



Newsletter
December, 2020

Vol 4, Issue 10

ANZUP wins Trial of the Year Awards for ENZAMET



ANZUP[®]
Cancer Trials Group Limited

ClinTrial Refer would like to warmly congratulate the Australian & New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate (ANZUP) Cancer Trials Group for their outstanding achievement in winning all three ACTA awards for clinical trial excellence at the recent Clinical Trials 2020: National Tribute and Awards Ceremony.

Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) is the national peak body supporting and representing networks of clinician researchers conducting investigator-initiated clinical trials, clinical quality registries and clinical trial coordinating centres within the Australian healthcare system. The awards honour those who design, conduct and participate in ground-breaking clinical trials, and promote the importance of clinical trials and the expertise and complexity of the work involved.

In a first for the awards, all three awards-The 2020 ACTA Trial of the Year Award, the ACTA STInG Award for Excellence in Trial Statistics and the Consumer Involvement Award - went to the ENZAMET trial. The first award, out of three awards - The 2020 Trial of the the Year

Award, the ACTA STInG Award for Excellence in Trial Statistics and the Consumer Involvement Award - went to the ENZAMET trial. The awards were presented virtually during the November ACTA Summit 2020.

Led by the ANZUP Cancer Trials Group the ENZAMET trial was designed to test whether the survival of men with metastatic prostate cancer could be improved further by adding enzalutamide to hormone therapy at the start of treatment. The ENZAMET trial showed impressive results including a 33% relative reduction in the risk of dying for men who received enzalutamide added to hormone therapy right at the beginning of treatment, after waiting for the cancer to grow, after prior hormone treatment.

Professor Ian Davis accepted the Trial of the Year Award on behalf of ANZUP, saying, 'I'm honoured to be part of a study that has had such an impact for men with metastatic prostate cancer. Professor Christopher Sweeney and I as Co-chairs have been part of a talented and dedicated international team of researchers, staff, consumers, and most importantly our trial participants. I could not be prouder than to have the ENZAMET trial also acknowledged not only as Trial of the Year, but also for its excellence in trial statistics and consumer involvement.'

The ENZAMET trial demonstrated exceptional consumer involvement in the trial design and development through ANZUP's Consumer Advisory Panel (CAP), which is comprised of people who have either had a cancer diagnosis or have cared for a family member or loved one. The CAP played a vital role in the provision of advice and feedback on the ENZAMET trial design and conduct from a community perspective, and ensured that the research was consumer-focused.

Professor John Zalcborg, Board Chair of ACTA, said that COVID-19, whilst causing much hardship and suffering, had nevertheless put the vital role of trials into the spotlight. "This year's award winner demonstrates the innovation and collaboration that the sector is capable of, which is what I know will assist us in pursuing future medical advances."

The current recruiting ANZUP Cancer Trials Group trials can be found in the ClinTrial Refer mobile app and ClinTrial Refer [website](#). Read more information about the work of ANZUP by visiting their [website](#).

Q&A with Professor Judith Trotman - Clinician Researcher and Co-Founder of ClinTrial Refer



Professor Judith Trotman, MBChB, FRACP, FRCPA, Grad. Cert. Clinical Trials, is Head of Haematology at Concord Repatriation General Hospital, Sydney.

A clinician researcher, she was the Founding Director of the Clinical Research Unit at Concord Hospital (Sydney) 2005 -2019. She provides global leadership in charting the role of PET scanning in lymphoma and, based on her data, was successful in obtaining an MBS listing of PET for indolent lymphomas. She has developed digital research initiatives in collaborations with patients, including ClinTrial Refer and the WhiMSICAL study, and is currently developing the My Hodgkins, My Health app. Recently, she started the new international collaborative group, Women in Lymphoma. She is a Board Member of the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance and the Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause.

Q. Why did you study medicine and specialise in haematology?

“I’d wanted to do medicine since I was a teenager. I had a serious motor vehicle accident at the age of 13 and, although I don’t remember much of the intensive care stuff, I found it fascinating being in the hospital setting. I had great training in New Zealand and was interested in HIV medicine. After doing a paediatric HIV elective in New York in 1992, I decided to come to Sydney to do HIV medicine at St Vincent’s Hospital. I found HIV absolutely tragic, but an incredibly fascinating multi-system medicine. Then I really enjoyed

my haematology term and inspired by fantastic mentors I thought, 'I'll do haematology and HIV medicine together'. Fortunately, there became very little HIV, and I ended up doing just haematology. Lymphoma has always interested me, but I've always wanted to remain a generalist haematologist because I love the variety.

