

# Clinical Trials Network e-Newsletter



**April 2025**

## Only have 60 seconds?

### Site Spotlights

- Warringal Private Hospital- First Victorian patient on new breast cancer surgery trial and first patient enrolled into phase 3 colorectal cancer trial, 'OrigAMI-3'.
- Lake Macquarie Private Hospital - First site in the APAC region activated for new breast cancer trial.
- St George Private Hospital - Opened first ovarian cancer trial and consented first patient.
- John Flynn Private Hospital - first successfully randomised patient in Australia a phase 3 Heart Failure Trial
- Joondalup Health Campus - First site activated globally for the KRYSTAL-4 study

**Latest Rapid Research released:** Listen to Dr Sue Thackwray speak about the Psoriasis Trial being run at SCUPH [here](#).

### High impact publications

- Dr Marco Matos contributed to a [Lancet publication](#) outlining the results from the EMERALD-1 Study, looking into a new treatment for liver cancer.
- Professor Trish Walker contributed to a [publication in The Journal of Clinical Oncology](#), outlining the results from the extended follow-up from the SEQUOIA Trial.

### Successful Grants

- Prof Colleen Loo, psychiatrist at Ramsay Clinic Northside, has been [awarded >\\$3million in an NHMRC grant](#) for "*Improving treatments for severe and treatment-resistant depression*".
- ORIGINS sub-project, The Flourishing Child, run at Joondalup Health Campus, has [received a \\$746,051 grant from the MRFF](#) to develop a Flourishing Assessment and Pathway Tool

**Free biostatistics consultations available.** [Register your interest here](#)

## Site Spotlights



*Pictured: Dr Nicholas Zdenkowski*

## **Lake Macquarie Private Hospital**

### **First site activated in the APAC region for a new breast cancer trial.**

Dr Nicholas Zdenkowski leads the phase 3 study at Lake Macquarie Private Hospital, investigating whether sacituzumab govitecan-hziy (SG) in combination with pembrolizumab, given after surgery, is effective and safe compared to the treatment of physician's choice (TPC) which includes either pembrolizumab or pembrolizumab plus capecitabine in participants with triple negative breast cancer that still remains after surgery and pre surgical treatment.

Congratulations to Dr Zdenkowski and the team at Lake Macquarie Private Hospital Clinical Trials & Research Unit for being the first site activated in the APC region.

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## **Warringal Private Hospital**

### **First Victorian patient on breast cancer trial**

This trial, sponsored by SURGE Therapeutics, and led by Dr Simon Tsao, is a multicenter, first-in-human trial that aims to define the recommended phase 2 dose of a new drug (SRG-514-1) when administered intraoperatively to patients undergoing breast-conserving cancer surgery. The trial is the first breast cancer surgery trial to be run at Warringal Private Hospital Clinical Trials & Research Unit, marking a big milestone for the unit.

## First patient enrolled into OrigAMI-3 Trial, a phase 3 colorectal cancer study

This is a multi-center, international trial sponsored by Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) and led by Prof. Niall Tebbutt, is testing whether combining amivantamab (when injected under the skin) with chemotherapy is safe and effective at treating advanced colorectal cancer and/or extending life compared to the current treatments, cetuximab or bevacizumab, with chemotherapy. Warringal Private Hospital Clinical Trials & Research Unit was the first site in Australia and globally to complete the site initiation and activation and now have successfully recruited their first patient.

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## St George Private Hospital Opened first ovarian cancer study and consented first patient.

Congratulations to Prof Chee Lee, and the team at St George Private Hospital Clinical Trials & Research unit, for successfully extending into a new area and opening their first ovarian cancer study. Prof Lee leads the study at the site, aiming to measure the effect and safety of treatment with tuvusertib combined with either niraparib or lartesertib in participants with epithelial ovarian cancer. The primary objective of the study is to assess the effect of the treatment in terms of overall response, i.e. whether the tumor disappears, shrinks, remains unchanged, or gets worse.

Read more here: [Merck - Tuvusertib Combined with Niraparib or Lartesertib in Participants with Epithelial Ovarian Cancer \(DDRiver EOC 302\)](#).

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## John Flynn Private Hospital First successfully randomised patient in Australia to phase 3 heart failure trial

The trial, led by Dr. Ashok Gangasandra Basavaraj, investigates a potential new treatment for heart failure patients with a left ventricular ejection fraction of 40% or higher. *"This is a new class of medication, which can potentially have a huge impact on heart failure management with minimal side effects"* said Dr Gangasandra.

