2020 Research Report
We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and law of the Country on which the University of Sydney campuses stand. We pay our respects to those who have cared and continue to care for Country.
OUR MISSION

To improve global health outcomes through excellence in clinical trials and related research

OUR STRENGTHS

Evidence

Integrating evidence for better decision-making, guidelines implementation, and policy.

Excellence

Leaders of quality globally recognised research in cancer, cardiovascular, diabetes, obesity, and neonatal areas.

Innovation

Developing new trial methods in design, biostatistics, risk modelling, and health economics.

2020 in numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Trials</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trials in Development</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Sites Globally</td>
<td>318</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patients Recruited</td>
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<td>Reviewed Publications</td>
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<td>ANZCTR - All New Trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Received</td>
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<td>Staff</td>
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Since our establishment in 1988, the CTC has grown from an initial staff of 10 to more than 240 staff members in 2020, working with over 1000 collaborators around Australia and internationally. Today, over 30 years later, our initial mission remains unchanged: to improve practice, policy and health outcomes through the better use of clinical trials research.

A measure of the impact of the CTC’s research is our field-weighted citation impact (FWCI). The global FWCI mean is set at 1.0, and this benchmark is often used to rank international research groups. Over the past 10 years, the CTC’s FWCI measure was 3.52, which compares favourably with many other research organisations. This is an excellent indication of the quality and impact of the research we undertake across trials and trials methodology, and how highly valued it is by our peers globally.

Clinical trials research is a huge undertaking, and our achievements would not be possible without the enormous collaborative efforts of our team and partners—from clinical investigators, trial coordinators, data managers and consumers, to those with expertise in trial design, biostatistics, health economics and translational sciences. Our partnerships with national cancer cooperative groups, other international cardiovascular, diabetes and perinatal trial networks, the OMICO collaboration and our many international partners as well as government, industry, the Australian Clinical Trials Network (ACTA) and hospitals and patients have been key to our research effort this year.

Some of the highlights of 2020 include three new clinical trial initiatives: the DREAM3R, INTEGRATE I Ib and COLCARDIO-ACS studies.

- **DREAM3R** is an international multi-centre trial of chemo-immunotherapy in patients with advanced malignant pleural mesothelioma, with the CTC and the Thoracic Oncology Group of Australasia (TOGA) leading the trial in Australia and New Zealand. Pleural mesothelioma is a particularly aggressive cancer, with most patients surviving less than a year after diagnosis. Current treatment involves surgery and chemotherapy, and two earlier small-scale studies have indicated that adding durvalumab, an immunotherapeutic agent, to standard chemotherapy can benefit these patients. DREAM3R aims to determine whether combined treatment with this immunotherapeutic agent and standard chemotherapy can improve survival time in these patients.

- **INTEGRATE I Ib** is an international multi-centre trial of the combination of regorafenib and nivolumab that aims to determine whether this combination therapy can prolong survival in patients with advanced gastro-oesophageal cancer who have not responded to earlier chemotherapies. These patients have a very poor prognosis, and as yet, there is no established treatment for this group. This international trial is being coordinated by the CTC in collaboration with the Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG) and follows on from the successful international phase II INTEGRATE trial, which first indicated that regorafenib may be useful in this cancer type.
• The COLCARDIO-ACS study, led by the CTC’s Cardiovascular team, aims to determine whether giving daily low-dose colchicine, a commonly prescribed anti-inflammatory drug, as well as standard medical care reduces the rate of subsequent cardiac events in people who have had an initial cardiac event, and who have persistently high levels of inflammatory markers in their blood 4–6 weeks after their first heart attack. These patients are at high risk of having another heart attack and are expected to gain the most benefit from colchicine. The results of this trial will contribute a major addition to the evidence about treating this high-risk group and could provide a cheap and effective therapy option to those with the greatest need.

If positive, each of these trials is likely to have a major impact on future health care.

In another highlight for 2020, the ENZAMET trial, a collaboration between the Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP) and the CTC, was awarded the ACTA Trial of the Year Award, the ACTA STInG Award for Excellence in Trial Statistics and the Consumer Involvement Award. This landmark study has shown that hormone therapy with enzalutamide can significantly improve the survival of men with advanced prostate cancer; and the results are already changing global practice in the treatment of prostate cancer.

In February 2020, the CTC underwent an external review to help plan our future strategy and allow us to continue to improve health outcomes for decades to come. The review was conducted by a panel of experts: Professor Lesley Seymour, Director of Investigational New Drug Program, Deputy Director of the Canadian Cancer Trials Group; Professor John McNeil, Professor of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Monash University; Dr Anna Lavelle, Chair of Medicines Australia; and Mr Marc Buyse, the Chief Scientific Officer of the International Drug Development Institute in San Francisco. The review concluded that the CTC is a world-class academic research organisation with skills across multiple modalities and disease areas and is a unique and valuable resource. However, it also highlighted that the CTC faces a number of challenges in today’s rapidly changing, internationally competitive clinical trials landscape.

Key recommendations from the reviewers included the development of strategies for attracting and retaining researchers interested in academic high quality clinical trials, models of working with industry, and developing more efficient and responsive trial systems and capability in the university environment. We also welcome greater recognition and support from the University as we launch our new strategic initiatives informed by the findings of this review.

A particularly exciting path for future clinical trials will see more routine embedding of clinical trials in health care. Pragmatic trial design, such as the SOCRATES trial, designed to evaluate standard of care protocols in routine care, and registry-based trials, such as the SWIFT trial, will be important here. Greater incorporation of molecular profiling or biomarker-directed therapies, as exemplified by the MOST program, will be key to developing personalised therapeutic approaches. Wider use of digital health, in both trials and health care more broadly, will greatly expand access to health care, as well as the reach and range of trials by facilitating the integration of routine care with clinical research.

2020 has seen many unique challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As an organisation, we have had to adapt, rethink and change our ways of working to allow our research to continue. The adaptability, flexibility and ongoing commitment shown by our team members to continuing our research under constantly changing conditions has been outstanding. We are enormously grateful for their dedication, professionalism, and invaluable contributions that have meant that we have not only survived, but thrived, in this pandemic year.

The trials and achievements outlined in this report demonstrate our effort to advance the boundaries of care and treatment, with the wellbeing of trial participants front of mind. These and other successes would not be possible without our collaborators, and most of all, without the efforts of our outstanding team of dedicated, committed, enthusiastic trial staff with their shared vision of making a difference. We thank you all for your participation and commitment to better healthcare.

Finally, 2020 marks the final year with Professors John Simes and Anthony Keech as directors, and we very much welcome Professor Meg Jardine as the Incoming Director for 2021 and beyond. We have every confidence that the CTC, with such an outstanding team of researchers working in partnership with key collaborators, will continue to make a profound impact on future practice and health.
STRATEGY

As part of the CTC’s Strategic Plan 2017-21, we have six core strategic objectives to help us achieve our vision. Here is a snapshot of the progress we made in each of these objectives in 2020.

1. BRING TOGETHER WORLD-CLASS EXPERTISE IN TRIAL METHODS AND CONDUCT, CLINICAL DISCIPLINES, BIOSTATISTICS, HEALTH ECONOMICS, BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR SCIENCES

• Our research leaders received prestigious peer awards for outstanding contributions in their fields, including Professor John Simes (Oncology), Associate Professor Andrew Martin (Biostatistics), Professor Meg Jardine (Kidney Health), Professor Angela Webster (Evidence Integration), and Professor Val Gebski (Biostatistics) (p.16).
• Together with the Garvan Institute, our MoST team, which is investigating targeting the genes and proteins of patients with rare cancers instead of their tumours, have grown the program from an NSW pilot into a leading source of cancer treatments for advanced cancer patients throughout Australia. 11 sites across Australia have screened over 3,000 patients for eligibility in seven active trials targeting immunotherapy and lung cancer using precision medicine (p.30).

2. BUILD INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

• We presented results from cutting edge trials to international audiences, promoting our expertise, and inviting future collaboration. Results from ACED (with COGNO; p.xx) were presented at the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) Annual Meeting 2020 in USA, ILLUMINATE (with ALTG; p.26) featured a ‘Trials in Progress’ poster at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting, and SWIFT presented results at the American Society of Nephrology.
• The TOPCHILD Collaboration, established by our NextGen team, has brought researchers from around the world together to transform the thinking and practices around early childhood obesity prevention. 38 trials, with data from over 30,000 participants have joined the collaboration and shared their data.
• The Fame 1 Eye study (p.42), which is testing whether fenofibrate can protect against eye damage in patients with type 1 diabetes, sees us working with partners across four countries (Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom) and 21 hospital sites that are currently open for recruitment.
EMBED TRANSLATIONAL STUDIES INTO OUR RESEARCH

• Our collection of oncology biological samples from trial patients, used in translational research, to help predict a patient’s response to treatment and progress understanding of precision medicine, increased in 2020 with over 33,000 shipped from over 65 hospitals. Grants totalling $5.88 million were received.
• The TR team partnered with four cancer cooperative trials groups (ALTG, ANZGOG, ANZUP, COGNO) in the AUTO-CHECK translational research study, which aims to discover why some cancer patients get severe autoimmune side-effects from anti-cancer immunotherapy. The study completed blood sample collections from its 367 patients in 2020.
• Two new studies opened where patient tumours undergo molecular profiling using next generation sequencing. Profile results guide the patient’s treatment: LUMOS study (glioma) and ASPIRATION study (lung cancer – see Novel Collaborations p.32).

DELIVER QUALITY EDUCATION, TRAINING, TEACHING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

• Our research leaders supervised 12 PhD students and 5 summer students investigating and studying clinical trials research, helping the next generation to advance the quality of clinical trials research globally.
• Our research leaders continued to teach postgraduate courses in the Master of Clinical Trials Research and the Controlled Trials Unit of the Master of Public Health and Master of Clinical Epidemiology programs at the University of Sydney.
• The CTC-based Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia continues to deliver the Master of Biostatistics program, encouraging future biostatisticians to advance the future of clinical trial design and methodology.

EXTEND OUR METHODOLOGICAL WORK IN ADAPTIVE TRIAL DESIGNS, PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES (PROMS), PROGNOSTICATION, DIAGNOSTIC TEST EVALUATION AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS IN PRACTICAL APPLICATION

• We looked to advance our understanding and use of PROMs in the SWIFT study, where PROMs were collected to see if the quality of life for patients with kidney disease can be improved. We completed the pilot study, and the main trial set is to open in early 2021.
• In the CARSK study, the Health Economics team are evaluating the cost-effectiveness of regular coronary artery disease (CAD) screening compared with no further screening and the subsequent economic impact of CAD-related expenditure from a health system perspective. The trial is currently underway and recruiting in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Spain. The pre-trial model has identified an area of significant potential cost-savings to the Australian health system. (p.54).
• Our NextGen team conduct systematic reviews using a wide range of innovative methods, such as prospective meta-analysis, network meta-analysis, individual participant data meta-analysis, and rapid reviews. Methods developed by the team have been applied by researchers in Australia and globally across health research fields, including obesity, midwifery, COVID-19, and prostate cancer.

COMBINE FINDINGS FROM MULTIPLE TRIALS IN SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND TO UNDERTAKE HEALTH ECONOMIC ANALYSES TO PROVIDE ROBUST EVIDENCE FOR HEALTH CARE DECISIONS FOR PERSONALISED CARE, GUIDELINES AND POLICY FORMULATION

• The first published value of information analysis (VOI) came from the Whole Brain Radiotherapy trial for Melanoma. The Health Economics team were part of this trial with ANZMTG which found Whole Brain Radiotherapy (WBRT) did not reduce the spread of melanoma in the brain.
• The individual participant data on Cord Management at Preterm Birth Collaboration (iCOMP), established and run by the NextGen Team since 2019, grew in 2020 – with 74 trials (including data from 12,350 preterm infants) agreeing to provide data. The iCOMP protocol was also published in BMJ open.
• Reviews from the Cochrane Breast Cancer Group, which CTC hosts, have been used in at least 34 consensus or practice guidelines, including those for the European Society of Medical Oncology and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (UK). The Cochrane Breast Cancer Group continues to influence clinical practice by publishing relevant and useful Cochrane reviews.

2020 AWARDS

A selection of the external awards received by CTC staff in 2020

JANUARY

➔ Prof John Simes received an Order of Australia Award in the Australia Day Honours List for his service to cancer research and clinical trials.

➔ Saskia Cheyne received an NHMRC scholarship for her study of next generation systematic reviews & meta-analysis.

MAY

➔ Prof Alicia Jenkins and Prof Tony Keech received a Certificate of Achievement Award from Internal Medicine Journal (IMJ) for their paper on the diagnosis and management of statin intolerance which generated immediate impact and was among the top 10% most downloaded papers between Jan 2018 and Dec 2019.

JUNE

➔ Prof Ian Marschner’s paper and findings on ‘back-projection’ for COVID19 were published in the Sun Herald. The study shows waiting another week to introduce border closures and physical distancing measures could have led to a five-fold increase in Australia’s current infections.

JULY

➔ Prof Meg Jardine awarded the ANZSN 2020 TJ Neale Award, which honours Members who have made a significant contribution to Nephrological science.

➔ Prof Angela Webster awarded the ANZSN 2020 TJ Neale Award, which honours Members who have made a significant contribution to Nephrological science.

➔ Dr Wilson Wong received the Lindsey Baudnet Rising Star Award in Type 1 Diabetes Research for his research project on ‘Assessment of the long non-coding RNA MALAT1 to predict pancreatic islet isolation outcome’.

OCTOBER

➔ Prof Lisa Askie appointed a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

NOVEMBER

➔ Prof John Simes named one of 443 Sydney researchers in the top two percent in the world according to a study led by Stanford University and published in PLOS Biology.

➔ Prof Angela Webster awarded the ANZSN 2020 TJ Neale Award, which honours Members who have made a significant contribution to Nephrological science.

