

## Benefits of Cancer Research

On **Tuesday March 19**, 2019 from 6.30pm to 8.00pm at the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre, the early detection, prevention and research of various types of cancer will be the subject of a panel discussion titled **Benefits of Cancer Research**. The Geelong Region Cancerians whose aim is to raise awareness and funds for all cancers have organised the health panel in partnership with GL&HC.

Panelists will be **Professor Tom Jobling OAM** a Director of Gynaecologic Oncology at Monash Medical Centre. His major interests are in radical surgery for ovarian cancer and the application of robotic surgery for gynaecological malignancy.

He is an active member of a Research Team in bio marker detection and proteomics in ovarian cancer and was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2017 for services to Ovarian Cancer Research.

**Dr Karl Najjar** is a specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist with an award from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. In addition Karl completed further training in advanced gynaecological open surgery, laparoscopic surgery and robotic surgery as a Fellow at the Gynaecology Oncology Unit at Monash Medical Centre. His interest in technology has also led him to explore further training with the intuitive da Vinci robotic system in Australia and Asia.

**Dr Rachel Delahunty** is an early career medical oncologist with a special interest in gynaecological oncology and translational and clinical research. She graduated from Monash University before completing advanced training in medical oncology in Melbourne and was awarded Fellowship to The Royal Australian College of Physicians in January 2016. Following this she worked as The Clinical Trials Fellow at Eastern Health, overseeing the conduct of phase 1-phase 3 clinical trials and in 2017 she commenced a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Bowtell laboratory at The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

**Maureen O'Keeffe** grew up in Belmont and attended Clonard College. Her diverse career includes public service, the media and the not for profit sector; her most recent role as General Manager Settlement and Community Programs with Diversitat.

In February 2018 after a series of scans she was diagnosed with endometrial cancer. Requiring 7 months of treatment including surgery, 30 rounds of radiation therapy concurrently with weekly low dose chemo and finally 4 rounds of higher dose chemo over 10 weeks. After a couple of months to recuperate, a scan in November 2018 showed no evidence of disease!

While this is excellent news, monitoring for a recurrence is now the norm with 3 monthly check-ups scheduled for the next 5 years.

Panel moderator **MC Roxie Bennett**

Bookings are essential via <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-benefits-of-cancer-research-the-high-ground-geelong-library-and-heritage-centre-tickets-53673387547>

Also refer to Geelong Region Cancerians website: [www.geelongregioncancerians.com.au](http://www.geelongregioncancerians.com.au)

Enquires please contact Geelong Region Cancerians Chair Helene Bender OAM on Mobile: 0407 261 951



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