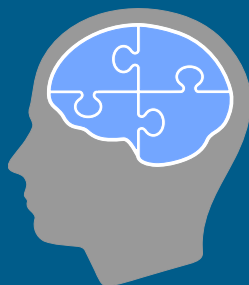


Quick Update:

- Membership: 610 members
- Save the date for 10th COGNO ASM

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COGNO

COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Member Newsletter

Issue 24

Autumn 2017



Message from our Chair

Dear COGNO members,

Welcome to another COGNO newsletter, perhaps the 30th that I have introduced over the last few years. Anything new for me to say? Well, "yes".

A few routine updates and notices to highlight regarding our 10th ASM to be held in Melbourne, open trials, membership and the upcoming Ideas Generation Workshop. Dear to my own heart is the MSD Hubert Stuerzl Memorial Education award that continues to be an opportunity for trainees and young consultants. Applications are open and please note that we have expanded the entry criteria to include the fields of neurology, radiology and pathology for those who have an interest in neuro-oncology.

Finally, there have been some significant changes in the Management Committee with new members Cecelia Gzell and Georgia Halkett elected in September 2016 and Anna Nowak and Jonathon Parkinson co-opted in December 2016. I would like to thank both Matthew Foote and Kate Drummond who served the COGNO membership so dutifully and capably as Management Committee members for many years.

And in 30 words or less, how can I pay tribute and adequately thank and farewell John Simes who was there at COGNO's conception and saw us all the way through to December 2016 when he stepped down from the Management Committee? Here goes:

John's intelligence, insight, wisdom, clear thinking, knowledge, collaboration and camaraderie is the stuff of legend. His classic and frequent "can I just clarify?" ensured that I didn't bugger things up. (30 words)

Mark Rosenthal
Group Chair

10TH COGNO ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Tailoring therapies for brain tumours: challenges and opportunities

Monday 23rd - Tuesday 24th October 2017

Rydges Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Convenor A/Prof Hui Gan and the 2017 ASM organising committee are busily working on the 10th COGNO ASM, with [Prof Patrick Wen](#) confirmed as one of the international guest speakers. Save the date and keep an eye out for further updates on the COGNO website (www.cogno.org.au) or via member webmails.

GETTING TO KNOW COGNO'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Professor Terrance Johns is on the COGNO Management Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee. Terry heads the Oncogenic Signalling Laboratory at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne. He is also Director of the Brain Cancer Discovery Collaborative (BCDC), a national consortium of brain cancer researchers. In the second half of 2017, Terry will be relocating to Perth to head the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre.

How did you become involved in COGNO?

I was invited to the COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting in 2010 to present some of my research on high-grade glioma, and I became a member then.

Why are you still a COGNO member?

In Australia, the brain cancer clinical and research community is relatively small. COGNO has a central role in bringing members of this community together: COGNO helps us to work collaboratively and provides platforms for sharing our expertise and resources. Importantly, COGNO provides the vehicle for driving research into the clinic.

Why did you become a brain cancer researcher?

Brain cancer is a perplexing disease that requires innovative therapeutic approaches. I was attracted to the challenge of understanding this affliction and finding potential cures. When I moved into brain cancer research, nearly 20 years ago, very few people in Australia were working on this disease. Therefore, this was a niche where I could build my career. Most importantly, I wanted to help people by finding new treatments for this tough, lethal disease.

What is a typical workday for you?

Well it does not involve lab work! The closest I get to the lab these days is packing the occasional reagent on dry ice for shipping. I spend a considerable portion of my time seeking funding for my research program and working with the BCDC. Apart from that, I supervise my lab's research program, mentor students and staff, do administrative work such as ethics applications, write up our findings as papers, read new research papers and meet with collaborators. I also travel to conferences and speak at charity events. It's a diverse and interesting job.

How do you stay motivated to continue your role?

High-grade glioma is almost universally lethal, and survival times have barely changed in the past 30 years. I am committed to making a difference to patients with high-grade glioma by identifying new therapeutic options that extend lives. This goal keeps me focused and continues to motivate me, despite the difficulty of finding the funding needed for medical research. Some small successes along the way have also helped me realise that I can contribute to helping these patients.

