PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH GROUP

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS 2010-2011

OVERVIEW FROM OUR CHAIR

I am very pleased to present this special edition of the PoCoG Research Highlights report focusing on our achievements as a national collaborative trials group. In this issue we present a summary of our research activities in the last financial year as well as the results of follow-up of PoCoG endorsed studies.
It is amazing to see how far we have come along as a collaborative group. I hope that in looking at these results you will feel a sense of pride, as the achievements outlined here are largely due to your efforts as researchers and clinicians.
We look forward to reporting further achievements in our efforts to help improve cancer outcomes through psycho-oncology research next year.

Professor Phyllis Butow
Chair

POCOG ACTIVITIES - HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2010

- **The first CDW of the newly formed SA PoCoG interest group CDW for Nurses and Social Workers**
- **PC4 and PoCoG Joint Consumer Advisory Group (JCAG) formed**

NOVEMBER 2010

- **OZPOS and PoCoG Psycho-oncology Professional Day, Melbourne**
- **First PoCoG Open SAC meeting**

DECEMBER 2010

- **Early Career Researcher interest group formed**

MARCH 2011

- **Early Career Researcher survey conducted**
- **Terms of reference for interest groups developed**
- **Five PoCoG administered studies submitted for funding**

APRIL 2011

- **Proposal for new Quality Assurance processes and SoPs approved by the Executive Committee**
- **WA PoCoG interest group inaugural meeting**
- **First face-to face meeting of JCAG**

JUNE 2011

- **Meeting of the SA PoCoG interest group**
- **Executive Committee approves recommendations made by the Early Career Researcher survey report**

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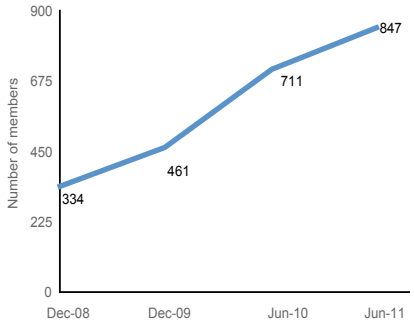
MEMBERSHIP

PoCoG membership growth 2008-2011



PoCoG membership is open to researchers and health professionals with an interest in psycho-oncology research, from within Australia and New Zealand. Membership is free and does not need to be renewed annually. Associate membership is available to international researchers and health professionals who can access all PoCoG services except the PoD and services incurring a financial outlay.

PoCoG membership has been growing steadily and is likely to reach 900 members by the end of the 2011 calendar year. Our membership represents a wide range of professional disciplines with Psychology, Oncology Nursing and Public Health or Health Promotion being the top 3 at the end of the financial year 10/11.

The tables and graphs below represent membership data as reported at the end of the financial year 10/11.

Table 1 PoCoG membership

	Number of members	% Total membership
Australia	798	94.2
International	49	5.8
Total membership	**847**	**100**

Australian membership by state or territory

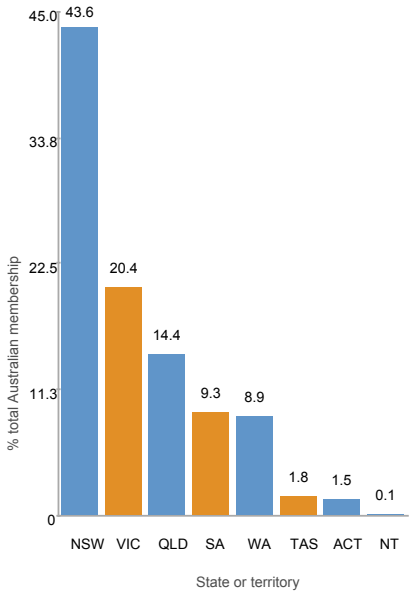


Table 2 Professional disciplines represented by PoCoG membership

Discipline	Number of members	% of total membership
Psychology	325	38.4
Oncology Nursing	90	10.6
Public Health and/or Health Promotion	81	9.6
Other	67	7.9
Social Work	61	7.2
Medical Oncology	44	5.2
Allied Health	32	3.8
Other Nursing Discipline	26	3.1
Psychiatry	16	1.9
Other Medical Discipline	15	1.8
Palliative care	15	1.8
Palliative Care Nursing	15	1.8
Radiation Oncology	13	1.5
Epidemiology	12	1.4
Biostatistics	11	1.3
Radiation Scientist	10	1.2
Health Economics	8	0.9
Surgery	3	0.4
Pharmacy	3	0.4
Total	**847**	**100**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The PoCoG Executive Committee was formed in November 2005. The Executive is responsible for overseeing the management of PoCoG, which includes financial and administrative issues, as well as liaison with other clinical trials groups and interaction with key stakeholders. The Executive Committee is also responsible for overseeing and reviewing the strategic directions, policies and procedures of PoCoG.

