

ASBESTOS 2019 CONFERENCE SAFETY



Australian Government

Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

11-13 NOV PERTH, WA



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Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

Welcome to Country

Mr Samuel Pilot-Kickett

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Facilitator Welcome

Ms Karen Tighe

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Commemoration of Lives Lost

Robert Vojakovic & Melita Markey
Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia

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Conference Welcome

Diane Smith-Gander AO

Chair – Asbestos Safety & Eradication Council

Justine Ross

CEO – Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency



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Plenary Panel: Breakthroughs in Medical Research

QUESTIONS: www.slido.com #ASEACONF2019

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National Centre for
Asbestos Related Diseases
an Australian Research Cooperative



The MexTag Collaborative Cross

Understanding how host genetics impacts asbestos related disease

Scott Fisher PhD



National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases

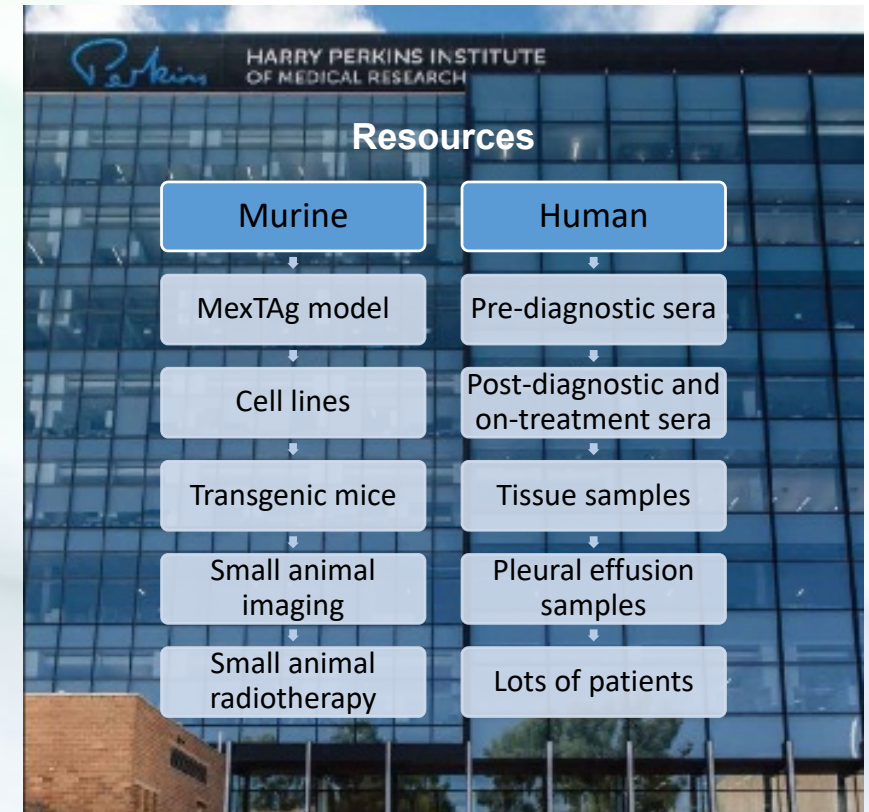
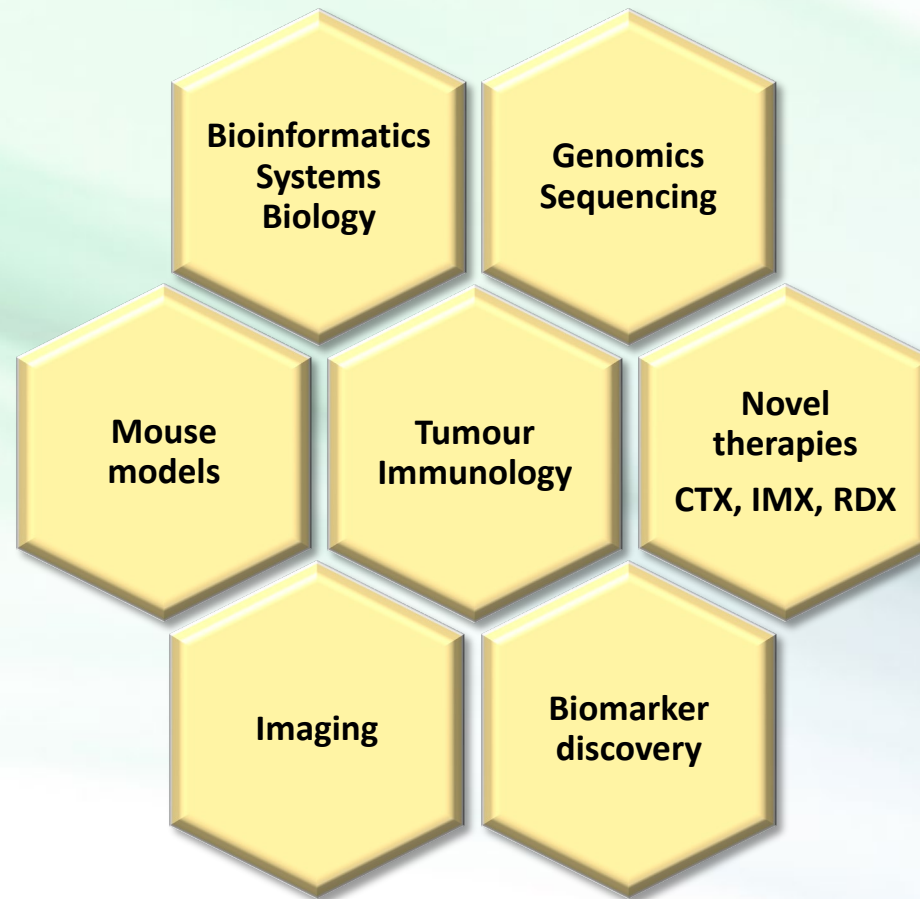
an Australian Research Cooperative



30+



Clinicians
Scientists
Students

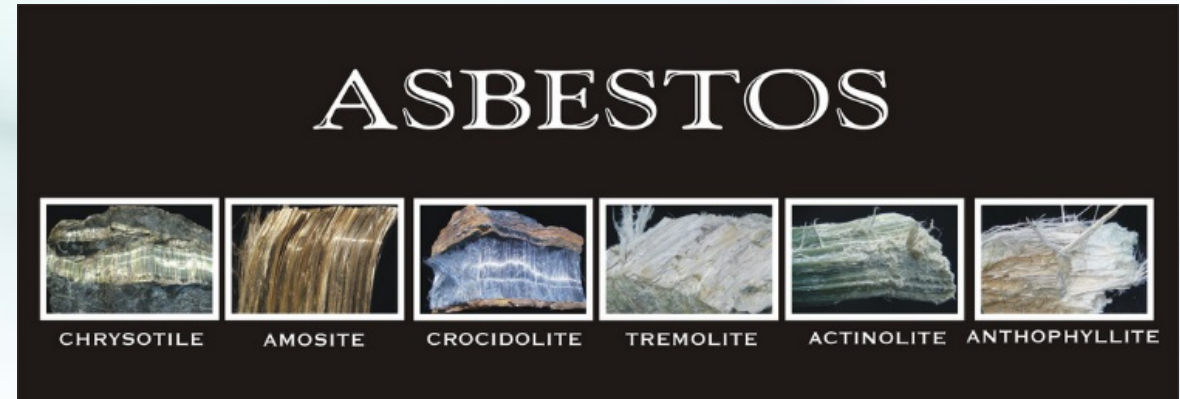
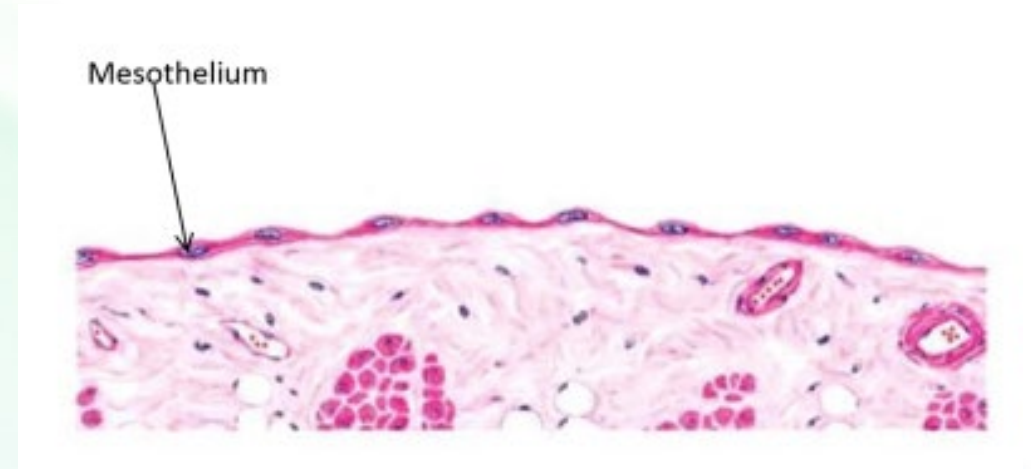
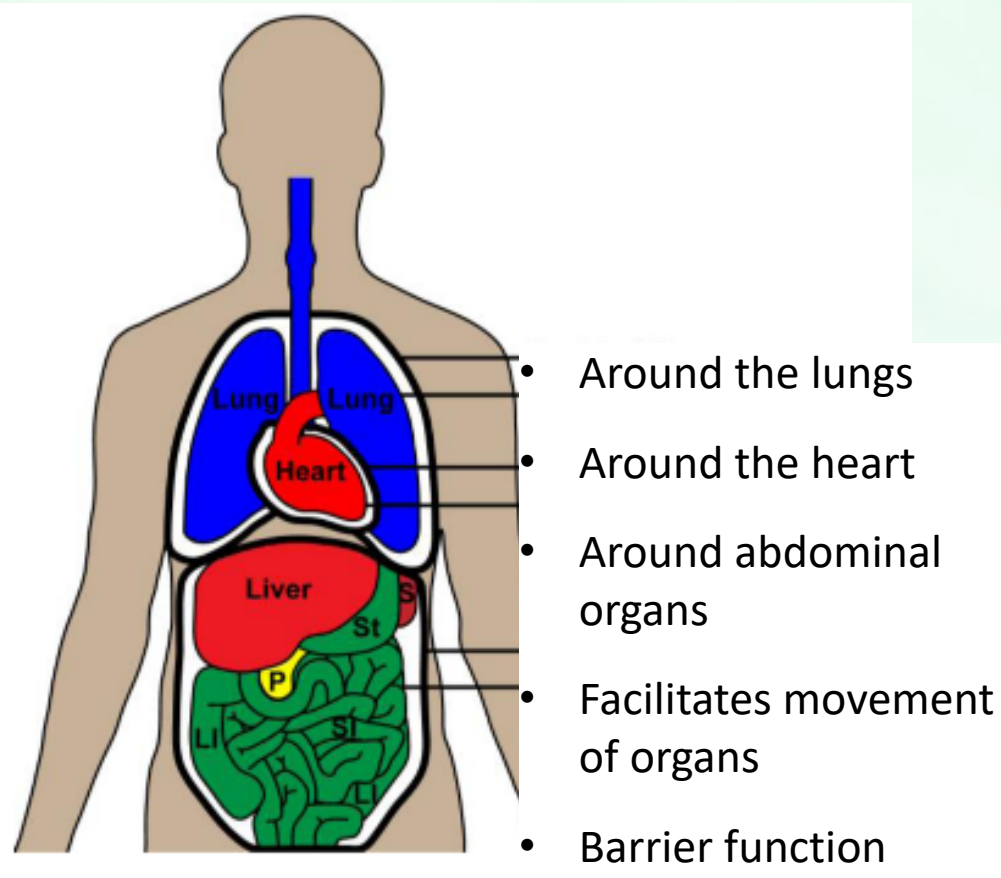


Leading innovation and discovery to improve the lives of people affected by asbestos related disease



