



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

Department of Gynaecological Oncology



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Report from the Director	4
Overview of Our Service and Team	5
Summary of Department Activity for 2016	7
Out-patient occasions of service	
In-patient admissions	
Surgery / procedure breakdown	
Multidisciplinary team (MDT) case reviews	
Bio-banking	
Summary of Activity Trends (2001 – 2016)	9
Out-patient occasions of service	
Admissions and bed days	
Average length of stay (ALOS)	
Case-mix Treated by the Department	10
Diagnosis of malignancy by site of disease	
Cervical malignancies	
Uterine malignancies	
Ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal malignancies	
Non-cancer diagnosis	
Morbidity / Mortality Review	12
Socio-demographic Characteristics of Patients	14
Country of birth	
Age distribution	
Body mass index	
Referral base	
Clinical Trials and Studies	16
Grants Held	20
New Grants Awarded in 2016	
Previous Grants still held in 2016	
Multidisciplinary Team Profile	23
Gynaecological Oncologists	
Translational Research	
Nursing and Allied Health	
Publications	27
Conferences	29
Invited Speaker / Panelist	
Oral / Poster Abstracts	
Organising / Chairing Sessions	
Consumer and Community Engagements	32
Gynaecological Cancer Support Group	
Mindfulness Programs	
Media and Consumer Forums	
Fundraising for Research	
Consumer and Community Representation on Research Committees	

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR



It is my pleasure to present the 2016 Annual Report for the Department of Gynaecological Oncology which showcases the activities and achievements of the Department. It has been a challenging year for the Department, with a number of staff changes. Despite that, we managed to maintain, and even improve on, our standards, as you will see from this report.

Early in 2016, Russell Hogg resigned to accept a position elsewhere and in mid-2016, Gerry Wain retired, after over 22 years of service to the Department at Westmead, 15 of those as Director. Gerry was a timeless advocate of evidence-based care and strove to ensure that the Department met ALL the needs of the patient, not just surgical. His insistence that the Department have appropriate psycho-social support and data management support, right from the beginning, was visionary. It meant that our patients, who so often have multiple psycho-social needs, could have those addressed at the time of their cancer diagnosis. Not infrequently, a diagnosis of cancer has been the opportunity to improve many aspects of our patients' lives. Additionally, without appropriate data management, we would not have been able to assess outcomes, monitor complications or even produce a report such as this which showcases our achievements. We are all grateful for his legacy.

In 2016 we welcomed a new staff specialist, Dr Robyn Sayer, who initially worked as a locum and was appointed to a permanent position in October. (In turn, Robyn welcomed a new addition to her family, Zoe, born on 26 December 2016.) As a result of these changes, we had the equivalent of 2.1 FTE staff specialists for the year. This has meant a reduction in the overall number of patients we have been able to see, but an increase in the overall workload of each staff specialist.

During 2016, we had 2,628 out-patient occasions of service, 472 of which were new patient visits. A total of 407 patients were admitted to the service, 373 of whom had a surgical procedure. The average length of stay for these patients, 39% of whom had a midline laparotomy, was 2.9 days. This is down from 3.3 days in 2015 and is largely due to an increase in the number of hysterectomies performed laparoscopically for early stage endometrial cancers.

In 2016, we had 19 clinical trials or research studies open for recruitment (an increase from 13 in 2015) and recruited a staggering 173 patients to these trials and studies. This is a huge increase from 41 in 2015. A further 80 patients remained in the follow-up phase for trials and studies that had closed to recruitment prior to 2016.

In addition to measures of our clinical and research output, we have included surgical morbidity, length of stay and readmission data. We have also reported on key surgical and oncological performance indicators such as rate of optimal debulking surgery, percentage of day only laparoscopic adnexal surgery cases, and conversion rates for laparoscopic cases.

I would like to thank Ms Annie Stenlake for her stellar efforts in assembling this report, and members of the entire team for their outstanding contribution to the department in 2016.

A/Prof Alison Brand MD MMed FRCS(C) FRANZCOG CGO
Gynaecological Oncologist
Westmead Hospital

OVERVIEW OF OUR SERVICE AND TEAM

The Department of Gynaecological Oncology is a centralised specialist service, one of 6 designated gynaecological cancer services in the state. It is staffed by a multidisciplinary team of surgeons, nurses, allied health professionals and researchers providing specialist care in the treatment of gynaecological cancers, pre-malignant conditions, suspicious pelvic masses, as well as planned and emergency management of benign gynaecological and obstetrical conditions where more complex surgery is required.

Patients have access to the combined radiation / medical oncology service for complex chemotherapy regimens and radiation therapy and / or brachytherapy.

The Department comprises the following cancer specialists and allied health professionals:

Gynaecological Oncologists:

A/Prof Alison Brand (Director)
Dr Gerard Wain (until Aug 2016)
A/Prof Russell Hogg (until Feb 2016)
Dr Robyn Sayer

Clinical Nurse Consultant:

Tish Lancaster

Allied Health:

Kim Hobbs – Clinical Specialist Social Worker
Suparna Karpe - Clinical Psychologist

Women's Health Ward:

Barbara Shaw – Nursing Unit Manager
Evangline Madriaga, Rachel Matulin, Wendy Jessop, Zahra Anoneuvo, Quintina Reyes –
Clinical Nurse Specialists

Data Manager:

Annie Stenlake RN, Emerg Nurs Cert, BHSM (Info)

Clinical Trial Co-ordinators:

Yuan Guo BMed (China)
Ashika Kumar MBBS (Fiji) MPH
Annie Stenlake (P/T)

Administrative Support:

Kathleen Burrows
Christine Grech (temp 0.6 FTE from Jul 2016)

Translational Research and Biobanking:

Prof Anna deFazio PhD (Head)
Dr Bo Gao MBBS MSc
Catherine Kennedy BSc (Hons)
Yoke-Eng Chiew BSc (Hons)
Ying Lei PhD
Dashni Srirangan MSc
Catherine Emmanuel PhD (P/T)
Jessica Boros BSc (Hons) (from Feb 2016)

Pamela Provan BAppSci (Hons) MBA
David Goldsbury MPH (from Sep 2016)
Maiken Lise Marcker Espersen PhD (from Oct 2016)
Svetlana Pianova MSc (from Sep 2016)
Nikilyn Nevins MSc (from Dec 2016)
Casina Kan PhD (from Dec 2016)
Jillian Hung (until Jan 2016)
Jo White (until Jan 2016)

The multidisciplinary team maintains a close working relationship with the Departments of Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology, Tissue Pathology and Diagnostic Oncology, Supportive and Palliative Medicine, Cancer Genetics and Psycho-oncology. These team members are:

Medical Oncology:

Prof Paul Harnett
Dr Bo Gao
Dr Kristina Lindemann (International Medical Graduate – to Jul 2016)

Radiation Oncology:

Dr Viet Do
Dr Jennifer Chard

Tissue Pathology and Diagnostic Oncology:

A/Prof Raghwa Sharma
Dr King Tan
Dr Anita Achan
Dr Spinder Samra
Dr Jennifer Kim

Supportive and Palliative Medicine:

Dr Phillip Lee

Cancer Genetics:

A/Prof Judy Kirk
Dr Kathy Wu (until Sep 2016)

Psycho-oncology:

Dr Cathy Mason

SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY FOR 2016

Out-patient Occasions of Service

The unit provided an average of 9 clinic sessions per fortnight (combined clinics for new and follow-up patient visits). This is fewer than for 2015 owing to one staff specialist resigning in February, and another taking long-service leave before retiring in August and only having locum coverage for 0.6FTE during most of this time.

