



# RESEARCHer

LATEST NEWS FROM ANZGOG

“The new brand is smarter, brighter, and is a reflection of the maturity of our organisation today. It strongly represents women and gynae cancers, and should help us continue to further research, raise funds for, and build awareness of gynaecological cancers.”

Assoc Prof Phil Beale, ANZGOG Chair



## INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW BRAND

ANZGOG has always been a research leader, although up to now quietly, but we have found that people – the public, media and community leaders – don't know a lot about gynaecological cancer and find it hard to talk about. 16 women are diagnosed with a gynaecological cancer each day in Australia, and five will die. Apart from cervical cancer, there are no tests for gynaecological cancers. 'Women's bits' are not talked about by women or men and there are few everyday words to describe or explain what it means. It is time to speak out and take action to break the silence about gynaecological cancers. It is time to start the conversation.

Saatchi & Saatchi Wellness have provided assistance in developing clear messages about our cause, along with a range of other organisations to help us conduct a significant public campaign to challenge conversation and raise much needed funds for gynaecological cancer research, by launching a new fundraising brand.

**WOMEN  
can** | FUNDING  
CANCER  
RESEARCH

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The colours retain the strength of the ANZGOG purple, the internationally recognised colour for gynaecological cancer, with ruby for vitality, compassion and energy. The design is crisp, professional and contemporary, and the feminine Venus symbol links ANZGOG's clinical research with women and its supporter base. The new brand has been borne out of the belief in the power of our research and the support of the collective, united in a common purpose, to make a real difference in the lives of women with gynaecological cancers.



E. [campaigns@anzgog.org.au](mailto:campaigns@anzgog.org.au)  
P. +61 2 8071 4887  
W. [anzgog.org.au](http://anzgog.org.au)

f WomenCanFundraising / SaveTheBox  
@savetheboxnow  
@anzgog

# survivors TEACHING STUDENTS

ANZGOG's Survivors Teaching Students (STS) Program is powering on, now reaching more than 1000 medical, nursing and allied health students in Sydney, Newcastle, Armidale, Brisbane and Melbourne.



Our volunteers, women and caregivers are sharing their stories to help our doctors, nurses and allied health professionals of the future understand the experience of ovarian cancer, be alert to the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer and practice important communication and listening skills, necessary when talking with people about a cancer diagnosis, prognosis and treatments. We thank all of our volunteers for generously sharing their stories to make a difference for the future in ovarian cancer.

We have a STS training session coming up:

**Perth Friday 6 September 2019**

If you are interested in joining our Survivors Teaching Students Team and would like to come along, please contact us: For all enquiries and information about any of the above, please contact **Kylie +61 2 8071 4880 or [finance@anzgog.org.au](mailto:finance@anzgog.org.au)**

## SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 1-30

International  
Gynaecological Cancer  
Awareness Month

For details go to  
[www.womenca.org.au](http://www.womenca.org.au)

Throughout September ANZGOG will be hosting a number of activities in Australia, through the WomenCan and Save the Box fundraising brands.

We hope you will all be able to participate in one or more of these activities. For more information and updates please go to our websites [womenca.org.au](http://womenca.org.au) [savethebox.org.au](http://savethebox.org.au) or go to our Facebook pages.



WomenCanFundraising  
SaveTheBox



## SURVIVORS TEACHING STUDENTS® WINS THE CANCER COMMUNITY (C2) PRESIDENT'S AWARD IN THE USA

We're delighted to congratulate the success of our allies over in the US. This award category was selected by AstraZeneca, where the sole criteria was making a tangible and inspiring difference in the lives of patients or their loved ones. The winner – **Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance's Survivors Teaching Students®** – brings ovarian cancer survivors and caregivers into medical education programs through

a dedicated army of over 900 survivor-volunteers, who educate future healthcare professionals about ovarian cancer by sharing stories of diagnosis, treatment and survivorship, along with facts about the disease. In 2018, the network of survivors trained more than 13,000 healthcare professionals, an incredible feat.

"There is incredible work happening across the oncology community," said Jeremy Abbate, the publisher of Scientific American. "This is true not only of the winners and finalists recognized during our awards ceremony, but also of individuals and organizations working hard every day to make a profound difference for those living with or affected by cancer. We are humbled to think about the collective difference that can be made when this community comes together, and that really is what the C2 Awards are all about."