Mesothelioma

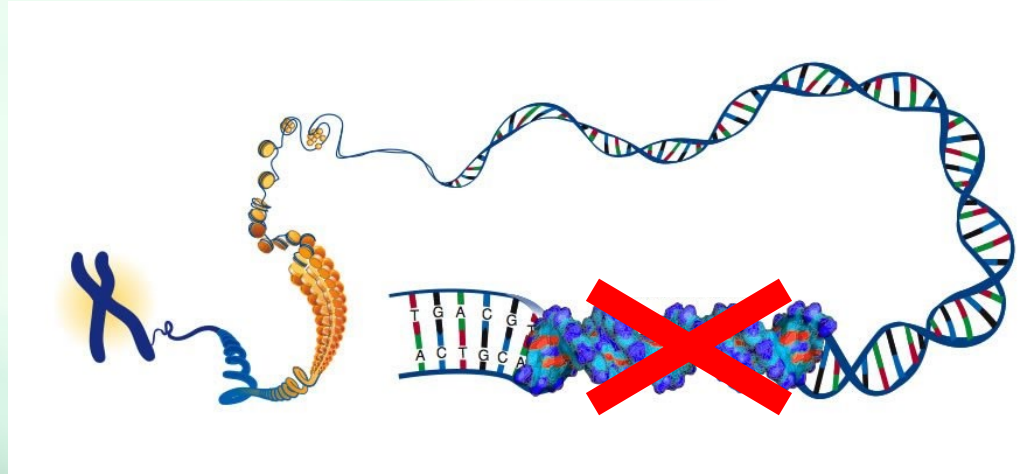
Derived from normal mesothelium





Mesothelioma is a genetic disease

- Mesothelioma is a disease of genetic loss



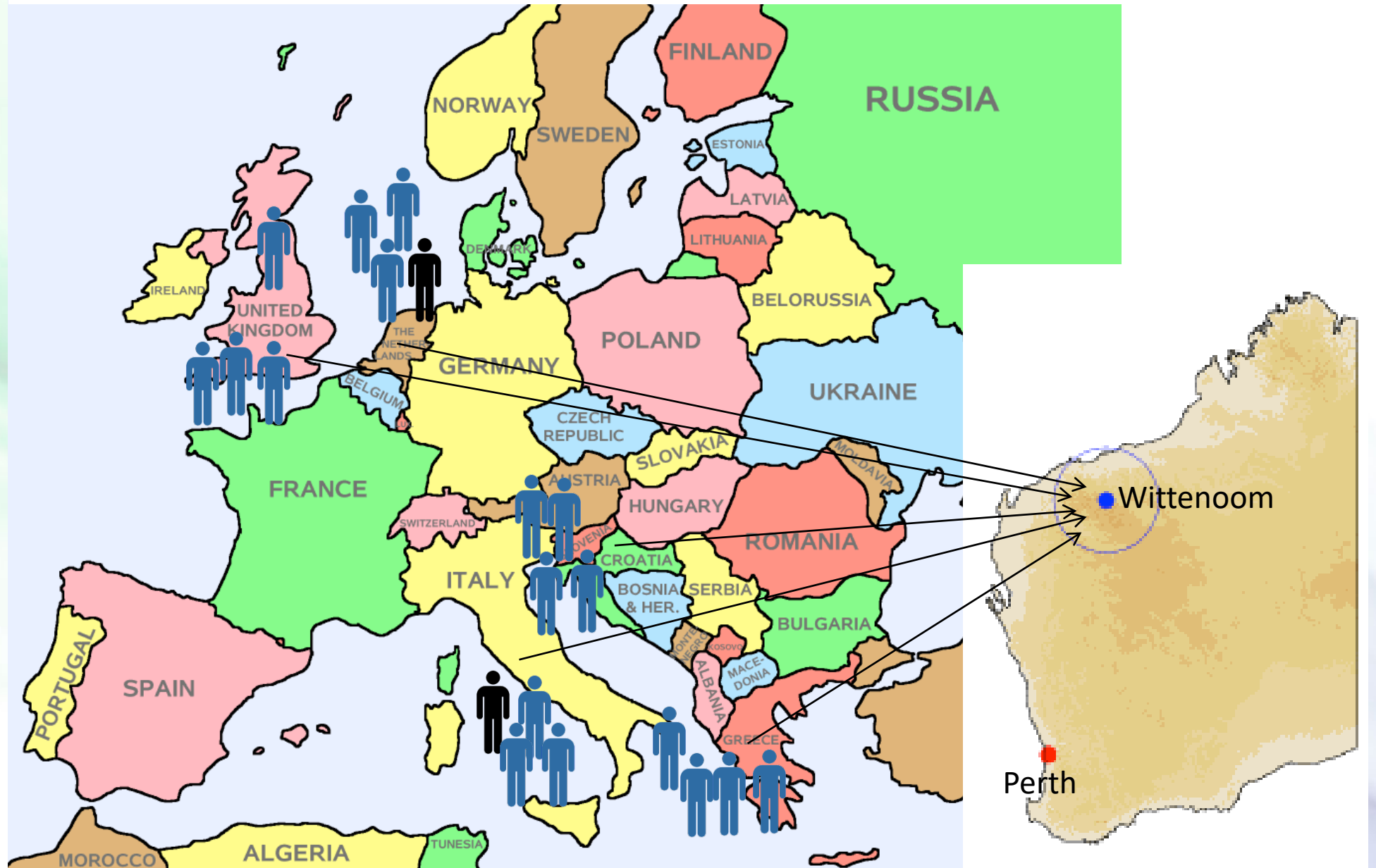
- Mesothelioma develops in a minority of asbestos exposed individuals



Why do some people develop mesothelioma while others don't?

Does your genetic makeup influence mesothelioma development?

How to link genes to mesothelioma risk?





Genetic factors associated with mesothelioma risk

- Mesothelioma GWAS studies not consistent
 - Cadby *et al.*, *Lung Cancer* 82 (2013) 1–8:
 - Betti *et al.*, *Mutation Research* 708 (2011) 11–20:
 - Dianzani *et al.*, *Mutation Research* 599 (2006)
 - Ugolini *et al.*, *Mutation Research* 658 (2008) 162–171:
- Confounding factors:
 - sequencing platforms, modest sample size
 - likely modest effects of these genes on mesothelioma risk
- modifier genes / biological pathways remain unknown

How do we get around this problem?

Genetically diverse mice?



The Collaborative Cross (Gene Mine)

A/J



B6



129S



NOD



NZO



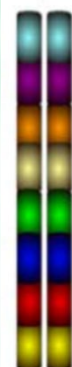
PWK



CAST



WSB



1



2



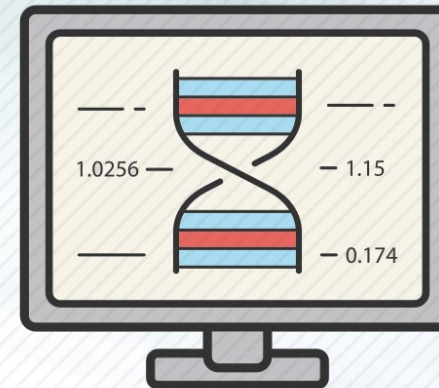
3

.....

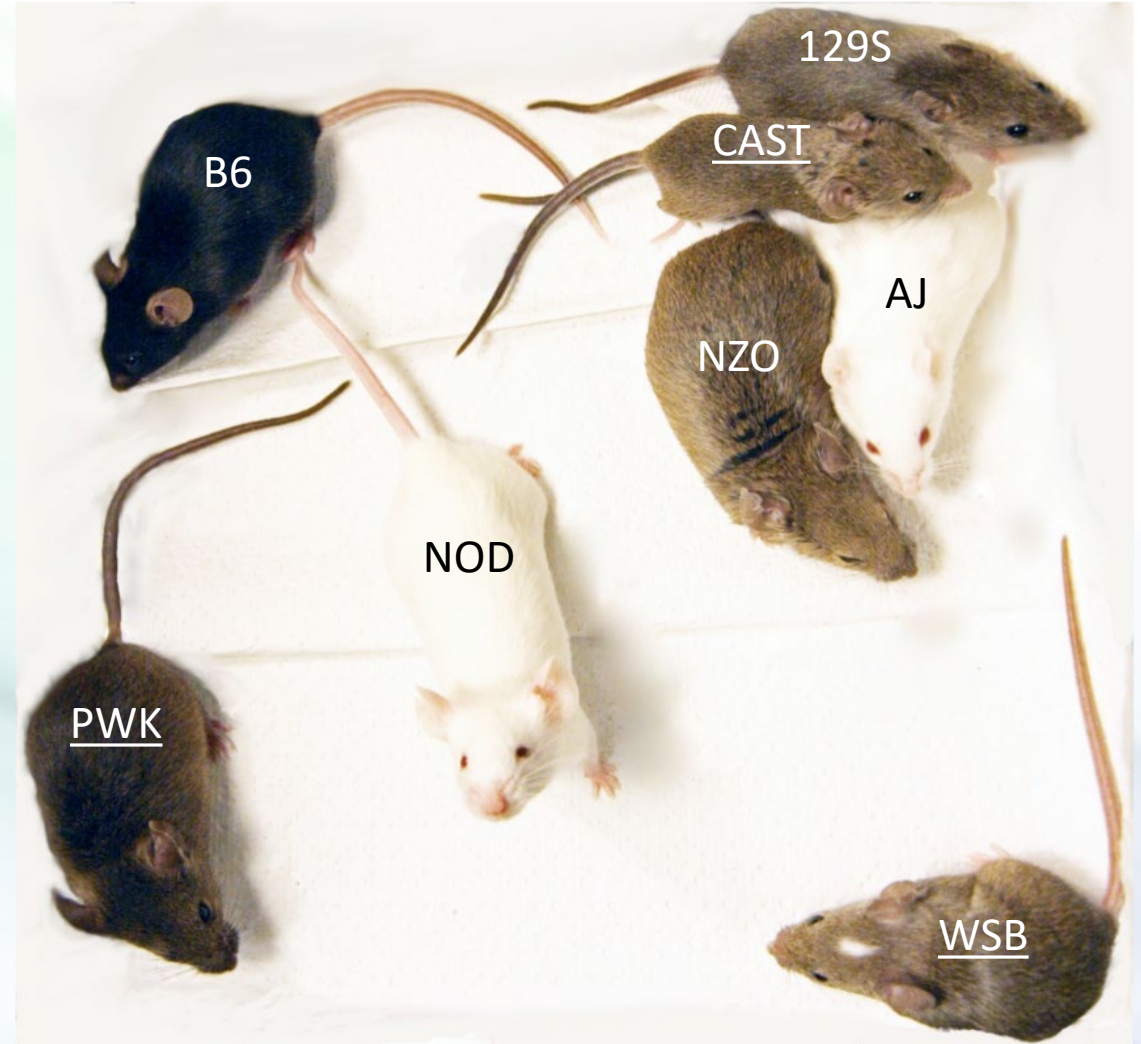


100

- 100 x CC distinct strains >90% allelic diversity
- Genetically stable, controlled reference population
- Founder and CC strains fully sequenced
- Imputation of allele sequences
- Unprecedented mapping resolution (~40kbp)



The MexTag Collaborative Cross

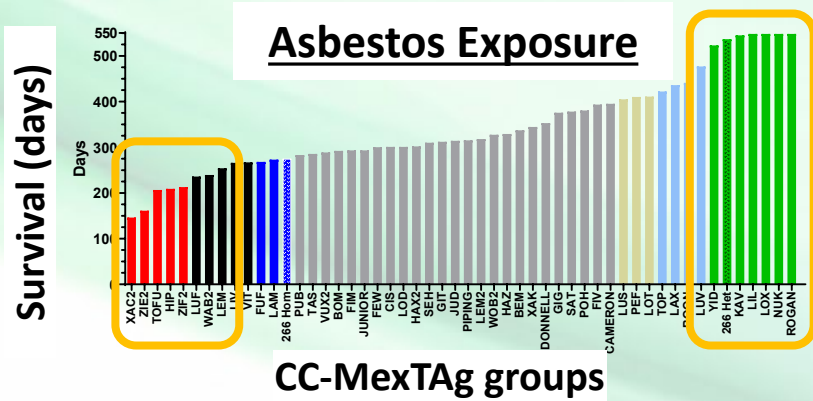


Identifying modifier genes associated with mesothelioma

CC-MexTAg study design

Study 1

Genomic analyses



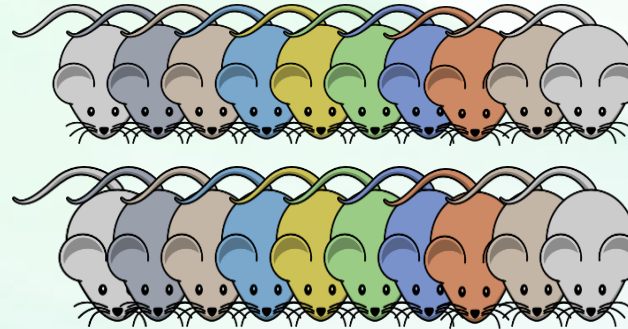
Analysis

CC Genotype-mesothelioma phenotype correlation

Genes identified

Interrogate human datasets

CC-MexTAg model



CC-MexTAg strains (n=74)

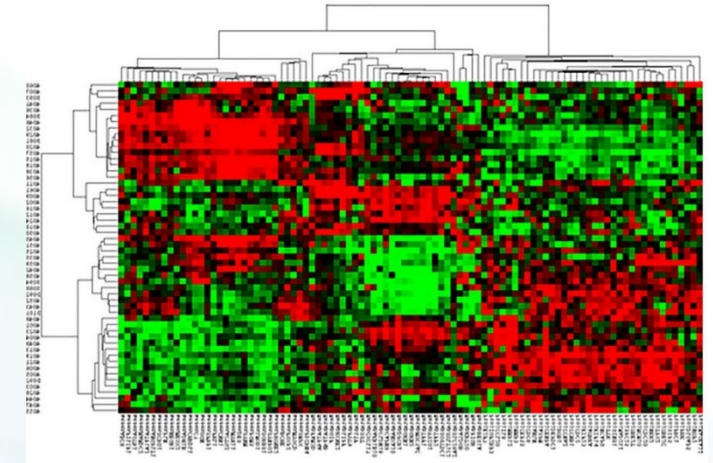
Biological samples

tumour samples
ascites cell lines
tumour cell lines
histology samples

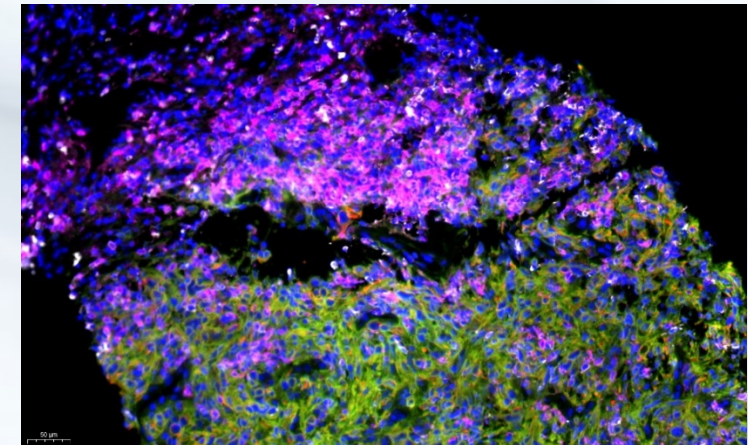
Study 2

Transcriptomic analyses

Tumour gene expression profiling



TME Immunofluorescence



CC-MexTAg study stats

58/75
(77%)

