



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

## Message from our Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the first edition of our quarterly update, WARP NEWS: a resource for the latest in pancreatic, gastro-intestinal, and rare cancer research in Western Australia, connection to support services for patients and their loved ones, and stories from change-makers across our community. We decided to call our newsletter Warp News to capture the spirit in which we are working together, at warp speed, to find the cancer treatments of the future and improve survival rates for those facing these malignancies.

The people who will not survive their fight with pancreatic, gastro-intestinal or rare cancer are never far from our thoughts, which is why we are driven to change perspectives and the status quo so that the impossible is created for individuals and families. The WARPNINE Board and I are beyond grateful for the support that we have had over the last six months, and thank you for joining us in our mission.



Meg Croucher | Chief Executive Officer

## Our Latest Spotlight

Worldwide, pancreatic cancer is the seventh leading cause of cancer-related deaths. However, its toll is higher in more developed countries. In Australia, for example, pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death and is predicted to become the second leading cause of cancer death

by 2030. The way to reverse these trends and improve pancreatic cancer patient outcomes is through targeted research and increased awareness of the disease and its symptoms.

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC), the most common malignancy of the pancreas, is an aggressive and challenging malignancy to treat. For PDAC, the number of deaths per year nearly equals the number of new cases per year, thus highlighting the poor prognosis of this disease. Complete surgical removal of the tumour remains the only chance for long-term survival; however, 80-90% of patients diagnosed with PDAC cannot be successfully treated by surgical means.

Through our work at WARPINE, we strive to privately fund research and clinical trials, raise awareness and advocate for change. With your continued support, we feel confident that these grave statistics will start improving.

Because of your support to date, we are to sponsor our first Phase 1 clinical trial here in Western Australia. The trial aims to improve the penetration and efficacy of current treatment regimes, hopefully resulting in improved survival outcomes for patients with PDAC in Western Australia and, ultimately, worldwide.

Dr Andrew Dean, Chair of WARPINE, is to be the Principal Investigator for the trial. We are delighted to share the findings, recently published in *The Lancet*, from the first-in-human study by Dr Dean and colleagues.

**The Lancet  
Gastroenterology &  
Hepatology**

Although early phase, this showed the best ever result ever seen in a pancreatic cancer trial.

*This article was published in *The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology*, Vol 7, Andrew Dean, Sanjeev Gill, Mark McGregor, Vy Broadbridge, Harri A Järveläinen, Timothy Price, Dual  $\alpha$ V-integrin and neuropilin-1 targeting peptide CEND-1 plus nab-paclitaxel and gemcitabine for the treatment of metastatic pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma: a first-in-human, open-label, multicentre, phase 1 study, Copyright Elsevier Ltd (2022).*

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## **Awareness and Advocacy**



Founded by Erinna Ford in 2020, Ninox Cancer Support Crew (NinoxCSC) exists to make sure that anyone in their 20s and 30s with a cancer diagnosis is empowered with pertinent knowledge and a network of peers who can relate. This is vital in ensuring young Western Australians thrive during and after treatment.

Throughout her cancer experiences and years of treatment in her 20s, Erinna was the youngest in the clinic (usually by decades). There were few opportunities to meet people of a similar age and even fewer services that provided support relevant to her stage of life. And shockingly, not much has changed.

NinoxCSC aims to fill this gap, providing peer connection opportunities and resources for younger adults with a cancer diagnosis living in Western Australia.

WARPNINE is delighted to share Ninox Cancer Support Crew's latest resources, two free booklets;

- **The Cancer Shitshow: a guide for the newly diagnosed**
- **The Shitshow Companion: how to be a good friend during cancer.**



These booklets are not only informative, with information to assist with the specific challenges and concerns that are unique to this age group, but they are also funny with insights on relevant topics from people who've been there before.

For more information or to join the NinoxCSC, please follow this link: <https://www.ninoxcsc.com.au/>

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## Community Support

**November is Pancreatic Cancer and Stomach Cancer**

**Awareness Month;** these initiatives aim to improve understanding of these challenging diseases and educate us

about the signs and symptoms of pancreatic and stomach cancer.

These cancers are often called the silent killers as they are difficult to detect, and survival rates are tragically low. More than 6,500 Australians will be diagnosed with one of these diseases this year.

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 and stomach cancer by becoming a [WARPINE fundraising hero](#) or [making a donation](#) this November.



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Together, we can charge at warp speed to find the cancer treatments of the future and improve survival rates for these devastating malignancies.

[Donate Now](#)

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