

We pay tribute to Petrica Pintilie

The QCGC Research team was saddened to learn that passionate QCGC Research volunteer and donor, Petrica Pintilie, passed away on 16 February 2016.

This festive season we send our thoughts to her family and friends, particularly to daughters, Laura, Georgeta and Roxana and her grandchildren Alex, Arabella and Aleena.

After being diagnosed and treated for ovarian cancer, Petrica reached out to QCGC Research in 2010 with the promise to raise much-needed funding for research. Petrica fulfilled this promise with determination, commitment and huge amounts of gusto! Petrica's enthusiasm will be missed.



Petrica Pintilie



Message from the Director of Research

We are often so busy in the detail of each day that we have limited opportunities to step back and appreciate the big picture. Thankfully I was able to do this when I presented the LACE results recently at the 16th Biennial Scientific meeting of the International Gynaecological Cancer Society in Lisbon, Portugal.

By 2010 we had enrolled 760 women with endometrial cancer in [LACE](#). Six years on, our follow-up has been completed and the final survival analysis is done. I'm delighted to report that the survival rate is similar between the two treatment groups, indicating that laparoscopic hysterectomy should be elevated as the new treatment standard for endometrial cancer. This is a real win.

In this edition, we share the progress of other trials such as feMMe and introduce a new project, LiVES. We also give thanks to the people who have organised, volunteered and attended our events.

Finally as we approach the end of the year, Christmas looms large. For some people, there is the joy of sharing the festive season with family and friends. For others, they face a difficult period of treatment, uncertainty, or heartache at the absence of loved ones. We remember all of our patients, donors and supporters at this time and wish you joy and peace this festive season.

Yours in health.

Prof Andreas Obermair
Director of Research

QCGC
research

Put an end to cancer at the top of your Christmas wish list

This Christmas, please consider giving to cancer research in lieu of gifts. Your donation will empower and inspire the QCGC Research team to continue their work. It will give hope to cancer patients and is a gift that will keep on giving to many women in future. You can donate at www.gyncan.org—How you can help.



Patient Symposium wrap-up

This year for the first time we held our Patient Symposium on 13 August, during the Ekka week. Thank you to the 100 guests who joined us and to our dedicated presenters.

Associate Professor Lew Perrin (pictured) spoke about how the treatment of gynaecological cancer has changed. Author and social commentator Rebecca Sparrow talked about the importance of resilience in life, sharing her own personal experience with loss. Professor Sandi Hayes reminded us why exercise is so important, even while undergoing cancer treatment. Doctor Sinead Barry spoke of her experience as an Irish - trainee in gynaecological oncology. Professor Obermair concluded with the latest about our research trials.



New LiVES get Dutch assistance

LiVES is a new QCGC Research trial to learn about the lived experience of young women diagnosed with and treated for **ovarian cancer**. There is considerable literature addressing the lived experiences of cancer diagnosis and treatment, including for women with breast and gynaecological cancer.

While the profound biological effects of ovarian cancer diagnosis and treatment are well known, comparatively little detail is known about young women's experiences of diagnosis, treatment and their subsequent lives.

The ultimate aim of the trial is to inform the best care and support for young women diagnosed with ovarian cancer and develop lifestyle interventions that will be beneficial for these women. For three months, Tetske Heijink, (pictured) a visiting research intern from Radboud University Medical Center in The Netherlands, joined the QCGC Research team to work on the initial aspects of this project. We greatly appreciate and value Tetske's involvement in the early stages of this exciting trial.

A positive outcome for the LACE Trial

In late October, Professor Obermair presented the latest results of the [LACE](#) trial to 2,000 attendees at the Biennial Scientific Meeting of the International Gynaecological Cancer Society (IGCS 2016) in Lisbon, Portugal. The results from this international trial that spanned 15 years, show that women with endometrial cancer who undergo a laparoscopic (i.e. minimally invasive) hysterectomy have, an equivalent overall and disease-free survival rate four and a half years after surgery, compared to women receiving a total abdominal (i.e. open surgery hysterectomy).

Contributing to the success of LACE were 27 gynaecological cancer surgeons from 21 cancer centres throughout Australia and New Zealand. Next phase of the trial involves training more surgeons to perform laparoscopic hysterectomies. We are excited to commence this phase in 2017. Sincere thanks to all patients, surgeons, researchers and funders who made this research happen.

Have a look at our new website

We have been busy at QCGC Research updating our website. The URL is still the same www.gyncan.org—have a look—we hope you like it!