

August 12, 2020



University of New South Wales

To Australian Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust,

Progress / Interim Report

Sponsor/Scheme: Cystic Fibrosis Australia/ACFRT Innovation Grant

Title: Adult-specific complication of gastrointestinal malignancies

Ref: RG191510

I would like to provide an interim progress report for the aforementioned study.

Briefly, the aims of the study were:

1. To determine the utility of non-invasive biomarkers as a screening tool for adult colorectal cancer in CF.
2. To investigate role of gut inflammation and microbes in colon cancer pathogenesis.

This project is currently active and ongoing. We have obtained research ethics (HREC/18/RPAH/536) and governance (SSA/19/RPAH/23) approvals. Participants with CF who attend the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital CF clinic and are undergoing colonoscopy have been and are being actively recruited.

This project has been impacted by COVID19. Recruitment and collection of samples/data was affected by the closure of elective colonoscopy during the shut-down period. Despite the challenges, we have successfully collected 10 stool samples to date.

The funding of this project by ACFRT has also paved way for other positive outcomes. Nicole Taylor, who is the Clinical Nurse Consultant for the CF clinic/unit has taken up candidature for a Masters degree based on this project. Dr Sheila Shivam (Respiratory Physician, RPA) and I are her supervisors. I have also extended a collaborative hand to Prof Jochen Mainz (Germany) to include his CF specific symptoms questionnaire to include symptoms as additional end-points to this project, considering the high burden of GI symptoms in our patient population.

Thank you again for your amazing support to helping us work towards improving the care of our CF patients through research.

Yours sincerely,



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