DECEMBER

➔ A/Prof Andrew Martin accepted the ACTA (Australian Clinical Trials Alliance) STInG award for excellence in trial statistics on behalf of the ANZUP-ENZAMET trial team. The ENZAMET trial scooped the pool at the ACTA trial of the Year Awards Ceremony winning all three awards: Trial of the Year, STInG, and Consumer Involvement.
In the CTC oncology trials program our focus is to provide innovative clinical research to inform clinical practice, improve health outcomes and save lives of cancer patients. We are a leader in developing and conducting novel trial designs, including adaptive designs, genomics-driven screening and inclusion of translational research that helps predicting treatment benefits, future health status and survival.

The CTC works collaboratively with leading cancer clinicians, national cancer cooperative groups and international cancer research centres to design and run cancer clinical trials, with a focus on the areas of breast, gastro-intestinal, lung, gynaecological, neurological, and urogenital cancers.

We have collaborated in over 200 cancer clinical trials, which thousands of cancer patients have joined.

“Progress in cancer research, treatment, and outcomes is accelerating. It’s wonderful to be part of a team at the forefront of these advances.”

2020 in numbers

- **55** Active trials
- **485** Active sites
- **800** Patients recruited
- **60** Peer reviewed publications
2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Brain Cancer (partnering with COGNO): The IDH mutated 1p/19q intact lower grade glioma following resection: Wait or Treat? (IWOT) study was awarded funding by Cancer Australia and the Australian Brain Cancer Mission, with funding provided by the Mark Hughes Foundation. IWOT will commence recruitment in 2021.

Gastrointestinal Cancer (partnering with AGITG): RoLaCaRT-1 Study. Development work for planned study planned to open in 2021. RoLaCaRT-1 is an international randomised phase II trial comparing robotic-assisted right hemicolectomy versus laparoscopic-assisted hemicolectomy for resection of adenocarcinoma of the cecum, ascending or proximal transverse colon. RoLaCaRT-1 will recruit from ten Australian sites and two in the UK and two in the US.

Gynaecological Cancer (partnering with ANZGOG): Assisted in the development and writing of three successful MRFF grant submissions in the Rare Cancers, Rare Diseases and Unmet Need for Reproductive Cancers Scheme for the ADELE, HyNOVA and PARAGON-II studies and supported development of the three corresponding protocols and consent forms.

Lung Cancer (partnering with ALTG/TOGA): Secured funding for Reproductive Cancers Scheme submissions in the Rare Cancers, Rare Diseases and Unmet Need for Reproductive Cancers Scheme for the ADELE, HyNOVA and PARAGON-II studies and supported development of the three corresponding protocols and consent forms.

Urogenital and Prostate Cancer (partnering with ANZUP): Assisted with the development and writing of NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies and Caner Australia grant applications for the WATER Study and supported concept development and budgeting of the proposed EVOLUTION trial.

COVID-19: Led the research development activities for the BEAT COVID-19 Trial, a bayesian adaptive randomised controlled trial platform to evaluate the efficacy of interventions for high-risk older patients with COVID-19 in reducing the risk of hospital admission or death, a new collaboration with internal and external clinical academics in response to the pandemic.

ONCOLOGY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

The Oncology Research Development (ORD) team supports the development of new clinical trials and research activities at the CTC. The team works closely with the five cancer collaborative groups based at CTC, as well as Clinical Fellows, Clinical Leads and Statisticians and external academic partners. They develop early concepts into a final study design, assess feasibility and equipoise, develop study budgets, obtain drug supply and manage the legal agreement processes. With extensive experience in clinical trial development and conduct, the team provides study design recommendations and identifies areas for special consideration during the concept and protocol development stage.

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2020 TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ACED (high grade glioma): results were presented at the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) Annual Meeting 2020 in USA. This study explores whether the addition of oral acetazolamide allows for dexamethasone dose reduction without clinical deterioration in performance status in the management of raised intracranial pressure in recurrent and/or progressive High-Grade Glioma (HGG).

- MAGMA (multi-arm glioblastoma): opened ten out of 30 sites and recruited 25 of 300 participants since activation in September 2020. This study looks at diverse options in the standard of care for the management of glioblastoma.

- NUTMEG (elderly patients with glioblastoma): reached 79% of its recruitment target and opened at Duke University in USA. NUTMEG evaluates whether the combination of adjuvant nivolumab with temozolomide improves overall survival outcomes of GBM patients who are 65 years of age or older.

- LUMOS (low and intermediate grade brain tumours): reached 80% of target for the pilot study and submitted a grant for the main study. LUMOS matches tumours on a molecular level with the best treatments and assists in accessing these drugs, including creating trials of new treatments (see trial in focus).

- Four trials (iWOT, PersoMed, CODEL and PICCOG) received funding in 2019 and 2020 and plan to open for recruitment in 2021.

TRIAL IN FOCUS: LUMOS

How feasible is it to match brain tumours on a molecular level with the best available treatments?

CHALLENGE

Low and intermediate grade brain tumours are the second largest group of fatal brain tumours in adults with almost no access to clinical trials. Interpretation of tumour mutations in individuals and matching this to available treatments is a complex process, which also needs to account for the unique biology of this rare tumour type and limited drug access across the blood-brain barrier.

TRIAL

We know that patients with relapsed low (grade 2) and intermediate (grade 3) brain tumours after prior treatment with radiotherapy and chemotherapy have a poor prognosis with no established standard of care treatment. The LUMOS pilot study aims to provide Australian patients with treatment options by matching patients with targeted therapies based on molecular testing using contemporaneous tumour tissue.

A panel of neuro-oncology and translational research experts with representation across Australia and USA formed the Molecular Tumour Advisory Panel to provide guidance on the interpretation of molecular testing results, including review of each report and providing guidance about potential treatment recommendations for clinicians.

The pilot study is to demonstrate proof of concept and to evaluate whether this testing model might be feasible.

The trial opened to recruitment in April 2020 and recruited nine patients across five Australian sites in less than 12 months.

IMPACT

Nine out of 10 patients are now in follow-up to collect information about the turnaround times of the testing model, whether patients received targeted therapy based on molecular testing and whether they responded well to treatment.

We hope results from this pilot study will provide invaluable information for subsequent studies using tumour tissue to provide targeted treatment options for patients with low and intermediate grade brain tumours.

Trial snapshot

Status: Follow-up
Start date: April 2020
Patients recruited: 9
Sites: 5
GASTRO-INTESTINAL CANCER
Partner: Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group

The CTC has collaborated with the Australian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG) since 1991 to conduct clinical trials to improve treatments for gastro-intestinal cancers.

Together we have completed over 58 trials involving more than 5,200 patients. Our research has changed treatment practices and improved patient life expectancy and quality of life.

2020 TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- MONARCC (colorectal cancer): recruited seven patients in three months and opened three teletrial sites. This study aims to investigate the activity of anti-EGFR monotherapy, or combined with infusional 5FU, in a molecularly selected, elderly patient population with metastatic colorectal cancer.
- NABNEC (NeuroEndocrine tumours): received philanthropic funding to conduct a translational research sequencing study. Blood, tissue, and other biomarkers will be collected for translational research that will help increase our understanding of neuroendocrine carcinomas. The study aims to establish if carboplatin and nab-paclitaxel combination is an effective and tolerable chemotherapy treatment for grade 3 advanced gastrointestinal NECs.
- MASTERPLAN (pancreatic cancer): randomised its first patient in February 2020. This trial investigates whether SBRT in addition to modern chemotherapy is superior to the current standard of chemotherapy alone in both the neoadjuvant and definitive setting (see trial in focus).
- GAP (pancreatic cancer): results were published in Annals of Surgical Oncology. The trial has added to current evidence that gemcitabine and nab-paclitaxel before surgery is a worthwhile treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- INTEGRATE IIa (advanced gastro-oesophageal cancer): recruited 225 participants globally, surpassing projected recruitment total of 200 participants for this phase of the INTEGRATE platform. INTEGRATE IIb received HREC (Human Research Ethics Committee) approval and amendment rolled out to clinical sites around the world. The study will determine whether the drug Regorafenib is effective in prolonging survival in patients with Advanced Gastro-Oesophageal Cancer.
- PETACC-6 (locally advanced rectal cancer): results were published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. This study explored whether intensifying chemotherapy before and after curative surgery can reduce the risk of cancer returning and improve survival. It compared capecitabine and oxaliplatin based treatment to standard capecitabine based treatment before and after curative surgery.

TRIAL IN FOCUS: MASTERPLAN
Is the addition of Stereotactic Radiotherapy (SBRT) to standard chemotherapy safe and beneficial to patients with locally advanced/borderline resectable pancreatic cancer?

CHALLENGE
Pancreatic Cancer has the fifth highest incidence of cancer-related mortality and accounts for the death of more than 2,900 Australians annually.

The five-year survival for patients with pancreatic cancer is only 8% and half of all patients experience loco-regional recurrence (LRR) within 12 months after initial treatment.

TRIAL
MASTERPLAN explores using stereotactic radiotherapy (SBRT), an innovative way of delivering targeted radiation therapy in addition to modern chemotherapy. It uses significant technological advances in radiation techniques to deliver a higher dose to targeted areas.

MASTERPLAN is the first Australasian randomised trial that explores SBRT for pancreatic cancer. The trial includes 15 sites across Australia and New Zealand.

IMPACT
MASTERPLAN addresses some of the most significant morbidities experienced by patients with pancreatic cancer. A reduction in recurrence may translate into improved overall survival.

The trial is currently recruiting in Australia with nine sites open and ten patients enrolled at 31 Dec 2020. New Zealand is expected to open in 2021. Recruitment is expected to remain open until 2023.

Funding has been provided through a grant from the Medical Research Future Fund for Low Survival Cancers and Diseases. This highly competitive grant opportunity is awarded to innovative clinical trials of the highest quality design that address low survival cancers. New Zealand secured funding this year from the Gut Cancer Foundation and Christchurch Oncology Trust Funds, to support participation in the trial.

2020 in numbers

- **11** ACTIVE TRIALS
- **1** TRIAL IN START-UP
- **221** PATIENTS RECRUITED
- **146** ACTIVE SITES

Trial snapshot
Status: Recruiting
Start date: October 2019
Patients recruited: 10
Sites Open: 9
GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER
Partner: Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group

The Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) is the peak national gynaecological cancer research organisation for Australia and New Zealand.

ANZGOG and CTC collaborate to develop and conduct clinical trials that test interventions designed to improve care and outcomes for people affected by gynaecological cancer.

2020 TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- AITEnd (advanced/recurrent endometrial cancer): activated its first ANZ site and recruited seven participants within four months of activation. This international study will assess whether the use of the immunotherapy, atezolizumab, is of additional benefit to current first line chemotherapy combination (carboplatin and paclitaxel) in women with advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer.

- STICs and STONEs (prevention of ovarian cancer): activated all sites in ANZ and recruited its first participants. The STICs study aims to assess the two interventions to enhance recovery after surgery – perioperative carbohydrate-loading and perioperative pregabalin – in patients with primary ovarian cancer. The STONEs study will provide a better understanding of how ovarian and fallopian tube cancers start in women carrying germline BRCA1/2 mutation and whether aspirin might be a useful risk-reducing medication.

- TIPS (primary ovarian cancer): activated all sites in ANZ and recruited its first participants. The TIPS study aims to assess the two interventions to enhance recovery after surgery – perioperative carbohydrate-loading and perioperative pregabalin – in patients with primary ovarian cancer. The TIPS study will identify whether incorporation of an exercise program into the current standard of care for people undergoing chemotherapy for primary ovarian cancer is a clinically effective and cost-effective way to improve health outcomes in this patient group.

- SOLACE2 (recurrent ovarian cancer): reached its 50% accrual milestone. The trial aims to investigate different strategies to prime the immune system and enhance response to durvalumab and olaparib in patients with asymptomatic platinum-sensitive recurrent ovarian cancer.

- ECHO (primary ovarian cancer): received a CCQLD AACR grant, which will see the study through to the end with a total of 500 participants. The trial will identify whether incorporation of an exercise program into the current standard of care for people undergoing chemotherapy for primary ovarian cancer is a clinically effective and cost-effective way to improve health outcomes in this patient group.

2020 in numbers

- 9 ACTIVE TRIALS
- 3 TRIALS IN START-UP
- 184 PATIENTS RECRUITED
- 53 ACTIVE SITES

TRIAL IN FOCUS: PARAGON-II (ANZGOG1913): PHASE II BASKET STUDY OF AN AROMATASE INHIBITOR PLUS PI3KCA INHIBITOR OR CDK4/6 INHIBITOR IN WOMEN WITH HORMONE RECEPTOR POSITIVE RECURRENT/METASTATIC GYNAECOLOGICAL NEOPLASMS

Does combining letrozole with alpelisib in PIK3CA-mutated tumours, and letrozole and ribociclib in PIK3CA non-mutated tumours, have a role in selected patients with potentially hormone-responsive, recurrent, or metastatic gynaecological cancers?

CHALLENGE

Many gynaecological cancers carry molecular mutations in PIK3CA and CDK4/6 pathway. These cancers also express hormone receptors, and hormonal therapies have modest benefit in treating these cancers as shown in our previous study PARAGON. Drawing from the results in breast cancer studies, adding drugs that target the PIK3CA pathway (alpelisib) or the CDK4/6 pathway (ribociclib) to hormonal therapy (letrozole) may improve the response rate in treating these cancers.

TRIAL

PARAGON-II is a basket trial that enables patients with uncommon/rare gynaecological cancers to be enrolled into a series of six separate phase 2 studies, all embedded within a single protocol. It will include participants with hormone receptor positive gynaecological cancers which include ovarian cancers, endometrial cancers, and sarcomas. The tumour sample will be tested centrally for PIK3CA mutation and participants will receive letrozole plus alpelisib if PIK3CA mutation is detected, or letrozole plus ribociclib if PIK3CA mutation is not detected. Participants will continue trial treatment until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.

IMPACT

PARAGON-II is an academic study investigating if combinatorial drug strategy can overcome intrinsic resistance to hormonal therapy in endometrial cancer and other rare gynaecological cancers. Although hormonal therapies are widely used in gynaecological cancers, the associated benefit is modest as shown in the PARAGON trial. PARAGON-II builds on the success of the PARAGON trial and is supported by a solid scientific foundation of preclinical as well as clinical research in hormone positive breast cancers with PIK3CA and CDK4/6 inhibitors. The PARAGON-II trial will address new and important research questions including biomarker-driven treatment selection, supporting the implementation of personalised medicine.
LUNG CANCER
Partner: Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group (until 4-Nov-2020) and the Thoracic Oncology Group of Australasia (from 5-Nov-2020)

The CTC collaborated with the Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group (ALTG) until the transition to the newly formed Thoracic Oncology Group of Australasia (TOGA) in late 2020.