In December, John Flynn Private Hospital Clinical Trials & Research Unit expanded into cardiology trials for the very first time when they were granted site initiation for the EASi-

HF phase 3 trial. They have now successfully recruited and randomised the first patient in Australia to the study, which is a significant milestone. Dr Gangasandra said *"it is wonderful to be the first team to enrol a participant on the clinical trial in Australia, especially considering the stringent eligibility criteria, but clearly the hard work of the team paid off!"*.

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## Joondalup Health Campus

### First site activated globally for the KRYSTAL-4 Study.

This trial, led by Dr Arman Hasani, oncologist at Joondalup Health Campus, is investigating a potential treatment for a particular genetic type of lung cancer which has spread beyond the primary tumour. The trial drug is combined with traditional chemotherapy, providing an opportunity to improve outcomes for patients.

Congratulations to Dr Hasani, and the Clinical Trials and Research team at Joondalup Health Campus for being the first site globally to be activated for the trial. Wonderful achievement.

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## Rapid Research

### Dr Sue Thackwray

#### SCUPH Psoriasis Trial

SCUPH Clinical Trials & Research Unit manager, Renae Jackson, sat down with Dr Sue Thackwray, Principal Investigator to hear about the current psoriasis trial being run at SCUPH.

*"It's very exciting, exciting to be involved with this particular psoriasis study because for the first time we have a formulation that is a topical application. Traditionally applications have been subcutaneous injections or RV infusions, and now we have this new topical formulation which makes it much easier for patients to apply."*

Watch the full video [here](#)



## High Impact Publications

### Dr Trish Walker

#### New Publication in Journal of Clinical Oncology

Congratulations to Dr Patricia (Trish) Walker, Haematologist at Peninsula Private Hospital, on her contribution to a recent publication in the Journal of Clinical Oncology (JCO) - the single most credible resource for disseminating significant clinical oncology research.

The paper outlines the results from the extended follow-up from the SEQUOIA Trial. SEQUOIA is a phase 3, randomised, open-label trial that compares the efficacy between zanubrutinib versus bendamustine and rituximab in patients with previously untreated CLL/SLL (chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma).

Read the full article here: [Zanubrutinib Versus Bendamustine and Rituximab in Patients With Treatment-Naïve Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma: Median 5-Year Follow-Up of SEQUOIA | Journal of Clinical Oncology](#).

### Dr Marco Matos

#### New Publication in The Lancet. Positive Study results have the potential to set a new standard of care in liver cancer.

Dr Marco Matos is a co-author on a recent publication in The Lancet, detailing the results of the EMERALD-1 Study - an international phase 3 study looking at the effect of a new treatment for liver cancer on progression free survival rates. The study found the new combination of treatment (Durvalumab plus bevacizumab plus trans-arterial chemoembolisation - TACE) has the potential to set a new standard of care.

*"I've always been interested in research. I think it's a very important part of practicing*

medical oncology, because things are moving very rapidly, and thanks to research there's new treatments available for patients and the way we are treating cancers keeps evolving thanks to research." - Dr Matos

[Durvalumab with or without bevacizumab with transarterial chemoembolisation in hepatocellular carcinoma \(EMERALD-1\): a multiregional, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 study - The Lancet](#)

## Successful NHMRC and MRFF Grants

### Professor Colleen Loo

#### >\$3 million NHMRC Grant awarded to improve treatment for severe treatment resistant depression.

Prof Colleen Loo, psychiatrist at Ramsay Northside Clinic, has been awarded >\$3million NHMRC grant for "*Improving treatments for severe and treatment-resistant depression*". Professor Loo will explore the use of new forms of brain stimulation, including ketamine and psychedelic medications combined with therapy to target difficult to treat depression

[Read more here](#)

## ORIGINS secured MRFF grant to co-design a Flourishing Assessment and Pathway Tool

[ORIGINS](#), a collaboration between Ramsay Health Care Joondalup Health Campus and The Kids Research Institute Australia, is one of Australia's largest longitudinal birth cohort studies, following 10,000 children and their families over a decade to improve child and adult health.

ORIGINS sub-project, The Flourishing Child, has received a \$746,051 grant from the Medical Research Future Fund to develop a Flourishing Assessment and Pathway Tool to address gaps in early intervention for children's mental health.

The intention of the tool is to improve parental efficacy in identifying childhood flourishing, increase parental confidence in knowing when and how to seek help and increase the uptake of existing support services.

[Read more here](#)

## Published Research

Congratulations to several of our Doctors, VMO's and RHRF grant recipients on their recent publications. We are fortunate to see contributions from researchers who actively participate in our Clinical Trials & Research Units as well as from those affiliated with Ramsay sites more broadly.

