



PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

Project Title	Prognostic factors from symptoms at diagnosis of Sarcoma
Supervisor name	A/Professor Paul Craft
CHS/ACTHD position	Clinical Director
Address	Department of Medical Oncology, The Canberra Hospital
Telephone	02 5124 8502
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Lead discipline (please select one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing and Midwifery | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Biostatistics |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-clinical | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Does this project involve research led by, or relating to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders?

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|--|

Outline of the project (250 words max)

Sarcomas represent a diverse group of rare cancers affecting connective tissues including fat, muscle, cartilage and bone. They are usually managed by specialist multidisciplinary teams in tertiary referral hospitals involving radiologists, pathologists, surgeons, medical oncologists and radiation oncologists.

The ANZSG is a national group of clinicians with a shared interest in research in sarcomas. It keeps a national Sarcoma Clinical Registry across major cancers centres in Australia to collect data on the diagnosis, management, and outcomes of patients with these cancers. The Canberra Hospital is a member of this network and participates in data collection for this database project using the BioGrid platform www.biogrid.org.au

This database will be used as for auditing chemotherapy usage, report on trends and inform health professionals on new developments in sarcoma management for patients with sarcoma treated at The Canberra Hospital.

References:

Bae et al. Patterns of care for patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma: experience from Australian sarcoma services. Clinical Sarcoma Research 2016;6:11 <[Patterns of care for patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma: experience from Australian sarcoma services | Clinical Sarcoma Research | Full Text \(biomedcentral.com\)](#)>

Bae et al. Managing patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma: Evolving landscape from an Australian Perspective. Asia=Pac J Clin Oncology 2022; 18 (6); 605-613. <[Managing](#)

[patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma: Evolving landscape from an Australian perspective - Bae - 2022 - Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology - Wiley Online Library>](#)

Proposed research methods

This project involves collecting data on patients diagnosed with sarcoma in the ACT from source records and entering the information onto an electronic database BioGrid. The information will be obtained from several different electronic databases in the hospital as well as patient records. Support will be provided by a Sarcoma Nurse Care Coordinator Catherine Chapman. The database is up to date to 2022 but data entry is required for 2023 as well as additional follow-up on patients still alive on the database. This work will build on contributions from previous Vacation Study Programs.

A descriptive analysis will then be undertaken signs and symptoms, risk groups + prognostic factors for common sarcoma types. This information will be collated from the database dating back to 2011 for The Canberra Hospital. Outcomes to be examined will be progression free survival, overall survival and toxicity of therapy. A comparison with overall results reported by the ANZSG can be undertaken.

The information will inform the further development of the sarcoma multidisciplinary service. The results will focus clinicians when to suspect sarcoma based on presenting symptoms, prognosis and referral information. Database support and analysis will be performed by BioGrid data managers on deidentified data. ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee approval ETH: 11/06.840 covers the BioGrid collaboration and the linked cancer databases. A brief descriptive report of the findings will then be produced.

Preferred study discipline being undertaken by the student

Medicine

Benefits to the student and to the department

Experience in clinical audit and quality assurance.

Experience in clinical database usage, data abstraction and entry.

Experience in analysing data for producing an audit report.

Appreciation of multidisciplinary multimodal management of sarcomas in a cancer centre.

Assistance to department in a quality assurance project to assess chemotherapy usage in soft tissue sarcomas.

The data contributes to larger multicentre projects conducted nationally by the Australian Sarcoma Study Group.

Development of a resource for health professionals.

How does this project align with any or all of the three strategic objectives of *Better Together: A strategic plan for research in the ACT health system* (100w max)

[Better together - A strategic plan for research in the ACT health system 2022–2030](#)

Objective 1: ACT Health becomes a learning health system. Data systems amenable to mobilising routine data, resourcing and embedding expertise to catalyse research, assist in generating and analysing data.

Objective 2: People have capacity to undertake high value research in the health system. Targeted recruitment to build research capabilities and collaborations. This objective recognises that ACT health workplaces are crucial to training health professional and research training is integral to delivery of advanced health care.

Objective 3: Infrastructure supports high value research. Investing in platform capabilities that enable research. Ensuring a portfolio of staff have dedicated time for research, generation, translation and implementation.

ACTHD/CHS Department where the student will be based

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Department of Medical Oncology, Level 5, Bld 19 Canberra Region Cancer Service, the Canberra Hospital

Will the student be in a patient facing role at any time during the project?

No

Will the student require access to CHS and/or ACTHD network / DHR / applications / database? If yes, please identify

Yes – DHR + Charm Database + ARIA Database + Clinical Patient Folder

Will the student require CHS / ACT Health building access? If yes, please identify

Yes – Access to Level 5 of the Canberra Region Cancer Centre

Supervisor availability across key dates

Friday 10 Nov – Preplacement presentation session, Canberra Hospital Auditorium
Approximate duration 9am-12pm – supervisors are not required for full session. Possible Webex option.

Yes / ~~No~~

Placement period 10 Nov – 9 Feb
Please indicate availability across this time.
E.g. leave over Christmas/New Year

Full Availabilitys

At least two face-to-face sessions with the student each week during their 6-week placement.

Yes / ~~No~~

Friday 9 Feb – Final presentation session, Canberra Hospital Auditorium
Approximate duration 9am-1pm – supervisors are not required for full session. Possible Webex option.

Yes / ~~No~~

I have read and I agree to the [ACT Health privacy policy](#) which includes statements on how the ACT Health Directorate acts lawfully to collect and use data to report on activities and to plan for future events and initiatives; including that we may use your details to contact you if required for program delivery and/or evaluation and to inform you of future similar opportunities.

Please submit form to health.research@act.gov.au