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## CREST Workshops

### CREST Webinar Series: Modelling & Economic Evaluations

CREST is excited to host this free lunchtime webinar series for CTG members. This 3-part webinar series will explore how economic modelling can be used in your cancer research to address health economics questions. The second episode will be on Tuesday, 8 October 2024. Please feel free to join the last two session even if you missed the first!

[Register here.](#)

### Health Economics Workshop - In Melbourne

By popular request, we're taking our health economics workshop to Melbourne. If you're interested in how health economics can be incorporated into your research, this workshop is for you!

Spots are limited, please speak to your CTG Executive Office if you'd like to attend.

[Register here.](#)

# Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP)

## Some recent ANZUP trial news highlights

ANZUP's trial portfolio continues to grow. We currently have 5 ANZUP-led and 1 co-badged trial in recruitment, as well as 17 in follow-up, and many in development. You can [read more about our trials on our website here](#).

## ESMO Congress 2024 - Sept 2024

In September at the ESMO Congress in Barcelona, one of ANZUP's co-badged studies UpFrontPMSA had an oral presentation and ANZUP presented two posters:

- UpFrontPMSA (ANZUP 1904) - *LuPSMA shows promise as first-line treatment for prostate cancer - A targeted radioactive infusion that is a game-changer in late-stage prostate cancer can also dramatically improve outcomes for patients in earlier stages of this disease - [read the full results in the Lancet here](#).*
- *Clinical prognostic factors within the high volume (HV) subgroup of metastatic hormone sensitive prostate cancer (mHSPC) in **ENZAMET** (ANZUP 1304)*
- *Association of the lipid biomarker, PCPro, and clinical outcomes in the **ENZAMET** trial (ANZUP 1304)*

## ASCO 2024 Annual Meeting – June 2024

In June 2024 at the ASCO Annual Meeting - ANZUP presented two posters:

- *PSA at 7 months is prognostic in metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer (mHSPC) treated with enzalutamide: landmark analysis of **ENZAMET** (ANZUP 1304)*
- *Circulating tumour DNA fraction as a predictor of treatment efficacy in a randomized phase 2 trial of [177Lu]Lu-PSMA-617 (LuPSMA) versus cabazitaxel in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) progressing after docetaxel (**TheraP** ANZUP 1603)*



## #ANZUP24 ASM

The ANZUP 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting was held from 21 – 23 July 2024 at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, led by co-convenors Matt Roberts and Aaron Hansen. The ASM theme of 'Making Waves' provided a platform to discuss and present the latest updates in GU cancer treatment, research and supportive care and to learn more about existing and planned ANZUP trials. The ASM attracted 485 attendees, our largest attendance ever. You can watch some videos from the ASM on the [ANZUP YouTube channel here](#).

Our 2025 ASM is being held in Sydney from 20-22 July with the convening committee, ably led by [Carole Harris](#). We look forward to seeing you in Sydney!

## ANZUP APCCC Satellite Symposium

In July 2023, the APCCC Satellite Symposium brought together close to 30 experts from 14 APAC countries to discuss the real-world application of consensus statements from the APCCC held in Lugano in 2022. A paper based on the summary of the discussions at the Symposium has now been published: [Management of advanced prostate cancer in the Asia-Pacific region: Summary of the Asia-Pacific Advanced Prostate Cancer Consensus Conference 2023](#).



## Introducing the 111 Your Way Below the Belt Fundraiser

ANZUP is excited to introduce a new fundraising challenge, 111 Your Way will raise funds for the 111 Australian and New Zealand people diagnosed with a form of Below the Belt cancer every single day. It's free to participate so [sign up before 1 October](#) be creative, start fundraising and have fun!

## Best of GU Oncology Evening Symposium

### Wednesday 20 November, Pier One Sydney

The Best of GU Evening Symposium is a collaboration between ANZUP and [USANZ](#). It features highlights from the ANZUP ASM and other GU meetings during the year, including the latest management, and clinical trials research in urogenital and prostate cancers. Registration is **FREE** for ANZUP or USANZ members, [register on our website](#).

## Bladder and Prostate Masterclass Program

### Thursday 28 – Friday 29 November 2024, Pullman Sydney Airport

The Bladder and Prostate Masterclass Program is a multidisciplinary educational program Convened by Tahlia Scheinberg and Cam McLaren, and will feature an array of multidisciplinary mentors and speakers. [Applications are now open](#).

## 2024 Annual Report

Our ANZUP 2024 Annual Report was released in July, reflecting on our activities and achievements of the past year. You can read the [report online](#).



# Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association (ANZSA)

## Join ANZSA Scientific Meeting in October

The countdown is on for the Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association (ANZSA) [Annual Scientific Meeting](#), on the 10-11 October in Brisbane.

