

NSW CANCER TRIALS NETWORK NEWS



June 2009

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Congratulations to the inaugural winner of the **Premier's Award for Innovation in Cancer Clinical Trials**. The **Border Medical Oncology Clinical Trials Unit, Albury**, was selected for their commitment to providing access to clinical trials by developing an innovative model of clinical research in a regional setting.

The **NSW Cancer Trials Network Innovations Forum** was held on 21 May 2009 in Sydney. An initiative of the NSW Cancer Trials Steering Group, the Forum provided an opportunity for over 70 cancer trial investigators, nurses and data managers from across NSW to contribute to the development of solutions to the challenges facing the NSW Cancer Trials Network.

The top three challenges facing the Network were identified as:

- Business & Financial Management;
- Staff & Training/Development; and
- Regulatory Processes (Ethics and Research Governance).

Recommended solutions included:

- Working with NSW Health and AHS administrators to develop/enhance structures to support clinical trial activity, especially financial processes;
- Working with key stakeholders to reduce timelines for approval of clinical trials; and
- Explore ways to develop a career structure for trials nurses/data managers.

In consultation with the NSW Cancer Trials Steering Group the Cancer Institute NSW plans to develop different strategies to assist in addressing these challenges.

A highlight of the Forum was the opportunity to hear from the five clinical trials units (CTUs), which had been shortlisted for the **Premier's Award for Innovation in Cancer Clinical Trials**.

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Dr Richard Eek accepted the Premier's Award for Innovation in Cancer Clinical Trials Award and cheque for \$20,000 on behalf of Border Medical Oncology Clinical Trials Unit.

If you have any comments, feedback or suggestions for inclusion, we'd love to hear from you.

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A special **thank you** to the following people for doing a fabulous job of showcasing why their CTU had been recognised by the Clinical Trials Grants Review Committee as having demonstrated significant innovation:

- **Verity Ahern**— Radiation Oncology, Westmead Hospital
- **Richard Eek**—Border Medical Oncology
- **Peter Graham**—St George Cancer Care Centre
- **Nicole Raschke**—Coffs Harbour & Port Macquarie
- **Jon Sanders** —Institute of Haematology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Thank you also to the other invited speakers:

- **Rob Sanson-Fisher**— Acting Chief Cancer Officer & CEO, Cancer Institute NSW
- **Jo Mitchell**—Associate Director Research & Ethics Branch, NSW Department of Health
- **Naho Yamazaki**—Policy Officer Research & Ethics Branch, NSW Department of Health
- **Margie Campbell**—COSA & Cooperative Groups Program Coordinator
- **Monica Robotin**—Medical Director, The Cancer Council NSW
- **Martin Stockler**—Oncology Program Co-Director, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, Member of NSW Cancer Trials Steering Group

And finally **thank you** to everyone who was able to attend, especially our colleagues from northern NSW who had to contend with flood waters just to get to the airport!

Progress & Activity Reports

The implementation of the InfoEd Clinical Trials module has provided an opportunity for a review of the process for collecting Progress & Activity reporting for **Nurse Data Manager Grant** holders.

For those clinical trials units who demonstrated satisfactory activity during the last reporting period there is no requirement to submit a mid year report. For those clinical trials units who received letters expressing concern about their activity levels, a progress & activity report will be requested for the period January - June 2009.

This request will be sent to recipients of Nurse Data Manager Grants in the next few weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

Angelina Catanzariti - Clinical Trials Manager. Email: grants.secretariat@cancerinstitute.org.au

Hold these Dates 29 & 30 October 2009

The annual 2 day ***NSW Cancer Trials Network—Cancer Trials Nurses and Data Managers—Training and Education Workshop*** will be held in Sydney on 29 & 30 October 2009.

As in previous years it is expected that all cancer trials nurses and data managers employed in positions funded through grants from the Cancer Institute NSW or the Cancer Council NSW will attend.