# news on **SAVE THE BOX**

## **MARDI GRAS**

In March, 60 women and men marched under the banner of Save the Box at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras 2019. The experience was extraordinary to say the least! ANZGOG had volunteers marching who had lost loved ones, women with gynae cancers and those who marched in solidarity. The crowd cheered as the Save the Box marchers were hugged, clapped and cheered after reading the messages on the boxes. Save the Box had come of age.

The float won a Google grant and the media also acknowledged our float with the marchers being featured on SBS's live cross and Nine msn sharing a photograph of a marcher.



**Save the Box has  
come of age.**



## **NEW MULTIMEDIA TOOL HELPS PATIENTS TAKE PART IN ICON9 CLINICAL TRIAL**

Women with recurrent ovarian cancer can make an informed decision to join the ICON9 clinical trial, by using a series of online tools to learn more about the trial and their suitability.

This includes a video of Principal Investigator Assoc Professor Linda Mileschkin talking about the study and why it is important; a cartoon showing what happens with randomisation and details on the study including the Patient Informed Consent Form for review and mark questions. Patients can review this at home with their families and write down questions to ask their oncologist. ANZGOG hopes that this will be the way forward to help more patient join trials.

ICON9 is a Phase III randomised trial of cediranib and olaparib

maintenance in patients with relapsed platinum. It is funded by Cancer Australia and is an international collaboration through the Gynecologic Cancer InterGroup (GCIg) led by Cancer Research UK.

The goal of the study is to improve outcomes for patients with recurrent ovarian cancer by investigating the addition of cediranib to olaparib maintenance therapy following completion of platinum-based chemotherapy for platinum-sensitive relapsed ovarian cancer, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer.

ICON9 is available in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. Ask your oncologist for more information or lookup at [www.anzgog.org.au/research/trials](http://www.anzgog.org.au/research/trials)



AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND  
GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY GROUP

The peak national gynaecological  
cancer research group



# making RESEARCH POSSIBLE

## TEAM TEAL

2019 was the best year to date for Team Teal, with 291 drivers participating, winning 328 races across Australia and New Zealand. Once again the campaign was led by dedicated ambassadors from the Harness Racing Industry informing their communities about the importance of ovarian and gynaecological cancer awareness. The funds raised for this campaign will go towards research nurses who work alongside women who are living with ovarian cancer. As Patron of Team Teal, Duncan McPherson, travelled across Australia and New Zealand speaking where possible to media and the harness racing communities to thank and congratulate all members in the harness racing industry who supported the campaign this year.

The media were very receptive this year with TV, radio, social media and magazines all picking up stories regarding the campaign.

Night at the Trots was once again a great success and held at Tabcorp Park Melton with over 300 people in attendance. Comedian and presenter, Dave O'Neil kept the guests laughing while on the track women drivers in teal pants were racing to raise money for ovarian cancer research.

We would like to thank once again Harness Racing Australia and New Zealand for their wonderful support and all of the state bodies and all of the sponsors of Night of the Trots.

In total \$295,000 was raised during this six week campaign.



## NEW ZEALAND DONOR SUPPORTS FUND FOR NEW RESEARCH



Jane Ludemann is a Low Grade Serous Cancer (LGSC) survivor. LGSC is a rare type of cancer that is associated with younger women and slower growth, which make it especially difficult to pick up. Jane is passionate about fostering specific LGSC research through ANZGOG's Fund for New Research.

The Fund for New Research, an initiative funded by public donations, fosters new research ideas that could lead to significant new clinical trials in treatments for women. Individual grants are given for pre-clinical and pilot studies as well as early career researcher projects. This annual grant program has funded 9 projects since 2015 and is only possible because of the

generosity of our donors.

If you have been affected by LGSC and/or want to support, donations made to Cure Our Ovarian Cancer will be directed to ANZGOG for specific low grade serous through the New Fund for Research.

For more information, head to [www.cureouvariancancer.org/au](http://www.cureouvariancancer.org/au)

# trials UPDATE

## CHAIR'S COMMENT

We've seen so many changes over the past 20 years in ANZGOG. We now have more capacity to operate clinical trials and do research, which encourages people to present research ideas to ANZGOG for funding and development. It's great to know an idea is not just a pipedream.

