

2010 ACORD Workshop
September 12-17
Sunshine Coast, Queensland
www.acordworkshop.org.au



Final Report at October 8, 2010

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Australia and Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) Workshop is one of only three workshops of its kind worldwide. Introduced as a regional initiative by the Medical Oncology Group of Australia Incorporated (MOGA) in 2004, ACORD is now held biennially with the support of its collaborating partners: the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) and Cancer Council Australia. The Workshop is a six-day educational program targeting all disciplines of cancer research, to improve and advance clinical trial design in the Australia – Asia Pacific region.



The underpinning goals of ACORD consist of imparting principles of good clinical trial design which yield clear results to apply in the clinic and in future research, and exposing participants to the full spectrum of challenges in clinical research through the teaching and mentorship of the international Faculty. ACORD also provides a forum to foster trans-national relationships and to facilitate greater research cooperation across the Australia – Asia Pacific region.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010

ACORD 2010 was marketed extensively throughout the Asia-Pacific region to a range of organisations, facilities and workforce groups to attract a wider spectrum of professionals to the Workshop. MOGA coordinated the program “in-house,” allowing for enhanced project management procedures to be implemented across all components of the program.

The Steering Committee actioned the longer term planning tasks of Faculty rotation and succession leading to the successful appointment of 6 new Faculty members.

The program evaluation procedures and materials were reviewed and revised to provide a fuller range of subject coverage and more detailed planning data from the ACORD program.

The results of the Course Evaluation indicate that participants were overall very satisfied with the Workshop and the Faculty, and are inspired to carry on with their protocols developed on site.



FACULTY

The ACORD Faculty are global leaders in their respective fields, and the Workshop makes their expertise widely available to the participants through a range of activities. The Faculty's responsibilities included giving Lectures on a variety of topics related to developing clinical trials, leading smaller 'Protocol Groups' to facilitate focused collaborative learning and holding Office Hours to give individualised feedback to participants. The 18 International Faculty Members at the 2010 Workshop were:



2010 Faculty and Participants

A/Prof Amy Abernethy Duke University School of Medicine in North Carolina, USA

Prof Zeba Aziz, Allama Iqbal Medical College in Lahore, Pakistan

Mr Chris Brown, Biostatistician, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, Australia

A/Prof Marc Buyse, International Institute for Drug Development in Brussel, Belgium

Dr Gary Clark, Array BioPharma in Colorado, USA

Prof David Currow, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Cancer Institute, Sydney, Australia

Prof Geoff Delaney, Department of Radiation Oncology, Liverpool Hospital, Sydney, Australia

Prof Lesley Seymour, NCIC Clinical Trials Group, Queens University, Kingston, Canada

Prof Adrian Esterman, Sansom Institute of Health Service Research and School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of South Australia, Australia

Prof Michael Findlay, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences - University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

A/Prof Chris Frampton, Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Christchurch, New Zealand

Prof Kim Lyerly, Duke University Medical Centre North Carolina, USA

A/Prof Reena Nair, Department of Medical Oncology Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, India

Prof Anna Nowak, School of Medicine and Pharmacology, The University of Western Australia, Australia

Dr Nick Pavlakis, Medicine Northern Clinical School, Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney, Australia

A/Prof John Seymour, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia

Prof Jeff Sloan, Mayo Clinic and Research Facility, Minnesota, USA

A/Prof Martin Stockler, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, University of Sydney

PROGRAM

The program is designed to optimise the time available over the 5.5 day workshop through a mixture of didactic sessions, interactive forums, free time for individual work and the occasional social break to network with colleagues. The full program kept both participants and the Faculty on an intense work schedule throughout the week.



The Orange Group receiving group activity instructions

Lectures & Practicals – Mornings were primarily dedicated to plenary sessions giving participants an overview of a number of relevant topics and skills, such as, ethics, statistics and quality of life issues (see program).

Small Group Discussions – Six concurrent discussions in specialised areas of interest were held on two occasions with a maximum of 12 participants at each to allow for effective group interaction.

Protocol Sessions – These sessions were an opportunity for the Protocol Groups, each led by 3 Faculty Members and with 14-15 participants, to discuss individual protocols and provide feedback on participants' progress made over the week.

Office Hours – These designated periods provided opportunities for participants to schedule one-on-one time with Faculty Members to address issues specific to their expertise.



