



Government of **Western Australia**
North Metropolitan Health Service



Cancer Network **WA**

EVENT PROGRAM

Cancer Network Forum

Inspiring the future of excellence in cancer care



The University Club of Western Australia,
Hackett Drive, Crawley

14 May 2026

This program is available online -
please scan the QR code to access.



FOREWORD

The Cancer Network WA (CNWA) is excited to announce the return of its one-day symposium.

With the theme 'Inspiring the future of excellence in cancer care', this year's Cancer Network Forum is an opportunity to share insights, foster collaboration and recognise the collective efforts of organisations contributing to the care of patients throughout their cancer journey in Australia.

It is also an occasion to celebrate, with the CNWA marking 20 years of delivering statewide cancer services. We look forward to your participation.

UWA site map/parking



EVENT SCHEDULE

8.30am – 8.45am Arrival and registration with coffee and tea

8.45am – 9.00am Freda Ogilvie, *Welcome to Country*

9.00am – 9.10am Kylie Oliver, *Welcome and opening address*

SESSION 1 - Morning plenary session

Banquet Hall, Ground Floor

9.10am – 9.30am Dr David Ransom, *Recent publications and future directions of the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP) data*

9.30am – 9.50am Claire Howlett, *National Overview – Cancer Australia*

9.50am – 10.10am Dr Lesley Bennett & Dr Wei-Sen Lam, *The New WA Cancer Plan: Priorities and next steps*

10.10am – 10.30am Michael Cain, *Reducing the time burden of systemic cancer therapy: Opportunities and challenges in an evolving treatment landscape*

10.30am – 11.00am Panel discussion

11.00am – 11.30am Morning tea
Ground Floor Terrace

EVENT SCHEDULE

SESSION 2 - Concurrent breakout sessions 11.30am – 12.45pm

Four breakout sessions covering different topics will run concurrently. All presentations will be recorded and made available for later viewing.

- Main Banquet Hall - Supportive care
- Seminar Room 1 - Evolving landscape
- Seminar Room 2 - Patient experience
- Seminar Room 3 - Cancer screening program
- Seminar Room 4 - Access improvement

Please scan the QR code for floor layout plan.



Breakout - Supportive care Main Banquet Hall (Ground Floor)

11.30am – 11.45am Natalie Williams, *The CIPNEX Pilot Study: Evaluating a hand-foot exercise regimen on chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy impacts amongst people with gynaecological cancers*

11.45am – 12.00pm Natalie Williams, *Implementing GyN Care: Key determinants to inform development of gynaecological cancer nursing guidance - a cross-sectional study*

12.00pm – 12.15pm Mark Kinsela, *Empowering cancer patients through advance care planning – my life, my choices*

12.15pm – 12.30pm Dr Chandrika Gibson, *Extending survivorship care beyond geography*

12.30pm – 12.45pm Carissa Gautam/Dom Passalacqua, *The role of carers in cancer care: Advancing excellence through recognition, inclusion and support*

EVENT SCHEDULE

Breakout 1 - Evolving landscape Seminar Room 1 (Ground Floor)

11.30am – 11.45am Gabriella La Macchia, *Developing an integrated radiation oncology real-world clinical registry: Literature review and clinician survey insights*

11.45am – 12.00pm Velinda Yong & Gabriella La Macchia, *Doing more with less: implementing a simulation free radiation therapy care pathway within Western Australia*

12.00pm – 12.15pm Dr Susannah Morris, *Partnering to put people first: The Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program and optimal care for Western Australians*

12.15 – 12.30pm Dr Wendy Feng, *Find cancer early in regional Western Australia: Exploring cancer symptom knowledge and help-seeking behaviours*

12.30 – 12.45pm Amanda Silla, *Exploring international best practice for patient decision-making on assisted dying methods and administration*

Breakout 2 - Patient experience Seminar Room 2 (Ground Floor)

11.30am – 11.45am Caitlin Beck, *Can early referral to allied health impact on hospital admissions and quality of life after diagnosis of high-grade glioma?*

11.45am – 12.00pm Professor Georgia Halkett/Mandy Basson, *Navigating the system – The Sunshine for Sarcoma Project*

12.00pm – 12.15pm Sonia Schultz, *Screening Saves Lives (SSL): Community engagement and screening promotion*

12.15pm – 12.30pm James Penhale/Kim Evans, *Expansion into satellite clinics*

12.30pm – 12.45pm Louise De Chiera, *The silent impact, educational and career disruptions among AYA with a parent or sibling facing cancer*

EVENT SCHEDULE

Breakout 3 - Cancer screening program Seminar Room 3 (First Floor)