50/58
Complete data

7
On study
(18 months/group)

125 Tumours

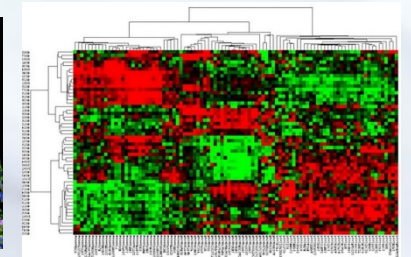
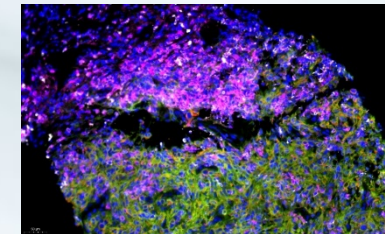
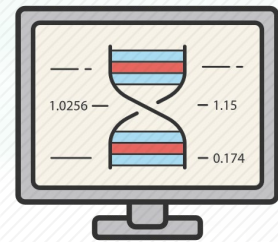
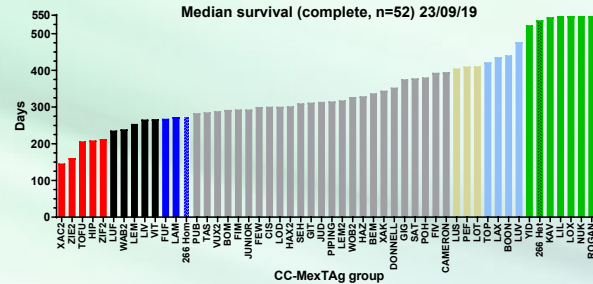
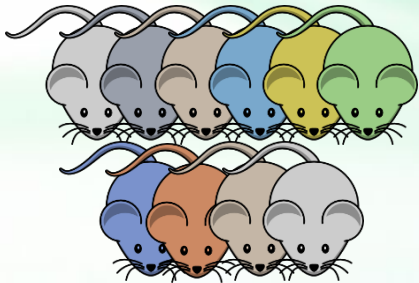
65 Tum cell lines

17
Breeding
(2-3 months)

645 ascites cell lines

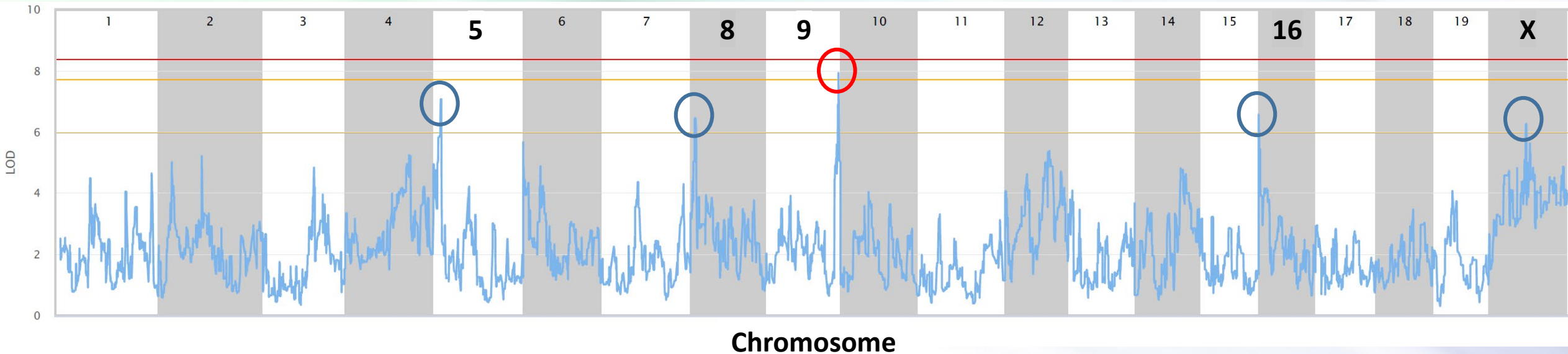
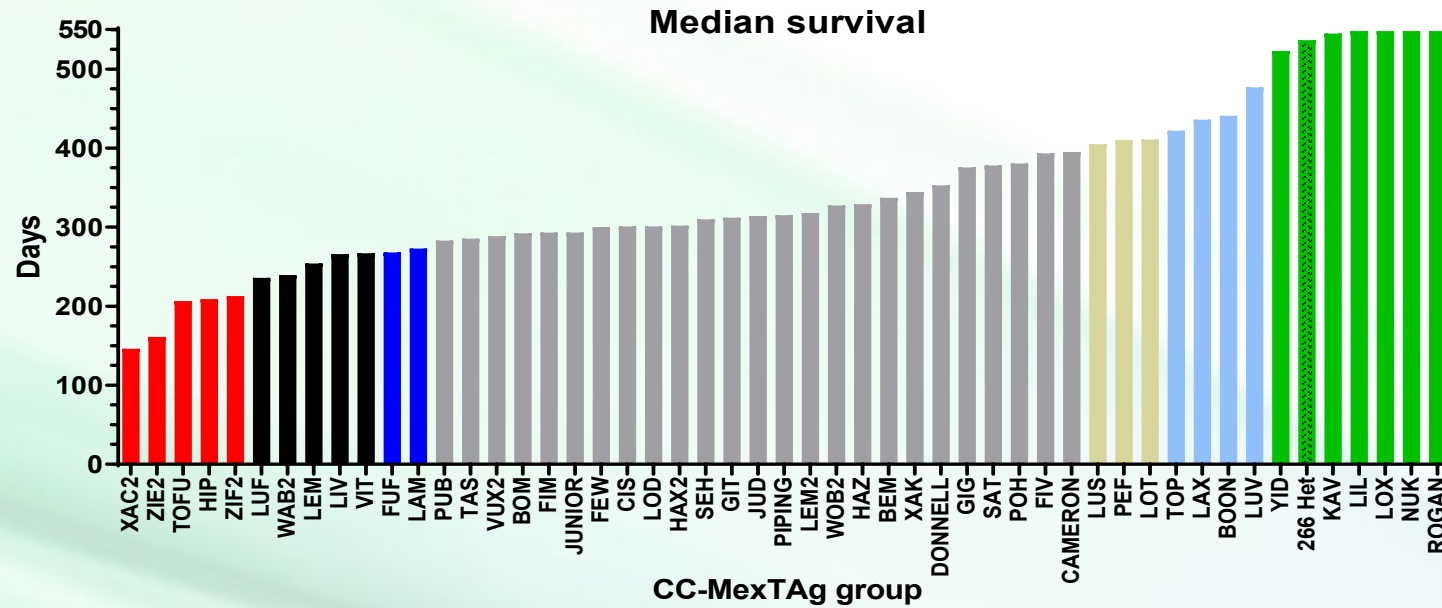
1898 histology

Asbestos exposed
CC-MexTAg groups



Program started 20/01/16 (~3.8 yrs)

Proof of concept: Host genetics affects ARD in CCMT





CC-MexTAg Program: Overall Summary

- Systems genetics approach to identify modifier genes and their biological pathways associated with asbestos related disease
 - Part I: 75% complete
 - Part II: just beginning ...
- Comprehensive genetic and phenotypic analysis of CCMT samples correlated with disease outcome
- Understand how host genetics affects asbestos related disease

Acknowledgements



CC-MexTag Team

Richard Lake **Kimberley Burton**
Grant Morahan Raphael Bueno
Sylvia Young Joost Lesterhuis
Anna Nowak Kiarash Behrouzfar

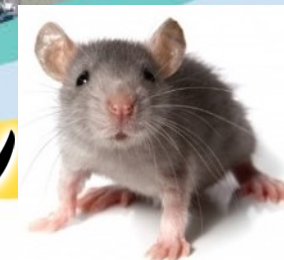
NCARD Team

Bruce Robinson
Jenette Creaney

Special help

Tracy Seymour
Emma Port
Nathan Eckhardt

Thank You



Early
registration
closes 18th
December
2019

iMig2020
MARCH 25 – 28, 2020
BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

www.iMig2020.org



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Role of immunotherapy in treatment of malignant mesothelioma

Melvin Chin

Medical Oncologist - Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

PhD candidate - National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases

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Background

- Immunotherapy treatment is an additional line of treatment in multiple cancers such as melanoma and lung cancer
- Immunotherapy works in a different way to chemotherapy, by stimulating the immune system to attack cancer cells
- Immunotherapy is an active area of medical research in mesothelioma because it potentially affords more treatment options to patients



Topics to discuss

- Two recent clinical trials in mesothelioma
- Will discuss three aspects of each study:
 1. the study design,
 2. the results, and
 3. the interpretation
- Future directions and unanswered questions



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DREAM: Phase II Trial of First-line Combination Durvalumab Plus Chemotherapy in Advanced Mesothelioma

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DREAM: study design

- Phase II trial – 52 patients
- First-line treatment for patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma
- All patients received initial chemotherapy with immunotherapy, followed by maintenance immunotherapy for up to a year
- Question: Is combination treatment with chemo-immunotherapy superior to chemotherapy alone?



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DREAM: results

- Positive trial – patients treated with combination **had a slower time to disease progression than those with chemotherapy alone**
- **More shrinkage of tumour with combination treatment as compared to chemotherapy alone**



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DREAM: interpretation

- Opens the possibility for a Phase III study in a larger patient population



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Promise-MESO: Pembrolizumab immunotherapy versus standard chemotherapy for advanced pre-treated malignant pleural mesothelioma



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Promise-MESO: study design

- Phase III trial – 73 patients
- Pre-treated malignant pleural mesothelioma
- Randomised to either to immunotherapy or chemotherapy
- Question: Is immunotherapy superior to second-line chemotherapy in patients who have received prior treatment for their mesothelioma?



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Promise-MESO: results

- Negative trial
- Did not show that immunotherapy was superior to chemotherapy in the second-line setting



Promise-MESO: interpretation

- Both immunotherapy and chemotherapy are reasonable options in second line treatment
- Choice of treatment can be tailored to the patient – cost, physical fitness and patient preference come into consideration



Future directions and unanswered questions – two important research issues

- The effectiveness of first-line chemo-immunotherapy needs to be tested in a larger number of patients
- If combination chemo-immunotherapy is effective, what is the optimal sequence of treatments for patients in the second or third line setting?

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Clinical Trials in Mesothelioma and Malignant Pleural Disease

Deirdre B Fitzgerald
Clinical Research Fellow
Pleural Medicine Unit, SCGH

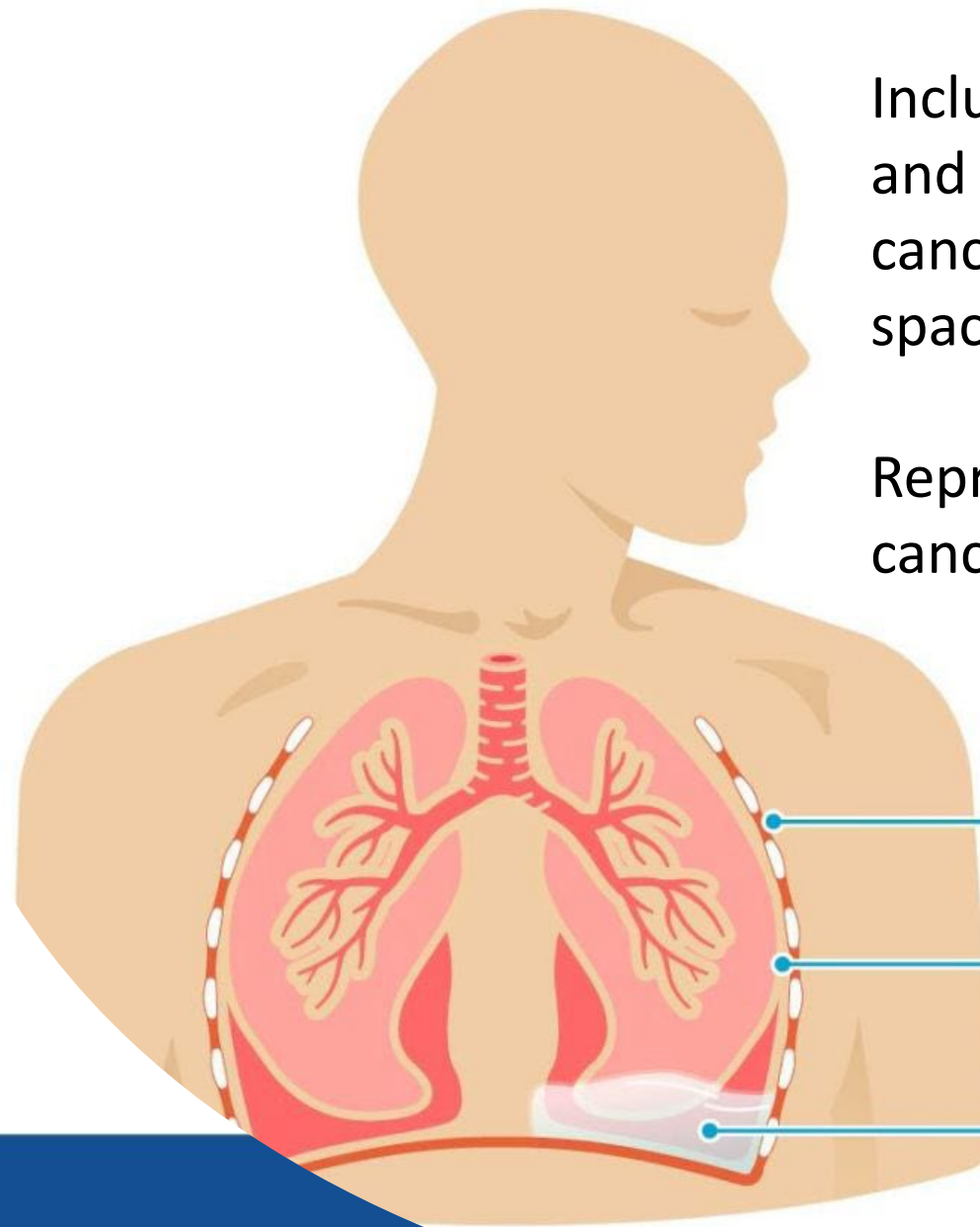
QUESTIONS: www.slido.com #ASEACONF2019

Overview

WARNING
BLUE ASBESTOS
PRESENT IN
WITTENOOM AREA

INHALED ASBESTOS DUST
MAY CAUSE CANCER

- Mesothelioma and Malignant Pleural Disease
 - How they affect patients
- Clinical Trials in Malignant Pleural Effusion Management
- Clinical Trials in extra-Effusion Management