The high-quality clinical research delivered by these partnerships in Australia and New Zealand includes trials looking at immunotherapy and targeted therapies for lung cancers, new trials in mesothelioma, and most recently expanding into genomic profiling to deliver personalised precision medicine.

2020 TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **ASPIRATION (lung cancer):** this ground-breaking national multicentre cohort study will screen 1,000 newly diagnosed metastatic, non-squamous, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients using tissue-based comprehensive genomic profiling (CGP). The study will assess the clinical impact of CGP and feasibility of implementing CGP nationally (See trial in focus, pxx).
- **DREAM (mesothelioma):** promising results were published in The Lancet Oncology journal, showed that the combination of durvalumab and standard chemotherapy was active and safe in malignant pleural mesothelioma, and affirmed that further research of chemoimmunotherapy in this population is warranted.
- **DREAM3R (mesothelioma):** following encouraging results from the DREAM trial, our research team is working together with researchers in the USA to conduct a larger phase 3 trial that will directly compare the combination of standard chemotherapy plus durvalumab versus standard chemotherapy alone in 480 people with malignant pleural mesothelioma.
- **ILLUMINATE (lung cancer):** recruited its first patient in Taiwan and featured a ‘Trials in Progress’ poster at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting. This unique partnership with the National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) in Taiwan is the first of its kind. (see trial in focus).
- **PEARL (palliative care):** completed recruitment with 113 participants. This trial aims to determine if early referral to palliative care improves outcomes for patients with advanced thoracic malignancies in the Australian healthcare setting.
- **BR.31 (lung cancer):** exceeded its target recruitment at 114 out of 100 planned participants. This international trial with CTC’s long-standing collaborators the Canadian Cancer Trials Group (CCTG) looks at the effectiveness of adjuvant therapy with durvalumab in patients with completely resected NSCLC.

TRIAL IN FOCUS: ILLUMINATE
Is a new treatment strategy that combines immunotherapy (durvalumab and tremelimumab) with chemotherapy active in treating epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutation positive advanced NSCLC?

CHALLENGE
Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related mortality worldwide and most patients present with advanced disease at diagnosis. Approximately 85% have non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and a subset of these patients harbour an EGFR mutation, a driver mutation that promotes cell proliferation and cancer growth. Despite initial response to targeted treatments, resistance is inevitable and response to palliative chemotherapy is modest at best. Whilst single-agent immunotherapy has been shown to significantly prolong survival in advanced NSCLC, its role in lung tumours with driver mutations, such as EGFR, is unclear.

TRIAL
ILLUMINATE will investigate the effectiveness of combining standard chemotherapy with doublet immunotherapy in patients with EGFR-mutant metastatic NSCLC who have exhausted all available targeted treatments, and where chemotherapy is the only remaining standard option.

Participants will receive induction treatment comprising two immunotherapy agents - durvalumab plus tremelimumab - with platinum-pemetrexed chemotherapy. This will be followed by maintenance treatment with durvalumab and pemetrexed. Participants will be regularly assessed to evaluate the safety and activity of the treatments.

ILLUMINATE is conducted in collaboration with National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) in Taiwan, establishing a unique equal partnership model.

IMPACT
ILLUMINATE will establish the role of chemoimmunotherapy in a well-defined patient population who have progressed on targeted treatment with limited subsequent therapeutic options. The results from this study will have an immediate impact on 15-25% of cases of advanced NSCLC diagnosed in Asia. Furthermore, ILLUMINATE is a model for future trials of other NSCLC that harbour oncogenic driver mutations.
TRIAL IN FOCUS: DASL-HICAP

Does darolutamide improve recurrence rates when added to standard androgen deprivation therapy and radiation in high risk, localised prostate cancer?

CHALLENGE
Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in Australian men and caused around 3,300 deaths in 2019. The best standard treatment for prostate cancer that is localised, but considered at high risk of recurrence, includes radiation therapy plus androgen deprivation. The risk of recurrence within five years is approximately 15% even with this best standard treatment. This trial will determine if darolutamide, a novel anti-androgen tablet, can further reduce the risk of recurrence when added to best standard treatment.

TRIAL
DASL-HiCaP is a randomised controlled trial. All participants are treated with best standard treatment including radiation therapy and androgen deprivation. In addition to best standard treatment, half the participants are also treated with darolutamide, while the other receive a placebo (an inactive tablet that looks like darolutamide). The trial has enrolled 94 participants in 2020 of a planned 1100 from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

IMPACT
If darolutamide improves recurrence rates in this trial, then its adoption in routine clinical practice could save thousands of lives per year worldwide.

2020 TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS

➔ ENZAMET (prostate cancer): won the 2020 ACTA Trial of the Year Award, the ACTA STInG Award for Excellence in Trial Statistics and the Consumer Involvement Award! The study was also highlighted as a Clinical Cancer Advance in the ASCO 2020 Annual Report on Progress Against Cancer. Results have led to changes to ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines on prostate cancer and the American Urological guidelines. ENZAMET investigates the effectiveness of the hormone therapy enzalutamide versus NSA, in the treatment of men with metastatic prostate cancer.

➔ DASL-HiCaP (prostate cancer): opened in March 2020 and accruing ahead of projections. The purpose of this study is to see if darolutamide, a novel oral anti-androgen, combined with the current best treatments, can improve outcomes for people with high-risk prostate cancer being treated with radiation therapy (see trial in focus).

➔ ENZA-P (prostate cancer): opened in August 2020. This study will compare determine the activity of Lu-PSMA in combination with enzalutamide, versus enzalutamide alone, in advanced prostate cancer.

➔ BCMMMC (bladder cancer): accruing well in Australia and opened a major site in the UK. This study will determine if adding mitomycin to standard treatment with BCG on recurrence, survival, side effects, and quality of life for people with bladder cancer.

➔ KEYPAD (kidney cancer): successfully passed its halfway point and first interim analysis. This study will determine if denosumab, a drug most used to prevent osteoporosis can improve the activity of immunotherapy with pembrolizumab in advanced kidney cancer.

➔ F3BEP (testicular and ovarian germ cell tumours): successfully passed its 70-participant interim analysis for safety, and 150-participants for its first interim analysis of activity. This study will determine if giving the main drugs every 2 weeks (accelerated) is better than giving them every 3 weeks (standard) results in better control of the cancer, survival, and quality of life.

2020 in numbers

9 ACTIVE TRIALS
1 TRIALS IN START-UP
213 PATIENTS RECRUITED
156 ACTIVE SITES

UROGENITAL AND PROSTATE CANCER
Partner: Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group

The CTC collaborates with the Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP) to initiate and conduct high quality clinical trials research in genitourinary oncology. This research aims to identify and promote better treatments to raise survival rates and enhance the quality of life of people affected by urogenital and prostate cancers.

ANZUP Cancer Trials Group Limited
The Molecular Screening and Therapeutics program (MoST) is an innovative approach bringing new treatment options for advanced and incurable cancers. New treatment options are targeted (or personalised) to the genes and proteins of the patient’s cancer, instead of their cancer type.

Support from government and partnerships with hospitals, collaborative groups, industry, and philanthropy have grown the program from a NSW pilot into a leading source of treatments for advanced cancer patients throughout Australia.

The MoST program has established drug and funding partnerships with an expanding list of pharmaceutical companies (including Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Roche, LOXO/Bayer, Eisai) and two biotechnology companies (Roche Foundation Medicine and Illumina), with a total funding amount of over $17.9 million.

The CTC is a founding member of a not-for-profit company called the Australian Genomic Cancer Medicine Centre (AGCMC), now known as OMICO, through which MoST will continue to grow, together with new national member centres. The company has attracted over $70 million in funding.

The MoST program is a successful national platform that provides profiling of tumours to identify actionable molecular targets, paired with a growing pipeline of clinical studies matching treatment to molecular signals. In 2020, we continued to expand this national framework for precision oncology clinical trials together with partners in the Australian Genomic Cancer Medicine Centre. The framework initially focused on a tumour agnostic approach to rare and treatment refractory cancer. Through 2020, over 3000 patients with rare and treatment refractory cancers were screened and over 200 patients received treatment. In 2020, we leveraged this existing infrastructure and expertise in molecular screening to incorporate two additional subprograms:

1. ASPIRATION: a screening program for metastatic lung cancer patients, led by the Thoracic Oncology Group of Australasia (TOGA) (see Trial in Focus p.35)
2. MOSTLLY: a screening program specific to haematological cancers. Also in 2020, we grew our pipeline of therapeutic substudies, incorporating treatment options for the ASPIRATION and haematology subprograms, with achievements that included:

- Doubling the number of studies from ten at the end of 2019 to 20 at the end of 2020.
- Over 3,000 patients screened, and 208 patients treated since the program began.
- Opening 3 new trials in the rare and treatment refractory cancer treatment portfolio: MoST 6 larotrectinib, MoST 7 tremelimumab and MoST 8 trastuzumab emtansine.
- Continuing development of 5 new trials for the rare and treatment refractory cancer portfolio, and two trials for the haematology portfolio
- Embarking on the ASPIRATION subprogram for lung cancer, including development of five trials.
- The demand for cancer therapeutics was unabated even against the backdrop of COVID-19, a testament to the importance of the MoST program.

New treatment options are targeted (or personalised) to the genes and proteins of the patient’s cancer, instead of their cancer type.
**OTHER ONCOLOGY RESEARCH**

In addition to our extensive work with the national cancer cooperative trial groups that focus on brain, gastrointestinal, gynaecological, urogenital and lung cancer research, the CTC conducts a range of quality research both independently, or in collaboration with multiple cooperative groups. Examples include the long-running SNAC trials, conducted in collaboration with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and the CannabisCINV trial, performed in collaboration with Chris O’Brien Lifehouse and the Lambert Initiative for Cannabinoid Therapeutics.

The CTC also delivers the Cancer Australia-funded Genomics Cancer Clinical Trials Initiative (GCCTI) technical service in collaboration with ZEST Health Strategies. The aim of the GCCTI is to support the 14 national cooperative cancer clinical trials groups funded under Cancer Australia’s Support for Cancer Clinical Trials program to develop cancer clinical trial protocols (grant applications) for studies involving two or more cancer types and two or more cooperative trials groups.

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**TRIAL IN FOCUS: CANNABISCINV**

Can the use of medicinal cannabinoids help to treat cancer treatment related symptoms, such as nausea and vomiting?

**CHALLENGE**

Nausea and vomiting are common and debilitating side effects of chemotherapy. Despite recent advances in managing nausea and vomiting in this setting, these two symptoms remain among the most distressing and feared consequences of chemotherapy.

**TRIAL OVERVIEW**

The aim of this trial is to determine if the addition of an oral medicinal cannabis medication (THC/CBD) is effective in preventing chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) for people who have experienced these side effects during an earlier cycle of chemotherapy despite the use of guideline recommended nausea prevention drugs (prophylaxis).

The active drug is a combination of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) in capsules taken three times a day. Participants must be 18 years or older with a known malignancy of any stage, requiring at least two further cycles of moderate to highly emetogenic intravenous chemotherapy and experiencing significant CINV during previous cycles.

The study consists of a pilot, phase 2, crossover design component, which recruited 81 participants, followed by a definitive, phase 3, parallel component that will recruit a further 170 participants. Recruitment to the pilot phase was completed in June 2019 and, with the recommendation of an independent data safety monitoring committee, the definitive phase opened to recruitment in July 2019.

**IMPACT**

The preliminary (pilot study) results showed that addition of an oral THC/CBD had activity preventing CINV, indicating that the THC/CBD capsules have the potential to reduce the side effects of chemotherapy and improve quality of life. The pilot study results attracted considerable attention when the results were presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in May 2020 and published in the Annals of Oncology scientific journal in December 2020. The pilot phase 2, crossover design results confirmed the importance of proceeding with definitive, phase 3, parallel-design component of the trial, which is ongoing.

**TRIAL OVERVIEW**

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**2020 in numbers**

- **5** active trials
- **43** patients recruited
- **39** active sites

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NOVEL COLLABORATIONS

Transformations often arise when different streams of expertise merge. No-one appreciates that more keenly than those of us involved with clinical trials. CTC understands that successful clinical trials are built by teams of people with diverse skills and backgrounds.

As trial scientists, we know that meetings with new partners inspire exciting conversations that stimulate leaps in innovation and excellence, providing unique solutions and advancing trial science. 

CTC is proud to work with five incredible partners on the ASPIRATION program (see trial in focus), and we are continually engaging in novel collaborations to advance trial science and improve health outcomes in the future.

TRIAL IN FOCUS: ASPIRATION

An observational cohort study to assess the clinical impact of comprehensive genomic profiling in metastatic lung cancer patients.

CHALLENGE

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in Australia and worldwide, with a five-year survival rate of only 17 per cent.

STUDY

The ASPIRATION program is a pioneering 5-way partnership between Government, industry, and academia. The program is led by the Thoracic Oncology Group of Australasia (TOGA) (and formerly the Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group (ALTG)), in collaboration with the Australian Genomic Cancer Medicine Centre (AGCMC) and the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre (CTC). The program is jointly funded by the federal government’s Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) and Roche, as well as in-kind support through access to Roche medicines in 4 of the program’s therapeutic clinical trials.

IMPACT

The ASPIRATION study is the first of its kind in Australia to generate high-quality, real-world data about the impact and value of comprehensive genomic profiling (CGP) to deliver precision medicine and personalised healthcare, by identifying actionable molecular targets and treating these patients in a suite of therapeutic substudies using novel targeted treatments.

PROGRESS

Molecular screening for ASPIRATION commenced in late 2020. Five therapeutic substudies are approved, and development is ongoing to bring more therapeutic substudies online in 2021.
STUDY IN FOCUS: TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH STUDIES OF THE DREAM TRIAL

Are there biomarkers that can help identify which patients with mesothelioma do better on the anti-cancer immunotherapy durvalumab?

