



Charging at warp speed to find the cancer treatments of the future!

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the autumn edition of our quarterly update, **WARP NEWS**. What an incredible start to what we hope will be a transformative 2023 for patients and families impacted by gastro-intestinal and rare cancers.

In this edition of our newsletter, we are sharing the impact that our community of donors has helped to enable in our inaugural year, and our aspirational goals for 2023 and beyond.

**Let's zoom in ...**

## Overview of current donor-supported trials and initiatives

### **i-LSTA: A safety and early efficacy study of LSTA1 in combination with durvalumab, gemcitabine and nab-paclitaxel, as first-line treatment in locally advanced pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC)**

LSTA1 is an investigational drug that homes to tumours, modifying the tumour microenvironment into a temporary drug conduit. Through this donor-supported trial, we seek to prove the safety and efficacy of LSTA1 for the treatment of PDAC.

Thus far, we have not been able to get immunotherapy to engage with pancreatic cancer cells. Early studies, however, indicate that LSTA1 changes the tumour environment to make the immune cells work more effectively. This mechanism decreases immunosuppressive Tregs (Regulatory T cells (Tregs) which are a specialised subpopulation of T cells that act to suppress immune response against the tumour) and increases the percentage of cancer-fighting CD8+ T cells within the tumour. (CD8+ T cells can mount a response against pathogens by secreting cytokines and can defend against tumours by directly killing transformed cells.)

We believe that LSTA1, combined with gold-standard chemotherapy and immunotherapy, will improve the penetration and efficacy of current treatment regimes in PDAC, hopefully resulting in improved survival outcomes for patients in Western Australia and, ultimately, worldwide.

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### **AI Wearable Technology – phase one**

Hospitalised oncology patients undergo vital sign monitoring (VSM) every 3 to 4 hours. To capture patient measurements, nurses must use bulky devices (one for each vital). The monitoring task is laborious for nurses and disruptive for patients, especially at night.

Using WA-developed hospital-grade bio-bands, oncology patients' vital signs can be continuously monitored. Continuous monitoring of vital signs is a valuable tool, supporting clinicians in detecting clinical deterioration without delay, enabling corrective interventions to improve patient care and comfort, and reducing nursing staff workload.

Data collected during Phase one will be used to develop AI and deep learning models to provide alerts related to abnormal vital signs and predict disease complications (Phase two).

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### **Social support and community connection**

Living with a chronic and potentially life-limiting disease can be isolating. With your support, we are building connections with local cancer support groups, and connecting individuals and families with others with shared experiences. These connections help to reduce stigma and can help empower those faced with a life-threatening diagnosis with relevant essential knowledge and a network of peers who can relate, so they can continue to thrive during and after treatment.

## **Our pursuit**

Although ground-breaking advancements over the last 40 years have significantly improved survival rates for patients with cancer around the world, many cancers still are not prevented, detected early, or treated successfully. With more than 18 million cases of cancer diagnosed globally each year, our vision for improved cancer treatments and cures is uncompromising because patients need solutions.

Driven by the need to reduce and remove the inequity in outcomes and research funding for gastrointestinal and rare cancers, our Strategic Plan aims to continue to extend and scale our reach and impact. To learn more about the key projects, which are subject to funding, that will help us achieve our mission, please click on the below links.



#### **i-GOLSTA Clinical Trial**

A safety and feasibility study of LSTA-1 in combination with immunotherapy molecules and chemotherapy for the first-line treatment of unresectable, locally advanced or metastatic gastro-oesophageal and gastric adenocarcinoma.

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**AI Wearable Technology Trial: Phase Two**  
Development of a Digital Oncology System (DOS)



**Translational Research**

The development of a clinical pathway to contribute to the establishment of a national Biliary Cancer Registry

**WARPNINE Fellowship Fund**

Supporting future leaders to attract the best and brightest to the field of gastro-intestinal, and rare cancer research.



**Together, we can charge at warp speed to find the cancer treatments of the future**

Philanthropic support in our first year of operation has enabled us to fund a vital, potentially game-changing clinical trial and an innovative technology project that hopes to reduce patient risk, improve medical staff workload and flow, and, most importantly, improve patient care.

It is only with support from people like you that we can achieve our ambitious goals. Philanthropy enables change, and together, we can charge at warp speed to expedite research into new and novel treatments and discover the cancer treatments of the future, today.

We are truly thankful for the support we have received and excited for what the future holds. If you would like to know more about our aspirational projects or how you can be involved, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,



**Meg Croucher**  
Chief Executive Officer  
WARPINE



**Dr Andrew Dean**  
Chair and Medical Oncologist  
WARPINE

## Community Support

Awareness raising is such an important part of what we do. In many cases, the time that elapses between onset of symptoms to diagnosis can have an enormous impact on outcomes for those diagnosed.

You can help us put the spotlight on pancreatic, gastro-intestinal and rare cancers by becoming a [WARPINE fundraising hero](#) today or by giving a gift that will help us to change the lives of not only people diagnosed today, but the lives of future generations.

[Donate Now](#)

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