No. New Patient Visits	No. Follow-up Visits	Total No. Clinic Visits
472	2,156	2,628

In-patient Admissions

The unit has two full operating days available each week. All patients, where possible, are admitted to the Women's Health Ward post-operatively, unless planned for admission to a High Dependency or Intensive Care Unit.

No. Surgical Admissions (non-malignant)	No. Surgical Admissions (malignant)	No. Medical Admissions	Total No. Admissions	Average Length of Stay (ALOS)
164 (40%)	208 (51%)	35 (9%)	407	2.9 days

Of the 164 surgical admissions for non-malignant conditions, 82 (50%) had benign pathology, 51 (31%) were for treatment of precursor conditions, 18 (11%) had borderline tumours and 13 (8%) were for risk-reduction surgery.

Of the 35 medical admissions, 17 (49%) were for post-operative complications (NB: some patients had more than one admission for a wound problem, and some were admitted to the public hospital after having had surgery at a private hospital), 11 (31%) were acute admissions for symptom management or palliation, and 7 (20%) were as a result of a planned procedure being cancelled on the day of surgery (4 out of operating theatre time, 1 febrile on admission, 1 psychologically unable to proceed with risk-reduction surgery).

Two patients had a LOS > 21 days (38 and 40 days respectively). When removing these 2 outliers, the ALOS dropped to 2.7 days.

Surgery / Procedure Breakdown

Laparoscopic procedures, other than for diagnostic purposes, have been included in the 'major surgery' category. This is the same as 2015.

No. Minor Procedures	No. Major Procedures	Total Number Procedures
121 (32%)	252 (68%)	373

Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Case Reviews

No. Diagnostic Reviews (eg. curette / biopsy)	No. Reviews for Definitive Management Plan	No. PET Scan or General Discussion Reviews (no path)	No. Cases Written Up *	No. Cases Discussed *
278	366	46	690	650

Note: H+E slides may have been requested from an outside laboratory (221 in total) but did not arrive in time for a meeting, or a case may not have been completed by pathologists in time for a meeting, thus the difference between numbers of cases written up and discussed (marked *)

Bio-banking

The Gynaecological Oncology Bio-bank at Westmead (GynBiobank) began in the 1990s and provides services for the procurement, storage and distribution of bio-specimens for research.

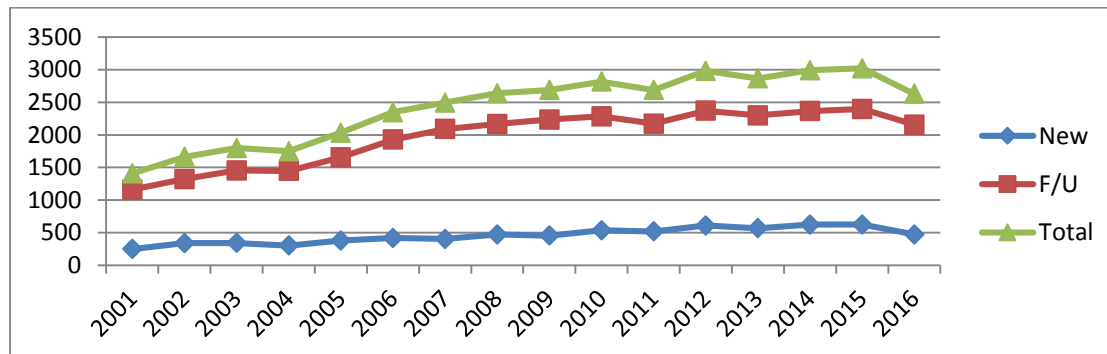
Tumour, normal tissue and blood are collected from consented patients undergoing surgery where cancer is a possible or confirmed diagnosis. The GynBiobank has samples banked from over 1,200 patients and includes formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissue, fresh frozen tissue, blood products and tissue microarrays.

In 2016 there were samples collected from 56 consented patients, the majority of these being from patients with an ovarian cancer diagnosis.

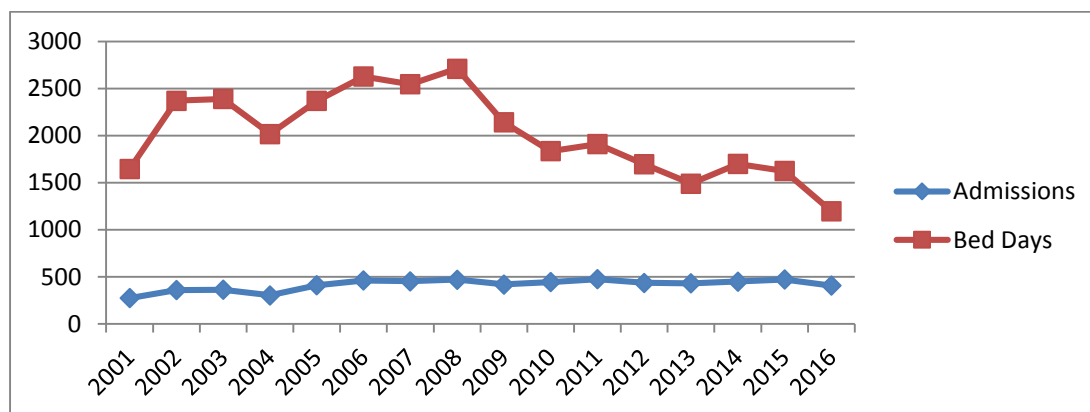
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY TRENDS (2001- 2016)

Out-patient Occasions of Service

The number of new patients seen in 2016 decreased only slightly, whilst the number of patients seen in follow-up decreased significantly due to an increase in shared-care with either other specialists or GPs, and discharging patients with benign or pre-invasive disease back to their referring doctor.

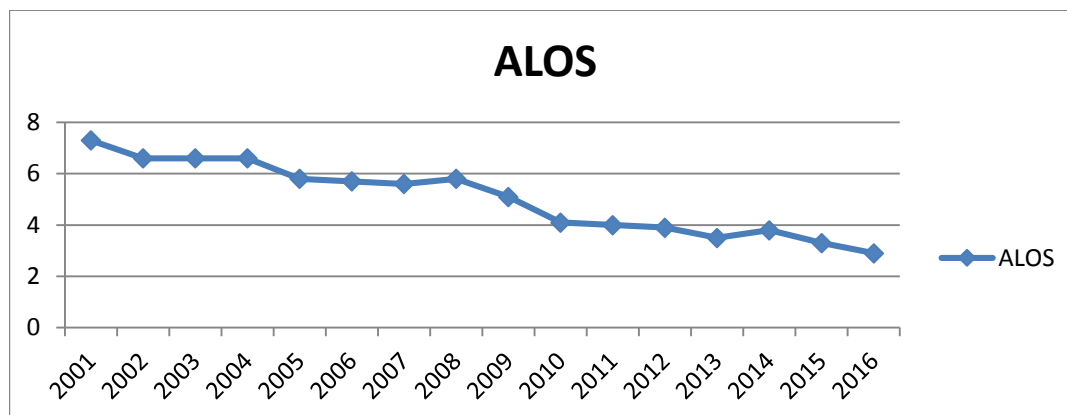


Admissions and Bed Days



Average Length of Stay (ALOS)

There has been a significant decrease in ALOS (days) since the introduction of fast-track surgery in 2008. This has been decreased further in 2016 with an increase in the number of laparoscopic procedures performed.