Our core business is Clinical Trials. ANZGOG has more trials in operation, in development and in its pipeline than ever before. I recommend you follow the links through this document to our website to see the details of trials underway.

My personal goal is to keep building ANZGOG's capacity to conduct clinical trials that are truly cutting-edge via contacts around the globe for research collaborations, the way we can interact with key people in Pharma to bring new drug and support for our investigators, our relationships with donors, and our capability in achieving government grant support. We will stay at the forefront with these links by being proactive and collaborative. It is very important we don't rest on our laurels.

Ultimately it is women and their families that take part in our research and are treated in the clinic who need to know that the work we do is improving the quality of life and furthering our knowledge of treatments and patient care, believing that our work in clinical trials will ultimately lead to cancer survival. This is why there are so many passionate researchers doing what they can, including myself.



Assoc Prof Philip Beale  
Chair | ANZGOG

BSC, MBBS, FRACP, PHD

## EXERCISE STUDY CONTINUES RECRUITMENT WITH CANCER AUSTRALIA GRANT

The ECHO study recently received additional funding from Cancer Australia to continue recruiting women with ovarian cancer. ECHO is a Phase III randomised controlled trial.

The ECHO trial will identify whether incorporation of an exercise program into the current standard of care for women undergoing chemotherapy for primary ovarian cancer is an effective and cost-effective way to improve health outcomes in this patient group.

Benefits from exercise may be accrued through improved physical well-being, reduced treatment related side effects, better treatment adherence, better overall quality of life, lower associated

health care costs and perhaps even longer survival. However there is a lack of evidence and no randomised trials of exercise interventions in ovarian cancer.

Importantly should it prove cost effective, translating the findings into practice is feasible with a trained workforce of exercise physiologists and a national funding system that supports the delivery of exercise as a form of treatment (through the Medicare-funded Chronic Disease Care Plan).

ECHO is currently recruiting patients in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. New hospital sites are opening this year. Contact your oncologist about joining this innovative and important study. For more information [www.anzgog.org.au/research/trials](http://www.anzgog.org.au/research/trials)



Principal Investigator  
Prof Sandi Hayes is hoping to  
complete recruitment within  
the next two years.



**"The goal of the study is to  
improve outcomes for  
patients with ovarian cancer"**



# community UPDATE

These are the special people that enable us to run trials, fund our research and help us to improve life for women. Without our donors and fundraisers, we wouldn't be able to fulfil our goals as an organisation – so we thank you all for your ongoing support!

Alisha Thomson has raised \$23,875 for ANZGOG through Save the Box and has since increased her target to a lifetime goal of \$100k! Alisha was diagnosed with Stage 4 ovarian cancer, but has only recently been cleared after treatment, which is fabulous news. You can read Alisha's story and her fundraising efforts, on the ANZGOG website. [www.anzgog.org.au](http://www.anzgog.org.au)



Sally Catt inspiringly swam against huge king tides to cross the English Channel and raised \$7,550 for Save the Box. The swim took 14 hrs 8 mins - setting off in the dark at 11pm from the English coast. Sally swam in recognition and support of her friend Caitlin Delaney who was diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer in January 2017.

Caroline Quinert organised a charity golf day to raise funds for the Women's Cancer Foundation. 75 women played on the day, raising an incredible \$2,275.



Fiona Price and her seven friends decided on a dramatic approach to fundraising... and settled on jumping out of a plane at 11,000 feet! The eight women put on their Save the Box t-shirts and leapt out over the blue skies of Tasmania, raising a whopping \$9,000!

Rochelle Fisher has raised \$33,500 to date for ANZGOG and the total keeps on climbing! Simply by sending out a link from her Go Fund Me page, Rochelle reached out to family and friends to support her fundraising efforts. Rochelle also hosted an information night with Professor Michael Friedlander at a private residence in Bondi where he discussed the latest research in ovarian and gynaecological cancers.



**"TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER"**

## DONATE

ANZGOG is the peak national gynaecological cancer research group for Australia and New Zealand.

We are recognised as a world leader. Your donation will enable us to continue to improve the lives of women with a gynaecological cancer.

Make a donation or organise a fundraiser today.

## CONTACT

E. [campaigns@anzgog.org.au](mailto:campaigns@anzgog.org.au)

P. +61 2 8071 4887

W. [anzgog.org.au](http://anzgog.org.au)

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