Includes mesothelioma
and spread of other
cancers to the pleural
space

Represents incurable
cancer

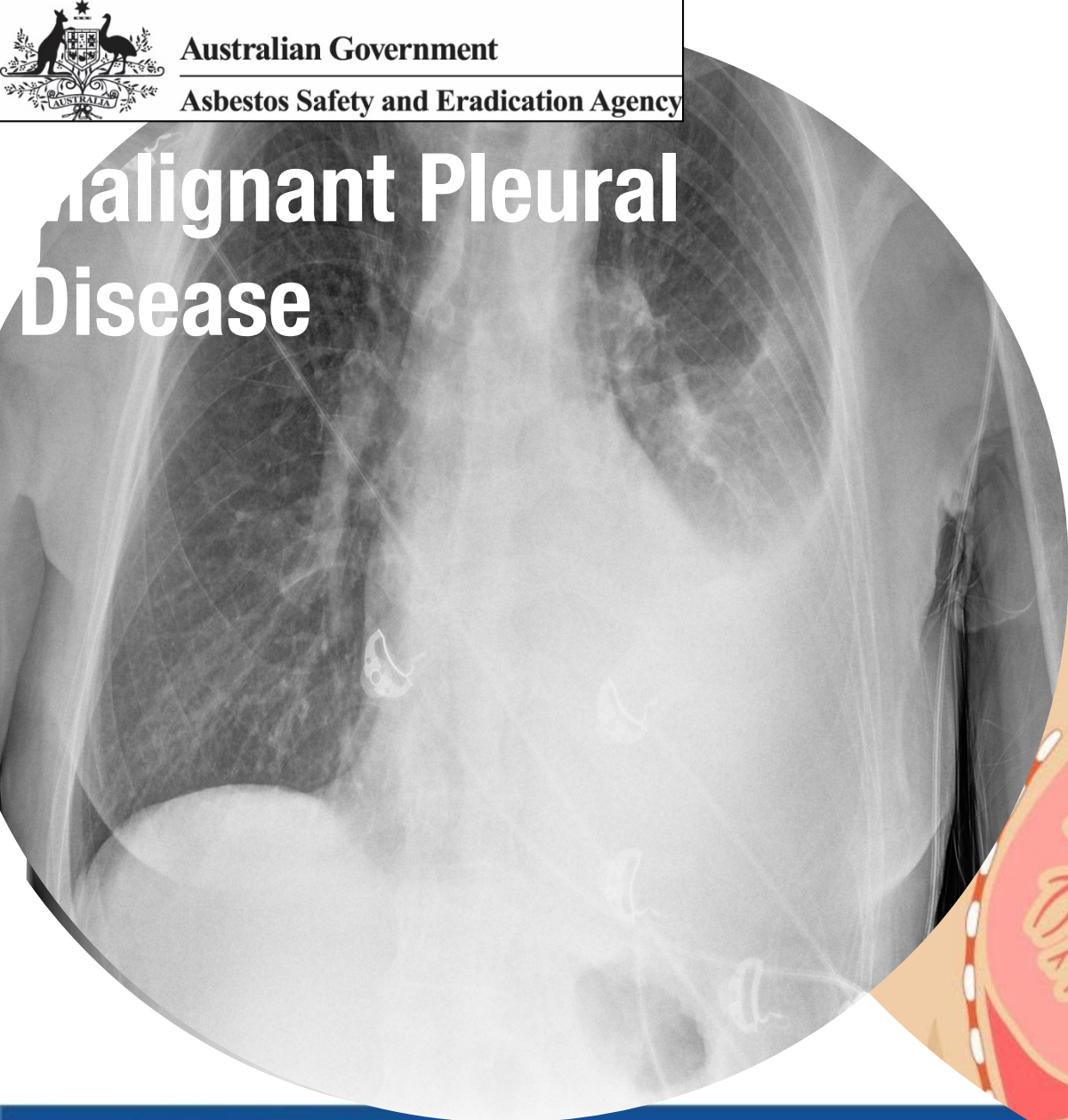
ribs

pleural space

pleural effusion

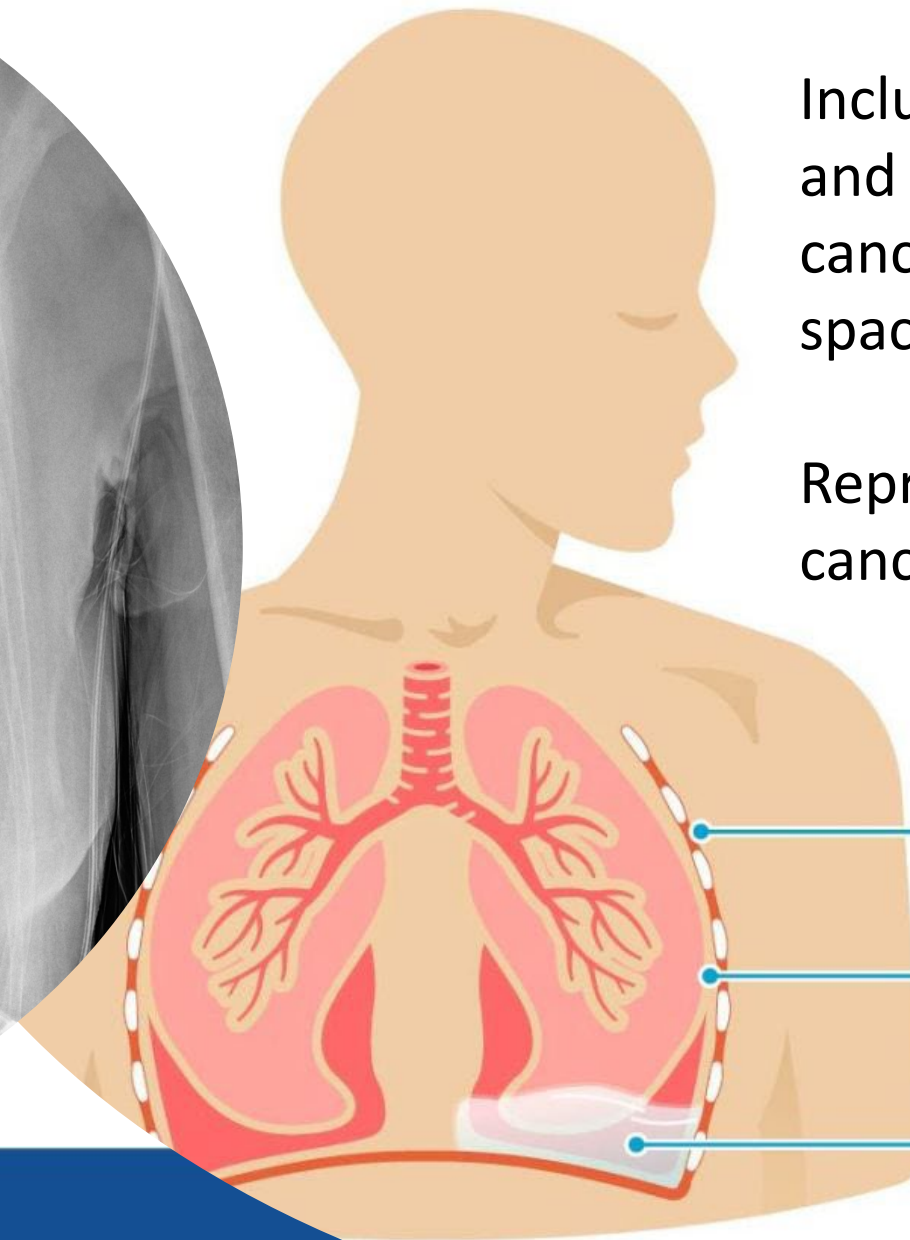


Malignant Pleural Disease



Includes mesothelioma and spread of other cancers to the pleural space

Represents incurable cancer



ribs

pleural space

pleural effusion

How does malignant pleural disease/effusion affect a person?