CASEMIX TREATED BY THE DEPARTMENT

Diagnosis of Malignancy by Site of Disease

Patients with a diagnosis of malignancy, excluding low-malignant-potential (LMP) tumours accounted for 53% of cases treated. When including LMP tumours, it was 57%.

Primary Site of Malignancy	No. Cases (%) 2016	No. Cases (%) 2015
Cervix	42 (16)	50 (16)
Uterus	124 (49)	141 (45)
Ovary / Fallopian Tube / Peritoneum	58 (23)	83 (27)
Vulva / Vagina	15 (6)	13 (4)
Gestational Trophoblastic Disease	3 (1)	5 (2)
Other (eg. primary GIT, metastatic breast)	13 (5)	20 (6)
Total	255	312

Cervical malignancies

Stage of Disease	No. Cases	% All Cervical Malignancies
I	21	51
II	10	24
III	5	12
IV	5	12
Unstaged	1 (neuroendocrine)	

Uterine malignancies

Stage of Disease	No. Cases	% All Uterine Malignancies
I	83	67
II	10	8
III	16	13
IV	5	4
Unstaged	10	8

Of the 10 patients who were unstaged, 5 (50%) did not have surgery because of age and / or co-morbidities (4/5 were aged in their 90s). The other 5 patients were referred to the unit by general gynaecologists, having already had surgery performed (4/5 had a hysterectomy for presumed fibroids but were found to have a leiomyosarcoma).

Ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal malignancies

Stage of Disease	No. Cases	% All Adnexal Malignancies
I	15	26
II	10	17
III	27	47
IV	1	2
Unstaged	5	9

Non-cancer Diagnosis

Patients with a non-cancer diagnosis accounted for 47% of cases managed by the Department.

Site of Disease	No. Non-cancer Cases	% All Non-cancer Cases
LMP tumours	22	10
High grade dysplasia or complex atypical hyperplasia	33	14
Benign or low grade dysplasia	135	59
Prophylactic	38	17
Total	228	

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR PATIENTS

Country of Birth

Only half of all new patients seen (54%) were born in Australia, although 63% were born in either Australia or another English-speaking country (see *). Of the 264 patients born in Australia, 13 (5%) identified as being Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander.

Country of Birth	No. Patients	Country of Birth	No. Patients	Country of Birth	No. Patients
Afghanistan	3	Holland	2	Peru	2
Argentina	3	Hong Kong	1	Philippines	20
Australia *	264	India	10	Poland	4
Bosnia	2	Indonesia	3	Russia	1
Cambodia	1	Iran	1	Samoa	5
Chile	1	Iraq	1	Scotland *	4
China	19	Ireland *	2	Serbia	2
Colombia	1	Italy	1	South Africa *	6
Croatia	1	Jordan	2	Spain	1
Denmark	1	Kenya	1	Sri Lanka	3
East Timor	1	Korea	3	Sudan	1
Egypt	2	Laos	1	Syria	2
El Salvador	1	Lebanon	10	Thailand	4
England *	15	Malaysia	4	Tokelau Island	1
Estonia	1	Malta	8	Tonga	2
Ethiopia	1	Mauritius	2	Turkey	5
Fiji	11	Maldova	1	Ukraine	1
France	1	Netherlands	3	U.S. of America *	5
French Sahara	1	New Zealand *	14	Uruguay	2
Germany	2	Niu	1	Vietnam	2
Greece	5	Pakistan	2	Zimbabwe	1

Age Distribution

Age Range (years)	No. Patients	%
< 20	3	< 1
20 – 29	20	4
30 – 39	56	12
40 – 49	86	18
50 – 59	109	22
60 – 69	97	20
70 – 79	80	16
80 – 89	23	5
> 89	10	2

Body Mass Index (BMI)

BMI was unable to be calculated from the department file for 120 patients (25%). For the other 75% of patients, 72% had a BMI higher than the normal range, and 44% were obese or morbidly obese.

BMI	No. (%)	% overweight	% obese	% morbidly obese
< 20	12 (3)			
20-25	90 (25)			
>25 – 30	103 (28)	72		
>30 – 35	74 (20)		44	
>35 – 40	33 (9)			24
>40 – 50	40 (11)			
>50 – 60	6 (2)			
>60	7 (2)			

NB: Normal range 20-25 Overweight > 25-30 Obese > 30-35 Morbidly obese > 35

Referral Base

The majority of patients (72%) are referred to the Department from within Western Sydney Local Health District (LHD) or the adjacent Nepean Blue Mountains LHD. Rural and regional referrals (including Illawarra Shoalhaven and Central Coast LHDs) account for almost 20% of patients, with close to 75% of these being referred from Western NSW and Illawarra Shoalhaven LHDs.

Local Health District (LHD)	No. Patients	%
Western Sydney LHD	174	36
Nepean Blue Mountains LHD	172	36
South Western Sydney LHD	32	7
Northern Sydney LHD	6	1
Sydney LHD	4	<1
South Eastern Sydney LHD	1	<1
Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD	30	6
Central Coast LHD	2	<1
Western NSW LHD	42	9
Murrumbidgee LHD	8	2
Southern NSW LHD	4	<1
Hunter New England LHD	4	<1
Mid North Coast LHD	1	<1
Northern NSW LHD	0	0
Far West LHD	0	0
Interstate / overseas	2	<1

CLINICAL TRIALS AND STUDIES

The Department of Gynaecological Oncology conducts a numbers of clinical trials exploring better treatment options for patients with a gynaecological cancer. The Department participates in a number of phase II and III trials and maintains a balance of trials sponsored by pharmaceutical companies and not-for-profit organisations through a strong association with the collaborative clinical research group, Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG). ANZGOG is the peak clinical trials research group for gynaecological cancers in Australia and New Zealand.

Additionally, the Department has a strong translational research and basic science research group. Laboratory research is carried out in the Westmead Institute for Medical Research. The Department is affiliated with the University of Sydney and is a member of the Sydney West Translational Cancer Research Centre, striving to rapidly translate our research findings into new tests and treatments that will eventually be of direct benefit to our patients.

The Department's participation in clinical trials and research studies involves specific research into ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal cancers; cancer of the cervix, uterus, vulva and vagina; as well as research into the overall impact and management of a cancer diagnosis and involves patients, carers and clinicians.