The Blue Team participating in group activities



Chris Brown

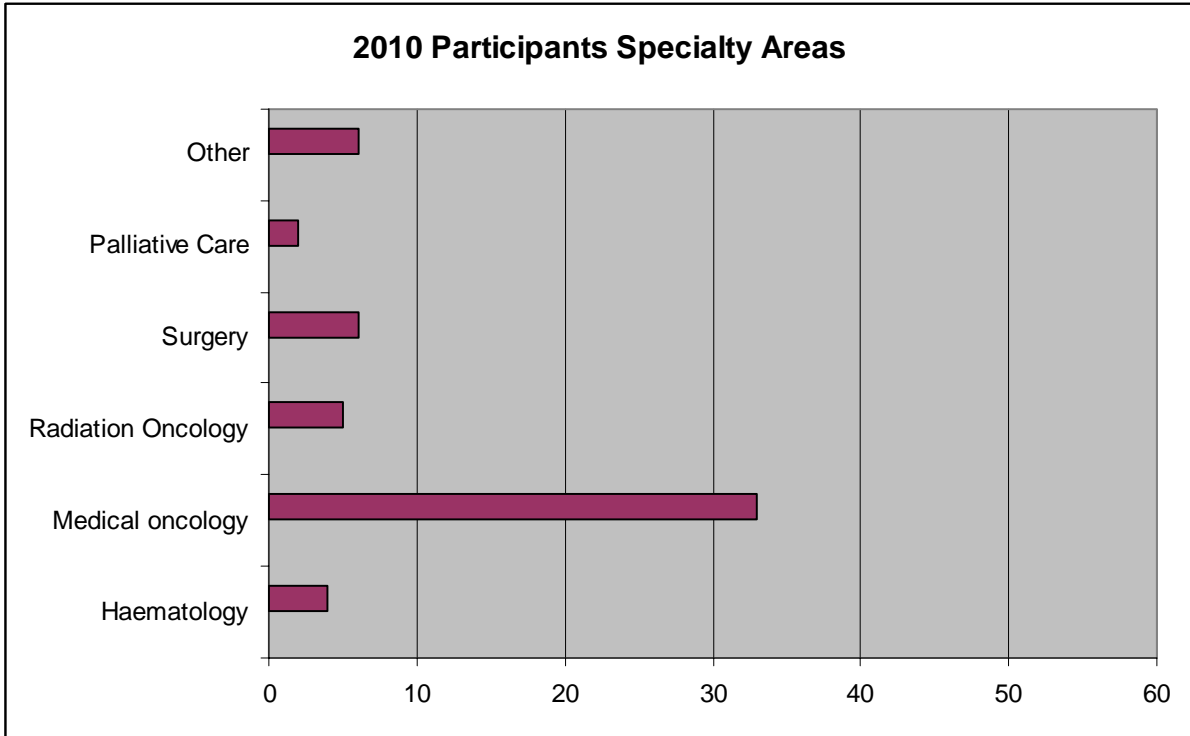
Assignments & Tests – The Pre and Post Tests set markers to assess the learning over the course of the week. Regular assignments monitored by the Faculty ensured that participants made steady progress towards having their protocol completed by Friday afternoon.

Social Events – Two dinners and an afternoon Protocol Team activity ensured that participants had a chance to network with their international peers and socialise with the Faculty in an informal setting. The barbeque on Sunday served as a Welcome Dinner and the Gala Dinner on Wednesday.

