



web: <http://concert.org.au>; **email:** concert@unsw.edu.au

Established in July 2014 through funding by the Cancer Institute NSW, the Centre for Oncology Education and Research Translation (**CONCERT**) embeds translational cancer research into clinical practice, encompassing basic science, clinical, psychosocial, and health services research and the community. CONCERT spans a vast geographic footprint with approximately 300 professional members and institutional stakeholders across NSW and ACT, consisting of UNSW, Western Sydney University, University of Wollongong, Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute, South Western Sydney Local Health District, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, Health Directorate ACT Government, Australian National University and University of Canberra.

CONCERT's mission is to improve the lives of cancer patients and their carers in their journey from diagnosis, through treatment, survivorship and end of life by rapid and effective translation of research into practice. Directed by Prof Paul de Souza and managed by A/Prof Norbert Kienzle, CONCERT has two broad flagship programs, i) *Targets & Therapeutics*, and ii) *Practice & Policy*, integrating translational cancer research across the bench-bedside-policy cycle.

CONCERT proudly lists a number of key achievements, including:

New infrastructure build-ups at Ingham Institute

- Establishment of first-in-state translational 'liquid biopsy' research facility for circulating tumour cells (CTC) and circulating tumour nucleic acids (ctNA) at Ingham Institute. Isolation, enumeration and characterisation (genotypic, phenotypic) of CTCs and ctNA, hold tremendous clinical potential for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients.
- Building up the CONCERT tissue biobank at Ingham Institute. A snapshot in time is taken by preserving tissues and cells ('biospecimens') from a sick patient to allow research on new treatments that will help future generation of patients. Specifically, the CONCERT Biobank is a large collection of cancer biospecimens, including tumour and normal adjacent tissue, blood and other relevant bodily fluids, which are linked to relevant health information and used as a resource for researchers to advance our understanding of cancer.
- The novel Microscopy Research Facility for correlative 3D imaging of human cancer cells and tissue was opened at the Ingham Institute in Oct 2016 with national TV coverage.

This Australian-first technology platform aligns ultra-small cell structures with their corresponding larger cell or tissue environments.

Accelerating project and program milestones

- Establishing and convening the national Thomas Ashworth Symposium for liquid biopsy research on CTC and ctNS (2014, 2015, 2016).
- Progressing the MRI Linac development through its pilot phases, a world-first research facility for real time imaging and radiation treatment of cancer patients at Ingham Institute.
- Closing the gap: Building research capacity to better understand and address the needs of cancer patients and caregivers of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.
- PROMPT-Care, the first Australian integrated eHealth platform utilising patient reported outcomes to inform real-time clinical care and self-management of cancer survivors, is now piloted and implemented at 4 cancer centres in 2 LHDs.
- The PEACH palliative care program is rolled out in five LHDs based on SWS-LHD leadership. This scalability has allowed robust economic evaluation and understanding of clinicodemographic predictors for meeting consumer preference to die at home.
- CONCERT’s translational training program has expanded to 41 post-graduate students. A PhD Top-Up award program was implemented to attract competitive students across the bench-bedside-policy spectrum, with 4 awards given in 2016.
- Community engagement continued through the Ingham Institute Cancer Research Community Panel, supported by CONCERT. Established in 2013, the panel now includes 8 trained community members who meet 2-3 times per annum and have given advice on 40+ cancer research projects to date.
- The level of Phase I clinical trial activity increases and a move to a purpose-built location at Liverpool Hospital is imminent.
- Growing peer recognition and knowledge dissemination by CONCERT members:

	CONCERT Output		
	2014	2015	2016
Publications (n)	81	223	246
Grants (\$million)	\$11.6	\$30.4	\$20.8