on Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment in Older Adults with Cancer](#). Members also published a significant commentary in The Lancet Healthy Longevity on [Integrated care for older people with cancer: a primary care focus](#), highlighting the growing importance of geriatric oncology and the need for interdisciplinary collaboration across the healthcare system to ensure

optimal care for older people with cancer. In addition, A/Professor Christopher Steer works with the Cancer and Aging Research Group (CARG), and Dr Heather Lane continues in her role as Australia's International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) representative – the 2023 report is below – providing valuable connections with our international colleagues with our common goal to improve outcomes for older adults with cancer.

#### The International Society of Geriatric Oncology - SIOG - 2023 update

SIOG has remained active with educational and networking activities in 2023. Over 400 participants from 36 countries gathered in Valencia, Spain, from 9-11 November for the 2023 SIOG Conference. The diversity of attendees reflected the conference theme, "Global solutions for global challenges". There were a wide range of speakers with 67 talks, 19 oral abstract presentations and 212 onsite posters. The SIOG Advanced Course was back in Treviso, Italy after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions. This highly regarded educational course brings together experts in the field from geriatrics and oncology. The extensive use of case-based discussions provides great learning and excellent opportunities to network and hear about clinical practice across different countries. SIOG also launched a new educational activity in October 2023, a four-day Masterclass offering training to healthcare professionals involved in cancer research with Geriatric Oncology experts, held in Fribourg, Switzerland. At the end of the course, delegates developed protocols for clinical trials. The SIOG Nursing and Allied Health Group has remained very active, producing a number of webinars, which are available for viewing on the [SIOG website](#).

New SIOG guidelines were also published on the [management of acute myelogenous leukaemia in older patients](#).



**Meera Agar**  
Chair, Geriatric  
Oncology Group



## GLOBAL ONCOLOGY GROUP

### Papua New Guinea

The Global Oncology Group has continued involvement along with a number of other stakeholders in assisting with the commissioning of the Port Moresby General Hospital (PMGH) Cancer Centre the opening of which has been pushed out to September 2024.

#### 1. Nursing training

The PMGH oncology nurses have continued training with retired clinical nurse consultants Ms Wendy Spencer (Medical Oncology) and Dr Pauline Rose (Radiation Oncology) by videoconferencing throughout 2023. This has culminated in a visit by four PMGH oncology nurses in June/July to The Canberra Hospital for clinical placements in medical and radiation oncology. They were upskilled in the safe administration and handling of cytotoxins, patient and family chemotherapy education, use of spill kits and work flows of the radiation department. They were also able to attend the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia Congress in Adelaide.

Dr Rose has made a further visit to PMGH and other regions of PNG during the year and her network of educational attendees has expanded to a wider group of cancer nurses across PNG. The Papua New Guinea Oncology Nursing Society has been formed to bring these nurses together and they now have a [social media presence](#).

#### 2. Medical Training

Dr Peter Olali a medical oncologist from the PMGH was able to visit the Canberra Region Cancer Centre in February for a one-month observership funded by a Travelling Fellowship from the John James Foundation. He was able



to spend time in radiation oncology, medical oncology, haematology, the chemotherapy day therapy unit, oncology pharmacy and interventional radiology. This gave him an appreciation of the systems and workflows that form a comprehensive cancer centre and standard operating procedures were shared with his institution.

### 3. Oncology Pharmacy Training

Ms Marissa Ryan co-Chair of the COSA Cancer Pharmacists Group and Global Oncology Group Executive Member has continued to mentor the Oncology Pharmacists from PMGH, along with a group of other cancer pharmacists across Australia. The aim is to integrate oncology pharmacists into the workflow of systemic therapy preparation and administration.

### 4. Radiation therapist and Physicist Training

The Asia Pacific Radiation Oncology Special Interest Group were successful in securing a Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiology International Development Fund Grant to bring a group over to Waikato Regional Cancer Centre for training in June. This was to familiarise PMGH staff with the workflow for a Halcyon linear accelerator and image guided radiotherapy processes.

## **Solomon Islands**

### 1. Medical training

Dr Andrew Soma from the National Referral Hospital (NRH) in Honiara was able to visit the Canberra Regional Cancer Centre for a 10-week observership visit again funded by a Travelling Fellowship from the John James Foundation. This was his second fellowship with the first one being in 2017 prior to the establishment of the NRH Oncology Unit. He was able to attend the COSA Cancer Survivorship Conference in Adelaide and participate in a workshop on

Regional Advances in Cancer Survivorship convened by the Caring Futures Institute. The observership allowed time for him to update his clinical skills and also focus on the research capstone component of his higher degree, a Master of Cancer Sciences through the University of Melbourne. He completed the coursework in 2023 that would lead to conferral of the degree.

### 2. In country visits

Two in-country visits were made to the National Referral Hospital this year to assist in the development of cancer services in the Solomon Islands. The first was by Professor Matthew Links who accompanied a group of Bond University medical students on elective placement in country and followed a preparatory meeting in Australia with Dr Soma during his observership here. The second was a multidisciplinary team mission (medical oncologist, haematologist, oncology nurse, palliative care nurse practitioner, anatomical pathologist and oncology pharmacist). This one was under the auspices of Doctors Assisting in the South Pacific Islands (DAISI) with a focus on observing established workflows and scoping the needs in palliative care and anatomical pathology services in the nation. It was pleasing to see that a cytotoxic isolator was now in use for preparation for chemotherapy and the nation's first CT scanner had been commissioned in 2022. There was commitment also by the Solomon Islands Government to establish an inpatient ward for cancer patients and also commissioned work to an external organisation to stabilise the pharmacy supply chain which had been suffering from shortages of essential medications including cancer drugs over a number of years. There has been engagement with the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) who had funded the previous Pacific Islands Program Oncology Missions to the Solomon Islands.

## **Fiji**

### 1. Pharmacy Training

Ms Tehniyat Nida a Senior Pharmacist at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva was sponsored and hosted by the COSA Cancer Pharmacists Group (CPG) to attend the 15th Foundation Clinical Practice Course for Cancer Pharmacists in Sydney in June. This supplemented the ongoing mentoring by members of the COSA CPG.

### 2. Cancer Control

An in-country visit of an IAEA/WHO/IACR impACT review team in April 2023 to conduct a comprehensive cancer control review.

## **Timor Leste**

The first Medical Oncology Unit was opened at the Guido Valadares National Hospital (NNGV) in Dili in May 2023. An in-country visit was made by a C4 group from the Daffodil Centre in August 2023 to scope this unit and to look at the roll out of the Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy in this country. A meeting was held in Canberra with a delegation from Timor Leste where request for an in-country visit was made to help develop the oncology service at the unit. The COSA Global Oncology Group will explore partnering with SIOP-Oceania, C4 and GONCO Initiative (Portugal) in delivering assistance.



**Desmond Yip**  
Chair, Global  
Oncology Group

His Excellency General the Honourable David John Hurley Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia speaking to Dr Andrew Soma at the National Referral Hospital Oncology Unit during the Pacific Games in December 2023





**NEUROENDOCRINE  
TUMOURS GROUP**

In 2023 the Neuroendocrine Tumour Group delivered on its goal to revise the COSA NET guidelines. Having been open for consultation in late 2022, these [national consensus guidelines](#) have now been officially published on the MAGICapp platform. This work has provided a timely update on various aspects of NET management and also widened the scope of the guidelines to include in-depth discussions about hereditary NETs (e.g. MEN1), as well as timely chapters about supportive care in NETs. I would again like to thank the working group for their collaboration and hard work, and reviewers who provided insightful comments.

We have also provided input into the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into “Equitable access to diagnosis and treatment for individuals with rare and less

common cancers, including neuroendocrine cancer” in 2023 as well as other policy enquiries regarding NETs to advocate for optimal care and outcomes for patients affected with this disease.

Where next for the COSA NET Group? In addition to keeping the above guidelines updated with developments in NET diagnosis and treatment, we are looking for new multidisciplinary projects which would fit well under the COSA umbrella. Please feel free to get involved and share your ideas about how we can continue to improve NET care in Australia!



**David Chan**  
Chair, Neuroendocrine  
Tumours Group

*Nutrition and Exercise Evidence to Enhance Cancer Care and Outcomes*, was a highlight. Chaired by Jenelle Loeliger and Dr David Mizrahi, the session boasted a variety of excellent speakers, including Professor Judy Bauer, Dr Emily Jeffrey, Dr Kim Edmunds, Jane Stewart and Dr Mary Kennedy, who showcased the latest nutrition and exercise implementation research to a full house of attendees. The *‘What are we doing to reduce risk?’* concurrent session was also popular, with A/Professor Brigid Lynch, A/Professor Darren Brenner, A/Professor Anna Boltong and Dr Camille Short exploring the breadth of work happening, and still to do, to improve outcomes in cancer care. A sincere thanks to Belinda Steer for her significant contribution to the ASM Program Committee

**NUTRITION  
GROUP**

I was privileged to step into the role of Chair of the Nutrition Group in January 2023 and thank A/Professor Merran Findlay for her leadership of the Group. Our Group has made fantastic progress in 2023 and I would like to thank all of the dedicated Nutrition Group members who lead and deliver excellence in cancer nutrition care.

The 2023 COSA ASM in my hometown of Melbourne was a huge highlight of 2023, with nutrition firmly on the agenda and well represented across many oral and poster presentations. The Wednesday Breakfast session jointly hosted by the Nutrition and Exercise Groups *‘Innovations in Implementing*



**Nutrition Group 2023 AGM participants**

and congratulations to Kelly D’cunha (The University of Queensland), who was the recipient of the Dietitians Australia external research prize for her presentation: *Modifiable Lifestyle Behaviours and Biomarkers of Inflammation and Insulin Resistance in Female Breast Cancer Survivors Participating in a Weight Loss Trial*.

Over the past year, the Nutrition Group has been busy advocating, strategically growing and undertaking work focused on closing evidence to practice gaps. We were delighted to introduce the inaugural COSA Nutrition and Exercise Group Fellows in 2023, with Dr Emily Jeffrey appointed to lead the Nutrition work. Emily will focus on assessing the current provision of nutrition and dietetic services to people with cancer within acute health services providing cancer treatment across Australia to identify where targeted service improvement and advocacy are most needed. She is supported by mentors A/Professor Nicole Kiss and A/Professor Merran Findlay. The project *‘Toolkit to support implementation of the COSA position statement on cancer-related malnutrition and sarcopenia’* commenced in 2023, led by Jenelle Loeliger and Jane Stewart. This work aims to develop a toolkit to assist health professionals and health services to implement the recommendations within the [COSA position statement on cancer-related malnutrition and sarcopenia](#) and we look

forward to its release in 2024. A/Professor Merran Findlay and Professor Judy Bauer continue to lead work on the upgrade of the head and neck evidence-based guidelines.

Our Group members have also contributed broadly to COSA webinars, partnered with Dietitians Australia to host a nutrition-focused webinar, and the Group’s regular eNews has continued to keep COSA members informed of publications, achievements, professional development and project initiatives in the cancer nutrition space (thank you to our Editor Lauren Atkins).

Thank you for your support of the COSA Nutrition Group in 2023 and we hope to contribute in delivering against our state-based cancer plans and the recently released [Australian Cancer Plan](#). Please reach out in regard to any multidisciplinary collaborations where nutrition can play a role. We look forward to connecting with you throughout 2024 with an ambitious 2024 Nutrition Group Plan and hope to see you on the Gold Coast for the 2024 COSA ASM.



**Jenelle Loeliger**  
Chair, Nutrition  
Group



**PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY  
GROUP**

The COSA Psycho-oncology Group has continued to strive to strengthen national and international relationships with researchers and clinicians. Once again there was a strong contingent of our members in attendance at the International Psycho-oncology Society's World Congress in Milan which was held in August 2023. This gave our members an opportunity to network with others in the international psycho-oncology community, to learn about what is happening across the globe and to, again, demonstrate the high calibre of Australian psycho-oncology research. Given that we are in a world that is learning to live with COVID-19, connecting with our international colleagues is a privilege that is very much appreciated.

A highlight for the psycho-oncology community was the annual scientific meeting. Many of our members also attended the Psycho-oncology Co-operative Group meeting the day before the 2023 COSA ASM. Once again, COSA ASM provided an opportunity for our psycho-oncology researchers and clinicians to shine. It is with great thanks to A/ Professor Lesley Stafford who generously gave her time and expertise to represent psycho-oncology on the organising committee and advocate for some great psycho-oncology content. 2023 COSA ASM was extra special as it celebrated COSA's 50th Anniversary. We also had the opportunity to recognise the achievements of some of our amazing psycho-oncology members with the Melanie Price Psycho-oncology Award going to A/ Professor Haryana Dhillon in recognition of her significant contribution to psycho-oncology. It is also worth noting that Haryana is the first recipient of both the New Investigator Award (in 2012) and the Psycho-oncology



**Psycho-Oncology Group**

Award! Congratulations also to Dr Christina Signorelli on being named the Phyllis Butow New Investigator Award. This award recognises Christina's impressive achievements so early in her career.

Please note in your diaries the 2024 COSA ASM dates which will be 13-15 November 2024 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. I am very pleased that Maree Grier, Senior Clinical Psychologist, will be representing psycho-oncology on the ASM organising committee.

I look forward to ongoing collaboration and communication with our COSA Psycho-oncology group members. As usual, please feel free to [get in contact](#).



**Laura Kirsten**  
Chair, Psycho-Oncology  
Group

**RARE CANCERS  
GROUP**

Welcome to the Rare Cancers Group's Annual Report, providing a snapshot of our achievements and endeavours throughout 2023.

**Genomic testing in rare cancers - MoST is dead, long live CaSP!**

As we bid farewell to the Molecular Screening and Therapeutics (MoST) program at the close of 2023, we celebrate its pivotal role in advancing comprehensive genomic sequencing across Australia. MoST provided tumour testing for over 3500 Australians with advanced cancer, with nearly 80 per cent diagnosed with a rare or less common cancer. As MoST concludes, we welcome The Cancer Screening Program (CaSP), aimed at expanding access to comprehensive genomic testing nationwide. CaSP strives to supercharge the development of biomarker-dependent treatments and clinical trials in Australia.

**Australian Rare Cancer Portal – enabling Australian rare cancer care and research**

A significant milestone was reached in 2023 as the Australian Rare Cancer (ARC) Portal served its 1500th rare cancer patient. Since its establishment in 2019, the Portal has been a cornerstone in supporting clinicians by providing centralised online access to rare cancer expertise, guidelines, molecular test advice, and rare cancer basic research through the WEHI-Stafford Fox Rare Cancer Program. Notably, collaboration facilitated by the Portal has led to publications detailing homologous recombination defects in uterine leiomyosarcomas – with important treatment implications, and the clinical and molecular features of a large Australian cohort of epithelioid haemangioid endotheliomas.



**Senate inquiry into rare cancer care**

In response to the Senate’s inquiry into equitable access to diagnosis and treatment for rare cancers, our Group members contributed toward a total of 80 submissions. The inquiry acknowledges the disproportionate challenges faced by those with rare cancers, particularly in rural and regional areas. In February 2024, members will present insights garnered from their collective expertise.

**Rare Cancers Australia leads the way**

Rare Cancers Australia (RCA), remains tireless in its advocacy and support of Australians with rare cancers at government, pharmaceutical and clinical levels. Beyond its expanded operations providing ongoing telephone support, fundraising and transport and accommodation support for rare cancer patients, RCA’s latest report delves into the “Rarefication” of cancers in the personalised medicine era. This theme was explored in depth at the annual CanForum 2023, graced by the presence of the Honourable Mark Butler and Senator Anne Ruston.

**Executive Committee and membership**

Our members come from all across Australia and have diverse interests across tumour streams and specialties. Our current executive consists of: Clare Scott (chair), Damien Kee (deputy chair), Michael Brown, Phyllis Butow, David Goldstein, Michelle Harrison, Kristen Nowak, David Thomas, Alison Trainer, and Kate and Richard Vines. We extend an open invitation to new members to join our cause and collaborate towards advancing the care for patients with rare cancers.



**Clare Scott AM**  
Chair, Rare Cancers Group



**REGIONAL AND RURAL GROUP**

Providing cancer care in regional and remote areas is rewarding but can be challenging due to inequalities in access and barriers to care due to socioeconomic factors, health behaviours and cultural factors. The Australian Cancer Plan was launched at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in November 2023 and it was pleasing to note the Australian Cancer Plan “is designed to improve cancer outcomes for all Australians, and particularly for those groups whose health outcomes are poorest.” The Rural and Regional Executive Group were involved in stakeholder meetings prior to the launch and are keen to continue working with the Commonwealth to improve equity in cancer outcomes, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There is regional representation on the peak Cancer Australia advisory group which is focused on rolling out change across cancer networks ensuring equity for all.

COSA continues to advocate for access to telehealth. Cancer patients have benefited from access to telehealth through reducing travel burden and money expenditure while allowing access to specialist care. The [Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Advisory Committee Draft Report: Post Implementation Review of Telehealth MBS items](#) released in late 2023 recommended for initial consults to be available only face-to-face. This was particularly concerning as this recommendation would disadvantage rural and regional patients. Furthermore, this may reduce access to clinical trials that may be provided by other oncologists. COSA, in collaboration with Cancer Council Australia, provided a submission piece for the MBS Telehealth Post Implementation Review. COSA will continue to advocate for telehealth for patients and we eagerly await a response.

The Australian Teletrial Program, initially championed by COSA and Professor Sabe Sabesan, is now in the third year of the five-year program. This project aims to improve access to clinical trials in rural and regional areas and to upskill regional staff to conduct clinical trials. Currently, the Australian Teletrial Program has helped facilitate seven cancer trials in Queensland and five cancer trials in Victoria. Other cancer trials in Victoria are being facilitated by the Victorian Teletrials Collaborative. All other states and territories involved with the Australian Teletrial Program are currently conducting non-cancer trials but it is anticipated in the near future that all states and territories will be providing cancer clinical trials.

The Regional and Rural Group is keen to help support members who are keen to advocate for patients – we would love to hear from you should you wish to bring new ideas and initiatives.



**Wei-Sen Lam**  
Chair, Regional and Rural Group



## SURVIVORSHIP GROUP

The Survivorship Group continues to make great progress towards our aim of advancing survivorship care and research to improve outcomes for all Australians affected by cancer.

We were pleased that many of our Group members were able to join us at our [Annual Group Meeting](#) in Melbourne during the 2023 COSA ASM, at which the Group Chair role was handed from Professor Raymond Chan to A/Professor Nicolas Hart. Our Group's success is due to the commitment and dedication of our members, and we sincerely thank everyone for contributing time and expertise to support our initiatives, which are guided by our [Strategic Plan](#). Thanks also to our other outgoing Executive Committee members, Professor Michael Jefford and A/Professor Joel Rhee, for their significant contributions and leadership.

Our working groups continued to drive several priority initiatives during 2023:

The [Financial Toxicity Working Group](#) (Co-Chaired by Professor Raymond Chan and Megan Varlow) hosted a financial toxicity breakfast session at the 2023 COSA ASM. Attendees previewed a draft roadmap that was developed to address financial toxicity associated with cancer and its treatment. The roadmap draws upon elements identified during the working group's national [Think Tank](#), held in May 2023. This Think Tank enabled valuable discussion and information sharing and allowed us to move the discussion beyond identifying the problem, so we may now focus on innovative solutions. The working group also published a paper reporting on the [Challenges and solutions to cancer-related financial toxicity according to Australian health professions: qualitative results from a national survey](#). This builds upon our earlier [work](#) in this area.

The [Patient Reported Outcomes \(PRO\) Working Group](#) (Chaired by Professor Bogda Koczwara) facilitated a pre-2023 COSA ASM workshop, with participants representing consumers, clinicians, policy makers and advocacy organisations from across Australia. The workshop was funded by a UNSW Health Services Research Seed Grant awarded to Dr Carolyn Mazariego, and aimed to identify priority action areas to work towards a national approach in collecting PROs, and to inform the development of national priorities and an advocacy plan for routine collection and implementation of PROs in cancer clinical care. Six key topic areas were identified for further discussion and planning: ensuring person-centredness, relevance and acceptability; demonstrating value proposition; integration; minimum standards; sustainability; and adaptability.

Our [Survivorship Research Fellows](#) have continued to make excellent progress on their priority research projects, which are helping us to build capacity in survivorship research:

- **Dr Gemma McErlean** – *Developing a Practical Guidance Tool to Assist with Choice of Appropriate Survivorship Models of Care* – Co-Primary mentors: Professor Raymond Chan and Professor Michael Jefford
- **Dr Md Mijanur Rahman** – *Knowledge, Provision, and Utilisation Patterns of Chronic Disease GP Management Plans and Team Care Arrangements* – Co-Primary mentors: A/Professor Nicolas Hart and Professor Gail Garvey
- **Dr Carla Thamm** – *Patterns of Care and Health Service Costs for Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivors in Queensland* – Co-Primary mentors: Professor Gail Garvey and Dr Shafkat Jahan

- **Dr Rebecca Venchiarutti** – *Addressing Multimorbidity in Cancer Survivors* – Primary mentor: Professor Bogda Koczwara

**Collaborative survivorship webinars** continued during 2023 in partnership with the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre, Cancer Nurses Society of Australia and Cancer Council Victoria. These webinars largely targeted allied health professionals and nurses and were well received. Members may view recordings and webinar resources on our Group page: "[Fear of cancer recurrence](#)" and "[Cancer-related neuropathic pain](#)".

