

# COGNO Management Committee Elections 2025

Summary of 6 Nominees (ordered alphabetically)

**COGNO**

Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology  
ABN 60 661 379 200

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## Dr Malaka Ameratunga

Medical Oncologist, VIC

*MBBS, FRACP, PhD*



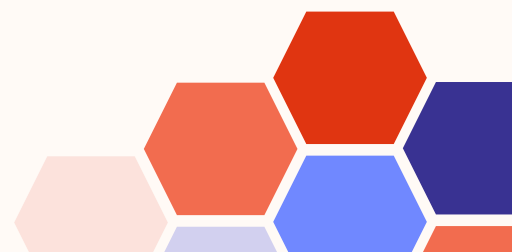
### New nomination

Proposer: Dr Lucy Gately

Seconder: Prof Lindy Jeffree

Dr Malaka Ameratunga is a medical oncologist and early career researcher, currently serving as Head of Molecular and Rare Cancers at The Alfred Hospital. Dr Ameratunga completed fellowship training in neuro-oncology and Phase 1 trials at Austin Health, followed by a drug development fellowship at the Royal Marsden Hospital and Institute of Cancer Research in London, where he served as senior fellow and developed expertise in innovative early-phase clinical trial design and precision molecular oncology. He subsequently completed his PhD at Monash University, where he focused his research on melanoma evolution, developing laboratory skills to enable complement his clinical research skills.

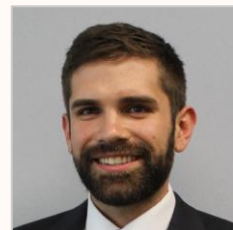
Dr Ameratunga's clinical and translational research has focused upon improving outcomes in rare and poor prognosis cancers. His contributions include leading a Cochrane meta-analysis on anti-angiogenic therapy in glioblastoma, which serves as the key reference for clinical practice guidelines (EviQ) for second-line glioblastoma treatment with bevacizumab. He is principal investigator on >10 early phase clinical trials and is the chief investigator of two investigator initiated early phase clinical trials. In addition to his clinical and research activities, Dr Ameratunga serves as Deputy Chair of the Victorian Rare Cancers' Clinical Trials Alliance (VRCCTA), which facilitates the development of rare cancer-specific trials within Victoria. Dr Ameratunga has secured >\$500K in competitive funding as chief investigator.



## Dr Nicholas Bucknell

Radiation Oncologist, WA

*PhD, MBBS (hons), FRANZCR*



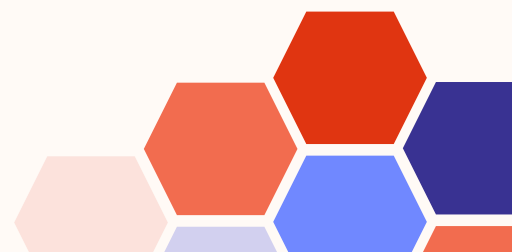
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### New nomination

Proposer: Dr Michelle Li

Seconder: A/Prof Eng-Siew Koh

Dr Nick Bucknell is a Radiation Oncologist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Western Australia and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Western Australia. Prior to completing his consultant training he completed a PhD investigating new ways to design radiation treatment plans with an aim to reduce treatment related toxicity. He is passionate in improving outcomes for patients with brain tumours through clinical research evidenced through his involvement as a central reviewer in the FIG trial and as a local principal investigator in the FIGURINES study. He was also recently involved in the COGNO consensus workshop on patient reported outcomes.



## Dr Saskia Freytag

Translational Scientist, VIC

*PhD, MSc(i)*



### New nomination

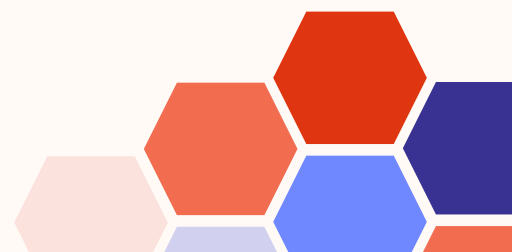
Proposer: Dr Sarah Best

Seconder: Dr Rob Tobler

Dr Saskia Freytag is a laboratory head in the Personalised Oncology Division at Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research. Together with Dr Sarah Best and Dr Jim Whittle, Saskia co-leads the Brain Cancer Research Laboratory within the Brain Cancer Centre, where she leads the Bioinformatics arm. Her group uses cutting-edge single cell and spatial omics technologies to improve surgical methods, understand resistance mechanisms, and identify novel treatment strategies.

Saskia has a PhD in Statistical Genetics from Georg-August University in Göttingen (Germany), followed by postdoctoral positions at WEHI and the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research in Perth. Saskia has been supported by funding from Carrie's Beanies for Brain Cancer (CB4BC), Cancer Australia, Cancer Council Victoria, the MRFF and the NHMRC.

In addition to her research career, Dr Freytag is deeply committed to fostering community and promoting inclusivity in science. She has chaired the Code of Conduct Committee of the international Bioconductor Project (Community Award 2024) and served as the ambassador for the Australian Mathematical Science Institute's CHOOSEMATHS program from 2016 to 2018.