The Executive Committee membership includes:

- Professor Phyllis Butow (Chair)
- Dr Jeremy Couper
- Dr Haryana Dhillon
- Prof. Elizabeth Eakin
- Dr Monika Janda
- Professor Brian Kelly
- Prof. Madeleine King
- Dr Melanie Price
- A/Prof. Jane Turner
- Professor Kate White

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is responsible for scientific direction, research priorities of PoCoG and scientific rigour and minimum standards of PoCoG studies. the SAC will is multidisciplinary, and includes representation from across Australia. Through its diverse membership the SAC possesses a wide range of expertise in qualitative and quantitative research, statistics or diverse clinical roles related to psycho-oncology.
The SAC activities include:

- Setting scientific direction and priorities and ensuring that these are in line with Cancer Australia principles and key performance indicators
- Reviewing and providing constructive feedback on proposals for PoCoG involvement in research (either as PoCoG administered or PoCoG endorsed studies)
- Taking part in the ongoing review of PoCoG studies to ensure their scientific rigour (PoCoG administered studies) or maintenance of minimal research quality standards (PoCoG endorsed studies)
- The SAC may be invited to take up other roles from time to time, such as faculty or invited experts on PoCoG educational activities.

The SAC consists of no more than 15 members, comprising:

- Dr Melanie Bell
- Professor Phyllis Butow
- Prof. Elizabeth Eakin (SAC Chair)
- Ass. Prof Gail Garvey
- Professor Afaf Girgis
- Ms Kim Hobbs
- Dr Monika Janda (SAC Deputy Chair)
- Dr Nadine Kasparian
- Prof. Madeleine King
- Dr Sheleigh Lawler
- Dr Melanie Price
- Mr Max Shub (JCAG Co-chair)
- A/Prof Janette Vardy
- Dr Claire Wakefield
- Prof Patsy Yates

PC4 AND POCOG JOINT CONSUMER ADVISORY GROUP (JCAG)

JCAG was formed in August 2010 as a joint initiative between PoCoG and the Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4) in order to promote and increase consumer participation in the activities of both groups. JCAG functions as an advisory group to both PoCoG and PC4. Administratively JCAG will function as a sub-committee of the Scientific Advisory Committee of both groups. The purpose of the JCAG is to provide a mechanism for advice to be received on general research directions and priorities from a consumer perspective for both Groups.

JCAG membership includes:

- Mr Dennis Armstrong
- Ms Kathryn Cunningham
- Dr George Fishman
- Ms Karen Forster (JCAG Co-chair)
- Dr Elizabeth Kuczek
- Ms Julie Marker
- Mrs Nicki Ottavi
- Ms Katie Shaw
- Mr Max Shub JCAG Co-chair
- Ms Nikola Stepanov

POCOG STUDIES

PoCoG aims to foster collaboration to develop large-scale, multi-centre psycho-oncology studies of clinical relevance and importance which would be difficult for any one team to mount. In light of these aims a PoCoG study should in principle:

- Target a psychosocial, behavioural or supportive care issue
- Be amenable to intervention in either short or long-term
- Be collaborative in nature (with other Clinical Trials Groups, organisations, investigators, psycho-social clinicians)
- Endeavour to engage populations typically underrepresented in clinical trials
- Have a strong rationale and methodology
- Have a PI who is committed to obtaining funding for the study
- Be industry independent

PoCoG endorsed studies are those proposed by a PoCoG member and submitted for endorsement to a PoCoG SAC open meeting. Such projects may have widely differing levels of PoCoG involvement or support depending on the investigators' or groups' needs, ranging from scientific review only, to support in design and data analysis. Investigators also have the option to request that PoCoG fully administers a study on their behalf. If accepted, such study would become a PoCoG administered study. PoCoG supports the development of studies chiefly by providing the scientific review and feedback which is part of the endorsement process, conducting Concept Development and educational workshops and providing resources such as biostatistical advisory service and access to Quality of Life research services through the Cancer Australia Chair in Cancer Quality of Life. A most recent resource being developed are standard operating procedures and templates for psycho-oncology research. This set of operational guidelines will form part of PoCoG's quality assurance program. For more information about this new initiative please visit our website.

