

# Network News

NOVEMBER 2019

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

## RTN DEVELOPMENT DAY:

### Regional collaboration

The RTN Annual Development Day was held at the VCCC on Friday 18th October 2019 with representation from Ballarat, Barwon, Bendigo, Border and Goulburn Valley Health.

This was a great opportunity for Unit Managers and Study Co-ordinators to meet and share opinions and ideas.

Attendees received an overview of the skilled internship program, professional development opportunities and updates on the current learning and resource initiatives as well as information on the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework.

The group participated in a workshop mapping the Teletrials process and also contributed to an engaging discussion on regional site specific challenges.

All agreed that the Development Day was a success.

Sites are reminded to access the following VCCC resources:

[Subscription](#)

Sign up to the VCCC website and you will be sent updates as they occur

[Events at VCCC](#)

This includes Monday Lunch Live as well as seminars, workshops and training sessions



### RESEARCH NEWS

Bendigo Health featured on the Breast Cancer Trials Twitter Feed on November 25 2019.

A patient Richard was first diagnosed with breast cancer almost ten years ago. After treatment for his metastatic disease wasn't going as well as hoped, his doctor recommended he participate in the **Breast Cancer Trials DIAMOND clinical trial**.

[See Richard's story](#)

Congratulations to the **Bendigo Health Research Team** for this acknowledgement of patient care and support of the BCT.

### 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



## The RTN In Action

Connection Marketing  
Capability and  
Capacity Building  
Research Focus and Direction  
Strategic Planning

“...Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

Henry Ford

# RTN Site Profile

## Andrew Love Cancer Centre

### Barwon Health



- **Purpose-built facility** for the people of Geelong and wider Barwon South West region of Victoria
- Phase Capabilities - Phase **Ib, II, III, IV**
- Research Team - **20** Investigators, **10** Study Coordinators, **1** Clinical Trials Manager
- Reviewing approx **2,550** new cancer patients each year
- Over **170** years combined Investigator experience on clinical trials

- **Dedicated** patient facilities - 24 bed inpatient unit
- On-site Pharmacy
- On-site Pathology
- Radiotherapy facilities and access to **PET, CT, MRI, US, nuclear imaging and DEXA**
- Average time from site initiation to first patient on study is **4 weeks**



### NATIONAL CLINICAL TRIALS GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

#### AN UPDATE

The Australian Commission is in the process of finalising the Framework with November 2019 as the scheduled date for release.

Some initial benchmarks included in the Framework are:

- 12 weeks from site selection to site start-up
- 60 days to HREC approval

Trial Investigators will also be expected to accurately estimate target patient population based on reliable data sources. Additionally, Investigators are to provide evidence that their site can recruit to the expected target for each trial.

Sites selected for the 2020 Pilot Program will have access to resources and facilitated mentoring.

## Site Metrics

For the period to November 2019, **597** feasibilities have been sent to the regional sites.

- **68%** of these feasibilities were sent to more than 1 regional site in the Network
- **67%** of feasibilities resulted in regional site selection

Phase 3 feasibilities continue to dominate and there is promising growth in the number of Phase 1 feasibilities sent to regional sites.

Feasibilities for **all** tumour streams are sent to regional sites with Haematology, Lung, Breast and Gastrointestinal as the most prevalent.

(Based on data as at November 2019)

### WORKING TOWARDS SAVING

# 10,000

LIVES BY 2025  
VICTORIAN CANCER PLAN

### TELETRIALS AND REGISTRY TRIALS

Dr Craig Underhill and Assoc Prof Ian Collins have contributed to the [Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology article](#)

**“Implementation of the Australasian Teletrial Model: Lessons from practice”**

The regional sites have been involved in initial feasibility discussions with the VCCC Teletrials Program Team and regularly provide the VCCC with site intelligence on capability and capacity.

RTN sites have embraced the implementation of registry trials resulting in greater patient access to comparable randomised treatment.

Registry studies have contributed to the improvements in standard

of care cardiovascular therapy. It is the aim of clinicians to demonstrate similar successes in the Oncology setting.