

A round of applause for Menopause The Musical!



On 29 May, we raised over \$21,000 for gynaecological cancer research at a highly entertaining fundraising performance of Menopause The Musical.

With 425 tickets sold, the night kicked off at a cracking pace. Gail Wiltshire and gynaecological cancer surgeon, Dr Jim Nicklin were guest speakers. Thanks to auctioneer Dwight Ferguson from Ray White Ascot and Donna Kosiek and her National Australia Bank team, over 70 items were auctioned in 30 minutes.

A standing ovation goes to Gail Wiltshire, the Twelfth Night Theatre staff (particularly Lisa and Lewis) and the fundraising committee, including Natalie Scalia, Rod Pilbeam, Kay Spencer and Rebekah O'Sullivan.

Special thanks to our prize sponsors, including the Brisbane Entertainment Centre, the Blue Room Cinebar at Paddington, Travel Associates and QT Gold Coast.



Message from the Director of Research

We are grateful for many things here at QCGC Research. Really, they're not 'things' at all, they are people – our inspiring patients, hardworking team and wonderful supporters.

I'd like to start by thanking Cancer Australia for their generous \$380,000 grant, which allows us to complete LACE. This trial has already shown that laparoscopic (keyhole) hysterectomy has benefits over open surgery. You will find further details below.

Other research trials, particularly feMMe, IMAGE and ECHO, show good progress. We've recruited new patients and opened new research sites, here and interstate.

Two recent events, Menopause The Musical and The Battle 2016, have raised a total of over \$137,000 for gynaecological cancer research. We thank Twelfth Night Theatre owner, Gail Wiltshire, and the Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation for inviting us to be a part of these fundraising events.

Although fundraising initiatives do much to improve our financial position, we are a not-for-profit organisation with minimal government support. This means we continue to rely on fundraising and donations to further vital research. As the end of the financial year enters everyone's minds, please consider donating to QCGC Research and encourage others to do so. You can then deduct this donation from this year's tax.

We are grateful for your support. For we cannot do the work we do without it.

Yours in health

Prof Andreas Obermair
Director of Research



The Battle 2016 digs deep for research

The Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation nominated QCGC Research as The Battle's fundraising partner. We were honoured.



On 15 April, despite some afternoon drizzle, the weather lifted and the volleyball competition kicked off, with 365 competitors taking to the sand. Now in its fifth year, The Battle is an evening of fun, camaraderie and good-natured, Battle high jinks.

To the 58 beach volleyball teams who raised a combined total of \$116,500 – we salute your enthusiasm and commitment. Thanks to you we have much needed funds for research.

Cancer Australia helps continue LACE

Earlier this year, QCGC Research received a \$380,000 grant from Cancer Australia to continue its LACE trial, the largest surgical clinical trial ever conducted in Australia.

LACE examines the treatment of endometrial cancer via a laparoscopic (key-hole) hysterectomy versus the traditional, open-abdominal surgery. The trial has already shown the laparoscopic approach has several benefits, including quicker recovery, less pain, fewer complications and an improved quality of life.

With this funding from Cancer Australia we will assess the longer-term outcomes for women (Quality of Life and lifestyle), providing essential new evidence. We will invite all LACE trial participants to take part in the long term follow-up stage of the study shortly.

LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL



Growing evidence for LACC

QCGC Research continues to recruit participants for the LACC Trial at five hospitals in Queensland. With the addition of another Australian site in Perth, Australia and another two international hospitals in Cordoba, Argentina and Milan, Italy, this trial is now available at 26 sites worldwide with 449 participants to date.

This study compares the outcomes from laparoscopic (keyhole) or robotic radical hysterectomy versus abdominal radical hysterectomy in women with early stage cervical cancer. Laparoscopic techniques have been demonstrated to be feasible and safe, with previous studies showing encouraging results. Further information is available from our website www.gyncan.org.



ECHO—Exercise to help you through chemo

Twenty-one women from the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, Greenslopes Private Hospital and Mater Health Services are currently helping us test the theory that exercise will have a positive impact on their physical wellbeing as they undergo chemotherapy treatment for ovarian cancer.

A randomised, controlled, clinical trial ECHO commenced in June 2015. It follows other related studies showing that exercise during chemotherapy reduces the number and severity of physical and psychosocial treatment-related side effects and improves quality of life. Please visit our website www.gyncan.org for more information about ECHO.

Can we count on you?

Just as there are many different types of gynaecological cancer, there are many different reasons why people choose to donate to QCGC Research. For further information or to donate, please email l.harrold1@uq.edu.au or phone Lisa Harrold on 3646 5486. You can count on QCGC Research to use your donation to improve the quality of life for women with gynaecological cancer.

*If you'd like to help raise awareness about gynaecological cancer, please share your story with us!
Please send your details to Danielle Mills d.mills@uq.edu.au*