

Vale Dr Melanie Price

19 February 1965-21 December 2018



Melanie has been a much-loved member of our Australian Psycho-oncology community for over 22 years. She was a tireless advocate for people affected by cancer, their families, and for psycho-oncology as a discipline. Through all aspects of her work Melanie made a unique and truly significant contribution to improving the wellbeing of people with cancer.

Under Melanie's Directorship PoCoG, the first psycho-oncology trials group in the world, developed a truly national identity, bringing together leading psycho-oncology researchers across the country, mentoring younger researchers and building large, transformative programs of research that are making a difference to cancer outcomes.

Melanie's quiet, wise and committed leadership saw PoCoG grow to over 1800 members and develop an international reputation for research excellence. There is no doubt her dry sense of humour and sharp wit contributed greatly to her ability to bring people together and keep them

connected. Melanie was one of those rare individuals who combined great academic ability with a selfless desire to create something larger than all of us.

After a career in nursing, Melanie completed her PhD in 2003 exploring the role of stress and coping in predicting breast cancer diagnosis in women who had been recalled after a suspicious breast scan. With Professor Phyllis Butow, Melanie formed a unique and longstanding partnership and together with colleagues formed the Centre for Medical Psychology and Evidence-based Decision-making (CeMPED), at the University of Sydney.

Melanie and Phyllis extended Melanie's PhD work in a 17-year collaboration with the Kathleen Cunningham Foundation Consortium for research into Familial Breast cancer (kConFab), conducting a wide range of studies exploring psychosocial and behavioural issues in women at high risk of breast cancer. Melanie also sat on the kConFab executive committee for many years, bringing her expertise, wisdom and support to that important Australian registry.

Melanie has created a legacy that will be not be forgotten. With over 60 publications and many grants, she had a distinguished research career and her contribution to psycho-oncology has been truly significant. We will all miss her greatly.

A memorial service celebrating Melanie's contribution to psycho-oncology is being held at 3pm on Friday 8th February in the new University of Sydney Administration Building (F23) on the corner of City Road and Eastern Avenue Camperdown Campus.

Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Please email pocog.office@sydney.edu.au to RSVP for catering purposes.

If you are unable to attend the memorial service but would like to send a few words to summarise your memories of Melanie we are putting together a collection of memories to share at the service, [please click here to send us your thoughts](#).

Dr Joanne Shaw
Executive Director
Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group