MSD HUBERT STUERZL MEMORIAL EDUCATIONAL AWARD 2017

Applications are now open for the MSD Hubert Stuerzl Memorial Educational Award 2017.

The purpose of this award is to encourage education and training in the field of Neuro-Oncology and will provide up to \$15,000 for the successful recipient to:

- Attend an international Neuro-Oncology scientific meeting
- Undertake a Neuro-Oncology Preceptorship during 2017-2018.

The Award is open to applications from individuals who are residents in Australia or New Zealand with a clear interest in the field of Neuro-Oncology and includes:

- Advanced Trainees in Medical Oncology, Neurology, Radiation Oncology, Neurosurgery, Pathology or Radiology
- Medical Oncologists, Neurologists, Radiation Oncologists, Neurosurgeons, Pathologists or Radiologists of no more than 5 years standing who are enrolled in full-time post-graduate research (PhD or MD)

Further details regarding the eligibility criteria, application requirements and selection criteria are available on the COGNO website (<http://www.cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=msd-oncology>).

Closing Date for Applications: Friday 2 June 2017. Applications should be sent by email to cogno@cogno.org.au.

STUDY & TRIAL UPDATES

ACED (COGNO14/02): Phase II randomised placebo-controlled, double blind, multisite study of acetazolamide versus placebo for management of cerebral oedema in recurrent and/or progressive HGG requiring treatment with dexamethasone.

The ACED study aims to recruit 84 patients across 12 sites.

The ACED study is now open for recruitment at 4 sites of the 11 selected sites. The trial is currently experiencing slow recruitment but to date, we have randomised 4 patients and sites are actively looking for patients to recruit. The study team is working with the Trial Management Committee to ensure high level of support is provided to the sites.

The study team continues to work diligently with the remaining sites in start-up to ensure they are activated as soon as possible to aid in recruiting more patients into the study.

We are in the process of selecting the final site for the study. If you think your site might be interested in participating, please contact the study team.

Please email aced@ctc.usyd.edu.au if you have any queries.

ACED - PARTICIPATING SITE STATUS						
No	Site name	State	Principal Investigator	Site status	Site activation	# Patients randomised
1	Liverpool Hospital	NSW	Eng-Siew Koh	Active	24/Jun/2016	2
2	Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	QLD	Zarnie Lwin	Active	30/Sep/2016	2
3	St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne	VIC	Anthony Dowling	Active	14/Nov/2016	0
4	Epworth Healthcare	VIC	Ross Jennens	Active	20/Feb/2017	0
5	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	WA	Anna Nowak	Initiation held 20/Feb.	Pending	-
6	Princess Alexandra Hospital	QLD	Katharine Cuff	SSA in progress	Pending	-
7	Prince of Wales Hospital	NSW	Elizabeth Hovey	SSA in progress	Pending	-
8	Flinders Medical Centre	SA	Ganessan Kichenadasse	SSA in progress	Pending	-
9	Chris O'Brien Lifehouse	NSW	John Simes	SSA in progress	Pending	-
10	Royal Hobart Hospital	TAS	Rosemary Harrup	HREC in progress	Pending	-
11	St George Hospital	NSW	Catherine Clark	SSA in progress	Pending	-
Total recruitment						4

VERTU (COGNO 14/01): Veliparib, Radiotherapy and Temozolomide trial in Unmethylated MGMT Glioblastoma. A Randomised Phase II study of veliparib + radiotherapy (RT) with adjuvant temozolomide (TMZ) + veliparib versus standard RT + TMZ followed by TMZ in patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma (GBM) with unmethylated O (6)-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase (MGMT).

The VERTU trial aims to recruit 120 patients across 18 sites. As of 27th February 2017, 142 patients have been registered for screening and 44 were enrolled into the trial. This is slightly behind our target to recruit 60 patients by Q2 2017. To improve recruitment we have recently opened the trial in 2 more centres and are in the process of opening 3 more. The team is optimistic, that once we have all of our sites open and actively recruiting, the recruitment rate will improve.