Results of the DREAM trial and translational research were published in the Lancet Oncology 2020.

STUDY OVERVIEW

Tumour tissue from 54 patients with mesothelioma on the DREAM trial were studied to learn more about the PD-L1 protein. These translational research results were presented with the DREAM trial results showing that durvalumab plus chemotherapy is a promising anticancer treatment combination. The remaining tumour and bloods from DREAM patients are being analysed in several other TR studies.

IMPACT

The PD-L1 protein in tumour tissue samples from patients was examined. PD-L1 acts like a ‘brake’ to keep a person’s immune responses under control. No link was found between levels and patterns of PD-L1 protein in a patient’s tissue with how well they benefited from durvalumab treatment. This result mirrors what other researchers found in mesothelioma trials testing different anti-cancer immunotherapies. Further TR studies of DREAM tissues and bloods are underway, studying the expression of genes and proteins involved with the immune system. These will generate new hypotheses that may be tested in our larger international mesothelioma trial, DREAM3R (recruiting 480 patients).

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH (ONCOLOGY)

Translational research (TR) involves searching for biological markers to help predict a patient’s response to a specific treatment, or to help better forecast survival. Markers might be found in biological samples from patients on CTC trials. These markers can be used as a tool to select the right treatment, delivered at the right time for the individual patient — the basis of precision medicine.

Patients may donate samples like tissue, blood, and saliva for this research. Samples are studied with research partners around the world. Innovative techniques known as ‘omics’ are used to study genes (genomics), proteins (proteomics) and mRNA (transcriptomics).

2020 TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS

➔ TR studies awarded grants:
  • ENZAMET+ lipidomics sub study (prostate cancer) – Cancer Australia grant
  • CONTROL-NETS genomics sub study (neuroendocrine cancer) and the MASTERPLAN microbiome sub study (pancreas cancer) – AGITG Innovation grants
  • The AUTO-CHECK translational research study completed blood sample collections from its 257 patients. This study aims to discover why some cancer patients get severe autoimmune side-effects from anti-cancer immunotherapy. Led by the CTC and the Centre for Personalised Immunology, this study analyses samples from trials in brain, endometrial, lung, mesothelioma, and renal cancers (trials include: NUTMEG, PHAEDRA, ILLUMINATE, KEYPAD, DREAM).
  • New studies opened where patient tumours undergo molecular profiling using next generation sequencing. Profile results guide the patient’s treatment: LUMOS study (glioma) and ASPIRATION study (lung cancer – see Novel Collaborations p.35).

2020 Awards

71 ONCOLOGY TRIALS WITH TR ACTIVITIES
33,138 SAMPLES (TISSUE AND BLOOD FROM PATIENTS) SHIPPED FROM 65+ SITES
19 RESEARCH LABS COLLABORATING ON TR STUDIES
7 GRANTS TOTALLING $5.88 MILLION, INCLUDING FROM MRFF, COMMENCED; SUPPORTING TRIALS AND STUDIES WITH TR COMPONENTS

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH TEAM
CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of early death in Australia, while in developing countries the prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors has increased greatly, led by demographic and economic changes. In Australia, and indeed elsewhere, better treatments mean that more people are living longer with heart disease. The burden of chronic heart disease is a national health priority here in Australia, and a target of CTC research into prevention and treatment.

The CTC’s cardiovascular trials evaluate medicines for prevention of cardiovascular diseases. Our research has influenced health outcomes globally, particularly in the treatment of acute myocardial infarction and the prevention of chronic heart disease.

2020 TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS

CASPER trial (stroke & heart attack): awarded $3M study grant from MRFF to investigate whether the drug colchicine, a safe and commonly used anti-inflammatory drug, is safe and effective for patients with persistent inflammation after a stroke event.

IMPACTICO trial (COVID19): awarded $1M from MRFF to investigate whether both immune-modifying nanoparticles and low-dose anti-inflammatory colchicine treatment, alone and together, will reduce injury to the lungs and heart caused by COVID-19.

“The recent discovery that inflammation appears to play a key role in cardiovascular events provides a new opportunity to explore how anti-inflammatory treatments might help reduce the burden.”

2020 in numbers

2 ACTIVE TRIALS
11 PATIENTS RECRUITED
2 ACTIVE SITES
12 PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

PROFESSOR ANTHONY BLECH, CTC DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR OF CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH
TRIAL IN FOCUS: COLCARDIO-ACS

Can a small daily dose of colchicine, a common anti-inflammatory medication, reduce the risk of further heart attacks after a first cardiac event?

CHALLENGE

One Australian dies from a heart attack every 51 minutes; it is the leading cause of death worldwide, and of disease burden in high income countries. Despite current best treatments, many people remain at high risk of future heart attacks, predominantly because current therapies do not specifically target the inflammatory component of atherosclerosis. A previous study has shown that canakinumab, a drug targeting inflammation around the heart, reduced repeat cardiovascular events in high-risk patients; however, this medication is expensive to produce and not well tolerated. Colchicine is an approved anti-inflammatory treatment for gout and is also commonly used in treating pericarditis. It is inexpensive, well tolerated and readily available, and thus may be an appropriate therapy to reduce the risk of repeat heart attacks.

TRIAL

The COLCARDIO-ACS study aims to determine whether giving daily low-dose colchicine as well as standard medical care reduces the rate of subsequent cardiac events after an initial heart attack. The study will be conducted in 3000 adults from Australia and overseas who have experienced an initial acute cardiac event and have persistently high levels of inflammatory markers in their blood 4–6 weeks after their first heart attack. These patients are at highest risk of having another heart attack and are expected to get the most benefit from colchicine. Participants will take a daily tablet containing either colchicine (0.5mg) or placebo tablets for 3 years and will be followed up regularly to collect information about cardiac events.

IMPACT

The results of this trial will contribute a major addition to the evidence about treating this high-risk group, over and above ongoing trials, and will provide a cheap and effective therapy option to those with the greatest need.

Trial snapshot

Status: In start-up
Planned start date: 2021
Planned patients: 3000
**DIABETES RESEARCH**

Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes are major causes of morbidity and premature death globally, particularly for the estimated 79% of people with diabetes who live in disadvantaged regions. The Diabetes group takes a multi-faceted approach, studying both common types of diabetes in human observational studies and clinical trials and in model systems in the laboratory.

CTC’s Diabetes team aims to improve the prediction of diabetes onset and its complications, to explore underlying mechanisms of tissue damage and treatment benefit, and to test drugs, devices and models of care that can improve health outcomes for people with diabetes.

**2020 TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Hybrid Closed Loop (HCL) insulin pump trials in people with Type 1 diabetes:** Aligned trials in adults and youth showed that 6-months use of a ‘hybrid closed loop’ insulin pump system improves glucose control and quality of life compared to standard care of multiple daily insulin injections or less advanced insulin pumps. Adult study results were published in the leading diabetes journal Diabetes Care and presented at the annual meetings of the American Diabetes Association and the Australian Diabetes Congress.

- **Tested a novel nurse lead model of care combining eye screening and diabetes education in Indigenous Australian adults with diabetes in regional Australia.**

- **T4DM study (Type 2 Diabetes in men):** Positive results were published in Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology. The study found two years of testosterone treatment together with a lifestyle program decreased the risk of Type 2 diabetes more than the lifestyle program alone did.

- **FAME-1 Eye trial:** The study investigates whether the blood fat-lowering drug, fenofibrate, protects against progression of eye damage in adults with Type 1 diabetes. The study continues to recruit with 21 sites open across three countries, with over 250 subjects enrolled and over 180 (of the required 450) randomised to fenofibrate or placebo.

- **Three PhD candidates were awarded higher research degrees and a visiting post-doctoral fellow from the UK completed and published several studies.**

**2020 in numbers**

- **2 ACTIVE TRIALS**
- **26 ACTIVE SITES**
- **19 PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

“Our research aims to provide practical solutions for common problems relevant to people with Type 1 diabetes and people with or at risk of Type 2 diabetes.”
TRIAL IN FOCUS 2020: HYBRID CLOSED LOOP (INSULIN PUMP) USE IN ADULTS WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES

Can an advanced integrated insulin pump and glucose sensor improve glucose, cognition and sleep in adults with Type 1 diabetes.

CHALLENGE
Achieving excellent glucose control reduces the risk of long-term eye, kidney, nerve and heart damage in people with diabetes, but this is often difficult, particularly in people with Type 1 diabetes. This type of diabetes often begins in childhood and requires daily insulin injections for life. Cognition, sleep quality and mental well-being are key aspects of life that may also be disrupted by diabetes.

IMPACT
Hybrid closed loop use significantly improved all aspects of glucose control, and also improved some aspects of mental well-being, with no adverse effects on sleep quality or memory. User satisfaction was high. This system is available for clinical use but ensuring equitable access for all who may benefit and desire this therapy is an ongoing challenge.

TRIAL
The trial was run in seven specialist hospital diabetes clinics in Australia and included 120 adults with Type 1 diabetes. For a six-month test period, half of the subjects were randomised to the world’s most advanced clinically available integrated insulin pump and continuous glucose monitoring system, called a Hybrid Closed Loop system, and half continued standard care with multiple daily injections or a less advanced insulin pump without a glucose sensor. Effects on blood glucose, memory, sleep quality and mental well-being were assessed.

Trial snapshot
Status: Completed
Patients: 120
Sites: 7
KIDNEY HEALTH RESEARCH

Established in 2020 with the appointment of Professor Meg Jardine as Director, the CTC’s Kidney Health research program concentrates on identifying and addressing key knowledge gaps that will improve patient lives, lead to better treatments for those with kidney disease, and open new avenues for the global research community to pursue.

All activities of the Kidney Health research program are grounded in three guiding principles:

1. Patient-centricity: Research is designed in collaboration with patients, consumer advocacy groups or other relevant community stakeholders.
2. Global impact: Research will be delivered in collaboration with global experts in nephrology and other relevant fields. The Kidney Health program aims to generate evidence relevant to, and impactful for those with the greatest burden of disease, not only in Australia, but internationally.
3. Research efficiency: The Kidney Health research program collaborates with global experts in novel and adaptive clinical trial methodology to ensure that all research ventures are established utilising optimal designs. A fit-for-purpose design allows streamlined, cost-effective evidence generation, with minimisation of any burden of participation.

“We are stepping into a new era of evidence generation for kidney disease, an oft-silent condition that affects up to one in seven adults. Multiple new candidate therapies are emerging to treat kidney disease and better manage its complications.”
2020 TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS

➔ LIFT trial (premature infants): hospital outcomes published in Lancet Child and Adolescent Health in May 2020. When this trial was combined with 12 others, in a total of over 5,000 very low birthweight infants, lactoferrin reduced the risk of infection by a fifth and there were no safety concerns.

➔ LEAP-1 trial (Anaemia in pregnancy): has recruited 583 patients and is now two thirds of the way to its target of 800 with 13 Australian based sites and 1 in Pakistan. The study aims to see if bovine lactoferrin administration during pregnancy improves foetal growth and neonatal iron status at birth.

➔ PAEAN trial (lack of oxygen to brain at birth): has almost reached its recruitment target of 300 patients (97% recruited). PAEAN aims to find out whether erythropoietin in addition to the standard of care treatment increases survival without moderate to severe disability at 2 years of age. 57% of patients have reached their two-year outcomes.

➔ APTS trial (delayed cord clamping): Completed its two-year patient follow-up. Data has been analysed and writing is in progress. APTS aimed to find out whether immediate cord clamping (clamping within 10 seconds of delivery) or delayed cord clamping (waiting at least 60 seconds before clamping) was better for premature babies in the short term and the long term.

“We need a new generation of large, collectively prioritised, efficient international trials - run at least ten times larger and faster at one tenth the cost.”

2020 in numbers

7 ACTIVE TRIALS
719 PATIENTS RECRUITED
118 ACTIVE SITES
TRIAL IN FOCUS: LACTOFERRIN INFANT FEEDING TRIAL (LIFT)

Does lactoferrin improve survival free from morbidity in very low birth weight infants?

CHALLENGE

Very low birthweight infants are at increased risk of late-onset sepsis (infection), necrotising enterocolitis, and death. LIFT assessed whether supplementing the enteral diet of very low-birthweight infants with the antimicrobial protein lactoferrin reduces death or major morbidity. This was a critical gap in the evidence.

TRIAL

LIFT, a multicentre, double-blind, randomised controlled trial, seeks to find out the effect of lactoferrin supplementation on death or major morbidity in very low birthweight infants.

1542 infants of birth weight <1500 g in 16 Australian and New Zealand neonatal units were assigned 200 mg/kg pasteurised bovine lactoferrin in feeds once daily or none until 34 weeks postmenstrual age to assess its effects on death or major morbidity, i.e., brain injury, necrotising enterocolitis, late-onset sepsis, or retinopathy. A pre-specified, PRISMA-compliant meta-analysis of this and other RCTs was conducted to estimate more precisely the effects of lactoferrin on infection, necrotising enterocolitis, and survival. The study was conducted to a high standard in fidelity with the research protocol and statistical analysis plan, which were pre-published in BMJ Open in 2017.

IMPACT

This randomised trial found that supplementing feeds with lactoferrin, a dairy protein with antimicrobial properties, did not improve survival or complications in about 1500 very low birthweight infants. But lactoferrin reduced the risk of infection by a fifth when this trial was combined with 12 others, in a total of over 5,000 very low birthweight infants. There were no safety concerns.

The next step is to identify the most effective lactoferrin products.

To confirm findings like this more quickly in future we need international collaboration in a new generation of trials which can rapidly recruit thousands of infants.
HEALTH ECONOMICS

The Health Economics team facilitates the development of healthcare programs in Australia and internationally by incorporating patient-centred, economic outcomes into clinical trials.

The team provides analysis on the efficiency, effectiveness, and value of healthcare programs to enable policy decision-making across oncology, cardio-metabolic and kidney disease, and perinatal medicine. They also develop new methods of outcome assessment and resource measurement, and conduct studies to determine patient, clinician, and community preferences for healthcare.

