

ANZCHOG

Australian and New Zealand
Children's Haematology/Oncology Group

SEPTEMBER 2016

NEWSLETTER



ANZCHOG ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

2016 ASM - CAIRNS

ANZCHOG's 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) was a huge success, with delegates enjoying the sunny weather, the wonderful seafood and of course a great program of international and national speakers! Holding the ASM in conjunction with the Advances in Neuroblastoma Research (ANR) Congress provided excellent opportunities for ANZCHOG members to attend high calibre, specialised sessions and socialize with the broader medical and scientific community.

We thank the local organising committee, led by Andrew Moore and Rachel Edwards, for all of their hard work and acknowledge the generous support of our conference sponsors.

2017 ASM – ADELAIDE (15-17 June 2017)

The dates for ANZCHOG's 2017 ASM have been finalised! The meeting will run for two and a half days at the Hilton (Adelaide), kicking off on Thursday 15th June 2017 and finishing at lunch on Saturday 17th June 2017.

The meeting convenors (Michael Osborn, Hayley Vasileff and Hannah Maddocks) are very busy organising the program and social events! You can keep up-to-date as the meeting details and speakers are finalised at our dedicated 2017 ASM website: [click here](#)

ANZCHOG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chris Fraser (Chair)

Lady Cilento Children's Hospital

Nick Gottardo (Deputy Chair)

Princess Margaret Hospital

Toby Trahair (Treasurer)

Sydney Children's Hospital

Liz Darch (Secretary)

Princess Margaret Hospital

Michael Osborn (Councillor)

Women's & Children's Hospital

Richard Mitchell (Councillor)

Sydney Children's Hospital

Sarah Hunter (Councillor)

Starship, NZ

Geoff McCowage (ACCT CEO)

Westmead Children's Hospital

We extend a warm welcome to our newest councillor, Richard Mitchell. We would like to thank and acknowledge the work of Steven Keogh who completed his term in June.

Paediatric Psychosocial Oncology Services Symposium

ANZCHOG and Redkite have commenced a new initiative to bring together key stakeholders to discuss the need for a national framework to address the psychosocial needs of children and families affected by cancer. This work will be informed by the evidence-based psychosocial standards developed in the United States.

Stakeholders will include relevant government, community, health professional and consumer representatives.

The symposium will be held in Melbourne on 12th October 2016. Please contact Janelle Jones for more information.



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ACCT Small Project Funding

ACCT/ANZCHOG Small Projects Scheme provides up to \$5,000 (GST ex) for outcome-driven, stand-alone projects. Funding for up to three projects will be available for Australian and New Zealand researchers. Applications will be accepted all year until the funding is expended. For more information is available [here](#).

RESEARCH AND TRIAL NEWS

ANZCHOG'S CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

We have completed a competitive call for applications to support one-day workshops to accelerate the development of clinical trial concepts. We were delighted with the number of high quality applications received, exceeding our allocated funding. The following CDWs were awarded funding and will be held in the coming months:

- *Safety, feasibility and efficacy of an exercise intervention for adolescent and young adult cancer patients currently undergoing systemic cancer therapy: A prospective single arm study* (Morgan Atkinson)
- *Single versus multiple fraction radiotherapy for symptom palliation in incurable paediatric malignancies* (Greg Wheeler)

As a part of our commitment to the Zero Childhood Cancer program, ANZCHOG provided support for the most recent Personalised Medicine Protocol Workshop in Sydney. We look forward to continuing to support this exciting national collaboration.

ANZCHOG'S CONCEPT VALIDATION SCHEME

Previously we have offered funding for staff support for proof-of-concept studies through our Concept Validation Scheme. This initiative has been very popular and supported a range of great projects, however due to time restrictions, we will be unable to call for applications this year. Instead we will be providing funding to a few ANZCHOG trial concepts which align with our strategic plan priorities.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

We continue to work with a number of overseas trials groups to access and open international trials here in Australia and New Zealand. There are a range of new trials on the horizon; more information can be accessed through the ACCT Board or through the relevant ANZCHOG sub-groups.

ANZCHOG actively supports centres in Australia and New Zealand to access international trials through:

- National trial sponsorship - including contracts, CTN, clinical trials insurance, National Coordinating Centre setup and oversight including monitoring and auditing;
- Resolving trial-specific drug issues such as access and importation;
- QA/ regulatory issues – translations, assent forms;
- Actively developing collaborative relationships with key stakeholders (eg. COG, BFM, ITCC, SIOPEN, SickKids, pharma/industry).

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Professor Peter Shaw (Westmead Children's Hospital) successfully secured a 3-year grant through Cancer Australia's Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme for the project: *Counting the Cost of Curing Childhood ALL by Transplantation*. This funding will assist centres to participate in the FORUM study and explore the financial and psychosocial costs of bone marrow transplants. This national project has been developed in partnership with Richard De Abreu Lourenco from Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) at UTS; and supported through ANZCHOG's CDW and CVS.

Dr Lisa Walter (Ritchie Centre, Hudson Institute) has obtained funding from the Children's Cancer Foundation for equipment to undertake a small pilot study (*Light therapy to improve sleep and quality of life in children with ALL*) at Monash and Royal Children's Hospitals. This collaborative project was initiated at an ANZCHOG CDW.

Ms. Leigh Donovan – launch of the publication "*By My Side*" with RedKite. This is a support resource for bereaved parents, arising from the Compass Study (Behavioural Sciences Unit, Sydney Children's Hospital). This study was endorsed by ANZCHOG.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR



Sydney Cancer Conference: 22-23 Sept 2016, Sydney. Website [here](#)

APHON: 29 Sept- 1 Oct, Indianapolis, U.S.A website [here](#)

Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Survivorship Conference: 13 October 2016 (sold out); Psycho-Oncology Research Conference: 14 October 2016. Website [here](#)

SIOP 2016: 19-22 October 2016; Dublin, Ireland. Website [here](#)

World Cancer Congress: 31 Oct – 3 Nov 2016, Paris. [Website](#)

AYA Cancer Congress: 5-7 December 2016; Edinburgh [Website](#)

Flinders Survivorship Conference 2017, 3-4 February 2017, South Australia. [Website](#)

ASCO 2017: 2-6 June 2017, Chicago. [Website](#)

ANZCHOG 2017 ASM 15-17 June 2017, Adelaide. [Website](#)

SIOP 2017: 12-15 October 2017; Washington USA Website [here](#)

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