Name	Trial / Research Study / Audit	Local PI(s)	Status	No. patients recruited Total / 2016
Gynae Onc Biobank	Research Study	Prof Anna deFazio A/Prof Alison Brand Dr Gerard Wain A/Prof Russell Hogg Dr Robyn Sayer Prof Paul Harnett Dr Bo Gao	Open to recruitment	1,266 / 56
SUPER <i>Solving Unknown Primary Cancer</i>	Research Study	Prof Anna deFazio	Open to recruitment	34 / 0
OUTBACK <i>Phase 3 trial of adjuvant chemo following chemo radiation as primary treatment for locally advanced cervix cancer compared to chemo-radiation alone</i>	Trial	Dr Viet Do	Open to recruitment	2 / 0
WHAM <i>Impact of risk-reducing BSO on non-cancer outcomes in young high-risk women</i>	Trial	A/Prof Judy Kirk A/Prof Alison Brand	Open to recruitment	25 / 6
PARAGON <i>Phase 2 study of Anastrozole in women with potentially hormone sensitive recurrent / metastatic gynaecological cancer</i>	Trial	A/Prof Alison Brand	Closed to recruitment 30 Jun 2016	4 / 0

Sentinel Node Audit <i>Prospective audit of sentinel node biopsy for vulvar carcinoma in Australia and New Zealand</i>	Audit	A/Prof Alison Brand	Open to recruitment	3 / 2
VESPA <i>A phase 2 study of the use of vaginal oestriol to prevent vaginal stenosis in patients treated with pelvic radiotherapy for gynaecological, rectal and anal malignancies</i>	Trial	A/Prof Alison Brand Dr Viet Do	Open to recruitment	12 / 7
ARIEL 2 Extension Study <i>A phase 2 study of Rucaparib in patients with platinum-sensitive relapsed high grade serous ovarian cancer to characterise the relationship between efficacy and homologous recombination repair deficiency</i>	Trial	Prof Paul Harnett	Closed to recruitment 30 Jun 2016	0 / 0
ARIEL 3 <i>CO-338-014. A multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 study of rucaparib as switch maintenance following platinum-based chemotherapy in patients with platinum-sensitive, high-grade serous or endometrioid epithelial ovarian, primary peritoneal or fallopian tube cancer</i>	Trial	Prof Paul Harnett	Open to recruitment	7/2
REZOLVE <i>A phase 2 study to evaluate the safety and potential palliative benefit of intra-peritoneal Bevacizumab in patients with symptomatic ascites due to advanced chemotherapy-resistant ovarian cancer</i>	Trial	Prof Paul Harnett	Open to recruitment	0 / 0
<i>A phase 1/2A dose escalation and cohort expansion study for safety, tolerability and efficacy of anti-GITR monoclonal antibody (BMS-936558, anti PD-1 monoclonal antibody) in advanced solid tumours</i>	Trial	Dr Matteo Carlino	Ovarian cohort closed to recruitment	2 / 2
<i>Determining sleep phenotypes in cancer cohorts: interactions with cancer biology and impacts on quality of life</i>	Research study	Dr Gerard Wain Prof Anna deFazio	Open to recruitment	51 / 49
INOVAte <i>To implement molecular testing as routine for ovarian cancer patients, not including borderline cases</i>	Research study	Prof Anna deFazio	Open to recruitment	32 / 32

<p>BGB Combo</p> <p><i>A phase 1b, open label, multiple-dose, dose-escalation and expansion study to investigate the safety, pharmacokinetics and anti-tumour activity of the anti-PD-1 monoclonal antibody BGB-A317 in combination with the PARP inhibitor BGB-290 in subjects with advanced solid tumours</i></p>	Trial	Dr Bo Gao	Open to recruitment	9 / 9
<p>KEYNOTE 0158</p> <p><i>A Phase 2 clinical trial of pembrolizumab (MK-347) in subjects with select biomarker positive advanced solid tumours</i></p>	Trial	Dr Bo Gao	Endometrial and cervical cohorts closed	2 / 2
<p>VELIA</p> <p><i>Phase 3 placebo controlled study of carboplatin / paclitaxel with or without concurrent and continuation maintenance Velaparib (PARP inhibitor) in newly diagnosed subjects with previously untreated Stages III or IV high grade serous epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer</i></p>	Trial	Dr Bo Gao	Open for recruitment	0 / 0
<p>POACH</p> <p><i>Pre-clinical optimization of adoptive cellular therapy for HPV-associated high-grade lesions and malignancies</i></p>	Research study	Prof Paul Harnett	Open for recruitment	6 / 6
<p>Millenium / Takeda</p> <p><i>A phase 2, randomized study of MLN0128 (a dual TORC1/2 inhibitor), MLN0128 + MLN1117 (a P13Ka inhibitor), weekly paclitaxel, or the combination of weekly paclitaxel and MLN0128 in women with advanced, recurrent or persistent endometrial cancer</i></p>	Trial	Dr Bo Gao	Open to recruitment	0 / 0
<p>MILO</p> <p><i>A multi-national, randomized, open-label phase 3 study of MEK162 versus physician's choice of chemotherapy in patients with recurrent or persistent low-grade serous carcinomas of the ovary, fallopian tube or primary peritoneum</i></p>	Trial	Prof Paul Harnett	Study discontinued at interim analysis 2 patients in follow up	3 / 0
<p>Rekindle</p> <p><i>Testing an on-line resource to promote sexual well-being for both cancer patients and their partners (ARC Linkage Grant)</i></p>	Research study	Kim Hobbs (AI)	Open to recruitment	N/A On-line resource

Social work interventions in cancer care: a national, multicentre QA study using clinical data mining methodology	Quality assurance study	Kim Hobbs (AI)	Not recruiting at Westmead	N/A
Towards systematic monitoring of the experiences of care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer: Phase One	Research study	Prof Paul Harnett (PI) Kim Hobbs (AI)	Open to recruitment	N/A
OPAL <i>Improving outcomes from ovarian cancer: building the evidence to help women help them selves</i>	Research study	Dr Gerard Wain	Closed to recruitment 45 patients in F/U	N/A
Meki 12 <i>Phase 2 randomised, double-blind trial of combination of Pimasertib with SAR245409 or of Pimasertib with SAR245409 placebo in subjects with previously treated unresectable low grade ovarian cancer</i>	Trial	Prof Paul Harnett	Closed to recruitment 1 patient in follow-up	N/A
PORTEC 3 <i>Randomised phase 3 trial comparing concurrent chemo-radiation and adjuvant chemotherapy with pelvic radiation alone in high-risk and advanced stage endometrial carcinoma</i>	Trial	Dr Gerard Wain	Closed to recruitment 15 patients in follow-up	N/A
ICON 8 <i>An international phase 3 randomised trial of dose-fractionated 5hemotherapy compared to standard three-weekly chemotherapy following immediate primary surgery or as part of delayed primary surgery, for women with newly diagnosed epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer</i>	Trial	A/Prof Alison Brand	Closed to recruitment 8 patients in follow-up	N/A
AOCS <i>Australian Ovarian Cancer Study</i>	Research study	Dr Gerard Wain	Closed to recruitment 11 patients in follow up	N/A

