

Clinical Trials Network e-Newsletter



June 2024

Welcome

Welcome to the Ramsay Clinical Trials Network e-newsletter.

At Ramsay, we are dedicated to driving innovation, advancing patient care, and shaping the future of healthcare. Our commitment to research excellence and clinical trial endeavors underscores our mission to deliver the highest standards of care to our patients.

Through this newsletter, we aim to celebrate our achievements, share insights, updates and opportunities around our ongoing research initiatives and clinical trials and highlight the invaluable contributions of our Principal Investigators and Doctors.



Nicola Ware

Head of Research Innovation & Integrated Care

About the Clinical Trials Network (CTN)

Ramsay Clinical Trials Network is made up of

- 20 clinical trial sites
- 400+ clinical trials
- 124 principal investigators
- 590 - 700 active participants at a given point in time

What resources does Ramsay Clinical Trials Network Provide?

- Dedicated resources at hospitals to support the execution of clinical trials from study start up to finish
- Research enablers including access to centrifuges, pathology, radiology technicians, records management systems, health economists, and biostatisticians.
- Seeks to achieve a study start up timeframe of < 42 days.
- Offers rapid Ethics and Governance time frames.
- Offers support in Investigator Initiated studies

Currently we have a well-developed pipeline in therapeutic areas including oncology/haematology, orthopaedics, cardiology and mental health.

Where are our Clinical Trials Units Located?



Locations

New South Wales

- Albury Wodonga Private Hospital
- Lake Macquarie Private Hospital
- North Shore Private Hospital
- Ramsay Clinic Northside
- Ramsay Clinic Lakeside
- St George Private Hospital
- Southern Highlands Private Hospital
- Westmead Private Hospital
- Wollongong Private Hospital

Queensland

- John Flynn Private Hospital
- Pindara Private Hospital
- Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital

Victoria

- Ramsay Clinic Albert Road
- Peninsula Private Hospital
- The Avenue Private Hospital
- Warringal Private Hospital

Western Australia

- Hollywood Private Hospital
- Joondalup Health Campus

Trials done with collaborating organisations

- Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation with The Greenslopes Private Hospital
- Border Medical Oncology Research Unit with Border Cancer Hospital

ramsayhealth.com.au

Ramsay
Health Care

Deep Dive: Principal Investigator Survey Results

Ramsay clinical trials network is committed to ongoing development. Vital to this, is input from those working at the forefront of our trials. Recently, active Principal Investigators (PI's) shared valuable insights into their experiences within the Ramsay Clinical Trials Network.

Here's what they had to say...

What has been your **overall experience** working with your clinical trials unit



of active PI's believe the clinical trials **staff are sufficiently trained** to support the conduct of trials at their site.



of active PI's report having **sufficient access to facilities** to ensure clinical trials patients are treated promptly.

PI's asked for...

- Increased availability of skilled staff
- Biostatistical support
- Continuous staff training
- Training in ethics, governance, and research agreements
- Phase 1 clinical trials skills
- Database management
- Visibility & recognition for research
- Better communication
- Recruitment skills
- Regular meetings with clinical trials team
- Increased space & infrastructure
- Increased funding
- Streamlined approval processes
- Support for research activities
- Clearly defined roles for the clinical trials team

We plan to deliver...

Targeted Training Modules

We are developing training focused on enhancing staff proficiency in clinical trial management including understanding staff roles, ethics and governance processes, research protocols and site management across different phases of a clinical trial.

Increased Staffing Capabilities

We are upskilling our existing staff, creating a workforce development pipeline to develop careers in clinical trials, and broadening our capabilities through specialised resources (e.g. biostatistical support).

Improved Communications

We are improving our communications strategy to provide more comprehensive information regarding clinical trials, improve relationships with industry and sponsors, and enhance the visibility and recognition of the research that is undertaken.

Future focus

We are committed to the continuous improvement of our processes, and the evolving needs of the Principal Investigators and Clinical Trials Unit staff. We will continue to strive to support clinical trials through bettering our infrastructure, resources, funding opportunities and research activities where possible.

Highlights from some of our CTN sites

Explore some of the latest milestones and achievements from a few of our clinical trial sites across Australia

Ramsay Clinic Northside, NSW

Will soon start recruiting for [The MIND Study](#), which is looking into biomarkers in Neuropsychiatric Disorders. This is a Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation funded study that is run in collaboration with University of Melbourne, and could lead to a more precise and targeted treatment for dementia.

Peninsula Private Hospital, NSW

First site globally to open the haematology trial looking into the safety, tolerability and recommended dose of a new drug in patients with relapsed/ refractory B-Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.

Joondalup Health Campus, WA

First Australian site to have SIV for a Pediatric study, evaluating the efficacy, safety and drug levels of oral Ozanimod in participants with moderately to severely active Crohn's disease with an inadequate response to conventional therapy.

Pindara Private Hospital, QLD

Highest recruiting site globally for a trial looking at the effects of the combination of Elranatamab, Daratumumab, and Lenalidomide compared with Daratumumab, Lenalidomide, and Dexamethasone in patients with newly diagnosed Multiple Myeloma who are not candidates for transplant.

Highest recruiting site globally for a study evaluating the safety, tolerability and effectiveness of Tinodasertib in combination with Pembrolizumab or Irinotecan in metastatic colorectal cancer.

Shout Outs...

Congratulations to **Wollongong Private Hospital Clinical Trials Unit (CTU)** on recruiting the first Australian patient for a haematology trial for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. This was the first patient in Australia and the third patient globally.

Additionally, the recruitment and dosing of the first NSW patient and third patient globally into a complex phase 1 leukaemia trial.