Since the inception of the scientific review process in February 2008 the PoCoG Scientific Advisory Committee has endorsed 37 studies. Nineteen of these studies were actively recruiting in the financial year 2010/11. Seven of these studies are collaborations with other cancer clinical trials groups.

The PoCoG Executive Office conducts a follow-up of PoCoG endorsed studies every 6 months. The data collected is used in planning future activities and resources, quality assurance and reporting to funding bodies. As the new quality assurance process is rolled-out, the follow-up will also increasingly be used in assessing support needs of these studies.

Unless otherwise indicated, the tables and graphs below represent study follow-up data as reported at the end of the financial year 10/11.

Table 4 Number of studies and Randomised Controlled Trials

Number of studies open to recruitment in Financial Year 10/11	19
Number of endorsed RCTs to date	7
Number of RCTs open to recruitment in Financial Year 10/11	6

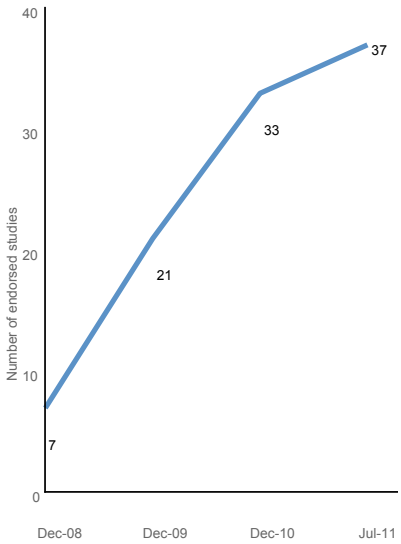
Table 6 Study recruitment sites for 19 studies open to recruitment

Total number of sites	45
(Non-clinical "sites" e.g. registries, member groups)	(6)

Table 5 Recruitment by state for 19 Studies open to recruitment

	In Financial Year 10/11	From study commencement to End of Financial Year 10/11
NSW	977	1980
ACT	9	9
VIC	425	599
QLD	233	307
SA	0	13
WA	0	0
TAS	4	4
NT	12	13
International	17	171
Total Aust	1660	2890
TOTAL (all)	**1677**	**3061**

Growth in PoCoG endorsed studies 2008-2011



PROFILES OF STUDIES OPEN TO RECRUITMENT 2010 / 11 FY

NON-INTERVENTION STUDIES

Psychological morbidity, unmet needs and patterns of care in culturally and linguistically diverse cancer patients in Australia [PoCoG-CALD-II]

PI: Phyllis Butow
CIs: A Girgis A, D Goldstein, M Eisenbruch, P Schofield, M Jefford, M King
Description: The mixed methods study aimed to: 1) Identify areas of unmet need in Chinese, Arabic, Greek and English speaking cancer patients; 2) Develop and pilot culturally appropriate measures of unmet needs in cancer patients from each of the 3 targeted culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities; 3) Establish the prevalence of anxiety, depression and unmet needs, and document quality of life and patterns of care, in cancer patients from these CALD communities across Australia; 4) Explore predictors of anxiety, depression and unmet needs; 5) Characterise the psychometric properties of the translated and culturally-adapted versions of the outcome measures, to augment and inform the valid interpretation of the prevalence and risk factor estimates.
No. recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 1
No. Participants recruited in 2010-2011: 267
Total no. recruited to date: 592
Status: Closed

Psychological morbidity, unmet needs, quality of life and patterns of care in migrant cancer patients: The first year [PoCoG-2008-01]