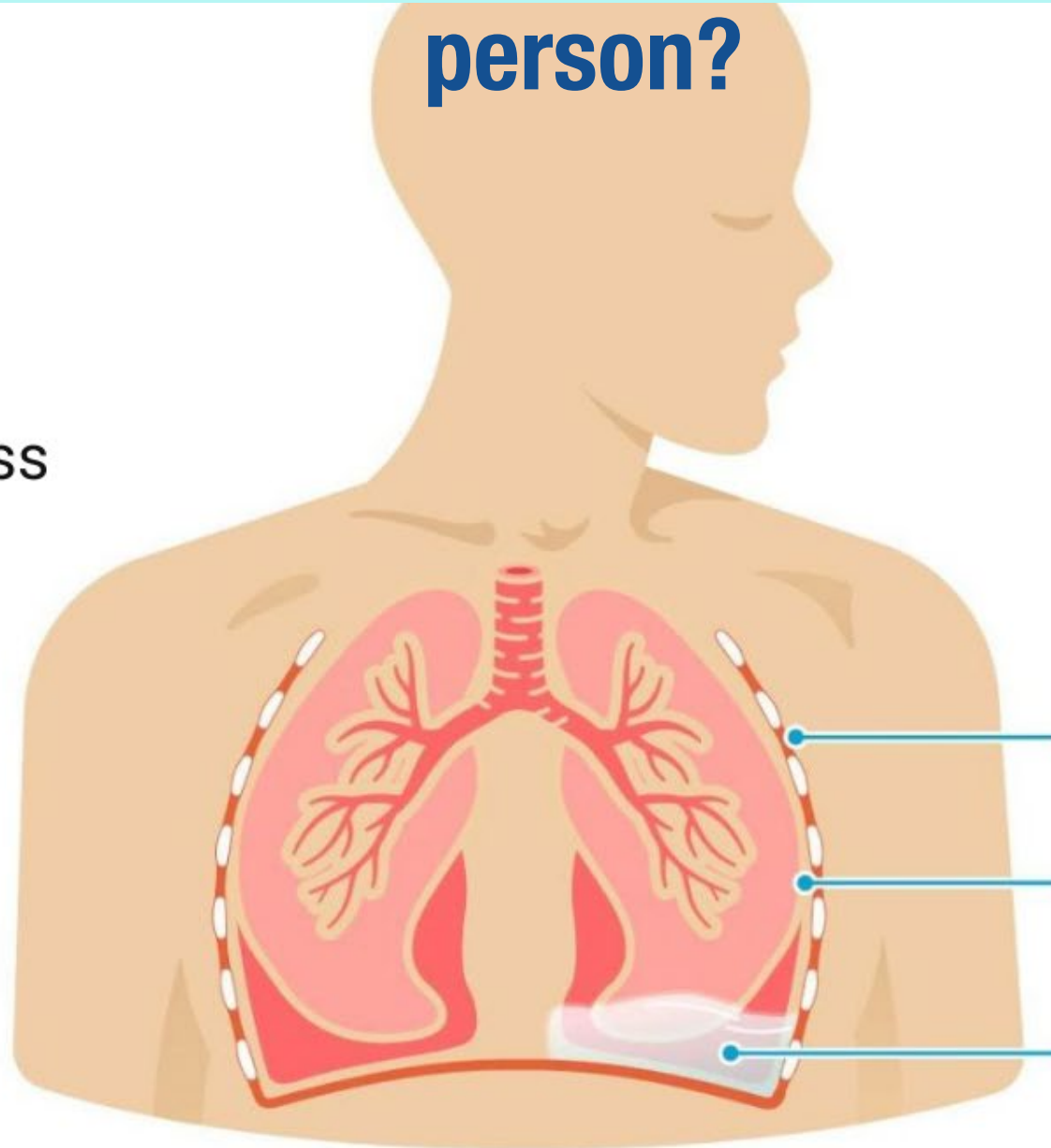
Anxiety/Stress



Breathlessness

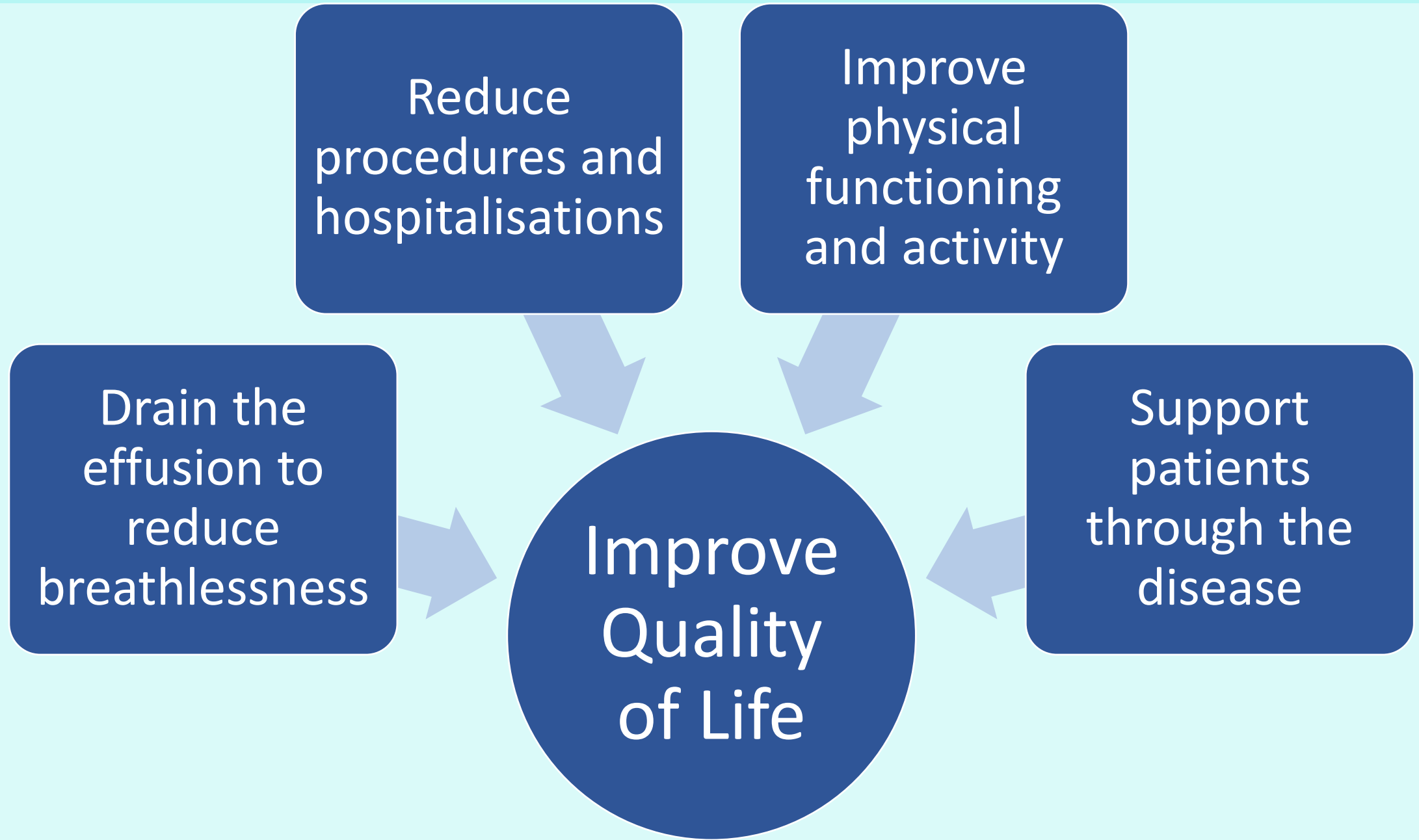


Procedures



Hospitalisation

Our Goals



Our Goals

Reduce
procedures and
hospitalisations

Improve
physical
functioning
and activity

Drain the
effusion to
reduce
breathlessness

Support
patients
through the
disease

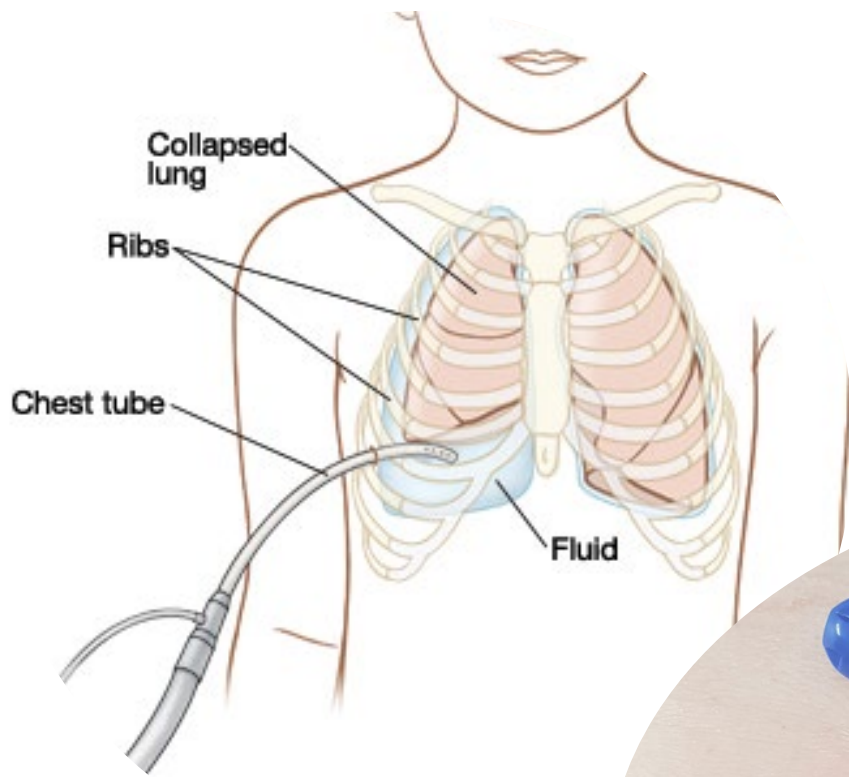
**Optimise Effusion
Management**

Quality
of Life

```
graph TD; A[Reduce procedures and hospitalisations] --> E((Quality of Life)); B[Improve physical functioning and activity] --> E; C[Drain the effusion to reduce breathlessness] --> E; D[Support patients through the disease] --> E; F[Optimise Effusion Management] --- E;
```


Australasian Malignant PLeural Effusion (AMPLE) Clinical Trial Network

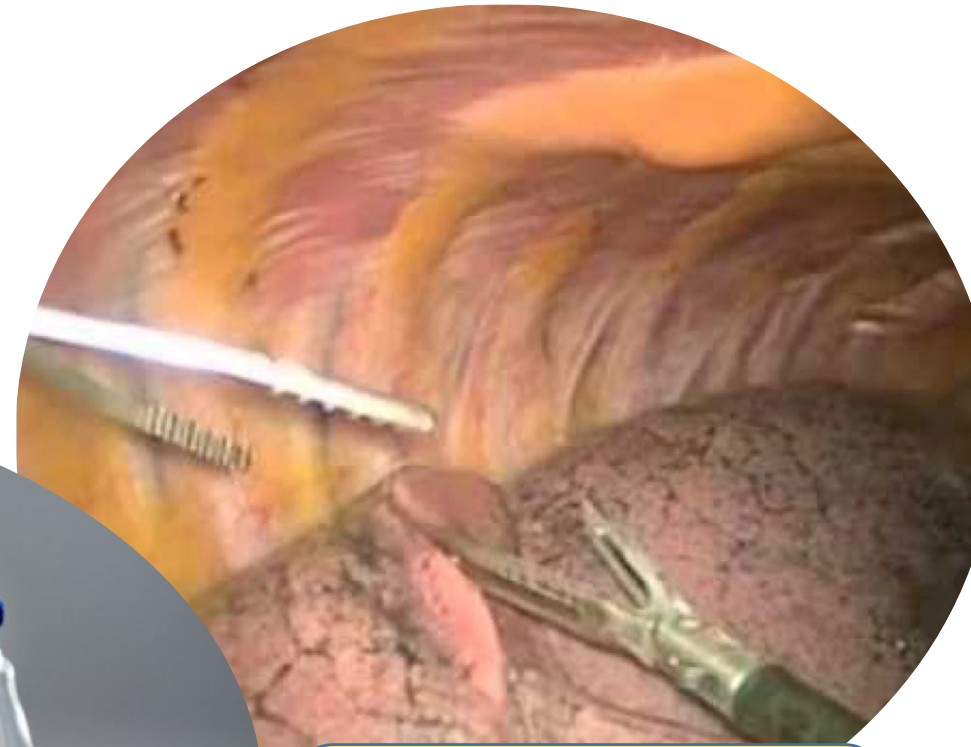




Intercostal catheter
(Chest tube)
+/- talc



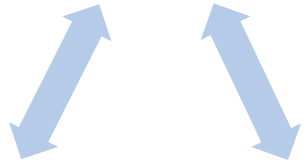
Indwelling pleural
catheter (IPC)
+/- talc



