

Improving the outcomes for women with endometrial cancer



A message from Prof. Andreas Obermair, QCGC Research Director

I hope you and your family have stayed safe and well during the pandemic. While COVID-19 has dominated the attention of many, our group has continued important gynaecological cancer research. Our thanks to the women who stuck with their clinical trials during this time. We are confident the long-term benefits will outweigh any risks.

Our thanks also to those organisations and individuals who continued to support our research with grants and donations. Without your support, much-needed research could not continue. In this edition, we share some good news about endometrial cancer research and launch the date of our annual 2020 Online Patient and Community Symposium (details on page 2)! We hope to 'see' you all there.

Granted: improved outcomes for women with endometrial cancer

As a dedicated health care professional who is also a researcher, Professor Andreas Obermair's research projects, address the health challenges that he sees in his work with patients. In good news, Andreas has received a \$2.5 million Investigator Grant (funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council from 2021 to 2025) to improve the treatment options and outcomes for women with endometrial cancer.

With this grant, Andreas' research project aims to:

1. Help endometrial cancer patients avoid complications, improve their quality of life and minimise unnecessary costs
2. Preserve fertility in the growing number of young women diagnosed with endometrial cancer
3. Develop targeted treatments for endometrial cancer as an effective alternative to major surgery
4. Create robust evidence needed for changes to clinical practice.

Globally approximately 400,000 women are diagnosed with endometrial cancer each year, and the strain on healthcare resources is increasing, along with patient complexity. Currently, the standard treatment for endometrial cancer includes a hysterectomy plus surgical staging.

There are two main challenges with this approach. For elderly, obese or women with multiple co-morbidities, a hysterectomy results in unacceptably high adverse effects, and for younger women, a hysterectomy removes their opportunity to have children. Also, while lymph node dissection is part of surgical staging, there is limited evidence to support its benefit to patients. Andreas will build on world-leading, multicentre, international legacy trials, such as feMMe and LACE, expanding our understanding of this disease and how best to treat it through high-level clinical trials.



SAVE THE DATE - 12 September 2020
2020 Online Patient Symposium - details page 2

Mark your diary for the 2020 Online Patient Symposium

With travel restrictions and social distancing due to COVID-19, QCGC Research had to find a new way to deliver our Patient and Community Symposium in September. We're excited to announce it's going virtual, which means more women, their families and health teams can join us from anywhere in the world!

This year's theme is Gynaecological cancer research breakthroughs – saving and improving lives of women, and we have speakers lined up to talk about topics including international research that is saving the lives of women with cervical cancer, who benefits from parp inhibitors and the non-surgical treatment of endometrial cancer.

To register for the 2020 Online Patient Symposium, please email e.capaldi@uq.edu.au and we will forward event information and login details as soon as they are finalised. More details regarding the program and presenters will be posted on the QCGC Research website and through social media accounts soon.

QCGC Research Online Patient Symposium

Gynaecological cancer research breakthroughs
– saving and improving the lives of women

**Saturday 12 September
9-11am AEST (Brisbane)**



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AUSTRALIA

QCGC
research



Calling all feMMe participants

The last feMMe patient enrolled in the early phase of this endometrial cancer trial, finished at the Mater in late April 2020. Since then, the QCGC Research team has been data cleaning and reviewing pathology samples in preparation for data analysis and writing reports, presentations and publications. They have also started the long-term follow-up with all participants via mail. If you participated in the feMMe trial but have not yet signed up for the long-term follow-up, please contact the clinical trial manager, Vanessa Taylor, at vanessa.taylor3@health.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 3346 5073.

We acknowledge and thank the following organisations for supporting this trial; the Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation, the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital, Icon Group, ANZGOG, Cancer Australia, and the Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust.

Leaving a lasting legacy

Our sincere gratitude to community members who have notified us that they intend leaving a gift to QCGC Research through their Wills.

If you would like more information about making a bequest to QCGC Research, please contact the University's Bequest Manager on +61 7 3346 3904 or email bequest@uq.edu.au.

Making a difference

While our endometrial cancer research received a much-appreciated boost recently with the Investigator Grant, in reality this is a drop in the ocean of funds required to conduct robust clinical trials into ALL types of gynaecological cancer.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation. 100 per cent of which will support trials that improve survival rates, treatments and ways to detect and prevent this disease.



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