



PoCoG Update

Presented by: Dr Nicci Bartley

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Acknowledgment of Country

I respectfully acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and I pay my respects to the Elders past and present.



Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG)

Health professionals and researchers working to improve the **emotional support** and **psychological care** of people affected by cancer.

PoCoG aims to improve outcomes for people affected by cancer by:

- Developing and facilitating high quality interventions and services that optimise psychosocial and supportive care.
- Supporting health professionals and researchers with advice and resources that increase collaboration and innovation in psycho-oncology.
- Bringing together health professionals, researchers and consumers to share ideas and collaborate.
- Building capacity and collaborations to conduct large, multi-centre research of clinical relevance that would be difficult for a single team to undertake.
- Encouraging other trials groups to include psychosocial or quality of life sub-studies in existing and planned research.



Potential ways to collaborate

1. Inclusion of a psychosocial sub-study to an existing trial to explore patient/carer experiences and outcomes.
2. Contributing our expertise to:
 - explore psychosocial aspects of genomic testing and influence on treatment decision making from the patient/carer perspective when offered new treatments/technologies as part of a clinical trial;
 - explore how healthcare professionals can best communicate complex topics, such as genetics/genomics in cancer, and develop communication strategies to facilitate patient/carer understanding;
 - develop and evaluate patient/carer resources to improve understanding and support informed decision making.



PiGeOn

The **P**sychosocial issues of **G**enomic **O**ncology (2017-2020)

Aim: To examine psychosocial, cognitive, and behavioural responses to genomic testing, and related ethical issues.

Methods: Surveys and interviews with patients and their family members, at 3 time points.

Collaboration between PoCoG and the Garvan Institute (Omico).

PoCoG led cohort **sub-studies** of:

- Molecular Screening and Therapeutics (MoST) study – use of comprehensive tumour profiling to characterise molecular changes in a patient's cancer and potentially identify a targeted therapy.
- Genetic Cancer Risk in the Young (RisC) study – genome sequencing to understand the genetic variants that contribute to inherited cancer.



PoCoG contact details

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Concept Development Workshop: 5 December 2024

Concept submission form available on the PoCoG website

QUESTIONS?