

## From our QCGC Research Director *Prof Andreas Obermair*

We often don't stop to celebrate our research wins but I wanted to share with you news about an award that the QCGC Research team recently received as it shows the positive difference that our research is making to people's lives. We recently won a Clinical Research Excellence Award at the Metro North Hospital & Health Service 2017 Awards, for our work to develop less invasive surgery techniques for endometrial cancer. It is humbling to reflect on how our research is changing cancer treatment and to recognise the people who have made this possible – from our donors to our patient volunteers and researchers.



A recent review found that women who participated in clinical trials in obstetrics and gynaecology are winners too. The research showed that women who took part in trials had better health outcomes than women who did not. This is further evidence to support volunteering if you are offered the chance.

In this edition, you'll find details about our activities, including our 2017 Patient Symposium. I extend a personal invitation to you all to attend this free event. You will find out more about gynaecological cancer and its treatment and you will meet other people whose lives are affected by it. I look forward to seeing you there!

## Mark 26 August in your diaries now



Our annual 2017 Patient Symposium, sponsored by AstraZeneca Australia will be held at Customs House in Brisbane on Saturday 26 August 2017, 9:30am-1:15pm. **Register** for this FREE event now! Email [info@gyncan.org](mailto:info@gyncan.org) OR call 07 3646 1722 and let us know your name, number of guests (including you) & dietary requirements. We have a great line up of speakers and topics as follows:

- **Prof Monika Janda**, QUT – prevalence, incidence and risk factors of lymphoedema following gynaecological cancer : results from a longitudinal cohort study (LEGS)
- **Dr Robyn Box**, Qld Lymphoedema and Breast Oncology Physiotherapy – how to treat and prevent lymphoedema
- **Dr Shaun McGrath**, Research Fellow, QCGC Research – update on genetic testing and gynaecological cancer
- **Dr Alessandra Francesconi**, Medical Oncologist - how does chemotherapy work?
- **Ms Elise Worthington**, ABC journalist – personal experience with BRCA1 gene
- **Prof Andreas Obermair**, QCGC Research Director – gynaecological cancer research update

## Conquer Cancer Lunch 2017

Sincere thanks to Carmen Rigney and Australian boutique hair care company, NAK Hair for nominating QCGC Research as the beneficiary of its Women of Inspiration Conquer Cancer Fundraising Lunch 2017. Held at Ruggers Restaurant in Albion on Friday 26 May, Gynaecological oncologist and Director of QCGC, Dr Andrea Garrett was invited as guest speaker and accepted a cheque for \$10,000 on our behalf. Fantastic support Carmen and NAK Hair.

## GIVING WOMEN HOPE

Please consider this fact: while the number of women diagnosed with gynaecological cancer increases each year, government funding into research for better treatments declines. That's why your support is vital to our research. Your tax-deductible donation will give hope to women and girls diagnosed with gynaecological cancer and to future generations. You can donate online at [www.uq.edu.au/giving/donations/](http://www.uq.edu.au/giving/donations/) or by phoning the University of Queensland's fundraising team on 07 3346 3900 during business hours. We appreciate your support.





## IMAGINE: from research to real change

Now that we have overwhelming evidence that laparoscopic hysterectomy is a better option than open abdominal surgery, you would imagine all surgeons would use it when possible. Yet in Queensland, 43% of hysterectomies are conducted by open surgery. Our team is determined to change this through the IMAGINE trial.



We have started training and mentoring the gynaecological surgical teams at Queensland hospitals in the laparoscopic technique. We aim to train 10 surgeons over the next 12 months and hope this will yield immediate and sustainable outcomes.

## Welcome to feMMe Auckland City Hospital

Sixteen sites are now recruiting for the feMMe trial. Most recently we welcomed Auckland City Hospital to the trial, thanks to Dr Lois Eva and trial coordinator Judi Jones. With 100 patients enrolled, we are progressing well towards our overall recruitment target of 165 patients. feMMe targets obese, young or co-morbid patients with early endometrial cancer and aims to treat these women through the use of the Mirena IUD, which treats the cancer from inside the uterus.

## Has it got LEGS?

If a story has legs it's expected to be of interest for some time. One of the chief investigators of the LEGS trial, Professor Monika Janda, can confirm it indeed has legs! In May, Professor Janda presented the results of this longitudinal cohort study to the 2017 Australian Society of Gynaecologic Oncologists Scientific Program. In August, she will present her findings at our 2017 Patient Symposium.

Importantly, for the first time, the LEGS study results allow gynaecological oncologists to predict the risk of lymphoedema prior to gynaecological cancer treatment and to quantify the extent of lymphoedema post treatment with standardised methods.

For more details on our trials, please visit our website [www.gyncan.org](http://www.gyncan.org) and click on 'Current Trials' under 'Our Research' tab.



## Thanks for supporting a winning team!

As mentioned at the start of this newsletter, our team achieved a Clinical Research Excellence Award at the Metro North Hospital & Health Service 2017 Research Excellence Awards in May. We thank everyone who made the LACE trial and thus this win possible.

## For regular updates

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