

Quick Update:

- Save the Date:
 - 15th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting
- Getting to know Keryn Davidson, Co-Convenor 2023 ASM

Inside this issue:

Chairman's Message	1
Save the Date - 15 th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting	2
Getting to know Keryn Davidson, Co-Convenor 2023 ASM	2
COGNO Trial Updates	3
New Concepts / Trials in Development	4
Staff Update	4
CTC COGNO Lunch	5
Membership Update	5
Additional Information	5
Reminders	6
COGNO Committees and Contacts	7



COGNO

COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP
FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Member Newsletter

Issue 42

Autumn 2023

Message from our Chair



Dear COGNO Member

I trust that you have experienced a positive and rewarding commencement to 2023. This year is proving to be a busy and productive time of growth for COGNO, given the activation and recruitment of both the LUMOS2 umbrella interventional trial in recurrent lower grade glioma as well as the phase 3 EORTC-led PersoMed-I study in AYA medulloblastoma. I am particularly pleased that COGNO can bring such a high calibre global trial to Australian patients, and one which is strategically designed for adolescent and young adult participants, forging new networks spanning clinicians, researchers, and trials teams. I wish to

particularly acknowledge the incredible efforts of Australian trial co-leads Professor David Ziegler and Associate Professor Liz Hovey together with the NHMRC CTC team and the University of Sydney working in concert with the international lead group EORTC and Study Chair Professor Peter Hau.

The MAGMA trial in adult glioblastoma has recruited very strongly to the two existing questions, thanks to the stellar efforts of all site teams across Australia, with the current strategic priority to actively address the next steps. The PICCOG trial continues in development with progress towards national site activation.

Across COGNO Committees, the Outreach and Education Committee have new membership and I look forward to seeing their impactful activities expand this year. In addition, the COGNO Consumer Advisory Panel has expanded and is undergoing role diversification under the brilliant leadership of Ms Desma Spyridopoulos. The COGNO Scientific Advisory Committee and Ideas Generation Workshop exist to support, develop, critically appraise and auspice concepts, particularly those where COGNO can lead and/or contribute significantly. Further news regarding the upcoming Ideas Generation Workshop will be disseminated soon. The COGNO ASM Organising Committee, with co-convenors Dr Adrian Lee and Dr Keryn Davidson, are already making excellent progress towards the creation of a fantastic ASM program to be held in October, Sydney.

As always, the core team - COGNO Executive Officer Ms Jenny Chow, Yi Feng and Danielle Massey, all the trials teams and staff at the NHMRC CTC, together with COGNO Committee members, continue to provide excellent support for the full complement of COGNO activities.

With best wishes

Associate Professor Eng-Siew Koh
MBBS FRANZCR
Group Chair

SAVE THE DATE!

15th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting Sunday 8th October - Tuesday 10th October 2023 Sydney, NSW, Australia

COGNO is pleased to announce that planning is underway for our upcoming ASM and associated meetings to be held from Sunday 8th October - Tuesday 10th October in Sydney. To join our mailing list for regular updates, email ctc.cognoasm@sydney.edu.au with your interest. We look forward to welcoming you in October!



GETTING TO KNOW KERYN DAVIDSON, CO-CONVENOR 2023 ASM



Dr Keryn Davidson is a Neurosurgeon at The Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH). She operates at North Shore Private Hospital and consults privately at the North Shore Health Hub. Keryn completed her neurosurgery training and obtained her FRACS (Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons) in 2017. Keryn grew up in Queensland and completed her medical school training at The University of Queensland in 2006. She went on to complete her internship and residency at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital before commencing neurosurgical training. Keryn completed a fellowship year in 2018 at RNSH with a focus on open cerebrovascular neurosurgery including treatment of brain aneurysms and arteriovenous malformations, as well as general neurosurgery. Keryn was appointed as the first female neurosurgeon at RNSH in 2019.

How did you become involved in COGNO?

As a Neurosurgeon, brain cancer makes up a large proportion of my patients. I have a close working relationship with my medical and radiation oncology teams at RNSH. To be able to offer our patients the best care, it's vital to be up to date on the latest trials and technology. Being a part of COGNO is an excellent way to connect with colleagues around the country and the world.

What do you find most challenging about your work, and most rewarding? How do you stay motivated to continue in your role?

Treating patients with often incurable disease can be quite emotionally challenging as we navigate through their disease. Being able to maintain a good quality of life, and continually seeing advances in oncology treatment modalities to keep people with their loved ones for longer, is the best reward in neuro-oncology. Being a part of my patient's journey is such a privilege, their courage and resilience is humbling and inspiring.

What are you most proud of in your career?

I am really proud of having a career where I get to do something I love every day with no regrets. I have the opportunity to continually expand my knowledge and expertise.

What is a typical day for you?

My typical day usually involves an early start being woken by either my registrars or my two very pampered rescue cats. Most days involve seeing all my inpatients and either a clinic or operating list that can have any number of patients. I always fit in at least an hour of exercise to balance the day.

What do you do in your 'spare' time?