VERTU made it to the news: Sydney Morning Herald published an article about one of our patients on 19th October 2016. You can find the article here: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/health/new-brain-cancer-trial-gives-hope-to-those-with-the-rarest-and-worst-type-20161018-gs4u4d.html>.

We still have one more spot available to allow a maximum of 18 participating sites. If you think your site would be interested to participate, please contact the team.

The VERTU Trial Coordinator is more than happy to provide any information that you may require on this study. Please email vertu@ctc.usyd.edu.au if you have any queries.

VERTU - PARTICIPATING SITE STATUS							
No	Site name	State	Principal Investigator	Site status	Site activation	# Patients registered	# Patients enrolled
1	Canberra Hospital	ACT	Ganesalingam Pranavan	Active	27-Feb-17	-	-
2	Royal North Shore Hospital	NSW	Helen Wheeler	Active	09-Nov-15	30	6
3	Westmead Hospital	NSW	Najmun Nahar	Not active	TBC	-	-
4	Chris O'Brien Lifehouse	NSW	John Simes	Active	26-Nov-15	11	5
5	Liverpool Hospital	NSW	Eng-Siew Koh	Active	21-Jan-16	15	7
6	St George Hospital	NSW	Tracey Dunlop	Not active	TBC	-	-
7	Gosford Hospital	NSW	Matthew Wong	Active	7-Jun-16	7	5
8	Royal Melbourne Hospital	VIC	Mark Rosenthal	Active	28-Oct-15	3	1
9	University Hospital Geelong	VIC	David Ashley	Active	21-Jan-16	11	4
10	Epworth Healthcare	VIC	Ross Jennens	Active	14-Dec-15	11	2
11	Monash Medical Centre	VIC	Ronnie Freilich	Active	11-Feb-16	5	-
12	Border Medical Oncology	VIC	Christopher Steer	Not active	TBC	-	-
13	Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	QLD	Zarnie Lwin	Active	09-Nov-15	21	9
14	Princess Alexandra Hospital	QLD	Matthew Foote	Active	5-Jul-16	9	2
15	Royal Adelaide Hospital	SA	Nimit Singhal	Active	24-Mar-16	9	1
16	Royal Hobart Hospital	TAS	Rosemary Harrup	Active	02-Dec-15	8	1
17	Launceston General Hospital	TAS	Stan Gauden	Active	12-Dec-16	2	1
Total recruitment						142	44



COGNO
COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Dr Eng-Siew Koh (Deputy Chair)
Dr Liz Hovey (Treasurer/Secretary)
Prof Meera Agar
Ms Marcia Fleet
Dr Cecelia Gzell
A/Prof Georgia Halkett
Prof Terry Johns
Ms Robyn Leonard
Prof Anna Nowak
Dr Jonathon Parkinson

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Dr Eng-Siew Koh (Deputy Chair)
Prof Meera Agar
Ms Liz Barnes
Ms Candace Carter
A/Prof Kate Drummond
A/Prof Matthew Foote
Dr Lindy Jeffree
Prof Terry Johns
Ms Marina Kastelan
Dr Danette Langbecker
Ms Robyn Leonard
A/Prof Kerrie McDonald
Prof Anna Nowak
Prof Mark Rosenthal
Dr Gail Ryan
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CATNON (EORTC 26053-22054): Phase III trial on concurrent and adjuvant Temozolomide chemotherapy in non-1p/19q deleted anaplastic glioma

Recruitment for the CATNON study closed on 17 Sep 2015 with 751 patients randomised internationally (1407 registered), and 82 randomised in Australia (191 registered); this represents approximately 11% of total trial accrual and is a great contribution to the global effort.

All of our patients are now off study treatment. As such, we are in the process of performing interim closure of Pharmacies and the vast majority of these have been completed. Once your Pharmacy has been closed, Study Coordinators will be sent the Pharmacy Folder to be included with study archiving (when the time comes for this). Don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions regarding this process.