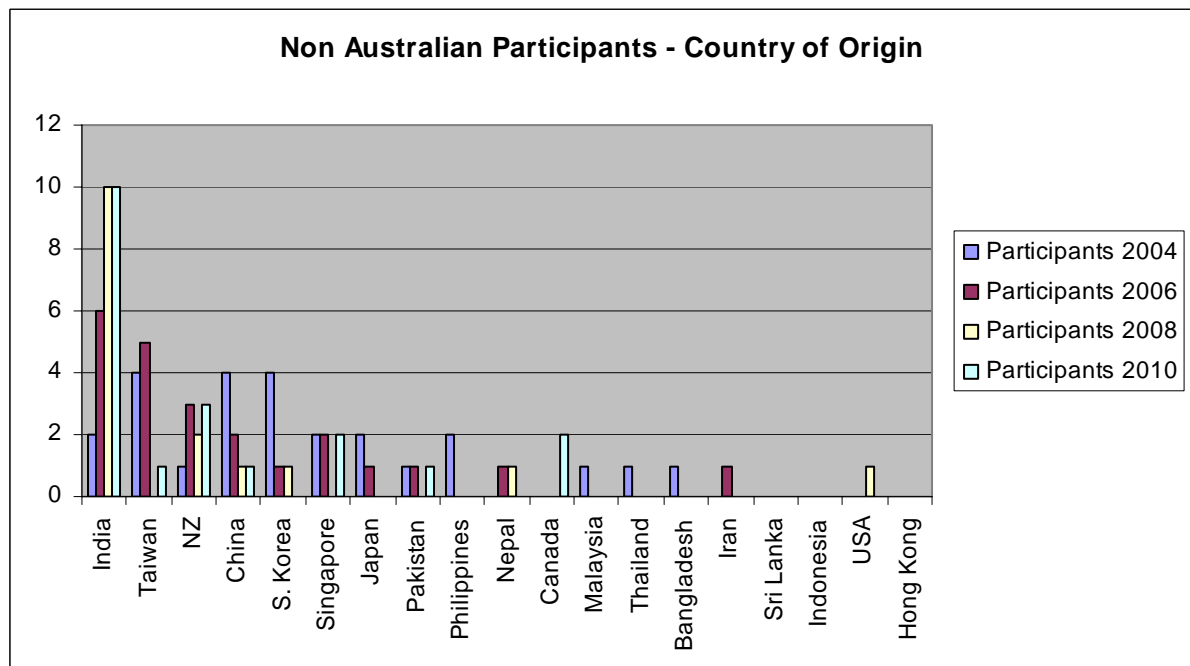
7:30 - 8:30	Sun 12 Sep 10	Mon 13 Sep 10	Tue 14 Sep 10	Wed 15 Sep 10	Thu 16 Sep 10	Fri 17 Sep 10
8:30 - 8:50	Breakfast- Mudjimba Verandah	Breakfast- Mudjimba Verandah	Breakfast- Mudjimba Verandah	Breakfast- Mudjimba Verandah	Breakfast- Mudjimba Verandah	Breakfast- Mudjimba Verandah
8:50 - 9:10	Clinical cancer research H. Kim Lyerly - MB Phase I trials Nick Pavlakis - MB	Trial endpoints Elizabeth Eisenhauer – MB Randomised trials Mike Findlay - MB	Quality of life Jeff Sloan – MB RT & combined modality trials Geoff Delaney – MB	Funding your research David Currow - MB Project management Anna Nowak – MB	Global perspectives on cancer research Bogda Koczwara (chair), Zeba Aziz, Marc Buyse Elizabeth Eisenhauer, Mike Findlay, H. Kim Lyerly, Reena Nair, Martin Stockler - MB	
9:30 - 9:50	Single arm phase II trials Anna Nowak – MB	Translational research John Seymour -MB	Population & health services Chris Framptom -MB	Writing your findings Amy Abernethy - MB		
10:10 - 11:0	Morning tea - Mudjimba Verandah	Morning tea- Mudjimba Verandah	Morning tea- Mudjimba Verandah	Morning tea- Mudjimba Verandah	Morning tea- Mudjimba Verandah	Morning tea- Mudjimba Verandah
10:30 - 11:3	Registration opens	Statistics 1	Statistics 2	Ethics & consent	GCP and Regulatory Issues	Post-test
11:00 - 12:0	- Ninery 1 Room	Gary Clark - MB	Marc Buyse - MB	Zeba Aziz - MB	Martin Stockler - MB	- Mudjimba Ballroom
11:30 - 13:0	Lunch- Mudjimba Verandah	Lunch- Mudjimba Verandah	Lunch & Group Photo Mud- jimba Verandah	Lunch- Mudjimba Verandah	Lunch- Mudjimba Verandah	Lunch- Mudjimba Verandah
12:00 - 13:3	Pre-test	Protocol Session 2 Rooms below	Protocol Session 3 Rooms below	Small Group Discussions Round 1 (see below)	Protocol Session 4 Rooms below	
13:00 - 14:0	- Mudjimba Ballroom (MB)			Small Group Discussions Round 2 (see below)		
14:00 - 15:0	Check-in					Final protocol due 15:00
14:30 - 15:3						
15:00 - 16:0	Introduction to ACORD - MB	Outdoor team activity	Afternoon tea (15:30-16:00) Office hours - Mudjimba Verandah	Afternoon tea (15:30-16:00) Office hours - Mudjimba Verandah	Afternoon tea (15:30-16:00) Office hours - Mudjimba Verandah	
15:30 - 16:3	Writing a concept outline - MB					
16:00 - 17:0	Protocol Session 1 Rooms below		Evening get together - Mudjimba Verandah		Evening get together - Mudjimba Verandah	
16:30 - 17:3						
17:00 - 18:0						
17:30 - 18:3						
18:00 - 19:0						
18:30 - 19:3						
19:00 - 19:30	Welcome BBO - Pool front/beach	Concept outline due 19:00	Draft protocol due (1-5) 19:00	Draft protocol due (6-10) 19:00	Consent form due 19:00	
19:30 - 22:3		Dinner at leisure	Dinner at leisure	Gala dinner - Wandry Room	Dinner at leisure	
0						

PARTICIPANTS

This year's 60 participants were selected by the Steering Committee based on the proposed clinical trials that they wish to further develop at ACORD. The majority of the 2010 participants specialise in Medical Oncology. Other areas of speciality include:



