



# OPC4

## ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

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# National Manager's Report

This year has been a time of great change for PC4, with our Director of 16 years Professor Jon Emery stepping down, as he moves to Singapore to establish a new cancer prevention program at Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. Jon has been the driving force in primary care cancer research in Australia for so many years – not only leading ground-breaking research but also generously supporting emerging researchers and consumers, and effectively advocating for the pivotal role of primary care in cancer control. Jon's expertise will be greatly missed, and we wish him well in Singapore. To acknowledge Jon's time with PC4, we have put together a small tribute – please see page 4.

We have been incredibly fortunate to welcome A/Professor Carolyn Ee to the PC4 Director role, commencing July 2025. Carolyn brings strong clinical knowledge, combined with a survivorship research focus, particularly in populations with poorer outcomes. The PC4 team is looking forward to working closely with Carolyn and continuing to build and diversify PC4's activities under her leadership. I would also like to thank our senior PC4 members for supporting this transition and volunteering their time to ensure we continue to provide a high level of primary care expertise in various state and national cancer initiatives.

Even with these significant changes, PC4 has provided strong research and trial development support to our members throughout the year. As outlined on page 7, we have contributed to the development of 18 new studies, utilising a diverse range of support services to align with our members' needs. We have seen an exceptional pipeline of research

projects presented at our Engine Room meetings, with several of these further supported by Concept Development Workshops and specialist expertise in subject matter and trial development.

One of my personal highlights was hosting our very first joint early-to-mid career researchers and Community Advisory Group (EMCR-CAG) Day in May. This in-person event was a perfect opportunity to bring researchers and community members together to learn from each other and discuss emerging research ideas. In addition, there was dedicated time for learning in areas of identified need for both groups, as well as networking. The only downside was that there simply was not enough time – we will plan for extending the event next time!

This year has also seen PC4 continue to capitalise on one of its main strengths – enabling collaborative trial research through engaging more primary care researchers, building capacity and diversity within our Community Advisory Group, and furthering project development with other cancer trials groups. Through leveraging knowledge, expertise and experiences we continue to support an amazing portfolio of primary care research and we look forward to working closely with our members in the coming year.



**Dr Janelle Jones**  
National Manager

# Leadership changes



## Professor Jon Emery Founder of PC4

After 16 years at the helm of PC4, Professor Jon Emery has accepted a position at Lee Kong Chian School of 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.



## A/Professor Carolyn Ee PC4 Director

We were delighted to appoint Associate Professor Carolyn Ee in Prof Emery's place. Carolyn is an academic GP and Associate Professor (Cancer Survivorship and Primary Care) at the Caring Futures Institute, Flinders University. She 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 a PC4 Training Award Winner in 2020 and has been heavily involved with PC4 for several years, as a member of the PC4 Scientific Committee and Co-Chair of our Living With and Beyond Cancer Engine Room since 2021.

*"Primary care plays a vital role across the cancer care continuum. I am honoured to lead PC4 and collaborate closely with our members to enhance clinical trials in cancer and primary care that improve patient outcomes and wellbeing"*

– A/Prof Carolyn Ee

# Our Team



**A/Prof Carolyn Ee**  
**Director**

(commenced July 2025)



**Dr Janelle Jones**  
**National Manager**



**Sarah Nagorcka**  
**Communications Coordinator**



**Aradhana Chandra**  
**Administration Officer**



**Eleanor Dickson**  
**Research Support Officer**

## Research Highlights

18

new studies

11

funding applications submitted

\$4.5+  
million

awarded to successful  
funding applications

# Research Activities

**18**

new studies supported

**2**

new studies open to recruitment

**900+**

participants recruited

**64**

recruitment sites

**11**

funding applications submitted for 10 projects

**57**

requests for support

**2**

training awards

**6**

CDW/PRW workshops

# New Research Spotlight

## ROSELLA

Implementation of risk-stratified population screening for Australia's most common cancers

**Chief investigator:** Sibel Saya

In 2022, there were 78,114 expected diagnoses of breast, bowel, prostate cancer and melanoma, making them the most common cancers in Australia. Diagnosing cancer at an early stage increases the chances of survival and reduces the many burdens of treatment on patients and their families. Cancer screening provides this opportunity for early diagnosis, as it can identify cancer before symptoms appear. Cancer screening is currently only available to Australians in certain age groups and only for some cancers. If we were to employ a better risk-based approach to providing cancer screening, it would create a significant opportunity to find cancer earlier in more people, improving health outcomes for Australians. In addition to VCA funding last year, Dr Sibel Saya was awarded \$984,248 through the MRFF Genomics Health Futures Grant to pursue this research.

## EMPOWER-SMS GP

Supporting women's health outcomes after breast cancer treatment comparing a text message intervention to usual care

**Chief investigator:** Anna Singleton

This trial is testing if sending a text message-based wellness program to patients between GP appointments can:

- 1) improve people's health, especially physical activity and healthy eating and,
- 2) be helpful for GPs (e.g. reducing burden, improve patient satisfaction)

The trial was designed in partnership with patient advocates, GPs, health professionals, researchers, and members of the Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group.