Thoracoscopic
surgery
+/- talc



AMPLE - 1

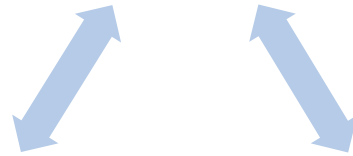


ICC
+/- talc

IPC
+/- talc



AMPLE - 2

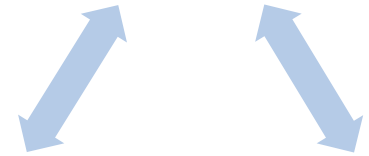


Symptom
drainage

Daily
drainage



AMPLE - 3



IPC
+/- talc

Thoraco-
scopic
surgery



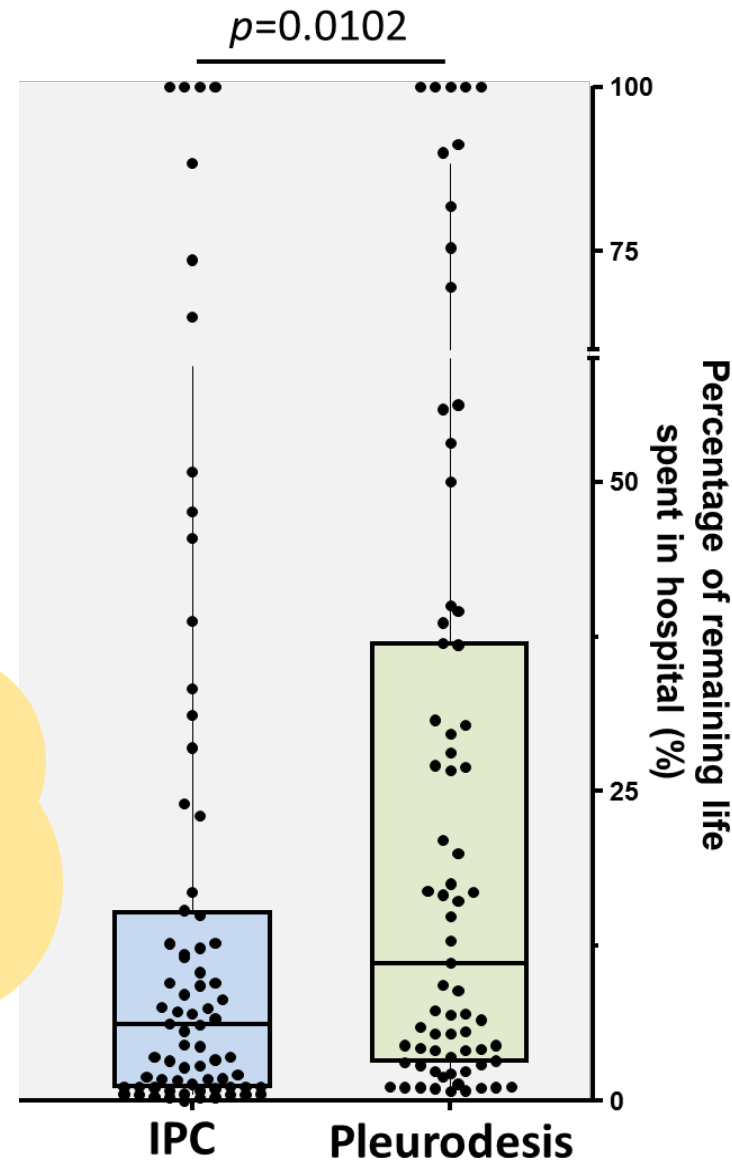


AMPLE - 1

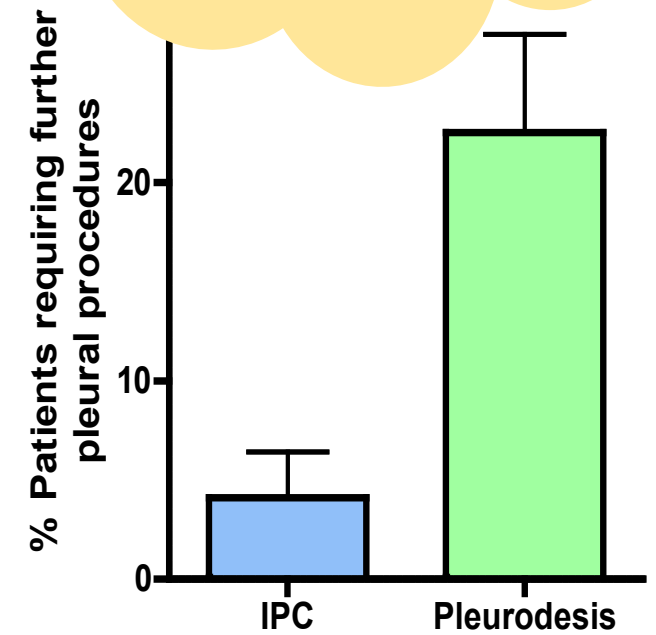
ICC

+/-

IPC reduces the percentage of the patient's remaining life spent in hospital



IPC reduces the number of repeat drainage procedures required

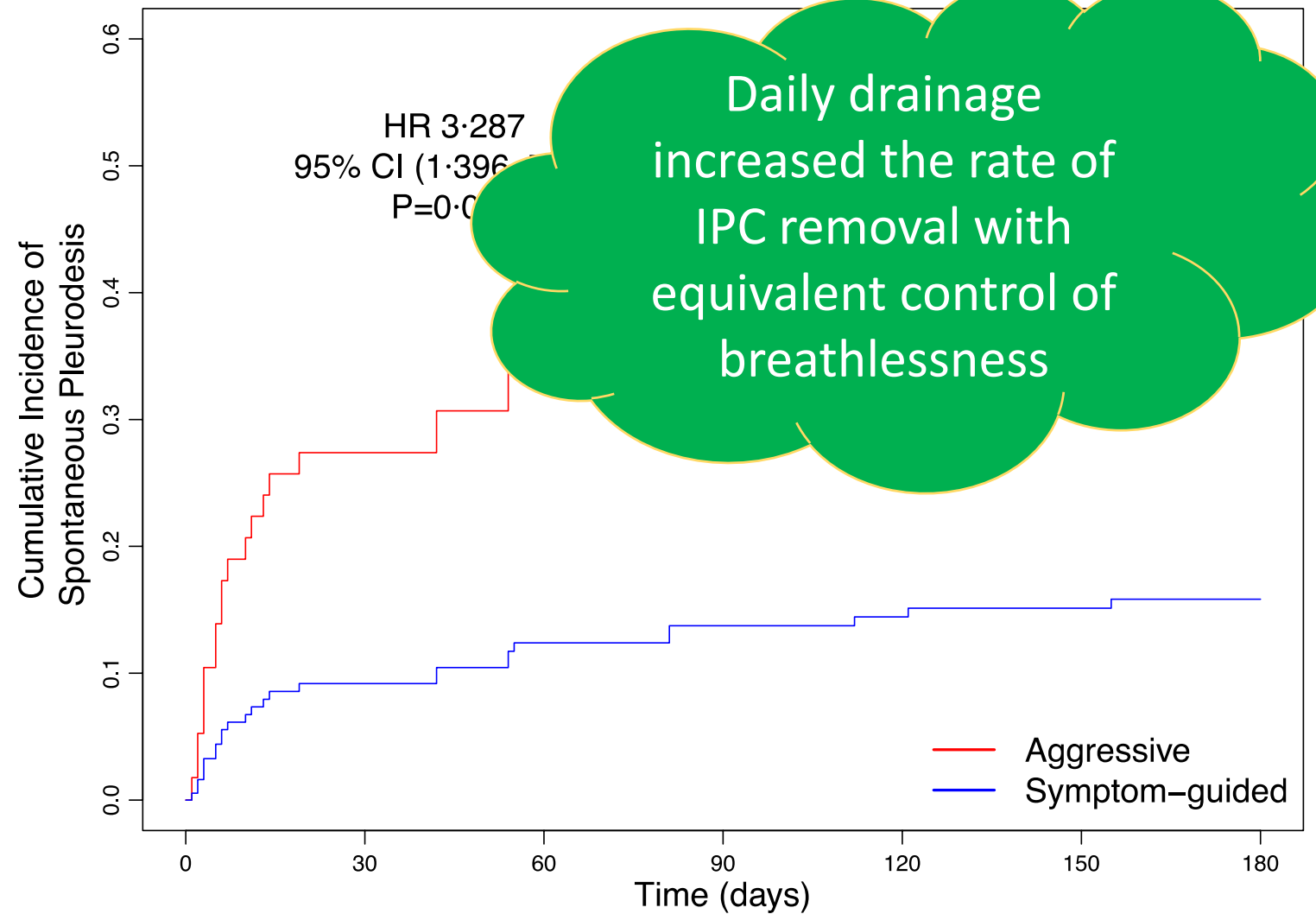




AMPLE – 2

Symptom
drainage

Daily
drainage



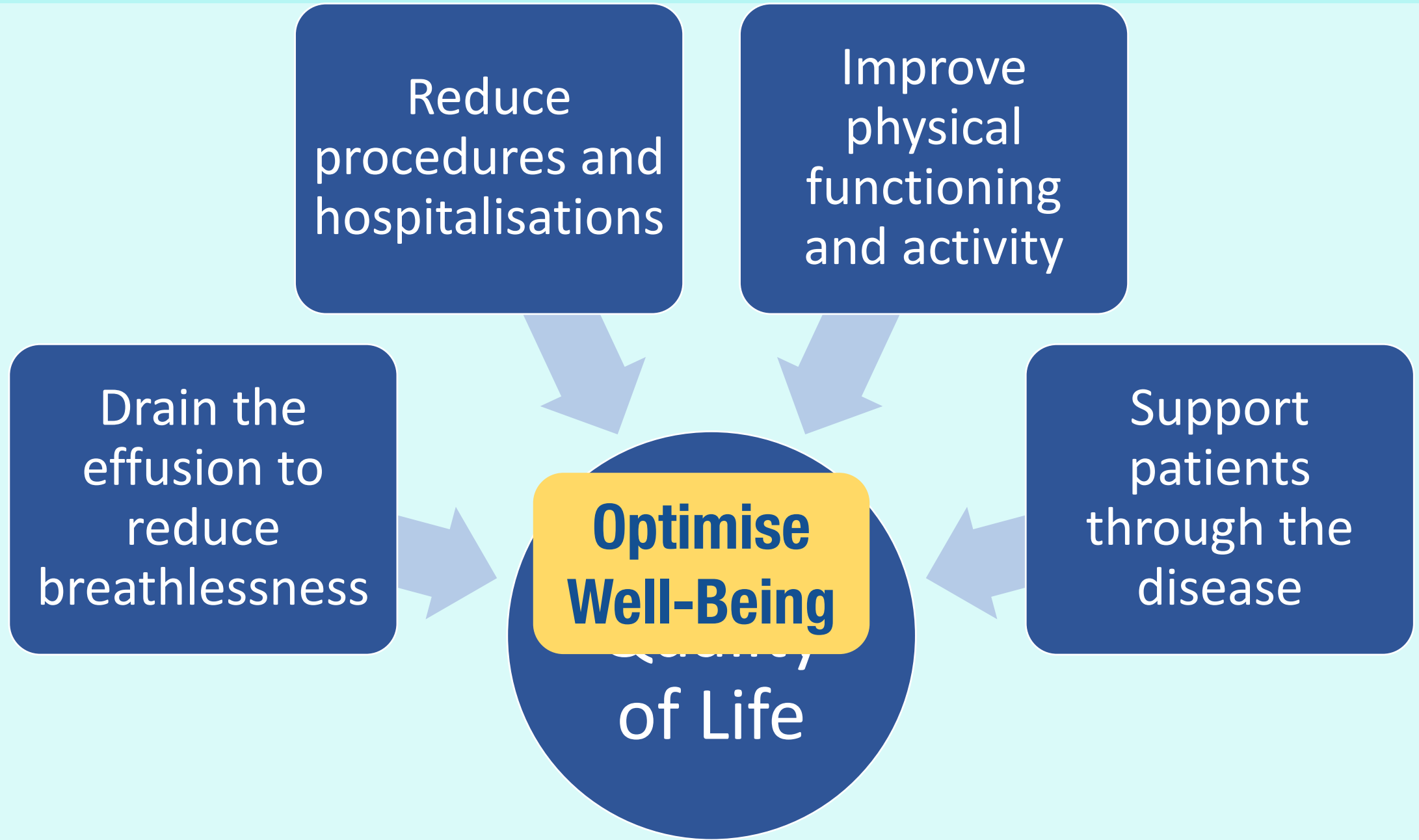


AMPLE – 3

IPC
+/- talc

Thoraco-
scopic
surgery

Our Goals





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Allied Health Research Pleural Medicine Unit

Exercise

Improving patient outcomes
through exercise medicine

Measuring Physical Activity

Objective measures of activity
as clinical trials outcome



Nutrition

Nutritional status
composition research

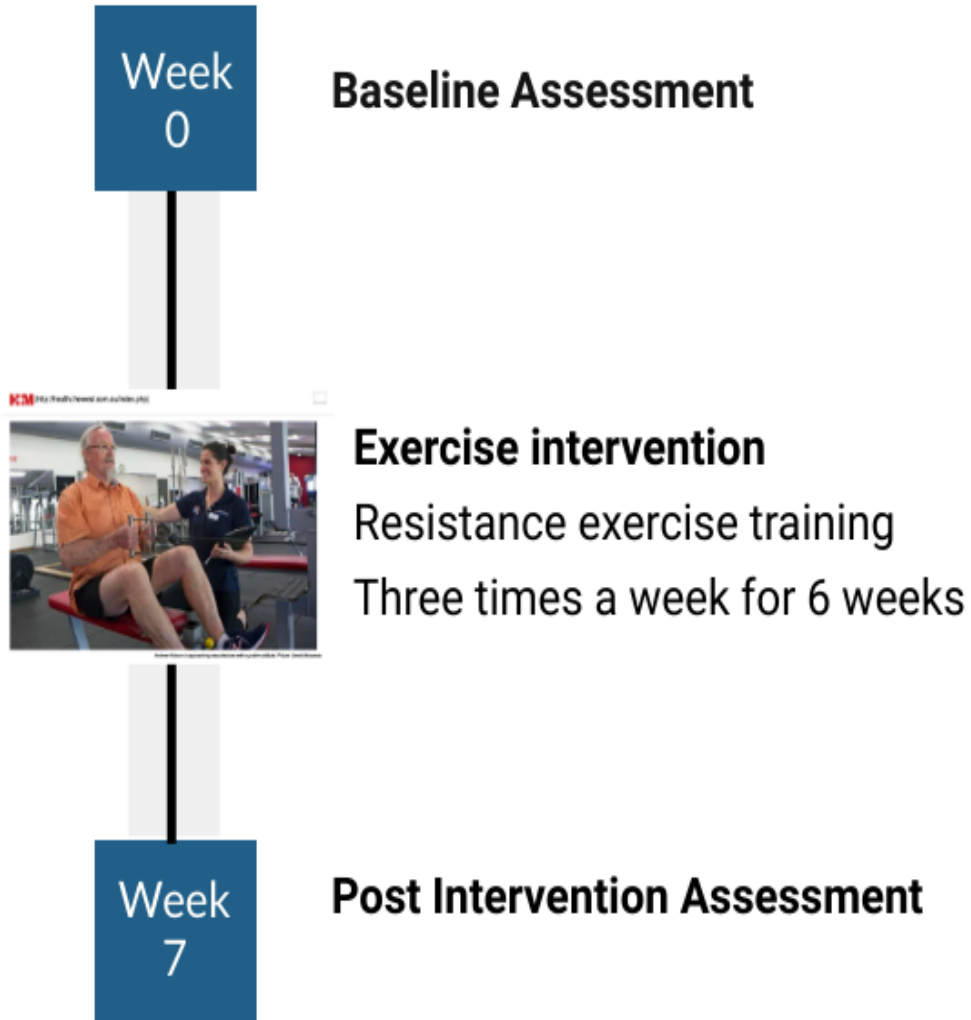


Psychology

psychosocial experiences and
needs of people living with
mesothelioma

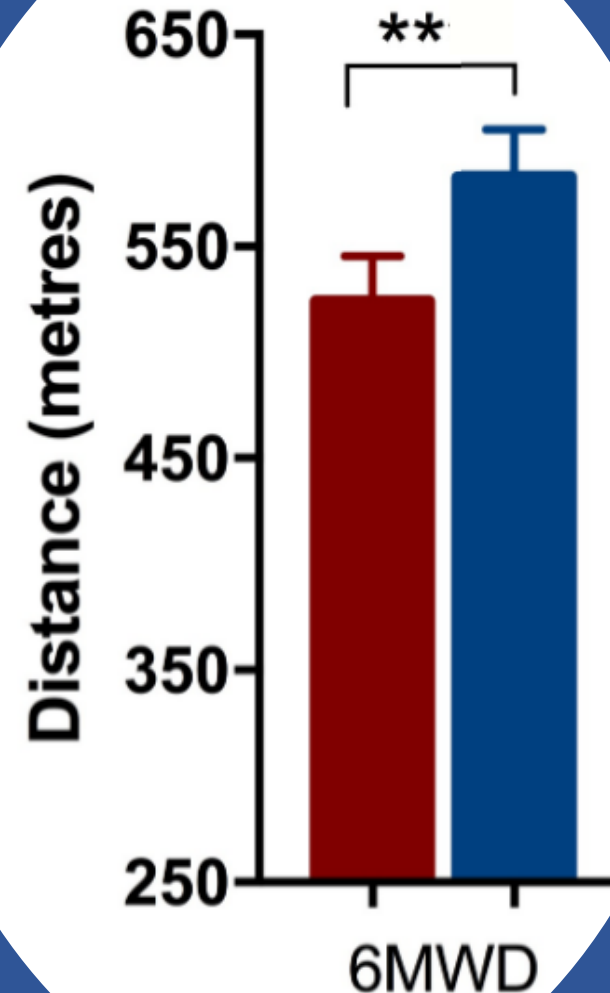
Multidisciplinary Research

Single group pilot study to examine the feasibility and effects of resistance exercise training in patients with malignant pleural disease