Recently the Health Economics team has been exploring ways to improve the design, efficiency, and impact of new trials through pre-trial modelling and value of information (VOI) analysis.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

→ The first published value of information analysis (VOI) came from the Whole Brain Radiotherapy trial for Melanoma.
→ 21 grant applications. More than half of the teams’ work involved CTC lead studies, and the others were in partnership with The University of Sydney or national and international collaborators.
→ SWIFT trial (kidney dialysis): completed the pilot study and presented results at American Society of Nephrology. This is the CTC’s first registry-based, cluster, randomised control trial. The main trial is set to open in early 2021 in NSW.
→ Instigated an interview-style webinar series to answer the critical issues in health economics. Attendance records exceeded expectations with over 100 people from outside the CTC joining each discussion.

“
A value of information (VOI) framework could be helpful in developing criteria for when to replicate and when not to replicate prior systematic reviews.”

2020 in numbers

33 ACTIVE PROJECTS (INCLUDING 17 RANDOMISED TRIALS; 6 COHORT STUDIES; 4 MODELLING STUDIES; 6 SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS)
26 PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS
21 GRANT APPLICATIONS
Is further screening of waitlisted kidney transplant recipients effective and cost-effective?

**CHALLENGE**
Current guidelines recommend 12 to 24-monthly screening of waitlisted transplant candidates for coronary artery disease (CAD). Multiple randomized controlled trials (RCTs) in patients without kidney failure have failed to demonstrate a survival benefit for screening asymptomatic patients for CAD. Additionally, no studies have evaluated the cost-effectiveness of screening patients on the transplant waitlist for asymptomatic CAD.

**PRE-TRIAL ECONOMIC MODEL**
An NHMRC and CIHR-funded randomised phase III trial including investigators from the CTC, Morton and Webster aims to test the hypothesis that after waitlist entry, no further screening for asymptomatic CAD is non inferior (with a margin of a 25% increase or 1.5% absolute difference) to regular screening for CAD in preventing major adverse cardiac events. A key outcome of CARSK is to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of regular CAD screening compared with no further screening and the subsequent economic impact of CAD-related expenditure from a health system perspective.

The trial is currently underway and recruiting in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Spain. A pre-trial economic model was constructed to estimate the likelihood of cost-effectiveness for the CAD screening strategies, and determine where the CARSK randomised trial needed to focus its data collection efforts.

In modelling the costs and benefits of CAD (Coronary Artery Disease) screening, we also aimed to identify variables that may change the results of the final within-trial economic evaluation.

We developed a Markov microsimulation model to replicate the natural history of a theoretical cohort of Australian kidney transplant candidates aged 18 to 69 years. Microsimulation modelling tracks a patient’s duration on the waitlist, thereby generating a more accurate probability of death for any given year and increasing the overall validity of the model. All patients were deemed eligible for transplantation, entered the model at the time of waitlist activation for deceased donor kidney transplantation, and were followed up until death (lifetime time horizon) using an annual cycle length. We constructed the model using TreeAGE Pro2018 software.

**IMPACT**
The pre-trial model has identified an area of significant potential cost-savings to the Australian health system, as well as pinpointing the trial variables that need focused attention for data collection. Our model predicted ‘no further screening’ to be cost-effective when compared with annual or second yearly screening for CAD. No further screening increased survival by 0.49 life-year or 0.35 QALY. One-way sensitivity analyses identified the costs of transplantation in the first year and CAD prevalence as the most influential variables on the cost-effectiveness result. Probabilistic sensitivity analyses showed that 94% of the simulations were cost-effective below a willingness-to-pay threshold of $50,000 per QALY gained. No further screening for CAD after waitlisting is likely to be cost-effective and may improve survival. This model has identified that complete and accurate data in CARSK are needed around CAD prevalence estimates and healthcare resource use.

**Trial snapshot**
- Status: Active
- Start date: 2016
- Patients: 1000
- Sites: 13

**HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (HTA) GROUP**
The HTA group undertakes systematic reviews, health technology assessments and economic evaluations under contracts with the Commonwealth Department of Health and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The Department of Health work primarily assists the Medical Services Advisory Committee to make decisions on new listings for the Medical Benefits Schedule.

For NHMRC, the HTA group also reviews evidence and provides methodological expertise which is then used to develop health guidelines for Australians.
The Evidence Integration team works across multiple projects developing and applying methods of data synthesis, including individual patient data meta-analysis, prospective meta-analysis and network meta-analysis. We are the Editorial base for the Cochrane Breast Cancer group and the Prospective Meta-analysis Methods Group and manage the Australia and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry. We also perform research on research, often drawing on the ANZCTR to describe the landscape of trial activity in our region.

Our focus is on collaborating to maximise the value of existing data and generate new evidence to improve health outcomes. Our vision is to shape the generation of new evidence using innovative methodologies.

“I formed the Evidence Integration team when I joined the CTC in 2020. I am looking forward to pushing methods of evidence synthesis further to inform policy and practice and make a difference to health outcomes for all.”

EVIDENCE INTEGRATION
AUSTRALIAN NEW ZEALAND CLINICAL TRIALS REGISTRY (ANZCTR)

The CTC hosts the ANZCTR, which is a key piece of national and international research infrastructure. It allows researchers to register their studies prospectively to comply with their scientific and ethical obligations, and to update these registration records regularly as the latest information comes to hand.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS
- Created COVID-19 specific search function and resources for public use
- Directly linked to the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce. The Taskforce develops evidence-based clinical guidelines and continually monitors data from clinical trial registries including the ANZCTR
- Reviewed the characteristics of COVID-19 clinical trials in Australia. The analysis identified gaps in critical topics and outcomes and highlighted a need for better co-ordination of research effort. Key findings were presented to the Australian Government and clinical trials research community
- Substantially contributed to a nationwide initiative on improving the re-use of existing healthcare data. The initiative is being coordinated by the Health Studies Australian National Data Asset (HeSANDA), Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC), with the ANZCTR seen as an integral piece of infrastructure in this initiative.

2020 in numbers
- 1,713 UPDATES OF PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED TRIALS
- 1,379 NEW TRIALS REGISTERED INCLUDING 120 COVID-19 STUDIES
- 20,062 TRIALS REGISTERED IN TOTAL ON ANZCTR
- 328,200 UNIQUE VISITORS TO ANZCTR, A 12% INCREASE SINCE 2019

2020 HIGHLIGHTS
- At least 34 consensus or practice guidelines used Cochrane breast cancer reviews, including those for the European Society of Medical Oncology and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (UK). The Cochrane Breast Cancer Group continues to influence clinical practice by publishing relevant and useful Cochrane reviews.
- The Impact Factor for the Cochrane Breast Cancer Group rose from 7.375 to 12.167 (12 publications cited 146 times), meaning that a review published by the Breast Cancer Group in 2017 and 2018 was cited, on average, 12.167 times in 2019.

COCHRANE BREAST CANCER GROUP

For trusted and reliable evidence on questions of health care, the international Cochrane Library is the leading information source. The CTC hosts the Cochrane Breast Cancer Group, which tackles a broad array of topics in breast cancer, including prevention, treatment, and survivorship care.

The Group develops and co-ordinates the review of evidence from breast cancer research and publishes the findings. These reviews include synthesising evidence from randomised and non-randomised studies of interventions, diagnostic test accuracy studies and prognosis studies.

They build on the enthusiasm of authors by providing quality support during protocol and review development and contribute to training authors in synthesis methods.

2020 in numbers
- 4 REVIEWS PUBLISHED
- 5 PROTOCOLS PUBLISHED
- 697 VOLUNTEERS (617 AUTHORS, 23 EDITORS, 57 CONSUMERS)
- 1 PRIORITY REVIEW PUBLISHED

ANZCTR TEAM

Cochrane Breast Cancer Group Team
NEXT-GENERATION EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS

2020 was an exciting and defining year for the newly named Next-generation Evidence Synthesis (NextGen) Team, which evolved from the previously known Individual Participant Data and Prospective Meta-Analysis (IPD/PMA) Team. The NextGen team conduct systematic reviews using a wide range of innovative methods, such as prospective meta-analysis, network meta-analysis, individual participant data meta-analysis, and rapid reviews. They also conduct methodological research, provide methods support and advice to national and international external research teams, and co-convene the Cochrane Prospective Meta-Analysis Methods Group.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

→ The individual participant data on Cord Management at Preterm Birth Collaboration (iCOMP), established and run by the NextGen Team since 2019, grew in 2020 – with 74 trials (including data from 12,350 preterm infants) agreeing to provide data. The iCOMP protocol was also published in BMJ open.

→ The Transforming Obesity Prevention for Children (TOPCHILD) Collaboration was established by members of the NextGen team, after being awarded a highly competitive NHMRC Ideas Grant (ranked in the top 5% of applications). By year end, 38 trials, including data from >30,000 participants, had agreed to join the TOPCHILD Collaboration and share their data. Protocols for both the individual participant data meta-analysis and deconstructing interventions projects were submitted to BMJ Open in December 2020 and have been published as preprints on MedRxiv.

→ Methods developed by the team have been applied by researchers in Australia and globally across health research fields, including obesity, midwifery, COVID-19, and prostate cancer.

→ The Cochrane Collaboration invited the team to write an editorial on their methods developments, and to present their methods to Cochrane Editors and Methods Specialists.

2020 in numbers

7 PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS
3 COMPETITIVE GRANTS AWARDED
2 PHD THESIS SUBMITTED
1 PHD COMMENCED
BIOSTATISTICS

Biostatisticians at the CTC work closely with investigators to evaluate new therapies in several important disease areas. They help design trials that are efficient and methodologically rigorous, and they play a pivotal role in analysing and reporting on trials.

OUTREACH

CTC biostatisticians support several institutions and hospitals, advising on study designs and analyses in the areas that include radiation and medical oncology, rheumatology, molecular studies, women’s health, and paediatric diseases.

Outreach services are provided to:
• Chris O’Brien LifeHouse – Medical Oncology
• Crown Princess Mary Cancer Care Centre and Women’s Health, Westmead Hospital
• Departments of Radiation Oncology and Rheumatology, Royal North Shore Hospital
• Kolling Institute, Royal North Shore Hospital
• Nepean Hospital
• Blacktown Hospital
• The Children’s Hospital at Westmead
• Sydney Adventist Hospital

TEACHING

CTC Biostatisticians also play a key role in delivering:
• The postgraduate courses of the Master of Clinical Trials Research and the Master of Public Health and Master of Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Sydney.
• The Principles of Statistical Inference unit through the Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia.
• Short courses in critical appraisal/study design methods in the Basic Sciences in Oncology and the Statistical Methods, Evidence Appraisal & Research for Trainees (SMART) workshop, through the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Radiologists.
• Supervision to postgraduate research studies (PhD).

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

➔ ENZAMET trial (enzalutamide in metastatic prostate cancer): won the ACTA STinG Award for Excellence in Trial Statistics. The trial looked at whether adding enzalutamide to hormone therapy at the beginning of treatment would improve the survival of men with metastatic prostate cancer.

➔ Made various contributions to the COVID19 research and surveillance effort. Contributed to four COVID-19 study designs for potential treatments and was involved in a range of data analytics projects to help inform monitoring and control of the pandemic.

➔ Delivered a two-day workshop on Bayesian adaptive randomised clinical trials in collaboration with AusTriM (Australian Trials Methodology Research Network).

➔ Prof Gillian Heller gave the Statistical Society of Australia annual lecture on “The new normal: distributional regression.”

“The ACTA award for Excellence in Trial Statistics was a major milestone rewarding the high quality of CTC Biostatistics and the leadership of Andrew Martin on the ENZAMET study.”
BUSINESS GROUP

The Business Group partners with trials staff to provide tailored support and resources to research projects and programs. Their efforts underpin the CTC’s achievements and its status as a leading clinical trials centre in Australia and internationally.

Over 30 staff in the Business Group provide expertise in a range of support areas, including:
- human resources, workforce planning and management (HR team led by Cynthia Carr)
- financial planning and management (Finance team led by Paul Smyth)
- data systems, IT infrastructure support (Data and Informatics team led by Mark Maclean)
- pre and post award grant coordination and contract management (Grants and Contracts team led by Nicole Wong)
- internal and external communications (Communications team led by Ben Falkenmire)
- executive and administration support (Administration team led by Susan Lohan).

“The Business Group showed agility and resilience in 2020 in response to the pandemic. We transitioned over 240 staff to work remotely and maintained a high standard of support, helping academic and professional staff to continue achieving good together.”
The CTC is a highly respected research centre within the University’s Faculty of Health and Medicine (FMH). CTC researchers work collaboratively with researchers within the FMH and across the University to advance the quality and effectiveness of research. CTC Business Group staff work in partnership with University departments, providing operational support and receiving support in key areas, such as contracts and grants, ethics and regulation, and communications and marketing. CTC’s research leaders supervise PhD and Masters students from the University, and they teach subjects in the biostatistics and clinical trials research programs as well as tailored short courses.

The CTC is a full member of the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA), which is the national body supporting and representing clinician researchers conducting clinical trials, clinical trial registries and coordinating clinical trial centres.

CTC Founding Director Professor John Simes and CTC Deputy Director Professor Tony Keech played lead roles in the establishment of ACTA in 2013. The CTC participates in and supports ACTA events to help advance clinical trial research and make it more integrated with healthcare. The CTC’s Professors Meg Jardine and Rachael Morton are ACTA Board Directors.

CANCER COOPERATIVE GROUPS

The CTC works collaboratively with key national cancer cooperative groups to design and run clinical trials. Often the collaborative groups, made up of clinicians and researchers addressing specific types of cancer, will champion the trial with the CTC advising on trial design and coordinating the trial from start to finish, including assessing results. We have collaborated with cancer cooperative groups in over 180 projects with the aim of improving global health outcomes for cancer patients.

We also run the Genomics Cancer Clinical Trials Initiative (GCCTI), funded by Cancer Australia, that supports the 14 national cooperative cancer clinical trial groups to run mutation-specific trials across two or more cancer types or collaborative groups. The GCCTI helps these groups to develop clinical trial protocols by facilitating interaction, and support around development of concepts and grant applications through personal consultation and workshops.
As part of the CTC’s mission to improve global health outcomes, we engage with consumers to inform our research particularly around the investigation, design and running of trials to increase a trial’s likelihood of making a positive impact on consumers and the health care system.