As a Consultant, I have a little more spare time than when I was a training Neurosurgery Registrar. I like to ensure that I have some down time which for me is spending time at the gym and catching up for quality time with my friends. As I spend so much time indoors, it's quite a luxury to be outside in the sunshine when I get the opportunity. I find water very calming so by the harbour, on the beach or near the ocean is where I feel my happiest (apart from when I am in my operating theatre!).

What are you looking forward to in 2023?

The freedom to travel is one of the things I look most forward to for 2023!! Like everyone post-COVID I'm sure. I am also looking forward to co-convening this year's COGNO ASM alongside Dr Adrian Lee, we look forward to welcoming you all in October!

TRIAL UPDATES



The ACED trial results was recently published in the *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care* - Published Online First: 17 February 2023. The primary objective of the ACED trial was to determine whether adding oral acetazolamide permits dexamethasone dose reduction without a clinical deterioration in study participants' performance status.

The addition of acetazolamide did not facilitate a reduction in dexamethasone. The lessons learned from the ACED trial provides a template against which future trials examining steroid-sparing approaches might be evaluated in order to encompass important patient-centred outcomes.

For further information: <https://spcare.bmj.com/content/early/2023/02/17/spcare-2022-004119>

Thank you to all site personnel for their ongoing diligence in screening and enrolling patients and to all participants and their families for their participation and contributions to the COGNO trials to date.

NUTMEG



GBM; ≥ 65 years



18 sites



103 patients



102 patients (Aust & USA)



Status: Follow Up

[ACTRN12617000267358](https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?id=12617000267358)

LUMOS



Grade 2/3 gliomas for molecular profiling



5 sites



10 patients



10 patients (Pilot study)



Status: Close out

[ACTRN12620000087954](https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?id=12620000087954)

VERTU



GBM; unmethylated MGMT



17 sites



125 patients



125 patients



Status: Follow Up

[ACTRN12615000407594](https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?id=12615000407594)

MAGMA



GBM or glioma with molecular features of GBM



Up to 30 sites



304 patients



300 patients (for the initial 2 Questions)



Status: Recruiting

[ACTRN12620000048987](https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?id=12620000048987)

CATNON



Non-1p/19q deleted anaplastic glioma



13 sites



82 patients (Australia)



751 (internationally)



Status: Follow Up

[ACTRN12609000485235](https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?id=12609000485235)

ACED



High Grade Glioma



11 sites



30 patients



84 patients (stopped early due to the impact of Avastin going onto PBS)



Status: Publication

[ACTRN12615001072505](https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?id=12615001072505)

NEW CONCEPTS / TRIALS IN DEVELOPMENT

Do you have an idea for a potential study?

The COGNO SAC (Scientific Advisory Committee) meets four times a year to assist with developing trial concepts. The next opportunity to present new concepts to SAC is on Thursday 15 June 2023. Concepts are due four weeks prior to each meeting. The concept submission form can be found on the COGNO website (www.cogno.org.au). During the SAC meeting, new protocols are presented by the proposer, and feedback is provided by clinical, translational, consumer and scientific members of the committee. If you have a great idea, you are welcome to contact the COGNO SAC to discuss how we can assist in concept development.

If you become aware of a funding opportunity during the year that might be of relevance to COGNO or for which you would like to involve COGNO in your application, please let us know! Under these circumstances, we can facilitate urgent COGNO SAC review and COGNO input to assist you in refining your proposal, building your team, and hopefully improving your chances of a successful application.

If you require any further information, please email ctc.cogno@sydney.edu.au.

Prof Hui Gan and Prof Bryan Day, on behalf of the COGNO SAC and COGNO community.

Important dates for noting:

- 18 May 2023 - Concepts due for presentation to SAC on 15 June 2023.

STAFF UPDATE

With the expansion of our trials portfolio, we would like to welcome the new CTC staff working on COGNO trials.



Sachie Pallimulla - Senior Trials Operations Coordinator

Sachie Pallimulla commenced his role as a Senior Trials Coordinator at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre (CTC) in January 2023. Before commencing at the CTC, Sachie worked with Monash University as a Project Officer in the Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly Clinical Trial Extension Project (ASPREE-XT). He qualified in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Sydney and holds a BMedSci (Hons) in Paediatric Neuroscience from the University of Wollongong. At the NHMRC CTC, Sachie's contributions will span COGNO, MoST, and ANZGOG studies. In his spare time, Sachie likes to find the time to relax, read, play the guitar, and discover more about the world.



Patrick Wheeler - Clinical Trial Operations Lead

Patrick joined the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre (CTC) in April 2021, after spending the previous 7 years working at TROG Cancer Research across a range of oncology clinical trials, including the COGNO co-badged FIG study. Patrick currently works across the Molecular Screening and Therapeutics (MoST) Program and is also the Clinical Trial Operations Lead for the LUMOS2 study. Outside of work, Patrick spends most of his time renovating his 1940's fixer-upper, navigating his wife's never-ending "Renovation To-do List", chasing his 16-month-old around the yard and playing soccer for the Edgeworth Eagles.