PI: Phyllis Butow
CIs: D Goldstein, M Eisenbruch, M Jefford, M King, A Girgis
Description: The aims of this study are to: 1) Establish the prevalence of anxiety, depression and unmet needs, and document quality of life and patterns of care, in cancer patients from Chinese, Arabic and Greek speaking CALD communities across Australia in the first year of diagnosis. 2) Explore predictors of anxiety, depression and unmet needs, including demographic and disease variables (as previously established in English-speaking cancer patients). 3) Characterise the psychometric properties of the translated and culturally-adapted versions of the outcome measures, including the factor structure and item function, to augment and inform the valid interpretation of the prevalence and risk factor estimates.
No. Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 16
No. Participants recruited in 2010-2011: 622
Total no. recruited to date: 890
Status: Open

Understanding the long-term psychosocial sequelae of surviving testicular cancer [PoCoG-2008-02]

PI: Ian Olver
CIs: P Butow, T Luckett, P Grimison, G Toner, M King, J Stubbs
Description: This mixed methods study incorporates qualitative and quantitative methods to determine the prevalence and correlates of depression, anxiety and psychosocial distress amongst Australian testicular cancer survivors. Specific objectives include: 1) Establishing the prevalence of depression, anxiety and psychosocial distress in Australian testicular cancer survivors as compared to a matched sample of men from the general population; 2) Establishing the prevalence of unmet needs in testicular cancer survivors; 3) Identifying at-risk groups who would benefit from screening and early intervention by exploring correlates of psychosocial distress and unmet needs; 4) Characterising the psychometric properties of a newly developed testicular cancer-specific quality of life measure.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 13
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 159
Total no. recruited to date: 317
Status: Closed

Does palliative chemotherapy improve symptom control in women with recurrent ovarian cancer? [PoCoG-2008-04]

PI: Michael Friedlander
CIs: M Stockler, C Gainford, M King, O Amit, P Butow
Description: Stage 1: To determine the symptoms and aspects of HRQOL rated most severe, troublesome and important by women with platinum resistant/refractory ovarian cancer. Stage 2: To determine the proportion of women benefiting from palliative chemotherapy as defined by a clinically significant improvement in HRQOL scores and improvement of symptoms.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 9
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 41
Total no. recruited to date: 100
Status: Open

Work life after a primary diagnosis of colorectal cancer: work disruption or life as usual? [PoCoG-2009-01]

PI: Louisa Gordon
CIs: B Lynch, V Beesley
Description: This population-based case-control longitudinal study aims to: 1) Describe transitions in employment participation following a primary diagnosis of colorectal cancer within a 12-month period; 2) Identify the key factors influencing work participation during or after cancer treatment; 3) Identify the key factors influencing time to work re-entry after cancer treatment; 4) Investigate the influence of changes in employment participation over a 12-month period on HRQoL over time; and 5) Quantify the extent of physical and cognitive limitations at work (work disability) in individuals following a primary diagnosis of colorectal cancer.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 1
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 200
Total no. recruited to date: 233
Status: Open

A prospective longitudinal cohort study describing quality of life in patients undergoing pulmonary metastasectomy for metastatic sarcoma [PoCoG-2009-09]

PI: Rachel Dear
CI: M Tattersall
Description: The aim of the study is to describe the outcomes in patients with lung-only metastases from sarcoma who have pulmonary metastasectomy (PM). More specifically, Health Related Quality of Life (HRQOL), post-metastasectomy survival, progression-free and relapse-free survival, surgical adverse events and assess the psychometric properties of the Patient Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) HRQOL measurement system relative to the EORTC HRQOL measurement system. The study will also describe the patterns of care of patients having PM and peri-operative systemic therapy and identify prognostic factors associated with survival.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 2
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 1
Total no. recruited to date: 1
Status: Open

Letters between psychologists and oncology health professionals: A preliminary study on the development of evidence-based guidelines. [PoCoG-2009-13]

PI: Belinda Thewes
CIs: P Butow, C Mason, J Turner
Description: This study is aiming to develop a letter-template for use by psychologists in summarising their clinical contact with a new patient following referral from an oncology health professional. The degree of detail provided about the mental health of clients in multidisciplinary team correspondence has been controversial. This study aims to identify best practice in this area. The study will elicit the views of: a) Psychologists about their letter-writing practices and knowledge of medico-legal issues surrounding written communication with clinical staff; b) Clinical health professionals (general practitioners, oncologists, cancer care coordinators, specialist cancer nurses) about their letter receiving preferences; and c) Consumers about attitudes towards the content of psychosocial feedback letters between psychosocial staff and medical care providers.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 5
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 60
Total no. recruited to date: 80
Status: Open

