

GOALS OF THE TCRN “TAKING SCIENCE TO PRACTICE – STEP BY STEP”

The Translational Cancer Research Network (TCRN) – a translational cancer research program funded by the Cancer Institute NSW – comprises the founding institutions of the University of New South Wales, comprehensive cancer centres at Prince of Wales and St George hospitals, cancer services at the Royal Hospital for Women and the Sutherland Hospital, Border Medical Oncology and The University of Technology Sydney.

The overall goal of the TCRN is to develop a sustainable translational cancer research engine and to apply it to identified areas of need, in a stepwise and focussed manner.

Specifically, we will:

- ◆ provide the coordination, critical mass and systems to identify and resolve gaps in the translation of research to clinical practice across metropolitan, rural and regional centres
- ◆ leverage existing governance structures to further strengthen our network of research, clinical training and service delivery, and invigorate take up of results
- ◆ engage with primary health care networks to define research questions, integrate and standardise community referral and improve care
- ◆ develop valid and focussed training opportunities across all domains of cancer research.

CORE STRENGTHS
Molecular basis of cancer
New therapeutics
Health services research
Cancer epidemiology
Clinical trials
Site specific areas: ovarian cancer, brain tumours, haematological malignancy, gastrointestinal tract malignancy

CANCER INSTITUTE NSW PROGRAM OBJECTIVES	TCRN STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CINSW OBJECTIVES	TCRN KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<p>The Cancer Institute NSW TCRC program has been designed to achieve four objectives:</p>	<p>The TCRN aims to address the CINSW objectives through two key elements:</p> <p>a. Systemic strategies to address TCRC program objectives and facilitate administrative and organisational changes in the health system</p> <p>b. Cancer specific strategies to address TCRC program objectives: Cancer Challenge of the Year – the six-step model for the annual development and execution of translational research projects.</p>	<p>KPI 1. Number of processes known to improve patient outcomes that have been successfully implemented in six-step model projects.</p> <p>Objectives: 4.1–4.4 Measure: Cumulative number of processes implemented successfully Process: The TCRN manager will maintain records of project progression, and with the leadership council will identify successful implementation of the processes set out in Step 3 of the six step model.</p>
<p>4.1 Facilitate the generation of practice improving research and its more rapid adoption for improved patient outcomes</p> <p>4.2 Facilitate evidence into practice research</p>	<p>1. Ensure data integration and accessibility. A key characteristic of a rapid-learning health care model is its ability to link individual patient data from routine care with clinical and translational research datasets. These datasets must be interoperable within the organisation and accessible internally and to collaborators. Aggregating and analysing these data will highlight disparities in care, generate new hypotheses and drive practice change.</p> <p>2. Be the preferred site for testing new therapeutics and molecular diagnostics. This will require enhancement of our existing relationships with industry and cooperative groups for translational sub-studies.</p> <p>3. Advocate for the inclusion of evaluable innovation in clinical service plans. Successful advocacy would result in changes to funding models, as well as appointment performance criteria that recognise and value ‘research into practice’ activities.</p>	<p>KPI 2. Increase the number of new cancer patients with TCRN facilities that consent to participate in generic research</p> <p>Objectives: 4.3 (+ indirectly 4.1 and 4.2) Measure: Number of patients who have consented Process: A generic consent form will be employed for all new cancer patients in TCRN. Records will be kept locally, with quarterly reporting of the number of patients consenting and refusing.</p>
<p>4.3 Facilitate the more efficient and effective incorporation of research, clinical training, education and service delivery within a formal governance structure that supports networks and enhanced collaboration between centres of research excellence and centres of clinical excellence which may include regional settings</p>	<p>4. Harmonise research governance and policies across the institutions. This includes processes around data collection that utilise ClinCR and e-health records, and that provide a more efficient and effective research framework.</p> <p>5. Coordinate the processes for recruitment of researchers, teachers and service providers irrespective of their institutional employer, so that new staff are aware of the goals of the TCRN.</p> <p>6. Develop and support a communication strategy in the form of newsletters and websites, as well as joint meetings and seminars. This will assist the dissemination and uptake of new research findings to health professionals within TCRN, and to the broader community.</p>	<p>KPI 3. Increased inclusion of research information in cancer pathology reports</p> <p>Objectives: 4.1–4.3 Measure: Increasing percent of pathology reports that include research-related information Process: Research-related information in reports is defined by three separate identifiers: - Uses structured format - Identifies tissue/block used in research study, or available for research purposes - Includes specific reference to research finding or result.</p> <p>Each year, 100 pathology reports of primary cancer resection specimens will be selected at random from pathology services used by TCRN participants. Reports will be audited by project officer, and the percent with each identifier reported.</p>
<p>4.4 Build capacity in research and improve the competitive advantage in securing other funds.</p>	<p>7. Further develop professionally managed shared services/research enablers. This will be achieved by strategic joint planning by TCRN partners to identify capacity gaps, and to leverage opportunities within or external to our institutions, including other TCRCs</p> <p>8. Develop a single point of contact to facilitate communications with potential external partners or collaborators.</p> <p>9. Offer support for new or emerging groups/collaborations that align with TCRN goals.</p>	<p>KPI 4. Number of health professionals in TCRN with increased training or exposure to cancer research</p> <p>Objective: 4.3 Measure: Percent improvement per annum in the following: - No. of clinical staff spending increased time in cancer research-related activities - No. of UNSW higher degree research students - No. of UNSW honours and ILP students Process: Clinical staff will complete a self-reported census of one week’s activity (like ERA survey) on two specified weeks each calendar year. No. of HDR, Hons and ILP students involved in cancer-related research within TCRN will be determined from UNSW records.</p> <p>KPI 5. Increased funding for research obtained from non-CI sources</p> <p>Objective: 4.4 Measure: Percent improvement per annum in funding (for research and quality improvement projects) Process: Members will report income annually in membership report (as a precondition of membership). Data will be verified by TCRN Operations and Projects Team.</p>