

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Chemotherapy usage for treatment of sarcoma at The Canberra Hospital</b>
<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>A/Professor Paul Craft</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Department of Medical Oncology, The Canberra Hospital</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>02 5124 8502</b>
<b>Email</b>	<b>paul.craft@act.gov.au</b>

**Lead discipline (please select one)**

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing               | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Economics       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Health         | <input type="checkbox"/> Biostatistics          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Value-based Healthcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-clinical          | <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology           |

**Outline of the project**

Sarcomas are a group of rare tumours 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 ASSG is a national group of clinicians with a shared interest in research in sarcomas. It keeps a national Sarcoma Clinical Database 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](http://www.biogrid.org.au). This database will be used as for auditing chemotherapy usage on patients with sarcoma treated at The Canberra Hospital.

Reference:

Bae et al. Patterns of care for patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma: experience from Australian sarcoma services. Clinical Sarcoma Research 2016;6:11 < [10.1186/s13569-016-0052-4](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13569-016-0052-4)>

**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 a number of different electronic databases in the hospital as well as patient records. Support will be provided by a Sarcoma Nurse Care Coordinator Amber Wilson. The database is up to date to 2019 but data entry is required for 2020 and 2021. Some earlier cases may have been missed also. An audit will then be done of chemotherapy usage and surgical outcomes for each sarcoma type based on the

information on the database dating back to 2011 for The Canberra Hospital. Outcomes to be examined will be progression free survival, overall survival, surgical margins and toxicity of therapy. 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. The work will build on a student project conducted last year.

**Preferred study discipline being undertaken by the student**

Medicine or nursing

**Potential 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 and patterns of surgery in soft tissue sarcomas.

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

**Department within ACT Health Directorate / Canberra Health Services where the student will be based**

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

Please submit form to [preclinical.research@act.gov.au](mailto:preclinical.research@act.gov.au)