

MEDIA RELEASE

THREE ANZCHOG TRIALS AWARDED FUNDING BY AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CLINICAL TRIAL INITIATIVES

Three Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group (ANZCHOG) trials have been awarded over \$2.05 million from Australian Government initiatives to support clinical trial activity in Australia.

Through the *Medical Research Future Fund – Clinical Trial Activity for Rare Cancers, Rare Diseases and Unmet Need* funding round, an international trial for rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS), will receive 5 years funding. *The Frontline and Relapse study in RMS (Far-RMS study)* is an overarching clinical trial developed by world-leading clinical researchers from the European paediatric Soft tissue Sarcoma Group (EpSSG), which was initially designed for patients in the United Kingdom and Europe, but will now be available for Australian patients.

“The Far-RMS study is a ground-breaking trial, designed to simultaneously address a number of research questions across all phases of treatment,” said Australian Principal Investigator Dr. Martin Campbell. “In particular, the trial design will enable new arms with promising new agents to be rapidly incorporated as they become available, without the need to open new trials. Australian participation in this international trial will offer all RMS patients - regardless of age or disease stage - the opportunity to be involved in the most comprehensive and ambitious program of research undertaken for this disease and enable rapid access to the latest therapies.”

Two additional ANZCHOG studies have been funded through the Australian Brain Cancer Mission, established to accelerate access to the latest international clinical trials for Australian children and adolescents diagnosed with brain cancer. One of these trials, a *phase I/Ib trial of COmbined 5'-aZacitidine and carboplatin for recurrent/refractory paediatric brain and solid tuMOurs (COZMOS)* is a study from SickKids Hospital, Toronto and will be led by Dr. Jordan Hansford.

The second study supported by the Australian Brain Cancer Mission is *SJ-ELiOT (St Jude - Phase 1 Evaluation of LY2606368, Molecularly-Targeted CHK1/2i Therapy, in Combination with Cyclophosphamide or Gemcitabine for Children and Adolescents with Refractory or Recurrent Medulloblastoma Brain Tumours)*. This trial was developed from Australian-led laboratory pre-clinical data from Associate Professor Nicholas Gottardo's research team, who will lead the Australian participation in SJ-ELiOT.

The Australian Brain Cancer Mission – coordinated by Cancer Australia - aims to double survival rates and improve the quality of life of people living with brain cancer over the next 10 years, with the longer term aim of defeating brain cancer. The Australian Government, philanthropy, charity and State Governments have contributed funding to the Australian Brain Cancer Mission.

Participation in these three trials is vital to enable access to the latest therapies for Australian children and also essential to cement ANZCHOG's relationships with international consortia.

For more information about the Australian Brain Cancer Mission, see <https://canceraustralia.gov.au>.

For more information about ANZCHOG, please visit ANZCHOG website or contact ANZCHOG (info@anzchog.org).

February 2019