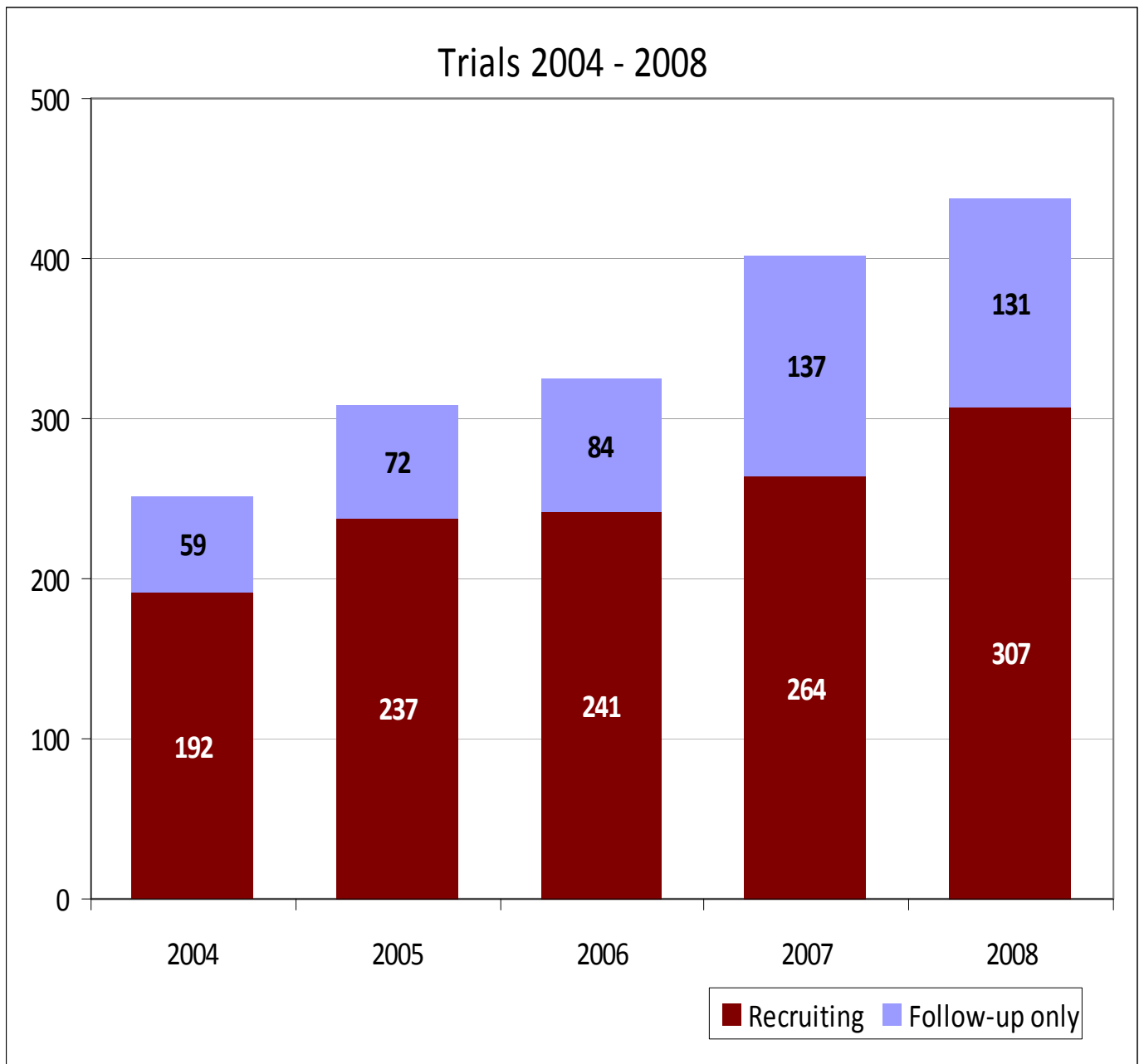
The Cancer Institute NSW will provide financial support for regional staff to attend.

More details to follow.....

Trial Activity Data 2008

An overview of 2008 activity data was presented at the recent Clinical Trials Innovations Forum, and a snapshot of this activity is presented below. We are currently in the process of a detailed review of activity for 2008, and will be preparing this data for publication as a full review from 2004.

The number of trials has increased steadily from 2004. In 2008 we saw the number of recruiting trials continue this upwards trend, although there was a slight decrease in the number of trials with patients still in follow-up.



Activity - Patients

We have also seen a steady increase in the number of patients enrolled on trials over the period from 2004-2007, with a slight reduction in 2008.

A breakdown of this activity shows that there continues to be a significant increase in activity for breast cancer, with fluctuations in trends across most other areas. The graph also demonstrates tumour groups which are currently under-represented. A more detailed review of this data, including the further breakdown of haematological malignancies, will be done to provide information to guide future strategies within the program.

The complete report on the analysis of this data will be provided once complete.

