

## Quick Update:

- Membership opened January 2008: currently 152 members
- COSA/COGNO ASM 2009 - Gold Coast 17-20 Nov
- COGNO Website went live in October
- CATNON study about to open

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# COGNO

COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP  
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

## Member Newsletter

Issue 5

Spring 2009



### Message from our Chair

Welcome to the Spring edition of the COGNO newsletter. I'm delighted to say that COGNO is thriving. We continue to accrue members and, more importantly, all disciplines are represented. Our clinical trial portfolio is increasing slowly but surely and there are some exciting trials on the horizon. The EORTC CATNON study (asking whether the "Stupp" protocol works in Grade 3 tumours) is about to open at Australian sites.

This is a significant achievement for our group resulting from an enormous amount of work by our Operations group. It is a critical step in establishing our credentials with International Cooperative groups. We also have a number of trials in development ranging from early phase studies in recurrent disease to a study looking at the problems of steroid use in our patients. We are also working to finalise our structure and governance policies with updated "Articles of Association".

The COGNO ASM is just around the corner and I hope that many of you can attend.

Mark Rosenthal

### COSA/COGNO ASM Highlights

#### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November:

- Workshop on patients with challenging behavioural and cognitive impairments
- Session on the risk of mobile phones as it relates to brain tumours

#### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November:

- Session on cerebral metastases- controversies with surgery and radiation (e.g. stereotactic versus whole brain)
- Plenary session on "cancer and the brain" e.g. effects of cancer treatments on the brain and treating patients with neurological disorders
- Breakfast session on "common uncommon brain tumours" (medulloblastomas/ependymomas/chordomas)
- Afternoon session on spinal cord metastases and cord compression; including surgical, radiation and rehabilitation aspects
- COSA ASM Conference Dinner

#### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November:

- Breakfast session: Meet the Professor with Roger Stupp on personalised treatment for patients with brain tumours
- Plenary session: Update on management of high grade gliomas. This session includes the launch of the Australian Glioma Guidelines
- Presentation of local neuro-oncology abstracts including basic science and psycho-oncology
- Symposium on surgical and imaging advances in the management of glioma (e.g. intra-operative imaging)
- COGNO members dinner at a Gold Coast restaurant (Yellow Fin Restaurant)

#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November: 2nd COGNO ASM

- Updates on global and local COGNO protocols, and protocols under development
- Opportunity to discuss new ideas for protocols
- Session on "Challenges with endpoints in clinical trial design" (e.g. issues with imaging such as pseudo-response and pseudo-progression)
- Translating benchwork to bedside - how to integrate with our basic science colleagues
- AGM and COGNO Scientific Advisory Committee meeting (meeting open to COGNO members in addition to SAC members).



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Member Newsletter

# COGNO Website Goes Live!

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



COGNO is proud to announce the launch of the COGNO website. This portal will keep you updated with upcoming events and access to resources. Some of the features include on-line membership process and a members only access area, donation forms, newsletters, documents and of course news of the COGNO ASM!

We encourage you to log onto the website and update your contact details so we can keep you informed of all our COGNO news.

Areas that will be further developed include information about new trials, patients and families and trial specific documents.

So check out the website, let us know what you think and tell us how we can improve it. Email us at [cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au](mailto:cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au) or give us a call on 02 9562 5000. We look forward to hearing from you.

## CATNON study update

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

Following Central Ethics Approval of the current EORTC protocol version 2.2 and the Group Specific Appendix version 1.0, site ethics application packages to assist each CATNON participating sites have now been sent. Activities to get each site up and running are well underway with the first few sites expected to gain approval before the end of November. The members of the Trial Management Committee which consist of Associate Professor Anna Nowak (Australian CATNON Study Chair) and clinicians of various disciplines from each state has been finalised with the first meeting to be held prior to activation of the first site. This committee with support from the CATNON coordinating centre will provide oversight for the Australian conduct, monitoring, recruitment, local logistical and operational issues of the study.

The NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre is in regular communication with the EORTC, the lead international collaborative group and Schering Plough, the drug suppliers of the study. An extremely exciting and busy time for the trial!

## COGNO ASM 2010

In 2010, COGNO will be holding our ASM in conjunction with the Neurosurgical society Of Australia (NSA) in Coolool on the Sunshine Coast.

The combined NSA/COGNO meeting will be held from 30th Sept-3rd Oct inclusive. Please save the date and add it to your 2010 calendars now!

If anyone is interested in being the 2010 Convenor or on the organising committee for 2010 ASM, please contact COGNO secretary Liz Hovey on [Elizabeth.Hovey@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Hovey@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au)

The COGNO team looks forward to meeting you all at our 2009 ASM and working with you all in future.

SAVE THE DATE  
COGNO ASM 2010



30th Sept-3rd Oct 2010