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1. From the ANZCTR Manager

Welcome to the fifth issue of the ANZCTR newsletter. The past year has seen many events and achievements and we hope you enjoy this summary of our activities during 2009.

Lisa Askie

2. ANZCTR 2009 database / website updates

New trial registration format

A number of updates have been made to the ANZCTR website in response to ongoing feedback. The ANZCTR online registration form now has a more user-friendly format over 10 pages. We would welcome further feedback on the revised layout.

Universal Trial Number (UTN)

In June 2009, a new system of unambiguous trial identification was introduced called the Universal Trial Number (UTN). The UTN aims to tag trials early in their development, so they can be tracked more easily. This is particularly important for trials that are conducted in several countries and institutions, and may have been registered on more than one trial registry. More details on the UTN can be found on the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) website. Click [here](#) to link to the site.

3. WHO International Clinical Trial Registry Platform (ICTRP) - ongoing interactions

The ANZCTR continued its association with the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform in 2009 as a Primary Registry.

The ANZCTR provides an updated version of our registry's data to the [WHO's ICTRP](#) each week so that when the [ICTRP portal](#) is searched, up-to-date information is available. The ICTRP search portal now contains data from ten Primary Registries, including registries from the USA, UK/Europe, Iran, Sri Lanka, Germany, India, China, Japan, the Netherlands and Africa as well as Australia and New Zealand. See www.who.int/ictRP/en/ for more information.

The ANZCTR Manager, Lisa Askie, is our representative on the ICTRP's Best Practice Group which continued to work over the past year on further developing minimum acceptable standards for WHO Primary Registries.

4. Funding renewal

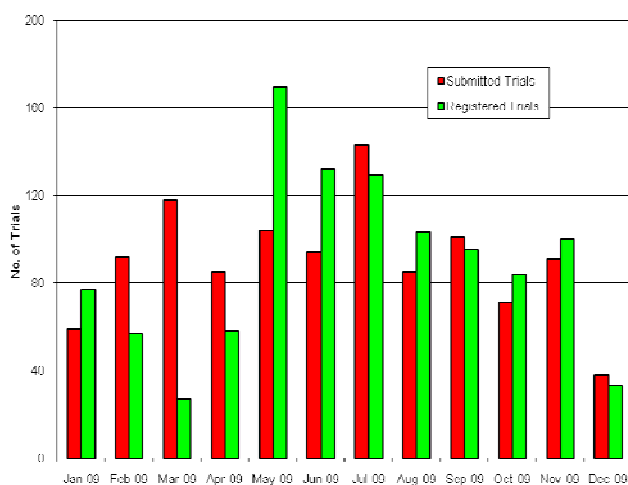
The ANZCTR was successful in receiving a grant for ongoing funding for a further two years via the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council's Enabling Grant scheme. The new funding period will commence in January 2010 and will enable the Registry to continue functioning at its current level.

5. Current statistics

The past year has seen a substantial increase in the number of new trials submitted for registration with an average of 90 new trials being submitted each month - an increase from the 2007 average of 54 and the 2008 average of 73 per month.

There are now 3657 registered studies on the ANZCTR, 1062 of these being registered in 2009. We anticipate a similar level of activity in 2010.

ANZCTR submitted and registered trials (2009)



Once *submitted*, trials are checked for data quality, accuracy and duplication before being *registered*.

6. Staff update

Following a busy 2008 and with only two staff available to process trials, the response time for assessing submitted trials had increased to 21 days. Two additional staff members, Kylie Hunter and Will Ooi, joined the team in April and since then the number of trials registered each month has risen substantially. The waiting time for submitted trials to undergo an initial assessment has now returned to the ANZCTR's original target of 2 working days. Senior Project Officer Nicole Holcroft left her position in September for maternity leave.

7. Australian Cancer Trials Online consumer website project

The Australian Cancer Trials Online (ACTO) consumer website project which commenced in 2008 is nearing completion. This project is a collaboration between the ANZCTR and our colleagues from Cancer Australia and the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney.

The project involves extracting up-to-date cancer trials information from the ANZCTR, requesting some additional data items relevant to cancer consumers, and making this information available on a separate website. This website will be accessible to the general public early in the new year. For more information about the project, please contact: + 61 (0)2 9351 6171 or audiotrial@health.usyd.edu.au

8. Ethics Committee survey

Our survey of all Australian Ethics Committees continues and we would like to thank all those who have taken the time to respond to our requests for information.

9. ANZCTR plans for 2010

These include:

- taking steps to decrease the proportion of trials registered after the first participant is enrolled (as such trials do not fulfil the ICMJE requirement of *prospective* trial registration)
- undertaking further stakeholder consultations to assess our performance to date and plan for future needs
- establishing increased links and data transfer procedures with several partner registries

10. Contact us

As always we welcome your questions, comments, suggestions and contributions on any matter relating to the Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry.

Please send your message to: info@actr.org.au

Alternatively, you can contact us on:

- Phone:** +61 2 9562 5333
- Fax:** +61 2 9565 1863
- Website:** www.anzctr.org.au

Lastly and once again

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders, funders and collaborators for your continued support during 2009 and wish you all a very happy holiday season & all the best for the New Year.



Lisa Askie
Manager



Jenny Chow
Executive Officer



Nicole Holcroft
Snr Project Officer



Fergus Tai
Project Officer



Thuyen Vu
IT Project Officer



Kylie Hunter
Project Officer



Will Ooi
Project Officer

The 2009 ANZCTR Team