Join the discussion with global researchers and sarcoma specialists about the most up to date multidisciplinary research in the sarcoma field, hear patient and survivor stories in our dedicated Community Connection session or take a front row seat for the Great Debate zooming in on clinical trials.

Plus, this year we are delighted to welcome Dr Nathalie Gaspar a paediatric oncologist at Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus in Villejuif, France. Specialising in bone sarcomas in young people, she is actively involved in clinical trials developments in Europe and will be sharing her expertise presenting the Professor Martin Tattersall Lecture.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Professor Paul Huang, Leader of the Molecular and Systems Oncology Group at the Institute of Cancer Research, London. He will deliver a presentation on Precision Medicine in Soft Tissue Sarcomas to close out our final day in Brisbane.

Our 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting will run alongside the [22nd International Society of Limb Salvage General Meeting 2024](#).

### Event Details:

- When: Thursday 10th-Friday 11th of October, 2024
- Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Merivale St, South Brisbane QLD 4101

Can't make it to Brisbane? You can also register online.

[Register here](#)



## Sarcoma Awareness Month Wrap up

This July, the Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association wrapped up our most successful Sarcoma Awareness Month to date.

Sarcoma survivor spokespersons were featured on Channel 7 Melbourne, Channel 9 Brisbane, ABC News Canberra, WIN News Canberra and TVN to name but a few.

The hard work to raise awareness for this rare cancer does not stop just because July is over. At ANZSA, every month is sarcoma awareness month.

If you'd like to learn more about Australian and New Zealand sarcoma research, or how to get involved head to [sarcoma.org.au](http://sarcoma.org.au).



# Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group (ALLG)

## ALLG trial celebrates major milestone achievement

ALLG's AMLM26 INTERCEPT clinical trial achieved a major milestone recently, gaining FDA approval to open this world-first trial in the United States at the prestigious MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas.

AMLM26 INTERCEPT is the first ALLG trial to open to patients in North America, offering targeted, precision medicine therapies to patients with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) via an innovative multiple adaptive arm platform trial design.

The AMLM26 clinical trial aims to treat AML patients before they relapse by monitoring their minimal residual disease (MRD) levels. Patients are enrolled onto the trial platform and receive cutting-edge genomic screening and personalised, targeted treatments to keep them in remission longer and with better survival outcomes.

AMLM26 is also pioneering Australia's first National Molecular Program for continued MRD monitoring, ensuring consistent clinical practice nationwide and driving future research breakthroughs for AML patients.

Congratulations to AMLM26 Chief Investigator Andrew Wei and the Australian and US AMLM26 investigators and trial team on this wonderful achievement.



ALLG's AMLM26 Team (L-R): NBCR Project Manager Jenny Collins, CEO Delaine Smith, Dr Nastasha Anstee, Dr Sun Loo, Senior Project Manager Amanda Souza, Chief Investigator Prof Andrew Wei & CRA Rev Sharma.

## ALLG Fellowship

To mark our 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2023, ALLG established the inaugural ALLG HSNZ Clinical Trials Fellowship.

The Fellowship will provide a pathway for emerging clinical trial researchers to build their career and undertake a research project related to ALLG clinical trials and/or translational research. The successful Fellow will receive funding of \$70,000 for the 12-month program.

Applications for the 2025 Fellowship have now closed and we look forward to sharing the announcement of our inaugural ALLG Fellow in October 2024.

## ALLG November Scientific Meeting

ALLG's next biannual Scientific Meeting will be held from 12 – 15 November 2024 at the Park Hyatt Melbourne. ALLG Scientific Meetings are for ALLG Members, providing attendees with a forum to discuss and present the latest updates in blood cancer treatments and research. We welcome new and current haematologists and professionals to join the activities of the ALLG.

[Learn more about ALLG's Scientific Meetings](#) and how [to join ALLG](#).

## Stay up to date with ALLG

Follow us @ALLGtrials on X, or Linked In, for more updates.



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

## TRAINING & MENTORING

### CREST STRUCTURED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Discover a hands-on approach to building your health economics skills and knowledge. If you're working on a clinical trial or cancer research, understanding health economics components is vital. The Structured Training Opportunity program by CREST, is design exclusively for members of Cancer Australia Clinical Trials Groups (CTGs).

As an STO participant, you'll receive:

- Expert guidance from a CREST health economist for your eligible project
- 30 to 40 hours of mentoring (typically across three months)
- Face-to-face sessions at the CREST office (complemented by online, phone and email support).

If you're a CTG member with a project featuring a health economics component, and you're keen to explore its suitability for the STO program, reach out to us at [crest@uts.edu.au](mailto:crest@uts.edu.au).

Please note: CREST is unable to sponsor individuals for participation in this opportunity.