These were two significant milestones for Wollongong Private Hospital's clinical trials unit, after an effort to intentionally expand into the specialty.

Congratulations to all involved.



John Flynn Private Hospital announces it's first Cardiology clinical trial to be conducted on site as they expand their clinical trials unit into this therapeutic area.

This study aims to evaluate the efficacy and safety of a new method to treat patients with heart failure and left ventricular ejection failure.

The clinical trials team at John Flynn Private Hospital have been working closely with Boehringer Ingelheim and IQVIA, the study sponsors, to get this important trial up and running.

It represents a step forward in cardiovascular research and a significant opportunity to improve patient care.

Publications from Doctors and VMO's at Ramsay

Congratulations to several of our Doctors and VMO's on their recent publications. We are fortunate to see contributions from researchers who actively participate in our Clinical Trials

Units as well as from those affiliated with Ramsay sites more broadly.

Desiree Silva

[Maternal prebiotic supplementation during pregnancy and lactation modifies the microbiome and short chain fatty acid profile of both mother and infant,](#)

[Airway epithelium respiratory illnesses and allergy \(AERIAL\) birth cohort: study protocol.](#)

Michelle Morris

[Study protocol - assessing parkrun for walking rehabilitation for people living with, and beyond, cancer: acceptability, adherence, social support and physical function.](#)

Avedia Ekmejian, Nicklas Howden, April Eipper, Usaid Allahwala, Michael Ward & Ravi Bhindi

[Association between vessel-specific coronary Aggregated plaque burden, Agatston score and hemodynamic significance of coronary disease \(The CAPTivAte study\).](#)

Amanda Hudson, Angela Cho & Helen Wheeler

[CA9, CYFIP2 and LGALS3BP-A Novel Biomarker Panel to Aid Prognostication in Glioma](#)

Ian Youseff & Spiro Raftopoulos

[Hot avulsion versus argon plasma coagulation for the management of the non-ensnareable polyp: A multicenter, randomized controlled trial.](#)

Rukshen Weerasooriya & Pragnesh Joshi

[Thoracoscopic Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion with the AtriClip PRO2: An Experience of 144 Patients.](#)

Ashish Gupta

[Trustworthy deep learning framework for the detection of abnormalities in X-ray shoulder images.](#)

Daniel Gorman & Parmesh Kovoor

[Metaraminol-induced coronary vasospasm masquerading as ST-elevation myocardial infarction during general anaesthesia](#)

Parmesh Kovoor

[Pre-stroke anticoagulation for atrial fibrillation in primary English speakers and non-primary English speakers: a multicentre retrospective cohort study.](#)

Julian Rodrigues & Brian Power

[Cortico-cortical connectivity is influenced by levodopa in tremor-dominant Parkinson's disease](#)

Shout Outs...

Recent publications in the **New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)**. NEJM is the most widely read, cited and influential general medical journal globally, and highlights the exceptional impact of these publications.

A huge congratulations to **Dr Hanlon Sia and Pindara Private Hospital Clinical Trials & Research Unit** on their involvement in and publication of the DREAMM-7 and DREAMM-8 Trials. These pivotal studies evaluated the efficacy and safety of alternative treatments for patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma. The results demonstrate significant improvement in patient outcomes, supporting the potential for robust new treatment options. View the DREAMM-7 publication [here](#) and the DREAMM-8 publication [here](#).

Dr Andrew van der Westhuizen and Lake Macquarie Private Hospital Clinical Trials & Research Unit were involved in



conducting the NADINA trial, a revolutionary trial that tested the effectiveness of a new melanoma treatment. This involves combination immunotherapy given before, rather than after, surgery for patients with resectable, macroscopic stage III melanoma. Interim analysis showed overwhelmingly positive results, with an 83.7% event free survival rate at 12 months in those who received treatment before surgery, compared to 57.2% in the group who received treatment after surgery. View the publication [here](#).



Research Ethics and Governance

Did you know Ramsay provides comprehensive ethics and governance support for Clinical Trials.

The REGGS Ethics & Governance system is a comprehensive online portal designed to streamline the management of research ethics and governance across Ramsay Clinical Trials.

it allows for:

- **Efficient application process:** Researchers can now conveniently lodge new applications online through REGGS, streamlining the submission process.
- **Enhanced communication:** REGGS provides real-time updates on the status of your application, reducing the need for frequent phone calls or emails to the Research Governance team.
- **Improved oversight and reporting:** The system offers greater control and oversight, facilitating better reporting and faster turnaround times on applications.

To better assist you in understanding these processes, we offer a variety of resources and support options, including: User guides, FAQ's, checklists, training webinars and online training and support via Microsoft Teams.

We encourage all researchers involved in or thinking about being involved in clinical trials at Ramsay to take advantage of REGGS and the support services available to them.

Please send any questions to the [REGGS inbox](#), or contact [Leslie Silk](#) with enquiries.

Visit the [Ramsay REGGS website](#) for training materials and further information.

Interested in getting involved?

If you are interested in our clinical trial's network and would like to be involved in delivering high-quality, cutting-edge care please contact the national team via email or visit our website for more information.

EMAIL US AT
info@rhfrf.org.au

VISIT OUR
WEBSITE

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-NEWS

Have something you'd like to share in Ramsay Clinical Trials Network E-News?

SUBMIT A STORY

Sent to: bartholomewalexandra@rhcf.org.au

[Unsubscribe](#)

Ramsay Health Care Australia, Level 7, Tower B, 7 Westbourne Street, St Leonards NSW 2065, Australia