

Spring edition 2022



Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer Research

Gynaecological Oncology

GOOD NEWS

Bridging the knowledge gap for better outcomes

A message from Prof. Andreas Obermair, QCGC Research Director

This Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month (September), please encourage all the women you know to learn about gynaecological cancer, including the signs and symptoms. Sadly, there is still not enough awareness about this disease. Keep in mind that gynaecological cancer can be difficult to diagnose and only cervical cancer has a screening test.

We also still lack evidence to support kinder treatments. While research has progressed, it takes years and committed funding to translate findings into practice. In exciting news, QCGC Research secured an NHMRC Partnership grant – a welcome boost to our feMMe Molecular study. This success was only possible because of the support of our project partners and donor community. We thank them all. It has also inspired our team to continue to apply for grant funding for other much-needed projects.

As part of our valued community, join us, in person or online, for our annual Symposium. This year it will be held at City Hall, on Saturday 15 October, and we welcome everyone who would like to hear about the latest developments in gynaecological cancer research, including international projects. Please read on for more details. I look forward to seeing you there.



A. Obermair

Symposium 2022: Save the date

On Saturday, 15 October 2022, we invite you to join us for our annual Patient and Community Symposium. Thanks to our event sponsor, AstraZeneca, for their ongoing support. We will live-stream the Symposium for those that can't be there in person.

Saturday 15 October, 9am to noon
Sherwood Room, Brisbane City Hall
64 Adelaide Street, Brisbane

Speakers include:

- **Prof Pedro Ramirez**, Gynaecological Oncologist, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre
- **Dr Kristen Moloney** – Gynaecological Oncologist at the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital
- **Dr Rachel Collings** – Gynaecologist and Gynaecological Surgeon, Toowoomba Specialist Centre

Registration details are in the attached flyer and on our website. Visit www.gyncan.org, click on events under News & Achievements menu, then select 2022 QCGC Research Patient Symposium.



“Turning up the volume on gynaecological cancer! What every woman and her family should know.”



Legacy gifts

Thank you to the members of our community who have notified us that they intend to leave a gift to QCGC Research in their Wills. If you would like to know more, please visit our website: <https://gyncan.org/how-you-can-help/bequests>

Major grant success – NHMRC Partnership Grant for feMMe Molecular



In February 2022, the Australian Government announced QCGC Research as one of five recipients of the NHMRC Partnership grant. QCGC Research's feMMe Molecular trial focuses on a non-surgical treatment alternative for women with endometrial cancer. The NHMRC funding will support a postdoctoral research fellow and associated project costs. This success was only possible with our project partners' support. Thanks to Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Metro North Health, Pathology Queensland, Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology and the incredible patients who participated in our predecessor trial, feMMe.

Bolted – A Kinder Cup Day

Bolted is a fun, exciting alternative Melbourne Cup lunch held in Brisbane that celebrates kindness and hope, rather than horse-racing. All profits from the event go directly and equally to QCGC Research and RSPCA(Qld). In 2021, proceeds from the inaugural event meant \$27,740 for gynaecological cancer research. Join us for Bolted 2022 from noon, Tuesday 1st November, at the Calile Hotel in Fortitude Valley. Secure your tickets here: www.bolted.com.au



Cancer He Said

QCGC Research supporter Jane Greal's portrait of Professor Andreas Obermair was a finalist in the Brisbane Portrait Prize in 2021. This year Jane challenged the QCGC Research community to raise \$20,000 to support gynaecological cancer research. When that happened, she said she would gift the artwork to the UQ Faculty of Medicine.



The incredible QCGC Research community responded by smashing the target in just over two months, and you will soon be able to view the portrait in the UQCCR building at the RBWH Herston campus. Email info@gyncan.org if you would like to know more.

ENDO-3 addressing a 30-year knowledge gap

Our team started ENDO-3 – a randomised clinical trial – in 2021. The world-first study investigates the benefits and risks of sentinel node biopsy as part of the treatment of women with endometrial cancer. It addresses a knowledge gap that has existed for over 30 years. The outcomes will be critical to informing clinicians and patients about sentinel lymph node dissection's effectiveness, benefits and risks. Ultimately, it will determine the value of keeping or discontinuing this procedure in early-stage endometrial cancer treatment.

So far, eleven surgeons (nine from Australia & two international) have been accredited, with more in the pipeline. Patient recruitment is gaining momentum with 94 women, all from Queensland, now enrolled in the ENDO-3 Trial.

Team update

With heavy hearts, we will soon farewell Trudi Cattley (right), QCGC Research's Clinical Research Manager for over 15 years, who is taking a well-earned break. We sincerely thank Trudi for her expertise in turning projects from the ideas stage into successful clinical trials. Sara Banihadi (left), who currently manages the ECHO and ECHO-R Trials, will fill Trudi's role for the next twelve months.

We welcome Juliet Ford, who commenced earlier this year as the lead Research Nurse for the MOST Trial and will expand her role to assist with the ECHO and ECHO-R Trials.

Thanks to a grant from Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation, Dr Eva Baxter, our post-doctoral research fellow, has also extended her workdays to four days per week and will work mainly on the feMMe Molecular trial.

We also welcome our newest member of the team, Maria Vatca, Clinical Trial Coordinator, responsible for recruiting participants and data collection on the ENDO-3 trial at Queensland sites.



Support our research. Donate at:
www.gyncan.org/how-you-can-help
or call UQ's fundraising team on 07 3346 3909 during business hours.

QCGC
research

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