

RRDN Newsletter

 Ramsay Research &
Development Network
Connecting Science, Care and Innovation

February 2026

Welcome to the first edition of the Ramsay Research & Development Network Newsletter

Previously the Clinical Trials Network Newsletter, this update will continue to bring you all the latest information, highlights, stories and important updates, just re-branded in alignment with the launch of the Ramsay Research & Development Network (RRDN). [View the RRDN launch video here.](#)

RRDN has recently expanded to now include 26 clinical trials sites, making us Australia's largest hospital based clinical trials network. Among the new trial sites joining the network are St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital, Northern Private Hospital, and Greenslopes Private Hospital.

With strong industry partnerships and world-class infrastructure, we empower our doctors to focus on what matters most - **delivering innovative treatments that improve patient care and outcomes**. Patient safety and risk management are at the heart of everything we do. We ensure our sites are well equipped to enable high-quality, meaningful studies that drive real impact.

At RRDN, we support both investigator-initiated and commercially sponsored research. To get involved, contact our National Site Operations Manager at RRDN@ramsayhealth.com.au

In Remembrance of Dr Andrea Tazbirkova



It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr Andrea Tazbirkova. Andrea was a deeply respected clinician and heavily involved in research at Pindara Private Hospital, playing an instrumental role in advancing clinical research and improving outcomes for countless patients. In recognition of Andrea's legacy, the Clinical Trials & Unit was renamed late last year to "*Dr Andrea Tazbirkova Clinical Trials Unit*". Our deepest condolences to Andrea's family, friends and those feeling this profound loss.

Image: Dr Tazbirkova and Family at the unveiling of the Dr Andrea Tazbirkova Clinical Trials Unit

Site Highlights

Pindara Private Hospital

TGA approved a new drug for use in Australians with Multiple Myeloma

Pindara Private Hospital has contributed to providing Australian adults diagnosed with multiple myeloma who have relapsed or become resistant to first-line treatment, with access to a new treatment option.

Belantamab Mafodotin is the first drug of its kind to be approved for multiple myeloma and works by attaching to myeloma cells and killing them from the inside. In Australia, the five-year [survival rate](#)

for people with multiple myeloma is 60.7%, significantly lower than other more common cancers including breast cancer, prostate cancer, and colorectal cancer which all sit at or above 70%.

This milestone reflects the collective efforts of the DREAMM research team and broader community involved in this trial including the many study investigators, coordinators, site staff, doctors and patients.

[Read the GSK media release](#)

Warringal Private Hospital

Lead recruiter in three important trials

NSW recruitment lead for [KLK2-comPAS study](#)

A study of Pasritamig vs Placebo in Late Line Metastatic Castration-resistant Prostate Cancer

Australian recruitment lead for [OrigAMI study](#)

A study of amivantamab and standard of care chemotherapy (FOLFIRI) compared with cetuximab or bevacizumab and FOLFIRI in participants who have recurrent, or metastatic colorectal cancer.

Global recruitment lead for [SRG-514 study](#)

A study of the recommended Phase 2 dose of a new drug administered intraoperatively to patients undergoing breast-conserving cancer surgery.



KLK2-comPAS study team at Warringal Private Hospital

[View all active trials at Warringal Private Hospital](#)

North Shore Private Hospital

Identifying Heart Attack Triggers with the TARP Study - Currently Recruiting

Led by cardiologist Professor Geoffrey Tofler and supported by a Translational Challenge Grant from the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation, the study uses a smartphone app to help participants identify everyday triggers, such as emotional stress, exposure to pollution or large meals, that can increase cardiovascular risk. When these triggers are logged in the app, participants receive real-time, guided stress-reduction strategies aimed at improving heart health and wellbeing.

Strong evidence shows heart attacks can be triggered by acute stressors, not just long-term risk factors and until now, no approach has focused on protecting the heart during stressful moments. **This study is the important next step.**

21 participants have been recruited across North Shore Private Hospital, Royal North Shore Hospital and Westmead Hospital. The TARP team is looking to recruit a total of 120 people aged 40 years and over, to join the 7 month study.



