



PC4

CAG & Community
Activities

24/25

PC4 Research at a Glance



60+

requests for support



2

training
awards



11

funding applications
submitted



16

new studies
supported

A New Director for PC4

After 16 years at the helm of PC4, Professor Jon Emery accepted a position at LKC Medicine in Singapore to establish a program in Cancer Prevention and Early Detection. We are immensely grateful for Jon's contribution to PC4 and the cancer research community more broadly. As a farewell, we shared a special video that reflects on his incredible journey and the evolution of PC4 under his guidance. You can watch the video [here](#).

We wish Jon every success in this exciting new chapter and look forward to seeing the global impact of his work continue to grow.

We were delighted to appoint Associate Professor Carolyn Ee as our new PC4 Director. A/Prof Ee is an academic GP and Associate Professor (Cancer Survivorship and Primary Care) at the Caring Futures Institute, Flinders University.



A/Prof Carolyn Ee

PC4's New Director

Carolyn is a nationally recognised emerging leader in chronic disease management in primary care. Her program of work focuses on co-creation and evaluation models of cancer survivorship care that aim to improve and optimise patient outcomes and prioritise patient wellbeing, particularly in the areas of health equity. Her expertise spans qualitative research, multi-centre clinical trials, evidence synthesis and clinical practice guideline development and translation.

Carolyn was already heavily involved in PC4 as a member of the PC4 Scientific Committee and Co-Lead of our Living With and Beyond Cancer Engine Room since 2021, so the transition has been well supported by her understanding of our structure and membership.

Welcome Saba & Victoria

PC4 has welcomed two new members into the PC4 Community Advisory Group (CAG): **Saba Nabi** and **Victoria Turner**.

Victoria Turner

Victoria is a registered nurse, and has a background as a midwife and university lecturer. She is currently a casual TAFE teacher of Nursing and Aged Care and a National Assessor for the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC). She has held many voluntary, community engagement, and advisory positions within her local health district and other non-government organisations. Having the lived experience of late-stage ovarian cancer, she has a particular interest in addressing the disadvantage faced by regional and remote patients in accessing clinical trials and treatment options.



Saba Nabi

Saba is also regionally based and is heavily involved in advocating for her community. A registered pharmacist with an MBA in Health and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences, she has led major health initiatives across regional NSW, including organ donation, refugee health, and neonatal care planning. In 2023, she was awarded an OAM for her service to community health, education, and multicultural affairs. She currently serves as Deputy Co-Chair of the NSW Health Consumer, Carer and Community Council, advocating for regional and diverse community voices in healthcare.



This report is a celebration of the hard work our Community Network and Community Advisory Group (CAG) have put in over this past financial year. This assistance has helped develop new cancer research with a focus on primary care and how primary care can improve patient outcomes.

We had a healthy number of new studies, with our CAG providing feedback on seventy-five percent of them, as well as several joining the research team as Investigators on grant submissions.

Research & Grants

We are thrilled to announce that PC4-supported projects received over \$4.5 million in funding over the past year.

Successfully funded projects include:

- ROSELLA:** Implementation models for risk-stratified population cancer screening
Chief Investigator: Sibel Saya
Community Advisory Group input: George Fishman (CI); Nikki Davis (CI) Louise Bailey (AI)
- APAP-YCS:** a Co-designed adaptation of the Adapted Physical Activity Program to promote lifestyle physical activity among young cancer survivors
Chief Investigator: Natalie Bradford
Community Advisory Group input: Makala Castelli, Nikki Davis
- CASSOWARY-CALD:** Identifying adaptations required to facilitate patients from CALD communities to participate in primary care-based cancer clinical trials
Chief Investigator: Sibel Saya
Community Input: Dorothy Yiu and the Chinese Cancer & Chronic Illness Society of Victoria



\$4.5+
million in
funding

Workshops

Each year we run a number of Peer Review and Concept Development Workshops to assist our researchers to develop robust funding applications. Our consumer members provide guidance on the patient and community aspects of these concepts. There are more details about some of these studies below. This year, in response to feedback, we held separate meetings for consumers ahead of some of the formal workshops in order for researchers to explain the concepts in a less technical environment and respond to any questions.

