

# Priority Project Reports

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## Upper GI

1. **Project Title:** Statewide survey of surgical treatment of oesophago-gastric & pancreatic cancer – Sydney Upper Gastrointestinal Surgical Society (SUGSS)

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### 2. Project Coordinator

Name: Ellen Minehan

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### 3. Project Description

The aim of this project is to establish a website similar to that of the Association of Upper GI Surgeons in the United Kingdom ([www.augis.org](http://www.augis.org)).

The website aims to facilitate three main objectives. Firstly, to provide an online database on which clinical information regarding patients with stomach and pancreatic cancers will be collected. Secondly, to establish a forum for surgeons, radiation oncologists and other medical staff. Thirdly, to act as a resource for patients and clinicians.

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### 4. Deliverables as detailed in project contract

Website design/ secure data facility  
Dataset finalised  
Project manager recruitment  
Ethics submission  
Clinicians invitation to participate  
Population of database

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### 5. Description of activities undertaken

- Website completed and sole use secure host server in place to house database.
- All oesophago-gastric datasets completed.

- This has been undertaken during monthly meeting with Cubus design team and incorporates feedback from clinicians using the database. Fine tuning of pancreatic datasets underway with input from pancreatic specialist surgeons. Reporting aspects of database in development phase and involving consultation with surgeons.
- Project manager Ellen Minehan recruited in Feb 2008.
- Ethics submission currently undergoing second review by scientific committee at cancer institute. The process undertaken to date includes:
  - The ethics request was reviewed by the NSW Population and Health Services REC on 20 March 2008. Additional information requested.
  - The additional information requested was provided on 2 April 2008.
  - Independent scientific review undertaken and considered by the Executive in May 2008. Further clarification requested.
  - Meeting between SUGSS and Research Division.
  - Additional information submitted to the Committee.
  - SUGSS to meet with the Committee.
- Clinicians invited by postal invitation to participate in the use of the database.
  - 50 surgeons invited to participate.
  - 29 surgeons returned questionnaire and responded positively to future use of database.
  - Non responders followed up and further information supplied upon request.
- Individual education sessions arranged for surgeons and when requested their database managers on use of datasets.
- 22 surgeons requested meetings to setup encryption into the database with secure passwords and codes.
- Systems were developed in individual workplaces to ensure that surgeons were able to capture and enter the

data they required. This was particularly challenging as each surgeon's circumstances of practice were unique.

- Currently 22 surgeons are encrypted into the database and enter their oesophago-gastric cancer data. This has led to valuable feedback from surgeons re datasets and proposals for reporting.
- The database population commenced on 13 April following launch at the SUGSS Conference. Currently there are 110 cancers populating the database.

**7. Please list any presentations, abstracts, papers or reports that have been submitted upon the work of this project.**

PPP summaries presented at the Upper Gastrointestinal NSWOG meetings 3/12.

Presentations have otherwise been informal at this early stage and mainly involve raising the profile of the database at appropriate venues.

**6. Project outcome(s)**

a. Did the project complete all the deliverables listed in the contract

Yes     No

b. If you answered no to question 6(a) please provide a rationale

- i. Reporting system still in development phase- this will require continued input from surgeons.
- ii. Ethics submission under review.

c. Please describe any other outcomes (if any) that the project has contributed to achieving

National interest

Following the SUGSS and COSA Conferences there is considerable interest from Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeons from interstate medical facilities with a view to becoming involved in the use of this database.

d. What do you believe will be the ongoing benefits of this project?

Potentially this database may enable the capturing of a large volume of detailed information on the practice, multi disciplinary planning of treatment and outcomes of Australian upper gastrointestinal cancers.