GRANTS HELD

New Grants Awarded in 2016

Funding Source	Title	Investigators	Grant Period and Amount
Cancer Institute NSW Translational Research Centre Grant 15/TRC/1-01	<i>Sydney West Translational Cancer Research Centre (SW-TCRC)</i>	<u>Harnett, P</u> <u>deFazio, A</u> Shaw, T Balleine, R George, J Mann, G Flynn, P	2016 – 2021 \$6,496,912
Cancer Institute NSW. NSW Cancer Biobanking Stakeholder Network Project 15 BIO 1-02	<i>Towards “research-ready” integrated clinical data for NSW Cancer Biobanks through data linkage</i>	Project Champion: <u>deFazio, A</u>	2016 \$67,000
University of Sydney Bridging Support Grant	<i>Developing novel therapeutic strategies for low-grade serous ovarian cancer</i>	<u>deFazio, A</u>	2016 \$30,000
Department of Defence. U.S Army Medical and Material Command. Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. Ovarian Cancer Research Program. Outcomes Consortium Development Award	<i>Multidisciplinary ovarian cancer outcomes group (MOCOG)</i>	PI: Malcolm Pike Sub-recipient PI: <u>deFazio, A</u>	2016 - 2019 \$US3,929,384 \$US305,229 \$AU399,850 (\$US1=\$AU1.31)
Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) New Research Fund	<i>Testing individual Interventions to optimise Peri-operative care in ovarian cancer Surgery (TIPSSstudy)</i>	<u>Brand, A</u> <u>Lindemann, K</u>	2017 – 2018 \$50,000
Australian Society of Gynaecologic Oncologists (ASGO) New Research Fund	<i>Testing individual Interventions to optimise Peri-operative care in ovarian cancer Surgery (TIPSSstudy)</i>	<u>Brand, A</u> <u>Lindemann, K</u>	2017 – 2018 \$12,500
Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) New Research Fund	<i>Production of Wilm’s tumour protein (WT1) T cells for adoptive cellular therapy of WT1</i>	<u>Harnett, P</u> <u>Gao, B</u> <u>Brand A</u>	2017 – 2018 \$50,000
Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) New Research Fund	<i>EXCISE study: excisional treatment comparison for in situ endocervical adenocarcinoma</i>	Cohen, P <u>Brand, A</u>	2017 – 2018 \$50,000

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grant APP 1122290	<i>STICs and STONes: a randomised, phase 11, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of aspirin in chemo-prevention of ovarian cancer in women with BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations</i>	Phillips, K ... <u>Brand, A</u>	2017 – 2021 \$653,892
National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grant APP 1120431	<i>OPAL: the ovarian cancer prognosis and lifestyle study: Long-term outcomes</i>	PI: Webb, P AI: <u>Brand A</u>	2017 – 2021 \$871,657
		Total	\$8,681,811

Previous Grants Still Held in 2016

Funding Source	Title	Investigators	Grant Period and Amount
NHMRC Project Grant (APP1025142)	<i>Improving outcomes from ovarian cancer: building the evidence to help women help themselves: The OPAL (Ovarian cancer, Prognosis and Lifestyle) Study</i>	Webb, P <u>deFazio, A</u> Nagle, C Freidlander, M Grant, P Obermair, A	2012 – 2016 \$1,756,731
Cancer Australia Project Grant 1067110	<i>MRP4 and MRP3 transporters: potential new targets in ovarian cancer</i>	Henderson, M <u>deFazio, A</u> Scott, C Wakefield, M	2014 – 2016 \$589,989
NHMRC Project Grant (APP1062702)	<i>Tailoring targeted therapy to DNA repair-defective high-grade serous ovarian cancer</i>	Scott, C Wakefield, M <u>deFazio, A</u> (replacing Bowtell, Jan 2016)	2014 – 2016 \$774,723
Cancer Council NSW RG-15-23	<i>Novel treatment targets in low-grade serous ovarian cancer</i>	<u>deFazio, A</u> Bowtell, D <u>Harnett, P</u> Balleine, R Rizos, H	2015 – 2017 \$358,715
Cancer Australia APP1082604	RECUPERATE <i>Can REaltime molecular profiling in Carcinoma of Unknown Primary improvE tReAtment ouTcomes?</i>	Mileshkin, L Bowtell, D Schofield, P Karapetis, C <u>deFazio, A</u> Tattersall, M	2015 - 2017 \$599,602
Cancer Institute NSW 14/TPG/1-15	INOVATE <i>Individualised ovarian cancer treatment through integration of genomic pathology into multidisciplinary care</i>	CIs <u>deFazio, A</u> <u>Harnett, P</u> Friedlander, M Balleine, R Bowtell, D Samimi, G <u>Wain, G</u> Hacker, N Marsh, D Beale, P	2015 - 2020 \$3,746,690

		Als McDonald, D Brand, A Fulcher, D Sharma, R Anderson, L Gao, B Gard, G Valmadre, S Baron-Hay, S Hogg, R Maidens, J Stenlake, A Harris, A Lazarus, S Sengupta, S	
Sydney West TCRC Partner Program (CINSW)	<i>Genomic pathology, tumour biomarkers and circulating tumour DNA: Optimising management of melanoma and ovarian cancer</i>	<u>deFazio, A</u> Mann, G	2015 – 2016 \$150,000
Cancer SPARC Implementation Scheme, University of Sydney	<i>Determining sleep phenotypes in cancer cohorts: Interactions with cancer biology and impacts on quality of life</i>	Kairaitis, K Amis, T Mann, G <u>deFazio, A</u> Clarke, C Dhillon, H Marshall, N	2015 - 2016 \$155,438
Cancer Institute NSW 15/RIG/1-16	<i>Next-generation cancer biobanking: Adding value to the SW-TCRC Gynaecological Oncology Biobank at Westmead</i>	<u>deFazio, A</u>	2015 - 2016 \$288,812
Cancer Australia	ICON 9 <i>A phase 3 randomised trial of cediranib and olaparib maintenance in patients with relapsed platinum sensitive ovarian cancer</i>	<u>Brand A, CI (B)</u> Mileshekin, L Ledermann, J Rischin, D Beale, P Quinn, M Coward, J Viney, R Martyn, J	2016 – 2019 \$600,000 Awarded 2015
		Total	\$9,020,700

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM PROFILE

Gynaecological Oncologists

Associate Professor Alison Brand (Director)

MD, MMed, FRCS(C), FRANZCOG, CGO

Professional Memberships

- Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG)
- Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA)
- Australian Society of Gynaecologic Oncologists (ASGO)
- Australian Medical Association (AMA)
- Fellow, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG)
- International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS)
- Gynaecologic Oncologists of Canada (GOC)
- Fellow, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)
- Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC)