# Analysis of the resource use and costs of febrile neutropenia events in paediatric cancer patients in Australia

Febrile neutropenia (FN) is a common complication of treatment of childhood cancers and usually requires in-hospital care. The Predicting Infectious Complications of Neutropenic sepsis In Children with Cancer (PICNICC) study was a prospective, observation study of FN in paediatric patients in Australia. As part of the PICNICC study, the investigators assessed the use of healthcare resources and estimated the overall costs associated with FN for paediatric patients who are at high or low risk for FN.

Data for healthcare utilisation for FN patients aged < 18 years with cancer or haematological malignancy were collected alongside the study. The PICNICC rule was applied to classify episodes as high or low risk. This rule used a series of weighted variables (e.g. malignancy type, temperature, clinically "severely unwell," haemoglobin, white cell count, and absolute monocyte count) to estimate the risk of infection.

A bottom-up micro-costing analysis was conducted from the Australian healthcare system perspective. Inpatient costs were accessed from hospital administrative records and outpatient costs from Medicare data. Examples of healthcare use collected is shown in Table 1 and Table 2. Healthcare and outpatient pharmaceutical use during the FN event (from FN diagnosis until end of antibiotic therapy) was compared with use prior to the event (30 days prior to the FN diagnosis) and post event (30 days after the end of the FN event).

A generalized linear model (GLM) was applied to estimate the mean total cost per FN episode. The

Table 1: In-patient healthcare use

In-patient healthcare use	Data source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathology</li> <li>• In-hospital services (including surgical and general wards, nursing services, anaesthesiology)</li> <li>• Surgical</li> <li>• Imaging</li> <li>• Hospital consultations (i.e., specialist consultations)</li> <li>• Emergency department (ED) visits</li> <li>• Therapeutics (inpatient pharmaceuticals, prostheses, and blood derivatives)</li> <li>• Involvement of allied health professionals</li> <li>• Intensive care unit (ICU) use</li> </ul>	Hospital administrative records

Table 2: Out-patient healthcare use

Out-patient healthcare use	Data source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional attendance</li> <li>• Therapeutic procedures</li> <li>• Diagnostic procedures</li> <li>• Pathology services</li> <li>• Diagnostic imaging</li> </ul>	Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outpatient prescription pharmaceuticals</li> </ul>	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

model controlled for gender, age at cancer diagnosis, cancer diagnosis, previous hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT), antibiotic treatment duration, hospital length of stay (LOS), and FN risk status.

The Australian PICNICC study reported 858 FN events occurring in 462 paediatric cancer patients. Overall, 28% of patients experienced one event, 49% experienced two to three events, and the remaining 23% experienced four or more events. Of all events, 703 (81.9%) and 155 (18.1%) were categorised as high and low risk as per the PICNICC rule, respectively.

Overall, the total costs of FN care were higher for high-risk events (\$17,827, 95% [CI]: \$17,193–\$18,461) compared to low-risk (\$10,574, 95% CI: \$9818–\$11,330). In-hospital costs accounted for the total cost (99.0%). Factors significantly impacting total cost were the risk status, hospital LOS, and duration of the FN event.

Evidence suggests that outpatient management of low-risk FN is effective. Management of FN at home can reduce the risk of developing severe infections or complications, reduce hospital LOS and the burden on hospitals, and reduce the repeated exposure to broad-spectrum antibiotics. The PICNICC study supported the hypothesis that shifting the management of low-risk FN to the out-patient setting may reduce in-hospital costs. Further research is needed to determine whether this shift will be cost-effective overall.

**Contributed by:** Lutfun Hossain

**Source:** Vargas, C. et al. (2023) 'An analysis of the resource use and costs of febrile neutropenia events in pediatric cancer patients in Australia', *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*, 70(11). [doi:10.1002/pbc.30633](https://doi.org/10.1002/pbc.30633).



## ANZGOG TRIAL UPDATE

ANZGOG is fortunate to have active and engaged members bringing both local and global trials to Australia and New Zealand for our community with a lived experience of gynaecological cancer. ANZGOG clinical trials open to recruitment:

### Ovarian cancer trials:

- **HyNOVA** in collaboration with the University of Sydney, NHRMC Clinical Trials Centre
- **IGNITE** an ANZGOG study as part of the OASIS Initiative
- **RAMP 301** an ENGOT option C collaborative study sponsored by Verastem in collaboration with ANZGOG, European Network of Gynaecological Oncological Trial Groups (ENGOT), and GOG Foundation.

### Endometrial cancer trials:

- **ENDO-3** in collaboration with Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer
- **ADELE** in collaboration with the University of Sydney, NHRMC Clinical Trials Centre
- **DOMENICA** a global study sponsored by ARCAGY-GINECO in collaboration with ANZGOG
- **XPORT-EC-42** a global study led by Karyopharm Therapeutics (Global Sponsor), in collaboration with ANZGOG, European Network of Gynaecological Oncological Trial Groups (ENGOT) and GOG Foundation.
- **EN.10/TAPER** a global study led by Canadian Cancer Trials Group (CCTG) (International sponsor) in collaboration with ANZGOG

### Combined ovarian + endometrial cancer trials:

- **PARAGON II** in collaboration with the University of Sydney, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre and
- **EPOCH** a global study led by ANZGOG 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.