As we are now in the follow-up phase, the international sponsor (EORTC) will begin looking at data and outcomes and as such, we encourage you to ensure that any outstanding CRFs are sent and any outstanding queries are brought up to date. As always, we will support you and help in any way possible. The study team can be reached at catnon@ctc.usyd.edu.au.

CRF tip:

As a reminder and for any new Study Coordinators, the EORTC's requests for 'overdue' or 'missing' CRFs in instances where these CRFs have already been provided to the CTC can be confusing.

Just to clarify, if a CRF is provided and it is outside EORTC's theoretical timeline (for that patient for that visit), the EORTC's data program will view this CRF as missing. In these instances, the EORTC have requested that sites provide a blank CRF stating 'not done' (with the theoretical date and adding a note on the form to specify that the visit was not done in allowed interval and give the real date on which the visit was performed.) *This is in addition to* providing a completed CRF with the actual visit date and visit data.

We understand that this puts extra pressure on sites to differentiate between what forms are actually missing entirely from the EORTC and those that are just requiring an additional blank CRF to be provided as the visit was attended outside window. Your efforts are much appreciated. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Importantly, and to minimise queries going forward, please communicate to all team members that will be completing CRF entry for CATNON that the first thing to do before completing any CATNON CRF is to refer to the theoretical schedule. If the visit falls outside the theoretical visit window, provide a blank CRF stating 'not done within visit window' and note the actual date on which the visit was performed. Then, complete a second CRF for the visit using the actual visit date.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

COGNO now has 610 members! 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) or office (cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au).

NEW CONCEPTS/TRIALS IN DEVELOPMENT

DO YOU HAVE A NEW TRIAL CONCEPT? COGNO is always looking to develop new trials - 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 trial, please contact us on cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au or call Candace Carter (COGNO Development Program Manager) on 02 9562 5092. Candace 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 (on the home page under 'Ideas and Concepts').

COGNO will be holding its third Ideas Generation Workshop on Friday 19 May 2017. Further details will be circulated shortly.

The COGNO Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting dates for 2017 are below. Reminders will be sent to COGNO members approximately 6 weeks prior to each meeting so that members have the opportunity to submit concepts for consideration by SAC.

- 27 April (teleconference)
- 27 July (teleconference)
- 23 October (face-to-face open meeting during ASM in Melbourne).

COGNO TEAM UPDATE

We farewell Michelle Parry (COGNO Development Program Manager) who has relocated to QLD, thank you Michelle for all your hard work.



We welcome Candace Carter, who joined the COGNO team as the COGNO Development Program Manager and is also working with ANZGOG. Prior to joining the CTC Candace worked at NSW Health Pathology developing a biobank certification program. She has worked in clinical trials and biobank management, mainly in oncology, for over 15 years both at sites and coordinating centres in Australia and Canada.

REMINDERS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 7 April 2017 - Quality of Life (QOL) webinar
Prof Madeleine King, director of the QOL office, will be presenting a live webinar on Friday 7 April 2017, 3.30pm (AEST) on
 - How to interpret QOL PROs in a clinically meaningful way
 - Current approaches to determining the smallest difference in a PRO that matters.

Follow this link to register for the Webinar: <https://surveys.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=QmpUjRFvcE>.

Or register to attend in person (Seminar Room, Level 6, Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney, NSW): <https://surveys.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=fV24KGfMDa>

- 4-7 May 2017 - 5th Quadrennial Meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology Societies (WFNOS), Zurich, Switzerland <https://www.eano.eu/wfnos-2017-meeting/>
- 2-6 June 2017 - 2017 ASCO Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA <https://am.asco.org/>
- 23-24 Oct 2017 - 10th COGNO ASM, Melbourne, Australia <http://www.cogno.org.au/>
- 16 - 19 Nov 2017 - 2017 SNO Meeting, San Francisco, USA <http://www.soc-neuro-onc.org/2017-sno-meeting/>



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