Committee Appointments

- Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG)
 - Chair, ANZGOG
 - Director, ANZGOG
 - Member, Research Advisory Committee
 - Member, Quality Assurance Committee
 - Member, Nominations Committee
- ANZGOG representative, GCIG Board of Directors
- Examiner, Certification in Gynaecological Oncology, RANZCOG
- Cancer Australia, Gynaecological Cancer Advisory Group
- Cancer Council Australia, Working Party for the Development of Clinical Management Guidelines for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer
- Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA), Council
- Senior Editor, International Journal of Gynaecological Cancer
- Gynaecological Oncology Biobank at Westmead, Management Committee

Dr Gerard Wain

MBBS, FRANZCOG, CGO

Professional Memberships

- Fellow, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG)
- Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG)
- International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS)
- Australian Society of Gynaecologic Oncologists (ASGO)

Committee Appointments

- Associate Editor, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Dr Robyn Sayer

BA, MD, FACOG, FRANZCOG, CGO

Professional Memberships

- Fellow, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG)
- Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG)
- Fellow, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (FACOG)
- Australian Society of Gynaecologic Oncologists (ASGO)

Translational Research and Bio-banking**Prof Anna deFazio**

Sydney West Chair of Translational Cancer Research, Centre for Cancer Research
BSc, PhD

Professional Memberships

- American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
- American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)
- Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR)
- Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG)
- Australasian Biospecimens Network Association (ABNA)
- The Endocrine Society
- Society for Gynecologic Investigation

Committee Appointments

- Australian Gynaecological Cancer Foundation, Scientific Advisory Committee
- Australian Ovarian Cancer Study (AOCS)
 - Management Committee
 - Access Committee
- Cancer Council NSW, Research Committee
- Cancer Institute NSW, Biospecimen Stakeholder Network
- CellBank Australia, Scientific Advisory Committee
- kConFab (Kathleen Cuningham Consortium into Familial Breast Cancer)
 - Chair, Biospecimen Committee
 - Executive Committee
- National Health and Medical Research Council Assigners Academy, Project Grants
- University of Sydney
 - Cancer SPARC Steering Committee
 - Research Advisory Group (convened by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research))
- Westmead Institute for Medical Research (WIMR) Faculty
- Sydney-West Translational Cancer Research Centre, Executive Committee
- Gynaecological Oncology Biobank at Westmead
 - Management Committee
 - Access Committee

PhD Supervision

Dr Cristina Mapagu – BMedSci, MBBS (Hons), FRACP

Molecular and genetic features underlying treatment response in recurrent ovarian cancer

Dr Tania Moujaber - BMedSci, MBBS (Hons), FRACP

Molecular pathways in low-grade serous ovarian cancer

Joseph Po

Biology of circulating tumour cells in patients with advanced ovarian cancer: Does epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT) contribute to chemo-resistance?

MD Supervision

Meng Hwei (Erainia) Wu

Carcinosarcoma of the ovary: clinical epidemiology, genomics and new treatment targets

Nursing and Allied Health

Letitia Lancaster

Clinical Nurse Consultant

BScN, Oncology Cert, FACN

Professional Memberships

- Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA)
- International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC)
- Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA)
- Gynaecological Oncology Nurses Group (GONG)

Committee Appointments

- International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care
 - Nominations and Award Committee
 - Membership Committee
 - Knowledge and Dissemination Committee
- Co-editor, Australian Journal of Cancer Nursing
- Editorial Board, Cancer Forum Journal
- Cancer Australia
 - National Centre for Gynaecological Cancer Advisory Group
 - 'Supporting women to live well with gynaecological cancer', Project Working Group
 - 'Endometrial cancer shared follow-up care', Project Working Group
- Westmead Hospital
 - Clinical Board
 - Safe Use of Medicine Committee

Kim Hobbs

Specialist Clinical Social Worker

BSocStuds (Hons), MSW

Professional Memberships

- Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA)
- Oncology Social Work Australia (OSWA)

- NSW Social Workers Oncology Group (SWOGO)
- Psycho-Oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG)
- Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG)
- Honorary Associate, Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney

Committee Appointments

- Australian Association of Social Workers, National Research Committee
OSWA representative COSA Council
OSWA Executive Committee
- PoCoG Scientific Advisory Committee
- Department of Health and Cancer Australia, Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines Working Party
- Allied Health representative, Gynaecological Oncology Nurses Group (GONG)
- Co-chair and member, Gynaecological Oncology Network Executive Committee - Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI)
- Social Work representative, Sydney West LHD Allied and Community Health Research Steering Committee
- Cancer Australia
Gynaecological Cancer Advisory Group (GCAG)
'Supporting women to live well with gynaecological cancer', Project Working Group
- *Steering Committee Member, 'Supportive Care Needs Assessment Tool for Indigenous People (SCNAT-IP)' project*

Suparna Karpe

Clinical Psychologist

MA (Clinical Psychology) MPhil (Clinical Psychology)

Professional Memberships

- Australian Psychological Society (APS)
- American Psycho-oncology Society
- Psycho-Oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG)
- Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ANZ-ACBS)
- Australia and New Zealand Association for Contextual Behavioural Science (ACBS)
- Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI)
- Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG)

PUBLICATIONS

Anuradha S, Donovan P, Webb P, Brand AH, Goh J, Friedlander M, Oehler M, Quinn M, Steer C, Jordan S. *Variations in adjuvant chemotherapy and survival in women with epithelial ovarian cancer – a population-base study*. Acta Oncol 2016; 55(2): 226-33.

Ovarian Cancer Association Consortium, BCAC, Consortium of Modifiers of BRCA, Hollestelle A, van der Baan FH, Berchuck A, ... Australian Ovarian Cancer Study Group, ... deFazio A, ... Good EL. *No clinical utility of KRAS variant rs61764370 for ovarian or breast cancer*. Gynecol Oncol 2016; 141: 386-401.

Price MA, Butow PN, Bell ML, deFazio A, Friedlander M, Fardell JE, Protani MM, Webb PM, AOCS-Quality of Life Investigators on behalf of the Australian Ovarian Cancer Study Group. *Helplessness/hopelessness, minimization and optimism predict survival in women with invasive ovarian cancer: a role for targeted support during initial treatment and decision-making?* Support Care Cancer 2016; 24: 2627-34.

Harrington BS, He Y, Davies CM ... deFazio A, ... Hooper JD. *Cell line and patient-derived xenograft models reveal elevated CDP1 as a target in high-grade serous ovarian cancer*. Br J Cancer 2016; 114: 417-26.

Winman SJ, Pirie A, Chen YA, ...deFazio A, ... Goode EL. Investigation of exomic variants associated with overall survival in ovarian cancer. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev 2016; 25: 446-54.

French JD*, Johnatty SE*, Beesley J, Gao B, ... Australian Ovarian Cancer Study Group, ... Chenevix-Trench G*, deFazio A*, Edwards SL*, MacGregor S*, Ovarian Cancer Association Consortium. *Germline polymorphisms in an enhancer of PSIP1 are associated with progression-free survival in epithelial ovarian cancer*. Oncotarget 2016; 6353-68. (* authors contributed equally)

Usset JL, Raghavan R, TyrerJP, ... deFazio A, ...Fridley BL. *Assessment of multifactor gene-environment interactions and ovarian cancer risk: candidate genes, obesity, and hormone-related risk factors*. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev 2016; 25:780-90.