**The Flinders-COSA Survivorship Conference** took place in March 2023 in Adelaide and celebrated its 10-year anniversary. The theme – *Solidarity in Survivorship: Bringing us together* – highlighted the strength we find in each other, whether as health professionals, or cancer survivors, or both. We thank Convenor Professor Bogda Koczwara and the Program Committee for creating another exciting program that showcased innovation in survivorship care, research and policy.

Many thanks to Nicole Kinnane, for representing our Group's interests on the **2023 COSA ASM Program Committee**. There was a strong presence of Survivorship Group members at the 2023 COSA ASM showcasing their work, and many survivorship sessions featured. We congratulate all who contributed.

Our Group is proud to be engaged with **international survivorship initiatives**, and are mindful of how these may inform or be adapted to promote and complement our model of care agenda. These include the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (Exercise Oncology, Fatigue, Psychosocial, and Survivorship), American

Society of Clinical Oncology, the International Psycho-Oncology Society, and the Global Partnership on Self-Management in Cancer.

Our Group has also continued to keep everyone informed with our regular **Survivorship eNews**, with editions circulated in [April](#), [September](#) and [December](#). We are also active on X/Twitter via [@COSA\\_Surviv](#). Many thanks to our outgoing co-editors Dr Fiona Crawford-Williams and Dr Carolyn Mazariego for their editorial leadership. We have now welcomed Dr Md Mijanur Rahman and Dr Carla Thamm to the co-editor roles, and we remind everyone to get in touch if you would like to share information with your survivorship colleagues.

Thank you again for your support for the COSA Survivorship Group. We have an ambitious program of work planned for 2024 and look forward to continuing to work with you to improve research and care and achieve better outcomes for all people affected by cancer.



**Nicolas Hart**  
Chair, Survivorship Group  
(from 1 November 2023)



**Raymond Chan**  
Chair, Survivorship Group  
(to 1 November 2023)



# AFFILIATED ORGANISATION REPORTS



## AUSTRALASIAN GASTRO-INTESTINAL TRIALS GROUP

This year saw an important milestone for the AGITG: our Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Aotearoa New Zealand for the first time, alongside our focus on equity, diversity and inclusion in GI cancer care.

### Research news

#### Our clinical trials

Trial development remains in full swing, with three new studies opening to recruitment this year:

- VADER is exploring the efficacy of combining sodium valproate with anti-EGFR monoclonal antibody for metastatic colorectal cancer.
- ACME ABC is investigating the potential benefits of routine, comprehensive molecular profiling for patients with advanced biliary cancer.
- iLSTA is a single-blind study determining the safety and tolerability of a new drug in combination with other treatments for locally advanced pancreatic cancer (Endorsed study).

We are proud of the impact our research has made. Results from INTEGRATE IIa were presented at ASCO GI, and posters for PALEO and ASCEND were accepted at ASCO. Additionally, results from ASCOLT were presented at ESMO, with posters for ASCOLT TR and NEO-IMPACT also accepted at the meeting.

We are delighted that our pancreatic cancer clinical trial ASCEND opened as the first cross-jurisdictional teletrial, both for us and for the South Australia and the Northern Territory Australian Teletrial Program.



Associate Professor Karyn Paringatai presents at the 25th AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting

Finally, the DYNAMIC-III colorectal cancer study wrapped up recruiting this year as our largest clinical trial yet, enrolling more than its target accrual. In total, 1,040 patients from Australia and Canada joined the study, including more than 800 from Australia.

#### [View all open trials](#)

Idea Generation Workshop on Late-Stage Colorectal Cancer

Convened by A/Professor Cherry Koh and Dr Sina Vatandoust, this year's Idea Generation Workshop was held online in May. Five concepts addressing late-stage colorectal cancer were welcomed from across medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgery and nutrition.

Thank you to our convenors, as well as presenters Professor Vicki Whitehall, Dr Vanessa Wong, Dr Yoko Tomita, Dr Alex Flynn and Dr Mark Nalder. The presented ideas will be further developed with the support of the Concept Development groups before being progressed to the Lower GI Working Party.

#### [Read the Idea Generation Workshop recap](#)

### 25th Annual Scientific Meeting

Held in Ōtautahi/Christchurch on 13–16 November, this year's ASM focused on the theme '*Navigating Pathways to Equity in GI Cancer Research*', intended to address the pressing need to extend access and increase equity to therapeutic options across regional, rural and remote areas, as well as culturally diverse and First Nations populations. The meeting was attended by over 350 delegates from oncological practice, community and industry. [View photos or read the Meeting recap](#)

### Regional, rural and remote cancer care

A focus at the 2023 Meeting was access to cancer care for regional, rural and remote patients. Various sessions shone a spotlight on decentralised clinical trials or teletrials in the Australian and New Zealand healthcare systems, including study design and frameworks.

### Cultural safety

Another major focus at the conference was cultural safety in cancer care, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australian and Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand. Talks were presented throughout on cultural safety frameworks and data sovereignty in GI cancer care. A highlight was the Meihana Model Workshop, facilitated by Professor Suzanne Pitama.





**Community voices**

Embedding patient and community inclusion within their own care was discussed widely at the Meeting. Keynote breakfast sessions emphasised the importance of building equity and value for patient into research, highlighting the importance of achieving outcomes which are truly clinically meaningful.

**Awards and grants**

The AGITG Innovation Grant was awarded to Dr David Liu for his concept, titled *“Multi-Omics Evaluation of Peritoneal Fluid in Gastroesophageal Cancer (OMEGCA): A prospective trial to develop a sensitive assay to detect clinically occult peritoneal metastases”*.

We were also proud to present the John Zalcberg AO Award to A/Professor Haryana Dhillon in recognition of her significant and outstanding leadership in AGITG research for many years.

[View all award winners](#)

A renewed commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion

As part of our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, we have released a statement of intention, and will provide annual updates on our progress to measurable goals.

Our EDI statement is a statement of intent for AGITG and GI Cancer Institute. It is an acknowledgement of the need for continual and sustained effort to understand and address the factors that contribute to disparities in outcomes for people with GI cancers in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

[Read our statement on equity, diversity and inclusion](#)

**Welcome back Russell Conley**

We are excited to have Russell Conley return to his role of Chief Executive Officer, following medical leave for anal and rectal cancer treatment. Now back on board, Russell will focus on strategy, governance and stakeholder engagement. Congratulations to Joanne Cory who is now our Chief Operating Officer, having served as Acting CEO during Russell’s leave, and will focus on operations, finance, human resources, risk management, as well as strategy support.



**Lorraine Chantrill**  
Chair, AGITG



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

**AUSTRALASIAN LEUKAEMIA  
AND LYMPHOMA GROUP**

**Five Decades of Impact**

This year, the ALLG celebrated our 50th anniversary and five decades of impact for patients with blood cancer. This milestone is a testament to the hard work and contributions from our ALLG members to progress clinical trial research in support of our mission to create *Better Treatments, Better Lives* for those with blood cancer.

In these five decades of impact, the ALLG and our members have made life changing breakthroughs in all areas of the disease. ALLG trials have contributed to what are now the best standard treatments in Australia and New

Zealand in blood cancers. Our research has focused on areas of unmet need in treatment, the critical investigation of new therapies, and the development of evidence based best practices, all with the aim of improving patient outcomes.

The ALLG today comprises more than 1100 blood cancer experts from 94 institutions, and we are actively nurturing the next generation of leaders in research through mentoring and leadership opportunities in clinical trials.

The culmination of our 50th year was the biggest ever ALLG Scientific Meeting in October in Sydney. This event featured a strong scientific program and highlighted the key individual and collaborative achievements of our members along the way to this momentous milestone.

We also published a special 50th Anniversary commemorative publication to mark the occasion, which can be found at [allg.org.au](http://allg.org.au)



ALLG members celebrate their 50th anniversary



### Accelerating Research

ALLG continues to expand our trials in progress, in development and in the pipeline. With over 1100 members across Australia and New Zealand, we are well placed to accelerate our research portfolio and impact in blood cancer.

- This year, ALLG opened seven new clinical trials and has a pipeline of exciting trials in development across the eight scientific working parties.
- Our National Blood Cancer Registry surpassed 4000 registered participants.
- We highlighted ALLG's trial work within the scientific community, with 23 presentations at key conferences and seven journal publications.
- We invested in our ability to move trials to market more quickly, with the implementation of a new Study Start Up Workflow and Study Start-Up Project Manager, Clinical Research Development Officer and Contracts Officer positions.
- We successfully raised funds to establish the ALLG HSANZ Clinical Trial Fellowship Program, to launch in April/May 2024.

Learn more in the ALLG 2023 Annual Review, *'Global Leaders, Global Impact: Collaboration, Innovation, Future Focus'*, available at [allg.org.au](http://allg.org.au)

### Scientific Meetings

Our two Scientific Meetings each year bring together ALLG Members to discuss clinical trials and research into blood cancer and to progress new ideas to improve therapies for patients to have better treatments and better lives.

The meetings focus on ALLG's clinical trial portfolio across our eight disease scientific working parties – Acute Leukaemia & Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS); Lymphoma; Myeloma; Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML) & Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN); Stem Cell Transplantation; Chronic Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (CLL); Supportive Care; and Laboratory Science.

Our meetings also feature professional development and education for our Associate Members, who are key trial staff from our ALLG hospital network across Australia and New Zealand. Our most recent meeting also included a Patient Forum in collaboration with our foundation partner, Lymphoma Australia.

We had a range of engaging international guest speakers across our 2023 Scientific Meetings, including:

- Professor Wee Joo Chng, National University Cancer Institute, on *'Multiple Myeloma standard of care treatment in Asia'*;
- Professor John Gribben, Barts Cancer Institute, United Kingdom, on *'Emerging research in CLL'*;
- Professor Uwe Platzbecker, Leipzig University Hospital, Germany, on *'AML & MDS international perspectives and advancing collaborations'*;

- Professor Simon Rule, AstraZeneca, on *'Moving from Academia to Industry'*;
- Professor Ronjon Chakraverty, IMPACT, United Kingdom, on *'How IMPACT was developed'*; and
- Professor Othman Al-Sawaf, University Hospital Cologne, Germany, on *'Richters Transformation and other research'*.

We'd like to also thank the Hon. Mark Butler MP, Australian Government Minister for Health and Aged Care, who gave the keynote address at our 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner, and Dr Norman Swan, ABC Health Report, for acting as our MC and hosting an engaging panel session with the membership at our Awards Dinner.

### Research News

Congratulations to our ALLG Members invited to present ALLG trial abstracts at the American Society of Hematology (ASH) conference in 2023. This included two prestigious oral presentations:

- A/Professor Eliza Hawkes, Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute – *'A Window Study of Acalabrutinib & Rituximab, Followed by Chemotherapy & Autograft (ASCT) in Fit Patients with Treatment Naïve Mantle Cell Lymphoma (MCL): First Report of the Investigator-Initiated Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group NHL33 'WAMM' Trial'*; and
- A/Professor David Yeung, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute – *'Excellent Early and Major Molecular Responses Observed with Asciminib Treatment for CP-CML: Results from the ALLG CML13 Ascend-CML Study'*.

We also congratulate the following Members on their ALLG trial abstract presentations at ASH 2023:

- Professor Judith Trotman for HD08 RATHL
- Professor Hang Quach for MM23 SEALAND
- Professor Deborah White & A/Professor Matthew Greenwood for ALL06/ALL09 Studies
- Professor Chan Cheah & Dr Katharine Lewis for NHL35 PACIFIC
- Professor Stephen Mulligan for CLL6 Residuum

Thank you to our members for their ongoing contributions and commitment across this year, and to our trial participants, staff and community for their support in progressing our shared mission to create *Better Treatments, Better Lives* for those with blood cancer.



**Judith Trotman**  
Chair, ALLG Scientific  
Advisory Committee



# ANZCHOG

Australian & New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group

## AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND CHILDREN'S HAEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY GROUP

In 2023, the Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology Oncology Group (ANZCHOG) maintained its progress in paediatric oncology, thanks in large part to the diverse expertise and dedication of our members. Their contributions have been instrumental to our accomplishments this year, including the expansion of our clinical trial portfolio and enhanced support for healthcare professionals.

### Research and Clinical Trial Updates

The ANZCHOG National Trials Centre has had an exceptionally active year. This year, our involvement in clinical trials reached new heights, with 35 trials under our sponsorship. These included three innovative trials launched this year, covering a range of paediatric cancers and treatment approaches. In addition, we managed the coordination of 15 open trials and 17 in follow-up stages. With 18 trials currently in various stages of development and concept, 2024 will be another busy year in our National Trials Centre.

There were several trial closures, including the MyeChild trial, an international Phase III trial in Acute Myeloid Leukaemia, which completed its recruitment during the year. With ANZCHOG sites contributing significantly to global recruitment, this trial highlights the benefits and achievements made possible through our international research collaborations.

### ANZCHOG's Professional Activities

Our Business Operating Team has been pivotal in enhancing our operational capabilities. The continued development of our eCommunity platform has fostered a vital online space for our members to connect and share insights. The introduction of new membership categories has seen further expansion of ANZCHOG's membership profile.

ANZCHOG's specialised groups have been actively engaging and making strides in their respective areas, discussing significant topics like funding for important research and endorsing new studies aimed at improving treatment options. Across all our specialised groups, there's a clear emphasis on strategic planning, collaboration, and pioneering research, showcasing a united effort to advance care and support for those in need.

Our Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Perth, from 24-26 August 2023. This event, focusing on the theme "Translational Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders Research: Bringing It All Together," brought together almost 300 participants, and over half of the attendees participated in multi-day pre-conference workshops in Transplant and Cellular Therapies, Survivorship, and Radiation Oncology. The meeting featured several distinguished international and national speakers, with the premise to have "something for everyone", including:

### **International**

- A/Professor Sumit Gupta (Hospital for Sick Children) excels in clinical epidemiology with a focus on global cancer care.
- Dr Arnold Paulino (MD Anderson Cancer Center) is noted for his expertise in paediatric radiation oncology and reducing therapy side effects.

- Dr Lucas Moreno (Vall D'hebron Hospital) champions early clinical trials and neuroblastoma research.
- Dr Matthew Ehrhardt (St Jude Children's Research Hospital) is an authority on the long-term impacts of childhood cancer treatment.
- Dr Nada Jabado (McGill University) is renowned for her transformative research in paediatric brain tumours.
- Dr Uri Tabori (The Hospital for Sick Children) integrates clinical practice with innovative cancer research.
- Professor Sonata Jodele (Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center) leads in haematopoietic stem cell transplant and cell therapies.

### **National**

- Dr Julie Stone champions reflective practice to enhance the well-being and effectiveness of healthcare professionals.
- Professor Joy Ho (Royal Prince Alfred Hospital), an eminent figure in haematology, is renowned for her leadership in myeloma research and clinical innovation.
- Dr Seong Lin Khaw (Royal Children's Hospital) is at the forefront of improving leukaemia therapy through clinical and translational research.
- Dr Susan Russell (Sydney Children's Hospital) leads in the management of children with vascular malformations, employing innovative treatment strategies.
- Professor Paul Monagle (University of Melbourne) is an authority on paediatric thrombosis and anticoagulation, shaping clinical guidelines and research.

### **Local**

- Professor Chan Cheah (Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital) is distinguished for his pioneering work in lymphoma research and his leadership in blood cancer initiatives.
- Dr Angela Alessandri (Perth Children's Hospital) combines expertise in paediatric haematology with a strong focus on clinical ethics and physician wellness.
- Ranita Sidhu (Perth Children's Hospital) brings extensive experience in psychosocial support within paediatric oncology, enhancing care and communication in clinical settings.

Their collective insights provided a comprehensive and interdisciplinary overview of the latest developments and research in paediatric cancer and blood disorders.

### Acknowledgements

Our work is made possible by the generous support of our funding partners. This year, we have been fortunate to manage grants encompassing a range of critical areas from infrastructure to funding for specific trials. Additional funding, particularly for the Biobanking Network, further enriches our diverse portfolio.

Our staff's hard work and expertise have played a significant role in our accomplishments. Their dedication has been central to the success of our various projects and partnerships.



Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, ANZCHOG is poised for even greater achievements. Our plans for expanding our clinical trial portfolio and supporting our members are ambitious and reflect our commitment to paediatric oncology research. The 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide is set to be a highlight of our calendar, providing a platform for sharing cutting-edge research and clinical advancements. The event will explore the theme of *'Sparking hope through cutting edge technologies and collaborative care; tangka parranthi'*. For more information, please visit our [ASM website](#).

Our vision for 2024 and beyond is one of continued growth, innovation, and impact. We are excited about the prospects of furthering our contributions to paediatric oncology and are committed to improving outcomes for children diagnosed with cancer.



**Nick Gottardo**  
Chair, ANZCHOG



AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND  
GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY  
GROUP

ANZGOG continues to grow its research portfolio, working closely with our community of valued supporters and members while our advocacy and education activities foster strength in our sector.

[#AdvancingResearchSavingLives](#)

Catalysing innovative, practice-changing gynaecological cancer research

During 2023 we opened four studies to recruitment this year – EPOCH, PEACE, ROSELLA, and XPORT-EC-042. On the other end of the trial cycle, two of our studies closed to recruitment:

- **ECHO** - an exercise intervention study, closed to recruitment after recruiting 524 participants. ECHO addresses the urgent need for more effective treatment options for ovarian cancer.
- **STICs and STONES** - a randomised Phase II double-blind placebo-controlled study, also concluded its recruitment phase. The study investigates the preventative potential of aspirin in ovarian cancer in women with BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutations.

We thank all participating women and their families, participating hospitals and collaborating trial teams for their long-term commitment to the studies.

ANZGOG is fortunate to have 1300 members working locally and globally to improve outcomes for everyone with a lived experience of gynaecological cancer.

**ANZGOG trial update**

ANZGOG clinical trials currently open to recruitment:

- ovarian cancer trials:
  - I. **HyNOVA** in collaboration with the NHMRC 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. **XPORT-EC-042** a global study sponsored by Karyopharm Therapeutics, in collaboration with ANZGOG, European Network of Gynaecological Oncological Trial Groups (ENGOT) and GOG Foundation.
  - II. **ENDO-3** in collaboration with Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer and
  - III. **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:

- Two endometrial cancer trials: **DOMENICA and TAPER**
- one survey study: **EXPRESSION IX**
- For more information on ANZGOG's trials, please visit [our website](#).

### Collaborating locally and globally, sharing insights and expertise

#### ANZGOG 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting

ANZGOG held its [17th Annual Scientific Meeting](#) (ASM) in Brisbane, 22-24 March 2023. This year's ASM attracted 325 participants from Australia and New Zealand, with the theme being "Improving the Lived Experience of Patients with Gynaecological Cancer".

Delegates were provided with truly thought-provoking and insightful keynote addresses delivered by our esteemed international speakers who discussed advancements made in treating gynaecological cancers, from a historical perspective to recent developments:

- **Professor René Pareja (Gynaecological Oncologist, Colombia).** *"History doesn't repeat itself but it does rhyme: the tale of cervical cancer surgery."*
- **Dr Ina Jurgenliemk-Schulz (Radiation Oncologist, Netherlands).** *"Recent key advancements in locally advanced cervical cancer: A Radiation Oncologist's View."*
- **Professor Iain McNeish (Medical Oncologist, United Kingdom).** *"The key advances and major setbacks in treating gynaecology."*

The ASM was a successful occasion, brought to fruition by the collective input of ANZGOG members, providing an excellent platform for engaging in meaningful discussions



ANZGOG ASM

and collaborative efforts in the field of gynaecological oncology research.

We look forward to a landmark ASM in 2024, which will be held in New Zealand for the first time and focusing on equity in gynaecological cancer care. More information can be found [here](#).

#### 2023 ANZGOG Awards

The 2023 ANZGOG Awards recognised the efforts of five remarkable individuals in improving outcomes for women diagnosed with gynaecological cancer. The below individuals made a significant impact on this field through their tireless work, innovative research and unwavering commitment:

- Michael Friedlander AM Award – **Dr Nikki Burdett**
- Research Pioneer Award – **Professor David Bowtell**
- ANZGOG Chair's Community Volunteer Award – **Duncan McPherson OAM**
- Clinical Trial Achievement Award – **Professor Linda Mileshkin**
- Outstanding Clinical Trial Site Award – **Newcastle Private Trials Unit**

We extend a heartfelt thank you to each of the winners and look forward to the continued impact of their work.



L-R: Dr Nikki Burdett, Professor Linda Mileshkin, Duncan McPherson OAM

#### Forging strong international collaborations

We are at a great point in our relationships, both nationally and internationally.

