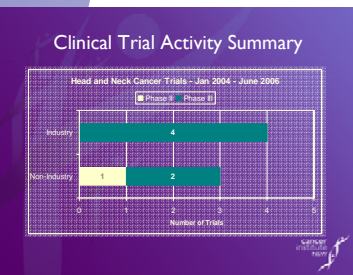


Back in the swing of things, and most NSWOGs have met for the first time in 2007, finalising healthy work plans and directions for the new year. NSWOG Projects are taking form, with steering groups working with the Cancer Institute NSW to finalise details. NSWOGs have featured road shows from the Research and Information and Registries Divisions, covering the Clinical Trials Network and demonstrating Admitted Cancer Patient Activity Reports.

Clinical Trials Network

Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Trials Manager, Angelina Catanzariti, has been doing the NSWOG rounds, presenting the Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Trials program and updating NSWOGs on the partnership between the Cancer Institute NSW and the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre. NSWOGs are being encouraged to propose investigator-lead clinical trial initiatives and access available resources, such as statistical and/or operational support.



Each group has been updated with a tumour or discipline specific overview and summary of current clinical trials and activity.

Admitted Cancer Patient Activity Reports

Separations with Primary Site of Cancer* Only Last Refresh: 29/03/2006 03:14:12 PM

Admitted Patient Activity by AHS of Treating Facility and Cancer Type, Public Hospitals Only

Tumour Group	X160 - Children's Hospital at Westmead	X500 - Sydney South West	X510 - South Eastern Sydney / Illawarra	X520 - Sydney West	X530 - Northern Sydney / Central Coast	X540 - Hunter / New England	X550 - North Coast	X560 - South Coast	X570 - Greater Western	Grand Total
01 Head and Neck	70	495	635	222	215	287	67	158	72	2,522
02 Upper Gastro Intestinal	70	1,534	1,275	670	675	827	313	448	243	6,255
03 Colorectal		1,550	1,842	653	1,106	1,218	530	634	401	7,742
04 Respiratory	23	1,517	1,352	930	1,109	1,052	495	470	316	7,294
05 Bone and Soft Tissue	358	224	399	100	46	178	42	50	30	1,487
06 Breast		1,250	1,388	856	771	993	493	435	389	6,497
07 Gynaecological	14	680	804	347	355	465	172	160	97	3,173
08 Melanoma of Skin	11	1,052	281	250	289	670	241	169	100	2,982
09 Neurological	220	232	352	141	201	168	45	56	38	1,487
10 Urogenital	135	2,654	2,440	1,076	1,371	1,576	602	700	538	11,090
11 Thyroid and other endocrine	66	334	305	159	190	148	7	18	16	1,243
12 Haematopoietic	656	3,843	5,471	1,758	2,209	3,183	637	1,088	611	19,657
13 Undefined & Unspecified Site	4	575	408	237	311	456	159	214	143	2,507
Grand Total	1,832	15,921	16,810	7,588	9,190	11,237	3,716	4,628	2,871	73,985

Joining Angelina on the NSWOG rounds is Ariana Dobrovic, who has been presenting Admitted Cancer Patient Activity Reports on behalf of Cancer Registries. Ariana has been demonstrating a variety of reports and flows, which are currently available to NSWOG members working from public hospitals.

Community Corner

Shirley Beaumont Owles, NSWOG Complementary Therapies

"Having vowed to give something back to the cancer community after surviving a diagnosis of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2003, I started volunteering at North Shore Hospital and didn't hesitate for a moment when asked to join NSWOG Complementary Therapies. I found the group to be very dynamic and quickly became enthused with the many topics discussed at meetings.

As a strong believer in conventional medicine, I was reluctant to try anything new, but when I was told my cancer was indolent and wouldn't respond to chemotherapy, I thought there must be something I can do for myself. So, for the next six months I turned my life around; took up yoga, changed my diet to organic fresh produce and started meditating. Fifteen months later my haematologist's told me I had gone into "spontaneous remission" as all the nodes had gone, but I assured him there was nothing 'spontaneous' about it! It was clearly a result of my improved lifestyle.

I think we lead very complacent lives and have a lot to learn about complementary therapies. I am hoping that NSWOG Complementary Therapies can get cancer patients and clinicians thinking about the benefits of massage, meditation, exercise and a balanced diet. More importantly though, oncologists need to realise that non-conventional therapies are out there for their patients and may just help them."