- Oncology: The CTC works closely with five cancer cooperative groups and their Consumer Advisory Panels that comprise cancer survivors, patients, and carers. The panel provides a consumer’s perspective on trials, helping to review new trial concepts, identify gaps in research, assist with trial information dissemination, and advise on recruitment strategies.
- Diabetes: The CTC works with consumer advisors on technology-based diabetes studies, in particular Hybrid Closed Loop and Fame-1 Eye. Consumers provide input into the challenges faced by Type 1 diabetes patients, and the type of research that is important to them. They also provide feedback on consent forms and, where appropriate, present at forums and talk to the media.
- Neonatal & Perinatal: To improve recruitment of preterm babies to key trials, the CTC is partnered with Miracle Babies Foundation (MBF), a consumer body representing parents of sick newborns. In the TORPEDO 30/60 trial, MBF helped to secure a waiver of consent for the trial, a critical step that sees premature babies – particularly those born at nights or on weekends – automatically included in the trial.
- Health Economics: The CTC is working in partnership with consumers to enrich study design and impact. Melanoma Genomics Managing Your Risk study, the PET/CT melanoma surveillance study, and the symptom monitoring with feedback trial (SWIFT). Consumers help review study designs, lay summaries and manuscripts, and members of a consumer panel in the SWIFT trial participated in grant applications and co-authored publications.
- Integrating Evidence: To help consumers find trials occurring near their physical location, the team behind the Australian New Zealand Clinical Trial Registry have a map function on their registry website. The map function allows users to see which trials are open and where they are located. A consumer may be able to pass on this information to their doctor to help assess their eligibility for the trial.

**CTC COMMUNITY**

**SYDNEY CATALYST**

Sydney Catalyst is the Translational Cancer Research Centre of central Sydney and regional NSW and aims to improve outcomes for people affected by cancer.

The Centre brings together over 770 outstanding researchers and clinicians from leading NSW institutions to work across the full translational research continuum and provides a rich forum for members to connect and collaborate.

The Sydney Catalyst central office is housed within the CTC. This has provided an important opportunity for the groups to work closely together across a range of translational research projects and activities, challenging institutional and work culture boundaries. Co-location also provides Sydney Catalyst staff with a unique opportunity to experience the inner workings of the CTC, enriching their understanding of clinical research.

**2020 HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Embedding Research (and Evidence) in Cancer Healthcare (EnRICH) Study is Sydney Catalyst’s major flagship research program and is an important example of translational research collaboration between the CTC and Sydney Catalyst. The program is led by founding CTC Director, Professor John Simes. There are now 1,600 patients enrolled in the EnRICH program with ten affiliated sub-studies.
- Our Research Fellows continued to strengthen Sydney Catalyst’s translational research interests. Dr Alison Young’s projects focused on smoking cessation and genetic mainstreaming, with collaborations across major clinical sites. Mark Schreuder investigated procoagulant platelets as a diagnostic predictor of thrombosis in lung cancer patients. He also commenced a new study that will explore if a theranostic protein can be used increase tumour cell death and therefore improve chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or immunotherapy efficacy.
- Despite major disruptions due COVID-19 Sydney Catalyst hosted an impressive 13 virtual workshops, seminars and events including their first ever hybrid event, the annual Postgraduate & Early Career Researcher Symposium. The Sydney Catalyst Mentoring Program ran for the second year, matching 18 mentees with experienced mentors.
PROFESSOR PHILIP HOGG
Professor Philip Hogg is an NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow. He currently holds the Sydney Catalyst Chair in Translational Cancer Research and is Director of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) Centenary Cancer Research Centre at the Centenary Institute.

In partnership with the ACRF and Sydney Catalyst, the new ACRF Centenary Cancer Research Centre expands the capabilities of the Centenary’s cancer research stream. The Centre has four core strategic aims: i) making key discoveries about disease mechanisms; ii) their effective translation into the clinic; iii) catalysing medical research by collaborations and iv) local and international recognition.

The Centre is located within the University of Sydney’s Charles Perkins Centre and will be the first dedicated cancer biology research centre in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the University of Sydney Precinct – a health precinct that is technically excellent, clinically innovative, and directly connected to patients.

BIOSTATISTICS COLLABORATION OF AUSTRALIA
The Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia (BCA) is a consortium of biostatistical experts from around Australia. Representatives from universities, government and the pharmaceutical industry combine to offer a program of distance postgraduate courses via an alliance of six universities. The BCA Coordinating Office is hosted by the CTC.

In the second semester of 2020, 392 students were enrolled (97 new). Since 2003, 682 students have graduated from BCA courses (including 415 Masters awards). We have also delivered one or more BCA units to over 400 non-award students. These graduates will contribute to solving the shortage of professionally qualified biostatisticians in Australia and internationally. The BCA has provided Australia with much needed skills in biostatistics, including research in genetics, clinical trials, and public health.
### CURRENT CTC TRIALS

**As at December 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Accrual</th>
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| **ONCOLOGY**

*CURRENT TRIALS*

Cannabis (CINV): Pilot and definitive trials of cannabis extract for prevention of secondary nausea and vomiting (CTC, Lambert, NSW Health, Titray)  
Adults with cancer with significant nausea or vomiting during Cycle 1 of intravenous chemotherapy  
250  
113

EMBRACE: Phase II clinical trial of the PARP inhibitor, olaparib, in HR-deficient advanced breast and ovarian cancer (GCCT, including ANZOSG and CTC)  
Patients with relapsed: a) metastatic TNBC; or b) resected platinum-sensitive HGSOC; who have an eligible tumour molecular analysis result and have not received prior treatment for metastatic/relapsed disease  
60  
14

Leep: a Randomised controlled Phase II trial of the pharmacodynamic effects of CDK4/6 inhibitor LEE011 in high risk, localised prostate cancer  
Adults male with localised prostate cancer and at least clinical stage T3a Or Gleason score of between 8 and 10 Or Preoperative PSA greater than or equal to 20 ng/ml AND planned for radical prostatectomy  
47  
23

**IN DEVELOPMENT**

ACTICCA-1: Phase III trial of adjuvant gemcitabine and cisplatin chemotherapy compared with standard treatment (AOO-led Germany), AGITG and CTC study)  
Patients with biliary tract cancer after resection  
40 (ANZ) 785 (Int’l)  
29 (ANZ) 617 (Int’l)

ASCOIT: Aspirin for Dukes C and high-risk Dukes B Colorectal Cancers (CRCs) - National Cancer Institute (Singapore-led), AGITG and CTC study)  
Patients with CRC who have completed surgery and other treatment  
460 (ANZ) 1,587 (Int’l)  
453 (ANZ) 1,522 (Int’l)

INTEGRATE II: Phase III trial comparing regorafenib and placebo for oesophagogastric cancer (AGITG and CTC-led international study)  
Patients with refractory advanced oesophagogastric or gastric cancer  
90 (ANZ) 350 (Int’l)  
77 (ANZ) 226 (Int’l)

MASTERPLAN: A randomised Phase II study of MFOSFLFINOX And Stereotactic Radiotherapy (SBRT) for Pancreatic Cancer With High-Risk and Locally Advanced Disease (AGITG and CTC study)  
Adults aged 18-75 years with histologically proven high-risk, borderline resectable pancreatic cancer or locally advanced pancreatic cancer suitable for neoadjuvant or definitive chemotherapy and SBRT. High risk is defined as any patient with tumour >4cm, extrapancreatic extension or node positive disease  
120  
10

**RECRUITING**

MONARC: A randomised Phase II study of panitumumab monotherapy and panitumumab plus 5-fluorouracil as first-line therapy for RAS and BRAF wild-type metastatic CRC (AGITG and CTC study)  
Elderly patients, >70 years, with histologically confirmed RAS and BRAF wild-type metastatic CRC who have not previously received chemotherapy and/or targeted therapy for their metastatic disease who are suitable for panitumumab alone or panitumumab plus 5-FU  
80  
30

NABNEC: Phase II study of nab-paclitaxel and carboplatin as first-line treatment (AGITG and CTC study)  
Patients with advanced gastro-intestinal neuroendocrine carcinomas  
58  
46

**IN FOLLOW-UP**

A La CART: Australian Phase III randomised trial of laparoscopy-assisted resection compared with open resection (AGITG and CTC study)  
Patients with primary rectal cancer  
470  
475

ALT-GIST: Imatinib alternating with regorafenib compared to imatinib alone for GIST (AGITG, SSG, EORTC and CTC study)  
Adults with previously untreated metastatic gastro-intestinal stromal tumours  
30 (ANZ) 76 (Int’l)  
21 (ANZ) 78 (Int’l)

**GASTRO-INTESTINAL CANCER (COLLABORATING WITH AGITG)**

**IN START-UP**

RoLaCRT-1: Robotic versus Laparoscopic Colon - a Randomised Trial. An international randomised phase II trial comparing robotic-assisted right hemicolectomy versus laparoscopic-assisted hemicolectomy for resection of adenocarcinoma of the caecum, ascending or proximal transverse colon.

**RECruiters**

ACTICCA-1: Phase III trial of adjuvant gemcitabine and cisplatin chemotherapy compared with standard treatment (AOO-led Germany), AGITG and CTC study)  
Patients with biliary tract cancer after resection  
40 (ANZ) 785 (Int’l)  
29 (ANZ) 617 (Int’l)

ASCOIT: Aspirin for Dukes C and high-risk Dukes B Colorectal Cancers (CRCs) - National Cancer Institute (Singapore-led), AGITG and CTC study)  
Patients with CRC who have completed surgery and other treatment  
460 (ANZ) 1,587 (Int’l)  
453 (ANZ) 1,522 (Int’l)

INTEGRATE II: Phase III trial comparing regorafenib and placebo for oesophagogastric cancer (AGITG and CTC-led international study)  
Patients with refractory advanced oesophagogastric or gastric cancer  
90 (ANZ) 350 (Int’l)  
77 (ANZ) 226 (Int’l)

MASTERPLAN: A randomised Phase II study of MFOSFLFINOX And Stereotactic Radiotherapy (SBRT) for Pancreatic Cancer With High-Risk and Locally Advanced Disease (AGITG and CTC study)  
Adults aged 18-75 years with histologically proven high-risk, borderline resectable pancreatic cancer or locally advanced pancreatic cancer suitable for neoadjuvant or definitive chemotherapy and SBRT. High risk is defined as any patient with tumour >4cm, extrapancreatic extension or node positive disease  
120  
10

**RECRUITING**

MONARC: A randomised Phase II study of panitumumab monotherapy and panitumumab plus 5-fluorouracil as first-line therapy for RAS and BRAF wild-type metastatic CRC (AGITG and CTC study)  
Elderly patients, >70 years, with histologically confirmed RAS and BRAF wild-type metastatic CRC who have not previously received chemotherapy and/or targeted therapy for their metastatic disease who are suitable for panitumumab alone or panitumumab plus 5-FU  
80  
30

NABNEC: Phase II study of nab-paclitaxel and carboplatin as first-line treatment (AGITG and CTC study)  
Patients with advanced gastro-intestinal neuroendocrine carcinomas  
58  
46

**IN FOLLOW-UP**

A La CART: Australian Phase III randomised trial of laparoscopy-assisted resection compared with open resection (AGITG and CTC study)  
Patients with primary rectal cancer  
470  
475

ALT-GIST: Imatinib alternating with regorafenib compared to imatinib alone for GIST (AGITG, SSG, EORTC and CTC study)  
Adults with previously untreated metastatic gastro-intestinal stromal tumours  
30 (ANZ) 76 (Int’l)  
21 (ANZ) 78 (Int’l)

**CONTROL NETS: Phase II open-label trial of lutetium-177 octreotate added to capecitabine and temozolomide for neuroendocrine tumours (AGITG and CTC study)  
Patients with resectable gastric cancer suitable for these treatments  
280 (ANZ) 570 (Int’l)  
238 (ANZ) 554 (Int’l)

**GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER (COLLABORATING WITH ANZGOG)**

**IN DEVELOPMENT**

ADECLE: Adjunct tislelizumab plus chemotherapy after post-operative pelvic chemoradiation in high risk Endometrial Cancer (ADECLE): a randomised phase 2 trial  
People ≤18 years with stage II-IIa endometrial cancer planned for adjunct pelvic chemoradiation followed by adjuvant chemotherapy after primary surgery, who are suitable to receive tislelizumab  
135  
N/A

HYNOVA: A randomised study comparing hyperthermic and Normothermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy following interval cytoreductive surgery for stage III epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal cancer  
Participants ≥18 years; with cytologically confirmed stage III epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or peritoneal cancer undergoing neoadjuvant chemotherapy with at least stable disease undergoing interval CRS with residual disease of <2.5mm  
80  
N/A

PARAGON 2: Phase 2 basket study of an Albomatuzumab inhibitor plus PI3KCA inhibitor or CDK4/6 inhibitor in women with hormone receptor positive recurrent/metastatic Gynaecological Neuroendocrine Neoplasms (PARAGON-II)  
Post-menopausal women with advanced (recurrent and/or metastatic) HR+ gynaecological cancers  
182  
N/A

**RECRUITING**

ASTEND: Phase III double-blind randomised placebo-controlled trial of atezolizumab in combination with paclitaxel and carboplatin in women with advanced/recurrent endometrial cancer (MANEGO-led, ANZGOG and CTC study)  
Newly diagnosed advanced stage III/IV endometrial cancer patients with residual disease after surgery; or recurrent endometrial cancer patients who have not been treated with systemic therapy in the advanced/recurrent setting  
40 (ANZ) 550 (Int’l)  
7 (ANZ)

ECHO: Exercise during chemotherapy for ovarian cancer (ANZGOG and CTC study)  
Women with newly diagnosed ovarian cancer starting treatment  
500  
500