Image: TARP Study team

For more information visit the [Heart Research Australia website](#), or contact the study coordinator, Cheryl Macadam at Cheryl.Macadam@health.nsw.gov.au

Publication Highlights

[Circulating tumor DNA-guided adjuvant therapy in locally advanced colon cancer: the randomized phase 2/3 DYNAMIC-III trial](#)

Warringal Private Hospital VMO, Prof. Niall Tebbutt, and Peninsula Private Hospital VMO, Dr Simone Steele, have recently published important findings from the DYNAMIC-III Trial in the high-impact journal, *Nature Medicine*. This landmark phase 2/3 study compared standard treatment for stage III colon cancer with an approach guided by circulating tumour DNA, exploring whether personalised therapy informed by ctDNA could improve patient outcomes.

[Efficacy and safety of cosibelimab in advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma: Results from a Pivotal Open-label Study with a median follow-up of \$\geq 2\$ years](#)

We share this publication in memory of Dr Andrea Tazbirkova, Pindara Private Hospital VMO and co-author. Recently published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD)*, the study presents strong and clinically meaningful results for cosibelimab, a new immunotherapy for people with advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC) who cannot undergo surgery or radiation. The findings show robust treatment responses and offer further support for the use of cosibelimab in both metastatic and locally advanced CSCC

Research Grants

MRFF currently have a range of grant opportunities available across clinical trial activity, childhood mental health, traumatic brain injury, and other areas.

[The 2026 International Clinical Trial Collaborations Grant Opportunity](#) funds projects that:

- Promote Australian involvement in international collaborative investigator-initiated clinical trials research through the establishment and co-ordination of clinical trial site/s in Australia.
- Provide high-quality evidence of the effectiveness of novel health treatments, drugs or devices in 'usual care' settings, which will support a decision on whether to deliver the intervention in an Australian setting.

[View all open MRFF Grant Opportunities here](#)

Research Consumer Engagement

RRDN are seeking expressions of interest from consumers to be involved in our developing 'Ramsay Research Consumer Engagement' activities.

We are seeking to involve all types of consumers including;

- Participants of clinical trials or research
- Carers or family of clinical trial or research participants
- Health consumers including those with lived experience of a health condition
- Research consumer advocates, including those who actively support, promote and champion health and medical research in a certain field.

If you are interested or know someone who might be share the link and [register your interest here](#).

Research Consultations

Ethics & Governance

These consultations are designed to help you navigate the ethical and governance aspects of your research project. Whether you are in the early stages of project planning or need guidance on specific considerations, this session provides an opportunity to discuss your concerns with our experienced team.

Biostatistics

Unlock the power of data with tailored biostatistical support to help strengthen your research. Our consultations assist with all aspects of biostatistics, including study design, data analysis, interpretation and more.

[Register here](#)

Some Recent Publications

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.

Dr Andre Van der Westhuizen - Lake Macquarie Private Hospital

[Pathological response calculation assessment remains accurate with reduced tumor bed examination after neoadjuvant immunotherapy in clinically detectable stage III melanoma](#), *Annals of Oncology*

Michelle Morris - Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital

[CLDN18.2-targeting antibody-drug conjugate IBI343 in advanced gastric or gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma: a phase 1 trial](#), *Nature Medicine*

Marcus Ang - Hollywood Private Hospital

[Time to Hang Up the Gloves: A Scoping Review of Evidence on Non-Sterile Glove Use During Intravenous Antimicrobial Preparation and Administration](#), *Journal of Advanced Nursing*

Patricia Walker - Peninsula Private Hospital

[Acalabrutinib-obinutuzumab improves survival vs chemoimmunotherapy in treatment-naive CLL in the 6-year follow-up of ELEVATE-TN](#), *Blood*

Joanna Brisbane & Desiree Silva - Joondalup Health Campus

[Preliminary Evidence of Blood DNA Methylation Changes in Pregnant Women Adhering to a Mediterranean Diet](#), *Epigenomes*

Nazim Bhimani, Edmund Sweeney & Thomas Hugh - North Shore Private Hospital

[Parainguinal or Spigelian hernia: a clinically important distinction](#), *Hernia*

Contact Us

[Email us](#)

[Visit our website](#)

[Book a FREE biostatistics consultation](#)

[Subscribe to our mailing list](#)

[Submit a story for the newsletter](#)

Sent to: bartholomewalexandra@rhf.org.au

[Unsubscribe](#)

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