



Message from the Director of Research Prof. Andreas Obermair

A time to rejoice and reflect



If the festive season has snuck up on you this year, you're not alone! But, please stop for a minute, because Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection (thanks to Winston Churchill for those words).

Reflecting on 2018, there are two poignant lessons for me. The first is that things don't always go as we expect or hope, despite the best preparation. Our experience with the LACC trial shows this. The second is that despite life's challenges, there is always something, or someone, to be grateful for. My gratitude goes to our team, our partners and most importantly to the trial patients. You are the people who make new discoveries possible. You inspire us to keep pushing forward so we can do more for women with gynaecological cancer and those who will be diagnosed in the future.

I can't sign off without a quick plug for the Cherish Trek. Next April, I'll be trekking to Everest Base Camp to fly the flag for gynaecological cancer research. If you or someone you know is looking for a big, bold goal for 2019, come and join us on this adventure.

In the meantime, I wish you a **shiny, bright and reflective festive season.**

Standing room only at the 2018 Patient Symposium

It was almost a packed house on Saturday 8 September for this year's Patient Symposium. Over 170 guests, some from interstate and regional Queensland, heard the latest research innovations and advice on how to make life after cancer the best it can be. We were inspired by the brave stories shared by patients during the event. You can view the Q&A transcript on our website www.gyncan.org under events/2018 Patient Symposium. Thank you to everyone who responded to the event survey. We appreciate your feedback and will use it to ensure next year's event is even better.

AstraZeneca 



We sincerely thank the team at AstraZeneca Australia for sponsoring our 2018 Patient Symposium and making this event possible for our patients and the community.



7 SEPT 2019

Saving the date for the 2019 Patient Symposium

Add this date to your 2019 diary now: **Saturday 7 September.** We would love to see you and your support crew at the 2019 Patient and Community Symposium in Brisbane.

Studying open vs laparoscopic surgery

A 10-year international study, LACC, has shown laparoscopic surgery is not the answer for early-stage cervical cancer. This was an unexpected result, given the reverse is true for endometrial cancer. You can read more about the LACC news here:

<https://medicine.uq.edu.au/article/2018/11/laparoscopic-hysterectomies-not-answer>



Funding a feMMe follow-up

The feMMe trial has now recruited 136 patients – that's 117 in Australia and 19 in New Zealand across 11 and four sites respectively. This trial aims to treat women with endometrial cancer less-invasively through the use of a common IUD, reducing the need for surgery and preserving a women's fertility.

Building on this first stage of research, QCGC Research has proposed a follow-on project, which would gather evidence about feMMe patients beyond six months post-treatment. It is critically important that doctors have clinical practice guidelines and provide women with information that clearly explains the pros and cons of surgical vs non-surgical treatments. QCGC Research is currently working to secure funding for feMMe 2.



Giving the gift of research

Christmas, more than any other season, directs our thoughts to giving. Give the gift of research by making a donation.

You can donate online at: www.gyncan.org/how-you-can-help or call UQ's fundraising team on 07 3346 3900 during business hours.

Self-tracking with the CA-125 app

CA-125 is a smartphone app that allows women with ovarian cancer to self-monitor their treatment and results. It's an inexpensive way to visually see just how you're doing. Purchase it for yourself or someone else, and you'll also be supporting further gynaecological cancer research. The CA-125 app is available at Apple iTunes and Android Play stores for \$9.99.



Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year

While our office will be closed from 24 December 2018 until 8 January 2019, our hearts remain open and our thoughts are with you this festive season.

