

RBWH Foundation Diamond Care Grant

QCGC Research has recently been awarded a Diamond Care Grant of \$100,000 through the RBWH Foundation. The funds, raised through The Weekend to End Women's Cancers 2013, will be used to fund the feMMe Trial. This trial aims to revolutionise the landscape of treatment options for women with endometrial cancer via the use of a hormone-

releasing Mirena implanted into the uterus, as an alternative to a full hysterectomy. In supporting those who support us, I encourage QCGC staff and patients to get behind The Weekend to End Women's Cancers, by participating, sponsoring or spectating.

Professor Andreas Obermair

Community Announcements & Fundraising Events from our friends at Cherish



SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST 2014
10.00AM-12.00PM

Cherish Brunch — bring a friend!

After the success of our 1st Cherish brunch, we invite you to our next one! These get-togethers provide the opportunity for the Cherish team and friends to come together, celebrate achievements and embrace new ideas to support our common cause.

Further details will be provided once arrangements have been finalised. Please register your interest now by emailing:

info@cherishfoundation.com.au



WALK/RUN IN THE CHERISH TEAM

BRIDGE TO BRISBANE

Sunday 7 September 2014

If you would like to join the Cherish team and walk/run with us, email info@cherishfoundation.com.au now to register your interest.

This is another great opportunity to connect with others who have been affected in one way or another by gynaecological cancer or to support a great cause. All welcome!

Remember, if you are already running with another team or participating individually, you can still *nominate Cherish* as your charity.



Visit www.cherishfoundation.com.au or email info@cherishfoundation.com.au if you would like to be become aware of activities in the Cherish community.

Tell us a little about yourself

I was born in New Zealand, grew up in Papua New Guinea and settled in Brisbane to attend university. I have a Bachelor of Applied Science and have worked in clinical trials for 17 years. I am kept busy these days with my 2 year-old daughter Ebony.

What is your role & its main purpose?

I am employed as the Clinical Research Manager. My main role is to turn projects from the ideas stage into operational trials. This involves working with the investigators to develop study protocols, seeking ethical and regulatory approvals at study sites, developing study materials and then monitoring the progress of the studies.

How long have you worked at QCGC Research?

I began at QCGC Research at the end of 2007 to work on the LACC Trial.

What is fulfilling about your work?

QCGC Research is involved in a broad range of projects, which aim to understand the mechanisms underlying cancer development, more accurately diagnose them, provide better treatments and minimise their side effects. I feel inspired that assisting with this research may help improve the lives of women with gynaecological cancer.

What do you enjoy doing for leisure?

I love cooking, reading and watching a good DVD.

Up close with Trudi Cattley, Clinical Research Manager



A book/movie you've really enjoyed?

I love to read or watch a good thriller or mystery. I also enjoy biographical and historical works. Two interesting historical movies that I have watched recently are *Dallas Buyers Club* and *12 Years a Slave*.



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Gynaecological Oncology

GOOD NEWS

GOOD NEWS Edition 7 - June 2014

Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer (QCGC) Research

Our Mission

We research and develop the best standard of care for women experiencing gynaecological cancer.



If you have editorial suggestions or contributions, or you would like to fund-raise for QCGC Research, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us on
(07) 3646 3882 or
contact@gyncan.org



Message from the Director of Research

Welcome to the winter edition of our twice yearly newsletter. Our weather at the moment is a little cooler than was the day we held the Battle Against Ovarian Cancer in February.

A very special part of the event was witnessing eighteen year old ovarian cancer survivor, Nickita Pillay bravely and articulately telling us about her personal journey. She is testament to the very reason we all participate in this amazing event each year and proved that ovarian cancer does not discriminate by age.

Though I was (unduly) not awarded best-dressed on the day, I was again impressed by the positive atmosphere and enthusiasm of all involved. The efforts of people to form teams, raise funds and compete so vigorously, while still having a lot of fun is no doubt heart-warming to our patients and their families.

