

## Research that requires more than determination and diligence



### A message from Prof. Andreas Obermair, QCGC Research Director

There is no doubt COVID-19 has slowed the world down this year. Despite these challenges, our researchers remain as diligent and determined as ever to improve gynaecological cancer treatments. This year, more than others, we celebrate every grant and donation because this support is increasingly important to continuing our research program.

Thanks to recent funding support from the Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation, our ENDO-3 trial is gaining significant momentum. This support is a tremendous boost, and now we can expand site and patient recruitment to the project. You'll find more details about the ENDO-3 trial in this newsletter.

This September is Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month. Please consider how you can help to increase awareness about gynaecological cancer and the researchers working to improve our understanding of gynaecological cancer. Only with this knowledge can we develop better treatments for women and girls with the disease.

We look forward to the day when the world opens up again and it is easier to meet in person. In the meantime, we extend a warm invitation to you to our Annual Patient & Community Symposium. This year, the event will be offered virtually via Zoom and face-to-face in the UQCCR Auditorium on the RBWH campus. Seats are limited in the auditorium due to Covid restrictions and will be capped at 50. Please refer to the attached information for registration details.

The past year has reminded us of the importance of community. Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please contact us at [info@gyncan.org.au](mailto:info@gyncan.org.au). We welcome and embrace ideas that improve the outcomes for women and girls with gynaecological cancer.

## Fundraising kickstarts the ENDO-3 trial

ENDO-3 trial is a randomised clinical trial that QCGC Research team commenced this year. The trial investigates the benefits and risks of sentinel node biopsy as part of the treatment of women with endometrial cancer. We recruited our first participant in February 2021, and over the next three years, we aim to recruit 760 patients. The recent grant of \$50,000 from Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation is a tremendous boost in helping us achieve this recruitment goal. More information about the trial can be found on the QCGC Research website.

## Welcoming three to our team

Montana O'Hara has joined QCGC Research as a PhD student. Working previously as a research assistant, Montana acquired the relevant research skills and knowledge in the field of gynaecological cancer. Her project is Endometrial cancer treatments – patient information needs & support.



Montana



Sara



Alisha

Sara Baniahmadi has joined our team as the Clinical Trial Manager overseeing the ECHO and ECHO-R trials. These trials investigate the feasibility, safety and potential benefits of exercise during treatment for ovarian cancer. We have also welcomed Alisha Wallace as the Clinical Trial Coordinator responsible for recruiting participants in the ECHO-R and ENDO-3 trials. More information about the trial can be found on the QCGC Research website: <https://gyncan.org> and click on 'Our Research' under the Current Trials menu header.



## Please join our Patient and Community Symposium

Have you got plans for Saturday 9 October 2021? We invite you to join us from 9-11 am for our annual Patient & Community Symposium. This year's theme is 'Gynaecological cancer research projects that every woman should know about.'



The Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer Research presents our annual



**SATURDAY 9 OCT 2021, 9-11AM AEST (BRISBANE)**

*Patient & Community Symposium 2021*

The program includes Associate Professor Carlos Salomon Gallo talking about ovarian cancer, Professor Penny Webb explaining what was learnt from the OPAL study and Dr Eva Baxter speaking about the non-surgical treatment alternatives for endometrial cancer, i.e., the feMMe Molecular trial. Registration details are outlined in the attached flyer or by visiting the QCGC Research website.

Visit: <https://gyncan.org> and click on events under the News & Achievements menu.

### feMMe's international fame

Earlier this year, Professor Andreas Obermair presented the findings from QCGC Research's feMMe trial to the international gynaecological cancer community. feMMe researchers studied the treatment of women with endometrial cancer using a common IUD, which reduces the need for surgery and preserves a women's fertility.



While the trial results are positive, Professor Obermair explained that more research is required to find the parameters that predict response or non-response to the non-invasive treatment. QCGC Research is progressing this research by bringing together a multi-disciplinary team with expertise in gynaecological oncology, molecular pathology and translational research. This project is ready to commence as soon as funding is available.

<https://gyncan.org/our-research/our-research-trials/femme-trial>

### IGCS Excellence in Teaching Award

Congratulations to Professor Andreas Obermair, who received the International Gynecological Cancer Society's Excellence in Teaching Award this year. This award recognises Professor Obermair's lifelong commitment to improving the care of women affected by gynaecological cancer and the lasting impact of educators to shape and inspire future clinicians and researchers. Read more at the below website.

<https://igcs.org/awards/excellence-in-teaching-award/andreas-obermair/>

### Legacy gifts

Our research team is humbled by the selfless gifts that members of our community have pledged in their Wills. This support inspires us to continue our research, especially during challenging times. We pay tribute to the bequests from men and women who want to create better treatments for women and girls diagnosed with gynaecological cancer in the future. Thank you.

<https://gyncan.org/how-you-can-help/bequests>



Donate at  
**[www.gyncan.org/how-you-can-help](https://www.gyncan.org/how-you-can-help)**  
or call UQ's fundraising team on 07 3346 3900  
during business hours.