**Participants**

**Target**

**Accrual**
### Clinical Trials CENTRE

**Trial** | **Participants** | **Target** | **Accrual**
---|---|---|---
**RECRUITING**
- ICON9: An international Phase III randomised study to evaluate the efficacy of maintenance therapy with olaparib and cediranib or olaparib alone in patients with relapsed platinum-sensitive ovarian cancer following a response to platinum-based chemotherapy (UCL-led, ANZGOG and CTC study)
  - Women with high-grade serous or endometrioid carcinoma of the ovary, fallopian tube or peritoneum, progressing 26 months after Day 1 of the last cycle of first-line chemotherapy and requiring platinum-based chemotherapy for first relapse
  - Accrual: 110 (ANZ) 618 (Int'l)
  - 66 (ANZ)
- SOLACE2: A Phase II randomised trial comparing immune priming by low-dose oral cyclophosphamide plus olaparib versus priming by olaparib alone, prior to combination therapy with olaparib plus durvalumab, versus single agent olaparib alone, in asymptomatic platinum-sensitive recurrent ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancers with homologous recombination repair defects (ANZGOG and CTC study)
  - Women with platinum-sensitive high-grade serous carcinoma of the ovary, fallopian tube or primary peritoneum, at first asymptomatic CA125 progression
  - Accrual: 114
- STICs and STONEs: A randomised Phase II double-blind placebo-controlled trial of axitinib in the prevention of ovarian cancer in women with BRCA 1/2 mutations (CCTG-led, ANZGOG and CTC study)
  - Women with documented germline BRCA 1/2 mutations, scheduled to undergo risk-reducing surgery within six months to two years after the date of randomisation
  - Accrual: 70 (ANZ) 414 (Int'l)
  - 7 (ANZ)
- TIPS: Testing individual interventions to optimise perioperative care in ovarian cancer surgery (ANZGOG and CTC study)
  - Women undergoing surgery for advanced or, suspected advanced malignancy of the ovary, fallopian tubes or primary peritoneum. Neoadjuvant chemotherapy is allowed
  - Accrual: 60
- OUTBACK: Phase III trial of adduction of adjuvant chemotherapy to standard chemotherapeutic—oral cyclophosphamide plus ifosfamide versus carboplatin and etoposide (TI-CE) as first-line chemotherapy in endometrial cancer progressing after one or more lines of chemotherapy (ANZGOG and CTC-led international study)
  - Women with locally advanced cervical cancer
  - Accrual: 150 (ANZ) 900 (Int'l)
  - 168 (ANZ) 919 (Int'l)
- PHAROS: Durvalumab (MEdi4736) in endometrial cancer progressing after one or more lines of chemotherapy: A Phase II trial in mismatch repair deficient (MMR-d) and mismatch repair competent (MMR-c) cohorts (ANZGOG and CTC study)
  - Adult women with advanced, unresectable endometrial cancer that is either MMR-proficient and progressing after 0–3 lines of chemotherapy, or MMR-deficient and progressing after 0–3 lines of chemotherapy. Key eligibility criteria include known MMR status, one or more target lesions according to RECIST 1.1, ECOG performance status 0–2, adequate organ function, and no consolidation to treatment with durvalumab
  - Accrual: 70
- PORTEC 3: Chemoradiation and adjuvant chemotherapy compared with pelvic radiation alone in high-risk endometrial carcinoma (ANZGOG and CTC-led international study)
  - Women with advanced endometrial carcinoma
  - Accrual: 120 (ANZ) 670 (Int'l)
  - 122 (ANZ) 686 (Int'l)

**IN DEVELOPMENT**
- RAMPART: A Phase II/III trial of adjuvant therapy in patients with resected primary renal cell carcinoma (RCC) at high or intermediate risk of relapse
  - Male subjects greater than 18 years of age with histologically-proven cancer of the prostate with at least one imaging, or histologically-proven metastasis to lymph nodes or bone.
  - Accrual: 200 (ANZ) 1,750 (Int'l)
  - N/A
- ENZA-4: A randomised Phase II trial using PSMA as a therapeutic agent and prognostic indicator in men with metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer treated with enzalutamide
  - Men with metastatic prostate cancer, progressing on androgen deprivation therapy; not previously treated with chemotherapy for castration-resistant disease, at high risk of early failure on enzalutamide
  - Accrual: 160

**UROGENITAL CANCER (COLLABORATING WITH ANZUP)**

**IN DEVELOPMENT**
- DASL-HiCAP: Darolutamide Augments Standard Therapy for Localised Very High-Risk Cancer of the Prostate (ANZUP1801). A randomised phase 3 double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of adding darolutamide to androgen deprivation therapy and definitive or salvage radiation in very high risk, clinically localised prostate cancer.
  - Participants: "Men aged 18 years and older, with pathological diagnosis of adenocarcinoma of the prostate"
  - Accrual: 400 (ANZ) 1100 (Int'l)
  - 94 (ANZ)
- BCG-MMCC: Phase III trial of adding mitomycin C to BCG as adjuvant intravesical therapy for bladder cancer (ANZUP and CTC study)
  - Patients with high-risk, non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer
  - Accrual: 500
  - 311
- P3BEP: Phase III trial of accelerated versus standard BEP (ANZUP, CUM (UK), CCI (IRL), COG/ HCRPNN (USA) and CTC study)
  - Patients with intermediate and poor-risk metastatic germ cell tumours
  - Accrual: 500
  - 147

**RECRUITING**
- KEYPAD: Denosumab and pembrolizumab in clear cell renal carcinoma: A Phase II trial (ANZUP and CTC study)
  - Adults with unresectable or metastatic cRCC progressing after treatment with a VEGF TKI. Key eligibility criteria include target lesion(s) according to RECIST 1.1, good performance status (ECOG PS 0–2), no history of significant autoimmune disease, tumour sample available (archival or recent biopsy), and no previous treatment with immunotherapy
  - Accrual: 70
  - 42
- Tiger: A randomised Phase III trial comparing conventional-dose chemotherapy using paclitaxel, ifosfamide, and cisplatin (TIP) with high-dose chemotherapy using mobilising paclitaxel plus ifosfamide followed by high-dose carboplatin and etoposide (TI-CE) as first-line treatment in relapsed or refractory germ cell tumours
  - Participants: Men, aged ≤14 years on the date of randomisation with histologically or cytologically confirmed germ cell tumour and who relapsed or were refractory to one prior line of cisplatin based chemotherapy for GCT
  - Accrual: 60 (ANZ) 420 (Int'l)
  - 9 (ANZ)

**IN DEVELOPMENT**
- ENZAME: Phase III trial of enzalutamide in androgen-deprivation therapy for metastatic prostate cancer (ANZUP and CTC international study)
  - Men with metastatic prostate cancer
  - Accrual: 1,100 (Int'l)
  - 726 (ANZ) 1,125 (Int'l)
- ENZARAD: Phase III trial of enzalutamide in androgen-deprivation therapy with radiation therapy for high-risk, clinically localised prostate cancer (ANZUP and CTC study)
  - Men with high-risk localised prostate cancer
  - Accrual: 800 (Int'l)
  - 593 (ANZ) 802 (Int'l)
- Therap: Randomised Phase II trial of 177Lu labelled PSMA-DKFZ-617 versus cabazitaxel in men with progressive metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (ANZUP and CTC study)
  - Participants: "Men with castration-resistant prostate cancer suitable for chemotherapy with cabazitaxel (surgical or medical) and, previous chemotherapy with docetaxel. Previous enzalutamide and/or abiraterone is permitted. ECOG performance status 0–2. Silica-PSMA-PET/CT must show high PSMA avidity without discordant disease on FDG PET/CT"
  - Accrual: 200
  - 201

**LUNG CANCER (COLLABORATING WITH ALTG)**

**IN DEVELOPMENT**
- DREAM3R: Durvalumab (MEDi4736) with chemotherapy as first line treatment in advanced pleural Mesothelioma - A Phase 3 Randomised trial
  - Participants: Adults with a histological diagnosis of malignant pleural mesothelioma that is not amenable to curative surgical resection.
  - Accrual: 480
  - N/A
- ASPIRATION: An observational cohort study to assess the clinical impact of comprehensive genomic profiling in metastatic lung cancer patients
  - See the ‘Novel Collaborations’ section (pp XX)
  - Accrual: 1,100
  - N/A
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Accrual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECRUITING</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ILLUMINATE: A Phase II trial of durvalumab (MED4736) and tremelimumab with chemotherapy in metastatic EGFR mutant NSCLC following progression on EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitors (ALTG, CTC and National Taiwan University Hospital study)</td>
<td>Adults with relapsed EGFR-mutated non-squamous NSCLC</td>
<td>50 (ANZ) 100 (Int'l)</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEARL: Palliative care Early in Advanced Lung cancers (ALTG and CTC study)</td>
<td>The target population is adults with advanced NSCLC, SCLC or MPM that has been newly diagnosed within the last 60 days</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IN FOLLOW-UP</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BR.31: Phase III prospective double blind placebo controlled randomised study of adjuvant MED4736 in completely resected non-small cell lung cancer</td>
<td>Patients with resected primary Stage IB (&gt;4 cm), II or IIIA NSCLC</td>
<td>100 (ANZ) 1,360 (Int'l)</td>
<td>114 (ANZ) 1415 (Int'l)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BR.34: A Randomized Trial of Durvalumab and Tremelimumab +/- Platinum Based Chemotherapy in Patients with Metastatic (Stage IV) Squamous or Non-Squamous Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)</td>
<td>Patients with metastatic (Stage IV) Squamous or Non-Squamous Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)</td>
<td>80 (ANZ) 300 (Int'l)</td>
<td>78 (ANZ) 300 (Int'l)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NIVORAD: Nivolumab and stereotactic ablative body radiotherapy (SABR) versus nivolumab alone (ALTG and CTC study)</strong></td>
<td>Patients with advanced NSCLC progressing after chemotherapy</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OSCIllATE: Alternating esimertinib and gefitinib in patients with EGFR T790M positive NSCLC (ALTG and CTC study)</strong></td>
<td>Patients with advanced, EGFR-mutated NSCLC that have acquired resistance to first or second generation EGFR-TKIs and are EGFR T790M mutation positive</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STIMULI: A randomised open-label Phase II trial of consolidation with nivolumab and ipilimumab in limited-stage SCC following chemoradiotherapy (ETOP-led, ALTG and CTC study)</strong></td>
<td>Radically treated limited-stage SCC following completion of thoracic radiotherapy concomitant to chemotherapy and PCI</td>
<td>50 (ANZ) 260 (Int'l)</td>
<td>5 (ANZ) 151 (Int'l)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BRAIN CANCER (COLLABORATING WITH COGNO)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>IN DEVELOPMENT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>CODEL: Phase III Intergroup study of radiotherapy with concomitant and adjuvant temozolomide versus radiotherapy with adjuvant PCV chemotherapy in patients with tp2/3q2 co-deleted anaplastic glioma or low-grade glioma (ALLiANCE-led, EORTC, COGNO and CTC study)</td>
<td>Patients with newly diagnosed co-deleted tp2/3q2 anaplastic glioma or high-risk low-grade glioma</td>
<td>36 (ANZ) 360 (Int'l)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMART-1: IDH mutated 1p/19q intact lower grade glioma following resection: Wait Or Treat?</td>
<td>Histologically WHO grade II (diffuse) or III (anaplastic) astrocytoma, IDHmt without 1p/19q co-deletion (local diagnosis)</td>
<td>45 (ANZ) 624 (Int'l)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PseudoMed-1: Personalised targeted therapy for adolescent and young adult medulloblastoma patients (EORTC, COGNO and CTC study)</td>
<td>Post-pubertal patients with newly diagnosed medulloblastoma</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICCOG: PARP and Immune Checkpoint inhibitor Combination for relapsed IDH-mutant high-grade Glioma</td>
<td>Adults with histologically confirmed diagnosis of grade 3 or 4 glioma</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECRUITING</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAGMA: Multi-Arm Glioblastoma Australasia Trial</td>
<td>Adults, aged 18 years and older, with newly diagnosed histologically confirmed grade IV malignant glioblastoma</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTMEG: A randomised Phase II study of nivolumab and temozolomide vs temozolomide in newly diagnosed elderly GBM patients (COGNO and CTC study)</td>
<td>Newly diagnosed patients with histologically confirmed supratentorial GBM (Grade IV astrocytoma), aged 65 years or older who have not received any treatment for GBM other than surgery</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Target</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IN FOLLOW-UP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACED: Phase II study of cetaximab + nivolumab v cetaximab alone for cerebral oedema (COGNO and CTC study)</td>
<td>Adults with recurrent or progressive high-grade glioma, who require nivolumab or dose increase for cerebral oedema</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAINON: Phase III trial of concurrent and adjuvant temozolomide chemotherapy for anaplastic glioma (EORTC, COGNO and CTC study)</td>
<td>Patients with non-1p/19q-deleted anaplastic glioma</td>
<td>100 (ANZ) 748 (Int'l)</td>
<td>82 (ANZ) 751 (Int'l)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUMOS: Low &amp; Intermediate Grade Glioma Umbrella Study of Molecular Guided Therapies (Pilot study)</td>
<td>Adults, aged 18 years and older, with histologically confirmed grade 2 or 3 glioma at initial diagnosis.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERTU: Veliparib, radiotherapy and temozolomide in unmutated MGMT GBM (COGNO and CTC study)</td>
<td>Patients with newly diagnosed resected GBM with an unmutated MGMT gene promoter</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STIMULI: A randomised open-label Phase II trial of consolidation with nivolumab and ipilimumab in limited-stage SCC following chemoradiotherapy (ETOP-led, ALTG and CTC study)</strong></td>
<td>Radically treated limited-stage SCC following completion of thoracic radiotherapy concomitant to chemotherapy and PCI</td>
<td>50 (ANZ) 260 (Int'l)</td>
<td>5 (ANZ) 151 (Int'l)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MOLECULAR SCREENING AND THERAPEUTICS PROGRAM (MOST) (COLLABORATING WITH AGMC)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Accrual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MOST ASHURATION: multi-centre prospective study of the clinical impact of personalised healthcare on the management and treatment of Australians with newly diagnosed, metastatic nonsquamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)</td>
<td>Patients with metastatic nonsquamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOST 9: Tucatinib plus Trastuzumab: Single-arm, open label, signal seeking, phase IIb trial of the activity of MOST 9/Trastuzumab emtansine (T-DM1) in patients with tumours harbouring HER2 amplifications or mutations</td>
<td>Patients with tumours harbouring HER2 amplifications or mutations</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOST 10: Single-arm, open label, signal seeking, phase II trial of the activity of Palbociclib in combination with Avelumab in patients with tumours with amplified D-type cyclins or CDK4/6 or inactivation of CDKN2A.</td>
<td>Patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOST 11: Single-arm, open label signal seeking, phase II trial to study the clinical activity of Tdakrabim in patients with advanced osteosarcoma and soft tissue sarcomas.</td>
<td>Patients with advanced osteosarcoma and soft tissue sarcomas.</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOST 12: Single-arm, open label, phase II trial of vemurafenib and cobimetinib in patients with advanced tumours harbouring BRAF V600 mutations detected by comprehensive genomic profiling</td>
<td>Patients with tumours harbouring HER2 amplifications or mutations</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOST 13: A single-arm, open-label, phase II trial of entrectinib in patients with advanced tumours harbouring NTRK or ROS1 gene rearrangements detected by comprehensive genomic profiling</td>
<td>Patients with advanced tumours harbouring NTRK or ROS1 gene rearrangements</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOST 14: Alecelinib: A single-arm, open label, phase II trial of alecelinib in patients with advanced tumours harbouring ALK gene alterations detected by comprehensive genomic profiling</td>
<td>Patients with advanced tumours harbouring ALK gene alterations</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOST 15: Durvalumab plus Acalabrutinib - A single arm, open label, signal seeking, phase II trial of the activity of Durvalumab in combination with Acalabrutinib in patients with high-grade B cell lymphoma</td>
<td>Patients with high grade B cell lymphoma</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MoST 16: Olaparib: Single arm, open label, signal-seeking, phase IIa trial of olaparib in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers (CTC-led study) - Patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers with homologous recombination repair defects

