

**Quick Update:**

- Membership: 294 members



**COGNO**  
COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP  
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

# Member Newsletter

Issue 14

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## Message from our Chair



Just a brief Chairman's Message this time as I am currently jet-lagged in Mumbai at the 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Society of Neuro-Oncology (ASNO) Annual Meeting.

This newsletter contains the usual array of good news for COGNO: clinical trials proceeding, successful ASM planning, concept reviews being undertaken and increasing membership. Perhaps more importantly is what is happening behind the scenes. First, we are hopeful that the first efficacy results of the CABARET study will be presented at ASCO; an abstract has been submitted. Secondly, COGNO held a very successful Strategic "Workshop" in December last year with many recommendations arising. The final report (in summary form) will shortly be made available to our Members. Finally, it looks as though the ASNO Board (of which I am a member) will award the 2016 meeting to Australia. We are likely to combine it with that year's COGNO ASM. Next year the ASNO meeting will be in Istanbul and the following year in Cebu (Philippines).

I have found the ASNO meetings very worthwhile with a number of "star" international speakers attending. It has also given me the opportunity to meet with regional leaders in neuro-oncology. The meetings have been of high quality and I encourage you to consider attending in the future.

Mark Rosenthal  
Group Chair

### COGNO STRATEGIC PLANNING DAY

COGNO's Scientific Advisory and Management Committees held a strategic planning day on 13 December 2012. The day reviewed COGNO activities and progress to date, as well as considering strategic directions for COGNO in the future. The outcomes of the day will inform the development of a 5-year plan for COGNO. A report will be circulated to members shortly and members will have a chance to provide their input.

### COGNO ASM - SAVE THE DATE!

COGNO's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Sydney on Friday & Saturday, 25 & 26 October 2013, (venue to be confirmed shortly). Confirmed international speakers include Professor Mitchel Berger (Chairman, Department of Neurological Surgery, UCSF) and Professor Jan Buckner (Department of Oncology, Mayo Clinic). Abstract submissions and travel scholarships will be opening shortly - keep an eye out for updates on [www.cogno.org.au](http://www.cogno.org.au) and via email.



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ASM Convenor



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Jan Buckner MD  
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## STUDY & TRIAL UPDATES

### CABARET Study: A randomised phase II study of Carboplatin and Bevacizumab in Recurrent Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM)

The past few months have been an exciting time for the CABARET study with a preliminary analysis of the primary endpoint, progression-free survival being performed. The CABARET team is very much looking forward to presenting the results of the analysis during 2013. Stay tuned for further details about when and where the results will be presented.

In regards to the current status of CABARET patients, the majority of patients are now deceased, with only 9 remaining on treatment (nine on Part 1 treatment and none on Part 2 treatment) and 7 patients in follow-up. Below is a summary of the current status of patients on the trial:

Patient Status		Randomisation Numbers	
On Part 1	9	Randomised to Part 1	122
On Part 2	0	Randomised to Part 2	47
In follow-up	7		
Deceased	105		
Withdrawn consent	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>		

The focus for the study is now on the Central Radiology Review of MRI scans and the translational research sub-study. Site monitoring visits are continuing, and the CABARET team and site staff are continuing with data entry and cleaning in preparation for further statistical analyses during 2013.

As always, a huge thank you to everyone involved in CABARET for making the study run so smoothly. Our success to date is a reflection of your dedication and commitment. For more information or queries, please contact the team on [cabaret@ctc.usyd.edu.au](mailto:cabaret@ctc.usyd.edu.au).

### CATNON (EORTC 26053-22054): Phase III trial on concurrent and adjuvant Temozolomide chemotherapy in non-1p/19q deleted anaplastic glioma.

CATNON Recruitment by Site							
No.	Site name	State	Principal Investigator	Date activated	No. of patients registered	No. of patients deemed ineligible	No. of patients randomised
1	Royal North Shore Hospital	NSW	Helen Wheeler	20-Aug-10	31	15	16
2	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	WA	Anna Nowak	29-Sep-10	15	6	8
3	Royal Hobart Hospital	TAS	Rosie Harrup	8-Sep-10	8	3	5
4	The Alfred	VIC	Sanjeev Gill	31-Aug-11	12	8	4
5	St. Vincents Hospital Melbourne	VIC	Anthony Dowling	22-Mar-11	9	4	4
6	Royal Melbourne Hospital	VIC	Mark Rosenthal	3-Sep-10	7	3	4
7	Austin Health	VIC	Lawrence Cher	21-Jun-10	11	9	2
8	Flinders Medical Centre	SA	Ganessan Kichenadasse	26-Jul-11	6	4	2
9	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	NSW	John Simes	11-Mar-11	1	1	0
10	Princess Alexandra Hospital	QLD	Katharine Cuff	14-Dec-11	3	3	0
				<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>45</b>

Please note that the figures in the table above include one patient who has been registered and had samples sent to EORTC but is pending eligibility (possible randomisation).

