



PC⁴

CAG & Community
Activities

23/24

NEW PROJECTS

8+

NEW STUDIES

\$1.9M+

FUNDING AWARDED

4

NEW STUDIES OPENED
TO RECRUITMENT

2

TRAINING
AWARDS



PC4 RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

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 the majority of them, as well as several joining the research team as Associate Investigators on grant submissions.

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. In 23/24 four consumer members were named as investigators in two grant submissions:

ROSELLA: Implementation models for risk-stratified population cancer screening

Chief Investigator: Sibel Saya
Community Advisory Group: Louise Bailey (AI), George Fishman (AI), Eric Yeung

REASSESS: Reducing preventable illness in cancer survivors study

Chief Investigator: Michael Jefford
Community Advisory Group input: Makala Castelli (AI), Nikki Davis (AI), George Fishman, Eric Yeung

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

Implementation of lung cancer screening in Australia: translating research to drive practice change

Chief Investigator: Nicole Rankin
Community Advisory Group input: Nikki Davis, Eric Yeung

+1.9
million

GRANT SUCCESS

We are thrilled to announce that PC4-supported projects received over \$1.9 million in funding over the past year. Successfully funded projects include:

• PEARL – Patient navigation for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities with cancer

Chief Investigator: Carolyn Ee
Community Advisory Group input: Eric Yeung (CI), Monique Bareham

People from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background face disparities in cancer care and outcomes. There are a range of gaps in providing culturally and linguistically appropriate cancer care, particularly in the survivorship space, where unique and diverse barriers exist.

More than \$1.4 million in MRFF funding has been awarded to Associate Professor Carolyn Ee (Co-Chair of PC4's Living With and Beyond Cancer Engine Room) to undertake the PEARL study. Associate Professor Ee will lead a team to implement and evaluate a patient navigation program designed to reduce barriers that

affect Chinese and Vietnamese-speaking people as they transition back to primary care after cancer treatment.

ROSELLA: Implementation models for risk-stratified population cancer screening

Chief Investigator: Sibel Saya
Community Advisory Group input: Louise Bailey (AI), George Fishman (AI), Eric Yeung

A DNA risk test (called a polygenic risk score) can predict an individual's risk of cancer and recommend the best type of cancer screening for their risk. Implementing this test for all Australians in a risk-stratified cancer screening program could result in earlier detection of more cancers. This proposal will establish how such a program could be implemented for melanoma, breast, bowel, and prostate cancers, by consulting key stakeholders in policy, cancer screening, and the community. Additionally, it will determine how best to offer a DNA risk test in general practice, as the first point of healthcare for most Australians.

Cancer in Primary Care Conference

For the first time in its 15-year history, the Cancer in Primary Care conference (Ca-PRI) came to Australia. Delivered by PC4 with support from the Victorian Department of Health, the VCCC Alliance, and Cancer Research UK, this event brought together consumers, primary care practitioners and researchers to share knowledge in the areas of Policy, Equity and Transforming Care.

Attendees were welcomed by the wonderful Djirri Djirri dancers and The Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas delivered an opening address. Local and international speakers showcased the latest research in cancer control, early detection, genomics, digital health tools, and clinical trials.

Audience highlights included a plenary session on cervical cancer: *Australia on track to eliminate cervical cancer by 2035 - lesson learnt*, and a final debate: *Researchers for PM: evidence is insufficient to impact policy*.

Ca-PRI 2025 will be hosted in Manchester, with PC4 turning it's attention back to the the PC4 national symposium which will be hosted in 2026.



It was wonderful to see five PC4 CAG representatives at Ca-PRI, including Monique Bareham, Eric Yeung and Makala Castelli (pictured left).

Additionally, Makala chaired a morning session: *Survivorship - equity and outcomes* and delivered her own research work in an oral presentation: *Consumer-Led Research: A systematic review of patient-led cancer survivorship care*.

Monique Bareham presented in the final plenary session: *The great debate: Researchers for PM! Evidence is insufficient to impact policy*.

Pictured next page, Ca-PRI *The Great Debate*. Monique Bareham is the first speaker in the affirmative.



TRAINING AWARDS

We would like to extend our congratulations to the two recipients of our 2023 PC4 Training Awards:

Dr Renae Lawrence is an early career researcher and general practitioner and has been using the Training Award funding to participate in a systematic review focused on models of palliative care for rural cancer patients in primary care.

Dr Audra de Witt is a registered nurse, lecturer and researcher. She has been collaborating with PC4 researchers to conduct a systematic review focused on engagement and recruitment strategies that improve the participation of different culturally and linguistically diverse groups in primary care-based clinical trials.

Welcome Janelle

Janelle Jones is the new PC4 National Manager, she has previous experience working for ANZCHOG and the Health Issues Centre and is passionate about meaningful consumer engagement in research. Welcome Janelle.



What's New in Cancer Research

What's New in Cancer Research is a chance to update the PC4 Community Network and other interested members of the public on current cancer in primary care research. Featuring three PC4 supported studies, we host one showcase per year, and this forms the foundation of our recruitment for our Community Network.

August 2023

We heard about three cancer research projects that are unfolding in general practice:

Anna Singleton presented on the EMPOWER-SMS clinical trial, which was awarded the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance's Trial of the Year for Consumer Involvement in research. This trial found that a health and wellness support program delivered via text messages was acceptable, useful and engaging for breast cancer survivors

Larry Myers is currently investigating ways to increase participation in the Australian National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. Larry also plays a key role in projects aimed to improve outcomes for cancer survivors living in regional and remote Australia.

Larry presented on his PC4 Training Award-funded project which aimed to understand the mechanisms underlying the socioeconomic disparities in cancer screening.

Kristi Milley is the former National Manager of PC4. She presented on the rural research initiative: PARTNER. PARTNER is a national collaboration between rural GP clinics and primary care researchers across Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory, Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland. It will recruit 15 rural practices in each state to ultimately form an Australian rural clinical trials network to boost access to trials for rural patients.

WHAT'S NEW IN CANCER RESEARCH? WEBINAR

12-1PM AEST Tuesday 8 Aug, 2023

Learn about three projects underway in Australia that highlight the importance of consumer involvement in cancer research

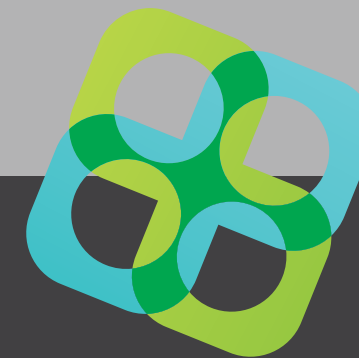




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