- Gynecologic Cancer Intergroup (GCIG) – 33 member countries collaborating on academic research projects. ANZGOG members carry a number of leadership positions, with ANZGOG Director Professor Alison Brand AM as Chair of the GCIG, Professor Linda Mileshkin Chair of the Endometrial Cancer Committee, Professor Chee Lee, Meta-Analysis Committee and ANZGOG Research Manager John Andrews incoming chair of the Harmonization Operations Committee.

ANZGOG members are contributing to international clinical trial design more now than ever before. This is really valuable, not only for ANZGOG members, but also for people with a lived experience of gynaecological cancer in Australia and New Zealand. This means that more women can participate in clinical trials, with access to a wider choice of treatments.

#### Engaging the community to help shape our research

##### ANZGOG launches its new Community Engagement Program

Everyone with a lived experience of gynaecological cancers is the centre of everything we do, whether that is designing clinical trials, advocating for research funding, or educating the next generation of health professionals.

ANZGOG launched its new [Community Engagement Program](#) in November 2023, which delivers opportunities for people with a lived experience of gynaecological cancers to contribute meaningfully and fosters a groundswell of action through our volunteers, to impact outcomes for women now and in the future.

Within the program, Community Volunteer roles span across three areas: Education, Advocacy and Research. Volunteers are matched with the pathway that aligns with their interests and experience, offering flexibility in contributing at various levels.

All interested individuals are encouraged to learn more and register their interest by visiting [this webpage](#).



Survivors Teaching Students

ANZGOG's Survivors Teaching Students (STS) program continues to grow and reach more universities and students in 2023. STS is a consumer-led, ground-breaking education program which achieved several milestones throughout Australia and New Zealand:

- 3,900 students were reached
- 🏠 20 university collaborations
- 📄 48 education sessions were delivered
- 👉 109 active volunteers led the program

Through the power of storytelling, these volunteers educate the next generation of healthcare professionals with the aim of raising awareness of gynaecological cancer symptoms, increasing early diagnosis of ovarian cancer and the importance of good health communication.

WomenCan – funding cancer research

WomenCan (ANZGOG's fundraising arm) and the Team Teal ovarian cancer partnership has grown its public support in 2023. The 2023 Team Teal campaign was an outstanding success, with almost \$400,000 raised by the harness racing community.

I wish to thank all our members, the women taking part in our trials and their families, and our staff for another successful year of advancing gynaecological cancer research in Australia and New Zealand.



**Clare Scott AM**  
Chair, ANZGOG



AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND  
HEAD AND NECK CANCER SOCIETY

The Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society was formed in 1998 with the simple goal to promote quality care for all head and neck cancer patients. We continue to do this through the extensive work of the executive committee and members of this society. The society has a multi-disciplinary approach to diagnosing, treating and rehabilitating patients with head and neck cancer.

As the year draws to a close, it is worth reflecting on the aims of the society to improve the quality of our care. We have done this through the following webinars: *Transforming treatment approaches in head and neck cancer and immunotherapy* by Drs Rom Leidner, Marka Crittenden and Bryan Bell, *Advanced practice and innovation by dietitians: improving care and outcomes for people with head and neck cancer* by Jenelle Loeliger and Jane Stewart, and *Challenges in managing young patients with oral cancer* by Drs Jonathan Clark, Melanie Jackson and Marcin Dzienis. Our webinars are provided free for our members.

The key highlight for the society is our Annual Scientific Meeting which was held in the beautiful Hunter Valley. This brought our head and neck cancer meeting to a regional centre for the first time in the society's history. The meeting's theme was **Survivorship: When the Complex gets Complicated**. The keynote speakers were Professor Anil D'Cruz, Dr Andrew Foreman, Professor Katherine Hutcheson and

A/Professor Jørgen Johansen complemented by a host of excellent local speakers, debates, multi-disciplinary cancer management discussions and the latest research findings. The Chris O'Brien Oration was provided by Professor Jonathan Clark AM. We had 216 registrants attend this meeting and awarded the following grants and prizes:

- 2022 ANZHNCS Developing Nations Visitor Scheme Award – Dr Gourav Popli
- 2023 ANZHNCS Travelling Lectureship Scheme Award – Dr Amit Bhal
- 2023 Best Poster Presentation Prize – Mrs Jessica Ly
- 2023 Best Oral Presentation Prize – Dr George Petrides
- 2023 Nurse and Allied Health Grant – Jessica Tam and Emma Charters

The society has been actively advocating for head and neck cancer patients and contributing to policy and requests from the Doctors for the Environment Australia, COSA statement on e-cigarettes, and providing representation to the MRI working group of the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care to identify current gaps in the MBS for MRI services for patients with rare and uncommon cancers and to consider the clinical validity and utility of MRI on management and cost effectiveness. Head and Neck Cancer is considered one of the uncommon and rare cancers. We are pleased to have provided input into this with the aim of improving care for patients.

One of the key gaps we identified in head and neck cancer treatment, especially in the public health system, is lack of sufficient preventative and special needs dental care and dental rehabilitation. This gap in care creates inequity in care especially for our most vulnerable



patients such as indigenous patients, patients in lower socioeconomic groups, and living in rural or remote areas. We provided input into a written submission document and patient testimonies to a Senate Select Committee on this important issue. We would like to thank Dr Felix Sim and A/Professor Bruce Ashford for their help with this highly important issue. The report by the Select Committee into the provision of and access to Dental Services in Australia titled “*A system in decay: a review into dental services in Australia*” was recently released. The recommendations for the report for the Australian Government to commission a study into the impact of cancer and cancer treatment in dental and oral health and the need to provide coverage for oral health treatment including restorative services for head and neck and oral cancer survivors. It was also recommended to review the Medicare Benefits Schedule with a view to improving the accessibility of oral health treatment.

Our society was also well-represented at the recent International Academy of Oral Oncology meeting in South Korea where our members Kerwin Shannon, Jarryd Both, and Sydney Ch’ng presented talks at the symposium “*Paradigm Shifts in the Etiology, Diagnosis and Management of Oral Cancer*”.

We have promoted research in head and neck cancer through awarding research grants and promoting research projects led by members of the society. The Research Foundation fund raises money to support critical clinical, translational and laboratory research undertaken by the academics and medical practitioners. Each year grants are made in support of research initiatives that are already improving the quality of care and life for head and neck cancer patients. Dr Rajdeep

Chakraborty, the recipient of a grant in 2021 has since gone on to have his recent project “Preclinical 3D-model supports an invisibility cloak for adenoid cystic carcinoma” published in Scientific Reports.

Our annual scientific meetings will be held in Melbourne in 2024, Adelaide in 2025 and the big meeting with the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncology Societies in Brisbane in 2026 where we expect 2000 delegates to attend.

Please visit our website ([www.anzhncs.org](http://www.anzhncs.org)) and follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Facebook for the latest updates and photos. Finally, if you are interested in becoming involved with head and neck cancer, please reach out to the society [info@anzhncs.org](mailto:info@anzhncs.org) and consider joining the society and getting involved with our activities.



**Eng H. Ooi**  
President, ANZHNCs



## AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND SARCOMA ASSOCIATION

### Message from the Chair

It is a great pleasure to present the 2023 annual report to COSA members. It has truly been a productive year for ANZSA, with many key accomplishments across our aims to improve outcomes for patients with sarcoma through research, education and awareness.

The ANZSA Board continues to review the composition and effectiveness of its current Directors. At the 2023 ANZSA Annual General Meeting, the Board welcomed three new Directors to ANZSA. A/Professor Fiona Maclean, Dr Jason Cain and Ms Sarah Cheung were all elected to the Board of Directors. We also bid farewell to Mr Geoffrey McKinnon and welcome Ms Sarah Cheung as our new Chair of the consumer advisory panel. Geoff had worked tirelessly in this role over the past ten years. We are deeply grateful for his contribution and wish him all the best for the future.

### 2023 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, focusing on *Using Data to Improve Outcomes: Lessons Learnt and Future Directions*.

Overall, we had over 150 registrants for the meeting. In addition to our registrants, we also had over 70 international attendees

from developing countries who were given complementary registration to access information that they would otherwise not be able to, taking our total number of registrants to over 220!

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

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.

During the meeting, ANZSA celebrated our 15th Anniversary. It was wonderful to have so many of our members, both past and present, in attendance to celebrate all of our achievements as an organisation. We also recognised the outstanding contribution of two giants in sarcoma care in Australia and New Zealand- Professor Paul Stalley AM and Professor David Thomas as well as Ms Helen Sewell AM for her philanthropic contribution to sarcoma research.

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.

We look forward to welcoming our attendees back to our meeting in 2024 held in Brisbane alongside the 2024 International Society of Limb Salvage (ISOL) meeting chaired by our Board member and ISOL president Professor Peter Steadman.

### ANZSA Sarcoma Guidelines

In July this year, we released the second series of clinical research questions in the ANZSA



Sarcoma Guidelines. The guidelines working party have identified six new questions which include the role of radiation therapy, biopsy and chemotherapy in retroperitoneal sarcomas alongside other topics. The new questions being included in the guidelines are:

- Topic 2 Q1 - What is the role of radiation therapy in the management of primary retroperitoneal sarcomas?
- Topic 2 Q2 - Does multi-visceral resection improve outcomes for patients with primary retroperitoneal sarcoma outcomes?
- Topic 2 Q3 – What is the role of preoperative biopsy in retroperitoneal sarcoma?
- Topic 2 Q4 – What is the role of chemotherapy in primary retroperitoneal sarcoma according to histologic subtype
- Topic 3 Q4 (a) - Does the addition of high-dose chemotherapy have an impact on outcome of Ewing sarcoma compared to standard chemotherapy alone? In first line (a)? In relapse (b)?
- Topic 3 Q4 (b) - Does the addition of high-dose chemotherapy have an impact on outcome of Rhabdomyosarcoma compared to standard chemotherapy alone? In first line (a)? In relapse (b)?

The current guidelines development process commenced at the end of 2020 with full support from the Board and the scientific advisory committee of ANZSA. The intended end users are health professionals involved in the care of patients with sarcoma from time of initial presentation through diagnosis, staging, treatment and follow up.

The guidelines development is an ongoing process and recommendations for other key questions will be released in the future as the working party continues to appraise evidence for the rest of the topics. This series will be

updated as new evidence becomes available and at a minimum of every five years.

The guidelines are freely available on the ANZSA [website](#).

### SARC032 Recruitment Achieved

The global recruitment target for the SARC032 clinical trial of 144 has been reached, ending the recruitment stage of the trial. Of the 144 patients recruited globally, 45 have come from Australian sites, including Royal Prince Alfred Hospital/Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, Princess Alexandra Hospital and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

The SARC032 is a multicentre, randomised phase II trial with an initial safety run-in to test the safety and efficacy of neoadjuvant pembrolizumab with image-guided preoperative radiotherapy and adjuvant pembrolizumab compared to preoperative radiotherapy alone in patients with high-risk localised extremity soft tissue sarcoma. We eagerly await the early readout of the trial result in 2024.

### MYTH Study Recruits First Patient

The MYTH Study (Methotrexate for AYAs in The Home for adolescent and young adult (AYA) osteosarcoma patients) running out of Chris O'Brien Lifehouse recently recruited their first patient for the study.

The study is led by Dr Elizabeth Connolly, Dr Vivek Bhadri and Dr Jessica Ryan with the aim to give patients the option of receiving chemotherapy out of hospital and hopes to explore their perspective on the advantages and disadvantages of having treatment in this manner.

For more information about the MYTH study, visit our [website](#).



Angela Hong  
Chair, ANZSA



### AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND UROGENITAL AND PROSTATE CANCER TRIALS GROUP

ANZUP's trial portfolio continued to grow in 2023, with five ANZUP-led trials and one co-badged trial currently in recruitment, 17 in follow-up, and a number of new trials ready to open in the new year. You can read more about our trials on our website [here](#).

ANZUP held a number of events during the year, including our Ideas Generation Workshops, Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Melbourne in July, the Best of GU in Brisbane, the GU Cancer Rapid Fire Program in Melbourne, as well as both our Sydney and Melbourne Below the Belt Pedalthons, to name a few!

We also saw many achievements in the past year including:

- Our **DASL-HiCaP** (ANZUP 1801) trial reached full recruitment, a great achievement for a large international study that opened during COVID-19 in 2020
- **ENZA-p** (ANZUP 1901) trial completed recruitment - a great achievement for another study that opened in mid-2020 during COVID-19
- **BCGMM** (ANZUP 1301) reached full recruitment and **RAMPART** (ANZUP 1606), **EVOLUTION** (ANZUP 2001) and co-badged study **#UPFront** PSMA closed to recruitment
- **Pain-free TRUS B** (ANZUP 1501) trial won the BJUI Global Prize 2023 for Article of the Year



Ian Davis & Marg McJannett

- We opened two new studies: **ANZadapt** (ANZUP 2101) a Phase II randomised controlled trial of patient-specific adaptive versus continuous Abiraterone or eNZalutamide in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer, and **DIPPER** (2002) a multi-centre, randomised phase 2 clinical trial of early salvage radiotherapy versus surveillance for biochemical recurrence after radical prostatectomy incorporating clinical and imaging-based risk stratification

### Retirement of ANZUP CEO, Marg McJannett

Our wonderful CEO, Marg McJannett, is transitioning to retirement in the near future. Marg has been with ANZUP for over 13 years and has seen it grow from a small and fragile group into one of the world's powerhouse cooperative cancer clinical trials groups. Marg has brought together enormously diverse groups of people and united them under a common goal: working together to improve the outcomes for people affected by genitourinary cancers. Although Bill and the Gold Coast are calling loudly, Marg has generously offered to stay on a little longer while we identify a new CEO and to ease us all through that transition. ANZUP will always carry the marks of Marg's influence: just look for all the good bits, and there they are. Thanks Marg, for so many things.

### Ideas Generation Workshops

During 2023 we continued with our Ideas Generation Workshops (formally known as Concept Development Workshops), and



held these both face-to-face, as well as via Zoom. We held six IGWs in 2023 with over 170 attendees and close to 30 concepts presented to our multidisciplinary members. This is where many of the seeds for ANZUP clinical trials are first sown, and they are important to grow and foster a pipeline of innovative ideas to be considered and prioritised with support from ANZUP moving forward.

### International Meetings

ANZUP featured a number of presentations and posters at international meetings throughout the year. Three ANZUP trials posters were presented at ASCO GU 2023 in San Francisco: DASL-HiCaP, P3BEP & EVOLUTION, plus PREPARE, PRESTIGE & an ICECaP study. ANZUP had three posters at ASCO 2023 in Chicago - BCG+MM, CLIMATE, GUIDE & P3BEP. In Madrid at ESMO 2023 our ENZA-p interim results were presented and chosen as a Proffered Paper session, and ENZAMET & KEYPAD presented posters.

### #ANZUP23 ASM

Our 2023 ASM was held in Melbourne and brought together a multidisciplinary group of over 450 healthcare professionals in attendance. Over the course of three days, delegates had the opportunity to engage with and learn from eight international experts and numerous national leaders in the research, diagnosis, treatment, and management of genitourinary (GU) cancers. The collegial spirit that defines ANZUP was evident throughout the program, which catered to professionals working in various aspects of GU cancers.

The diverse sessions included the highly successful new addition, The Perfect Pitch, the popular MDT Masterclass, the Translational and Supportive Care breakfast sessions, the



always well-attended Nurses Symposium, the thought-provoking plenary sessions, the important ANZUP Trials in Action session, and the anticipated debates and poster presentations, among many other informative sessions.

And of course, this would not have been possible with the wonderful Co-Convenors Ben Tran and Renu Eapen, along with the ASM Convening Committee. Thank you all!

We were fortunate to have more than 80 speakers, panellists, session chairs and poster presenters, including a stellar international faculty: International Faculty comprising of Andrea Apolo, Darren Feldman, Alex Wyatt, Laurien Buffart, Sima Porten, Rebecca Martin, Ananya Choudhury and Bertrand Tombal.

You can watch some videos from the ASM on the [ANZUP YouTube channel](#).

### Best of GU Oncology Evening Symposium

We held our Best of GU Evening Symposium on Wednesday 15 November 2023 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

We held our GU Cancer Rapid Fire in Melbourne on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 November 2023. 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 Adrishia Inderjeeth. The mentors (Ian Davis, Anna Kuchel, Haryana Dhillon, Dickon Hayne, Andrew Weickhardt, Chris Oldmeadow, Carole Harris and Shankar Siva) provided invaluable insights for the trainees. Many thanks to our sponsors who these events would not be possible without: Astellas, AstraZeneca, Bayer, BMS, Eisai, Merck, MSD and Telix.

### The Melbourne and Sydney Below the Belt Pedalathons

The Melbourne Pedalthon returned to Sandown on Sunday 26 March 2023, and

Sydney Pedalthon was held at Eastern Creek on Tuesday 31 October 2023. 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.

The events raised over \$140,000, and 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.

### ANZUP Publications

Our ANZUP 2023 Annual Report was released in June, reflecting on our activities and achievements over the past year. The report is a great showcase of the tireless commitment of our members, supporters and wider ANZUP community to improve treatments and outcomes for genitourinary cancer patients. You can [read the report online](#).

We continue to publish our Consumer Magazine 'A little below the belt'. This magazine is full of information about what ANZUP does, how we do it, and how the community supports us. The [magazine is available to read online](#).

Our membership base continued to grow, reaching over 2,300. We are grateful to our dedicated and committed membership for both their ongoing support and dedication to ANZUP, and taking time out of their busy work and personal lives to help support ANZUP and make a difference to the lives of people affected by GU cancers.



**Ian Davis**  
Chair, ANZUP





## AUSTRALIAN PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

In 2023, the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) was proud to come on board as an Affiliated Organization of COSA. With over 31,000 members, the APA is the peak body for Australian physiotherapists and, through our partnership with COSA, this reflects the importance of our members' commitment to professional excellence, better patient outcomes and improved conditions for all impacted by cancer. Through its Cancer, Palliative Care and Lymphoedema Group, the APA continues to build momentum and work, connecting over 250 members in these specialty areas across all states.

As an organisation, we embarked on some priority projects that were aligned with our [strategic plan](#) and were excited to finally hold a full in-person research conference in Brisbane in October. Through the collective efforts of all our national and state committees, we have been able to provide valuable input into policy and advocacy work, advance our professional development program and improve networks and support for physiotherapists working with patients in cancer, palliative care and lymphoedema management. These three specialties continue to be areas that are overlooked and under-resourced across all states. Cancer, palliative care and lymphoedema physiotherapists are highly skilled and well-

placed across acute, sub-acute, hospital, community and aged care settings, working with other health professions to provide the best person-centred care to the patient at the right time. However, we know that there is always more to be done, learnt and built upon, which always makes for a busy and fulfilling year of hard work and achievements at the end of the day!

Below are just a few snippets of the great work APA has engaged in during 2023.

### Palliative Care Workforce Data

This year, the APA identified the lack of allied health palliative care workforce data reported by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. APA conducted its first workforce data focusing on physiotherapists working in palliative care during National Palliative Care Week.

This information will for the first time provide a national picture and snapshot of workforce data and professional concerns of physiotherapists working in palliative care. This work is an important start to build toward future palliative care data collection, research and identifying key priority issues both within the profession and across allied health in Australia.

### Advocacy

The Cancer, Palliative Care and Lymphoedema Group of APA represented physiotherapists on a range of submissions and consultations, including:

- Australian Cancer Plan
- Aged care funding in chronic oedema management

- End of Life Directions for Aged Care allied health toolkit
- National Palliative Care Standards generalist supplement
- Optimal Care Pathways, Cancer Council Victoria
- Palliative care service delivery, Tasmania
- Victorian Cancer Plan
- AIHW Palliative Care Workforce Data survey
- Future of Physiotherapy white paper

### Membership

The APA Cancer, Palliative Care and Lymphoedema Group has seen steady growth through the last years, with new state committees created in Western Australia and South Australia and strong, healthy state committees across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria/Tasmania.

We are encouraged by our wonderful members who share the passion and commitment for cancer care and help to support and engage each other with networking, learning opportunities and all cancer activity across the states.

Through the growth of our state and national committees, we seek to lead and proactively increase our voice in the area of cancer care.

### Education

Addressing the educational needs of cancer physiotherapists and collaborating with other groups is a key strategic aim for APA.

Across 2023, we were pleased to:

- Deliver 12 professional development webinars across a wide range of topics such as:
  - Evaluating the impact of exercise therapy delivered face-to-face versus telehealth for breast cancer
  - Pelvic floor function and gynaecological cancer
  - Breast Cancer Bra Solutions: Managing bra-related issues following breast cancer surgery
  - Bowel function rehabilitation in colorectal cancer survivors
  - Lymph node surgery: Exploring the excavation
  - Scar tissue, fascia and manual treatment: key info for physios
  - *It's Your Right*. Championing patients' rights to living and dying well and more
- Delivered a F2F cancer stream of lectures at the APA research conference across three days in October in Brisbane
- Collaborate with Palliative Care Australia to deliver palliative care webinar across National Palliative Care Awareness Week
- Collaborate with ESSA to deliver a one-day F2F exercise oncology workshop at the COSA ASM 2023

We are excited to be heading towards 2024 with another strong suite of professional development webinars highlighting recent research and also new workshops and masterclasses focusing on topics such as oncology scar management and palliative care rehabilitation, delivered by international presenters.