This up-beat energy was evident in the feature match between the Former Origin Greats (FOGs) versus the Olympic Women Legends (OWLS). Though the men put up a solid fight, the OWLS leveraged having a five-time beach volleyball Olympian on their side and were crowned the winners.



Petero Cironiceva & Natalie Cook, about to do battle in the FOGs vs OWLS.

I wish to thank Natalie Cook and her team at Sandstorm for hosting us again. The venue was enhanced by wonderful refreshments supplied by Sol Breads and Lions Club of Brisbane.

I also wish to extend my appreciation to Natalie's fellow OWLS and the FOGs for enthusiastically giving their time, Allianah for providing quality, in-kind entertainment, and to all of the sponsors for backing our cause. And last, but not least, I wish to thank the staff at QCGC for working so earnestly on this annual event. They are already underway with planning Battle for 2015 and I encourage you, from now, to register and commence your fundraising with a long lead-time. Details of an event that should assist—a Cherish movie night—are overleaf.

Another exciting initiative is QCGC's 2nd Queensland Gynaecological Oncology Symposium to be held in August. To be chaired by patient and registered nurse Merran Williams, the day will feature Professor Michael Quinn of the University of Melbourne and Dr Marina Reeves, of the University of Queensland. The information session will address considerations and current research pertaining to gynaecological cancer and I encourage you to embrace this opportunity by registering and bringing along your family members. I hope to see you there on 16 August.

Andreas Obermair

Prof Andreas Obermair
Director of Research
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The FETCH Study – obesity & endometrial cancer

Obesity is the most significant public health problem in the developed world. It is well accepted that excess body weight is a risk factor for many chronic diseases and several types of cancer including endometrial cancer.

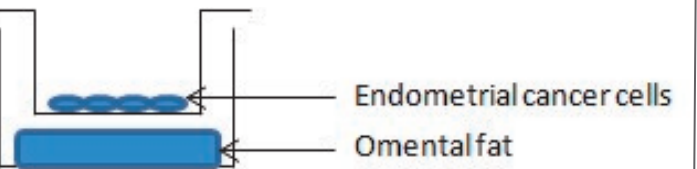
There are over 2,000 new cases of endometrial cancer diagnosed annually in Australia and 68% of women over 50 are classified as either overweight or obese, suggesting that the incidence of endometrial cancer will continue to increase. Although population based studies have shown a link between obesity and cancer, further research in the laboratory is needed to understand the mechanisms underlying this relationship.

This project will include 12 women (6 normal weight and 6 overweight) and 4 men (2 normal weight and 2 overweight) without cancer who are having a surgical procedure on the abdomen. The study will take place at The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital. The laboratory experiments and analysis will be performed at the QIMR-Berghofer Medical Research Institute. The research team includes a number of surgeons and scientists from QCGC and QIMR who are working in collaboration.

Participants will have a small sample of fat removed during surgery. The sample of fat will then be used in the laboratory to conduct experiments whereby it will be placed in a system beside endometrial cancer cells to see what effect fat has on these cells.

The figure below demonstrates the experimental system for co-culturing omental fat with endometrial cancer cells.

We look forward to providing you with more updates on this study.



**Gynaecological Cancer
You are not alone!**

Please find enclosed an invitation, registration form, map, & program for this annual patient information session.

**Saturday 16 August 2014, 9.00am-1.00pm
RWBH Education Centre, Herston**

We encourage you to take-up this opportunity to hear about progress in gynaecological cancer diagnosis and treatment by QCGC Research - locally and internationally. The presenters, who offer a wealth of knowledge both from a medical and personal perspective, welcome your questions.

Study into barriers for the uptake of laparoscopic hysterectomy - LIgHT

Hysterectomy (surgical removal of the uterus) is the most common major gynaecological operation in women in developed countries. In Queensland, 6000 women require a hysterectomy for irregular periods, benign tumours or pelvic pain every year. Surgical approaches to surgical removal of the uterus (womb) include Laparoscopic Hysterectomy (keyhole), Vaginal Hysterectomy (uterus removed through the vagina) and Abdominal Hysterectomy through an abdominal incision.