Changes in functional capacity

Distance walked in six minutes



✓ Significantly increased walk distance

✓ Increased by 59m, 11% (p=0.002)

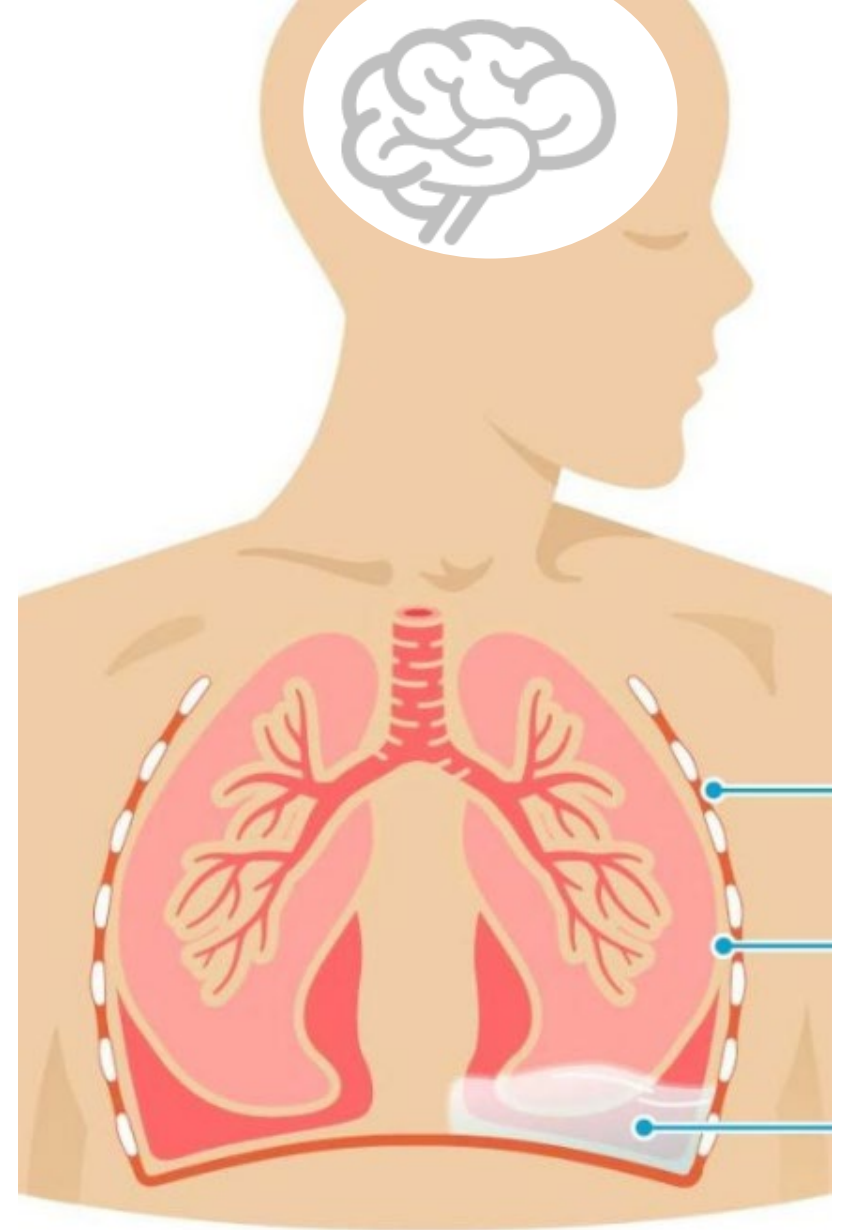
✓ Clinically meaningful change >42m



EXPAND

The Psychosocial Experience, Needs and Priorities of Care for People Living with Mesothelioma and their Family Members/Carers

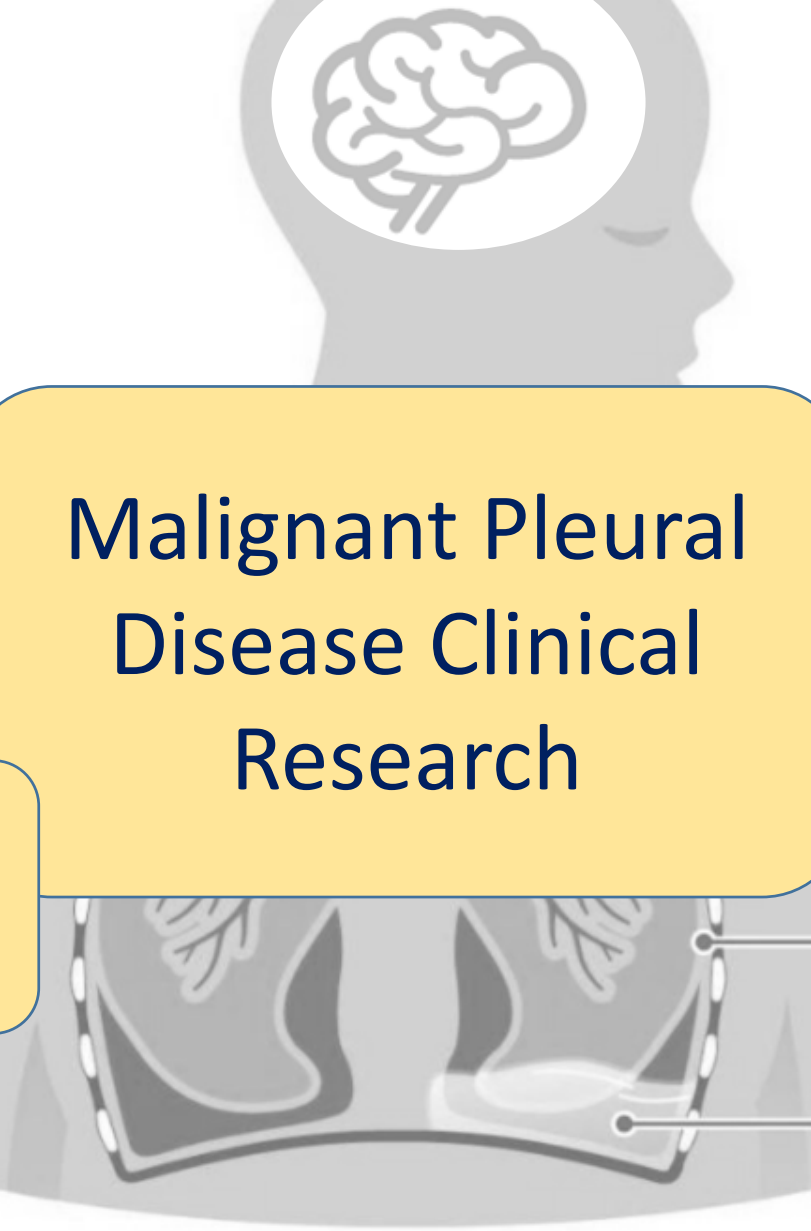
Exploratory cross-sectional study, interviewing patients and carers regarding their experiences





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Malignant Pleural Disease Clinical Research

Psychosocial

Physical

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Australia's response to HIV/AIDS

1982-2019

Bill Bowtell AO

Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney

Pacific Friends of the Global Fund to
Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria

Perth, November 2019

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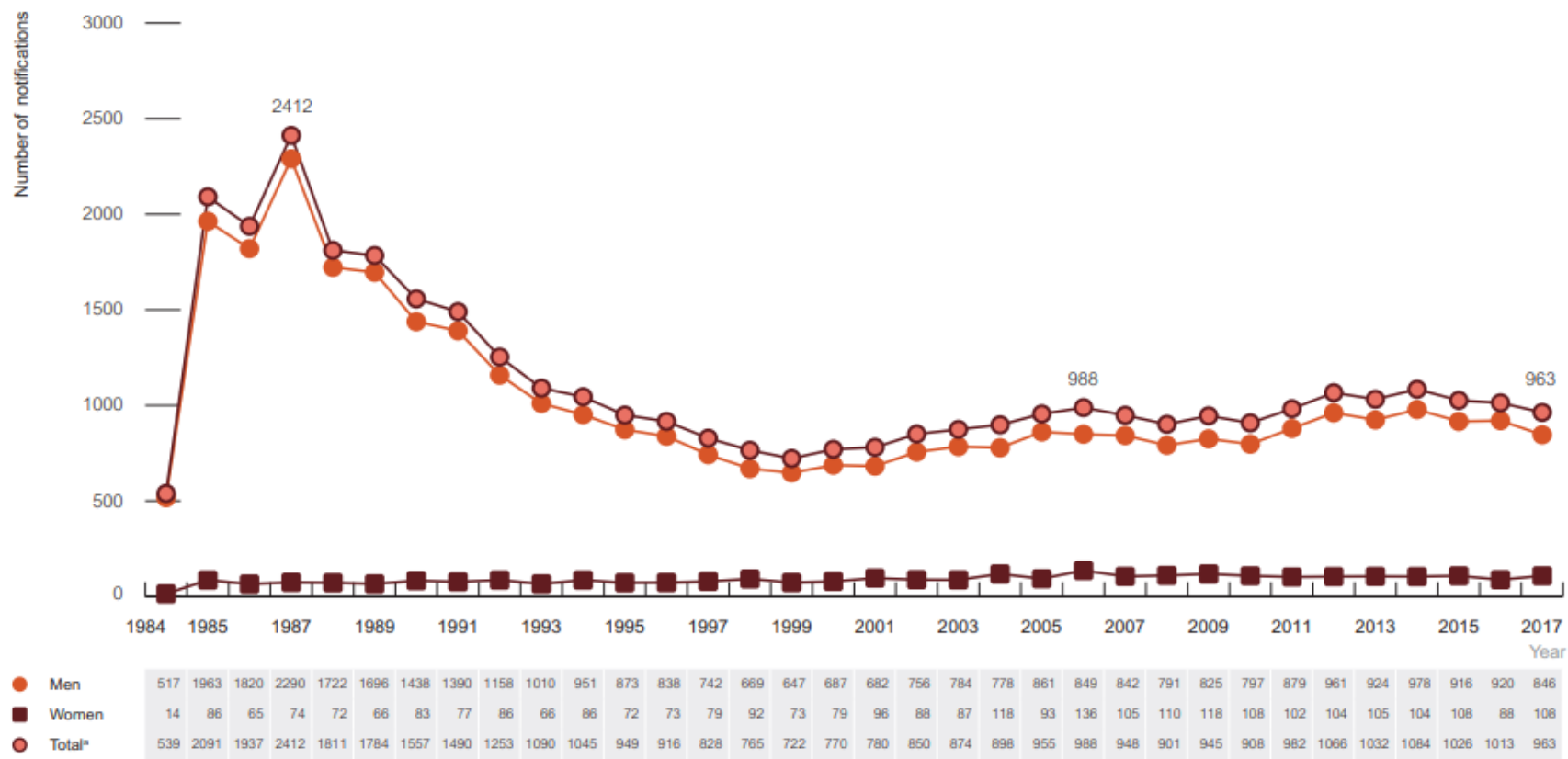
Australian HIV caseload as at end 2017, new HIV diagnoses in 2017, and deaths from AIDS

(Kirby Institute, 2018 and UNAIDS, 2018)

Living with HIV	27,545
New HIV diagnoses in 2017	963
Deaths from AIDS in Australia since 1983	~7,500



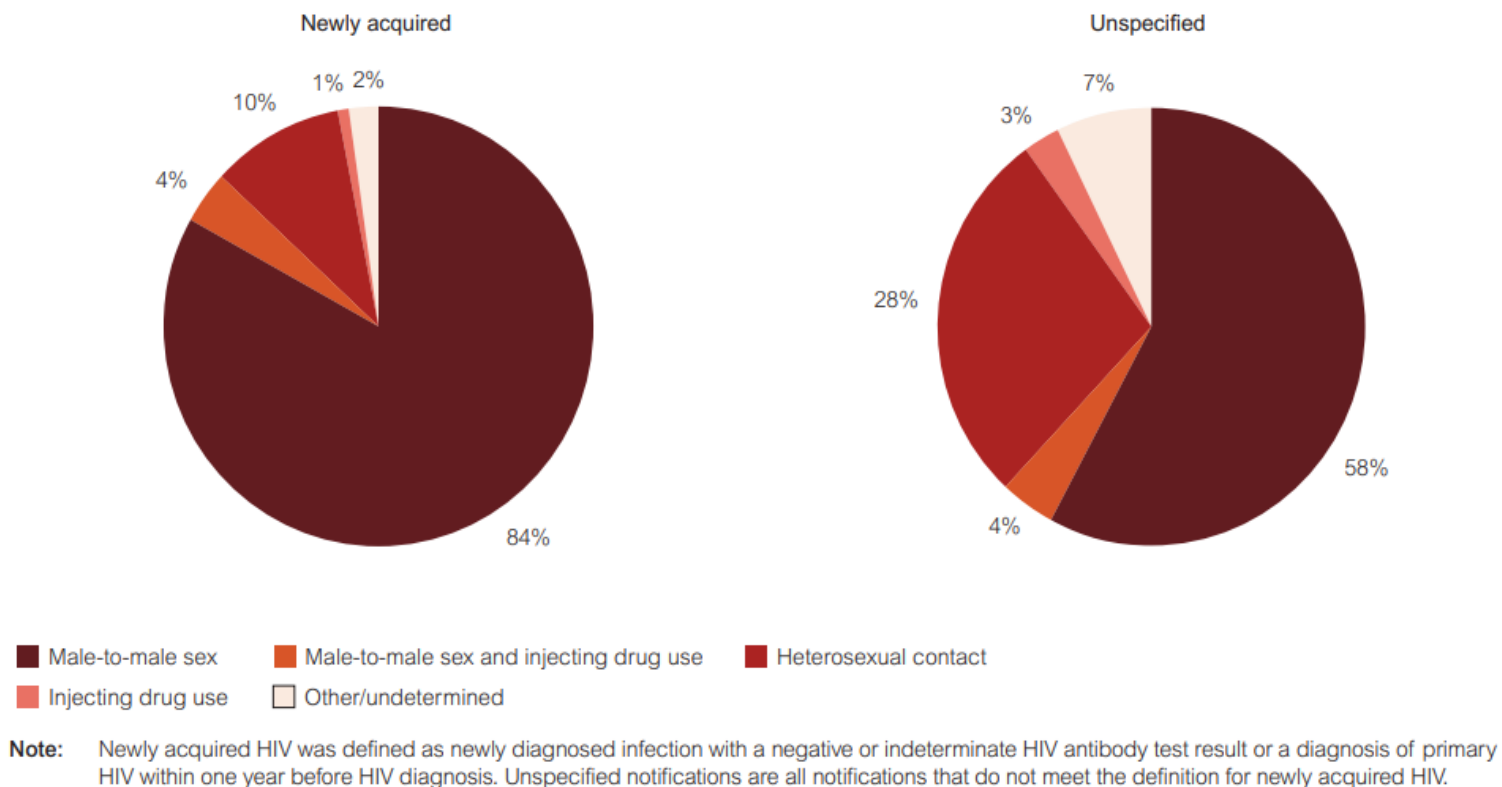
HIV notifications in Australia, 1984-2017, by sex (Kirby Institute, 2018)



a Total includes transgender people and people for whom data on sex was missing.

