

PROGRAM SPEAKERS



Muhammad Alamgeer

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre & Monash Health, VIC

Dr Muhammad Alamgeer is a medical oncologist at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Monash Health where he specializes in the treatment of Head & Neck cancers and thoracic malignancies. After completing his basic physician training in the UK, he moved to Australia in 2006, where he completed his training in medical oncology. He completed fellowship at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in 2011 and was subsequently awarded a Doctor of Medical Science degree by Monash University in 2015. Dr Alamgeer is a lead investigator on several clinical trials and heavily involved translation research at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research. He is an active member of Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society, Australasian Lung Cancer Trial Group, International Association of Study in Lung Cancer. His research has been published in many scientific journals and presented at multiple international conferences.



Christine Carrington

The University of Queensland & Alexandra Hospital, QLD

Dr Christine Carrington is currently working at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane as a Senior Consultant Pharmacist for Cancer Services and Assistant Director of Pharmacy. She has over 25 years' experience working as a pharmacist in the area of cancer at a clinical, service and research level. She is an elected member of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) board and lectures at the University of Queensland on topics related to cancer. Christine was awarded the Australian Clinical Pharmacist award in 2015 by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA). Christine has a keen interest in safe medication practices in cancer therapy across the multidisciplinary setting and in developing competency and educational programs for pharmacists. Her research includes investigating the impact of the clinical pharmacist in the medication management of cancer patients having day therapy, the influence of the pharmacist on cancer patients understanding and beliefs around their medication and the management of chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting. Christine's published work includes the development of the COSA National guidelines for the 'Safe Prescribing, Dispensing and Administration of Cancer Chemotherapy', 'The Development of a Competency Framework for Cancer Pharmacists' and articles on oral chemotherapy and targeted therapy.



Jenny Casanova

Flinders Medical Centre, SA

Jenny is a Senior Clinical Pharmacist in Cancer Services at Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide and is a Certified Geriatric Pharmacist with the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy. A COSA CPG committee member, she is also a member of MASCC and ISOPP, with an interest in supportive care in cancer.



Tara Cochrane

Gold Coast University Hospital, QLD

Dr Tara Cochrane undertook her haematology training in Melbourne Victoria. She subsequently completed a 2 year fellowship at Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto in lymphoma and autologous stem-cell transplant in 2008. She has been a full time staff specialist at Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) since 2009. There she helped establish the stem cell transplant service and the clinical trials unit. Dr Cochrane is an enthusiastic researcher; being a local principal investigator in a number of ALLG and pharmaceutical sponsored clinical trials predominantly in the area of lymphoma and myeloma. Moreover, she has published numerous articles in peer reviewed journals and presented abstracts at international meetings. Her primary clinical interest is lymphoma and she chairs the multidisciplinary meeting in lymphoma at GCUH. Over the years, Dr Cochrane has been a college examiner for the FRACP exam. She still is involved with registrar / medical student teaching and has a co-appointment with Griffiths University. She is a member of the GCUH Medicine Advisory Committee and currently chairs the Medicine Safety Committee at GCUH. Dr Cochrane has been a member of the ALLG, HSANZ and ASH for many years.



Sophia Frentzas

Monash Health, VIC

Dr Sophia Frentzas is a medical oncologist and clinical researcher who graduated from Imperial College School of Medicine, in London, in 2002, before completing her medical training with the Royal College of Physicians in the United Kingdom in 2006. She undertook an early fellowship in the drug development unit and translational research at the Royal Marsden Hospital and Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton (UK) in 2008 and subsequently completed her specialist training in Medical Oncology at The Royal Marsden Hospital, under the auspices of the Royal College of Physicians and the Association of Cancer Physicians in London (UK) in 2015. During this time, she also completed a laboratory-based, translational PhD as a GI Cancer Research Fellow, at the Institute of Cancer Research, University of London and was awarded her doctorate certificate in 2014. Since migrating to Australia in 2016, Dr Frentzas has gained fellowship with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and has worked as a Full Time Specialist in Medical Oncology at the Alan Walker Cancer Centre, Royal Darwin Hospital, NT. During this time, she chaired the Clinical Trials Unit at the Alan Walker Cancer Centre, was a member of the NT Cancer Care Network, was involved in outreach oncology clinic support in the Northern Territory, the conduct of Cultural Awareness and Safety, and in The Flinders University medical student teaching program. Dr Frentzas is now part of the medical oncology team at Monash Health where she specialises in the treatment of patients with colorectal, upper gastrointestinal tract, breast, and gynaecological tract cancers. She is also responsible for the development and conduct of early and late clinical trials, and also has input into the translational aspect of cancer research. Her main research interests are focused on novel and personal approaches for the treatment of solid tumours, particularly in targeting aberrant pathways for angiogenesis, and on the investigation of strategies to overcome resistance to conventionally employed therapeutic agents. Her research has been published in a number of peer-reviewed, high impact factor journals, and abstracts. She has also had the opportunity to present her work at several national and international conferences. Dr Frentzas is an active member of the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), and Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA).



