



*Photo taken on 25 November 2019 at the BCTG meeting*

From left to right: Cheryl Tandy, Yada Kanjanapan, Karen Pahlow, Melissa Robbie, Sean Robison, Karen McKinnon, Nicole Goddard, Denise Kraus, Lisa Sullivan, Kathryn Hayes, Liz Charlton, Bethel Holley, Thet Khin, Hilde Kleiven, Gemma Barlett, Liz Chalker, Helen Porritt, Jenny Green, Kerrie Griffin, Geraldine Robertson and Yanping Zhang

## Breast Cancer Treatment Group report from the Chair

The ACT and SE NSW Breast Cancer Treatment Group (BCTG) have had a very productive year. We have been working hard on the 20-year report with a plan for publication next year. What an amazing achievement! Our thanks to the incredible people who conceptualised and built the Breast Cancer Treatment Group from its beginning. Our ongoing thanks to each and every one of you that contributes to this group and, in particular, thanks to our patients. I would especially like to acknowledge the exceptionally hard work performed by the whole project team, led by Yanping Zhang.

We were lucky this year to have fantastic speakers, again, showcasing the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to breast cancer management. Miss Caroline Baker, Prof John Boyages and Dr Nicole Goddard delivered very interesting and informative talks from their respective surgical, radiation oncology and medical

oncology specialties. A brief summary of their talks are included later in this newsletter.

It has been big shoes to fill and I am very thankful for Dr Angela Rezo's continued involvement and "training" of myself into the Chair role. There are ongoing challenges for BCTG, particularly with regards to consenting patients onto the programme. However, with such committed and generous professionals I know we can continue to improve and grow the BCTG each year.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

**Dr Lisa Sullivan**  
Radiation Oncologist  
Chair, ACT & SE NSW  
Breast Cancer Treatment Group



## Breast Cancer Treatment Quality Assurance Project – 20-year Report Progress Update

Preparation of the projects 20-year report (data collected on breast cancer between July 1997 and June 2017) is currently underway. Much work has been done in house to ensure quality of data - checking accuracy, completeness, consistency and validity. Following the issue of preliminary results from the project authors are now working on individual chapters, with the intention of publication of the report in 2020.

## BCTG Meetings 2019

Three BCTG meetings were held in 2019 with excellent speakers. On 1 April, Prof John Boyages, Leader of the Australian Lymphoedema Education Research and Treatment, spoke about Lymphoedema. On 22 July, the speaker Dr Caroline Baker, Chief Surgeon's to St. Vincent's BreastScreen, spoke about "Reverse Protocol: What on Earth is this?". On 25 November, Dr Nicole Goddard, Senior Staff Specialist in Medical Oncology at the Canberra Hospital, spoke about "Bone Health and Antiresorptive Agents in Breast Cancer?".

## Save the dates for next year's meetings

- **Monday, 30 March 2020**
- **Monday, 20 July 2020**
- **Monday, 9 November 2020**

### *Farewell Prof Robin Stuart-Harris!*

Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in BCTG.  
We will miss you.  
Have fun! The challenge of retirement is ...  
Not to wake up early!!



### Vale Anne Bicknell who sadly passed away on 27 October 2019

Anne Margaret Bicknell became the Clinical Coordinator of BreastScreen ACT in 2004 and retired in 2018. During these years, she was a great supporter of, and contributor to, the Breast Cancer Treatment Quality Assurance Project and was also a previous Chair of the BCTG. Anne is greatly missed by all at BCTG.

#### Contact Details

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