- **RoBiN (Risk of Breast Neoplasia): A feasibility study for personalised screening**
Chief Investigator: Anna Withanage Dona
Community Advisory Group: Nikki Davis
- **ReASSESS Reducing preventable illness in cancer survivors**
Chief Investigator: Michael Jefford
Community Advisory Group: Eric Yeung, George Fishman, Makala Castelli, Nikki Davis
- **PEARLscreen "PatiEnt nAvigation to improve outcomes in people at risk of lung cancer from cultuRally and Linguistically diverse backgrounds**
Chief Investigator: Carolyn Ee
Community Advisory Group: Eric Yeung (CI)
- **SPARCCS: SMS Prompts for Adopting coloRectal Cancer Screening at Scale**
Chief Investigator: Jenny McIntosh
Community Advisory Group: Makala Castelli
- **MYE-CONNECT Shared care: Multiple myeloma**
Chief Investigator: Nicolas Hart
Community Advisory Group: Saba Nabi, George Fishmann
- **Determining optimal models of survivorship care after head and neck cancer for people in regional areas: a pilot study feasibility study**
Chief Investigator: Rebecca Venchiarutti
Community Advisory Group: Saba Nabi, George Fishmann



EMCR CAG Joint Workshop

In May 2025, PC4 hosted its first joint workshop in Melbourne, bringing together our Community Advisory Group and early- to mid-career researchers. The event provided a valuable opportunity for shared learning and open discussion.

Researchers were able to ask consumer representatives important questions, such as how to find suitable community members to collaborate with, what constitutes a reasonable workload, and how to effectively communicate cancer research to lay audiences.

Nikki Davis reported on the progress of the PELICAN study (PELICAN: Primary care and genomic data linkage for cancer research). Monique Bareham shared an update on the Aarhus Statement, a tool being developed for researchers globally so that they can develop research that is consistently using the same diagnosis intervals, and Alison Button-Sloan presented a roadmap on the national targeted screening program for skin cancer.

This event also provided the chance for our consumer members to say a few words publicly to Professor Jon Emery to thank him for his 16 years at the helm of PC4.

Our Community Advisory Group had an informative session with our National Manager where she presented on the Research landscape in Australia and talked about the 14 different trials groups of which PC4 is one.



"I led the development of PC4 because I believed there was a **need for a national approach to cancer research in primary care**. Australia has many talented researchers in this area, but we lack the support that a national organisation can provide.

The framework PC4 provides will enable the development of pre-trial work to evolve into large scale, multi-site clinical trials, which will inform new models of cancer prevention and management in the community. **Consumers are the most important part of our vision** and their contribution is integrated into every aspect of our work."

- Jon Emery reflecting on the beginnings of PC4



9

Training

In June this year, PC4 supported Monique Bareham and Saba Nabi to attend **A consumer's guide to health economics in cancer research workshop** run by CREST at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). This was a valuable opportunity to gain insight into the role of health economics in cancer clinical trials, with the CREST team presenting on how clinical trials gather health economics information to help government to decide if medicines and programs are supported through the PBS/MBS systems.



Community Outreach

Along with members of the Cancer in Primary Care team, PC4 was thrilled to co-host a Clinical Trial Information Session with the Chinese Cancer and Chronic Illness Society of Victoria (CCCIS) at Hawthorn Library. This event was also proudly supported by the VCCC Alliance.

The event featured both Mandarin and Cantonese sessions with around 40 participants in each group. The session focused on the PC4-supported CASSOWARY trial. This trial is exploring whether a new DNA test collected via a saliva swab at a GP clinic could be a cost-effective and efficient way to identify a person's cancer risk. This session provided a broader discussion about cancer clinical trials, highlighting that they involve much more than just medications and treatments. They also include projects focused on cancer prevention, early detection, and improving quality of life for survivors.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event such a success. We aim to build more awareness, participation and trust amongst members of the Chinese community, so they may experience better access to clinical trials, including CASSOWARY.

Looking Ahead

PC4 will be holding their 8th Scientific Symposium in Adelaide in 2026 with the theme: **Primary Care: Central to Comprehensive Cancer Care**. Thank you to PC4 Community Advisory Group members, Monique Bareham and Nikki Davis, who are committing their time to the local organising committee.

We hope to see you there!





CONNECT WITH US



[LinkedIn](#)



[Website](#)

PC⁴