## Research

The APA supports members participating in evidence-based research from which the profession can draw insights.

This has been achieved in the following ways:

- The [Journal of Physiotherapy \(JoP\)](#) is the official journal of APA and is the first core physiotherapy/physical therapy journal to make Editorials and peer-reviewed original research freely available.
- APA also sponsors Open Access publication of all *JoP* content

Some recent Five Facts about... short publication pieces produced by APA include:

- [Five Facts about Physiotherapy and Cancer Care](#)
- [Five Facts about Physiotherapy and Exercise Rehabilitation in Cancer Care](#)
- [Five Facts about Risk Reduction and Early Intervention in Lymphoedema](#)

We hope you enjoy reading these Five Facts pieces to gain further insight and understanding of cancer and lymphoedema management to improve patient care.

A big thank you to COSA for the warm welcome into this space, our wonderful members who continue to achieve great care and break new ground for their patients through their work, APA and also other organisations they are involved in and our professional colleagues whom we work together with on many fronts to achieve the best outcome for the patient in front of us.

As the APA officially starts our first full year as a member of COSA, we are interested to connect with other organisations and learn more about work being achieved across groups and organisations at COSA. If your organisation is keen to partner with APA to deliver relevant and practical education directly to cancer physiotherapists, we'd love to hear from you.



**Germaine Tan**  
National Chair, APA  
Cancer, Palliative Care and  
Lymphoedema Group



## BREAST CANCER TRIALS

It has been a year of great activity at Breast Cancer Trials (BCT) and we would like to thank our members and participating institutions, our staff, trial participants and our supporters, for their commitment to improving and saving the lives of people affected by breast cancer.

### Research Results

Results for the Neo-N, PROSPECT Quality of Life and IBIS-II clinical trials were announced at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

The [Neo-N study](#) found that over half of early-stage triple negative breast cancer patients involved in this immunotherapy study had no evidence of cancer in the breast and lymph nodes at surgery following treatment. Professor Sherene Loi is the Study Chair of the Neo-N trial, which was developed by Australian researchers and conducted by BCT. 108 women participated in the study at 14 institutions in Australia, New Zealand and Italy.

The primary results for the [PROSPECT study](#) were published in [The Lancet](#) and found that using MRI and pathology findings can identify women who have a very low risk of breast cancer recurrence and may be suitable for de-escalation in radiotherapy treatment. Professor Bruce Mann is the Study Chair of PROSPECT and the Australian trial conducted across four sites, including the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH), the Royal Women's Hospital, the Austin Hospital

in Melbourne, and the Mater Hospital in Sydney. In addition, an economic analysis was undertaken to compare models of care, which found the net monetary benefit of this treatment model was found to be \$2,900 per patient.

An analysis of data from the [IBIS-II clinical trial](#) has found that hormone levels measured through blood tests may be able to identify postmenopausal women who will benefit most from the breast cancer prevention drug anastrozole. The study was published in the [Lancet Oncology](#). The IBIS-II clinical trial enrolled almost 4,000 women worldwide, with 818 women from Australia and New Zealand across 30 institutions. The trial was coordinated in Australia by Breast Cancer Trials (BCT) and globally by Cancer Research UK.

### The TUGETHER Clinical Trial

We opened the TUGETHER clinical trial this year, which aims to find out if adding tucatinib and pembrolizumab to the usual treatment given to people with advanced HER2-positive breast cancer, slows down the growth of the cancer.

Professor Sherene Loi is the Study Chair of the TUGETHER study and the trial will be open at 16 sites in Australia. TUGETHER is open to both women and men, and will enrol 50 participants.



**Prof Sherene Loi**





Governance

Mrs Larissa Willoughby was appointed in the BCT Board of Directors this year. She is a Principal of professional consulting services firm, Australian Environmental Auditors (AEA), with over 28 years of experience providing advice to public and private entities in relation to site contamination and managing risk to human health and the environment. Larissa has a lived experience of breast cancer being diagnosed in 2012 and a confirmed BRCA1 gene mutation carrier. Having completed chemotherapy, bi-lateral mastectomy and reconstruction, she has also participated in research feedback on post-reconstruction outcomes.

2023 Clinical Fellowships

In the second year of the Clinical Fellowships Program, two clinical fellows from 2022 continued their research into 2023, and two new fellowships in surgery were awarded. The Program is aimed at early career researchers, who have a high-level interest in clinical research and qualifications in the disciplines of medical oncology, pathology, psychology and other supportive care specialties, radiation oncology, radiology or surgery.

- Dr Adam Ofri (surgeon) has two projects, which are investigating reducing the side effects of surgery and identifying patients who may be able to avoid radiation therapy.
- Dr Julia Matheson (surgeon) is assessing the patient experience of undergoing MRI.
- Dr Christine Muttiah (medical oncologist) is assisting in the recruitment to a world-first clinical trial BRCA-P, which aims to prevent breast cancer in women who carry the BRCA1 gene mutation.

- Dr Michelle Sinclair (psycho-oncologist) is examining fear of breast cancer recurrence, using exploratory data from the PROSPECT clinical trial.

2023 Annual Scientific Meeting

The Breast Cancer Trials 44th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) was held in Auckland, New Zealand, and this year's theme was Equity in Trials and Trial Participation. The ASM attracted more than 360 delegates from disciplines such as medical oncology, surgery, pathology, clinical trial management and radiology.

The program included two days of scientific sessions, a Trials Coordination Forum, abstracts, debates and a Trainee and Early Career Day following the ASM. Our international guest speakers were Professor Alastair Thompson (United States), Professor Sibylle Loibl (Germany) and Professor Philip Poortmans (Belgium).

Our [2024 ASM](#) will be held in Cairns, Queensland, from 24-26 July.

2023 Award Winners

BCT 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; recognise outstanding achievements by researchers, clinicians and scientists in their particular field; and help promote the research activities of BCT and encourage participation in them. All BCT awards are at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

This year, our awards winners are:

- Professor Boon Chua received The Alan Coates Award for Excellence in Clinical Trials Research.
- Professor Wayne Tilley received The Robert Sutherland Award for Excellence in Translational Research.
- Dr Adam Ofri received The John Collins Medal and Travel Grant.
- Ms Julia Hoffman received The Study Coordinator Prize.
- Recipients of Education Travel Grants were: Joel Ernest, Jasmine Hee, Judi Clarke, Bronwyn Crawford, Mandy McPhee, Rosemary Cotton, Sarah Corfe, Megan Raimondo, Joshua Ting, Brigitte Ross and Katrina Baldwin.

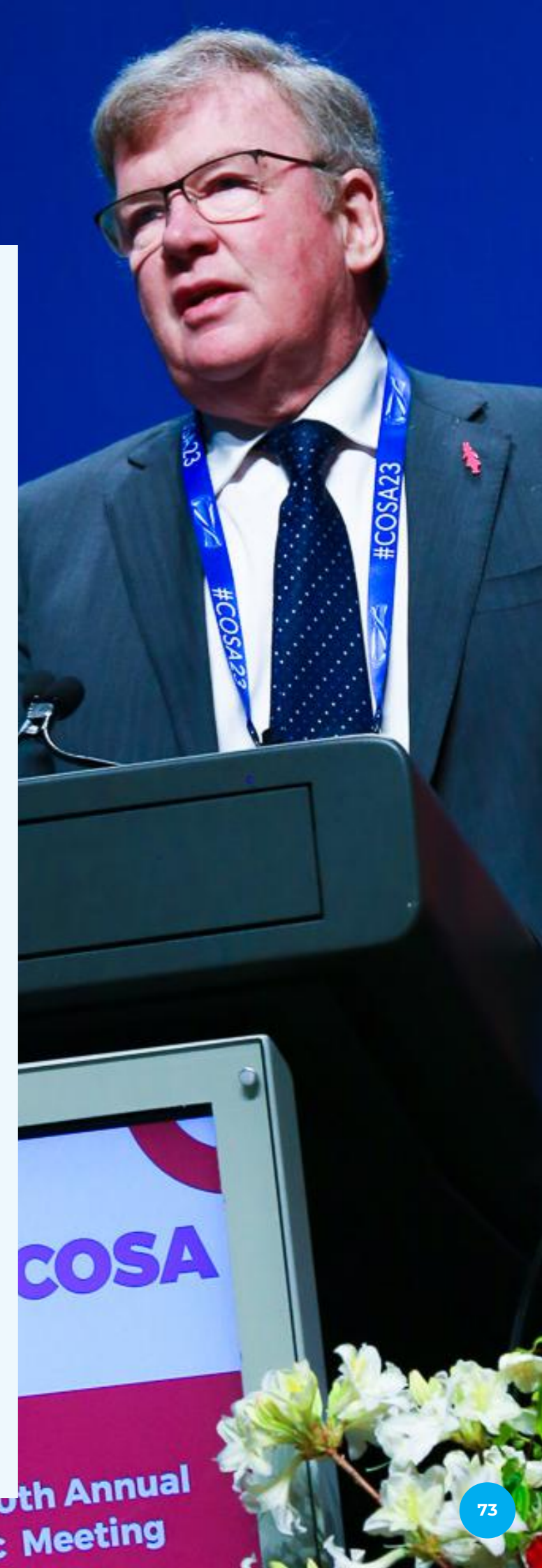
100km Facebook Challenge

We had an incredible response to our 100km Facebook Challenge, which attracted 8,279 registrations, including 13 of our own staff. Participants were asked to walk, run or roll 100km throughout July and raise funds for the BCT research program.

The inaugural event raised almost \$900,000 thanks to our wonderful community of supporters, without whom this success would not have been possible.



**Sunil Lakhani**  
Chair, BCT







## CANCER NURSES SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

The Cancer Nurses Society of Australia has had a big twelve months, delivering a range of education, research and advocacy priorities to assist both our membership and the wider Cancer Nursing workforce.

We have been actively involved in contributing to the development of the Australian Cancer Plan (Plan), and working with the Federal Government, the Department of Health, Cancer Australia and leading NGOs and patient advocacy organisations on the newly announced Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program (Program).

As an organisation, we are currently looking at the ways we can support the implementation of both of these initiatives, with a clear remit being that we are involved in the governance framework and workforce modelling. We look forward to contributing and being part of the ongoing conversation and solutions to help build workforce capacity, and stress the importance that all cancer nurses deserve the same opportunities for education and career progression, and all people affected by cancer deserve the same opportunities for treatment and care.

## Policy and Advocacy

We know that cancer nursing is changing and understanding the workforce was a key priority this year. Paramount to this was the launch of the first National Cancer Nursing Workforce Report, presenting the results of the mapping project conducted by the Research Standing Committee, which was published in [BMC Nursing](#). This provided a fascinating snapshot of the cancer nursing workforce, including the diversity of roles across different sectors and locations, what impacts job satisfaction, and professional concerns. The results highlighted some of the challenges facing the profession in delivering person-centred, evidence-based, and compassionate cancer care.

Following the launch, we held our inaugural Workforce Summit. An opportunity for stakeholders and thought leaders in cancer care to discuss their perspectives on the greatest challenges to the sustainability of the workforce now and into the future. Following productive and thought-provoking discussions we were provided with a clear direction for the policy priorities that will underpin our advocacy work in 2024. This was timely as the Department of Health and Aged Care recently initiated consultations on a National Nursing Workforce Strategy.

We provided a comprehensive submission outlining the key challenges facing cancer nurses and opportunities for this strategy to help deliver on the objectives of the recently launched Plan and implementation of the Program. We will be actively involved in ongoing efforts to develop strategies and governance to shape the future workforce and ensure these reflect the needs of cancer nurses.

CNSA members also contributed to a range of other submissions this year, including:

- South Australian Cancer Plan
- Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding in NSW
- Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs inquiry into equitable access to diagnosis and treatment for rare and less common cancers, including neuroendocrine cancer
- Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Advisory Committee: Post-implementation of telehealth MBS items

## Member Engagement Activity

To support and engage our members this year, we are delighted to have delivered a range of new resources, education, and benefits tailored to the Cancer Nursing Workforce.

Aligned with one of our most important strategic imperatives - to provide relevant, practical, and accessible professional development - we launched [Nursing Excellence](#) in Cancer Care, a podcast series developed as a robust communication and education channel for busy cancer nurses. This series offers monthly updates on the latest cancer treatment options, research developments, and patient management challenges, serving as a platform to foster discussions and share knowledge within our connected community. Our podcast has already covered critical topics, ranging from the Cancer Nursing Workforce to the Changing Landscape in Ovarian Cancer.

To further support knowledge-sharing across our membership, we introduced five new Communities of Practice encompassing a range of specialist areas including Breast

Cancer, Older Persons with Cancer, Nurse Manager/Executive, Nurse Educator and Colorectal Cancer. These vibrant communities actively connect, collaborate and guide each other through their collective understanding of challenges and opportunities in various areas of cancer care.

As part of our continuous effort to expand the support we offer, our upcoming careers-based [Mentoring Program](#) represents the final new initiative that we introduced to our membership this year. Commencing in February 2024, this six-month program has been designed to connect early-career cancer nurses with experienced mentors who will offer invaluable guidance and support in navigating the complex landscape of cancer nursing. Beyond individual career advancement, we anticipate that this program will contribute to strengthening the fabric of our profession as a whole and we are looking forward to witnessing the positive impact it will have on our members.

We congratulate COSA on 50 years of dedication to the Australian cancer community, and look forward to working with the organisation and affiliated member bodies for the next 50 years to come.



**Jemma Still**  
CEO, CNSA





## CANCER SYMPTOM TRIALS AND PALLIATIVE CARE CLINICAL STUDIES COLLABORATIVE

### Cancer Symptom Trials (CST)

#### Overview

It has been a year of successes and change for the PaCCSC, CST and ITCC teams. A big change was the departure of our long-term National Manager, Linda Brown, at the beginning of November. We are grateful for her leadership and experience that has set us up for success. Dr Rayan Saleh Moussa, CST Postdoctoral Research Fellow, has stepped into the role as Acting National Manager to lead our dedicated and talented team.

We hosted a range of events in 2023, including our first face-to-face PaCCSC & CST Annual Research Forum since 2020. We also delivered the [Clinical Trials Masterclass series](#), with both ITCC team and guest presenters as well as the first three webinars in the [CST Facing Fatigue Seminar Series](#).

#### Annual Research Forum

For the first time since 2020, the [PaCCSC & CST Annual Research Forum](#) was held in person in Sydney on 15 and 16 March 2023, with 90 guests attending from across Australia and overseas. This year's theme was Bridging silos: cross-disciplinary clinical trials.

There was a sense of renewed energy in the room and the chance to reconnect with colleagues in person for the first time in three years was welcomed by attendees.

The Day 1 keynote speaker was Professor Marie Fallon who shared her presentation about a *Randomised controlled trial of a cannabinoid-based medicine with embedded mechanistic substudy and the role of interdisciplinary co-investigators*.

On Day 2, Dr Camilla Zimmermann joined us from Toronto to give a keynote presentation on the *Challenges and solutions for palliative care trials using complex interventions*.

We also welcomed Professor Miriam Johnson, Associate Director of the Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre at the University of Hull, whose presentation of a clinical trial in the UK gave us an insight into the challenges of recruiting inclusively to clinical trials.

Sessions on consumer engagement, cancer cachexia, implementation science, and substudies as well as study results from six studies and an overview of the IMPACCT Rapid Program provided rich content and a thought-provoking forum for attendees.

Dr Rayan Saleh Moussa facilitated a discussion with an engaging and insightful panel of experts on the experience of [CALD communities' participation in clinical trials](#) and accessing the Australian healthcare system and their participation in clinical trials.

Thanks to funding from the New South Wales Ministry of Health, we offered two \$1000 [PaCCSC travel grants](#) for forum attendance to rural- and regional-based clinicians, Clinical Nurse Consultants, Joanne Copper and Fiona Lysaught.



Nursing delegates at the PaCCSC & CST Annual Research Forum 2023

### CST Emerging Trialist Award

Dr Wei Lee was the winner of the CST Emerging Trialist Award 2022 at the PaCCSC & CST Annual Research Forum 2023.

Each year, we offer the CST Emerging Trialist Award to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions of emerging clinical trials researchers.

The award is for a CST member who has undertaken research in cancer symptoms as a lead or participating investigator in their first or second clinical trial. Nominees can be from any health discipline and may be a student, early-career researcher, or mid-career researcher who has achieved a significant milestone in their research such as funding, ethics approval, recruitment, publication or presentation.

Wei was nominated for his work as Coordinating Principal Investigator on the Subcutaneous [Ketamine Infusion in Palliative Care Patients with Major Depressive Disorder](#) (SKIPMDD) pilot Phase II feasibility study.

Wei brought together an investigator team including consumers, obtained funding to support the trial (\$172,500 research scholarship and top-up award), and drove successful completion in 2022. He was also offered the opportunity to attend the Australia & Asia Pacific Oncology Research Development Workshop.

Wei's passion for improving outcomes for patients with Major Depressive Disorder and Cancer at end of life also came through with him leading a body of work in the management and clinician experience of depression in dying patients, which will support dissemination of the trial findings with five first author peer-reviewed publications.

Wei's work has provided us some important methodological learnings for clinical trials for people living with cancer with short prognosis.

### Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative (PaCCSC)

#### PaCCSC strategic plan 2023-2028

In July, we launched the [PaCCSC strategic plan 2023-2028](#) and the PaCCSC vision – *All people impacted by a life-limiting illness will have access to evidence-based palliative care that improves their quality of life*.

The plan, a culmination of hard work and collaboration of consumers, early- and mid-career researchers, PaCCSC leadership, members, partners and stakeholders, sets out our goals and objectives and provides a road map for our growth and innovation.



The PaCCSC purpose is to facilitate high-quality inclusive clinical research through collaboration and capacity building that informs the evidence base for the provision of best practice and policy in palliative care.

### IMPACCT Rapid Program

In its twelfth consecutive year, the [IMPACCT Rapid Program](#) continued to grow with 24 series open for data collection across 106 active sites in 16 countries.

#### New series

In 2023, the Rapid Program expanded further with the addition of new adult and paediatric series including:

- Antidepressants for depression – series 49
- Compression and related physical therapies for lymphoedema – series 25
- Paediatric Gabapentin for Chronic Pain – series 52

### Closed series (in the past year 2023)

- Paediatric Telehealth – Series 37

#### Conferences and publications

Throughout the year, 15 posters were presented at various conferences including the Oceanic Palliative Care Conference 2023, and the PaCCSC and CST Annual Research Forum 2023.

The results of two series were also published, including the first series from the [Rapid Paediatric Program](#), marking a significant milestone:

- NSAIDS – series 16
- Paediatric Gabapentin – series 23

Additionally, an article about the program was published in Research Australia's INSPIRE Magazine.

#### New resources and user guides

In an effort to enhance participation and simplify the process of developing or collecting data for a series, new step-by-step [user guides](#) were developed, and existing [resources](#) were revitalised.

We welcome any new series ideas and encourage new sites to collect data for a medication or intervention series. To find out more and get involved, go to [www.uts.edu.au/rapid](http://www.uts.edu.au/rapid).



**Rayan Saleh Moussa**  
COSA Council Representative,  
CST



### COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

2023 has proved to be another productive and successful year for the Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-oncology (COGNO) as we expand our trials portfolio and broader activity related to brain tumour trials and research.

The LUMOS2 (Low and Anaplastic Grade Glioma Umbrella Study of Molecular Guided Therapies) study in recurrent lower grade glioma, led by COGNO Principal Investigator Professor Hui Gan, Medical Oncologist, from the ONJCRI, with successful funding secured in 2023 by the Canadian Cancer Trials Group (CCTG) has progressed to activation and opening of for four study interventional arms in Australia, with Canada to follow in 2024.

The COGNO Scientific Advisory Committee continues to appraise and support the development of a range of concepts spanning primary brain tumours, brain cancer and brain metastases.

COGNO's current trials portfolio includes:

#### • Trial Open to Recruitment

- **PersoMed-1** (Personalised Targeted Therapy for Adolescent and Young Adult Medulloblastoma Patients), an international study led by the EORTC, funded in Australia by CanTeen and Cancer Australia. Currently eight of 10 Australian sites have been activated with the first participant commenced on study. Study contact: [PersoMed.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:PersoMed.study@sydney.edu.au)

#### • Trial Open to Recruitment

- **LUMOS2** - Low and Intermediate Grade Glioma Umbrella Study of Molecular Guided Therapies study with five currently funded arms to open in 2023.

