

**Prostate Cancer Support Group
Jacaranda Lodge**

185 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga NSW 2076
9487 9061, support@sah.org.au

Proudly affiliated with



Prostate Cancer
Foundation of Australia

February 2017 NEWSLETTER

Meeting program February — April May 2017

All those who have been affected by prostate cancer, both patients and carers, are invited to attend San Prostate Cancer Support Group meetings. There is no need to book and you do not have to be a patient of the Sydney Adventist Hospital. Video footage of speaker sessions will be available a few weeks after the meeting on DVD from the Cancer Support Centre or on the Sydney Adventist Hospital and PCFA websites. Please see the back page of this newsletter for further information about afternoon and evening meetings, as well as venue and parking details.

Below is a schedule for our upcoming meetings:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>13 February 2017</u> - 3pm: | Group discussion Where you can share information or any concerns you may have about your cancer journey |
| <u>27 February 2017</u> - 7pm: | Dr Phillip Katelaris-Urologist |
| <u>27 March 2017</u> - 7pm: | Speaker to be confirmed |
| <u>10 April 2017</u> - 3pm: | Group Discussion Where you can share information or any concerns you may have about your cancer journey |
| <u>24 April 2017</u> - 7pm: | Assoc. Prof. Michael Izard - Radiation Oncologist |
| <u>22 May 2017</u> - 7 pm: | Assoc. Prof Gavin Marx - Oncologist |
| <u>12 Jun 2017</u> - 3pm: | Queens birthday - No Meeting |

FREE TO JOIN ONLINE: www.onlinecommunity@pcfa.org.au

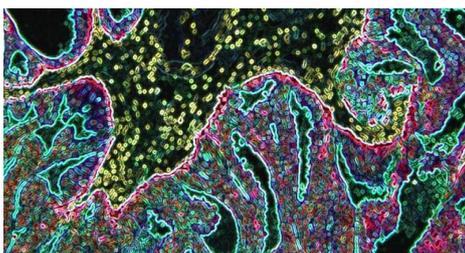
PCFA Online Community gives the latest updates on treatments & research into Prostate Cancer

Landmark study unlocks secrets of aggressive prostate cancer

A landmark study, led by Monash University's Biomedicine Discovery Institute with the involvement of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, has revealed the reason why men with a family history of prostate cancer who also carry the BRCA2 gene fault have a more aggressive form of prostate cancer.

The study, published today in *Nature Communications*, involving a consortium of Melbourne and Toronto researchers and clinicians, reports the molecular profile of the prostate cancers in men with the BRCA2 fault is similar to the profile seen in patients with advanced cancer: explaining why – right from diagnosis – BRCA2 patients have a poor outcome.

The international team of scientists, led by Professor Gail Risbridger and Dr Renea Taylor from the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute (BDI) and Dr Rob Bristow from the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, Canada, in collaboration with clinicians from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, kConFab, Austin Health and the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Centre, worked to unlock the secrets of why prostate cancer in BRCA2 men behaves aggressively.



Stylized image of prostate cancer from a man with a BRCA2 mutation. Credit: Monash University

This study, part of a larger Victorian Cancer Agency funded program of translational research, had previously reported that men who carried the BRCA2 gene fault were at a higher risk of having a more aggressive form of prostate cancer if a cell pathology known as IDCP (intraductal carcinoma of the prostate) was present; the IDCP cell pathology predicted these men were much more likely to have a poor clinical outcome.

The reason why this happens is now clear. Following surgery to remove the cancerous prostate, the patient's specimen was made available to the laboratory for genomic analyses. Surprisingly, the study showed that these early, untreated, prostate cancers were genetically similar to cancers that are usually seen in men with more advanced cancer that has spread to other parts of the body. This was in contrast to the cancers seen in men who don't carry a BRCA2 gene fault and who rarely have cancer spread at diagnosis. This was confirmed when compared to data from a companion study, published at the same time in *Nature* and led by the Toronto group, which looked at prostate cancer tissue samples from more than 320 patients with prostate cancer who don't carry a BRCA2 gene fault.

Put together, these studies identified why the presence of the BRCA2 gene fault led to markedly different clinical outcomes, with the disease progressing rapidly in this group of men.

Director of Monash Partners Comprehensive Cancer Consortium and Monash BDI lead author, Professor Gail Risbridger, explained why these findings are important.

“This study shows how different these tumours are from ‘regular’ tumours and emphasises the importance of men knowing if they have a family history of prostate, breast or ovarian cancer in their family and may carry the BRCA2 gene fault,” Professor Risbridger said.

Fellow Monash BDI lead author, Dr Renea Taylor, highlighted that these findings prompt the need to think about whether these men should be managed differently.

“As the tumours in men with the BRCA2 gene fault are so different from the ‘get-go’, our findings raise the question about whether these patients should be managed differently at diagnosis,” Dr Taylor said.

