

Network News

APRIL 2020

IMPROVING REGIONAL PATIENT ACCESS AND RECRUITMENT TO HIGH QUALITY CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

COVID-19:

The Viral Effect on Clinical Trials

The onset of the COVID-19 virus has simultaneously affected each country and each industry and is challenging us all to seek alternative and innovative ways to continue business-as-usual activities.

Clinical trials remain an essential component of Oncology patient care and each site is proactively addressing how to support trial activity under these new and unprecedented conditions.

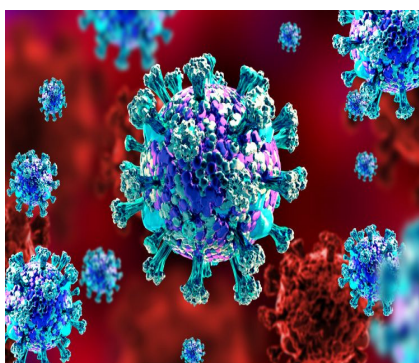
Sites have been collaborating with each other to determine how to respond to:

- Clinical Trial Operational Considerations that includes options for Sponsor remote monitoring
- Risk Reduction Initiatives for patients that include Telehealth and Teletrial options for patient visits
- Workforce Considerations to support ongoing trials and the best use of shared resourcing

Sites are also assessing their resources to support the implementation and ongoing management of COVID-19 clinical trials.

“There has never been a more urgent need for global cooperation... The COVID-19 pandemic shows us that we all can play a part to stop the spread.”

Elizabeth Cousens - President & CEO of the UN Foundation



“We have seen how the virus does not discriminate, but its impacts do - exposing deep weaknesses in the delivery of public services and structural inequalities that impede access to them.”

Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

RESOURCES

The Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) have a dedicated web page for all COVID-19 information relevant to clinical trials.

[Click here for link to ACTA](#)

The Victorian COVID-19 Cancer Network (VCCN) is a joint initiative of the VCCC and Monash Partners Comprehensive Cancer Consortium (MPCCC) providing support and advice to clinicians and health care services treating patients with cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Click here for link to VCCN](#)

REGIONAL MEMBERS:

Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre (BRICC)

Barwon Health

Bendigo Cancer Centre

Border Medical Oncology

Goulburn Valley Health

South West Regional Cancer Centre (SWRCC)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



RTN Site Profile

Border Medical Oncology Research Unit

Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre



- **Purpose-built facility** for the people of North East Victoria and Southern NSW
- Phase Capabilities - Phase **I, II, III, IV**
- Research Team - **5** Investigators, **8** Study Coordinators, Data Managers and Start-Up Specialist
- Reviewing approx **1,400** new cancer patients each year



- Over **30** years combined Investigator experience on clinical trials
- **Dedicated** patient facilities - 30 treatment chairs
- On-site Pharmacy and Local Pathology
- Radiotherapy facilities and access to **PET, CT, MRI, US, and DEXA**



Photo credit: John Russell

NATIONAL CLINICAL TRIALS GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

AN UPDATE

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care released the draft National Clinical Trials Governance Framework in March 2020.

The Commission will select and announce sites for the Pilot program in **June 2020** with the program to commence in **July-August 2020**.

The draft Framework document, literature review and mapping exercise can be accessed via the link below:

[Governance Framework](#)

Site Metrics

Between Jan 2018 - Dec 2019:

CTMS Data between 2017 - 2018

654 regional patients have been recruited

31% increase in regional patient recruitment

104 new cancer clinical trials open

7% increase in available recruiting trials

MRFF GRANT APPLICATION

The RTN Project Team submitted an application for ongoing funding to support regional sites.

ReViTALISE - Regional Victoria Trials Alliance: Linkages, Innovation, Special populations, Equity plan proposes:

- Employment of additional EFT across the health service sites

- Expansion regional membership to include LaTrobe Regional Hospital and Mildura Base Hospital
- Creation of six innovative project streams to increase patient participation in clinical trials
- The budget for the ReViTALISE project is \$18.5 million

WORKING TOWARDS SAVING

10,000

LIVES BY 2025

VICTORIAN CANCER PLAN