- Australian sites are now being activated, with currently three participants on study. Study contact: [lumos2.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:lumos2.study@sydney.edu.au)

#### • Trial – in follow up

- **MAGMA** (Multi-Arm Glioblastoma Australasia Trial) – funded by MRFF, MAGMA is a multi-arm multi-stage, multi-centre, phase III platform trial that aims to assess hypotheses against a common standard-of-care control arm for the management of people with newly diagnosed glioblastoma. This has been the largest COGNO-led trial to date successfully completing recruitment in July 2023 with 338 patients across 28 sites. The trial is now in the follow-up phase. Study contact: [magma.study@sydney.edu.au](mailto:magma.study@sydney.edu.au)

In 2023, successful events were held including:

- **COGNO Systematic Reviews Workshop**, June 2023 – covering systematic reviews of interventions, diagnostic tests and prognosis studies, meta-analyses and living systematic reviews.
- **COGNO Ideas Generation Workshop**, June 2023 –with two concepts discussed, both with a focus on translational research and blood biomarkers in Glioblastoma.
- **ASCO 2023 Update**, June 2023 – coordinated by COGNO's Outreach and Education Committee, providing an update on the most significant treatment advances in primary brain cancer presented at ASCO 2023.



A very successful **15th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting** was held from 8-10 October 2023 in Sydney with the theme of “*Bridge to the Future: Biomarkers in Brain Tumour Care*”, in conjunction with the third Australian Brain Cancer Research Alliance (ABCARA) Research Symposium, and the concurrent BTAA Patient Education and Information Forum. Five exceptional international speakers and an excellent contingent of Australian and New Zealand researchers contributed to a strong scientific programme.

COGNO-led trial related publications in the last 12 months have included:

**NUTMEG:** [A randomized phase II study of nivolumab and temozolomide versus temozolomide alone in newly diagnosed elderly patients with glioblastoma](#). Sim, HW, Khasraw et al. *Neurooncology Advances* 2023 September;5(1):vdad124.

**ACED:** [Acetazolamide versus placebo for cerebral oedema requiring dexamethasone in recurrent and/or progressive high-grade glioma: phase II randomised placebo-controlled double-blind study](#). (ACED). Agar M, Koh ES et al. *BMJ Support Palliat Care*. 2023 Feb 17:spcare-2022-004119.

**LUMOS:** [Clinical Trials in the Brain Tumour Population: Challenges and Strategies for the Future](#). Gan, HK et al. *Current Oncology Reports*. 2023 Jun;25(6):589-598.

As the COGNO network, we look forward to building further on these successes in 2024.

I wish to personally thank the entire COGNO Operations Executive and support team, Associate Professor Rosemary Harrup COGNO Deputy Chair, the key leadership and all our collaborators for their fantastic and ongoing contributions.



**Eng-Siew Koh**  
Chair, COGNO and COSA  
Neuro-oncology Group



The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists\*

The Faculty of Radiation Oncology

## FACULTY OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Over the past year, the Faculty of Radiation Oncology, RANZCR has continued to make strides in ensuring the advancement of the profession and upholding patient care as ‘central’ to the work that we do. In the ever-evolving landscape of cancer treatment, radiation oncology plays a pivotal role, and our commitment to excellence remains unwavering.

Year on year, we only seem to get busier, but through our joint efforts, we have been able to advance our position on the policy, advocacy standards and education fronts. Below are just a few mentions of the great work RANZCR has engaged in during 2023:

### Policy and Advocacy Report

Released in July 2023, the Policy and Advocacy in Action Report is a bi-annual report that provides a concise overview of the depth and breadth of RANZCR’s efforts in advocating on behalf of members, patients, and the profession. Our purpose is to be transparent about the diverse and multiple activities we undertake to influence and help shape the policy and practice landscape, through reporting on our progress and the impacts on patients and on members’ daily clinical practice.

The report can be found on the [College website](#).

### RANZCR Facilities Survey Report: Insights and Trends from 2010-2020

[The RANZCR Facilities Survey Report: Insights and Trends from 2010-2020](#), was recently released. One concerning observation from these surveys relates to the trends in brachytherapy services in Australia. Even as the external beam radiation therapy (EBRT) expands its reach, brachytherapy has seen a concerning decline. In order to understand the complex influencing factors, the FRO Economics and Workforce Committee (EWC) has created a brachytherapy working group to investigate the drivers behind this decline and consider the best service model for the future.

### Brachytherapy Working Group

The Faculty of Radiation Oncology have established a Brachytherapy Working Group. Membership was sought from the Radiation Oncology Alliance. The first meeting of the Brachytherapy Working Group recently took place.

### MBS Review

The Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) 2023-24 announced changes to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), allowing the restructure of items in the radiation oncology section of the schedule in line with the recommendations of the MBS Review Taskforce. This is a significant achievement made possible by the dedication and commitment of the members of the Oncology Committee of the MBS Review, the Implementation Liaison Group, and in particular by expert advice and support from the Faculty of Radiation Oncology, RANZCR.





Changes to the radiation oncology schedule are expected to commence from 1 July 2024. There is still much work to be done, particularly in the communication of the changes to the community including medical practitioners and patients.

**RANZCR Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)**

The College successfully ran its 73rd ASM with the theme ‘Beyond’ with the highest number of attendees ever (1596).

A wide array of national and international speakers captivated audiences with their knowledge. The social program was just as enjoyable. The 2024 ASM will be in Perth.

**AMC Conditions and Accreditation Assessment**

The College recently underwent an accreditation review cycle for the RO Training Program and CPD Program. This involved a visit from AMC assessors in August 2023.

The AMC noted the strong progress RANZCR has made towards satisfying its remaining Conditions from the 2019 AMC report. The review closed a number of full Conditions and Recommendations and parts of other Conditions. As a result of RANZCR’s performance, the AMC has deferred our scheduled full AMC review until 2027 subject to satisfactory annual reports.

The review of our CPD program also resulted in the program being accredited through to 2030.

**Ethical Principles for Artificial Intelligence for Medicine Version 2**

The College has recently revised the Ethical Principles for AI in Medicine, originally published in 2019.

The nine ethical principles inform the deployment and adoption AI tools in medicine. AI should at all times be safe for patients and society, respect human dignity and reflect the human centric values underpinning good medical care.

We received a great response to this consultation and would like to thank all those who responded. The varied perspectives received during the consultation process allowed us to and produce more considered and robust paper. You can view the revised Principles on the [RANZCR AI webpage](#).

**Guideline for Clinical Training and Practice in Particle Therapy**

The *Guideline for Clinical Training and Practice in Particle Therapy* has recently been published on the [RANZCR website](#).

The purpose of this Guideline is to describe a pathway for RANZCR Radiation Oncology Fellows to train in particle therapy, the skills and experience that the Particle Therapy Working Group recommends are acquired and the necessary verification evidence. The Guideline also sets out the recommended Continuing Professional Development requirements in particle therapy.

**Radiation Oncology Alliance (ROA)**

The ROA consists of the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT), Australasian College of Physical Scientists and Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM), Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) and RANZCR.

In 2023, the ROA published the updated Radiation Oncology Practice Standards. The third iteration of the [Radiation Oncology Practice Standards \(ROPS\) - Part A:](#)

[Fundamentals](#) and [Part B: Guidelines](#) must be read in conjunction with each other and will continue to support a culture of ongoing quality improvement in radiation oncology service provision.

As part of the collaboration fostered with the ROA, RANZCR and ASMIRT have formed an adaptive radiation therapy working group who are tasked with developing a principled document which can provide guidance in this area.

**New Zealand**

The College is continuing in its advocacy efforts to address New Zealand Workforce issues.

In 2023, the College achieved the following in New Zealand:

- Five additional training positions for radiation oncology in New Zealand.
- Locum support for Dunedin via a direct mail effort to Australian members.

**Targeting Cancer Campaign**

The focus of the Targeting Cancer Campaign has been the Targeting Cancer website refresh, assisting with facilitating GP education nights, medical student education and planning for the Targeting Cancer Fun Run (held at the College ASM).

**Indigenous Health Action Plan**

The Faculty of Radiation Oncology Council has continued to be active in progressing goals under the [RANZCR Action Plan for Māori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health](#). The importance of adopting an indigenous lens when engaging in decision making across the various College bodies has been reinforced amongst College groups.



**Gerard Adams**  
Dean, Faculty of Radiation Oncology, RANZCR





## MEDICAL ONCOLOGY GROUP OF AUSTRALIA

Pursuing excellence in medical oncology research, education and clinical practice, the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA), the national professional organisation for the medical oncology profession, and Society of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, is pleased to report on some highlights of our activities in 2023.

MOGA held another long-awaited face-to-face Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth, Western Australia from 2-4 August, Co-Convened by Dr Chandra Diwakarla and A/Professor Tim Clay. Meeting highlights included the Novartis Oncology Cancer Achievement Award address by the year's recipient, Professor Geogina Long AO. Professor Long is an internationally renowned Medical Oncologist who has led research in the field of melanoma nationally and internationally and is ranked the world's top melanoma expert in all fields and disciplines. Her career is distinguished by a high-impact and practice-changing research output, tireless patient advocacy, exemplary leadership skills, teaching and mentoring. Professor Long has supported the future of Medical Oncology by inspiring multiple medical students, junior doctors, trainees and junior consultants alike through role modelling and structure to pursue research and clinical excellence. She has been a strong advocate for women in medicine and leadership initiative, and for patient advocacy, orchestrating multiple policy developments, notably policy change to prevent melanoma and improve access to care and therapeutics.

Ms Kay Francis, the 2023 recipient of the Martin H. Tattersall's Heroes also presented at the MOGA 2023 Annual Meeting. Kay's dedicated work and outstanding commitment have provided invaluable strategic management and professional guidance to MOGA over more than two decades as the national professional organisation for Australian medical oncology and the profession, and as a specialty society of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

### POLICY AND ADVOCACY

MOGA's work as the voice of the Australian medical oncology profession in policy and advocacy areas led to involvement with various submissions and consultations over recent months. In April MOGA contributed to a study being conducted through the Australian National University on [How to encourage the regulatory evaluation of off-patent prescription medicines for off-label uses in Australia](#). The study focuses on a policy-research model to encourage regulatory evaluation by the Therapeutic Goods Administration of off-patent prescription medicines repositioned for off-label uses. This is an issue that has been on MOGA's agenda for many years.

More recently, MOGA also considered the Medical Services Advisory Committee post marketing review of the clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and clinical positioning of Tisagenlecleucel since its funding in 2019 for the treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in paediatric and young adult patients as a highly specialised therapy through the National Health Reform Agreement.

A joint submission to the initial phase of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Review, that forms part of the Medicines Australia and Federal Government Strategic Agreement, was submitted in early June. The Review afforded professional oncology and clinical organisations with an opportunity to highlight aspects of the HTA that either work effectively, create barriers to earliest possible access and equitable access, detract from person centeredness or create perverse incentives.

### LEADERSHIP

MOGA's leadership activities are undertaken by many members depending on their areas of interest and expertise including oncology drugs and therapeutics access, specialist cancer stream policy and submissions, awards program, ethical issues and specialist education initiatives such as the Australia Asia-Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) Workshop.

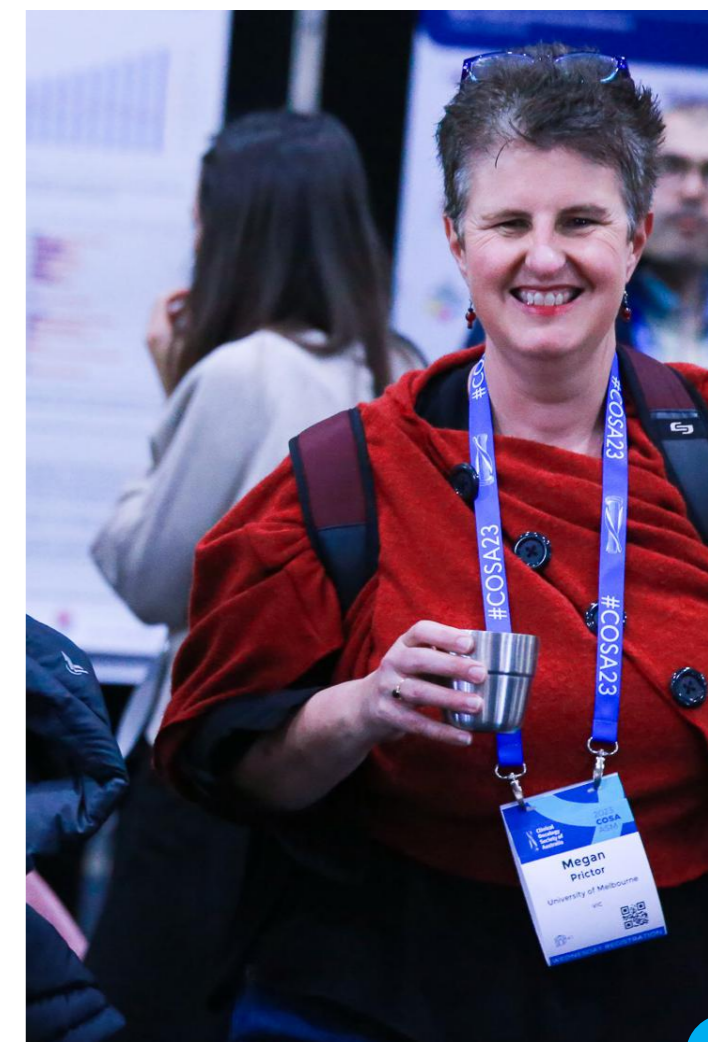
In her capacity as Chair, A/Professor Melissa Eastgate represented MOGA at the 2023 ESMO Asia, from 1-3 December. The congress aimed to discuss the latest scientific and clinical advances across the entire field of oncology, of relevance at a global level, and for the Asia-Pacific region. As usual, there was a special focus on the Pan-Asian Guidelines Adaptation (PAGA) Lectures, conceived to share best practice standards of care for cancer patients, and providing a framework for the structured interaction of key opinion leaders in oncology from Asia and Europe. MOGA contributed to the collaborative session: "[The evolving screening and treatment paradigm in patients with hepatobiliary cancer](#)" where A/Professor Connie Diakos presented on *Strategies of molecular profiling of hepatobiliary cancers: Perceived value and ongoing research*.

### EDUCATION

MOGA's annual program of education events in 2023 included Communications Skills Training and detailed planning for the in-person ACORD Workshop to be held in 2024 with applications opening in the new year.



**Melissa Eastgate**  
Chair, MOGA







MELANOMA AND SKIN  
CANCER TRIALS

**Conquering melanoma and skin cancer**

Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials works with over 1000 investigators in Australia and internationally to deliver clinical trials that improve melanoma and skin cancer outcomes. Established in 1999, we are the only independent, not-for-profit, multi-site, collaborative clinical trials group focused on melanoma and skin cancer in Australia and New Zealand.

Our clinical trials portfolio covers the prevention, early detection, and treatment of melanoma and skin cancer, including early to late phase clinical trials. Importantly, we also investigate rare forms of skin cancer such as Merkel cell carcinoma and uveal melanoma. Our academic affiliation with Monash University continues, as does our work with consumers, to ensure the lived cancer experience is always considered.

This year our clinical trial portfolio grew to include 15 clinical trials in various stages, from start-up through to longer term follow-up. Recruitment increased with 909 new participants enrolled across 11 countries, and our membership grew to 2447 across 35 countries.

Further details can be found in our [2022-2023 annual report](#).

**2023 highlights**

Clinical trials

The year started off with our biggest recruiting trial, [MelMarT-II](#), enrolling its 1000th participant.

MelMarT-II is investigating the optimal surgical excision margin for stage II melanoma and will study almost 3000 patients across eight countries. Boosting this international effort has been the activation of over 100 trial sites in the USA through the National Cancer Institute's National Clinical Trials Network SWOG Cooperative Group.

With the support of the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation, we developed the [BETTER trial](#), which is investigating a new treatment combination for melanoma that has spread to the brain. The Foundation donated \$110,000 to the trial in February, adding to its initial donation of \$100,000 last year.

Our melanoma early detection trial, [IMAGE](#), which is examining the effectiveness of Melanoma Surveillance Photography, reached its recruitment target in April. All participants are now being followed up for the next two years. The IMAGE trial also had a protocol paper published in *Trials Journal BioMed Central*.

Also in April we supported the Monash Victorian Heart Institute to open the [SOCRATES trial](#), which aims to determine if a common cholesterol-lowering drug can prevent heart disease in melanoma patients who are being treated with immunotherapy. Sites continue to be opened, with a focus on regional areas.

Our [SiroSkin trial](#), which recently opened, will investigate if a topical cream can reduce the number of facial tumours in organ transplant recipients. If successful this treatment will reduce the burden of skin cancers on these patients, who are at greater risk of developing skin cancer.

At the 2023 American Society of Clinical Oncology Meeting in Chicago, USA, results from the CHARLI trial were presented as a poster. The CHARLI trial is investigating if Denosumab added to combination immunotherapy is more effective than combined immunotherapy alone.

Results from our EAGLE FM trial were presented at the 2023 European Society of Surgical Oncology Conference in Florence, Italy, and the 2023 Australasian

Melanoma Conference in Brisbane. This trial is investigating two metastatic melanoma surgical interventions to determine which is the most effective.

**Discipline-Specific Advisories**

Our [Discipline-Specific Advisories](#) (DSA) are forums for researchers, clinicians, and consumers to share ideas and drive progress to improve how melanoma and skin cancer is prevented, diagnosed, and treated. We now have around 250 members across eight advisories, including two special interest groups: [Australasian Ocular Melanoma Alliance](#) (AOMA) and [Australasian Merkel Cell Carcinoma Interest Group](#) (AMIGOs).

**Consumer engagement**

Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials values the lived experience of patients, which is why we work closely with our [Consumer Advisory Panel](#). This group includes consumers from metropolitan and regional towns throughout Australia and a representative from New Zealand. This year, our Panel members represented us at various scientific and advocacy meetings, as well as advising investigators and staff on how their work can be more inclusive for consumers.

We also communicate the stories of our trial participants. This year we featured a story on our Merkel cell carcinoma [GoTHAM trial participant](#), a [patient in the MelMarT-II trial](#), and a patient in the [CHARLI trial](#). We also featured the stories of [three melanoma patients](#) who are participating in our IMAGE trial.

**Events**

Annual Scientific Meeting

Our [Annual Scientific Meeting](#) on 23 March, Brisbane was a sold-out success. Held for the first time as a satellite meeting of the Australasian Melanoma Conference, the event featured two international keynote speakers and 15 Australian speakers. A networking event afterwards allowed those attending to form valuable connections and catch up with interstate colleagues. Our [next meeting](#) on 24

October 2024 will again be a satellite meeting of the Australasian Melanoma Conference.

Ocular melanoma virtual summit

The [Australasian Ocular Melanoma Alliance \(AOMA\) Virtual Summit](#) on 24 June focused on the rare cancer of ocular melanoma. This online all-day event reached over 200 people across 19 countries, with session videos being highly viewed online after the meeting. The online event will be held again on 15 June 2024.

Concept Development Workshop

Our first Concept Development Workshop was held on 9 June at the Translational Research Institute, Brisbane. During the workshop five new skin cancer research proposals were discussed, with some now having the potential to progress to grant applications. Our first workshop for 2024 will be held on 22 March in Melbourne.

**Operations**

This year, we congratulated Katja Loewe who was promoted to Research Manager after nearly two years with our group. We also welcomed to the team three new clinical trials staff, Carla Duarte, Madeleine Muller and Vana Madelli. We now have 13 [Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials staff](#) members dedicated to supporting our investigators and coordinating clinical trials that impact outcomes for melanoma and skin cancer.

**The year ahead**

With continued funding from Cancer Australia and new trials that will open in 2024, we look forward to an active and productive 2024 in which we will continue our collective effort to conquer melanoma and skin cancer.



**Mark Shackleton**  
Chair, MASC Trials





ONCOLOGY SOCIAL WORK  
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

OSWANZ is the primary professional organisation for social workers with an interest in providing optimal care to people with cancer, their families and caregivers. Most of our members are engaged in direct clinical work within hospital and community-based cancer services across Australia and New Zealand, but within the membership there is also representation from academics, researchers and service managers. Members are based in all States, Territories and New Zealand, and are employed in a range of clinical settings, from major metropolitan cancer centres to smaller regional and remote services.

Our current President is Justin Gulliver, Professional Lead for Social Work at Te Aho o Te Kahu Cancer Control Agency in Wellington, New Zealand. Justin is ably supported by executive and management committees. Most notably, OSWANZ acknowledges Olga Gountras who has served as the organisation's Secretary for many years.

Recently, OSWANZ has recorded pleasing growth in both membership numbers as well as in active engagement in broad service delivery areas that speak to addressing gaps and inequities in cancer care. OSWANZ members are closely aligned with the directions in cancer care that are viewed within COSA as priority areas for development. Much of our clinical work reflects the emerging trends in cancer care as endorsed by the Cosa membership. These issues encompass the core business and value base of oncology social workers and include outcomes for First Nations people, disparities in care for regional patients, specialist geriatric oncology services, survivorship care and addressing financial toxicity.