11.30am – 11.45am Kate Alford - *GP Ready! Supporting general practice engagement with the National Lung Cancer Screening Program (NLCSP)*

11.45am – 12.00pm Leanne Spano, *“Take a bowel” – celebrating over a decade of NBCSP health promotion*

12.00pm – 12.15pm Dr Arjun Rajkhowa, *Rollout of mobile screening for the National Lung Cancer Screening Program (NLCSP) in WA*

12.15pm – 12.30pm Hussam Al-Hakimi, *Evidence to inform a new early diagnosis campaign creative in regional Western Australia*

12.30pm – 12.45pm Jodie Robins, *National Cancer Screening Register integration in primary care*

Breakout 4 - Access improvement Seminar Room 4 (First Floor)

11.30am – 11.45am Dr Chloe Maxwell-Smith, *Improving early cancer diagnosis in rural Western Australia: Understanding barriers to protective cancer*

11.45am – 12.00pm Sally Blane, *Monitoring attitudes and behaviors driving skin cancer risk in Western Australia*

12.00pm – 12.15pm Carolyn Minto, *Hitting the mark – development and evolution of the Arrows skin cancer prevention campaign*

12.15pm – 12.30pm Dr Hooi Ee, *Improving colonoscopy access to improve colorectal cancer outcomes*

12.30pm – 12.45pm Sonia Schultz, *Modesty screening shawls – Reducing barriers to regular breast screening for multicultural women*

12.45pm - 1.35pm **Lunch**
Ground Floor Terrace

1.35pm - 1.45pm **CNWA 20th year celebration presentation**
Banquet Hall, Ground Floor

EVENT SCHEDULE

SESSION 3 - Afternoon plenary session

Banquet Hall, Ground Floor

1.45pm – 2.05pm Dr Heather Lane, *Optimal care pathway for older people with cancer*

2.05pm – 2.25pm Professor Rajesh Thomas & Dr Dhaval Thakkar, *Western Australia's First Robotic Bronchoscopy Program: Changing lung cancer care through improved diagnostics and novel interventions*

2.25pm – 2.45pm Professor Fraser Brims, *The Lung Cancer Clinical Quality Data Platform (LUCAP) program*

2.45pm – 3.05pm Professor Fraser Brims, *National Lung Cancer Screening Program (NLCSP)*

3.05pm – 3.25pm Claire Finley, *WA Psycho-Oncology Service: Reflections and aspirations*

3.25pm – 3.45pm Dr Arman Hasani, *Connecting Care: How WA is joining the dots for cancer trials*

3.45pm – 4.15pm Panel discussion

4.15pm – 4.20pm Closing remarks by CNWA Director

4.20pm Forum concludes

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

We would like to acknowledge and thank all our presenters for their valuable contributions.



Dr David Ransom

David is a Medical Oncologist. After more than 30 years in clinical practice, he recently changed roles and is now a Medical Adviser for Cancer Network WA. For the past 10 years, his clinical practice focused on upper gastrointestinal (GI) cancers and neuroendocrine tumours (NETs). His recent publications are in the areas of upper GI cancers, NETs, and health services research. He is a long-term programme board member of the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP) and today will present some of their recent publications.



Claire Howlett

Claire is the Deputy CEO of Cancer Australia, Australia's national cancer control agency. She is an experienced public sector leader who has worked across a broad range of policy, program delivery, regulatory and corporate roles. Previously, Claire led cancer policy advice for the Australian Government Department of Health, including delivering the three national cancer screening programs. She has delivered government services to the Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, which included overseeing one of Australia's most remote health services. Claire has advised government on issues ranging from biodiversity policy to energy efficiency. She has delivered natural resource management programs and regulated fisheries exports. Claire has also held the position of Chief Information Officer of an Australian Government department.



Dr Lesley Bennett

Lesley is the Deputy Director General, Clinical Excellence Division at the Western Australian Department of Health and was previously Chief Executive at East Metropolitan Health Service. She provides strategic leadership for systemwide planning and reform to improve safety, quality and outcomes for people affected by cancer and other complex conditions. Lesley plays a key role in shaping longterm clinical strategies, translating evidence and lived experience into practical system change, and aligning statewide planning with service delivery and workforce capability. She works closely with clinicians, health services, consumers and partner agencies to enable coordinated, sustainable approaches to care. Lesley is committed to forwardlooking, patientcentred planning that strengthens cancer prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and survivorship across the WA health system.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Dr Wei-Sen Lam

A/Professor Wei-Sen Lam is a Medical Oncologist at Fiona Stanley Hospital and Esperance Hospital, recognised for his leadership in advancing cancer services across Western Australia. He is the Head of Service for Medical Oncology at Fiona Stanley Hospital, Clinical Lead for the South Metropolitan Health Service Cancer Plan, Clinical Lead of the WACHS Trial Centre, and a Board Member of Cancer Council WA. He has previously served as CoChair of the WA Cancer Oncology Group and as the Regional and Rural Executive Chair for the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia. Wei-Sen was formerly Director of Medical Oncology at WA Country Health Service, where he led the WA Country Health Service Cancer Strategy 2017–2022, established Telechemotherapy services in Karratha, Broome and Narrogin, implemented Teletrials, and helped establish the WACHS Trials Centre. He was recently appointed Clinical Lead of Cancer Services at the Department of Health, continuing his commitment to improving equitable access to high-quality cancer care.



