

Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Oncology)

Background

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute identified a lack of formal training in clinical research areas, methods and context in oncology, with no specific course or curriculum in this area available. Most learning is currently achieved through clinical attachments, seeing patients already on trials and general knowledge transfer from mentors working in this field. However, these approaches are inadequate, unstructured and incomplete, resulting in a lack of consistency of knowledge in this area.

The faculty has also identified a lack of training in this area for affiliated stakeholder groups, such as laboratory scientists, drug company sales representative and research nurses, whereby they can obtain an understanding of the clinical issues / perspectives of clinical research in oncology, which in turn inhibits the development of capacity in clinical and translational research in oncology.

Course/Program Objectives

Graduates of the Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Oncology) will:

- Have a high-level understanding of the major activities involved in planning clinical research methodologies applicable to problems in oncology;
- Be familiar with major types of research design conducted within oncology clinical research;
- Understand the various outcomes assessed by oncology clinical trials, including how and why these might differ from other disciplines
- Be familiar with surrogate endpoints, derived from laboratory and functional imaging studies
- Be familiar with ethical and legal considerations relevant to clinical research in oncology
- Understand major aspects of the concept outline / protocol development
- Understand the process and requirements for successful conduct of clinical research in oncology
- Be able to analyse and critically appraise the clinical and basic oncology literature in a chosen topic of interest

Entry Requirements

The entry requirements are equivalent to those of the Master of Clinical Research program, namely: An undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification in medicine, an allied health profession, science or social science which is recognised by the University as evidence of adequate preparation for the course plus documented evidence of at least the equivalent of two year's full-time relevant professional work experience in a medical, scientific or allied health environment.

Course/Program Structure

To satisfy the requirements of the Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Oncology), students need to complete 25 points. The course consists of a single subject: Clinical Research in Oncology (25 points).

Availability of Course

The honours stream will be available on a full-time and part-time basis to overseas full-fee paying students, CSP students and Australian full-fee paying students, from semester 1, 2007.