Caring for thoracic cancer caregivers: Exploring psychological and supportive care needs [PoCoG-2009-14]

PI: Erena Wikaire
CIs: H Dhillon, J Vardy, M Price
Description: Little is known about the unmet needs and psychological impact for thoracic cancer caregivers and families. What research is available suggests that caregivers of thoracic cancer patients experience psychological distress and changes in quality of life. There is even less known about the psychological impact on other family members and research on caregivers in other types of cancers suggests that caregivers may experience similar unmet needs to those of the patient. Qualitative research methods provide an avenue through which certain experiences and phenomenon can be explored. This study aims to explore the psychological and unmet needs of thoracic cancer caregivers and families.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 3
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 3
Total no. recruited to date: 38
Status: Open

PROMIS: A new paradigm for patient-reported outcome (PRO) assessment - a NSW based proof-of-concept study [PoCoG-2010-02]

PI: Madeleine King
CI: M Friedlander
Description: The primary aim of this study is to test the feasibility and acceptability of both online and computer assisted Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System (PROMIS) technology in an Australian clinical setting.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 1
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 32
Total no. recruited to date: 67
Status: Open

The rural/urban divide: Identifying inequities in cancer patient and caregiver reported outcomes [PoCoG-2010-04]

PI: Phyllis Butow
CIs: D Goldstein, C Underhill, A Girgis, J Young, V White, P Yates, D Wyld
Description: This study aimed to elicit the experiences and views of cancer patients and their families living in rural/regional Australia, and the health professionals who look after them, regarding cancer services in the country, and how to improve them.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 6
No. Participants recruited 2010-2011: 40
Total no. recruited to date: 80
Status: Closed

Exploring preferences for psychosocial care among distressed patients diagnosed with gynaecological cancer [PoCoG-2010-09]

PI: Dr Sylvie Lambert
CIs: A Girgis, B Kelly, A Boyes, A Proietto, C Adams
Description: The goal of this study is to explore the preferences for psychosocial care among women diagnosed with gynaecologic cancer, who screen positive for distress but do not necessarily accept referrals for these services.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 1
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 10
Total no. recruited to date: 10
Status: Open

INTERVENTION STUDIES

The impact of physical activity on quality of life in lung cancer patients (PAL) [PoCoG-2008-06]

PI: Janette Vardy
CIs: H Dhillon, H van der Poeg, M Boyer, S Clarke, L Mileshkin
Description: The PAL study aims to show whether a structured physical activity program can reduce fatigue in patients diagnosed with advanced lung cancer, as well as improve quality of life and sleep, lessen anxiety and depression, and provide improved physical functioning, cognitive function, and overall survival. We hypothesise that the reduced fatigue and risk of cancer recurrence occurs through the insulin axis and cytokines mechanisms/pathways A Physical Activity Consultant works with the study participants to establish a suitable exercise program and provide them with support to complete their programs.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 6
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 20
Total no. recruited to date: 35
Status: Open

A multisite randomised controlled trial evaluating the impact of a comprehensive survivorship care package for people with early stage bowel cancer [PoCoG-2008-07]

PI: Michael Jefford
CIs: P Schofield, S Aranda, M Krishnasamy, J Young, P Butow, M King
Description: This study aims to examine the effectiveness of an innovative supportive care program (SurvivorCare) comprising survivorship educational materials, provision of a tailored survivorship care plan, an individually tailored nurse-led end of treatment consultation and telephone follow up for people with potentially curative colorectal cancer, aiming to reduce psychological distress and unmet needs, using a randomised controlled trial.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 5
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 5
Total no. recruited to date: 7
Status: Open

Development and trial of tailored psycho-educational resources for individuals affected by melanoma [PoCoG-2009-02]

PI: Nadine Kasparian
CIs: B Meiser, S Menzies, G Mann, P Butow, K Barlow-Stewart
Description: Study aims: 1) To determine the prevalence and correlates of psychological morbidity reported by melanoma survivors at high risk of developing a new melanoma compared to those at moderate risk; 2) To identify and compare the prevalence and predictors of sun protection behaviours and skin self-examination practices in these melanoma patient subgroups; and 3) To develop and pilot test a series of evidence-based psycho-educational resources, tailored to the risk status of melanoma patients. These resources will form the basis of a psycho-educational intervention aimed at promoting healthy psychological, social and behavioural adjustment, as well as improved doctor-patient communication, following melanoma diagnosis.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 1
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 97
Total no. recruited to date: 304
Status: Open