### Patricia Walker - Peninsula Private Hospital

[Zanubrutinib Versus Bendamustine and Rituximab in Patients With Treatment-Naïve](#)

[Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma: Median 5-Year Follow-Up of SEQUOIA](#). *J Clin Oncol*

**Marco Matos - Pindara Private Hospital**

[Durvalumab with or without bevacizumab with transarterial chemoembolisation in hepatocellular carcinoma \(EMERALD-1\): a multiregional, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 study](#). *Lancet*.

**Desiree Silva - Joondalup Health Campus**

[The Flourishing Child: Understanding how Adults and Children Perceive Flourishing from the Start of Life](#). *Int J Appl Posit Psychol*

**Clara Massaneda-Tuneu, Colleen Loo & Donel Martin - Ramsay Clinic Northside**

[Revitalizing Lost Memories: Long-Term Swift Learning and Improvement Post Electroconvulsive Therapy: A Case Report](#). *J ECT*

**Edwina Duhig- John Flynn Private Hospital**

[An Evaluation Into the Robustness of Grading of Pleural Mesothelioma Outside of Specialist Centres](#). *APMIS*

**Eric Wegener & Jarad Martin - Lake Macquarie Private Hospital**

[Adverse events after adjuvant radiation therapy for Dupuytren's disease in the DEPART randomized trial](#). *J Hand Surg Eur*

**Huy Tran - Peninsula Private Hospital**

[Safety and efficacy of rilzabrutinib vs placebo in adults with immune thrombocytopenia: the phase 3 LUNA3 study](#). *Blood*.

**Aneel Nihal - Pindara Private Hospital**

[A diverse paper sensor for the rapid determination of nicotine and cotinine traces in air, vaping liquid, and human saliva](#). *Talanta*.

**Siving Yeow, Ahmed Goolam & Amanda Chung - North Shore Private Hospital**

[Robot-assisted ileocystoplasty for the treatment of adult neurogenic bladder: A video demonstration and outcomes](#). *Curr Urol*.

**Yingda Li - Westmead Private Hospital**

[Comparison of outcomes in open and full endoscopic lumbar discectomies for treating lumbar radiculopathy in an Australian cohort](#). *J Spine Surg*.

**Devupriya Mohanan Sujatha - Joondalup Health Campus**

[Neurologists' approaches and challenges in managing early-stage Alzheimer's disease: A survey of clinical practices](#). *Bioinformation*.

**Amanda Chung - North Shore Private Hospital**

[The underappreciated underactive bladder](#). *Transl Androl Urol*.

**Sarah Huang, Harrison Garrett, James French, Frank Hsieh & Bishoy Soliman - Westmead Private Hospital**

[Breast Reconstruction With Bipedicled DIEP Flap From an Irradiated and Scarred Abdomen](#). *Plast Reconstr Surg Glob Open*.

**Peter Friedland - Joondalup Health Campus**



[Haemophilus influenzae remains the predominant otitis media pathogen in Australian children undergoing ventilation tube insertion in the PCV13 era.](#) *J Infect.*

**Karan Rao, Alexander Baer, Peter Hansen & Ravinay Bhindi - North Shore Private Hospital**

[The Prognostic Relevance of a New Bundle Branch Block After Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.](#) *Struct Heart.*

**David Hennes, Yuigi Yuminaga - Joondalup Health Campus**

[Management of ureteral IgG4-Related Disease: The great masquerader.](#) *Urol Case Rep*

**Ravisha Srinivasjois - Joondalup Health Campus**

[Australian fathers' experiences of caring for their preterm infants.](#) *Infant Ment Health J.*

**Shen Wong - North Shore Private Hospital**

[Beware the neck mass: external jugular vein aneurysm in a patient with neurofibromatosis type 1.](#) *ANZ J Surg.*

**Darren Chen, Anothony KL Leong, Ashish Diwan, Gregory Wernecke, Samuel MacDessi - St George Private Hospital**

[Kinematic alignment achieves a tibial joint line angle that is more parallel to the floor in single-leg stance than mechanical alignment : a radiological analysis of a randomized controlled trial.](#) *Bone Joint J*

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## Biostatistics and other Research Consultations Available

Ramsay provide a range of consultations to assist you in conducting high quality research. These consultations are for Ramsay accredited practitioners or Ramsay staff involved in or contemplating conducting research at Ramsay facility.

Register your interest [here](#)

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## Interested in getting involved?

Email us at [info@rhrf.org.au](mailto:info@rhrf.org.au)

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