Cancer Institute NSW funding opportunities

Cancer Institute NSW International Sabbatical Tour 2007 Round 2

Closes: 17 March 2007

Psycho-Oncology Clinical Fellowships 2007

Closes: 13 April 2007

For application details : www.cancerinstitute.org.au



NSWOG Members are invited to make use of the vast online library of quality textbooks and journals covering a wide range of related clinical specialties – the Clinical

Information Access Program (CIAP). CIAP is currently accessible by all clinicians employed in the NSW public health system, and GPs providing services in rural and remote areas of NSW. **It's free and online now!**

Visit CIAP on: <http://www.ciap.health.nsw.gov.au>

February Meetings



Prof Michael Kidd

The National Bowel Screening Program was the focus of much discussion at the February meeting of **NSWOG General Practice**. The Committee were updated on the Program's progress to date and raised concerns about medico-legal issues, patient privacy and data. The funding of Gardasil under The National Immunisation Program was also discussed. The committee focused on ratifying their 2007 work plan, which may include discharge reports.

The February meeting of the **NSWOG Patient Support** addressed the task of identifying and reviewing information sources and access. The three main focus areas of the committee were identified as: development of a resource pack for social health professionals; patient advice on legal issues; and general Patient information access. The Committee also reviewed current research and reviews around supportive care in NSW and considered research gaps.



Prof Kate White



Prof Robyn Ward

Issues discussed at the **NSWOG Cancer Genetics** included a proposal for a Joint NSW Database for Unclassified Gene Variants, and a NSW Centralised Cancer Genetics Database. The committee also discussed piloting three new consent forms and the development of a cancer genetics website for patient and clinicians, which may become available on the Cancer Institute NSW protocols and treatment-specific website - CI-SCaT.

NSWOG Head and Neck are moving forward with their project to develop and produce an information booklet for people with head & neck cancer. At their February meeting, the group explored the area of cancer support systems and the way in which they interface with patients undergoing treatment in hospitals. A subgroup of community representative members was formed to gather evidence with the view to proposing a model for patient and peer support.



Dr Gary Morgan



Prof. Phil Crowe

NSWOG Bone and Soft Tissue Sarcoma were updated on the recruitment of a new Project Officer, whose primary role will be to facilitate the implementation of the Group's project. The new Project Officer will divide their time between several hospital sites and the Cancer Institute NSW. The NSWOG suggested that the Project Officer should attend relevant MDTs, which would be a prime opportunity to advance clinical trial participation and tissue banking.

The February meeting of the **NSWOG Breast** included discussion on both presentations from the Cancer Institute NSW - the newly formed Clinical Trials Network and data summaries from the Cancer Registry. The other major item discussed at the meeting was the funded priority project of the group to pilot the collection of breast specific data items using the NBCC Breast Data Set to supplement the Minimum Data Set collected by the Clinical Cancer Registry.



A/Prof David Gillett



Prof Stephen Clarke

At its February meeting, **NSWOG Complementary Therapies** received the report of a scoping study of the relevant literature on the benefits and risks of exercise, nutrition, massage and meditation in cancer care. The study identified a number of potentially useful studies pertaining to each of the four content areas and will be used as the framework for further research. Other activities include development of a practitioner checklist and review of the Group's Terms of Reference.



A/Prof Michael Barton

The **NSWOG Neuro-Oncology** worked through a full February agenda, with discussion on clinical trials and the ongoing work of the subcommittee; NSWOG project progress and a review of the recent AGM. The group discussed initiatives for the upcoming International Brain Tumour Awareness Week in October, which includes a Walk Around the World for Brain Tumours, and possible linkage with The Cancer Council to raise awareness.

NSWOG Rural Oncology discussed several upcoming projects, including a project to determine costings for rural cancer services as opposed to metropolitan services. The meeting also included a presentation from the NSW Institute of Rural Clinical Services and Teaching on the Rural Clustering Project, which groups socio-economic indicators with the more conventional demographic indices to re-look at the classification of LGAs across the State. Representatives from NSW Health provided an update on the Electronic Medical Record, which at this stage is being planned to download pathology and radiology results as the project pilot.



Dr. Stephen Begbie



Kathryn Nattress

At the **NSWOG Gynae-Oncology**, it was noted that Kathryn Nattress will chair an Advisory Council to work on the Palliative Care guideline (jointly funded by the GMCT and the Cancer Institute NSW) for clinicians working with Gynae cancer patients. The group also discussed the upcoming seminar on Current Issues in Gynaecological Oncology Nursing, which will be held 1 June at RPAH. The three day Residential Retreat run by the Psychosocial Support project in 2006 for a small group of women with gynae cancer was so successful that another four will be run in 2007. It was reported that the interim report of results provided by 51 responding hospitals to a survey on GO Models of Care highlighted major issues as a lack of discharge plans and local knowledge and expertise, communication back to referrers, and follow-up of and advice to patients.

NSWOG Haematology Oncology (formerly Malignant Haematology) has identified two key areas for its focus; Clinical Trials, and Data Collection. A Co-ordinator is currently in the process of being recruited to undertake the groups project to create state infrastructure support for trials in haematological malignancies. With regards to data collection, the Group, with considerable input from Campbell Tiley, have developed a minimum data set for haematology. They are also looking at different desktop software options for entering patient and pharmaceutical data.