For more information on ANZGOG's trials, please visit [our website](#).

## ANZGOG 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting - Registrations Open

**“Reflections And Projections: Looking Back to Move Forward In Gynaecological Cancer Research”**

**Dates:** Wed 5 March – Fri 7 March 2025

**Location:** Canberra, ACT

It will be ANZGOG's 25th Anniversary next year and it is the perfect time to be reflecting on ANZGOG's impact and the depth and breadth of our research initiatives, our clinical trials portfolio and our leadership role in gynaecological cancer research. We also want to contribute to how ANZGOG plans and navigates the next 25 years ahead to continue to make a difference for everyone with a lived experience of gynaecological cancer.

ANZGOG's Annual Scientific Meeting brings together national and international experts in gynaecological medicine, radiation and surgical oncology, pathology, basic scientists, translational and quality of life researchers, study coordinators and nurses, as well as our partners in the pharmaceutical industry.

Register now – [www.anzdogasm.org.au](http://www.anzdogasm.org.au)

## Idea Generation Workshops

ANZGOG is conducting three Idea Generation Workshops with its Tumour Working Groups on 1 November 2024 at the Rydges Hotel, Sydney Airport. Members are invited to present an IDEA or CONCEPT for discussion at these workshops.



Early career researchers are particularly encouraged to bring their idea to the ANZGOG Ideas Generation Workshops. The Tumour Working Group will help you develop the idea at the October session and recommend a working party to work together with you to develop the idea further if required. More experienced researchers are welcome to bring their idea or a more fully developed concept to the workshops for discussion and fast tracking through to the Research Advisory Committee.

Ideas can incorporate any area of gynaecological cancer research; surgical, medical, and radiation oncology, translational research, research investigating the causes, prevention, and treatment of gynaecological cancers, quality of life and symptom benefit studies.

**Submission deadline is Fri 20 Sept 2024 COB**

[Find out more](#)



Prof Clare Scott AM  
MB BS PhD Melbourne FRACP  
Chair | ANZGOG

# Thoracic Oncology Group Australia (TOGA)

## TOGA's Lung Cancer Preceptorship

An educational meeting designed for early career clinicians (medical trainees and fellows) with an interest in thoracic cancers. The Preceptorship offers an intensive and active learning program to help develop your clinical knowledge and expertise in lung cancer management.

This event enables the early career clinicians (Preceptees) to start developing relationships and receive career advice from an experienced clinician (Preceptor) beyond their own institution.

Each Preceptee is mentored when conducting a critical appraisal of evidence from a published paper that has contributed to current treatment of thoracic cancer. Preceptees will be assigned a paper of a practice-changing trial that they will need to present in 10 minutes. Before the event, Preceptors are available to review presentations and assist Preceptees with their critical appraisal.

**Date:** 22-23 November 2024

**Location:** Amora Hotel, Brisbane

Limited spots available. Hurry, registrations close 1st October

[Register now](#)

## Inspirational Research Grant Returns for 2025

TOGA's Inspirational Research Grant has been created from philanthropic donations to increase research into prevention, treatment, or improved lives of those living with thoracic cancers.

While lung cancer remains the deadliest cancer, less than 6% of research funding goes towards thoracic cancers. To bridge this gap, TOGA's Inspirational Research Grant creates more opportunities for successful clinical



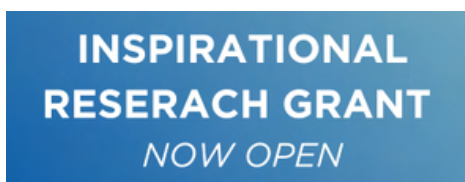
trials, giving lung cancer and mesothelioma patients access to life-saving treatments and world-class care.

For 2025, [ALK Positive Australia Inc.](#) and the TOGA are honoured to announce a new grant partnership dedicated to advancing ALK+ NSCLC research in Australia for 2025.

This grant aims to empower researchers with the resources they need to make a real difference in the lives of Australian people battling ALK+ NSCLC.

The Inspirational Research Grants are \$50,000 and are to be used over a two-year period. To be a successful recipient, your project must have been designed with consultation with consumer representatives.

[Apply now](#)



## PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Have you heard of using the '**modular approach**' in questionnaires? It tailors the questions to what matters most for people's quality of life during a clinical trial.

But why hasn't this method been used much in cancer clinical trials? Participate in these interviews to share your thoughts!

