

# Cancer Clinical Academic Group

## BIG Ideas

### Expression of Interest

## Introduction and Objective

The Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE) has been established as a partnership between 14 leaders in health, education and medical research. The aim of the Partnership is to expedite the path for positive medical research discoveries into clinical use. The Partnership has four key objectives:

- Strong alignment between partners that result in improved care and health outcomes for local populations.
- Enhanced educational and learning experiences in a variety of clinical and non-clinical settings.
- Research discovery and rapid translation of those discoveries and innovations to patient and population benefit.
- Strong relationships with industry and local communities to improve health and generate wealth.

The Cancer CAG actively incorporates 10 of the 14 SPHERE partner organisations, bringing together clinicians and researchers from Universities, Cancer Services and Medical Research Institutes. Our combined research strength spans the translational medicine spectrum of bench to bedside and health service delivery.

Partners include:

Children’s Cancer Institute (CCI)	South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD)
Garvan Institute	Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network (SCHN)
Ingham Institute	University of NSW Sydney (UNSW Sydney)
St Vincent’s Hospital Sydney	University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD)	Western Sydney University (WSU)

The Cancer Clinical Academic Group (Cancer CAG) aims to **“Unite cancer research into a globally-leading partnership to deliver continuing evidence-based practice in diagnosis, intervention and support”**. We are doing this through initiatives focused on multi-disciplinary and multi-centre collaboration to drive capacity building across the network and delivery of research with real-world impact.

Through the partnership, we are leading coordinated programs of work with four Areas of Focus:

- Bringing ‘OMICS’ into clinical practice
- Cancers with poor outcomes
- Living better with and after cancer
- Reducing unwarranted variation in clinical practice

## ‘BIG Idea’ pitch and development

Each Area of Focus leads a portfolio of projects that are developed as opportunities and strengths are identified. ‘BIG Ideas’ contribute to portfolio development, with a focus on innovation, creativity and discovery. Working up big ideas into spade-ready projects within programs of work will benefit the Cancer CAG in both the short and long term by guiding our work and helping achieve our strategy.

The aim is to **leverage the local landscape and add value over and above pre-existing initiatives and capabilities**. For the EOI, ‘BIG Ideas’ do not need to be fully formed but sufficiently mature that their value can be articulated. They should focus on building novel programs and solutions or transforming existing research across disparate organisational/geographical hubs into a new, harmonised entity with international significance.

## Tips for developing a large-scale program of public health interest

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When planning a large-scale program of public health interest, consider the following:

- Define the problem
  - Start with an area of unmet need that has clinical context and content (including the patient voice)
  - Consider costs of care and health burden
  - Think national/international in reach
  - The program should use and/or add value to existing strengths, assets and infrastructure to create something that is more than the sum of the parts
  - Focus on the entity itself not just what you do
- Articulate the solution by constructing a [public narrative](#) that clearly communicates
  - Why this program?
  - Why now?
  - Why this team?
  - What if we do nothing?
- When outlining the program and team
  - Begin with a working prototype and develop a staged program with early surrogates for success, as well as a horizon goal that the public will understand
  - Champions are needed who can focus on entity development and maintain momentum (over years)

For advice on 'what is a BIG Idea', contact Prof Michael Barton ([michael.barton@unsw.edu.au](mailto:michael.barton@unsw.edu.au)) or Prof David Thomas ([d.thomas@garvan.org.au](mailto:d.thomas@garvan.org.au)).

## Submitting an EOI

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Using the following template please submit your completed EOI by email to [medicine.themes@unsw.edu.au](mailto:medicine.themes@unsw.edu.au).

Contact: Dr Tanya Ward  
Executive Officer (Cancer GAC)  
P: 0478 492 184  
E: [tanya.ward@unsw.edu.au](mailto:tanya.ward@unsw.edu.au)



*Why will it make a difference?*

*Why now?*

*Why this team?*

*What if we do nothing?*

## **6. Adding value**

How will the program use and/or add value to existing strengths, assets and infrastructure to create something that is more than the sum of the parts.

Maximum 200 words

## **7. Novelty**

Big Ideas should focus on building novel programs and solutions or transforming existing research across disparate organisational/geographical hubs into a new, harmonised entity. Outline how the program is different to pre-existing initiatives and capabilities.

Maximum 200 words

## **8. Budget**

Provide an outline of the funds required to realise the program of work (\$10 - \$100 million). Indicate leverage investment opportunities, expected return on investment and pathway to sustainable future funding if known.

Maximum 300 words