A randomized controlled trial of different educational strategies for women newly diagnosed with breast cancer who are considering treatment-focused genetic testing [PoCoG-2009-04]

PI: Bettina Meiser
CIs: G Mitchell, K Tucker, C Saunders, L Geelhoed, J Hopper, K Watts
Description: The study aims to determine the impact and efficacy of treatment-focused genetic testing (TFGT) on a variety of psychological and decision-related outcomes, among women (aged less than 50 years) newly diagnosed with breast cancer.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 5
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 30
Total no. recruited to date: 30
Status: Open

The CHALLENGE Trial: A Phase III Study of the Impact of a Physical Activity Program on Disease-Free Survival in Patient with High Risk Stage II or Stage III Colon Cancer: A Randomised Controlled Trial [PoCoG-2009-11]

PIs: Janette Vardy and Haryana Dhillon
Description: Our aim is to determine the efficacy of PA in reducing disease recurrence in patients with localised colon cancer. Our primary hypothesis is that a PA program will improve disease-free survival (DFS) in patients with resected stage II and III colon cancer who have completed adjuvant therapy. In addition, we hypothesise that exercise can improve fatigue, quality of life (QOL), physical functioning and body composition.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 4
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 9
Total no. recruited to date: 19
Status: Open

Evaluation of a Web-based Cognitive Rehabilitation Programme in Cancer Survivors with Self-reported Cognitive Impairment [PoCoG-2010-01]

PI: Victoria Bray
CIs: H Dhillon, J Vardy
Description: To evaluate a home and internet based cognitive rehabilitation programme (InSight from PositScience) in cancer survivors with solid tumours, (excluding primary brain tumours), who self report cognitive impairment 6 - 60 months after completion of potentially curative chemotherapy. Our primary hypothesis is that InSight will improve self reported cognitive function. The major secondary hypotheses are that InSight can improve: 1) objective neuropsychological performance; 2) quality of life; 3) depression and anxiety; 4) stress; 5) fatigue.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 16
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 0
Total no. recruited to date: 76
Status: Open

PeNTAGOn: Peer Nurse support Trial to Assist women in Gynaecological Oncology [PoCoG-2010-03]

PI: Penny Schofield
CIs: S Aranda, I Juraskova, L Mileshkin, M Krishnasamy, K White
Description: The PeNTAGOn study is testing the effectiveness of a new program of support for women being treated with radiotherapy for gynaecological cancer using a randomised controlled trial. The intervention combines specialist nurse consultations with telephone peer support before, during, and after treatment, compared to current standard care alone. The support program aims to reduce women's psychological distress, psychosocial needs, psychosexual difficulties and symptom distress and improve patient preparation for treatment and quality of life.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 1
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 29
Total no. recruited to date: 29
Status: Open

Efficacy and safety of Gingko biloba for cognitive function and fatigue in breast cancer patients undergoing adjuvant chemotherapy [PoCoG-2010-06]

PI: Janette Vardy
CIs: H Dhillon, A McLachlan
Description: This is a prospective, longitudinal, placebo-controlled randomised controlled trial evaluating the effects of the traditional Chinese herbal medicine Ginkgo biloba on cognitive dysfunction and fatigue associated with adjuvant chemotherapy in breast cancer survivors. The underlying mechanisms of fatigue and cognitive impairment, and evaluate possible interactions between Gingko biloba and the common chemotherapy drugs used to treat breast cancer are being investigated. Pharmacological sub-studies will obtain pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic information about Gingko biloba and any interaction with chemotherapy and hormonal anti-cancer treatment respectively.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 3
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 22
Total no. recruited to date: 83
Status: Open

A pilot study of a psychological and educational intervention for fear of cancer recurrence [PoCoG-2010-07]

