Better treatments...
Better lives.

Scientific Advisory Committee – Nominee Biographies

Dr Tara Cochrane

Dr Tara Cochrane undertook her haematology training in Melbourne Victoria. She subsequently completed a 2 year fellowship at Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto in lymphoma and autologous stem-cell transplant in 2008. She has been a full time staff specialist at Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) since 2009. There she helped establish the stem cell transplant service and the clinical trials unit. Dr Cochrane is an enthusiastic researcher; being a local principal investigator in a number of ALLG and pharmaceutical sponsored clinical trials predominantly in the area of lymphoma and myeloma. Moreover, she has published numerous articles in peer reviewed journals and presented abstracts at international meetings. Her primary clinical interest is lymphoma and she chairs the multidisciplinary meeting in lymphoma at GCUH.

Over the years, Dr Cochrane has been a college examiner for the FRACP exam. She still is involved with registrar / medical student teaching and has a co-appointment with Griffiths University. She is a member of the GCUH Medicine Advisory Committee and currently chairs the Medicine Safety Committee at GCUH. Dr Cochrane has been a member of the ALLG, HSANZ and ASH for many years.

She lives on the Gold Coast and is married with two young daughters.

Dr Eliza Hawkes

Dr Eliza Hawkes is the current Medical Lymphoma Lead at both the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Centre, Austin Health and Eastern Health in Melbourne.

She graduated with honours from Monash University in 2001 and was awarded her FRACP in Medical Oncology in 2009. She received a Doctorate of Medical Science from University of Melbourne in 2017 for treatment of aggressive lymphomas.

Eliza completed 5 years as a Senior Research Fellow in Lymphoma at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, UK where she published the pivotal results from the Phase III RCHOP14vs21 study as joint first author (Lancet 2013). Eliza has published an additional 40+ peer-reviewed papers and 20+ abstracts in lymphoma research and is a peer-reviewer for journals such as Lancet Oncology, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Cancer, Nature Scientific Reports, BMC Cancer.

Since returning from the UK, Dr Hawkes has developed a large investigator-initiated clinical trial portfolio in lymphoma and translational research program, with strong local & international collaborations, securing over $8M in grant funding, >$4M as Chief Investigator. Her expertise is in clinical trial design, immunotherapy and biomarkers of response in lymphoma.

Eliza is an ALLG Disease subgroup committee member for high grade and low grade lymphomas, EVIQ CLL & lymphoma advisory committee member, active ASH, HSANZ, ASCO and ESMO member.

Dr Devendra Hiwase

Dr Hiwase (MBBS, MD, FRACP, FRCPA and PhD) is a Consultant Haematologist at SA Pathology and Royal Adelaide hospital, Senior Lecturer in University of Adelaide and Senior Research Fellow at South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). He has established South Australian MDS Registry enrolling >1000 patients and MDS research program in South Australia. His clinical and translational research is focussed on myelodysplasia (MDS) and acute myeloid leukaemia. He has extensive experience as PI on company sponsored and ALLG clinical trials. He also has substantial experience in the design and undertaking of clinical and translational research. He has published >30 articles in high impact journals including Blood, PNAS and Leukaemia, and presented widely in national and international meetings. He is a member of ALLG, American Society of Haematology and HSANZ. He is also peer reviewer for various journals and NHMRC.

Dr David Ross

Dr David Ross is a Consultant Haematologist in SA Pathology with clinical appointments at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide. He is a Senior Visiting Research Fellow in the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). His PhD was on the topic of minimal residual disease and treatment-free remission (TFR) in CML, and his interests extend to the laboratory diagnosis and monitoring of myeloid neoplasia. He is an examiner for the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. He has extensive experience of clinical trials and correlative science projects. He has been an investigator in numerous clinical trials, focusing on myeloid malignancies. He has been one of the co-ordinating Principal Investigators for two ALLG studies: the CML8 (TWISTER) study of TFR after imatinib, and the MPN01 registry, as well as the Phase 1 LENI study for SAHMRI. He has co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications.

A/Prof Dipti Talaulikar

A/Prof. Dipti Talaulikar seeks election to the Scientific Advisory Committee. Dipti is a clinical and laboratory haematologist from Canberra Hospital and an ALLG member since 2007. Her research qualifications (PhD, and Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research, Oncology) have given her a broad range of skills and interests encompassing clinical trials (participating in, leading and designing clinical trials), registries (lead for uncommon lymphoma component of ALLG registry, chair of pathology review subcommittee for lymphoma and related diseases registry), translational laboratory studies (lead site for correlative studies for NHL29), and tissue banking (chair of local tissue bank committee). She has a strong track record in the field of lymphoproliferative disorders, and has been involved in developing an investigator initiated study in Waldenström Macroglobulinaemia in collaboration with national and international groups. She has served on the local HREC for 6 years, been on clinical trial grant review panels nationally, and has served on the NHMRC grant review panel. Most importantly, she has worked collaboratively with a large number of ALLG members and served on several ALLG sub-committees. She is committed to working collaboratively with ALLG members to promote the organisation and to increase productivity through increased recruitment and participation in clinical trials.

A/Prof Judith Trotman

A/Prof Judith Trotman, Director, Clinical Research Unit, Concord Hospital, Sydney, is a current SAC member. As PI on several studies she has insight to the challenges and opportunities faced by the ALLG. She secured funding for and led collaborations with the French (PET in PRIMA, REMARC), UK (RATHL) and Italian (FOLLCOLL) lymphoma trials groups, and industry partners: Celgene (RePLy) & Janssen (IRiC) supporting the breadth of the ALLG's lymphoma portfolio. She is PI in two international patient-derived-data studies – WhiMSICAL in WM, and an exciting proposal, a My Hodgkin's, My Health App to collect LTFU data for patients in the RATHL study and other trials. Recognising the central role of study coordinators in clinical research she partnered with them in developing ClinTrial Refer, an App that has facilitated coordinator/haematologist collaboration with an eight-fold increase in cross-referrals, and increased access to clinical trials for patients. Judith is committed to ongoing ALLG recognition and promotion of cross-referral as integral to timely study recruitment. She mentors new PIs (Johnson, Verner, Tohidi, Falconer), and promotes greater engagement of the ALLG membership across all Group activities: trials recruitment; Disease Groups and the SAC. She encourages all members to VOTE!

Dr David Yeung

David Yeung completed his training at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney and currently holds appointments as a haematologist and post-doctoral fellow at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and the SA Health and Medical Research Institute respectively. He has affiliations with the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia, and has research interests in CML and high risk ALL.

David is an experienced clinical researcher, and an active member of the ALLG since 2009, currently serving as the co-chair of the CML/MPN disease group as well as the registry management committee. He currently serves as the Co-PI of the ALLG sponsored CML11 (Pinnacle) and CML12 (Direct studies), led the analysis of the CML9 (TIDEL-II) which resulted in a number of publications, and is involved with organising the NBCR from the ALL perspective. This latter project is closely associated with efforts to elucidate the molecular pathology of high risk ALLs spearheaded by the SAHMRI.