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

The Translational Cancer Research Network (TCRN) – a translational cancer research program funded by Cancer Institute NSW – is a partnership between the University of New South Wales (UNSW), comprehensive cancer centres at Prince of Wales (POW) and St George (SGH) hospitals, cancer services at the Royal Hospital for Women (RHW) and the Sutherland Hospital (TSH), and a regional cancer service in the Border/East Hume region of NSW and Victoria.

The overall goal of the TCRN is to develop a sustainable translational 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 and focussed training opportunities across all domains of cancer research.

### CANCER INSTITUTE NSW PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Cancer Institute NSW TCRC program has been designed to achieve four objectives:

1. **Cancer Institute NSW TCRC Objectives**
   - Advancing the Cancer Institute NSW objectives to address TCRC program objectives and facilitate administrative and organisational changes in the health system.
   - 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.

### TCRN STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CINSW OBJECTIVES

The TCRN aims to address the CINSW objectives through two key elements:

a. Systemic strategies to address TCRC program objectives and facilitate administrative and organisational changes in the health system.

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.

### TCRN KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KPI 1.</td>
<td>Number of processes known to improve patient outcomes that have been successfully implemented in six-step model projects.</td>
<td>4.1-4.4</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>KPI 2.</td>
<td>Increase the number of new cancer patients with TCRN facilities that consent to participate in generic research</td>
<td>4.3 (+ indirectly 4.1 and 4.2)</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>KPI 3.</td>
<td>Increased inclusion of research information in cancer pathology reports</td>
<td>4.1-4.3</td>
<td>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 - Includes specific reference to research finding or result.</td>
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<td>KPI 4.</td>
<td>Number of health professionals in TCRN with increased training or exposure to cancer research</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>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.</td>
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### 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

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**Table:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANCER INSTITUTE NSW PROGRAM OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>TCRN STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CINSW OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>TCRN KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>4.1 Facilitate the generation of practice improving research and its more rapid adoption for improved patient outcomes</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>KPI 1. Number of processes known to improve patient outcomes that have been successfully implemented in six-step model projects.</td>
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<td>4.2 Facilitate evidence into practice research</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>KPI 2. Increase the number of new cancer patients with TCRN facilities that consent to participate in generic research</td>
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<td>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</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>KPI 3. Increased inclusion of research information in cancer pathology reports</td>
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<td>4.4 Build capacity in research and improve the competitive advantage in securing other funds.</td>
<td>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. This includes processes across data collection that utilise ClnCR and e-health records, and that provide a more efficient and effective research framework.</td>
<td>KPI 4. Number of health professionals in TCRN with increased training or exposure to cancer research</td>
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**Notes:**

- **KPI 1.** Number of processes known to improve patient outcomes that have been successfully implemented in six-step model projects.
- **KPI 2.** Increase the number of new cancer patients with TCRN facilities that consent to participate in generic research.
- **KPI 3.** Increased inclusion of research information in cancer pathology reports.
- **KPI 4.** Number of health professionals in TCRN with increased training or exposure to cancer research.