Michael Cain

Michael graduated from Curtin University in 1980 and has held the post of Senior Pharmacist (Oncology) at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth since 1988. He has been an invited lecturer at post-graduate and undergraduate level, as well as being involved in numerous national training programs. He has published works and contributions to several texts and journals and has received state and national awards in recognition of his contributions to oncology pharmacy practice. His principal interests in oncology are related to protocol development and optimal delivery of cancer chemotherapy.



Dr Heather Lane

Heather is a Consultant Geriatrician and the Director of Physician Education at Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Healthcare Group and Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Western Australia Medical School. She has an interest in geriatric oncology dating back to her PhD research at the Centre for Palliative Care, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, completed in 2016. She runs a Geriatric Oncology Clinic at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. She is an active member of the COSA (Clinical Oncological Society of Australia) Geriatric Oncology Group and the SIOG (International Geriatric Oncology Society) Geriatricians Group. She was on the expert working group for development of Cancer Australia Optimal Care Pathways for Older People with Cancer. Her research interests are frailty and geriatric oncology.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



**Professor
Rajesh Thomas**

Rajesh is a Respiratory Medicine consultant, interventional bronchoscopist and mid-career researcher at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and the University of Western Australia. He leads the Lung Cancer and Interventional Bronchoscopy Program at SCGH and led the project to establish the first Robotic Bronchoscopy Service in WA. He has held national and global leadership positions in interventional pulmonology and has a published track record in translational research in pleural and lung cancers. In 2025, he was awarded a Future Health Research and innovation (FHRI) Fund grant for the Robotic Bronchoscopy program and a Raine Clinician Research Fellowship to optimise robotic bronchoscopy techniques to improve lung cancer diagnosis and treatment.



Dr Dhaval Thakkar

Dhaval is a respiratory consultant with advanced training in interventional bronchoscopy and pleural disease management. He uses minimally invasive techniques in diagnosing and treating different diseases in the chest, offering a variety of different procedures using the latest technologies. His clinical focus is lung cancer and also manages complex airways disease and pleural disease. His clinical interests are in using technology to improve healthcare and he is fascinated by the intersection of medicine and biotechnology. Dhaval is passionate about incorporating the latest technology with clinical reasoning to innovate treatment plans that help ensure the best possible outcomes. He has international experience, having completed his medical training in the United States, and is board certified in practising internal medicine, pulmonary and critical care medicine, and interventional pulmonology. His academic pursuits include trainee education and mentorship, including fellowship training. He values the importance of being able to communicate complex medical information and takes great pride in having his patients leave his clinic visit with a better and deeper understanding of their disease process.



**Professor
Fraser Brims**

Fraser is a Consultant Respiratory Physician at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Director of Research at Curtin Medical School. He is chair of the WA Mesothelioma Registry and is Deputy Director of the Institute for Respiratory Health, where he heads the Occupational and Respiratory Health research group. He has clinical and research interests in occupational and asbestos-related diseases, and early lung cancer detection. He leads the WA Asbestos Review Program, the largest lung cancer early-detection research program in Australia. Fraser was the co-chair of the scientific committee for the Australian Lung Cancer Conference (2025).

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Claire Finley

Claire has been working as a clinical psychologist for 20 years in a variety of tertiary health settings, including AOD, chronic pain, major trauma and C-L psychiatry. She started working at the WA Psycho-Oncology Service (WAPOS) in 2021, working with both inpatients and outpatients at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Royal Perth Hospital, and is acting in the role of Senior Clinical Psychologist Coordinator alongside Liz Cluett.



Dr Arman Hasani

Arman is a Medical Oncologist at Joondalup Health Campus, specialising in thoracic tumours. He is also the state representative and board member of the Private Cancer Physicians of Australia. He is the clinician lead for the WA Cancer Trials website, which is the topic of his presentation at this year's forum.

Thank you for your participation.

We welcome your feedback – please scan the QR code after the event.



Email

cnwaforum@health.wa.gov.au

Website

<https://nmhs.health.wa.gov.au/cnwa>

