



Newsletter
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Alfred Health Joins ClinTrial Refer



In 2019, the Federal government awarded Alfred Health 24.6M to oversee, and lead, a new initiative to improve the access of cancer clinical trials in rural, regional and remote parts of Victoria. TrialHub has since been established to partner with regional hospitals to coordinate and support the equitable access to high quality clinical trials for all Victorians, no matter where they live. Based within The Alfred Hospital in Melbourne, TrialHub's role is to also oversee and support their clinical trials unit.

Alfred Health has one of the largest clinical trial portfolios in the country, delivering more than 370 clinical trials at one time across 14 disease disciplines.

TrialHub recently joined ClinTrial Refer to better promote the wide range of trials available from Alfred Health and to improve access to trial information for clinicians and patients whether they live in metro, rural or regional locations.

Director of TrialHub, Anne Woollett, said recruitment to clinical trials is becoming incredibly challenging, made even harder when clinicians and patients don't know what's available to them. *"ClinTrial Refer is a great platform that allows us to centralise all our open trials in one location, therefore increasing our ability to promote and increase awareness of them."*

Within its first year, TrialHub has already partnered La Trobe Regional Hospital, Bendigo Health, and Peninsula Health (Rosebud Hospital), with further Victorian regional hospitals in the pipeline.

"ClinTrial Refer gives us a better platform to promote what clinical trials are available, which is crucial in reaching our goal of increased access for patients all over Victoria," Anne said.

Alfred Health is the first major hospital in Victoria to be using ClinTrial Refer in this way to promote their clinical trials portfolio and increase referrals and recruitment. *"This is exciting for us because we can now truly showcase the breadth of clinical excellence we have here,"* Anne said.

ClinTrial Refer welcomes Alfred Health to our research community and we look forward to working with them to improve access to clinical trials, particularly in rural and regional Victoria.

For more information about TrialHub and the range of clinical trials available at Alfred Health click [here](#), or search Alfred Health on the ClinTrial Refer App or website.





Trial Spotlight : The MASC GoTHAM Trial

Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC) is a rare but aggressive neuroendocrine malignancy and affects approximately 300 Australians yearly. Although treatment is often successful for patients with early-stage MCC diagnosis, the cancer is often associated with a high risk of returning (recurrence) and can very quickly spread to other sites of the body (metastasis). Only around 18% of patients with metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma are currently expected to survive for 5 years, making MCC the most lethal type of skin cancer. Australia reports the highest incidence of MCC in the world although it is still considered a rare disease compared to other skin cancers such as melanoma.

MCC tumours are known to be very radiosensitive and radiotherapy is often used for the management of the disease. Although new immunotherapy drugs, such as Avelumab shows great promise for the management of metastatic MCC, many patients do not respond to this single treatment approach. There is emerging data supporting the role of radiation in improving the anti-tumour efficacy of immunotherapy when given together.

Melanoma and Skin Cancer (MASC) Trials is a bi-national cancer cooperative trials group, dedicated to reducing the impact of melanoma and skin cancer. The ClinTrial Refer MASC Trials App supplies an up-to-date list of melanoma and skin cancer trials conducted worldwide.

The GoTHAM trial enrolls patients with MCC that has spread to other parts of the body (metastatic MCC), and will test the effectiveness of the immunotherapy drug, Avelumab, when combined with either 1) conventional radiotherapy or 2) peptide receptor radionuclide therapy.

The GoTHAM trial is currently open and recruiting across 3 sites in Australia: Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (VIC), Princess Alexandra Hospital (QLD) and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (QLD). The trial will open shortly at 3 additional sites nationally: Royal North Shore Hospital (NSW), Royal Adelaide Hospital (SA) and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (WA).

For more information about MASC click [here](#), or reach out at gotham@masc.org.au. Search for GoTHAM or other melanoma and skin cancer trials on the ClinTrial Refer MASC App or ClinTrial Refer [website](#).

White Coats Foundation: First Power of One Grant Opportunity



POWER OF ONE
2020
has resulted in a
\$5,000 grant
towards
**Indigenous Health
Applications
open now**

As a result of their first Power of One campaign launched in November 2020, which ClinTrial Refer supported, the not-for-profit White Coats Foundation is offering a \$5,000 grant opportunity for indigenous health programs that are either research for curative medicine and preventive health programs, or programs designed to support consumer and community awareness or engagement in clinical trials.

The Melbourne-based White Coats Foundation strives to create initiatives that raise awareness of clinical trials and their role in advancing medical science and healthcare. So far they have launched four major initiatives that speak to patients, industry and consumers alike. Spearheaded with a video and launched via social media the Power of One campaign was true to the White Coats Foundation objective of increasing general awareness of the role of clinical trials. The new annual campaign successfully raised enough donations to establish the first Power of One Grant.

For more information about the White Coats Foundation visit their website whitecoatsfoundation.org/ or to find out more about the grant opportunity and apply click [here](#). Applications close **31 March 2021** and successful applicants will be announced in April 2020.

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.



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