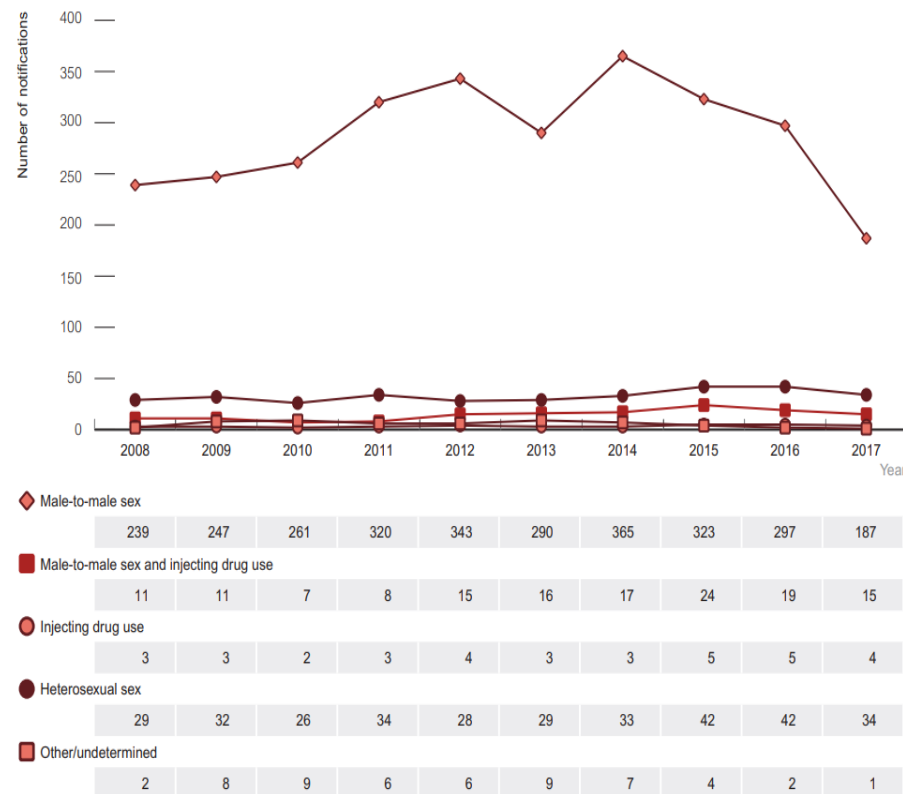


HIV notifications classified as newly acquired or unspecified, 2008-2017, by HIV exposure category (Kirby Institute, 2018)





Number of HIV infections classified as newly acquired, 2008-2017, by exposure risk category (Kirby Institute, 2018)





Australia's response to HIV/AIDS: Key policies

- Timely, peer-based, explicit education aimed at general public and at-risk groups
- Widespread needle and syringe exchange programs
- Rapid expansion of methadone maintenance programs
- Free- anonymous, universal HIV testing
- Free or subsidised access to antiretroviral therapy
- Safe sex education and access to condoms
- Inclusion of marginal groups in funding, policy-making, and implementations
- Removal of political and legislative barriers to action
- Building of research and reporting capacity



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Expenditure (\$AUD) and needles distributed by needle and syringe programs in Australia

1999/2000 (Australian Department of Health and Ageing, 2002)

Government Expenditure	Consumer Expenditure	Total Expenditure	Needles distributed
\$19,673,000	\$3,001,000	\$22,674,000	\$31,848,000



Australia's response to HIV/AIDS based on key principles

- Beliefs based on evidence as basis for policy-making
- Minimisation of risk for general population
- Promotion of research, especially epidemiological, clinical, and social
- Respect for human rights and legislative change to ensure anti-discrimination against at-risk groups
- Partnership between governments, scientists, and at-risk communities
- Long-term over short-term thinking



Australia's response to HIV/AIDS: Based on TRUST

- Trust in evidence based science as a basis for action
- Trust that HIV/AIDS education could bring about sustained change in at-risk behaviours
- Trust that high-risk groups would educate peers effectively and sustainably
- Trust that government would not resort to punitive measures, sanction, isolation, and quarantine
- Trust that governments would tell the truth about HIV/AIDS



Australia's response to HIV/AIDS required:

- Definition and defence of the public and national interest
- Political leadership and imagination
- Sustained and excellent communities, market research, public relations, and issues management
- Detailed planning but swift implementation
- Working around medical and clinical establishments, practices, and vested interests
- Belief that prevention works
- Action based on reason but informed by emotion



The results of nearly 40 years' application of Australia's HIV/AIDS policies

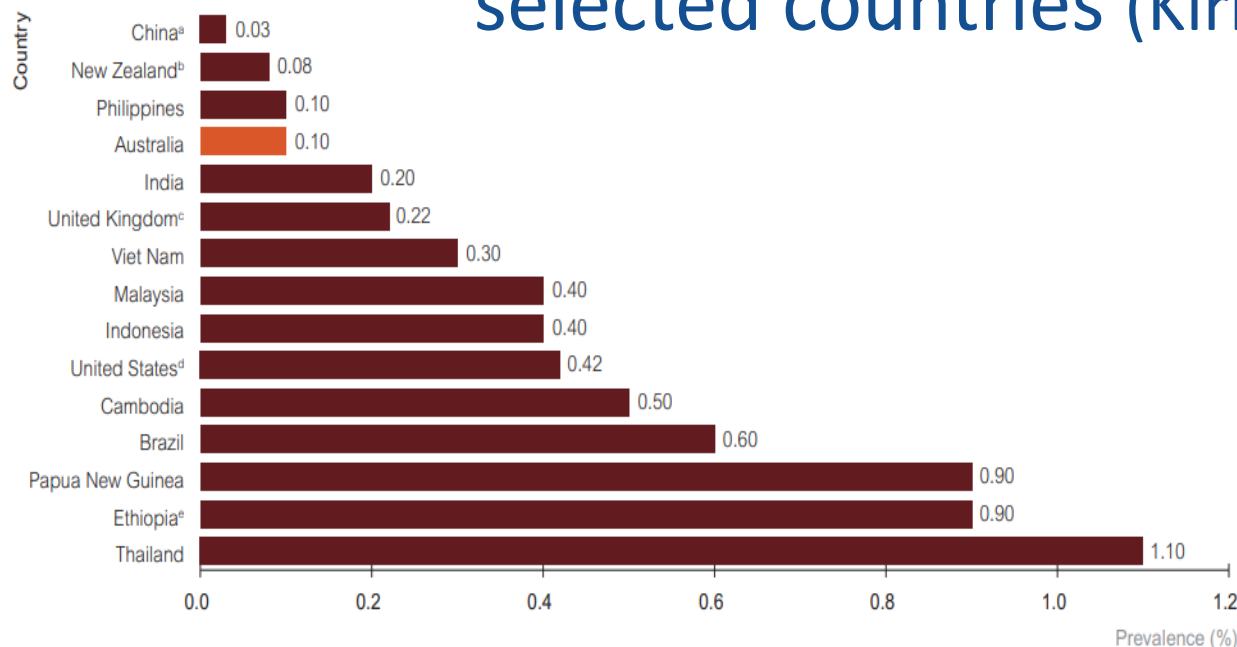
- Australian HIV/AIDS caseload 10% of US caseload
- Tens of thousands of young Australians NOT infected, dying, or dead from HIV/AIDS
- Resources freed for care and treatment
- Optimal, cost-effective outcome for Australians, economy, and society
- HIV/AIDS under control and management
- HIV/AIDS not an issue of political or social controversy or concern
- Enhanced scientific research base and skills development
- Social cohesion and inclusion



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HIV prevalence in persons aged 15-49, in selected countries (Kirby Institute, 2018)



a 2013 prevalence

b 2017 prevalence^[11]

c 2016 prevalence^[12]

d 2015 prevalence in those aged 13 years and older^[13]

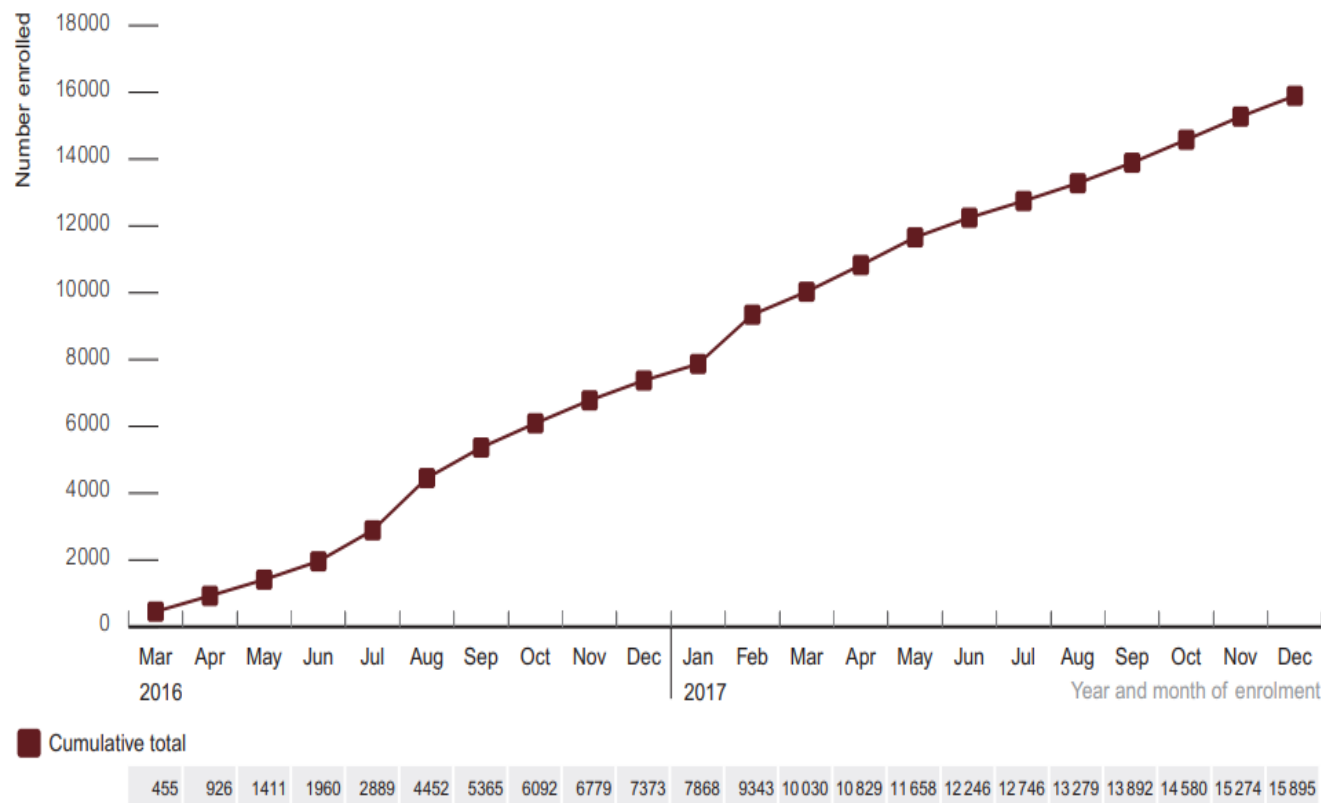
e 2015 prevalence



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Culminate number of gay men enrolled in PrEP implementation programs, 2016 and 2017, by month (Kirby Institute, 2018)





Australia's response to HIV/AIDS challenges

- Paradox of prevention – the more successful, the less concern and need for action
- Shaping cultural and political environment – primary of evidence based science as basis for policy over ideology and theology
- Introduction of needle and syringe exchanges in prisons
- Need to re-engage women
- Regional spread of HIV/AIDS
- Engagement with religious leaderships
- Continual education of new cohort of young people using latest and best communications technologies and methods
- Taking HIV/AIDS out of clinical setting through mobilisation of business and economic forces



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Thank you

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