What really motivated me to do clinical research, as a registrar at St Vincent's Hospital, was a woman my age, in her 20s, who had Philadelphia positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia and we battled for a couple of years to keep her alive. Back then, we had just started to get a sense of the importance of the tyrosine kinase inhibitor, imatinib, and 25+ years ago we had just started using email, through which we contacted our U.S. colleagues and desperately tried to get our hands on imatinib for this young woman, but she died before we could get it.



I remember thinking, if I was to practise as a haematologist, it would be within a big clinical research setting that was at the cutting edge, so I could access emerging new drugs for my patients. Back then, rituximab (MabThera®) was just coming out, and I remember, as a registrar, supervising a patient having their first rituximab infusion because we were so nervous about infusion reactions to rituximab. It was my first exposure to what has since been an explosion in targeted immunotherapies and biologics for blood cancers.

I've been very privileged to be a haematologist over the last 25 years, when there's been so much change. Incrementally building our clinical research unit was jolly tough, but also incredibly rewarding and gave us the opportunity to contribute to global change and to be at the cutting edge for our patients, accessing Bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitors for so many CLL and Waldenström's patients and the PD-1 inhibitors for Hodgkin's, immune therapies for myeloma, close molecular monitoring for CML patients, and of course PET scanning and then PET-adapted therapies for lymphoma patients. It's just been amazing, and I couldn't imagine practising haematology outside of a really active clinical research unit. With Dr Jane Estell's fresh leadership at Concord Haematology's Clinical Research Unit, we are expanding our Phase I portfolio and accessing the promising new bi-specific antibodies for myeloma and lymphoma.

A real change for me was having a year "off" in France, in 2009, when I immersed myself in

the clinical trials unit at Hospital Lyon-Sud and the operations of the now French Lymphoma Study Association (LYSA). Lyon-Sud was one of the biggest lymphoma research units in Europe, but I realised that just a decade earlier it had been establishing itself like us at Concord. Being in that sort of environment makes you realise anyone can be a clinician researcher if you've got the will and the commitment, the people with the shared commitment beside you, and by making international connections with many colleagues.”



Prof. Trotman (center) surrounded by the Concord Haematology team

You can read the full Q&A with Professor Trotman on the Leukaemia Foundation website www.leukaemia.org.au. We would like to thank the Leukaemia Foundation for permission to republish a section of their article here.

Seasons Greetings



As the year draws to a close, it's important to reflect on the things that we can be grateful for. In spite of the extraordinary challenges presented this year, we are grateful for our ability to continue providing our service and delivering vital access to current clinical trials. Whilst COVID-19 has taken centre stage in 2020, it's important to remember that disease does not discriminate and patients with cancer and other debilitating or life threatening conditions continue to require treatment too. We have remained committed to enabling access to cutting edge therapies in their development phase across a growing number of disciplines in Australian and overseas.

We are proud of our teams response to the pandemic and our ability to deliver a free and dedicated COVID-19 App to support communication of COVID-19 clinical trials whilst also expanding the ClinTrial Refer community and welcoming new members including- Gastroenterological Society of Australia (GESA); Intergroupe Francophone du Myelome (IFM); Middlemore Hospital, NZ; and Australian Dementia Network (ADNeT). More exciting announcements coming soon! We also marked a great milestone this year with the addition of the 1000th trial listing to the database. We are proud of this achievement because it means more options for patients.

We are grateful to all our clients and platform users. We thank-you for supporting our vision of delivering a comprehensive database of current clinical trials that can be easily accessed by anyone, anywhere and on demand.

The ClinTrial Refer team would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to working with you, continued expansion and even greater success in 2021.

Would you like to be an inspiration for someone?

Share your story if you have taken part in a clinical trial or supported someone through a trial. Your stories and thoughts are important to us and can be a great encouragement to others. If you'd like to share a clinical trial story please email us at raheela@clintrialreferapp.com. We'd love to hear from you.



Facebook



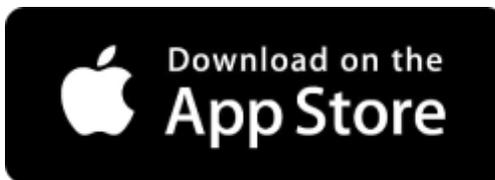
Twitter



LinkedIn



Website



ADDRESS

ClinTrial Refer c/o Ground Floor,
W R Pitney Building, St George Hospital,
Gray Street, KOGARAH 2217
Australia

EMAIL

www.clintrial.org.au/

admin@clintrialreferapp.com

[Unsubscribe](#)

Copyright © *2019* *ClinTrial Refer*, All rights reserved.

