



Cancer Trials Australia

New cancer research institute launched at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre.

Melbourne 9th September 2014. Cancer Trials Australia CEO, Marcus Clark attended the launch ceremony for the Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute (ONJCRI) and reports on this significant event that is associated with one of its members, Austin Health. As reported in many newspapers and other media, this was a stellar ceremony with a number of significant politicians, clinicians and scientists attending and participating. Recently appointed Chairman of the Board of the ONJCRI, The Hon. John Brumby welcomed the Premier of Victoria, The Hon. Dr Denis Napthine, Federal Minister for Social Services, The Hon. Kevin Andrews and Patron Olivia Newton-John along with other dignitaries.

The Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR), also a member of the CTA network had advised the Austin that they would be withdrawing their support for research in Australia as part of a global strategy to refocus their research activities. Director Jonathan Cebon and colleagues coordinated a fantastic outcome for the research scientists by facilitating collaboration with Latrobe University through the establishment of the La Trobe School of Cancer Medicine. This will provide the ONJCRI, the University affiliation and funding support and thereby increasing significantly the breadth and depth of research being undertaken.

“The Austin has been one of the key centres for clinical trials in Victoria and has participated in many multi-site trials conducted by CTA, said Marcus Clark. They have developed in particular, under Professor Cebon, a leading reputation globally in the area of immunotherapy and the creation of this new Institute will enable this position to be maintained.”

There are significant changes taking place within Victoria with respect to creation of larger comprehensive cancer centres and CTA sees this development providing more reasons for major pharma groups to be conducting trials with the CTA network. CTA boasts the inclusion of major research institutes such as the Walter Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research and now the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute as well as the Monash Cancer Consortium, Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre and in 2016 the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Parkville. These developments provide great opportunity for CTA to continue to participate in the global drug developments programs as the capacity and capability of the resources associated with these organisations are competitive with other leading groups. This participation is an essential factor for clinicians being able to provide optimum treatment to patients.

Our congratulations to all concerned at the Austin and ONJ Cancer Research Institute, for the creation of such a great research facility and this integrated centre of excellence.”

About Cancer Trials Australia (CTA)

CTA is a Clinical Trial Network and Site Service Organisation providing multisite trial administration and research governance and advisory services to investigators and sponsors of clinical trials in the field of oncology and hematology. Its member organisations are:

Alfred Health
Austin Health
Ballarat Health Services
Barwon Health
Bendigo Health
Border Medical Oncology
Cabrini Health Limited
Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research
Melbourne Health
Monash Health
Peninsula Oncology Centre
Peninsula Health
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Port Macquarie Hospital
Chris O'Brien Lifehouse
Royal Women's Hospital
St Vincent's Health
The Walter and Elisa Hall Institute
Tweed Heads
Western Health

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