Recruitment has been steadily increasing since the last newsletter. The CATNON trial has now registered 103 patients and randomised 45 patients in total from 10 active sites. However, in the last months the ratio of patients registered/randomised has dropped considerably - this is due to various reasons including patients being ineligible, patient refusal and one patient progressing prior to randomisation.

Congratulations to Professor John Simes and his research team at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital - they have now registered their first CATNON patient. To date we have activated 10 sites and work is continuing to activate 3 more sites in the coming weeks/months: Westmead Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

The site coordinators continue to do a fantastic job in submitting the case report forms and queries.

As always, the CATNON Coordinating Centre welcomes all suggestions and queries - we are happy to provide any assistance we can. Please drop us an email at [catnon@ctc.usyd.edu.au](mailto:catnon@ctc.usyd.edu.au).

## STUDY & TRIAL UPDATES

### SEED Study: *Self-reported evaluation of the adverse effects of dexamethasone*

The SEED study recruitment has greatly improved in the past months. Sacred Heart is leading recruitment with 25 registered patients followed by Liverpool with 12 patients and Braeside with 8 patients. Sacred Heart and Liverpool have recruited 5 patients in the past 2-3 months - congratulations to both teams for all their efforts! As you may recall the initial recruitment target for this study was 50 patients, 25 from the advanced cancer/brain metastases group and 25 from the primary brain tumour (PBT) group. SEED has currently recruited 25 patients to the advanced cancer/brain metastases group. Due to slower than expected recruitment of PBT patients the Study Management Committee has recently decided to continue recruitment of advanced cancer/brain metastases patients until the target of 25 primary brain tumour patients is reached. Emphasis continues to be on recruiting more patients with primary brain tumours.

Prince of Wales Hospital (POWH) has been open from November 2012 and they have already recruited 2 patients - well done POWH team! It is hoped that this site will increase primary brain tumour patients recruitment.

SEED Recruitment by Site					
No.	Site name	State	Principal Investigator	Date activated	No. of patients registered
61212	Sacred Heart Hospice	NSW	A/Prof Richard Chye	22-Aug-11	25
61213	Liverpool Hospital	NSW	Dr Eng Siew Koh	23-Sep-11	12
61297	Braeside Hospital	NSW	A/Prof Meera Agar	5-Jul-11	8
61298	Greenwich Hospital	NSW	Dr Melanie Lovell	1-Sep-11	3
61204	Prince of Wales Hospital	NSW	Dr Elizabeth Hovey	13-Nov-12	2
61245	Calvary Mater Newcastle	NSW	Dr Katherine Clark	5-Jul-11	0
TOTAL NUMBER of ACTIVE SITES					6
TOTAL NUMBER of PATIENTS REGISTERED					50 (15 PBT)

The SEED study is in the process of moving to Open Clinica, a database that collects study data using electronic rather than paper-based case report forms. To this end the SEED team is currently entering patient data with sites being responsible for entering any missing data and checking data entered by the SEED team, starting from 15 February 2013. Training documents for the database will be sent to sites in the near future. Site coordinators and PIs will have to complete the training prior to being provided with a log on for the live database.

As always, the SEED Coordinating Centre welcomes all suggestions and queries - we are happy to provide any assistance we can. Please don't hesitate to contact the team at [seed@ctc.usyd.edu.au](mailto:seed@ctc.usyd.edu.au).

### Patterns of Care Study of Adult Medulloblastoma

Recognising the paucity of research in rare brain tumours COGNO has set out to take a closer look at adult medulloblastoma (MB). MB accounts for less than 1% of adult intracranial tumours and while paediatric MB has been investigated in several randomised studies, the evidence in adults is limited to case reports and retrospective series, with no accepted standard of care. The aim was to determine the range and consistency of clinicians' approaches to management as a basis for future clinical trials.

