

Network News

SEPTEMBER 2019

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

RTN PROJECT MILESTONES: ON TRACK

The RTN Annual Progress Report was submitted to the Cancer Council Victoria in June 2019 with the following project outcomes achieved:

- A central repository of all RTN site feasibility information. Data is available in real-time with access to feasibility status at each site. Sites can request bespoke reports and metrics
- Implementation of the RTN marketing strategy that includes promotional brochures and RTN webpages hosted on the CTA website. The RTN brand is established and recognised amongst industry groups.
- Completed site skills, capability and capacity audits
- Participation in the Teletrials Pilot study
- Site Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) in place.
- Successful implementation of Site Docs at each RTN site.

The RTN sites continue to demonstrate their responsiveness to the oncology research environment. Clinical Trial Sponsors can be confident that regional sites have the infrastructure, expertise and experience to conduct oncology clinical trials and care for regional patients.

RTN - At a Glance

Catchment area is **141,000 km²** with a population of **1.4 million** people.

Translates to **7,200** new cancer diagnoses each year.



RESEARCH NEWS

The National Clinical Trials Governance Framework is due to be finalised by the end of 2019. A pilot of the program is scheduled for **2020** and all RTN sites have expressed interest in participating in the Pilot program.

This will ensure that regional considerations are reported to the Australian Commission and that all RTN sites are equipped for successful accreditation of the Framework.



...the participation rate of Victorian cancer patients in interventional clinical trials to test treatment options has remained static at **7%**...There are **opportunities** to improve this..."

Victorian Cancer Plan

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

Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre - BRICC



- **World class facility** for the people of the Grampians Region
- Phase Capabilities - Phase **II, III, IV**
- Research Team - **7** Investigators, **4** Study Coordinators, **1** Clinical Trials Manager
- Reviewing approx **1,100** new cancer patients each year
- Over **37** years combined Investigator experience on clinical trials

- **Dedicated** patient facilities
- On-site Pharmacy
- On-site Pathology
- Radiotherapy facilities
- On-site Imaging
- Average time from site initiation to first patient on study is **4 weeks**



UPCOMING PROJECT MILESTONES

Work has begun on creating a suite of Work Practice Guidelines (WPG's) for each site within the RTN.

These WPG's will provide a detailed outline of specific tasks within the Research Unit. Additionally, each site can use these WPG's as a reference for Unit expectations and oversight.

With the move to accredited Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, all Australian hospitals and day procedure facilities conducting clinical trials must have documented policies and procedures in place.

The RTN recognises this expectation and has prioritised the completion of WPG's to ensure that regional sites comply with all safety and quality standards.

Site Metrics

Since the commencement of the RTN project, **506** feasibilities have been sent to the regional sites.

- **68%** of these feasibilities were sent to more than 1 regional site in the Network
- **65%** 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 June 2019)

WORKING TOWARDS SAVING

10,000

LIVES BY 2025

TELETRIALS

The RTN welcomes and supports the Teletrial model for the conduct of clinical trials. Regional patient participation in clinical trials is highly dependant upon ease of access and this "hub and

spoke" design concept addresses the unique challenge for regional patients.

Two of the six RTN sites are participating in a pilot Teletrial and are working

closely with the VCCC and industry sponsors to identify other studies suitable for the Teletrial model.

Equity of access for regional patients has been

highlighted by Government agencies as imperative and this exciting model of clinical trials will pave the way for regional patient participation in current and innovative research.