It is widely accepted that Laparoscopic and Vaginal Hysterectomies are less invasive surgical procedures, cause less bleeding, surgical complications and pain and are associated with quicker recovery from surgery than the more invasive Abdominal Hysterectomy. Despite the evidence for Laparoscopic and Vaginal Hysterectomies, 2600 hysterectomies (43%) are still performed through an open, abdominal incision.

This study will assess reasons why a significant number of gynaecologists and patients prefer Abdominal Hysterectomy over Laparoscopic Hysterectomy (Barriers to the uptake of laparoscopic hysterectomy). We will survey specialist gynaecologists as well as patients who have had a hysterectomy for different health reasons. Based on the information from the survey the investigators will develop an intervention to increase the rate of laparoscopic hysterectomies in Queensland and trial it.

Thank you to all who participated in the BAOC 2014. We are calling on you to give us a hand in the sand for the Battle Against Ovarian Cancer 2015 - Sunday 22 February.

Whether it was your inaugural, or you're an experienced battle-goer, we welcome you back and encourage you to rally some new team members to have a go as well as some enthusiastic donors to get behind your team.

For some of you, it's simply about camaraderie and fun, yet for others the aim is an unrelenting quest for Battle glory. Nevertheless, we will impress with an upbeat atmosphere brought about by sporting legends, great food, entertainment, awards and good humour.



REGISTRATIONS opening soon
www.battleagainstovariancancer.com

ON FACEBOOK, SEARCH FOR -
Battle Against Ovarian Cancer



Patient Profile | Barb Peters

Former medical secretary, Barb Peters is in a good place; she's healthy and taking advantage of the 'window' between children off her hands and grandchildren arriving. Currently, in her 60s, she and her husband are enjoying travel and Probus. Barb also engages in volunteer office work at a RSPCA centre, art classes, social tennis and daily walks. Such active-ness prepared her to walk in the 2013 Weekend to End Women's Cancer. Barb's fundraising efforts also focus on the Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation. She attends events, such as movie nights and morning teas, in particular the Battle - she is planning a team for 2015.

Her motivation to fund raise was brought about by personally having cancer, not once, but twice. In 2008, Barb was diagnosed with uterine cancer and her care, under the direction of Prof Andreas Obermair, involved radiation and chemotherapy and their associated tests. Support from her husband, empathy from her employer, positiveness from her two daughters and thoughtfulness from friends helped her through her treatment. The scare encouraged her to be more diligent with health matters. *'It was a wake up call to look after myself better.'*

Barb lost excess weight and was feeling like a new woman, when in 2012, she alerted doctors to what was diagnosed as low-grade breast cancer. Treatment involved radiation and per recent tests, doctors have given her the 'all clear' - thus further opportunity to embrace life. Barb encourages women to be vigilant with health checks. *'Otherwise, don't worry too much, live life and set yourself goals. Busing myself with challenges like the women's walk and Cherish fundraising, has helped me on the path to healing, so I can be more open about my experiences and ultimately help others.'* In the not too distant future, grandchildren will need to squeeze into her busy schedule!

**Battle 2015
Let Us Help You Fundraise**

Our friends at Cherish are organising some events to which you are welcome to bring your Battle team members as well as other family and friends. You can enjoy a social catch-up while kicking off your team's fundraising. The details of our first event are ...

Palace Cinema Movie Night

6.15 for 6.45pm Wednesday 16 July

Jersey Boys

PALACE BARRACKS, 61 Petrie Terrace

\$20pp includes movie entry and a minimum of \$5 to your nominated Battle team (or for those not in a team, a donation to Cherish). Simply EFT payment to Cherish. BSB: 064-000 Acct: 13300275 EFT Ref: 'team name & your surname' by Monday 14 July, & then, let us know by email - info@cherishfoundation.com.au



Barb Peters and her husband Lindsay