

Quick Update:

- Membership opened January 2008: currently 170 members
- 2009 ASM a great success!
- COGNO/NSA ASM 2010: Coolum 30 Sept—3 Oct

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COGNO

COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Member Newsletter

Issue 6

Summer 2010

Message from our Chair



Welcome to the COGNO newsletter "summer edition". On reflection, 2009 was a year of continued success for COGNO. Our multidisciplinary membership has expanded to 170 members. The membership encompasses all elements of the neuro-oncology community ranging from neuro-surgeons to consumers, pathologists to palliative care physicians. Our Scientific Advisory Committee met 3 times through the year and the meetings were stimulating, thought-provoking and productive. Our Annual Scientific meeting was held on the Gold Coast in association with COSA and, I believe, was a triumph. Sincere thanks to Liz Hovey who convened the program. Three International speakers and a multitude of National experts discussed many elements of neuro-oncology and in particular, Clinical trial issues. A highlight was critical appraisals of study proposals by the International guests. Our trial portfolio is expanding with the CATNON study soon to commence and a number of other proposals maturing to the point of imminent HREC submission. From a personal point of view, it has been an eye opening experience to see what COGNO can do for me as an individual Investigator. Protocol development of the fast approaching "AMP" study in recurrent GBM has been driven by COGNO and I have great confidence that the protocol, the conduct of the study as well as data collection, monitoring and reporting will be dramatically improved because COGNO has been involved from the start.

Finally, I would to thank our Operational Executive of John Simes, Liz Hovey and Ann Ratcliffe who meet on a fortnightly basis to keep COGNO ticking over.

2009 ASM HIGHLIGHTS

The COGNO 2009 ASM in November was a great success! We have received excellent feedback, particularly regarding the calibre of the international panel. Renato La Rocca, Normand Laperriere and Roger Stupp provided excellent input regarding the development of new concepts by COGNO members – Thank you for your contribution.

Approximately 30% of COGNO members attended the event on the Gold Coast. There were 61 attendees at the ASM; an increase from 42 in 2008. To those 57 guests who attended the COGNO dinner at Yellowfin Restaurant, we hope you enjoyed your time with us...

We look forward to seeing all of our members again this year on 30th Sept-3rd Oct 2010, at the combined Neurological Society of Australia (NSA) Conference and COGNO ASM (please see page 2 for more details).





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CATNON UPDATE

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

Local ethics submission and research governance submissions are ongoing. It is expected that most sites will be making their submissions in February 2010. Congratulations to the Royal Hobart Hospital (TAS) team for being the first non-NSW site to gain local ethics approval! We would also like to welcome aboard the teams from Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (VIC) and Alfred Health (VIC) who expressed interest in joining the trial late last year. Parallel to the ethics submission, work is also underway with finalising each of the site agreements and other essential documents to ensure that all regulatory requirements are met by each site. The European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) have issued notices to each site in December 2009 regarding the requirements for the Quality Assurance Radiotherapy (QART) authorisation. Sites will need to address these requirements prior to authorisation for the study. We anticipate to schedule the first initiation in February 2010 with activation to recruitment to follow closely. Many thanks to all the CATNON sites for their hard work during this busy time!

COGNO ASM 2010

This year, COGNO will be holding our Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in conjunction with the Neurosurgical society Of Australia (NSA) in Coolum on the Sunshine Coast.

The combined NSA/COGNO meeting will be held from 30th Sept-3rd Oct inclusive. The COGNO portion of the event will be held on Sat 2nd and Sun 3rd October. Please save the date and add it to your 2010 calendars now!

The ASM Organising Committee has begun drafting the program, with details available later in the year.

We look forward to seeing you all there!



COGNO TEAM UPDATE

A warm welcome to Michelle Cummins who will be working with COGNO on the AMP recurrent GBM study as Project Manager, Trial Coordinator and Monitor during phase I of the study.

CONCEPTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Randomised phase II study for management of cerebral oedema in recurrent or progressive Glioblastoma

A randomised phase II study in recurrent high grade glioma

DO YOU HAVE A NEW CONCEPT? In addition to the above concepts, 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. So if you would like to propose a concept for a COGNO clinical trial, please contact the team at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre via email cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au