Prof Ken Bradstock

NSWOG Radiotherapy met in late February and are currently focussed on providing input to the development of the NSW Radiotherapy Services Plan to 2011. The committee also reviewed published literature about a recent fatal radiation incident in Glasgow, Scotland, and the causes, lessons learnt and changes in practice and process following on from this accident.



Dr Tony Eyers

NSWOG Colorectal will recruit a Data Collection Officer to ensure complete and accurate collection of data from pathology reports and associated information sources to support the colorectal dataset during the implementation-phase of structured pathology reports in the South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service. The committee spent a great deal of time at their February meeting ratifying questions about the colorectal dataset extension and synoptic pathology reports.

NSW Oncology Groups, Cancer Institute NSW -
 PO Box 41 - Alexandria NSW 2145
 Phone: 02 8374 5600 - Mobile: 0434 565 869 -
 Fax: 02 8374 5700 - nswog@cancerinstitute.org.au

March/April Calendar

5 March: NSWOG Urology

6:30pm - 8.30pm: ATP Boardroom

5 March: NSWOG Melanoma

6pm - 8pm: Cancer Institute NSW Boardroom

6 March: NSWOG Pathology

6pm - 8pm: Cancer Institute NSW Boardroom

7 March: NSWOG Upper GI

7pm - 9pm: ATP Boardroom

8 March: NSWOG Palliative Care

9.30am - 12.30pm: ATP Boardroom

14 March: NSWOG Child and Adolescent

4pm - 6pm: Cancer Institute NSW Boardroom

23 March: NSWOG Lung

3pm - 5pm: Cancer Institute NSW Boardroom

16 April: NSWOG General Practice

4:30pm - 6.30pm: Cancer Institute NSW Boardroom

Research Round-up

A note from the Director

The Research Team, together with the Communications Division, is organising this year's **Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research**, to be held on Wednesday 23rd May at Doltone House, Pyrmont.

This formal black-tie event will draw together over 300 of NSW's clinical opinion leaders, cancer researchers, key cancer control stakeholders, prominent Government officials, along with leaders in biomedical and clinical research and the broader business community.

The Awards recognise the outstanding talent and commitment of NSW's cancer researchers. Awards presented on the evening will include:

- Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year 2007
- Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Research Fellow 2007
- Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Research Scholar 2007

This is a highly enjoyable and informative evening featuring a drawcard international speaker, high-profile MC and wonderful entertainment. Please visit our website: www.cancerinstitute.org.au for further information. Tickets will be available for purchase online from March 2007.

I hope you are all able to attend what will no doubt be another wonderful evening.

Yours in Research,

Carmel Edwards

Director, Research Programs

Grants...

The Cancer Institute NSW Research Program is continuing its commitment to pursuing and supporting excellence and innovation in cancer research as a key method to improve cancer outcomes in NSW. Following the last Research Grants Review Committee meeting, held in late 2006, the Cancer Institute NSW subsequently committed to:

- A total of 61 new grants.
- Total funding of \$27.2 million through to 2011.
- Funding of \$5.6 million for the 2006-2007 financial year.

In addition, the following current funding opportunities exist:

- Cancer Institute NSW Research Infrastructure Grant – *closing date 23 March 2007*
- Cancer Institute NSW Innovation Grant – *closing date 28 March 2007*

For further information on the above grants, please contact Garry Way, Project Officer, on 02 8374 5638 or email research.secretariat@cancerinstitute.org.au

Clinical Trials...

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Robyn Ward as the Chair of the new NSW Cancer Trials Network and the development of this Network is well underway. Our Clinical Trials Manager, Angelina Catanzariti is making her way around to many of the NSWOG meetings to provide an overview of the structure of the Network, the opportunities provided by Cancer Institute NSW and how NSWOGs can get involved. Following discussions with The Cancer Council NSW, agreement has been reached on the structure of the NSW Cancer Trials Network, and the model which will be further developed. If Angelina hasn't made it your NSWOG meeting yet, or you would like more information, please email her on angelina.catanzariti@cancerinstitute.org.au. Information is also available on the Cancer Institute NSW website www.cancerinstitute.org.au.

Ethics...

An important component of the Research Program has been the procurement of the InfoEd Ethics Module to provide an IT platform to support the operation of the Ethics Committees. InfoEd is a web-based system that will allow researchers to submit ethics applications online, follow the progress of their application, and access tools to help them through the ethical review process. After many months of negotiation, the implementation phase of InfoEd Ethics Module is now underway. Rodney and Kirsten are working closely with InfoEd to get the system up and running as soon as possible. In addition, the Cancer Institute's two Ethics Committees have been busy reviewing applications for ethical approval. The Clinical Research Ethics Committee has begun reviewing clinical trial protocols, and it is anticipated that the volume of such applications will grow steadily.