

Research that's as bold as bold can be

A message from our Director of Research, Prof. Andreas Obermair

I've not long returned from an incredible journey to Everest Base Camp. This bold fundraising adventure turned out to be more challenging than I'd imagined and more rewarding. I'm in awe of every trekker who participated, but particularly humbled and inspired by gynaecological cancer survivors – Annette, Mary, Paula, Nikki and Bronwen. The camaraderie we shared on the journey reminded me why medical research is so important.



Research means we can help more women live life to the full – including trekking to Mt Everest if they wish! The first Cherish Trek has raised more than \$170,000 for gynaecological cancer research. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to support us. Thank you also to our wonderful trial patients. It is only with your willing participation that we can be bold in our research. Together, we are advancing medical science for the benefit of women around the world. Keep reading to find out more about Cherish Challenge Laparapinta 2020.

The QCGC Research team now has a new home in the University of Queensland's Centre for Clinical Research building at the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital, and we're on the same floor as other UQ women's cancer research teams.

Please come and catch up with us and the latest in research at the 2019 Community and Patient Symposium next month. You'll find more information below. I look forward to seeing you there.

7 September 2019 - it's a date!

Our annual, not-to-be-missed Community and Patient Symposium is on Saturday 7 September from 9.30am to 2pm at Customs House, Brisbane. This year's theme is: Survivorship - Making life after gynaecological cancer the best it can be. Hear about the latest in research in an informal and supportive environment and meet other people impacted by gynaecological cancer.

Register now via email to e.capaldi@uq.edu.au providing your name, email, phone number, how many guests are in your group including yourself and any dietary requirements. Alternatively, call 07 3346 5031 Monday to Wednesday. Please leave a message and provide the above details if the telephone is unattended at the time of your call.

With thanks to AstraZeneca & Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation for sponsoring our 2019 Patient & Community Symposium to make this event possible.

JOIN US FOR OUR 2019 PATIENT & COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM



SURVIVORSHIP

Making life after gynaecological cancer the best it can be

Customs House
399 Queen St
Brisbane

Saturday, 7 Sept 2019
9.30am to 2.00pm

Guest Speakers Include

Pippa Hallas
Ella Bache

Mary (Dicey) Scroggins
22-year ovarian cancer survivor
& leader in patient advocacy

SECURE YOUR SPOT
& REGISTER NOW

e.capaldi@uq.edu.au | 07 3346 5031



Cherish Challenge Larapinta 2020

The next Cherish Challenge is much closer to home than Mt Everest! You're invited to go bush for women's cancers by trekking the Larapinta Trail. Picture yourself exploring this ancient land, sleeping under a blanket of stars and knowing you've done your bit to support vital research into gynaecological cancer. Are you in? You'll find more details at the Cherish website: www.cherish.org.au



The next bold step for FeMMe



Dr Eva Baxter is coordinating the agreements for the next exciting phase of the feMMe trial. Eva says the 12 researchers involved are keen to work together, but as they're based in eight institutions across six countries in three continents there's lots of paperwork to get done first! Eva is coordinating the agreements that detail exactly how this international research collaboration will work, such as how patient data is transferred between institutions. Meanwhile, the researchers are focused on a joint manuscript. Together they will investigate markers (such as blood tests or biopsies) that will identify if a woman with endometrial cancer can safely avoid a hysterectomy and pursue other treatment.

"This trial is the only one of its type in the world," Eva says. "It will advance knowledge in an area that has not been well-researched. The advantage of having an international team is that we can pool our expertise and samples. The project also has a better chance of being funded internationally."

One 'small donor' creating one big legacy

While Ian Lauder considers himself a "small donor", his annual donation to QCGC Research supports researchers to do big stuff. Ian donates in honour of his wife Donna. He first met Donna on a tennis court at Milton and according to Ian, "that was that!" Both originally from Western Queensland, Ian and Donna married, ran two businesses in Brisbane, including Matisse Framing, and had three sons – Sam, Donald and Harry. Sadly, Donna died of peritoneal cancer in 2007, aged just 54. Ian had been donating to cancer research for many years when, in 2013, he heard about QCGC Research's work and started supporting us directly. He says we need research to help find a way to diagnose gynaecological cancer earlier and to treat it more effectively. Thank you, Ian!

A warm welcome to Dr Yang Peng

QCGC Research's newest team member, Dr Yang Peng, started with us in May 2019. Yang is originally from China and has recently completed his PhD in epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of Queensland. He's joined QCGC Research as a part-time research officer and is focused on statistical analysis and the preparation of journal articles.



Planning for the financial year

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

Now that we've well and truly wrapped up the last financial year, we encourage you to think about a regular tax-deductible donation this financial year. Your support helps us continue vital research that improves the lives of women and girls affected by gynaecological cancer. There is much to look forward to this year, and we'd love to count on your regular donation.