



Analysis of brain cancer platforms and technologies

Stakeholder information bulletin

Background

The Australian Brain Cancer Mission (the Mission) was announced on 29 October 2017 and aims to double survival rates and improve the quality of life for patients with brain cancer over ten years to 2027, with the longer-term aim of defeating brain cancer. Cancer Australia is responsible for administering the Mission, supported by a Strategic Advisory Group (see Attachment A for membership).

The analysis of brain cancer platforms and technologies

As administrators of the Mission, Cancer Australia has engaged Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) to undertake an *analysis of brain cancer platforms and technologies*.

The aims of the analysis are to:

- Identify current and emerging platforms and technologies that are or could be used to support brain cancer diagnosis, treatment, clinical trials, drug development, and research.
- Prioritise technologies and platforms for those needed in the short to medium term (3-5 years) and look for emerging technologies on the horizon in the longer term (up to 2027).
- Consider the workforce implications for technologies / platforms that are prioritised (capability, capacity and training requirements).
- Consider mechanisms that could enhance the current use of platform and technologies such as improved networking and coordination, use of large data sets and bioinformatics and reduced duplication.
- Analyse the cost and benefit of prioritised technologies / platforms and the advantages or disadvantages of upscaling existing technology (including critical parameters or required elements).

The overall objective for the project is to produce a technology plan for brain cancer that articulates ways to enhance brain cancer research, diagnosis and treatment through better use of existing platforms / technologies and identifying areas for potential future investment.

Areas of interest

Technologies and platforms from a breadth of areas will be included in the analysis, spanning childhood, adolescent and young adult and adult brain cancers. Areas of interest include (but are not limited to):

- Molecular Imaging techniques
- Genomics / proteomics / metabolomics
- Histology / pathology
- Model systems
- Bioinformatics
- Therapeutic design, testing, delivery and bioavailability of therapeutics
- Clinical trial collaborations, and
- Registries.

Project method and timing

HMA will undertake the project in five stages as follows:

- **Stage 1:** Project initiation to confirm the scope and preferred method for the project (December 2019).
- **Stage 2:** Desktop review of literature, conference abstracts and grey literature as required to inform technologies and platforms of interest, existing currently in Australia or emerging (May 2020).
- **Stage 3:** Stakeholder consultation to review the technologies / platforms identified in the desktop review and prioritise key areas for further investigation (March to August 2020)
- **Stage 4:** Cost and benefit assessment of the high priority technologies / platforms identified in Stages 2 and 3 to focus future national investment strategies for brain cancer platforms and technology that align with the broader principles of the Mission (September to October 2020).
- **Stage 5:** Final report, a technology plan, for brain cancer for the next 3-5 years, and horizon considerations up to 2027 (November 2020).

HMA team

The HMA consulting team will be led by Dr Deborah Roczo, Director HMA. Other team members include: Dr Sue Forrest (independent consultant), Wayne Kinrade (Managing Director), Hannah Hogarth (Managing Consultant), Darryn Lobo (Senior Consultant) and Anvi Le (Consultant).

In addition, HMA has put together a team of expert advisors to assist the HMA consulting team. The HMA advisory team is as follows:

- **Professor Peter Gibbs:** Medical Oncologist at Royal Melbourne Hospital and Western Health; Division Head, Personalised Oncology at Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
- **Professor Vicky Avery:** Principal Research Leader, Discovery Biology: Research Member of the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery; Head, Griffith University Drug Discovery Programme for the CRC for Cancer Therapeutics
- **Professor Patrick Humbert:** Director, Research Centre for Molecular Cancer Prevention; Professor of Cancer Biology, College of Science, Health and Engineering at La Trobe University
- **A/Prof Bradford Moffat:** Melbourne Brain Imaging Capability, University of Melbourne
- **A/Prof Mark Cowley:** Head of Computational Biology Group, Children's Cancer Institute
- **Dr Misty Jenkins:** Head of Division of Immunology at Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
- **Dr Kirby Siemering:** Acting CEO of the Australian Genome Research Facility
- **Mr Rob King:** Facility Manager, Australian Cancer Research Foundation, Cancer Genomics Facility.

The advisory team will assist HMA to identify relevant technologies for review.

Stakeholder consultation will be used to verify the technologies reviewed and identify gaps, and prioritise technologies for further investigation in the cost and benefit assessment.

Contact details

For further information on the project, please contact:

Healthcare Management Advisors

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Attachment A

Mission Strategic Advisory Group

The Australia Brain Cancer Mission Strategic Advisory Group comprises of brain cancer patients/or carers (consumers), clinicians, researchers, co-investors, and industry representatives, and a member of the Medical Research Future Fund's (MRFF) Australian Medical Research Advisory Board. Members of the Strategic Advisory Group are:

- Professor Adele Green AC – Chair
- Ms Carrie Bickmore
- A/Professor Kerrie McDonald
- Ms Michelle Burke
- Dr Chris Fraser
- Professor Douglas Hilton AO
- A/Professor Lindy Jeffree
- Ms Robyn Leonard
- Ms Sarah Mamalai
- Professor Grant McArthur
- Professor Anna Nowak
- Mr Dustin Perry
- Professor Mark Rosenthal
- Professor Andrew Scott AM
- Professor Brandon Wainwright

Further information available at <https://canceraustralia.gov.au/research-data/research/australian-brain-cancer-mission/strategic-advisory-group>