Tsien Fua

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC

Dr Tsien Fua is a staff head and neck radiation oncology specialist at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. He graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1999 and completed specialist training in radiation oncology at Peter Mac in 2008 and a fellowship at the BC Cancer Agency, Vancouver, Canada in 2009. He is the current head of the Head and Neck Radiation Oncology service at Peter Mac and has served on the executive committee of the Australia and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society (ANZHNCS) since 2014 and is co-chair of the Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology (TROG) Head and Neck Subspecialty group. Dr Fua was the scientific committee co-chair for the ANZHNCS meeting in Melbourne in 2013. His interests include reducing the toxicities of head and neck radiotherapy treatment and evaluating the management of early stage oropharyngeal cancer with TORS and RT, being principle investigator in a prospective phase II study addressing this.



David Liew

Austin Health

Dr David Liew is a consultant rheumatologist and clinical pharmacology fellow at Austin Health, Melbourne. He is currently undertaking a PhD in rheumatic immune-related adverse events from immune checkpoint inhibitors at the University of Melbourne and is also one of the hosts of the Australian Prescriber Podcast. He has an interest in the cost-effectiveness of medications.



Sam Maleki

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC

Sam Maleki is an oncology pharmacist at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre with a particular passion for practice based research. Over the past 12 months Sam led a large research project looking to appraise the effectiveness of a new outpatient clinic service to the head and neck radiotherapy clinic at the Peter Mac. The project is approaching final stages and so far it has shown very promising results including new recommendations on medication safety and medication adherence assessment in the head and neck radiotherapy setting.



Paul Mitchell

Olivia Newton-John Cancer Wellness and Research Centre, Austin Health, VIC

Dr Paul Mitchell holds the positions of Medical Oncologist at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer, Wellness and Research Centre at Austin Health in Melbourne, Australia, Director of the North-Eastern Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service (Cancer Network) and Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne. He is Chairman of the recently established Thoracic Alliance for Cancer Trials (TACT) which brings together national and trans-national lung cancer trials groups and was President of the Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group 2012-2016. He is Chair of the Lung Cancer Advisory Group of Cancer Australia, sits on the State Government's Clinical Council and the Program Assessing Committee of the Health Research Council of New Zealand. Dr Mitchell trained in medical oncology in Auckland, New Zealand, followed by two years as Senior Registrar at the Royal Marsden Hospital, UK, before completing a Doctor of Medicine degree based on 3 years work at the Institute of Cancer Research, UK. He moved to Melbourne in 1995.



Michael Powell

Gold Coast University Hospital, QLD

Michael has been a cancer pharmacist since 1995, with the majority of his experience being in the UK NHS as a senior hospital pharmacist in London. He is currently Pharmacist Advanced, Cancer and Blood Disorders at the Gold Coast University Hospital. His interests include management of breast and colorectal cancers, immuno-oncology and the safe provision of oral and intrathecal chemotherapy. Michael is currently Chair of the COSA CPG Executive Committee and is heavily involved in education and training of oncology pharmacists both locally and nationally, including the CPG Foundation and Advanced Cancer Pharmacy Courses. He is currently an Invited Lecturer on oncology for the BPharm/MPharm Undergraduate Degree at Griffith University on the Gold Coast.



Gail Rowan

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC

Her interests include the treatment of haematological malignancies, minimisation of chemotherapy related adverse effects and education on chemotherapy and safety. Successfully qualified as a Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist (BCOP) through the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialities in the United States.



Benjamin Teh

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC

Dr Benjamin Teh is an infectious diseases physician and clinical research fellow at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the National Centre for Infections in Cancer. His primary clinical and research interests are in the area of infections in cancer patients. He is interested in developing novel approaches utilising functional and numerical immune profiling to predict risk of infection in patients with cancer and advancing measures to prevent infection in this vulnerable patient group.



Belinda Yeo

Austin Health – Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute, VIC

Belinda Yeo is jointly appointed to Austin Health as a Medical Oncologist and to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute as a Clinician Scientist with a specific interest in breast cancer. She trained in Sydney before joining the Breast Unit at The Royal Marsden Hospital, London in 2012 as the 'Cridlan Clinical and Research Fellow'. In 2016, she completed a Research Master's Degree in novel genomic and non-molecular breast cancer risk assays, through The University of London and The Institute of Cancer Research. She is a clinical trial investigator and continues her translational research at the ONJ Centre investigating improving personalization and minimising toxicities for patients with breast cancer.



Myles Wright

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC

Cell Therapy Fellow and member of the myeloma team at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Particular interest in clinical trial work using novel cellular and targeted therapies in the treatment of myeloma and other malignancies.