Kim Hobbs is representing OSWANZ on the COSA Financial Toxicity Working Group which is Co-Chaired by Ray Chan and Megan Varlow and was established under the auspices of the Survivorship Group of COSA. Comprising a truly multidisciplinary membership of clinicians, representatives from stakeholder organisations and consumers, this dynamic group has completed important preliminary work to increase the awareness amongst health professionals of the various domains in which people with cancer may experience financial distress and toxicity, as well as identifying strategies to identify and ameliorate where possible the concerns of patients.

OSWANZ members were well represented in a survey of health professionals, an early initiative of the Working Group which has resulted in two published manuscripts. Subsequent activities include participation in the Financial Toxicity Think Tank held in Sydney in May 2023 and the Breakfast Symposium at COSA ASM in Melbourne in November 2023. The Working Group is now developing a roadmap to progress the ideas generated at the Think Tank, which was attended by a broad range of national stakeholders. The Group is working towards achievable outcomes and timelines to progress activities, policy changes and research to effect tangible changes. OSWANZ will continue to be actively engaged in the future activities of the Working Group.

In our first venture as a trans-Tasman organisation and in an exciting return to in-person conferencing, the OSWANZ conference was held in Wellington New Zealand in November 2023. This was our first face to face conference since 2019. It was well attended and overwhelmingly positively evaluated. Buoyed by this success, plans are already underway to hold the next conference in Melbourne over two days in October 2024, with a theme of 'Diversity and Innovation Across the Lifespan'. Dates and venue are confirmed, and a conference committee is hard at work developing the program.

A program of webinars was commenced in 2021 in response to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, as an alternative to 'live' meetings. The series of webinars has covered a range of topics and they have been very popular. Although we feel tentatively confident about resuming annual in-person conferences, the management committee has decided to continue to offer the webinar series. This is in response to member feedback which has endorsed the webinars as an accessible forum for learning and professional development, particularly for regional and remote members whose access to attendance at events may be limited. One of the specific advantages of the webinar program is that we have been able to achieve better trans-Tasman engagement, and this has resulted in additional members from our New Zealand colleagues. We are hopeful of inviting webinar presenters who are based in New Zealand to maintain momentum and enthusiasm across the entire membership. All past webinars and conference presentations are made available to view in the members only section of the OSWANZ website, [www.oswanz.com](http://www.oswanz.com)

Throughout 2023 OSWANZ has been able to continue to provide input to stakeholder groups at the national level, through representation on committees and working parties. This is in line with the value base of oncology social workers, provision of equitable cancer care to all patients and their carers throughout the cancer trajectory. As well as OSWANZ continuing to be represented on COSA Council, we have a standing

membership on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Psycho-Oncology Co-Operative Group (PoCoG). Kim Hobbs has been the OSWANZ representative on PoCoG SAC, but we now welcome Dr Susan Dragon to take over this role. Susan is a social worker at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and has an impressive record in psycho-oncology research.

Our organisation and membership would not be sustained without the energy and enthusiasm of the dedicated volunteers who keep the wheels turning. Thanks are extended for the extraordinary commitment of the OSWANZ Executive and Management committees. Australian State, Territory and New Zealand representatives make up the OSWANZ committee who meet monthly by the Zoom platform and bring a wealth of talent to take responsibility for convening local professional development events and ensuring that the organisation continues to flourish.

As an Affiliated Organisation of COSA and the primary professional organisation for oncology social workers, our members will continue to work collaboratively with our multidisciplinary colleagues to promote best practice cancer care in increasingly challenging times. We look forward to the continuation of a mutually productive association between COSA and OSWANZ.



Kim Hobbs  
COSA Council  
Representative,  
OSWANZ





## PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH GROUP

The Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group is a multidisciplinary trials group comprising more than 2000 health care professionals and researchers who share a common mission of improving the emotional support and psychological care of people affected by cancer.

Our scope of work is wide ranging and our research, developed in collaboration with our multi-disciplinary [Scientific Advisory Committee](#) and our [special interest groups](#), aims to meet current priorities as well as anticipate future needs.

### Research

PoCoG researchers worked hard to expand our portfolio of research studies in 2023. With the end of our flagship ADAPT Program, we continued to refine and develop our online portal, incorporating brain cancer specific unmet needs screening through the MRFF funded BRAINS Program, adaption for use with cancer carers and a demonstration study implementing the Clinical Pathway in a private hospital setting.

In addition to this, in 2023 BRAINS program researchers continued work towards delivering better survivorship and supportive care to people affected by brain cancer. We completed recruitment for studies including a brain tumour specific psychological support program delivered via videoconferencing (Telemast), and a memory intervention for brain cancer survivors (LaTCH). In 2024, we continue to recruit for five active studies.

Building on our evidence-based psychologist-delivered fear of cancer recurrence intervention (Conquer Fear), PoCoG has continued to expand our fear of cancer recurrence research.

PoCoG members have contributed to the development of an FCR clinical pathway, evaluation of the acceptability and potential need for adaption of Conquer Fear for people with ovarian cancer and advanced cancer more broadly.

PoCoG's research exploring fear of cancer recurrence among caregivers has also progressed, building on our wider cancer caregiver research program.

We'd like to sincerely acknowledge our research partners who work tirelessly to further our research objectives and contribute to our aim to improve the outcomes of people affected by cancer.

### Improving Outcomes for First Nations Cancer Patients

In early 2023 we launched the final two training modules in a series of three to support clinicians and researchers working with First Nations cancer patients and their carers.

We developed these modules in collaboration with Professor Gail Garvey AM and her team at the Centre of Research Excellence in [Targeted Approaches To Improve Cancer Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians \(TACTICS\)](#) at the University of Queensland.

The themes for the modules are:

Module 1: [Cancer overview and factors impacting health inequalities](#).

Module 2: [Communicating with patients and carers](#).

Module 3: [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's participation in clinical trials](#).

These modules are freely available to view on the PoCoG YouTube channel and you can access them [here](#).

In response to high levels of interest in the modules, in the middle of the year we hosted a webinar to build on the information shared. This webinar featured First Nations researchers from Australia, the US and Aotearoa New Zealand and focused on improving participation rates among First Nations peoples in cancer clinical trials.

With more than 220 registrants, this was our biggest webinar to-date, and a strong testament to the commitment among our community to improving cancer care and outcomes for First Nations peoples. You can learn more about the speakers and [view the webinar here](#).

### Concept Development Workshops

The PoCoG SAC and special interest group leads host concept development workshops (CDWs) twice a year to support our members to develop and refine research proposals aimed at generating funding applications.

Content matter experts, representatives from the Cancer Quality of Life Expert Service Team (CQUEST) and the Cancer Research Economics Support Team (CREST) along with members of the PoCoG Community Advisory Group are also invited to attend.

The first CDW was an in-person meeting hosted by our Clinicians in Research Special Interest Group (SIG). Co-chairs of the Clinicians in Research SIG, Professor Ilona Juraskova and Drs Laura Kirsten and Lesley Stafford hosted this meeting, which included 4 concept presentations.

The concepts included development of a psycho-oncology specific blended therapy model, a psychologist-led menopause intervention, trauma informed care and decision-making in the context of active surveillance.

These concepts have now become PoCoG supported studies and we look forward to reporting on their progress in the fullness of time.

Our second CDW, held in December, was an open call that offered researchers the opportunity to participate in a shorter online format. There were two concepts presented, the first a dose finding study for digital mental health intervention for people with cancer and the second built on the previously presented trauma informed care concept.



### Annual Scientific Meeting

Our Scientific Meeting, held in Melbourne on 31 October, was our first face-to-face meeting since 2019 and a timely reminder of the value of getting together as a group.

Around 80 participants joined us for the meeting which focused on exploring sustainability strategies for psycho-oncology. A timely subject off the back of the COVID-19 pandemic, with increasing pressure on health care professionals to deliver affordable high-quality care in a resource constrained system.

The program sessions considered:

- Community models of care and how they are changing
- The role of new interventions in optimising cancer care and considerations for psycho-oncology
- Tailored versus general models of psychological care.

The meeting also provided a forum for researchers to present their work, and 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 within our discipline.

### Special Interest Groups

PoCoG Special Interest Groups (SIGs) offer members an opportunity to progress their research goals and collaborate with researchers and clinicians with shared interests by joining dedicated research and capacity building groups.

PoCoG SIGs continued to be a great source of activity and innovation in the last year through the development of a range of research projects and capacity building activities.

In addition to our SIGs focused on Fear of Cancer Recurrence, End of Life Care, Clinicians in Research, Early Career Research, South Australia, Implementation Science and Cancer Prevention, we launched a new group for clinicians and researchers interested in improved support for 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.

To join this group or any of the others email [pocog.office@sydney.edu.au](mailto:pocog.office@sydney.edu.au) and we will add you to the membership list.

To learn more about PoCoG activities and to join visit [www.pocog.org.au](http://www.pocog.org.au)



**Joanne Shaw**  
Executive Director, PoCoG



### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS OF AUSTRALASIA

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) principal objectives are to train and support pathologists and senior scientists to improve the use of pathology testing, using the highest quality evidence and expert collaboration. We are pleased to highlight the following notable achievements accomplished in 2023.

#### Cancer Services Advisory Committee

The Cancer Services Advisory Committee (CanSAC) is a multidisciplinary committee that has oversight for all cancer-related activities within the RCPA. The goal of CanSAC is to raise the standard of pathology and cancer information. CanSAC lends its expertise and provides an important link to other external cancer-related organisations such as the Cancer Monitoring Advisory Group (CMAG), the Intercollegiate Committee on Cancer (ICC), Cancer Australia as well as COSA.

CanSAC continues to develop MSAC applications for evidence-based molecular and genomic testing of high-priority cancers. In 2023, CanSAC was successful in obtaining MSAC funding for small gene panel testing for non-small cell lung carcinoma. Public funding of these tests supports one of the key tenets of the College by ensuring equity of access to testing for all Australians.

#### Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer Project

Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer (SPRC) [protocols](#) are the result of expert multi-disciplinary input and independent peer review and are authored by a volunteer group of expert pathologists, clinicians and scientists. Each protocol incorporates the latest scientific evidence and internationally agreed standards from the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR).

In 2023, new RCPA [cancer protocols](#) were published for non-melanocytic skin cancer, invasive melanoma and Merkel cell carcinoma.

With the support of over 38 anatomical pathology laboratories, cancer registries and clinicians, the Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer Project continued work on the coordination of a free software trial for pathologists. The multi-stakeholder software trial has provided local opportunities to build knowledge to support more widespread adoption of digital reporting software.

#### International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting

The ICCR produces standardised reporting templates for cancers, available to all countries worldwide. From its inception in 2011 with four founding members – including the RCPA – the ICCR has grown to become a not-for-profit corporation with 18 sponsoring member countries, covering six continents, and represents a pathology community that services several billion people.

During this time, the ICCR has published over 60 datasets and more than 55 peer-reviewed journal articles.





International Pathology Day - RCPA-89



New [ICCR Datasets](#) published in 2023 included two Gynaecological Datasets, four Paediatric Datasets, and two Lung Datasets.

### International Pathology Day 2023

[International Pathology Day](#) is an annual awareness day dedicated to highlighting the pivotal role pathology plays in healthcare in addressing global health challenges and improving community health outcomes worldwide.

In 2023, the event discussed chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and its links to contact sports, and how pathological studies are used to diagnose and progress our understanding of the condition. CTE, which can only be definitively diagnosed on postmortem examination of the brain, highlights the indispensable role of pathology in providing answers for families, and in underpinning the formation of preventative healthcare policy.

The RCPA launched its [position statement](#) on CTE in collaboration with the Australian Sports Brain Bank (ASBB) and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Sydney at the event on 8 November 2023 to raise awareness of the condition and to call on governing bodies to facilitate diagnosis, research and preventative policies for CTE.

In the statement, RCPA acknowledges the causal link between exposure to repeated traumatic brain injuries and the development of CTE and calls for an urgent need for evidence-based strategies to prevent CTE. In particular, the RCPA recommends that low or no contact versions of sports are played by those under the age of 14. This particularly applies to school sports.

CTE was also the subject of an episode of [The Pathologists Cut, RCPA's podcast series](#), in which immediate Past-President Dr Lawrie Bott catches up with Associate Professor Michael Buckland, founder and Director of the Australian Sports Brain Bank to discuss how CTE manifests pathologically, and what current research tells us about diagnosis and recognition of the condition with to discuss chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and its links to participation in contact sports.

### Pathology Update, RCPA's annual scientific meeting

The RCPA's annual scientific meeting, Pathology Update, took place from 25 to 26 February 2023 in Melbourne. In 2023, the Laneways to Discovery multi-disciplinary scientific program brought together leading pathologists and scientists from around the world to present on all the disciplines in pathology. This included over 140 speakers, 40 exhibitors and sponsors, 1100 delegates. Among the topics covered were:

- Lockdowns floods and bushfires spark a mesothelioma warning – A/Professor Sonja Klebe.
- Proteomics will revolutionise the personalised treatment of cancer, inflammatory bowel disease and diabetes – Professor Ed Nice.
- World-first Australian trial could lead the way for targeted cancer therapy in children – Professor Rachel Conyers.
- New guidelines to be created by the RCPA to avoid Australians missing out on critical PGx testing – Professor Graeme Suthers.



**Kenneth Lee**  
 COSA Council  
 Representative, RCPA





Thoracic Oncology Group Australasia

THORACIC ONCOLOGY GROUP  
OF AUSTRALASIA

**Advancing Thoracic Cancer Research:  
TOGA's Remarkable 2023 Year**

2023 was the third year since TOGA emerged as the Australian and New Zealand lung cancer clinical trials group, with TOGA continuing to build on the previous two years' successes.

Clinical Trials and Research

The ASPIRATION study, led by Professors Ben Solomon and Nick Pavlakis, in a collaborative effort with the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, University of Sydney, and Omico Australia, reached a major milestone by completing the recruitment of 1000 participants in July. This groundbreaking initiative, offering comprehensive genomic profiling to 1000 newly diagnosed non-squamous metastatic NSCLC patients in Australia, has played a small part in demonstrating the utility of next-generation sequencing (NGS) and the ultimate reimbursement of a small gene panel that simultaneously tests for eight molecular mutations that most commonly drive oncogenic NSCLC.

In addition to ASPIRATION, a commendable 330 patients were recruited to various TOGA clinical trials, showcasing the organisation's commitment to advancing the treatment of thoracic cancers.

The SHERLOCK trial reached the halfway point in recruitment. SHERLOCK is a single-arm Phase II trial that investigates Sotorasib, a KRAS G12C inhibitor, in combination with chemotherapy and an angiogenesis inhibitor

for participants with advanced NSCLC harbouring the KRAS G12C mutation.

The DYNAMALK study, spearheaded by Dr Malinda Itchins, and the OCEANIC trial, conceived and led by A/Professor Tom John, both opened recruitment in 2023. The OCEANIC trial investigates the potential of NGS co-mutation status and the absence or presence of circulating DNA to determine if Stage IB-IIIa surgically resected NSCLC patients can safely avoid chemotherapy when treated with an EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor. Meanwhile, DYNAMALK explores the influence of NGS on clinician choices when prescribing ALK Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors (TKIs).

Our international Phase III trial, DREAM3R, exploring the combination of immunotherapy and chemotherapy in mesothelioma, unfortunately faced closure at the end of 2023 due to challenges in recruitment. Despite a PBS listing for dual immunotherapy at the commencement of the trial, DREAM3R continued to pose a crucial question on the efficacy of combined immunotherapy and chemotherapy.

Results from the ALKTERNATE and ILLUMINATE clinical trials were unveiled at the 2023 World Congress for Lung Cancer (WCLC), with A/Professor Chee Lee reporting during the oral ILLUMINATE presentation that '...the addition of durvalumab and tremelimumab to platinum-doublet chemotherapy has modest activity in advanced EGFR-mutant NSCLC following disease progression on EGFR TKIs'. Dr Malinda Itchins, who presented ALKTERNATE, concluded that 'Alternating lorlatinib and crizotinib is safe, preserves QOL, with similar survival to historical data'.

In collaboration with the 13 other Cancer Clinical Trial Groups, TOGA played a pivotal role in contributing to the Health Studies Australian National Data Asset (HeSANDA) platform. This platform facilitates the search of dataset metadata, allowing researchers to explore clinical trial datasets and request de-identified individual participant data. By contributing to HeSANDA, TOGA is actively fostering data-driven research within the broader scientific community.

Throughout the year, the TOGA Scientific Committee evaluated 12 research concepts, with seven submitted for funding and four conducted as surveys of the TOGA membership. The dedication of researchers proposing innovative concepts for peer-review and endorsement through TOGA continues to drive progress in lung cancer and mesothelioma.

Fundraising and Grant Awards

The 2023 year was our highest fundraising year yet, with an End of Financial Year Campaign raising \$43K, and a total of seven peer to peer campaigns conducted. A particular highlight was our volunteer fundraiser Dale Massie, who organised a gala ball on the Central Coast NSW, raising over \$80,000 in memory of her late husband and in honour of those lost to cancer. Our members once again donned their running shoes for the 2023 City2Surf in Sydney and raised \$10,879.

These strong fundraising efforts enabled TOGA to award Inspirational Research Grants that provide small grants for research projects in thoracic cancer. Five awards were granted, supporting projects encompassing supportive care, mesothelioma, translational research, and optimising clinical care for regional lung cancer patients.

Education Program and Annual Scientific Meeting

TOGA's ongoing commitment to education was evident with over 1000 registrants participating in various events, including the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), lung cancer preceptorship, and a new introduction to thoracic cancer research tailored for early career researchers.

The ASM, convened by A/Professor Zarnie Lwin OAM and held in Melbourne, drew over 290 face-to-face attendees. Renowned international guest speakers, including Professor Karen Kelly, Professor Stephen Swisher, and Dr Tarek Mekhail, enriched the program with their insights on immunotherapy, targeted therapies, and diverse aspects of lung cancer management and research. Dinner attendees were treated to the vocal repertoire of

'Mayhem Tom', also known as A/Professor Tom John, ably supported by his fellow medical specialist musicians from Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. The meeting closed with an entertaining debate 'AI will take over lung cancer management in the future', conceived and chaired by Mr Stephen Barnett.

TOGA recognised outstanding contributions with the Best ASM Poster Award presented to Dr Joe Wei for his work on "Eosinophil to Neutrophil Ratio Predicts Efficacy in Patients Receiving Immunotherapy in Non-small Cell Lung Cancer." Dr Mara Zeissig received the New Investigator Award for her oral presentation on "Tumour suppressor KEAP1 confers resistance to KRAS inhibitors."

TOGA's podcast program witnessed a remarkable surge in downloads, almost doubling the first 7-day downloads for each 2023 episode compared to those released in 2022. The overall increase in listens suggests a widening reach, with listeners tuning into earlier episodes. These podcasts, featuring topical items in thoracic cancer, seek to contribute to uniformly high standards of thoracic cancer care across the country.

Advances in the wider thoracic cancer sector

The National Lung Cancer Screening program, set to commence in mid-2025 for 50-75 year-olds with a current or former high smoking habit, was announced. This program, is projected to save 12,000 lives during the first 10 years of implementation, due to earlier diagnosis and an opportunity for curative treatment.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, TOGA remains committed to advancing thoracic cancer research, fostering collaboration, and driving innovation.



**Michael Millward**  
COSA Council Representative,  
TOGA





TROG CANCER  
RESEARCH

### TROG 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting

This year saw the 35th TROG Annual Scientific Meeting. The theme of this year's event was "Accelerating Forward" and it was great to see all the groundwork from the organising committee come to fruition

Across the four-day event, we were honoured to hear from over 75 speakers from Australia, New Zealand and further abroad about the ever-evolving landscape of cancer research and radiation medicine, palliative care, big data, artificial intelligence, machine learning, emerging technologies and so much more.

Among the list of speakers, we got to hear from Dr Adam Holtzman (USA), Dr Justin Baker (USA), Dr Rhys Williams (Australia), A/Professor Johan Verjans (Australia), Dr Alex Dunn (New Zealand), Dr Shohei Komatsu (Japan), Professor Ryohei Sasaki (Japan) and more!

In addition to our two research workshops – the Clinical Research Education Workshop and the Technical Research Workshop – and plenary sessions, we had vast opportunities to network and connect with colleagues and other industry professionals while learning more about the work of our exhibitors and sponsors.

We would like to thank our Co-Convenors A/ Professor Hien Le, Ms Kelly Skelton and Ms Lydia Tamblyn, Encanta Event Management, the TROG Organising and Program Committees, and importantly the (over) 200 delegates who helped make the 2023 ASM a resounding success!

We also celebrated the 10-year anniversary of our Facility Alliance Members. The Facility Alliance Membership allows TROG to provide support to sites who participate in TROG clinical trials. It was created in 2012, and 2023 marked our 10th anniversary. The Facility Alliance is a partnership between TROG and each of the hospitals, departments of radiation oncology and cancer treatment centres in both public and private settings across all jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand. We work in partnership with all of our Facility Alliance members to develop and conduct investigator-initiated radiation medicine clinical trials and to safely implement new technologies and treatments into clinical practice.