MoST 17: Tepotinib: A single arm, open label, signal-seeking, phase IIa trial of tepotinib in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer harbouring MET exon 14 skipping mutations

MoST 18: Durvalumab plus chemotherapy: A single arm, open label, signal-seeking, phase IIa trial of durvalumab and chemotherapy in patients with extra-pulmonary small cell carcinoma

MoST 19: Single arm, open label, signal-seeking, phase IIa study of Sotorasib (AMG-510) in patients with solid tumours harbouring KRAS G12C mutation

MoST CRESTONE: A Phase 2 Study in Adult Patients with Neuroendocrine Tumors - Patients with Neuroendocrine-1 (NRG1) Fusion Positive Locally Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors

MoST 4: Single-arm open-label signal-seeking Phase IIa trial of the activity of vismodegib in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers with PTCH1 or SMO mutations

MoST 5: Single-arm open-label signal-seeking Phase IIa trial of the activity of larotrectinib in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers with NTRK1-3 positive tumours

MoST 6: Single arm, open label, signal seeking, phase IIa trial of the activity of tremelimumab in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers

MoST 7: Single arm, open label, signal seeking, phase IIa trial of the activity of tremelimumab in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers

MoST 8: Single arm, open label, signal seeking, phase IIa trial of the activity of tremelimumab in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers with HER2 amplifications or mutations

Trials in Follow-Up

MoST 2: Single-arm open-label signal-seeking Phase IIa trial of the activity of durvalumab (MOE4796) in combination with tremelimumab in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers (CTC-led study)

MoST 3 Olaparib: Single arm, open label signal-seeking Phase IIa trial of the activity of olaparib in combination with durvalumab in patients with tumours with homologous recombination repair defects (CTC-led study)

Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Accrual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MoST 16 Olaparib: Single arm, open label, signal-seeking, phase IIa trial of olaparib in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers with homologous recombination repair defects (CTC-led study)</td>
<td>Patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoST 17 Tepotinib: A single arm, open label, signal-seeking, phase IIa trial of tepotinib in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer harbouring MET exon 14 skipping mutations</td>
<td>Patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer harbouring MET exon 14 skipping mutations</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoST 18 Durvalumab plus chemotherapy: A single arm, open label, signal-seeking, phase IIa trial of durvalumab and chemotherapy in patients with extra-pulmonary small cell carcinoma</td>
<td>Patients with extra-pulmonary small cell carcinoma</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoST 19: Single arm, open label, signal-seeking, phase IIa study of Sotorasib (AMG-510) in patients with solid tumours harbouring KRAS G12C mutation</td>
<td>Patients with tumours harbouring KRAS G12C mutation</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoST CRESTONE: A Phase 2 Study in Adult Patients with Neuroendocrine Tumors - Patients with Neuroendocrine-1 (NRG1) Fusion Positive Locally Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors</td>
<td>Patients with Neuroendocrine-1 (NRG1) Fusion Positive Locally Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoST 4: Single-arm open-label signal-seeking Phase IIa trial of the activity of vismodegib in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers with PTCH1 or SMO mutations</td>
<td>Patients with tumours with PTCH1 or SMO mutations</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoST 5: Single-arm open-label signal-seeking Phase IIa trial of the activity of larotrectinib in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers with NTRK1-3 positive tumours</td>
<td>Patients with advanced NTRK1-3 positive tumours</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoST 6: Single arm, open label, signal seeking, phase IIa trial of the activity of larotrectinib in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers</td>
<td>Patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoST 7: Single arm, open label, signal seeking, phase IIa trial of the activity of tremelimumab in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers</td>
<td>Patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoST 8: Single arm, open label, signal seeking, phase IIa trial of the activity of tremelimumab in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers with HER2 amplifications or mutations</td>
<td>Patients with tumours harbouring HER2 amplifications or mutations</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Development

MoST 16: Olaparib: Single arm, open label, signal-seeking, phase IIa trial of olaparib in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers with homologous recombination repair defects (CTC-led study)

MoST 17: Tepotinib: A single arm, open label, signal-seeking, phase IIa trial of tepotinib in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer harbouring MET exon 14 skipping mutations

MoST 18: Durvalumab plus chemotherapy: A single arm, open label, signal-seeking, phase IIa trial of durvalumab and chemotherapy in patients with extra-pulmonary small cell carcinoma

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MoST 6: Single arm, open label, signal seeking, phase IIa trial of the activity of larotrectinib in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers

MoST 7: Single arm, open label, signal seeking, phase IIa trial of the activity of tremelimumab in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers

MoST 8: Single arm, open label, signal seeking, phase IIa trial of the activity of tremelimumab in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers with HER2 amplifications or mutations

In Follow-Up

MoST 2: Single-arm open-label signal-seeking Phase IIa trial of the activity of durvalumab (MOE4796) in combination with tremelimumab in patients with advanced rare or neglected cancers (CTC-led study)

MoST 3 Olaparib: Single arm, open label signal-seeking Phase IIa trial of the activity of olaparib in combination with durvalumab in patients with tumours with homologous recombination repair defects (CTC-led study)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
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<th>Target</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NEONATAL AND PERINATAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IN DEVELOPMENT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>iSEARCH: Can intrapartum SildEnafil safely Avert the Risks of Contraction-induced Hypoxia in labour? iSEARCH</td>
<td>Women in spontaneous or induced labour at term</td>
<td>3200</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RECRUITING</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESPRESSO: Can esomeprazole improve outcomes in women at high risk of pre-eclampsia? A Phase II placebo-controlled randomised, multicentre clinical trial (CTC-led study)</td>
<td>Pregnant women at high risk of pre-eclampsia</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEAP1: Lactoferrin evaluation in anaemia in pregnancy (CTC-led study)</td>
<td>Pregnant women with anaemia</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>564</td>
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<tr>
<td>PREAN: Preventing adverse outcomes of neonatal hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy (CTC-led study)</td>
<td>Newborn infants with signs of brain damage</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>299</td>
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<tr>
<td>TORPIDO 30/60: Targeted oxygenation in the respiratory care of premature infants at delivery: effects on developmental outcome (CTC-led study)</td>
<td>Neonates born before 29 weeks gestation</td>
<td>1,470</td>
<td>287</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROTECT: Can pentoxifylline improve long-term outcomes in pre-term infants with late-onset sepsis or necrotising enterocolitis? A pragmatic, randomised, placebo-controlled trial</td>
<td>Infants born less than 29 weeks gestation with suspected sepsis or necrotising enterocolitis</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>587</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TRIALS IN FOLLOW-UP</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APTS: Australian placental transfusion study (CTC-led study)</td>
<td>Neonates born before 30 weeks gestation</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>1,634</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIFT: Lactoferrin infant feeding trial (CTC-led study)</td>
<td>Infants born weighing under 1,500 g</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>1,542</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following CTC staff were recognised in 2020 for their outstanding contribution to the CTC.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR ACADEMIC STAFF

PROF MARTIN STOCKLER
CTC Co-Director of Cancer Trials
Since joining the CTC over two decades ago, Martin has published 240 papers and attracted close to $120M in funding. Key findings include the benefits of chemotherapy, targeted drugs, adjuvant therapy, and the best way to communicate prognoses to cancer patients. Martin is a key contributor to clinical guidelines, enhancing the standard of care in Australia and around the world.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

SESHU ATLURI
CTC Systems Architect Program Manager
Seshu can explain complex problems, produce creative solutions, and rise to the occasion every time. He goes above and beyond to ensure each assigned task is done in a prompt manner and all loose ends are completed. He has been essential to the success of the FOURIER LEGACY study, and this is true for all the studies and CTC systems he supports.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD

SAVITA IYER
Senior Clinical Data Manager
Savita uses her extensive data management experience to support others, she consistently displays a strong work ethic and commitment to her projects. Savita created the RECIST data cleaning training which is now in use in over 20 trials. She also led the technical specifications and testing of the imaging module for the DASL-HiCaP trial, paving the way for future trials.

CHRIS AIKEN AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP

This award was created in recognition of Christine Aiken, who was a much loved and respected long standing member of staff who passed away in 2020.

SANDRA BAHAMAD
Clinical Trial Operations Lead - Oncology
Sandra is a supportive, caring, and respectful manager who empowers her team to trust their knowledge and experience to work at their best output. She shows a strong commitment to her work, and her growing portfolio of trials. Sandra has actively developed more open and collaborative relationships with our stakeholders.

TEAM SPIRIT AWARD

COVID-19 WORKING FROM HOME SWAT (STAFF WELLBEING ACTION TEAM)
Dinh Tran, Asanka Perera, Mark Maclean, Cynthia Carr, Lena Germinarios, Rebecca Blain, Monika Kodrun, Eric Tsobanis, Kate Sawkins, Colin Sutton, Seshu Atluri
The COVID-19 SWAT team transitioned over 240 CTC staff to work from home. They provided ongoing, comprehensive technical support and proactively ensured that workstations were set up correctly for returning staff. The team showed great resilience in performing pandemic-related work whilst under resourced.


CCU EXECUTIVE
John Simes, Director
Margaret Jardine, Incoming Director
Tony Keech, Deputy Director
Burcu Vachan, Director Clinical Trial Operations Development
Danielle Miller, Business Director

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT
Wendy Haqie, Clinical Trials Strategic Development Director

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT
Paulaet Anderson, Executive Assistant
Susan Lohan, Executive Assistant

ONCOLOGY TRIALS PROGRAM MANAGERS
Eric Tobanias, Head, Trial Management and Monitoring
Hannah Jurkovic, Clinical Trials Program Manager
Kate Wilson, Research Development Manager
Lucille Sebastian, Clinical Trials Program Manager (MoST)
Martin Oostendorp, Clinical Trials Program Manager

ONCOLOGY CLINICAL TRIAL OPERATIONS LEADS
Anna Walsh, Clinical Trials Operations Lead (CannabisCIN)
Anthony Jaworski, Clinical Trials Operations Lead (ANZLUP)
Karen Bracken, Clinical Trials Operations Lead (DASL-HCAP)
Kate Ford, Clinical Trials Operations Lead (DREAMJR)
Katrina Diamante, Clinical Trials Operations Lead (ANZGOG)
Lisa Bailey, Clinical Trials Operations Lead (AGITG)
Maryn Walker, Clinical Trials Operations Lead (ALTG)
Merryn Hall, Clinical Trials Operations Lead (COGNO)
Sandah Bamhadi, Clinical Trials Operations Lead (AGITG)
Sarah Chirnich, Clinical Trials Operations Lead (MoST)
Xanthi Coskinas, Clinical Trials Program Manager (ENDZAMET/ENDZAMO)

ONCOLOGY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT LEADS
Izabela Pokorski, Research Development Lead (ANZLUP)
Kate Wilson, Research Development Manager (AGITG)
Kirsten Barton, Research Development Lead (COGNO)
Margot Gomor, Research Development Lead (ANZGOG)
Michelle Cummins, Research Development Lead (ALTO/TOGA)

ONCOLOGY TRIALS STAFF
Alisa Langford, Senior Trials Operations Coordinator
Angael Bhardwaj, Senior Trials Operations Coordinator
Asmay Alkhatheeb, Senior Trials Operations Coordinator
Catherine O’Connor, Trials Operations Coordinator
Clarence Lai, Clinical Trials Assistant
Deepa Mathur, Trials Operations Coordinator
Diana Winter, Senior Trials Operations Coordinator
Emily Tu, Senior Trials Operations Coordinator
Evan Buck, Trials Operations Coordinator
Evonne Tim, Senior Trials Operations Coordinator
Frances Daley, Trials Operations Coordinator
Hannah Cahill, Senior Trials Operations Coordinator
Hayley Thomas, Clinical Trials Assistant
Jason Todd, Senior Trials Operations Coordinator
Jennifer Chong, Trials Operations Coordinator
Joseph Levt, Senior Trials Operations Coordinator
Jovana Mijatovic, Trials Operations Coordinator
Juanita Lopez Gaitan, Clinical Trials Assistant
Kristen McParland, Senior Trials Operations Coordinator
Lauren Fisher, Senior Trials Operations Coordinator
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