### For more information:

[https://utsau.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_23GneJZPY2Tp4H4](https://utsau.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_23GneJZPY2Tp4H4)

**SEEKING CANCER CLINICAL TRIALISTS & CONSUMERS**

We're conducting interviews to explore the acceptability of using the **'modular approach'** in choosing patient-reported outcomes for cancer clinical trials.

Your insights could help shape the future of trial design!

UTS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

# Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG)

## AGITG Clinical Research Centre

### TRIAL COORDINATION FOR AGITG MEMBERS

#### AGITG Clinical Research Centre opens first trial

We are incredibly proud to announce that STOPNET, the first clinical trial coordinated through the AGITG Clinical Research Centre, is now open.

The STOPNET clinical trial, chaired by Dr Matthew Burge, is investigating whether monthly injections are still needed for patients with neuroendocrine tumours (NETs), after they have received radiation therapy.

The AGITG Clinical Research Centre (CRC) has been an extensive undertaking for us. With a focus on the translation of clinical trials into practice, we work with members and our expert scientific committees to design and deliver trials that will guarantee quality, compliance and financial sustainability. The AGITG CRC aims to improve cancer care and equitable access to trials for all Australians.

STOPNET has implemented the teletrial model to improve access to the trial and also offers travel support for patients who live in rural, regional and remote areas. The trial's first site is open for recruitment at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, with sites due to be activated in five other locations soon.

It is the first trial to come under the CommNETs collaborative, a group which brings together NETs researchers from Australia, Aotearoa

New Zealand and Canada. STOPNET will also be conducted in Canada, in collaboration with the Canadian Cancer Trials Group (CCTG).

We encourage members to submit and develop their concepts through the AGITG Research Development and Prioritisation Framework, wherein trials suitable for conduct through the CRC will be identified.

[Learn more about the AGITG Clinical Research Centre](#)

#### Join us for the 26th AGITG ASM: Meeanjin Brisbane, 18–21 November 2024

This year, delegates are encouraged to think beyond traditional trial approaches and challenge the norm. The 2024 Meeting highlights the significance of equitable and diverse trials, innovative trial designs, and collaborations across diverse regions for greater global impact. [Register now](#)

Choose from one of three workshops on the first day:

#### Integrated Oncology Workshop

How does a trial concept progress from the back of an envelope to successful completion? After opening with a practical trial design session, an MDT discussion will follow, featuring international and national insights on both upper and lower GI oncology. [Learn more](#)

#### Surgical Workshop

In the morning, attend a curated surgical oncology workshop covering HPB and colorectal surgery. Then in the afternoon, seize the opportunity to showcase your research, and receive valuable feedback from a panel of international and local experts. [Learn more](#)

#### Study Coordinator Workshop

An enriching workshop designed to offer a unique opportunity for study coordinators and more, featuring sessions on what good clinical trial practice looks like, holistic patient care, models of care in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand and troubleshooting and career pathways. [Learn more](#)

#### Annual Report now available

For the first time, our Annual Report is available online as an interactive website.

- [Our year at a glance](#)
- [A video recap of our year](#)
- [Update: Scientific Advisory Committee](#)
- [Update: Translational research at AGITG](#)

#### Stay up to date with AGITG

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or [@GICancer](#) on X/Twitter for more updates.





# Valuing quality of life for economic evaluations in cancer

Among patient reported outcomes, health-related quality of life (HRQoL) is relevant among decision-making, given it is a critical input to economic evaluations. Quality-adjusted life years (health measure used in economic evaluations) are estimated using health state utility values (HSUV), which are sourced from HRQoL instruments. Ng et al. (2024) summarised methods to value HRQoL, what to consider when choosing between methods to measure and value, cancer-specific preference-based measures (PBMs), among other relevant aspects in the cancer context.

The methods described by Ng et al. to value HRQoL in economic evaluations are:

- Preference-based measures: they evaluate HRQoL using questionnaires asking respondents to rate their health status in different domains. There are generic PBMs, such as EQ-5D-5L that evaluates mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression. On the other hand, condition specific PBMs have also been developed, such as the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) Core Quality of Life Questionnaire (QLQ-C30), which also provides a more comprehensive profile with clinical details and can capture specific issues related to cancer, which a generic PBM might not. Published algorithms can then be applied to PBMs to determine HSUV, which are anchored to full health (1) and death (0).
- Mapping: methods that maps condition specific HRQoL questionnaire to generic PBM HSUV with a mathematical function previously developed through statistical association of the HRQoL questionnaire and the generic PBM. However, this does introduce uncertainty in the HSUV results, and is particularly impacted in more severe health states.

- Preference elicitation methods: techniques that make respondents trade-off between different health states making them choose between alternatives. Typical methods are the standard gamble, time trade-off, and lately discrete choice experiments.