Maria Wilhelmina Arcilla - Clinical Data Manager

Maria Wilhelmina Arcilla is a Clinical Data Manager at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre (CTC). She joined NHMRC in October 2022. Prior to this, she worked at Merck as a Data Management Associate, then as a Pharmacovigilance Associate. Maria also worked at Sanofi in their Patient Support Program. Over the past 7 years she managed her husband's busy surgery. Maria has a degree in Psychology and a degree in Medicine from the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines. In her spare time, Maria likes taking walks, going for a swim, and pampering her Cavoodle.

CTC COGNO LUNCH

Some CTC staff working on COGNO trials and activities met up for a long overdue lunch! It was a great opportunity to meet new colleagues and catch-up with old ones.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

COGNO now has 935 members! Help us expand our Group's expertise and networking capacity. If you know someone who would like to join, you can refer prospective members to our online membership application on our website (www.cogno.org.au) or office (cogno@cogno.org.au).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BRAINS Program

The Brain cancer Rehabilitation Assessment Intervention for Survivorship Needs (BRAINS) Program is a collaboration between PoCoG, COGNO, PC4, CST community organisations and institutions across Australia, which aims to:

- Deliver better survivorship and supportive care to people affected by brain cancer.
- Develop improved models of care coordination for people with brain cancer and their caregivers that is responsive, timely and proportionate to the severity and urgency of individual needs.

The below BRAINS Program studies are open for recruitment:

- [Adapting RESTORE for people with brain cancer](#): seeking health care professionals and carers to share their feedback on a web-based intervention (RESTORE) to support self-management of cancer-related fatigue in people with brain cancer.
- [LaTCH-Brain Cancer](#): seeking adults who have been diagnosed with brain cancer who want to improve their memory by taking part in an online 6-week memory skills and strategies group program.
- [Caring for the Carer](#): seeking carers to test an online intervention that provides practical reliable information and support to people who care for an adult with a brain tumour.
- [BRAINS ADAPT](#): seeking adults who have been diagnosed with brain cancer, adults who care for someone diagnosed with brain cancer, and health care professionals to pilot an online portal to support those affected by brain cancer.
- [The Telehealth Making Sense of Brain Tumour Program](#): offering up to 10 sessions of psychological support for people who have been diagnosed with brain tumour and their family members using telehealth. NOTE: open only to people who reside outside of Queensland.

For any BRAINS related general enquiries please contact: pocog.brains@Sydney.edu.au

Cancer Symptoms Trials (CST)

[Cancer Symptoms Trials](#) (CST) is seeking healthcare professionals (clinical specialist, general practitioner, nurse, Allied health professional, medical interpreter or researcher) working with adults with cancer from the Arabic-speaking community in Australia, to participate in the study "[Healthcare professionals' perspectives on the barriers and enablers of cancer clinical trial participation in the Australian Arabic-speaking community](#)". Registration for the study is via <https://events.humanitix.com/copy-of-cancer-clinical-trial-participation-in-the-australian-arabic-speaking-community>. Queries to be directed to CST@uts.edu.au.

REMINDERS

- 22 - 24 March 2023: Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) Annual Scientific Meeting, Brisbane, <https://www.anzgog.org.au/inform/annual-scientific-meeting/>
- 23 March 2023: Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Annual Scientific Meeting, Brisbane, https://www.masc.org.au/masc-trials-asm-2023/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=masc-trials-asm-2023
- 24 - 25 March 2023: Australasian Melanoma Conference, Brisbane, <https://www.melanoma2023.com/>
- 19 - 22 June 2023: Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG) Annual Scientific Meeting, Adelaide, <https://asm.trog.com.au/>
- 9 July 2023: Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP) Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne, <https://anzup.org.au/asm2023/>
- 26 - 28 July 2023: Breast Cancer Trials Annual Scientific Meeting, New Zealand, <https://www.breastcancertrials.org.au/research/annual-scientific-meeting/>
- 2 - 4 August 2023: Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) Annual Scientific Meeting, Perth, <https://www.moga.org.au/2023-asm>
- 8 - 10 October 2023: Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO) Annual Scientific Meeting, Sydney, <https://cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm-home>
- 27 - 29 October 2023: Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology (ASNO) Annual Meeting, Indonesia, <https://asno2023.com/>
- 1 - 3 November 2023: Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne, <https://www.cosa.org.au/education-events/annual-scientific-meeting/>
- 13 - 16 November 2023: Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Cancer Trials Group (AGITG) Annual Scientific Meeting, New Zealand, asm.gicancer.org.au
- 15 - 19 November 2023: Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) Annual Meeting, Canada, https://www.soc-neuro-onc.org/WEB/Events/SNO_Annual_Meetings/WEB/Event_Content/Annual_Events.aspx?hkey=f9b4fed1-3f51-4083-adfa-bf69de5fd450



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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A/Prof Georgia Halkett (Treasurer)
A/Prof Liz Hovey (Secretary)
Prof Meera Agar
Ms Marcia Fleet
Prof Hui Gan
Dr Adrian Lee
Dr Jonathon Parkinson
Mrs Desma Spyridopoulos
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Emily Tu
MAGMA Project Manager
LUMOS Project Manager

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If you have any trial specific questions,
please feel free to contact the study team
via the trial mailbox listed below.

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