



THE UNIVERSITY
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CREATE CHANGE

Summer 2024 Edition

GOOD NEWS

Gynaecological Oncology News



Message from the QCGC Research Director

New Year! Four reasons for renewed hope!

2024 promises to be an exciting year for QCGC Research. Here are four reasons for renewed hope!

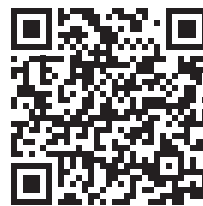
1. We are working on new and expanded clinical trials. By securing national funding for the **ENDO-3** in 2023, we have 22 surgeons accredited and 190 patients from 8 sites registered for this clinical trial. In 2024, we will expand our research, recruiting women with endometrial cancer from clinics in Italy, Singapore, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, the United States, India, Argentina and Australia. You can also read about our new project in vulval cancer in this newsletter.
2. We have strong community support. Through the success of **Cherish's Mt Kilimanjaro trek**, more than \$150,000 was raised for gynaecological cancer research. Thank you to the 10 trekkers and their many donors who made this possible!



3. Our team is recognised internationally and growing. You can read about our **3 new team members** on page 2. I am honoured to be recognised as one of the top 10 most productive authors globally in gynaecological cancer and the top author in Australia for productivity.
4. Awareness is expanding in our community about the pressing need for gynaecological cancer research to improve diagnosis, replace outdated treatments and save women's lives. **Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month** is in February. Please consider if you can help raise awareness or funds for research that will enable earlier detection of this cancer.

We look forward to making an impact this year with your support.

Professor Andreas Obermair
Director of Research



Catch up - 2023 Patient Symposium

On Saturday, 7 October 2023, we celebrated 20 years of gynaecological cancer research at our annual Patient Symposium. Approximately 100 people joined

us at the Mayne Medical School Building or online to hear about the latest research. You can catch up or re-watch their presentations on YouTube. Scan the QR code for the timestamps. Thank you to our speakers and GSK Australia and Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation for sponsoring this community event.

Save the date - 2024 Patient Symposium

Our next Patient Symposium is on Saturday, 7 September 2024. We would love to see you there to hear our speakers talk about surviving and thriving after cancer. Please get your questions ready and see our website for more details closer to the date.

Vulvar cancer project gets support

Thanks to the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital (RBWH) and Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation, we have commenced a new vulvar cancer project, 'Improving the quality of life for vulvar cancer patients through non-invasive interventions.' RBWH provided \$62,000 in funding through the SERTA Project Grant (for 1 year), and Cherish has given \$200,000 (over 2 years).

Vulvar cancer is a rare cancer, but there are at least 2,500 survivors of vulvar cancer in Australia. Most of them live with detrimental, life-long impacts resulting from their cancer treatment. The standard treatment of vulvar cancer currently includes surgery to remove the primary tumour and, if required, removal of groin lymph nodes. While the gold standard is often curative, groin lymph node dissection (LND) is associated with debilitating long-term outcomes for virtually all women.

Our study will assess the feasibility and accuracy of using high-resolution groin ultrasound as a non-invasive alternative method of identifying whether a woman needs her lymph nodes removed. Helping Australian women avoid a groin LND could greatly reduce the incidence and burden of associated problems, improve recovery time and enable their return to normal activities.

Where did your Giving Day donation go?

During UQ's 2023 Giving Day, donors, including generous matching partners, raised \$17,000 for gynaecological cancer research. Thank you! These funds have meant we can purchase a new minus 80-degree Celsius scientific freezer to keep our clinical trial samples at an optimal temperature.



Our growing team

Late in 2023, we welcomed 3 new team members passionate about improving the health outcomes for women with gynaecological cancer.

Avalon Knott is a Clinical Trial Manager on our new vulvar cancer project. For over a decade, Avalon has been dedicated to oncology clinical trials. She is pursuing a Master of Research focused on cancer care, driven by a passion for practical research that delivers tangible value.

Joyce Alvarenga is a Clinical Trials Coordinator for the ENDO-3 trial. She is a fully qualified nurse with postgraduate degrees in research/clinical trials and nursing management. Most recently, Joyce spent 2 years as a Clinical Research Coordinator on Phase I and II pharmaceutical trials testing new medicines in humans.

Dr Rachel Payne is a Clinical Trial Monitor on the ENDO-3 Trial. Previously, she worked as a Clinical Research Associate for 6 years in therapeutic areas such as Oncology, Neurology, Dermatology and Rare Diseases. Her PhD in Clinical Cancer Research is from the Imperial College London.

A journey of generosity

There is much to look forward to in 2024, and we encourage you to think about a regular tax-deductible donation to QCGC Research. Your continued support helps us further vital research that improves the lives of women and girls affected by gynaecological cancer. Visit gyncan.org/how-you-can-help/making-donation and find out how you can help.

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