PI: Phyllis Butow
CIs: B Thewes, A Girgis, J Turner, M Bell, J Beith
Description: This study aimed to establish the feasibility, acceptability and likely effect size of a novel intervention to help cancer survivors manage fear of cancer recurrence. The intervention was a 5-session individual psychologist-delivered therapy programme based on two theoretical models, the Self-Regulation of Executive Function (S-REF) model of emotional disorder and a mindfulness framework. It includes components of meta-cognitive therapy, Attention Training Technique (ATT), and detached mindfulness.
No.: Recruitment sites in 2010-2011: 5
No.: Participants recruited 2010-2011: 10
Total no. recruited to date: 10
Status: Open

POCOG PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Butow P, Goldstein D, Bell M, Sze M, Aldridge L, Abdo S, Mikhail M, et al. Interpretation in consultations with immigrant cancer patients; How functionally equivalent is it? Journal of Clinical Oncology 2011; 29: 2801-07

Dzidowska M, Price MA, Butow PN, the PoCoG Executive Committee. Identifying research priorities and research needs among health and research professionals in psycho-oncology. Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology 2010; 6: 165–72.

Giesinger JM, Petersen MAA, Groenvold M, Aaronson NK, Arraras JI, Conroy T, Gamper EM,…King MT…et al. Health and Quality of Life Outcomes. Cross-cultural development of an item list for computer-adaptive testing of fatigue in oncological patients 2011; 9: 19.

King M, Stockler M, Cella D, Osoba D, Eton D, Thompson J, Eisenstein A. Meta-analysis provides evidence-based effect sizes for a cancer-specific quality-of-life questionnaire, the FACT-G. Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 2010; 63: 270-81.

King MT. A point of minimal important difference (MID): A critique of terminology and methods. Expert Review of Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes Research 2011; 11: 171-84.

Luckett T, Butow P, King M, Oguchi M, Heading G, Hackl N, Rankin N, et al. A review and recommendations for optimal outcome measures of anxiety, depression and general distress in studies evaluating psychosocial interventions for English-speaking adults with heterogeneous cancer diagnoses. Supportive Care in Cancer 2010; 18: 1241-62.

Luckett T, King M, Butow P, Friedlander M, Paris T. Assessing health-related quality of life in gynecologic oncology: A systematic review of questionnaires and their ability to detect clinically important differences and change International Journal of Gynecological Cancer 2010; 20: 664-84

Luckett T, King M, Stockler M. Quality of life research in prostate and testicular cancer. Cancer Forum 2010; 34: 20.

Luckett T, King M. Choosing patient-reported outcome measures for cancer clinical research - practical principles and an algorithm to assist non-specialist researchers. European Journal of Cancer 2010; 46: 3149-57.

Patel D, Thewes B, Sharpe L, Bell M. The sensitivity and specificity of the distress thermometer and hospital anxiety and depression scale for predicting clinical disorder in patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Journal of Affective Disorders 2011; 131: 412-16.

Rankin N, Butow P, Price M, Evans A, The PoCoG Executive Committee. Views of psycho-oncology health professionals on priority psycho-oncology research questions. Supportive Care in Cancer 2011; 10: 1133-41.

Smith D, King M, Egger S, Berry M, Stricker P, Cozzi P, Ward J, et al. Quality of life three years after treatment for localised prostate cancer: A population-based study. British Medical Journal 2010; 340: 195.

ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Aldridge L, Butow P, Bell M, McGrane J, Jefford M, Schofield P, King M, et al. The case for culturally competent navigators: examining health disparities, distress and unmet need in Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Greek, and Arabic-speaking cancer survivors in Australia. COSA ASM. Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology 2010; 6: 236.

Aldridge L, Butow P, Bell M, McGrane J, Jefford M, Schofield P, King M, et al. Health disparities and unmet needs in Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Greek, and Arabic-speaking cancer survivors in New South Wales. Sydney Cancer Conference, July 2010. Sydney, New South Wales, 2010.

Bell M, King M, Fairclough D. Bias in area under the curve for longitudinal RCTs: Summary measure versus summary statistics. Australasian Epidemiologic Association Conference. Sydney, Australia, 2010.

Butow P, Sze M, Aldridge L, Bell M, Eisenbruch M, Iedema R, Dong S, et al. Can we talk to immigrants? An analysis of audiotaped Oncology consultations. COSA ASM. Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology 2010; 6: 236.

