

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR SARCOMA RESEARCH WISH LIST

The ASSG is pleased to provide our Sarcoma Research Wish List which describes the major components of a research program to achieve our aims of improving outcomes for sarcoma patients and their families. The ASSG is the peak body for sarcoma research in Australia and our membership consists of clinical and scientific sarcoma experts as well as consumers and members of the community. A Board of Directors governs the ASSG. The Scientific Advisory Committee sets the research priorities and identifies the areas of most need. Together with our strategic plan we have identified the areas with the most urgent funding needs. The Wish List is approximately \$16m in aggregate over 5 years.

	Cost	Total over 5 years
Clinical trials x 4	\$1.5 million each	\$6 million
a Phase I trials expansion program	\$2 million	\$2 million
Basic and Translational Research Grant x2	\$800,000	\$1.6 million
ISKS Whole Genome Sequencing	\$2 million	\$2 million
Sarcoma Clinical Fellows x4	\$600K per year	\$3 million
Sarcoma Overseas Fellowship	\$250K per year	\$1 million
PhD Scholarship	\$30K per year	\$105 K
Travel Stipend	\$7K per year	\$35K
ASSG infrastructure	\$300K per year	\$150K

Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are crucial for improving treatments and outcomes for patients with sarcomas. The conduct of clinical trials provides patients with novel treatments and regimens that would otherwise not be available to them. Importantly the results of clinical trials inform practice and provide evidence on the efficacy of sarcoma treatments. Clinical trial conduct is a long term high dollar investment for researchers. There is considerable regulatory and compliance costs and well as patient treatment costs. Most clinical trials currently run for five years with an approximate cost of 1.5 million dollars each.

- ensuring sarcoma patients are given the opportunity to access the next generation of cancer drugs: a Phase I trials expansion program (cost: \$2M over 4 years)
- Immunotherapy clinical trials for sarcoma tumours- The recent advances in immunotherapies for certain common tumours can be leveraged to be applied to sarcomas. A national advanced cancer doublet immunotherapy trial would be highly impactful for sarcoma patients.

- Ewing Sarcoma clinical trial-Ewing sarcoma is a tumour of the bone and soft tissue that often affects teenagers and young adults.
- Osteosarcoma clinical trial-tumour of the bone that often affects teenagers and young adults. This tumour has good response rates in 80% of patients but those that relapse have no treatment options. There is a dire need for development of clinical trial for this cohort of patients.
- Synovial Sarcoma- Australia currently does not have access to trials for this disease due to lack of funding

Basic Science and Translational Research

The ASSG has provided funds for scientific research in sarcomas through our Sarcoma Grant Research scheme. The grants have been for small pilot studies to obtain preliminary data in order to apply for larger grants from government bodies. The challenge for sarcomas is that these sarcoma grants will not rank high enough in priority for these larger funding bodies. The ASSG aims to be able to offer a substantial research grant of \$800K over five years. This level of investment will support a significant research project that would have actionable outcomes. The desired scenario would be the ability to offer grants at this level every year in order to build capacity and research results. Currently an important project leveraging ASSG research outcomes is to complete whole genome sequencing for a larger cohort of patients from the International Sarcoma Kindred Study (ISKS) study (\$2M). The results of this work will allow for identifying risk and the preventative strategies for sarcoma patients.

Sarcoma Fellows

Critical to all sarcoma research is to have trained and engaged clinical sarcoma research Fellows to conduct clinical trials and other research projects. It is imperative to maintain a training scheme to ensure that sarcoma patients are seen by true experts. Sarcoma Fellows would be appointed for two years at approximately \$150K per year. We would aim to have Sarcoma Fellows in all related clinical disciplines such as medical oncology, surgical oncology, radiation oncology and orthopaedic oncology. The Fellows would be based at expert sarcoma centres and be involved in ASSG research and training. Australian Sarcoma Fellowship Program costs \$600K per year. Additionally it would be highly beneficial to support overseas fellowships/sabbaticals for Australian Sarcoma researchers to gain further expertise in sarcoma treatments and research through overseas placements: \$250K per year.

PhD Scholarship

As above it is critical to support and grow sarcoma research expertise and capacity. A PhD scholarship over 3.5 years at \$30K per year is an excellent scheme to encourage the best researchers to take up research in sarcoma.

Travel Scholarship

Given the challenges and rarity of sarcomas it is imperative for sarcoma researchers to collaborate with overseas colleagues. However funds for travel are very hard to come by in the academic research funding environment. A yearly travel stipend for overseas travel is important to ensure that Australian sarcoma patients have access to all possible available therapies and new advances: \$7k per year.

ASSG infrastructure

The ASSG infrastructure is currently under resourced. Funding for an in house clinical trial manager and a project manager, would enable the ASSG to deliver the above effectively and efficiently: \$300K per year.

Thank you for your kind consideration in supporting sarcoma research. Please feel free to contact us for further information.

Chair, Adrian Cosenza
Deputy Chair, Jayesh Desai
Director David Thomas
Executive Officer, Denise Caruso