ACORD's mission extends beyond the protocols developed during the weeklong Workshop: to facilitate cooperation and advancement in oncological research across the Australia – Asia Pacific region. The Workshop participants represent a number of countries beyond Australia including:



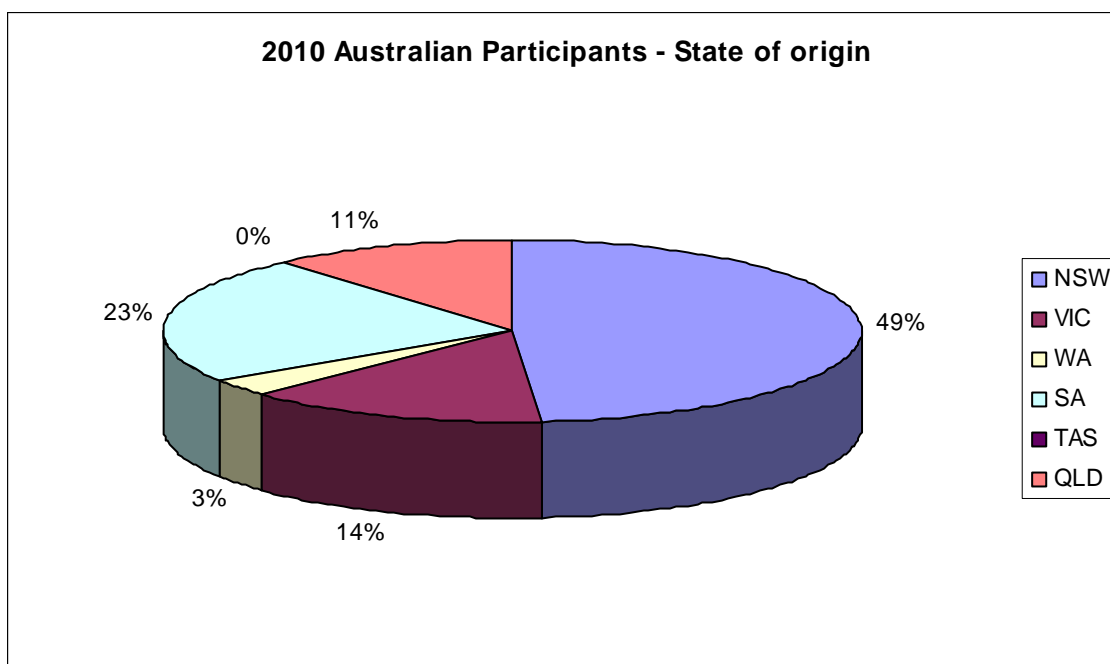
ACORD provides participants a forum for networking and collaborating with researchers outside of their home country or state, with the hope that the relationships formed during the Workshop are the basis for future regional development. An ACORD Alumni Meeting is planned for MOGA's 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting/Best of Asco in June 2011.

WORKSHOP MARKETING

Major marketing activities included an extensive email campaign to regional and international organisations and publications, the maintenance of a website solely dedicated to the event and brochures for Faculty distribution in their home countries/ hospitals/member organisations.

These efforts resulted in a series of website pages promoting the event, both from ACORD's collaborating partners.

Articles on the event have also been published in various newsletters including that of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.



EVALUATION OUTCOMES

Both the Learning and Course Evaluations had markedly positive results, which indicated that not only did Participants perceive the Workshop to be useful, but their collective knowledge had in fact increased over the course of the week.

The Learning Evaluation comprised of a Pre and Post Test at the beginning and at the completion of the week. The test was comprised of 50 multiple choice questions, designed by the Faculty to cover specific topics that would be addressed in their respective lecture sessions. The Pre Test set the benchmark of the groups' existing.

The Course Evaluation gave the delegates a chance to share anonymous feedback on their experience over the week. The results were overwhelmingly positive. 36 out of 47 respondents rated their overall Workshop experience as “Very Satisfied” (the highest rating) and the other 11 selected “Satisfied”. The majority of respondents were also “Very Satisfied” with receiving a better understanding of trials and help in developing their protocol.

Some final comments from participants course evaluations...

“ It was great . The faculty were really helpful. The topics covered in the lectures were relevant to clinical research and improved my understanding of endpoints and how to keep a trial simple”

“All lectures very useful and interesting. The small group discussions were fantastic. They have certainly increased my understanding and confidence.”

“This was one of the best workshop I have attended. The faculty were accessible and helpful.”

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our partners and sponsors, whose continued support not only makes the ACORD Workshop possible, but also ensures that we can invite world-class international Faculty and support the most competitive participants from across the Australia – Asia Pacific region who otherwise would not have the means to join the Workshop.

Collaborating Organisations



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For further information please contact the Medical Oncology Group of Australia at moqa@moqa.org.au or on +61-2-9256 9652.