Canioto R, LaMonte M, Kelmen LE, ...deFazio A, ...Moysich K. *Recreational physical inactivity and mortality in women with invasive epithelial ovarian cancer: Evidence from the Ovarian Cancer Association Consortium*. Br J Cancer 2016; 115: 95-101.

Gao B, Lindemann K, Anderson L, Fereday S, Hung J, Alsop K, Tothill RW, GebSKI V, Kennedy C, Balleine R, Harnett PR, Bowtell D, deFazio A. *Serous ovarian and primary peritoneal cancers: A comparative analysis of clinic-pathological features, molecular subtypes and treatment outcome*. Gynecol Oncol 2016; 142: 458-64.

Pockett R, Peate M, Hobbs K, et al. *A survey of oncology social work in Australia: Implications for workforce planning in integrated cancer care*. Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology 2016; 12(4): 444-52.

Dickson K, Cole A, Gill A, Clarkson A, Gard G, Chou A, Kennedy C, Henderson B, Australian Ovarian Cancer Study Group, Fereday S, Traficante N, Alsop K, Bowtell D, deFazio A, Clifton-Bligh R, Marsh D. *The RING finger domain E3 ubiquitin ligases BRCA1 and the RNF20/RNF40 complex in global loss of chromatin mark histone H2B monoubiquitination (H2Bub1) in cell line models and primary high-grade serous ovarian cancer*. Hum Mol Genet 2016; [Epub ahead of print].

Jung MS, Russell AJ, deFazio A, George J, Bowtell D, Liu B, Oberthuer A, London WB, Fletcher JI, Haber M, Norris MD, Henderson MJ. *An 18-gene Mycactivity signature predicts poor clinical outcome in multiple Myc-associated cancer types*. Cancer Research (Accepted 29 November, 2016).

Babie et al. *Predictors of pre-treatment CA 125 at ovarian cancer diagnosis: a pooled analysis in the Australian Ovarian Cancer Association Consortium*. *Cancer Causes & Control* for the Ovarian Cancer Special Issue (Accepted 16 December, 2016).

CONFERENCES

Invited Speaker / Panelist

Brand A. *ANZGOG initiatives: Past accomplishments and future challenges.* Cancer Australia, Gynaecological Cancer Advisory Group Workshop (Mar 2016); Sydney, NSW **(Invited Speaker)**

deFazio A. *Molecular determinants of treatment response in high- and low-grade serous ovarian cancer: Like chalk and cheese.* Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) Annual Scientific Meeting (13-16 Apr 2016); Sydney, NSW **(Invited Speaker)**

deFazio A. *Establishing multidisciplinary teams in cancer research.* Breast Cancer Special Interest Group, University of Sydney Cancer Research Network (16 May 2016); University of Sydney, NSW **(Invited Speaker)**

Brand A. *Moving forward with STATEC.* The Australian Society of Gynaecological Oncologists (ASGO) Annual Scientific Meeting (18-21 May 2016); Cradle Mountain, Tas **(Invited Speaker)**

deFazio A. *From genomics to clinical care in women with gynaecological malignancy: News from the benches.* The Australian Society of Gynaecological Oncologists (ASGO) Annual Scientific Meeting (18-21 May 2016); Cradle Mountain, Tas **(Invited Keynote Speaker)**

deFazio A. *Molecular tumour board discussion.* Ovarian Cancer Australia, Ovarian Cancer Symposium (21 May 2016); Sydney, NSW **(Invited Speaker)**

Brand A. *Renewal of the cervical screening Program.* Gynaecology Workshop (May 2016); Nepean Hospital, NSW **(Invited Speaker)**

Lancaster L. *Getting the message out: the publishing game.* Introduction to Research Seminar Series, Western Sydney Local Health District Research & Education Network (2016); Sydney, NSW **(Invited speaker)**

Pockett R, Joubert L, Hocking A, Hobbs K. *Grounding oncology social work in theory, practice and evidence: An academic and practitioner collaboration.* Workshop at 8th International Conference on Social Work in Mental Health (Jun 2016); Singapore

deFazio A. Panelist, Translational Research Workshop. Sydney Cancer Conference (22-23 Sep 2016); Australian Technology Park, Sydney NSW **(Invited Panelist)**

Hobbs K. *Cancer in pregnancy: clinical and ethical considerations.* 11th National Oncology Social Work Australia (OSWA) Conference (Oct 2016); Melbourne, Vic **(Invited Speaker)**

Hobbs K. *Future-proofing social work in health care: Leadership, Innovation, evidence.* Concord Hospital Social Work Conference, 75 Years On: Meeting Changing Demands While Keeping Social Work Values Alive (Oct 2016); Concord, NSW **(Invited Keynote Speaker)**

Brand A. *Surgical outcomes are important too: assessing morbidity, mortality and survival in gynaecological oncology.* Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre Annual Symposium (25 Nov 2016); Sydney, NSW **(Invited Speaker)**

Brand A. Panel Member, *Molecular Tumour Board*. Ovarian Cancer Symposium (10 Dec 2016); Sydney, NSW (**Invited Speaker**)

Oral / Poster Abstracts

Girgis C, Brand A, Wain G, Harnett P, Lindemann K. *Intraperitoneal chemotherapy in patients with optimally debulked ovarian cancer: The Westmead experience*. Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) Annual Scientific Meeting (13-16 Apr 2016); Sydney, NSW

Juraskova I, Bergin R, Aranda S, Mileskin L, White K, Bernshaw D, Jackson M, Cheuk R, Brand A, et al. *PeNTAGOn Trial: A nurse-led psychosocial intervention with peer support to reduce psychosocial needs in women undergoing curative radiotherapy*. Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) Annual Scientific Meeting (13-16 Apr 2016); Sydney, NSW

Lindemann K, Stockler M, Brand A. *A framework to study candidate interventions of an enhanced recovery after surgery pathway in advanced ovarian cancer*. Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) Annual Scientific Meeting (13-16 Apr 2016); Sydney, NSW

Mapagu C, Li J, Fereday S, Australian Ovarian Cancer Study Group, Bowtell D, Harnett P, deFazio A. *Identifying potential predictive markers of endocrine response in high-grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSOC) using RNA sequencing*. Australian and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) Annual Scientific Meeting (13-16 Apr 2016); Sydney, NSW (**Oral – selected from abstracts**)

Kennedy K, Kirk J, Harnett P, deFazio A. *Return of research results from the laboratory to the clinic – the increasing role of biobanks*. International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) (Apr 2016); Berlin, Germany (**Oral – selected from abstracts**)

Brand A, Thiru A, Lancaster L, Hitos K. *Outcome of extended venous thromboembolism prophylaxis in women undergoing gynaecological surgery for suspected or confirmed malignancy: A prospective cohort study*. The Australian Society of Gynaecological Oncologists (ASGO) Annual Scientific Meeting (18-21 May 2016); Cradle Mountain, Tas

Lindemann K, Kok P, Stockler M, Jaaback, Brand A. *Enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) in ovarian cancer: A systematic review to identify candidate interventions*. The Australian Society of Gynaecological Oncologists (ASGO) Annual Scientific Meeting (18-21 May 2016); Cradle Mountain, Tas

