

ASPERT

Bulletin | December 2021



AOTEAROA AUSTRALIA PANCREATIC ENZYME REPLACEMENT THERAPY RESEARCH GROUP

FROM THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

AMANDA LANDERS



We have opened the Aotearoa and Australia PERT survey study! Our friends at the Pancreatic Cancer Association of NZ (PCANZ) put out our link on November 1st. ASPERT ran some adverts in the local and national newspapers which stimulated response. I have had 4 people contact me directly with their stories and questions. Our research is making a difference in people's lives, and that is before we have any results! Our two new research assistants- Anu Kaw and Poppy McCall- have started with a bang. Anu is a social media expert and Poppy does amazing graphic design. They will introduce themselves later in this bulletin.

Moving forward we need everyone associated with this research to be tapping into their networks and promoting the survey. This is especially true of our Australian colleagues, we need your guidance and networks. We will be making contact with you in the coming weeks to see how we can help you with this mammoth task! We have developed a patient resource, media copy, Facebook posts to be shared, and other tools which may be helpful. Thanks in advance!

Ngā mihi, Amanda

IN THIS ISSUE

Survey launch

Team news

Pancreatic cancer roadmap

Pancreatic Cancer Day

We're on Social Media!

Contact us

SURVEY LAUNCH

CHARLOTTE CAHILL

I am very excited to announce that both the Australian and New Zealand surveys have opened to the public. This happened on the first of November, just in time for pancreatic cancer awareness month. Responses having been coming in from both countries, each one getting us closer and closer to reaching our target. The ASPERT team has been working hard to spread the news that the survey has opened, through social media, advertisements and word of mouth. The links to the Australian and New Zealand surveys can be found below.

[Australian Survey](#)

[New Zealand Survey](#)



TEAM NEWS

POPPY MCCALL



Kia Ora! My name is Poppy McCall and I am one of the new research assistants joining the ASPERT team for the summer. I have been mostly working on social media to boost the reach of the survey.

A little bit about me...

I have just finished my fourth year of medical school at the University of Otago Ōtautahi Christchurch Campus. Over my medical school journey, I have found a real love for connecting with patients and understanding the rich and complex factors that intertwine to influence a patient's experience with illness. I found myself drawn to palliative care as I saw that one of the fundamental principles was providing personalised care based on a holistic approach.

In my time outside of University, I love to get outside. I particularly enjoy skiing, having Mt Hutt so close is an awesome positive for Christchurch! I also love to cook and bake for my flatmates. This summer I am staying in the Coromandel and currently learning to surf, however, I seem to end up in the water more actually standing up on any waves!

Thank you to the ASPERT team for welcoming me so warmly. I look forward to expanding my understanding in the palliative care and pancreatic cancer space.

National Pancreatic Cancer Roadmap



PANCREATIC CANCER ROADMAP!

CANCER AUSTRALIA

Cancer Australia has released the third Roadmap Construction Update on the development of the National Pancreatic Cancer Roadmap.

The National Pancreatic Cancer Roadmap will identify key priority areas for action over the next five years to improve outcomes for people with pancreatic cancer.

In focus for this update are the priority setting process, and the developmental roadmap resources. Please visit and interact with the infographic at [National Pancreatic Cancer Roadmap Construction Update 3](#).

PANCREATIC CANCER DAY

This year, the 18th of November marked worldwide Pancreatic Cancer Day. Across the globe, people united to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer. The ASPERT team did a fantastic job of taking action to support the cause.

Amanda was interviewed by the Otago Daily Times and NewsTalk ZB where she highlighted the importance of enzyme replacement therapy and lack of awareness surrounding the treatment. She also called on New Zealanders living with Pancreatic cancer to complete our survey in order to help us understand why this drug is not being prescribed to all pancreatic cancer patients.

TEAM NEWS

ANU KAW



Tēnā koutou katoa. My name is Anu and I've joined the ASPERT team as a Research Assistant this summer. I've just finished my 4th year of medical school at the University of Otago, Christchurch. I'm very excited to be joining this kaupapa, working to raise awareness about ASPERT using our social media and traditional media spaces. In my spare time I enjoy getting into the outdoors, photography and working on advocacy and research projects.

WE'RE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

ASPERT now has Twitter, Facebook and Instagram profiles! Follow us to keep up to date with all things.

TWITTER [@aspertstudy](https://twitter.com/aspertstudy)

FACEBOOK: [@aspertstudy](https://www.facebook.com/aspertstudy)

INSTAGRAM: [@aspertstudy](https://www.instagram.com/aspertstudy)

Below is an example of the fantastic social media posts that have been produced by Poppy and Anu.



Subscribe or find out more by email to Amanda Landers

E: aspert@otago.ac.nz

W: uts.edu.au/aspert