



GOOD NEWS

Gynaecological Oncology News Summer 2025



Message from the Director

As 2025 draws to a close, I want to thank every patient who has placed their trust in us, and every supporter and researcher who has helped advance our mission. Your strength and resilience remind us why we do this work. I wish you and your loved ones a safe and joyful festive season.

This year ended with an extraordinary experience – the Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation Trek in Bhutan. It was physically demanding and mentally humbling, but deeply inspiring. Together, doctors, patients, and supporters raised over \$120,000 for gynaecological cancer research. These funds will enable projects that otherwise wouldn't be possible. Every step we take – whether in the mountains or in the operating theatre – brings us closer to better outcomes for women.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be an exciting year with new clinical trials, expanded survivorship programs, and our 15th Patient Symposium. Thank you for being part of this journey.



Professor Andreas Obermair
Director of Research

Research Update - First Patient Recruited to SATELLITE!!

We're excited to share a major milestone: the **first patient has been recruited** to our newest clinical trial **SATELLITE** at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH). This achievement comes after months of preparation and patience, as the study has very strict eligibility criteria.

The trial is investigating the potential of **immune checkpoint inhibitors** as a treatment for women with early-stage endometrial cancer. Ten participants will receive **Dostarlimab** for six months to assess its safety and effectiveness. The potential benefit of this new treatment is that it may eliminate the need for surgery, such as a hysterectomy, for some women with early-stage endometrial cancer.

Recruiting the first patient is a significant step forward, and we're grateful to everyone involved in making this possible. We look forward to sharing more updates as the study progresses.



QCGC Research Celebrates Two Important Publications

We're proud to recognise Dr Eva Baxter and Dr Zoe West for their recent contributions to improving care for women with gynaecological cancers.

Dr Baxter's study in *The American Journal of Surgical Pathology* showed that diagnosing endometrial conditions can be challenging, even for experienced specialists, highlighting the need for expert review to ensure accurate treatment decisions.



Dr West co-authored a study, published in the *International Journal of Gynaecological Cancer*, showing that although less invasive surgery for vulvar cancer is available, it is not used as often as hoped because many women do not meet the eligibility criteria. The research highlights the need to develop safer, less invasive treatment pathways that can reduce harm and support better outcomes for women.



2025 Patient Symposium Wrap Up

What an incredible gathering for the 2025 Gynaecological Cancer Patient Symposium! Held on 30 August at Victoria Park and livestreamed online, the event brought together patients, families, researchers, and consumer partners for a day of learning and connection.

Thank you to our sponsors Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation and GSK, and to everyone who attended in person or online.

If you missed the event or would like to view the presentations again, you can watch them [here](#).

Celebrating Excellence in Women's Health

Professor Andreas Obermair recently received the 2025 Semmelweis Award from the Austrian Society for Obstetrics and Gynaecology, honouring his contributions to women's health and surgical innovation. In his acceptance speech, Prof Obermair shared: *Technology should sharpen judgment, not replace it. Innovation must serve patients, not industry. Change should humanise our work and remind us we will never know it all.*

At QCGC Research, we live this vision through projects like [ALIVE WELL](#) (supporting survivorship), [feMMe Molecular](#) (non-surgical options for early endometrial cancer), and [ENDO-3](#) (reducing surgical complications safely).





UQ Giving Day - Thank You!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we reached our \$50,000 target on UQ Giving Day – and even surpassed it, raising \$51,155 from 78 supporters! With matched funding from Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation and UQ, every donation was tripled, creating a huge impact.

These funds will kick-start ground-breaking work to develop a minimally invasive blood test for earlier detection of cervical cancer – the only initiative of its kind in Australia. Despite being preventable, cervical cancer won't be eradicated until 2080, and treatment remains gruelling.

Thank you for helping us change the future for women diagnosed with cervical cancer. Together, we're making earlier detection possible.

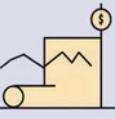
Five Things You Might Not Know About Clinical Trials

By Sara Baniahmadi, Senior Clinical Research Manager



1. It can take years before “Day 1”.

Months (sometimes years!) of protocol writing, feasibility assessments, ethics approvals, and contract negotiations happen before a single participant is enrolled.



2. Every trial runs like a small business.

Administrators manage budgets, payments, and insurance across multiple sites and countries, often juggling dozens of contracts at once.



3. Research administrators are translators of science into practice.

Turning a 100-page protocol into workable processes for doctors, nurses, and patients, while ensuring compliance with strict regulations



4. Safety never sleeps.

Adverse event reporting requires immediate action. Teams are on call around the clock to protect participants and keep regulators informed.



5. The finish line is only the beginning.

After “last patient out,” it can still take 12–24 months of data cleaning, analysis, and reporting before results are ready to be published and shared with the world.

Staff Leading the Way

We are thrilled to share that two members of the QCGC Research team were recognised for their outstanding contributions at the recent UQ Centre for Clinical Research Director Awards and End-of-Year Celebration.

Professor Andreas Obermair received the prestigious Clinical Researcher of the Year Award, acknowledging his exceptional leadership and groundbreaking work in gynaecological cancer research.

Sara Baniahmadi was honoured as Professional Staff Member of the Year, a testament to her

dedication, professionalism, and the vital role she plays in supporting our research programs.

These awards highlight the passion and excellence that drive our team every day. Please join us in congratulating Andreas and Sara on these well-deserved achievements!



Thank you for your ongoing support of QCGC Research. Together we are making a difference in the lives of women with gynaecological cancer. Stay connected with us for updates on our research, events, and ways to get involved.



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