Hobbs K. *Sexuality concerns in the context of cervical cancer*. Agency for Clinical Innovation / Gynaecological Oncology Nurses and Allied Health Group Seminar Day (Jun 2016); Sydney, NSW

Lancaster L. *Bladder dysfunction after treatment for cervical cancer*. Agency for Clinical Innovation / Gynaecological Oncology Nurses and Allied Health Group Seminar Day (Jun 2016); Sydney, NSW

Man J, Khoo C, Brand A, Gao B. *Lymph node dissection in early epithelial ovarian cancer*. European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) Annual Scientific Meeting (7-11 Oct 2016); Copenhagen, Denmark

Lindemann K, Kok P, Stockler M, Sykes P, Brand A. *Enhanced recovery after surgery for suspected ovarian malignancy: a survey of perioperative practice in Australia and New Zealand*. International Gynaecological Cancer Society (IGCS) (27-31 Oct 2016); Lisbon, Portugal (**Awarded Best Oral Presentation**)

Obermair A, Gebiski V, Davies L, Brand A, et al. *Disease-free and overall survival after TLH vs open abdominal hysterectomy for early stage endometrial cancer: Results from the LACE trial*. Biennial Meeting of International Gynaecological Cancer Society (IGCS) (27-31 Oct 2016); Lisbon, Portugal

Brand A, Thiru A, Lancaster L, Hitos K. *Outcome of extended venous thromboembolism prophylaxis in women undergoing surgery for suspected or confirmed malignancy: A prospective cohort study*. Biennial Meeting of International Gynaecological Cancer Society (IGCS) (27-31 Oct 2016); Lisbon, Portugal (**Poster Abstract**)

Organising / Chairing Conference Sessions

Alison Brand. Organiser, Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) Annual Scientific Meeting (Apr 2016); Sydney, NSW

Alison Brand. Session Chair, Ovarian Cancer Australia, Ovarian Cancer Symposium, (Dec 2016); Sydney, NSW

Anna DeFazio. Organising Committee and Session Chair, Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre Symposium (Nov 2016); Sydney, NSW

Suparna Karpe. Organising Committee and Session Chair, Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre Symposium (Nov 2016); Sydney, NSW

Anna DeFazio, Session Chair, Pure Science, Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) Annual Scientific Meeting (Apr 2016); Sydney, NSW

Anna deFazio, Convenor, Westmead Hospital Week Research Symposium (Aug 2016); Westmead, NSW

Letitia Lancaster. Session Chair and Abstract Reviewer, Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) 19th Winter Congress (May 2016); Cairns, Qld

Letitia Lancaster. Session Chair and Abstract reviewer, 20th International Conference on Cancer Nursing (Sep 2016); Hong Kong

Letitia Lancaster, Co-convenor, NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation, Gynaecological Oncology Nurses Study Day, (May 2016); Sydney, NSW

CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Gynaecological Cancer Support Group

Support groups are held monthly and are convened by Kim Hobbs (Social Worker) and Suparna Karpe (Clinical Psychologist). These are free and open to all patients who have been diagnosed with a gynaecological cancer, regardless of where they are receiving care. Guest speakers are invited to the meeting and topics cover a wide range of issues from cancer research updates, cancer genetics, coping with cancer, natural therapies, access to community services, and entitlements to statutory benefits. Following the presentations by guest speakers, there is an opportunity to ask questions and meet others over morning or afternoon tea. This also provides an opportunity for the sharing of support and experiences.

Narelle Holden, Westmead Hospital's Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) also runs a Support Group for Indigenous patients with a cancer diagnosis.

Mindfulness-based Stress Management Programs

Suparna Karpe (Clinical Psychologist) helped to run 5 mindfulness-based courses over the year with the aim of providing patients and carers an opportunity to explore and experience a variety of mindfulness-based techniques, and to discover new ways to cope with stress and illness. Each course ran for a 90-minute session over 6 consecutive weeks, with an average of 10-12 participants.

Two 2-hour workshops were also held for staff members working with cancer patients with the aim of educating them about factors influencing burnout, and identifying strategies for managing it. Each workshop had an average of 18 participants.

Consumer and Media Forums

Anna deFazio. Guest Speaker, Valentine's Harbour Cruise, Australian Gynaecological Cancer Foundation (7 Feb 2016), Sydney, NSW

Anna deFazio. News, University of Sydney website. *New research taking the fight to ovarian cancer* (24 Feb 2016);
<http://sydney.edu/news-opinion/news/2016/02/24/news-research-taking-the-fight-to-ovarian-cancer.html>

Anna deFazio. National Radio News. A nationwide news service for Community Radio *INOVATe and ovarian cancer awareness month* (25 Feb 2016);

Alison Brand. *ANZGOG: Current directions*. Presentation to Cancer Australia, Gynaecological Cancer Advisory Group (Mar 2016)

Alison Brand. Radio National. *Life Matters: New path for ovarian cancer sufferers* (18 Apr 2016)

Anna deFazio. Sydney Morning Herald. *The super responders whose genes might unlock cancer's secrets* (7 Aug 2016). Annabel Stafford

Anna deFazio. A Current Affair: Channel Nine. *Super responders*. (14 Oct 2016)

Anna deFazio. *Gynaecological cancer research*. Gynaecological Cancer Patient Support Group (11 Nov 2016); Westmead Hospital, NSW

Fundraising for Research

February is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and for the past 8 years we have hosted fundraising events in support of Ovarian Cancer Research at Westmead and for our patients through the Gynaecological Cancer Support Group and Ovarian Cancer Australia.

In 2016 we raised a total of \$4,942 from the 'Morning Teal' (teal represents the ribbon colour for gynaecological cancer) event held at the Westmead Institute for Medical Research (WIMR), the muffin stand at the Westmead Hospital entrance foyer (muffins and apples kindly donated by Zouki) and afternoon tea at the Westmead Maternity Unit.

We are most grateful to Burwood Chemist Warehouse and the Westmead Hospital Florist for their continued sponsorship of these events through their donation of raffle prizes. And a big thank you, also, to some of our very talented and 'crafty' staff members for their donations of hand-made items for raffle prizes, and to ALL the team for providing such an amazing selection of food for all to enjoy!

We hope that, by raising the profile of gynaecological cancers through fundraising, we can let our patients know that we are working for and with them in the laboratory, in the clinical setting and in the community.



Photos: patients and family members, clinical staff and researchers enjoying 'Morning Teal' at the Westmead Institute for Medical Research (WIMR)



Consumer and Community Representation on Research Committees

We are very grateful for the time and effort the following people have afforded, not only to our local Westmead gynaecological oncology research unit, but also to our larger peak gynaecological oncology research body, Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG).

Westmead Translational Research and Bio-banking

Alison Harris
Sapna Lazarus

Australia and New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG)

Cheryl Waller
Rhonda Beach

Both are members of the Consumer and Community Committee (CCC) and the Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

Department of Gynaecological Oncology
Westmead Hospital
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<http://www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/WNH/Clinics---services/Gynaecological-cancer>