COGNO member Mustafa Khasraw, a medical oncologist at Geelong Hospital, Chris Brown, NHMRC CTC biostatistician, and Rasha Cosman, COGNO Clinical Research Fellow, with input from Kevin DeBraganca from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, designed an international electronic survey which was launched at the 2012 meeting of the Society of Neuro-Oncology. To date, 45 clinicians from Australia (n=24), USA (n=3), Europe (n=4) and other countries (n=14) have completed the survey. Results should be both interesting and informative.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

COGNO has 294 members, including 14 from overseas (New Zealand, Singapore, Canada, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland and USA). Help us expand our Group's expertise and networking capacity. If you know someone who would like to join, you can refer prospective members to our online membership application on our website ([www.cogno.org.au](http://www.cogno.org.au)) or to the COGNO Coordinating Centre on [cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au](mailto:cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au).

Please note there is now an additional benefit to COGNO membership - COGNO members wishing to join the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) are eligible for a 10% discount on COSA membership (<http://www.cosa.org.au/>).



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## NEW CONCEPTS

The COGNO Scientific Advisory Committee met in February and approved one concept for further development: *Neuroprotective Effects of Lithium in Patients with Brain Metastases Treated with Whole brain Radiotherapy (2LiP)*.

DO YOU HAVE A NEW CONCEPT? COGNO is always looking to develop new studies - from inception through to full protocol development and managing feasibility and operational issues. We aim to help progress and support development of important clinical trial questions. If you would like to propose a concept or have an amazing idea for a COGNO clinical trial, please contact us on [cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au](mailto:cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au) or call and chat to Ann Livingstone, Program Manager on 02 9562 5332. The COGNO Scientific Advisory Committee meets quarterly and Ann and the team can assist you to develop and progress your idea or assist you with completion of the Trial Concept Outline form available at [www.cogno.org.au](http://www.cogno.org.au).

## REPORT ON 2012 QUALITY OF LIFE PROTOCOL CHECKLIST WORKSHOP

In May 2012, I attended the Quality of Life Protocol Checklist Workshop run by the PoCoG Quality of Life Office, on behalf of COGNO. The Protocol Checklist Workshop was held at the University of Sydney and funded by Cancer Australia. This was a fantastic opportunity for me to learn more about measuring quality of life within clinical trials and network with other researchers in Australia. My previous work as a Senior Research Fellow at Curtin University has focused on patient and carers experiences of cancer and treatment and their education and support needs.

Prior to the workshop our team was working on developing a protocol to introduce an educational intervention for carers of brain cancer patients. The following topics were included in the two day workshop: rationale for measuring QOL; QOL-related research objectives & endpoints; justification for choice of specific QOL questionnaires; QOL measures and how best to measure quality of life (when, where, how and who); methods for enhancing QOL compliance and statistical considerations. The topics covered were appropriate and helped me to build my knowledge about measuring quality of life. During the workshop we had the opportunity to share our protocols and ideas with both the workshop facilitators and other participants within the group. This process of sharing was very beneficial and assisted in the development of our protocol. We were also given the opportunity to review other protocols and determine both strengths and pitfalls.

I am now able to apply the knowledge I gained from this workshop in the development of new research proposals I develop. I would like to thank both COGNO and the team who provided the workshop for this fantastic opportunity.

*Dr Georgia Halkett, Senior Research Fellow (The Western Australian Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care, Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute)*

## COGNO TEAM UPDATE

Diana Winter has returned to the CTC part-time after taking 1 year off to become a first time mum. Her new role as a mum has been a massive learning curve but an amazing adventure. Prior to maternity leave she was working as an ALTG trial co-ordinator for the NITRO Study and spent time as the PACT trial coordinator as well as other ALTG studies. She has a Bachelor of Medical Science and has returned to work part-time as data manager for the CABARET Study.

Farewell to Daniel Obando after a year of working with COGNO as the trial coordinator for SEED and CATNON. Dan will be sadly missed but the team wishes him well with his new role at a clinical research organisation in Sydney.

## REMINDERS

- 6-10 April 2013, Washington DC, USA: American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), 10th Annual Meeting; <http://www.aacr.org/home/scientists/meetings--workshops/aacr-annual-meeting-2013.aspx>
- 1 May 2013, Sydney: Cancer Institute NSW Brain Tumour Support and Education Forum; <http://www.cancerinstitute.org.au/events/i/brain-tumour-support-and-education-forum-2013>
- 31 May - 4 June 2013, Chicago, USA: American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting; <http://chicago2013.asco.org/>