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PoD Psycho-oncology Outcomes Database

PoCoG's Psycho-oncology Outcomes Database (PoD) is a searchable online database of validated psychosocial and quality of life measures. PoD contains information about more than 300 patient-reported questionnaires measuring outcomes such as quality of life, supportive care needs, psychological states and social support.
PoD is searchable by questionnaire type, patient characteristics, tumour group, treatment type and other domains to help you find the most appropriate measure for your study.
Access to PoD is free via the PoCoG members' website:
www.pocog.org.au/pod

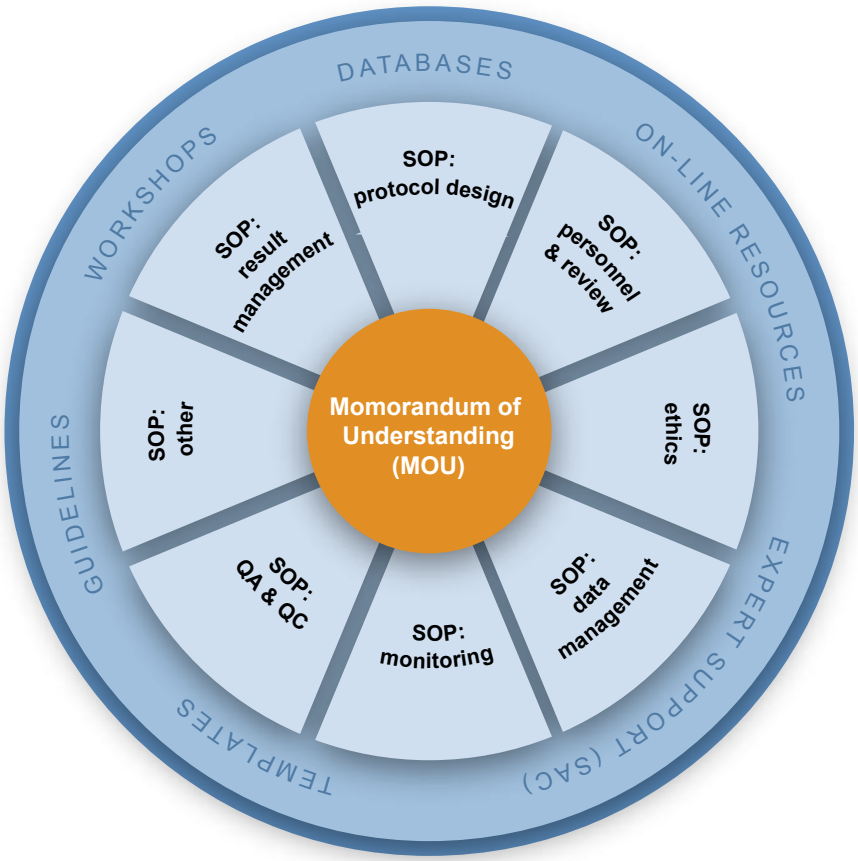
POCOG QUALITY ASSURANCE AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPS)

PoCoG, as a national Cancer Collaborative Trials Group (CCTG) has the responsibility to ensure that its endorsed studies are conducted to the best possible standards as defined by national and international guidelines, and to provide resources to support the implementation of these standards.

To improve this process PoCoG plans to undertake the following steps:

- The development of Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) - distinct from the scientific design standards, PoCoG SOPs will 'operationalise' the procedural standards required to achieve quality data in psycho-oncology research
- The development of resources to support the implementation of SoPs such as templates, guidelines and case examples
- The development of feasible Quality Assurance (QA) processes
- The development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) - to be used to outline the responsibilities that will be undertaken by the PI and PoCoG

This is a very exciting new direction for PoCoG and we hope to be able to involve members in these changes.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE STAFF MEMBERS

Dr Melanie Price
Executive director

Ms Monika Dzidowska
Executive officer

Dr Melanie Bell
Biostatistician

Dr Michelle Peate
Research Program Manager

Ms Sharon Ceiley
Administrative assistant

CONTACT US

School of Psychology
Transient Building (F12)
The University of Sydney NSW 2006
Australia

General Enquiries
Phone: +61 2 9036 5002
Fax: +61 2 9036 5292
E-mail: pocog.office@sydney.edu.au
www.pocog.org.au