Director of Genitourinary Oncology at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and study author, Associate Professor Declan Murphy, spoke about possible therapeutic implications.

"We now know that the BRCA2 fault is seen in many more men presenting with advanced prostate cancer than previously realised. Also, as prostate cancer progresses, the BRCA2 fault begins to develop in prostate cancer secondaries, and drives the aggressive behaviour of the cancer."

"Therefore these new findings detailing the genomic instability of BRCA2 prostate cancer are important as we may be able to target this with new therapies," Associate Professor Murphy said.

*Article reprinted with permission from Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Monash University.



Queensland secures world-first prostate cancer survivorship centre

National health experts have announced the launch of the world's first Centre for Research Excellence in Prostate Cancer Survivorship, to be led by Queensland. The nation's top prostate cancer experts will lead the multi-disciplinary survivorship centre, the first of its kind in the world. More than 10 Australian men are diagnosed with the disease every hour and around 200,000 Australian men are living with prostate cancer today.

Director and Menzies Foundation Professor of Allied Health Research at Griffith University's Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Professor Suzanne Chambers, said Australia's leaders in prostate cancer survivorship would work closely to benefit the community.

"The Centre for Research Excellence will translate research into action across four main themes for the benefit of men diagnosed," Prof Chambers said.

"We will examine psychosocial and psychosexual health, exercise medicine, the economic costs of prostate cancer and geographic inequalities in prostate cancer outcomes.

"Our work will deliver new knowledge and improvements in health services and research that will be meaningful and enduring for all men diagnosed.

"At a national level, efforts to address the individual and community costs of prostate cancer have failed to have lasting impact.

"Our Centre for Research Excellence provides a unique and crucial pathway to focus those efforts at a national level to help all men with the disease."

Cancer Council Queensland CEO and Chief Investigator on the Centre for Research Excellence, Professor Jeff Dunn AO, said the approach would have broader application to chronic disease in men, and to the health of regional and rural Australians.

"10 Australian men are told every hour that they have prostate cancer—three of these will have clinically high distress and long-term unmet psychological needs," Prof Dunn said.

"Most of these men will experience sexual morbidity and half of these men will have long-term unmet sexual support needs.

"Only two of these 10 men will be sufficiently physically active. Eight will be overweight or obese.

"Through the survivorship centre, we will increase capacity in preparation for future challenges, with an ever-increasing cohort of men with prostate cancer in our community.

"We will target critical problems in survivorship after prostate cancer."

Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia CEO Anthony Lowe said around 20,000 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer every year in Australia.

"Survival for prostate cancer has never been higher—but many men are not living well with the disease," Associate Professor Lowe said.

"Research experts will address unmet needs and health service gaps in prostate cancer nationally and internationally through this survivorship centre.

"We are proud to see the world's first Centre for Research Excellence established in Queensland, supporting evidence-based policy and practice in prostate cancer survivorship care."

Prostate cancer prevalence has increased by 75 per cent in Australia over the past decade. One in nine Australian men aged 65 and over is a prostate cancer survivor.

The Centre for Research Excellence in Prostate Cancer Survivorship will be established thanks to funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council, with chief investigators from Cancer Council, Griffith University, Edith Cowan University, Monash University, University of Adelaide and UQ..

The NHMRC funding grant totals \$2,498,842 and runs from 2016 until 2020.

*Article reprinted with permission from Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

The San Prostate Cancer Support Group meets:

3pm : **Bi monthly** the second Monday of the month
August - October - December

7pm : Fourth Monday of the month

Venue and Parking Details:

The support group meetings are held at the San Cancer Support Centre, Jacaranda Lodge, Sydney Adventist Hospital, 185 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga.

Parking is plentiful and parking tickets can be validated for \$3.00. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the San Cancer Support Centre on 9487 9061 or support@sah.org.au



FINDING YOUR WAY....



Visitors to the Cancer Support Centre can enter the site at Gate 1 or Gate 2. If entering via Gate 1 keep to the right and proceed to the roundabout, turning left into the multi deck car park. Enter the hospital via the walkway indicated in yellow, take the lift to level 3 and then make your way to the rear of the building and down to Jacaranda Lodge, past the new building site. If entering via Gate 2 proceed to the roundabout and turn left to the parking area behind Jacaranda Lodge. For those with mobility limitations there are six parking spots outside Jacaranda Lodge.

Cancer Support Centre, Jacaranda Lodge, Manager

Shirley Lofgren, support@sah.org.au, phone: (02) 9487 9061

Prostate Cancer Support Group leaders:

Graham and Adele Staggs

Useful websites: www.pcfa.org.au www.prostatehealth.org.au www.beyondblue.org.au
www.cancercouncil.com.au www.andrologyaustralia.org

Disclaimer: The information in this newsletter is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always seek the advice of your qualified medical professional. While the SAH PCSG is proudly affiliated with Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA), content of this newsletter is independently published and does not necessarily reflect the views of PCFA.