There are key considerations when choosing the technique to measure HRQoL and method to estimate HSUV for economic evaluations in cancer:

1. Source:
  - a. Within-trial HSUV from PBM or mapping can be used. If a decision-making context has a preference for an instrument, it should be prioritised.
  - b. Literature HSUV, evaluating the quality of evidence.
  - c. If HSUV are lacking from trials or literature, HSUV of similar diseases could be used. Additionally, an independent preference elicitation study can be conducted. However, considerable resources need to be allocated for such studies.
2. Can a PBM adequately assess the HRQoL concept of interest?
  - a. Check whether the attributes of interest are captured by the PBM. i.e., if an intervention improves fatigue, consider a PBM that evaluates fatigue.
3. Has the PBM demonstrated good psychometric properties in the target population?
4. Will a more extensive HRQoL profile measure that allows to derive a PBM (QLQ-C30 and QLQ-C10D) be informative?
  - a. A derived PBM can be used retrospectively if data from the full profile measure was gathered.
  - b. A standalone PBM (EQ-5D-5L or QLQ-C10D) can reduce respondent burden compared to full HRQoL profiles.

Ng. et al. presented an algorithm that further elaborates these concepts aiming to help researchers determine what method would be more appropriate to estimate HSUV for economic evaluation.

HSUV are a key component of economic evaluation providing information to decision-makers on whether interventions represent value for money in a context of scarce resources for healthcare interventions. Estimating HSUV accurately particularly critical for cancer care, given the high cost of treatments, which can have a significant impact on patients' quality of life.

**Contributed by:** Antonio Ahumada Canale

**Source:** Ng, C.-A. et al. (2024) 'Valuing quality of life for economic evaluations in cancer: Navigating multiple methods', Expert Review of Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes Research [Preprint]. [doi:10.1080/14737167.2024.2393332](https://doi.org/10.1080/14737167.2024.2393332).

## DID YOU KNOW? CREST RESOURCES

Did you know we have a dedicated section on our website full of resources to help investigators incorporate health economics and pharmacoeconomic analyses into trial protocols?

On our page we have available:

- Proforma documents for conducting an economic evaluation
- How to collect data
- How to estimate QoL scores
- Various factsheets and templates
- Video recordings of past workshops and webinars such as using Medicare data and HTA
- A number of useful links

If you have any suggestions for resources, please feel free to discuss with us by emailing [crest@uts.edu.au](mailto:crest@uts.edu.au)

[Resources](#) >

# The Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG)

## SAVE THE DATE:

**Quantifying the benefit of research in the absence of: A health economics webinar**

**When:** 1.30 – 3pm 4 November 2024

**Where:** Zoom

PoCoG's Cancer Prevention Special Interest Group in collaboration with CREST is hosting a health economics webinar providing a 101 on how to use health economics to assess the health economic benefits of interventions aimed at prevention. The webinar will explore cancer prevention as well as prevention of psychological outcomes

The webinar will provide:

- An overview of health economics in a prevention context
- Three real-world applications of health economics to assess prevention

This is an interactive webinar and there will be an opportunity for Q&A and discussion with the presenters.

**Quantifying the benefit of research in the absence of: A health economics webinar**

Hosted by PoCoG's Cancer Prevention Special Interest Group + CREST

**SAVE THE DATE**

When: 1.30 - 3pm 4 November 2024  
Where: Zoom



## Cancer Symptoms Trials (CST)



### PaCCSC & CST Research Forum 2025

**The Science behind the Art of care: Clinical trials in cancer symptoms and palliative care**

**Early bird registrations will open on 15 October!**

27-28 March 2025 | International Convention Centre (ICC), Sydney

Next March, leading clinical trialists, researchers, healthcare professionals, and consumers will gather in Sydney for the PaCCSC & CST Research Forum 2025.

In 2025, the Forum theme explores the scientific foundations that enhance the quality of care of people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses.

**PaCCSC & CST Research Forum 2025**

The science behind the art of care: Clinical trials in cancer symptoms and palliative care

International Convention Centre, Sydney | 27 & 28 March 2025

UTS Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative (PaCCSC) | UTS Cancer Symptom Trials (CST)

uts.edu.au/paccscst2025

**W:** [uts.edu.au/PaCCSCCST2025](https://uts.edu.au/PaCCSCCST2025)

**E:** [cst@uts.edu.au](mailto:cst@uts.edu.au)

#PaCCSCCST2025

# Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials (MASC Trials)



Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Limited

**Annual Scientific Meeting**  
24 October 2024  
Sydney

Register for ASM & AMC

A satellite meeting of **AMC 2024**  
Australasian Melanoma Conference

## 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, 24 October 2024  
**Venue:** Hyatt Regency Sydney  
[Register here](#)

The Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) on 24 October at the Hyatt Regency Sydney will bring together Australian leaders in melanoma and skin cancer clinical trials to share the latest discoveries and foster innovative research. The full-day program will include over 20 clinician researcher and consumer speakers.

