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## News

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### High demand topic for oncologists 15.02.24 AM

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**Some oncologists are still battling to get their hands on genetic testing information to diagnose and treat cancer patients - and an upcoming pharma-supported workshop hopes to fix that.**

Hosted by Private Cancer Physicians of Australia (PCPA) and its Strategic Alliance Partner, LifeStrands Genomics, the free one-day workshop 'Genomics to Therapeutics' will provide practical immersion into how genomic testing can better diagnose, help predict cancer behaviour and create more effective treatment plans for patients.

According to PCPA, the workshop being held in Melbourne next Saturday, has been developed due to "high demand" and is being offered to medical oncologists and cancer specialist nurses.

AstraZeneca, Bayer, GSK, Illumina, Roche, Servier, ThermoFisher, and Qiagen, are sponsoring the event.

Board member of PCPA and workshop Master of Ceremonies, Dr Cameron McLaren, says genomic testing or precision medicine, is a powerful tool that remarkably unlocks the secrets of a patient's cancer at the genetic level.

"Genomic testing, once a futuristic view of how cancer may be treated, is now transforming cancer care by offering personalised insights for both the patient and those who care for them," Dr McLaren says.

"As importantly as finding new treatments that can help our patients, genomic testing also allows us to choose which treatments will not help, so we can avoid subjecting our patients to toxicities of ineffective treatments."

LifeStrands Genomics Medical Director, Vivek Rathi, has been working with PCPA and its education partner, ScienceToLife, to bring together Australia's leading experts in genomics cancer.

"With compelling case studies, our audience will explore the functioning of a clinical genomic laboratory, the contemporary and emerging testing platforms and we will unpack genomic test reports, terminologies and international reporting guidelines," Rathi said.

Importantly, the experts will review the recent Medicare-reimbursed tests for Next Generation Sequencing for brain cancer and lung cancer and homologous recombination deficiency in ovarian cancer.

"Effective clinical service provision in cancer genomics demands a distinctive perspective, integrating medical expertise with cutting edge genomic technologies, to offer treatments tailored to individuals' genetic profiles," Rathi said.

"The PCPA workshop aims to provide practical genomic knowledge at a grassroot to semi advanced level, which would help participants in choosing their genomic tests more effectively and wisely, to the benefit of their patients."

Tiffany Walker

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