2023 was a productive year for TROG Cancer Research both in trial participant recruitment and in trial results being published. 230 participants were recruited to TROG trials, bringing the total accrual to TROG trials to 15,349 participants. There were seven manuscript publications arising from TROG trials as well as several international conference presentations. A highlight was having the TROG 15.03 FASTRACK II Trial results presented at ASTRO in October 2023.

### Practice-Changing Clinical Trial Results for Kidney Cancer Patients

#### TROG 15.03 FASTRACK II Results

The FASTRACK II study represents a critical advancement in cancer research, responding to a concerning 78 per cent increase in renal cell cancer diagnoses in Australia between 1993 and 2007. This study introduces Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy (SABR), a highly precise treatment for kidney cancer, challenging conventional approaches.

Initiated in 2016, FASTRACK II was designed to offer an alternative for patients who were not suited to surgery. This study was implemented across eight centres in Australia and the Netherlands to investigate the effectiveness of SABR and assess its associated side effects.

At the primary analysis, the trial has enrolled 70 patients, with a median follow-up period of 43



TROG ASM 2023

months. The analysis findings were remarkable: 100 per cent of treated kidney cancers showed no signs of recurrence, even in cases with an average tumour size of 4.6cm. Notably, only 10 per cent of participants experienced significant treatment-related side effects, marking a noteworthy milestone in cancer care.

The study's success positions SABR as an excellent option, especially for patients with larger inoperable tumours, where alternative treatments are limited.

Trial chairperson Professor Shankar Siva said: "stereotactic ablative body radiotherapy is a new standard of care for primary kidney cancer among those whose disease is not suited for surgery, and I believe the outcomes of our study support a future randomized trial comparing it with surgery for primary renal cell carcinoma."

The proposed next step involves comparing SABR to traditional surgery in patients with clearly operable tumours encouraged by the exceptional cancer control rates demonstrated by this international multicentre clinical trial. The prospect of comparing SABR to traditional surgery in a larger clinical trial holds immense potential in reshaping kidney cancer treatment strategies.

FASTRACK II signifies a turning point in progress for treatment of kidney cancer, presenting a compelling avenue for future advancements in radiation oncology.

### New Zealand site visits

Throughout 2023, TROG CEO Susan Goode visited numerous TROG sites in New Zealand to continue to foster our growth and collaborations with our networks across the Tasman. Since our inception there has been commitment to working collaboratively across Australia and New Zealand with the vision of initiating radiation therapy trials in both countries to provide access to advanced radiation medicine treatments and improve the lives of those affected by cancer.

Over the last 35 year, New Zealand patients have accounted for over 10 per cent of all participants on TROG trials. This is a huge contribution when considering the per capita difference in countries in population and medical professionals!

We wholeheartedly thank and recognise our New Zealand members and sites for their ongoing commitment to TROG Cancer Research, especially during the current challenging environment in conducting clinical research in New Zealand.

### Trek4TROG

The sun was hidden behind clouds and a gentle drizzle followed us on and off for the first few hours of our 20km Mt Kosciusko Trek held on 2 December 2023. The scenery was amazing with snow gums, breathtaking landscapes and wildflowers just begging us to take their photo. At Seamans Hut we sheltered



and discussed the risks of getting caught in a thunderstorm but decided to make the dash to the top. The dash being three kilometres uphill walking to reach the peak. That was the hard bit but we made it to the top of Kosciuszko and were rewarded with sunshine. To be standing on top of Australia surrounded by stunning views and remarkable people was breathtaking.

The kindness of the weather was not to last and our guides gathered us for another dash back to Seamans Hut. It was downhill this time and our legs certainly got some energy when the thunder let rip right around us. Sheltering at Seamans Hut as the hail passed us by, we then did the last seven kilometres back to our pick-up point, with drizzle to heavy showers creating little rivers everywhere, encouraging us to get home to a hot shower and dry clothes.

The experience was fantastic, the comradery engaging, financial support tremendous and the organisers and guides exceptional. All together, we were able to raise \$30,327! Watch this space to see where TROG heads off to in 2024 and be sure to put it in your calendar. It will be an experience not to be missed!



**Trevor Leong**  
President, TROG



**CANCER  
COUNCIL**

Cancer Council is Australia's only cancer charity working across every type of cancer and at all steps along the way. Our vision is a cancer-free future and our Federation continues to work towards that vision, helping to reduce the burden of cancer in Australia.

We have had a substantial impact on cancer prevention, improving early detection, driving improvements in cancer care and advocating for effective public health policy. Our work with COSA on improving survival from cancer has never been more critical.

During the year we have worked with our Members, partners and supporters to deliver on a number of key initiatives, including:

- Delivering a National Skin Cancer Prevention Campaign in partnership with the Australian Government targeting men aged 40-59 which resulted in a 70 per cent increase in self-reported use of multiple forms of sun protection.
- Developing a new skin cancer prevention behaviour change campaign aimed at young Australians and to be delivered during summer 2023.
- Developing and delivering an innovative integrated bowel cancer screening campaign to increase participation in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program with 74 per cent of people reporting that it had motivated them to do the bowel cancer screening test.
- Transitioning to a new digital platform to support the development and publication of clinical guidelines for health professionals of all specialities.

- Working to achieve comprehensive tobacco legislative reforms to once again place Australia as a world leader in tobacco control resulting in the Australian Government passing the Public Health (Tobacco & Other Products) Bill 2023.
- Securing a commitment from the Australian Government, supported by State and Territory Governments, to stop the importation of nonprescription e-cigarettes, to ban single use disposable e-cigarettes, and to introduce quality standards and restrictions on flavours and colours.
- Supporting the development of the Australian Cancer Plan by Cancer Australia.
- Securing a commitment from the Australian Government to progress with a National Lung Cancer Screening Program.
- Developing a Roadmap to Liver Cancer Control with the aims of reducing the disease burden and improving outcomes and survival rates.
- Supporting healthcare professionals in the delivery of optimal cancer care and advocacy for improvements to Australia's health system.
- Supporting the development, update and review of evidence-based clinical guidelines in colorectal, cervical and hepatocellular cancers. Ensuring our guidelines work to reduce health inequities and discrimination for high-risk audiences, and support health professionals to deliver best-practice, culturally sensitive and safe health care.

During 2023, our 13 11 20 Information and Support Line received more than 40,000 calls from Australians affected by all cancers, connecting them to services and support when they needed it the most and 5.9m visitors to the website were provided with information and support.

Collectively, Cancer Councils are the largest non-government funder of cancer research in Australia and we advocate for and demonstrate the importance of ongoing investment in cancer research.

We particularly want to thank the many COSA members who provide us with advice and support, and throw their influence behind our policy, project, and advocacy initiatives every year. As our clinical partner you make an amazing contribution to our efforts to continue to reduce the impact of cancer for all Australians.

We look forward to working with you again in 2024.



**Tanya Buchanan**  
CEO, Cancer Council  
Australia



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AT 30 JUNE 2023 AND INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

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## ABOUT CLINICAL ONCOLOGY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

The Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) is the peak national body representing health professionals from all disciplines whose work involves the care of cancer patients.

### Our vision

Quality multidisciplinary cancer care for all.

### Our mission

To improve cancer care and control through collaboration.

COSA achieves this by:

- supporting the professional and educational needs of cancer health professionals
- enhancing cancer care and control through network development
- advocating for improvements in cancer care and control
- facilitating research across the spectrum of cancer

### Guiding Principles

As a membership organisation, COSA's activities are driven by the needs of our members. The following guiding principles are intended to provide an overarching direction for all COSA activities.

- COSA activities should have a multidisciplinary focus
- COSA activities should have a clinical focus
- COSA activities should have outcomes relevant to its members, patients and carers
- COSA will act as a hub and facilitator for idea generation

### Strategic Directions 2019-2024

1. Advocate for matters affecting cancer service delivery, policy and care
2. Meet the educational needs of COSA's multidisciplinary membership
3. Promote and facilitate cancer research
4. Ensure the sustainability of COSA
5. Engage, attract and retain members

### Our history

In July 2013, The Clinical Oncological Society of Australia Incorporated (The Society) decided to migrate from an Incorporated Association to a Company limited by Guarantee. This new company was incorporated with an ABN 97 631 209 452 and started trading from 1 July 2013. COSA was registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission (ACNC) on 3 December 2012.



# CLINICAL ONCOLOGY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

## Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

### Corporate Information

ABN 97 631 209 452

The following persons were Directors of COSA during or since the end of the financial year:

Ms Sandie Angus  
Professor Judy Bauer  
Professor Fran Boyle AM  
Professor Tanya Buchanan  
Clinical A/Professor Merran Findlay  
A/Professor Dion Forstner  
Mr Peter Hooker  
Dr Malinda Itchins  
Professor Michael Jefford  
Professor Timothy Price  
Professor Sabe Sabesan  
A/Professor Christopher Steer

### Company Secretary & Chief Executive Officer

Ms Marie Malica

### Registered Office and Principal place of business

320 Pitt Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

P: +61 (0)2 8256 4100

F: +61 (0)2 8256 4101

### Company contact details

GPO Box 4708  
Sydney NSW 2001  
E: [cosa@cancer.org.au](mailto:cosa@cancer.org.au)  
W: [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au)

### Auditors

BDO Audit Pty Ltd  
Level 11  
1 Margaret Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

CLINICAL ONCOLOGY SOCIETY  
OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED  
(ABN 97 631 209 452)

# DIRECTORS' REPORT 30 JUNE 2023

The Directors present their report on Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 30 June 2023.

## Objectives

The Company's primary short-term objectives over the reporting period were:

- Continue working to the agreed strategic plan for the period July 2019 to June 2024
- Develop and implement policies to ensure operational efficiencies
- Review the Board, Council and COSA Groups to ensure their memberships are appropriate and engaged
- Build and maintain collaborative relationships with relevant government agencies, NGOs and industry groups involved in cancer care to ensure strategic alignment and collaboration and to avoid duplication of effort
- Respond to government and other relevant stakeholder requests for submissions
- Host a successful Annual Scientific Meeting

The Company's long term objectives are to:

- Advocate for matters affecting cancer service delivery, policy and care
- Meet the educational needs of COSA's multidisciplinary membership
- Promote and facilitate cancer research
- Ensure the sustainability of COSA

## Strategy for achieving the objectives

- Ensure COSA's advocacy work is in accordance with best practice
- Hold strong and mutually beneficial relationships with organisations relevant to cancer care and control
- Reinforce COSA's position as the peak national body representing multidisciplinary health professionals whose work encompasses cancer care and control
- Ensure COSA's educational opportunities remain relevant to the membership
- Build on the strength and success of the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting
- Build on current, and investigate new opportunities for, industry sponsored events outside the COSA ASM
- Extend the reach of COSA's current educational activities
- Provide a forum for the discussion of common issues in cancer research
- Facilitate a collective voice for the cancer cooperative trials groups
- Align COSA's governance and operational structure in accordance with best practice
- Ensure COSA remains relevant to its membership
- Ensure COSA remains financially viable as a not-for-profit organisation



## DIRECTORS' REPORT 30 JUNE 2023 (Cont'd)

### Principal activities

The principal activities of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia during the year were focused on furthering both our short and long term objectives, referenced above. More detail on the achievements against these activities are detailed in the 2023 Annual Report.

### Review of financial operations and results of Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Limited

The total income for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 was \$858,584 (2022: \$538,848). In the same period, expenditure was \$926,208 (2022: \$822,603) leaving a deficit of \$67,625 (2022: \$283,755 deficit). The level of spending for the organisation varies from year to year as the range of activities to support our members, and the costs associated with them, also vary.

### Matters Subsequent to the end of Financial Year

As at the date of this directors' report, the directors are not aware of any matter or circumstance that has arisen that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Company in the financial years subsequent to 30 June 2023.

### Indemnity and insurance of officers

The Company has indemnified the directors and executives of the Company for costs incurred, in their capacity as a director or executive, for which they may be held personally liable, except where there is a lack of good faith.

During the financial year, the Company paid a premium of \$912.49 in respect of a contract to insure the directors and executives of the company against a liability to the extent permitted by the Corporations Act 2001.

### Indemnity and insurance of auditor

The Company has not, during or since the end of the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify the auditor of the Company or any related entity against a liability incurred by the auditor.

During the financial year, the Company has not paid a premium in respect of a contract to insure the auditor of the Company or any related entity.

### Proceedings on behalf of the Company

No person has applied to the Court under section 237 of the Corporations Act 2001 for leave to bring proceedings on behalf of the Company, or to intervene in any proceedings to which the Company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Company for all or part of those proceedings.

### Environmental Regulation

COSA is not subject to any significant environment regulations.

### Dividends

COSA does not permit any dividends and therefore no dividends have been paid or declared.

### Contributions on winding up

In the event of the company being wound up, all members are required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each.

### Directors

The names of the Directors of the Company in office during or since the end of the year are:

Name, Qualifications and Experience	Role	Date Joined	Date Ceased	Board	Audit, Risk & Finance Committee
				Attended / Eligible to attend	Attended / Eligible to attend
<b>Associate Professor Dion Forstner</b> MBBS (Hons) FRANZCR Professor Dion Forstner is a radiation oncologist with Genesiscare with his practice based at St Vincent's Sydney, Macquarie University Hospital, Mater and Concord Centre. He is a past Dean of Faculty of Radiation Oncology at Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists. He is chair of the MBS working group at RANZCR. His clinical areas of specialisation are in the management of head and neck and skin cancers. He is also a board member of Head and Neck Cancer Australia.	President and Board Chair (2023-2024) Director, Member Audit, Risk & Finance Committee	25-Jul-19	-	6 / 6	5 / 5
<b>Professor Fran Boyle AM</b> MBBS FRACP PhD GAICD Professor Boyle is a Medical Oncologist at North Sydney's Mater Hospital, where she is Director of the Patricia Ritchie Centre for Cancer Care and Research, and Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Sydney. She has been involved in clinical trials, supportive care and psychosocial research in breast cancer for the past 20 years. Fran has chaired the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) and Breast Cancer Trials (formerly ANZ Breast Cancer Trials Group). Fran contributes to clinical trial development nationally and internationally through the BCT and IBCSG, and leads communication skills training for clinicians through the Pam McLean Centre. Fran is currently a member of the Strategic Advisory Committee of the Breast Cancer Network of Australia, and in 2008 was awarded Membership of the Order of Australia for her contributions to Breast Cancer research, education, policy and advocacy.	Immediate Past President (2021-2022), Director	22-Nov-18	04-Nov-22	6 / 6	-
<b>Professor Sabe Sabesan</b> MBBS(Flinders) PhD FRACP Professor Sabesan is a senior Medical Oncologist, department of medical oncology at the Townsville Cancer Centre, and Clinical Dean, at James Cook University and Townsville Hospital and Health Services. His interests include design, implementation and publication on various teleoncology models to enhance regional and rural access to cancer services closer to home. In collaboration with Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA), he led the development of the teleoncology guidelines and the Australasian Teletrial model. Telesupervision guidelines and modules have been his contribution to the Royal Australian College of Physicians. Currently, he is a co-chair of the Australian Teletrial Program (led by Queensland Health).	Director, President Elect (2023-2024), Member Audit, Risk & Finance Committee	31-Jul-19	-	3 / 6	2 / 2
<b>Ms Sandie Angus</b> LLB, GAICD Ms Angus is an experienced strategic leader and non-executive director with significant legal, governance, and risk management expertise. She is admitted as a solicitor and has over thirty years' experience working in law firms and in the government finance and electricity sectors. She sits on the boards of various not-for-profit companies in the health, sports and disability sectors. She was appointed as a Director to the COSA Board for her legal expertise.	Director, Chair Audit, Risk & Finance Committee	20-Mar-18	-	5 / 6	4 / 5
<b>Professor Judy Bauer</b> BSc, GradDipNutr&Diet, MHthSc, PhD, FDA Professor Judy Bauer is Discipline Lead, Nutrition & Dietetics, Monash University. She is recognized internationally for translational research and innovative nutrition models of care particularly in malnutrition and oncology. Judy's current research focuses on body composition assessment methods and outcomes in patients with cancer with a specific interest related to malnutrition and sarcopenia. Judy has research funding of >AU \$9.3M, Scopus H-index 44, published over 200 papers with > 8400 citations. She is a past Chair of the COSA Nutrition Group, life member and past director of Dietitians Australia.	Director, Member Audit, Risk & Finance Committee	30-Jul-19	-	5 / 6	5 / 5
<b>Professor Tanya Buchanan</b> BA(Hons) BSc(Nsg) MBA PhD Professor Tanya Buchanan is Cancer Council Australia's Chief Executive Officer. Tanya is an experienced professional who joined Cancer Council Australia in November 2020 and brings many years' experience in public health to her role at Cancer Council Australia. Tanya has a proven track record in leading organisations to improve health outcomes, having held roles as Chief Executive Officer of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) in Wales and most recently Chief Executive Officer of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand, a position she held for five years. Tanya commenced her career as a nurse, working in oncology and neurosurgery. She has also worked for Red Cross Blood Service Australia, in academia, local government and the voluntary sector. Tanya is an Honorary Professor of Practice, School of Health & Society (Public Health), University of Wollongong and holds a PhD on tobacco control in Australia. She also holds an MBA in Health Services Administration, a first-class honours degree in English & Comparative Literature and a Bachelor of Science (Nursing), as well as a range of vocational qualifications. Tanya is passionate about prevention of ill health and addressing inequalities in cancer outcomes.	Director	12-Jul-21	-	5 / 6	-



## DIRECTORS' REPORT 30 JUNE 2023 (Cont'd)

Name, Qualifications and Experience	Role	Date Joined	Date Ceased	Board	Audit, Risk & Finance Committee
				Attended / Eligible to attend	Attended / Eligible to attend
<p><b>Clinical Associate Professor Merran Findlay</b> PhD MSc (Nutr &amp; Diet) BSc (Nutr) AdvAPD</p> <p>Clinical Associate Professor Merran Findlay is an Advanced Accredited Practising Dietitian and clinician-researcher who has specialised in nutrition care of people with for more than 23 years. Her research focuses on the impact of cancer-related malnutrition and sarcopenia on clinical, cost and patient-centred outcomes, innovative models of care and use of health informatics and data science to support translation of evidence into practice. She also holds appointments at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney Local Health District, Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, University of Sydney, the Maridulu Budyari Gumat SPHERE Cancer Clinical Academic Group, UNSW and is past Chair of the COSA Nutrition Group. She is a current Sydney Health Partners (SHP) Research Translation Fellow and SHP Implementation Science Academy Fellow.</p>	Director	08-Mar-23	-	2 / 2	-
<p><b>Mr Peter Hooker</b> BSc BE (Hons) FFIN GAICD</p> <p>Mr Hooker has been a finance and investment professional for over 35 years, and has significant experience in governance, strategy and risk management, particularly in the health sector where he served as Treasurer of Médecins sans Frontières Australia and on the Psychology Board of Australia. He is a member of a pre-qualified panel eligible to serve on Audit and Risk committees of NSW government enterprises and also has a particular interest in values-based leadership and organisational culture. Peter has been appointed to the COSA board for his finance and risk expertise.</p>	Director, Member Audit, Risk & Finance Committee	18-Mar-22	-	6 / 6	5 / 5
<p><b>Dr Malinda Itchins</b> BMedSci MBBS FRACP PhD</p> <p>Dr Itchins is a Medical Oncologist at Royal North Shore Hospital, GenesisCare North Shore Health Hub and North Shore Private, awarded her Fellowship in 2016. She is a Senior Clinical Lecturer with the University of Sydney after receiving her Doctorate in 2020 under an inaugural NSW Health Scholarship investigating drug resistance in lung cancer pre-clinically and via a clinical trial for which she received the Peter Bancroft Prize for research work. Malinda is the advanced lung cancer group co-chair on the Thoracic Oncology Group of Australasia (TOGA) Scientific Committee, and Primary Investigator and Investigator on a number of investigator-initiated and industry lead lung cancer clinical trials. Malinda's research focus is in engaging in clinical trials development, as well as real world data collaborations in patterns of care, survival and drug resistance in molecularly driven lung cancers. She passionately contributes to patient advocacy and survivorship in lung cancer and joined the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) Council in 2020 as the Lung Cancer Chair.</p>	Director	02-Jul-21	-	5 / 6	-
<p><b>Professor Michael Jefford</b> MBBS, MPH, MHLthServMt Monash, PhD, GCertUniTeach Melb, GAICD, FRACP</p> <p>Professor Jefford is a Medical Oncologist, and is Director of the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre, at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. He is a Professorial Fellow with the University of Melbourne. His major clinical focus is on the management of people with gastrointestinal cancers. He is the immediate past chair of COSA's Cancer Survivorship Committee and the American Society of Clinical Oncology's Health Equity and Outcomes Committee. He co-chairs the International Psycho-Oncology Society's Survivorship Special Interest Group. He was previously Deputy Director of Medical Oncology at Peter Mac and has held senior leadership roles with cancer-related organisations including Cancer Council Victoria and BreastScreen Victoria, and professional organisations such as the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Medical Oncology Group of Australia.</p>	Director	02-Jul-21	-	3 / 6	-
<p><b>Professor Timothy Price</b> MBBS FRACP DHIthSc (Med)</p> <p>Professor Price is the Clinical Director of the BRAGG Comprehensive Cancer Centre and Medical Oncologist at The Queen Elizabeth and Lyell McEwin Hospitals in Adelaide. His clinical research is focussed on Gastrointestinal and Neuroendocrine cancers. He heads the Solid Cancer Team at the Bazil Hetzel Institute where the group undertake translational and new drug research together with a focus on colorectal cancer of younger patients. He has been a member of the Board and COSA NET and Rare Cancer Groups. He is the immediate past Chair of the AGITG Board and Scientific Advisory Committee and remains a Board Director. He Chairs the NHMRC Cancer Council Colorectal Cancer Guidelines.</p>	Director	29-Jul-19	-	4 / 6	-

Name, Qualifications and Experience	Role	Date Joined	Date Ceased	Board	Audit, Risk & Finance Committee
				Attended / Eligible to attend	Attended / Eligible to attend
<p><b>Associate Professor Christopher Steer</b> MBBS, FRACP</p> <p>Associate Professor Steer is a medical oncologist at Border Medical Oncology at the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre in Albury. He is Associate Professor at the UNSW School of Clinical Medicine, Rural Clinical Campus, Albury and an Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University, Wodonga Campus. After completing a clinical research fellowship at King's College London, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in 2003, Christopher returned to clinical practice in Albury. Christopher is the president of the Private Cancer Physicians of Australia (PCPA) and has served on the board of the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA), the Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) and the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG). He has also been the chair of the geriatric oncology study group of the Multinational Association for Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) and the equivalent Group at COSA. Christopher is a principal investigator at the Border Medical Oncology Research Unit that has enabled clinical trials to be conducted in the region for over 20 years. He is the clinical lead in the Regional Trials Network VIC REVITALISE project Geriatric Oncology Initiative.</p>	Director	02-Jul-21	-	5 / 6	-

Directors are appointed on an honorary basis and as a result do not receive any remuneration either directly or indirectly from the Company.