Following the ASM, a combined networking event will be held with the national team from the Australian Centre of Excellence in Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis Program (ACEMID), which is supported by the Australian Cancer Research Foundation.

The Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials ASM is a satellite meeting of the Australasian Melanoma Conference (AMC), to be held 25-26 October 2024, also at the Hyatt Regency Sydney.

Seats are limited so get in early!

Registrations are via the AMC registration portal. [Register here](#).



## Become a member

Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials membership is open to anyone interested in our clinical research, from healthcare professionals to consumers. Applying is simple and free. Learn more about membership benefits and [apply here](#).

## Sign up for eNews

Stay up-to-date with the latest Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials news and events. Sign up for our monthly [eNews here](#).

[www.masc.org.au](http://www.masc.org.au)

## CREST FAQ PAGE

Have you seen our FAQs? We cover:

- What do I need to know before planning an economic evaluation?
- What outcomes should I consider for an economic evaluation?
- The comparator
- I need help with data
- How is quality of life used in economic evaluations?
- Making sense of the economic evaluation.

[FAQs](#)

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

### CANCER QUALITY OF LIFE EXPERT SERVICE TEAM (CQUEST)

Maximising the value of quality of life assessment while minimising burden:  
A workshop for consumers  
THURS, 28 NOV 2024 | 2 - 5 PM AEDT | ONLINE



**Maximising the value of quality-of-life assessment while minimising burden: A workshop for consumers**  
Thursday 28 November | 2 - 5 PM AEDT

This 3-hour online workshop is for consumers and community representatives. During the workshop, CQUEST will cover the selection and implementation of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and examine how quality of life outcomes can impact decision-making and future clinical practice beyond the clinical trial.

For more information, please visit the [event page](#) or contact CQUEST: [cquest@uts.edu.au](mailto:cquest@uts.edu.au)

[Register today](#)





# Breast Cancer Trials (BCT)

## The OLIO Clinical Trial is Open to Recruitment

The OLIO clinical trial is open to recruitment and aims to find out if adding the medications Olaparib, or Olaparib and Durvalumab together, to standard chemotherapy given to pre-menopausal (18–44-year-old) women with HR-positive, HER2-negative, HRD-positive breast cancer before surgery will do a better job of controlling the cancer.

It is hoped this research will provide new treatment options for young women with HR-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer, particularly among those selected for a high HRD score.

The OLIO clinical trial will involve 21 sites in Australia and will enroll 56 patients in the study.

BCT is trialing a remote telehealth pre-screening process to broaden clinical trials access to regional and remote patients and improve clinical trial recruitment.

For more information visit:

<https://www.breastcancertrials.org.au/trials/olio/>

## SAVE THE DATE: Breast Cancer Trials 46th Annual Scientific Meeting

Each year, Breast Cancer Trials hosts an Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) to discuss the latest news in breast cancer clinical trials research.

The ASM is a great opportunity to network with research colleagues from around Australasia and the world, and to also hear new ideas for clinical trials in the future.

Our 46th ASM will be held in Hobart, Tasmania from 23–25 July 2025 and we have a number of international speakers confirmed including:



Study Chair of the OLIO Clinical Trial Dr Stephen Luen

- **Professor Reshma Jagsi:** Lawrence W. Davis Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology and a Senior Faculty Fellow in the Center for Ethics at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.
- **Dr Florian Fitzal:** Breast Surgical Oncologist and Associate Professor of Surgery at the University Hospital in Vienna.
- **Professor Dame Lesley Fallowfield:** Professor of Psycho-oncology at Brighton and Sussex Medical School in England.

To find out more, visit our conference website at: <https://bct2025.org/>

## The Robert Sutherland Award for Excellence in Translational Research

Applications for the 2025 Robert Sutherland Award are now open. The Robert Sutherland Award for Excellence in Translational Research recognises Translational Researchers and their achievements and contributions to improved patient outcomes as well as scientific excellence.

The recipient of this award will be invited to present a lecture at our 46th ASM in Hobart, and will receive a financial contribution of up to \$10,000 towards their research or professional development. The award is open to Translational Researchers worldwide.

For more information or to apply visit: [https://bct2025.org/?page\\_id=2181](https://bct2025.org/?page_id=2181)

Please note Applications close Monday 30 September 2024 (AEST).



Professor Sunil Lakhani and Ms Cheryl Sutherland with 2024 Recipient Professor Andrew Tutt

## Translated Resources

We have a number of free brochures available in English, Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese simplified, Chinese Traditional, Arabic, Greek, Korean, Te Reo Māori and a dedicated resource for First Nation Australians.

These resources have been created to help educate everyone in our community about clinical trials and the benefit of participating in this important research.

