



MEDICAL ONCOLOGY GROUP OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

A.B.N 94 601 175 669

MEDIA RELEASE

Celebrating Excellence in Cancer Care

The Medical Oncology Group of Australia-Novartis Oncology Cancer Achievement Award 2015 Recipient Associate Professor Prudence Francis

"This Award recognises the unique role that Australian oncologists play in providing outstanding leadership in clinical practice, research and academic achievement." A/Professor, Rosemary A. Harrup, Chairman, Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA). "A/Professor Francis, has received this Award in recognition of her meritorious contribution as a Medical Oncologist and Clinician-Researcher to the improvement of cancer control at both a national and international level; with particular regard to her work in the field of breast cancer research and clinical practice. She has built an admirable and widely recognised international profile and made a substantial contribution to the advancement of Australian Oncology, through clinical service as a Medical Oncologist and as an international and national leader in breast cancer clinical trials and research; and, in supporting and mentoring young investigators and new members of the medical oncology profession."

A/Professor Prudence Francis MD, MBBS, B Med Sc, FRACP, is the Head of the Medical Oncology Breast Service at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, Australia. Her clinical practice is devoted to breast cancer and nationally she is recognised as an expert in the field. A/Professor Francis is a Visiting Oncology Specialist and A/Professor in the Department of Medicine at St Vincent's Hospital, University of Melbourne; and, a Conjoint A/Professor in the Faculty of Health and Medicine, University of Newcastle. A/Professor Francis serves on a number of committees and scientific organisations at a state, national and international level including: Chair, Breast Trial Subcommittee, Cancer Council Victoria; Vice-Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee ANZBCTG; Member of the Scientific Committee, International Breast Cancer Study Group; Faculty Member for Breast Cancer, European Society for Medical Oncology; Member of the International Advanced Breast Cancer Consensus Guidelines Panel; and Medical Oncology Editor, *The Breast* journal.

A/Professor Francis trained at the University of Melbourne and St. Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. During her medical degree, she undertook a Bachelor of Medical Science research degree. She completed her Medical Oncology training at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York, where she spent 4 years. During this period she gave two oral presentations at ASCO Annual Meetings, an ASCO Press Conference and twice received ASCO Fellow Awards. Since her return to Australia, she has been committed to improving outcomes and care for patients with breast cancer through clinical trial cancer research, associated translational research and education. Through her role in developing international clinical trials, more than 1,000 patients in Australia and New Zealand have been recruited to randomized phase 3 trials in which she has an international leadership role (BIG 02-98, SOFT and TEXT). She has worked hard to successfully achieve NHMRC Project Grant funding to support academic cooperative group clinical trial research over this period.

A/Professor Francis has been an author of three original research publications in the New England Journal of Medicine in the past year, including a first-author publication, and a senior-author publication (also the subject of a Plenary Presentation at the 2014 ASCO Annual Meeting). This is a very high-profile achievement among Australian medical oncologists. The SOFT phase 3 trial (Francis et al, NEJM 2015) which she led and chaired internationally, recruited 3,066 young women with early breast cancer at more than 400 centres in 25 countries. The SOFT trial results will change practice in the management of hormone receptor-positive breast cancer in premenopausal women and sets the scene for improving the outcomes for young women with breast cancer.

The distinguished recipients of the Cancer Achievement Award since 1999 are:

- 2014: Professor Geoffrey J. Lindeman
- 2013: Professor Frances Boyle
- 2012: Professor Michael Barton
- 2011: Professor John R. Zalcborg
- 2010: Professor John Simes
- 2009: Professor Jim Bishop
- 2008: Professor Ian Olver
- 2007: Professor Michael Friedlander
- 2006: Professor Ian Frazer
- 2005: Professor Ray Lowenthal
- 2004: Professor Richard Fox
- 2003: Professor Alan Coates
- 2002: Professor Lester Peters
- 2001: Emeritus Professor Tom Reeve
- 2000: Professor Martin Tattersall
- 1999: Professor Anthony Burgess

For enquiries call 02 9256 9651 or email kfrancis@moga.org.au. A/Professor Francis will deliver the 2015 Cancer Achievement Presentation as the Keynote Address at the Association's Annual Scientific Meeting on Thursday 6 August in Hobart- media places available on enquiry.

The MOGA Cancer Achievement Award has been supported by an unrestricted education grant from Novartis Oncology since 2007.