## DIRECTORS' REPORT 30 JUNE 2023 (Cont'd)

### Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Limited (ABN 97 631 209 452) Directors' Report (cont'd) 30 June 2023

#### Company Secretary and Chief Executive Officer

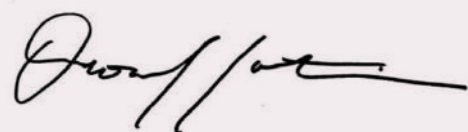
Ms Marie Malica is the Company Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Ms Malica joined the Company in March 2011 and has 20 years' experience working in the cancer not-for-profit sector and state government having previously held the position of Manager, Research Strategy Unit at Cancer Council NSW and Manager, Research Support Office with South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service, Northern Hospital Network.

#### Auditor's Independence Declaration

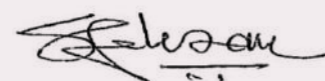
A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is set out on the following page.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of directors, pursuant to section 298(2)(a) of the Corporations Act 2001.

On behalf of the directors



A/Prof Dion Forstner  
President



Prof Sabe Sabesan  
President-Elect

Sydney  
6 October 2023



Tel: +61 2 9251 4100  
Fax: +61 2 9240 9821  
www.bdo.com.au

Level 11, 1 Margaret Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Australia

#### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY LEAH RUSSELL TO THE DIRECTORS OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

As lead auditor of Clinical Oncology Society of Australia for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

1. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
2. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Leah Russell  
Director

BDO Audit Pty Ltd  
Sydney



## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Member body subscriptions	1(a)(ii), 4	145,102	137,623
Annual Scientific Meeting revenue	1(a)(iii), 4	471,370	285,190
Other grant & project revenue	1 (a)(i), 4	186,211	108,905
Interest income	1 (a)(iv), 4	55,901	6,850
Other revenue	1 (a)(v), 4	0	280
		<b>858,584</b>	<b>538,848</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration expenses		(70,011)	(86,937)
Employment costs		(659,992)	(601,112)
Depreciation		(948)	(155)
Annual Scientific Meeting		(27,568)	(13,922)
Other grant & project expenses		(121,603)	(112,931)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(46,087)	(7,546)
		<b>(926,209)</b>	<b>(822,603)</b>
Loss before income tax expense		<b>( 67,625)</b>	<b>( 283,755)</b>
Income tax expense	1(c)	-	-
<b>Net loss after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of COSA</b>		<b>( 67,625)</b>	<b>( 283,755)</b>
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year attributable to the members of COSA</b>		<b>( 67,625)</b>	<b>( 283,755)</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & cash equivalents	5	102,731	106,323
Trade & other receivables	6	55,694	34,910
Other current assets	7	1,780,031	1,845,347
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>1,938,456</b>	<b>1,986,580</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Plant & equipment	8	7,646	-
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>7,646</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,946,102</b>	<b>1,986,580</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade & other payables	9	259,284	243,149
Provision for employee benefits	10	123,420	114,549
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>382,704</b>	<b>357,698</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provision for employee benefits	10	9,891	7,750
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>9,891</b>	<b>7,750</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>392,595</b>	<b>365,448</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>1,553,507</b>	<b>1,621,132</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Grants & Special Projects Reserve		15,000	15,000
General Funds		1,538,507	1,606,132
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>1,553,507</b>	<b>1,621,132</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements



## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	\$	\$	\$
	General Funds	Grants & Special Projects Reserve	Total Funds
<b>Balance at 1 July 2021</b>	<b>1,889,887</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>1,904,887</b>
Transfer from reserves	-	-	-
Transfer to liabilities	-	-	-
Surplus after income tax for the year	(283,755)	-	<b>283,755</b>
Other Comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<b>(283,755)</b>	-	<b>(283,755)</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>1,606,132</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>1,621,132</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2022</b>	<b>1,606,132</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>1,621,132</b>
Transfer from reserves	-	-	-
Transfer to liabilities	-	-	-
Surplus after income tax for the year	(67,625)	-	<b>(112,625)</b>
Other Comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<b>(67,625)</b>	-	<b>(112,625)</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>1,538,507</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>1,553,507</b>

### Nature and Purpose of Reserves

#### Grants & Special Projects Reserve

This reserve relates to funds received by the Company and designated for use for a specific purpose. This may include grant monies received but not yet spent. These funds are held in reserve until spent appropriately, or in line with funding agreements.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
<u>Cash flows from operating activities:</u>			
Receipts from member subscriptions and other income (inclusive of GST)		795,004	546,475
Payments to suppliers, employees and member bodies (inclusive of GST)		(957,836)	(839,431)
Interest received		55,901	6,850
Net cash (used) in/provided by operating activities	14	(106,931)	(286,106)
<u>Cash flows from investing activities:</u>			
Payment for term deposits		111,933	-
Received from term deposits		-	(4,313)
Payment for purchase of plant and equipment		(8,594)	-
Net cash used in by investing activities		103,339	(4,313)
Net (decrease)/ increase in cash & cash equivalents		(3,592)	(290,419)
Cash & cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		106,323	396,742
<b>Cash &amp; cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	5	<b>102,731</b>	<b>106,323</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

## Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies

The Company is a not for profit entity and an incorporated company limited by guarantee domiciled in Australia.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the directors on 6 October 2023.

### New, revised or amending Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The Company has adopted all of the new, revised or amending Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new, revised or amending Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

### BASIS OF PREPARATION

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB'), the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, The company is a not-for-profit per financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

No other Accounting Standards and other professional reporting requirements in Australia have mandatory applicability because the company is not a reporting entity.

### REPORTING BASIS AND CONVENTIONS

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis (except the statement of cash flows) and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period, unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this report.

All amounts are in Australian dollars.

## Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies (cont.)

### ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### (a) Revenue Recognition

The company is required to assess whether revenue is generated from an enforceable contract with sufficiently specific performance obligations in which case it is accounted for as contract revenue (AASB 15). If there is not an enforceable contract with sufficiently specific performance obligations, revenue is accounted for under AASB 1058.

Contract revenue is recognised when control of a promised good or service is passed to the customer at an amount which reflects the expected consideration. The customer for these contracts is the fund provider.

For each contract with a customer, the Company: identifies the contract with a customer; identifies the performance obligations in the contracts; determines the transaction price which takes into account estimates of variable consideration and the time value of money; allocates the transaction price to the separate performance obligations on the basis of the relative stand-alone selling price of each distinct good or service to be delivered; and recognises revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied in a manner that depicts the transfer to the customer of the goods or services promised.

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the company have any significant financing terms as there is generally less than 12 months between the receipt of funds and the satisfaction of performance obligations.

Revenue that is not contract revenue is recognised when received, or gains control of the revenue.

#### (i) Contract Revenue - Grants

Grant income arising from an agreement which contains enforceable and sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised when control of each performance obligations is satisfied. This is generally the case for the monies received for information, education, advocacy and research.

The performance obligations are varied based on the agreement but may include management of education events, advocacy programmes and facilitation of research.

Within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract.

Where control is transferred over time, generally the revenue recognition is based on either cost or time incurred which best reflects the transfer of control.

#### (ii) Contract Revenue - Member Subscriptions

Member subscriptions are recognised over the period of the membership subscription.

#### (iii) Contract Revenue - Annual Scientific Meeting Income

The Company contracts a professional Events Co-ordinator to manage the staging of the Annual Scientific Meeting including the receipt of revenue and payment of expenses in relation to the event. Documents detailing the income and expenses have been received from the Events Co-ordinator together with a reconciling statement.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (CONT.)

### Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies (cont.)

Revenue and expenses associated with the Annual Scientific Meeting are recognised through the Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the financial year the Annual Scientific Meeting is conducted.

Net Annual Scientific Meeting income is calculated as the excess of revenue in relation to the Annual Scientific Meeting compared to expenses associated with the meeting.

The net income for the 2022/23 Annual Scientific Meeting was \$443,802 (2021/22: \$271,268).

(iv) **Interest**

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

(v) **Other Revenue**

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

(b) **Current and non-current classification**

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is current when: it is expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within twelve months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is current when: it is expected to be settled in normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

(c) **Taxation**

The Company is a charitable institution in terms of subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended; it is therefore exempt from income tax. This exemption has been confirmed by the Australian Taxation Office.

(d) **Trade and other receivables**

Trade and other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any expected credit loss.

(e) **Other Current Assets**

Prepayments included in other assets primarily relate to prepayments for future Annual Scientific Meetings and other events. Held to maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the Company's management has the intention and ability to hold to maturity.

(f) **Trade and other payables**

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Company prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

(g) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions and other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of less than 90 days that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

(h) **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST. Cash flows are presented in the Statement of cash flow on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority.

(i) **Comparative figures**

Comparative figures of the Company for the previous 12 month period are included throughout these statements.

(j) **Plant & equipment**

Plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment (excluding land) over their expected useful lives as follows:

<u>Class of plant and equipment</u>	<u>Useful Life</u>
Computer Equipment	3 years

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021 (CONT.)

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the Company. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit and loss.

### (k) Provision for employee benefits

#### *Short term employee benefits*

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in current liabilities in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

#### *Other long-term employee benefits*

The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in non-current liabilities, provided there is an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. The liability is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to the expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

#### *Defined contribution superannuation expense*

Contributions to defined superannuation plans are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

### (l) Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and with the Company.

The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

#### *Estimation of useful lives of assets*

The Company determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete.

### Note 1. Statement of significant accounting policies (cont.)

#### *Long service leave provision*

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

#### *Determining whether contracts such as grants contain enforceable and sufficiently specific obligations*

The interaction between AASB 15 and AASB 1058 require the management to assess whether the government grants and other funding received need to be accounted for under AASB 15 or AASB 1058. Key to this assessment is whether the government grants and other funding agreements contain:

- a contract with a customer that creates 'enforceable' rights and obligations, and
- the contract includes 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations.

Critical judgement was applied by management in assessing whether a promise is 'sufficiently specific', taking into account all facts and circumstances and any conditions specified in the arrangement (whether explicit or implicit) regarding the promised goods or services, including conditions regarding:

- the nature or type of the goods or services
- the cost or value of the goods or services
- the quantity of the goods or services
- the period over which the goods or services must be transferred.

### (m) Use of the term "surplus"

The Company is a not-for-profit organisation. As such, the term "profit" is not applicable and the term "surplus" is used where required.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (CONT.)

### Note 2. Nature and objects of the Company

The Company is an incorporated Company Limited by Guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001.

Its objects are:

- to promote excellence in the multidisciplinary care and research relating to cancer – from prevention, diagnosis and treatment to follow-up, palliation and survivorship;
- to encourage multidisciplinary collaboration of all professionals involved in cancer care and research; and
- to foster and promote cancer research.

In the event of the Company being wound up, the members undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding \$10.00 to the assets of the Company.

There were 753 financial (and 74 free memberships) members of the Company at 30 June 2023 (2022: 725, plus 67 free students).

### Note 3. Economic dependence

The ability of the Company to maintain its operations is dependent inter alia on the continuing support of its members by way of voluntary membership subscriptions.

### Note 4. Revenue and Other Income

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	\$	\$
Revenue from contracts with customers		
Other grant income	97,461	20,155
	<u>97,461</u>	<u>20,155</u>
Other Income		
Membership subscriptions (also refer to note 1 (a) (ii))	145,102	137,623
Interest revenue	55,901	6,850
ASM income	471,370	285,190
Recoveries of clinical trials insurance cover	88,750	88,750
Other revenue	0	280
	<u>716,123</u>	<u>518,693</u>
	<u>858,584</u>	<u>538,848</u>
Timing of revenue and other income recognition		
Revenue and other income recognised at a point in time	616,472	394,375
Revenue and other income recognised over time	242,112	144,473
	<u>858,584</u>	<u>538,848</u>

### Note 5. Cash & cash equivalents

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	102,731	106,323
	<u>102,731</u>	<u>106,323</u>

### Note 6. Trade and other receivables

<u>Current</u>		
Trade receivables	14,953	14,141
Other receivables	40,741	20,769
	<u>55,694</u>	<u>34,910</u>

### Note 7. Other current assets

Prepayments	115,686	69,069
Held to maturity investments - term deposits	1,664,345	1,776,278
	<u>1,780,031</u>	<u>1,845,347</u>

### Note 8. Plant & equipment

Computer equipment		
- Computer equipment, at cost	8,595	20,651
- Accumulated depreciation	(948)	(20,651)
Total computer equipment	<u>7,647</u>	<u>0</u>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (CONT.)

### Note 9. Trade and other payables

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<u>Current</u>		
Trade creditors & accruals	29,821	27,007
Contract liabilities	229,463	216,142
	<u>259,284</u>	<u>243,149</u>

### Note 10. Provisions

<u>Current:</u>		
Employee benefits	123,420	114,549
	<u>123,420</u>	<u>114,549</u>
<u>Non-Current:</u>		
Employee benefits	9,891	7,750
	<u>9,891</u>	<u>7,750</u>

### Note 11. Contingent Liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities as at the end of the year other than those identified elsewhere in this report.

### Note 12. Events subsequent to reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Company or the results of those operations for the period under report.

### Note 13. Auditors Remuneration

During the year, the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by the auditor, BDO Audit to the Company:

External audit of the financial statement	10,750	8,750
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### Note 14. Reconciliation of the surplus/(deficit) for the year to net cash flows from operating activities

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Net surplus for the year	(67,625)	(283,755)
Non-cash flows in surplus from ordinary activities:		
Depreciation	948	155
Transfer from reserves		
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) in trade & other receivables	(20,784)	(6,518)
(Increase)/ Decrease in other current assets	(46,617)	24,176
Increase/(Decrease) in trade & other payables	16,135	(28,558)
Increase in provisions	11,011	8,394
Net cash (used)/provided by operating activities	<u>(106,931)</u>	<u>(286,106)</u>

### Note 15. Company details

The registered office and principal place of business of the Company is:

320 Pitt Street  
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

The Company operates entirely in Australia as a Charitable Institution.

### Note 16. Related party transactions

#### Key management personnel

Directors do not receive any remuneration. There is only one key management personnel paid through the company, which is not required to be disclosed in accordance with the ACNC.

#### Transactions with related parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the current and previous financial year.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (CONT.)

### *Receivable from and payable to related parties*

There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

### *Loans to/from related parties*

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

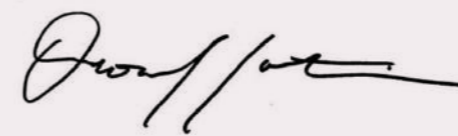
### Directors' Declaration

In the directors' opinion:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Corporations Act 2001, the Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and associated regulations, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of directors made pursuant to section 295(5)(a) of the Corporations Act 2001.

On behalf of the directors by:



A/Prof Dion Forstner  
President



Prof Sabe Sabesan  
President-Elect

Sydney  
6 October 2023





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Australia

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Clinical Oncology Society of Australia

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity, the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

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#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website (<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>) at:

[http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf)

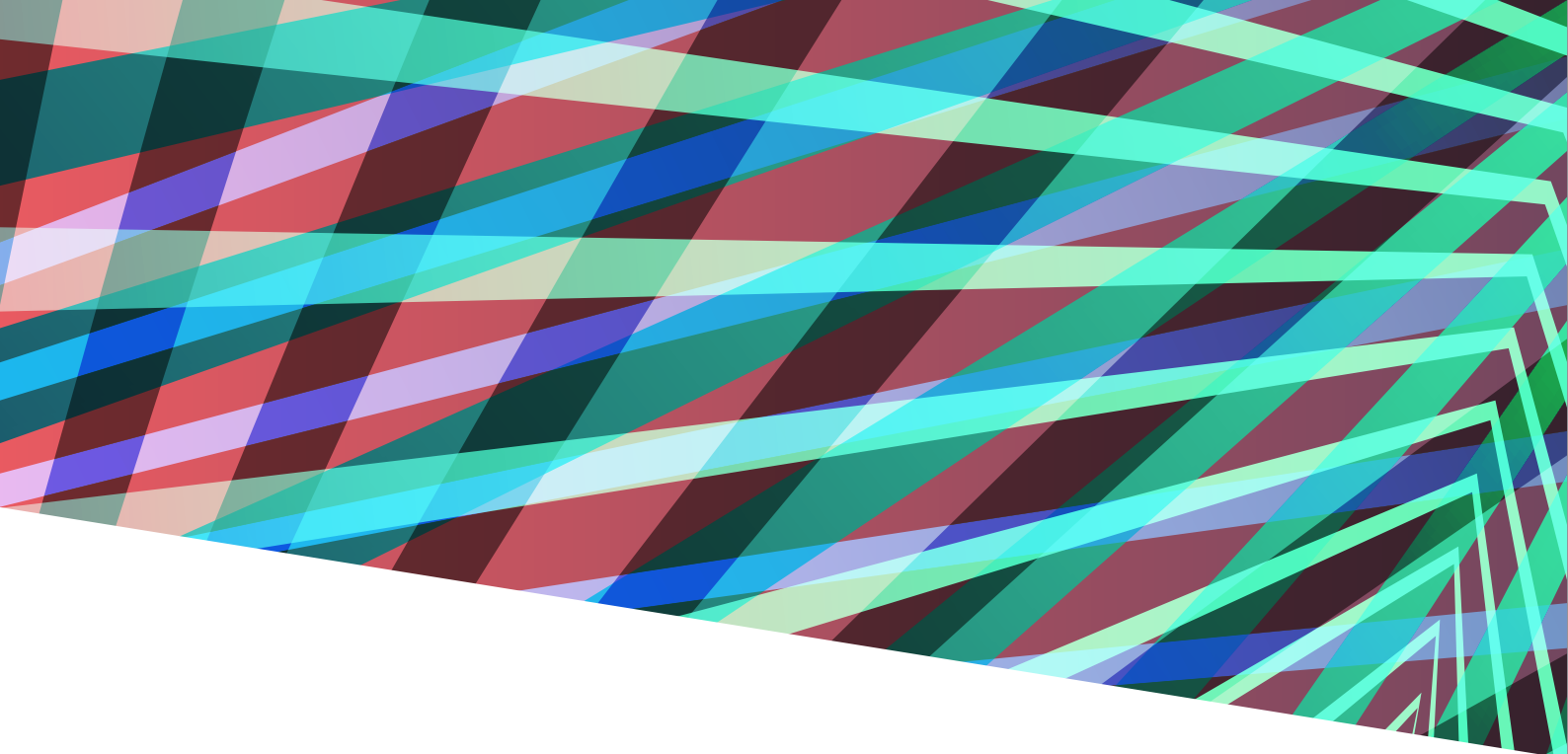
This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BDO Audit Pty Ltd

Leah Russell  
Director

Sydney, 9 October 2023





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