EMPOWER-SMS has been tested by over 1000 breast cancer survivors across Australia and was found to be effective for improving endocrine therapy medication adherence and well-liked by participants; most '(strongly) agreed' EMPOWER-SMS GP was easy-to-understand (99%), useful (85%), helped them feel supported between appointments (87%) and motivated them to increase physical activity (70%) and healthy eating (69%).

# Training Awards

Through our annual Training Award, we encourage greater understanding of the primary care needs of cancer patients and survivors. We support clinicians, early and mid-career researchers to undertake research and skills development in cancer in primary care.

This year, we encouraged projects with a focus on Priority Populations as outlined in the Australian Cancer Plan.

We would like to extend our congratulations to the two recipients of our 2025 PC4 Training Awards:



**Farwa Rizvi**

St Vincent's Hospital, Deakin University

Farwa will use the PC4 Training Award to investigate general practitioners' experiences supporting culturally diverse populations in cancer screening.



**Darren Haywood**

University of Technology Sydney

Darren will use the PC4 Training Award to conduct research into understanding general practitioners' barriers and facilitators to implementing effective behaviour change strategies for CALD cancer survivors.



# Engine Room Activities

We held several virtual and in-person workshops to support our members with both concept development and finessing grant applications in 2024/25.



We're passionate about building capacity in primary care research. Following these workshops, it was fantastic to see 11 funding applications submitted for 10 projects.

# Our Activities



## The role of the GP in improving cancer outcomes and achieving equity in cancer care

September 2024

Hosted by the Caring Futures Institute, Flinders University in partnership with Cancer Australia and The Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group.

This general practice focused webinar attracted over 135 attendees, with the majority being GPs. The feedback was very positive with attendees liking and wanting more information around screening.



## EMCR CAG Training Day

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 learnt from Prof Jon Emery and Prof Nicole Rankin about complex trials, implementation science and trial budget development.

In the joint session, 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.



## Community Outreach Event

June 2025

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 study allowed a broader discussion of the nature of cancer clinical trials and how they encompass much more than medications and cancer treatment, but also projects that improve cancer prevention, early detection and survivorship.



# PC4

## In a Snapshot



# National Memberships

During 2024/2025,  
PC4 welcomed  
67 new members  
nationwide!

**PC4 currently has  
116 overseas members**



## Member Breakdown

### Top 5 Disciplines



#### Public Health

12%



#### Nursing

16%



#### GPs

11%



#### Researchers

15%



#### Consumers

8%

# CAG & Community Activities

The PC4 Community Advisory Group (CAG) consists of 12 members, who bring across various expertise and lived experience into all aspects of PC4's work. We are pleased to have welcomed two new members into the 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.



# CAG & Community Activities

Over the course of the year, 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. This is a celebration of the hard work our CAG has 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.

## Research & Grants

We are thrilled to share 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 adoptions 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. 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.

## 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.



# Building Capacity: Opportunities for Early-to-Mid Career Researchers (EMCRs) in PC4

## Research/Trial Development

- Training Awards
- Concept Development Workshops
- Systematic reviews
- Engine Rooms

## Grant Writing

- Streamlined Peer Review Workshops
- Investigator Grant Review

## Governance & Oversight

- Scientific Committee
- Advisory Committee
- Local Organising Committee

## Education/Learning

- Practical Resources: A Budgeting and Best Practice Guide
- EMCR-CAG Day



## PC4 Socials



# The PC4 Years!

**2009**

## PC4 Founded

Founding Members: George Fishman (CAG), Julie Marker (CAG), Geoff Mitchell, Leanne Monterosso, Max Shub (CAG), Lyndal Trevena & Jon Emery



**2010–2013**

## Sax Institute rapid review

Highlighted the evidence around the role of primary care in the follow up and care of cancer patients.

PC4 a finalist in Australian Podcast Awards



New PC4 Logo launched



**2018**

Cheers with Peers & Research Round-up launched

**2017**

Kristi Milley joins PC4 as National Manager



## PROCare Trial

NHMRC Funded Phase II randomised controlled trial of follow-up of men with prostate cancer in primary care.



**Inaugural National Manager**  
Julia Fallon-Ferguson



**Inaugural Training Award Winner**  
Kylie Vuong



**Shared Care Principles Statement Published**



PC4 moves from Perth to Melbourne

**2014–2016**

First PC4 Scientific Symposium



## 2019 – a decade of PC4!

GP Circle Established



Early Career Research Network Established



## 2021

Scientific Working Groups become Engine Rooms

## 2020 – the COVID years

Global lockdowns in place/  
Working from home implemented



## 2022

The PARTNER Network is founded with help from PC4

Consumer podcast launched

Janelle Jones joins PC4 as National Manager

\$50M+ in funding granted over the years

## 2025 and beyond...

Jon Emery moves to Singapore/  
Carolyn Ee becomes new PC4 Director

## 2024 – 15 years of PC4

PC4 hosts Ca-PRI  
(Ca-PRI's 15th anniversary)

Looking ahead...

## 2026 Scientific Symposium



In partnership with Flinders  
University's Caring Futures Institute





## CONNECT WITH US

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