For more information visit:

<https://www.breastcancertrials.org.au/breast-cancer-resources/translated-brochures/>



# Australian and New Zealand Childrens Haematology/Oncology Group (ANZCHOG)

## Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

As September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, ANZCHOG has been raising awareness for childhood cancer on our social media, through sharing the A to Z of ANZCHOG! Check out the daily updates on ANZCHOG's [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter \(X\)](#).

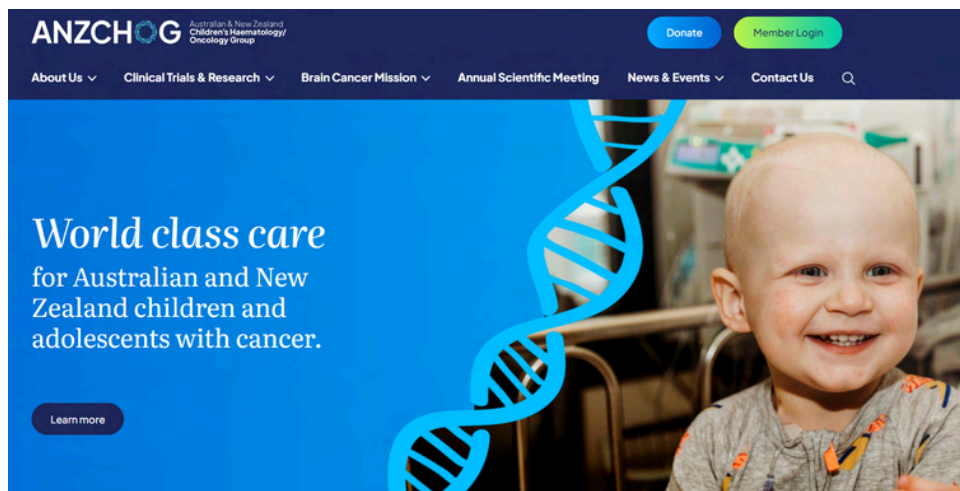
## A New Look and a New Strategic Direction

ANZCHOG has recently undergone a brand refresh, ensuring our brand remains relevant and engaging for members and the general public. Coinciding with the brand refresh, our website has also been overhauled. The new website is more user-friendly and features an updated ANZCHOG Children's Cancer Clinical Trials Repository, making it even easier to search for paediatric oncology clinical trials. This month we also launched our Five-Year Strategic Plan. This plan represents a visionary blueprint to further enhance excellence in clinical trials and care, research, professional education and advocacy across Australia and New Zealand. Take a look at our new website and strategic plan [here](#).

## Blinatumomab Guidelines

Results from two pivotal paediatric frontline studies have now shown significant improvement in survival outcomes with the addition of blinatumomab to chemotherapy for both infants and children.

To ensure consistency of therapy for infants, children and adolescents being treated for B-ALL across Australia and New Zealand and to enable equity of access, the ANZCHOG Leukaemia & Lymphoma group has developed



recommendations regarding the use of blinatumomab in this setting. Read the full guidelines [here](#).

## Annual Scientific Meeting

Last month more than 350 delegates came together to attend the ANZCHOG 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Adelaide (Tartanya). The theme for this year's meeting was "Sparking hope through cutting edge technologies and collaborative care. Tangka parranthi." Tangka parranthi means "sparking hope" in the native language of the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains of South Australia.

The 2024 ASM program featured a diverse range of sessions and workshops including nursing, holistic care, clinical trials, cellular therapies and Indigenous health. At the ASM Gala Dinner, four pioneers of childhood cancer treatment received ANZCHOG Life Membership. Read more [here](#).

The ANZCHOG 2025 ASM will be held in Brisbane, Australia from 30 July to 2 August 2025.



## Trial Updates

### CONNECT905 - Queensland Children's Hospital activated.

- Phase 2 Study of Systemic IL-6 Receptor Antagonist ACTEMRA® (tocilizumab) for the treatment of Progressive/Recurrent Pediatric Adamantinomatous Craniopharyngioma.

### rEECur - All rEECur sites have now been activated to recruit on the IFOS-L arm.

- An international randomised controlled trial of chemotherapy for the treatment of recurrent and primary refractory Ewing Sarcoma.

### ZERO2 - Starship Children's Hospital activated (first NZ site).

- To improve outcomes for childhood cancer patients through the implementation of precision medicine.

### Interfant-21 - Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) activated & first Australian patient enrolled at CHW.

- International collaborative treatment protocol for infants under one year with KMT2A rearranged acute lymphoblastic leukemia or mixed phenotype acute leukemia.

### OPTIMISE - First two sites have opened Arm A (Queensland Children's Hospital & Sydney Children's Hospital).

- A companion platform trial to test novel targeted agents based on the patient's tumor profile.