## Prof Hui Gan

Medical Oncologist, VIC

MBBS FRACP PhD



### New nomination

Proposer: A/Prof Hao-Wen Sim

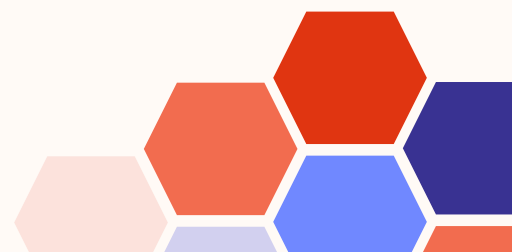
Seconders: A/Prof Eng-Siew Koh

Prof Hui Gan (MBBS, FRACP, PhD) is a medical oncologist at Austin Health (Melbourne, Australia) where he specializes in primary brain tumours and Phase 1 clinical trials. Since 2009, he has led over 50 clinical trials and is the Brain Cancer Tumour Stream Lead at Austin Health. He is the Medical Director of the Clinical Trials Unit at Austin Health.

He has a major focus on finding better treatments for patients with brain cancer and other rare cancers. He is Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO), and the Research and Education Lead for Brain Cancer at the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre. Professor Gan is also a clinician-scientist at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute (ONJCRI) where he is Clinical Lab Head (of the Cancer Therapies and Biology Group) as well as being the Co-Director of the ONJCRI Centre for Research Excellence for Brain Cancer. His group is primarily focused on developing better therapies for rare cancers such as brain tumours. He is an Adjunct Professor at Latrobe University.

He has led multiple investigator-initiated trials in brain cancer and is currently leading the LUMOS-2 study, an international national precision oncology study for patients with relapsed IDH mutant gliomas, as well as the PRECISE pilot study of selective internal radiotherapy for recurrent glioblastoma. He has previously led trials testing EGFR ADCs such as depatuxizumab mafadotin and the EphA3 targeting drugs ifabotuzumab.

He has had continuous grant success since 2015 and over 170 peer reviewed journals including in Nature, Journal of Clinical Oncology and Neuro-Oncology, the leading global journals in science, clinical oncology and neuro-oncology respectively.



## **Prof Rosemary Harrup**

Medical Oncologist, TAS

FRACP FRCPA



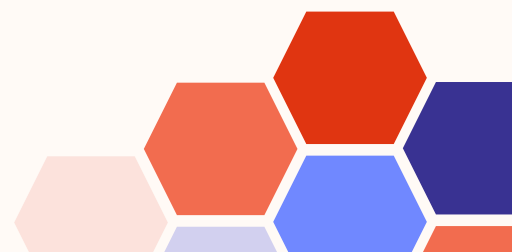
### **Renomination**

Proposer: A/Prof Eng-Siew Koh

Seconder: Prof Georgina Halkett

Clinical Prof Harrup FRACP FRCPA completed dual fellowships in Medical Oncology and Clinical and Laboratory Haematology in 2000. She has been a full-time clinician at RHH for 25 years and is the Director of Cancer and Blood Services. She has a longstanding interest in clinical research, particularly in the areas of Neuro-Oncology, Malignant Haematology and Late Effects. She joined COGNO in 2007, becoming a member of the Management Committee in 2018 and was elected Deputy Chair in 2020.

She is the inaugural Chair of COGNO Ltd following listing of the corporate entity in August 2022 and navigated the ACNC registration and attainment of DGR status. She is an experienced investigator across Phase I, II and III clinical trials. Prof Harrup has been a member of the Trial Management Committee for several Australian collaborative trials group multicentre clinical trials, including trials run by COGNO, ANZUP, and AGITG, and was Chair of the ALLG APML5 Trial Management Committee. She was a member of the Australian Brain Cancer Mission Strategic Advisory Group 2021-2024 and the Expert Advisory Panel 2024-25. She has more than 10 years' experience as a Board Director of several NFPs and is passionate about fostering early career researchers and the next phase of development at COGNO over the next three years.



## **A/Prof Adrian Lee**

Medical Oncologist, NSW

*BSc (Med) MBBS FRACP PhD*



### Renomination

Proposer: Dr Alexander Yuile

Seconder: Ms Marina Kastelan

Clinical A/Prof Lee is a Medical Oncologist and Network Director of Physician Training at Royal North Shore Hospital and Genesis Care. He has clinical and research interests in neuro-oncology, head and neck and genitourinary cancers. He is currently Secretary of COGNO Management Committee and has been previous Executive Member of the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA), and past-Chair of the State Committee in the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP).

A/Prof Lee is part of a global team with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, New York in furthering research in liquid biopsies of solid tumours. His other research interests are in malignant brain tumours and clotting which are conducted through the Bill Walsh Translational Cancer Research Laboratory at the Kolling Institute, University of Sydney. He was previously a recipient of a Rebecca Cooper Foundation Scholarship and has also received research funding from Sydney Vital Translational Cancer Research and The Brain Cancer Group. A/Prof Lee continues to be an active member in Neuro-oncology as a clinician-scientist, with multiple research translational research projects and as a advocate who has led patient information seminars to enhance the awareness of brain cancer research.

