



# MTP Connect

MedTech and Pharma Growth Centre

The announcement today of \$700,000 in funding for the ClinTrial Refer Australia app project will boost the recruitment of patients to clinical trials Australia-wide.

MTP Connect\* – the Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals Industry Growth Centre –

has announced \$350,000 funding for the project over two years, with matched provisional funding of \$350,000 coming from the sector.

Led by South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and Sydney Local Health District, the ClinTrial Refer apps have been developed since 2013 allowing doctors to instantly connect patients with current recruiting trials across 20 different trial Networks. Funding will support recruitment across all trials nationally.

Roslyn Ristuccia, Manager, Clinical Research Unit, St George Hospital, said clinical trials are research studies that aim to find new ways to prevent, screen for, diagnose and treat a disease.

“ClinTrial Refer is a mobile smartphone app and web-based platform connecting doctors and patients to recruiting clinical trials across research networks,” Ms Ristuccia said.

“With the development of the first ClinTrial Refer app there was a nine-fold increase in cross-referrals between hospitals to haematology clinical trials across NSW and the ACT, and a 60 per cent increase in patient enrolments to these trials.

“Funding will allow ClinTrial Refer Australia to develop a new IT platform to integrate derivative apps; create one combined database; enable electronic referrals; link to Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ANZCTR); and build a national solution to clinical trials recruitment.”

Associate Professor Judith Trotman, Director, Haematology Clinical Research Unit, Concord Hospital, said it was exciting news to receive funding that will help patients to access new breakthrough therapies.

“Clinical trials are vitally important to patient care. Researchers are constantly striving to find answers to improve the survival and quality of life of our patients. ClinTrial Refer means better and faster access to their work,” Associate Professor Trotman said.

“This mobile app has been a major breakthrough, increasing patient access to clinical trials across numerous trial networks. With instant knowledge of all trials on the doctor’s smart phone, ClinTrial Refer Australia will deliver this benefit on a national scale.”

The project includes members from the University of Sydney, Linear Clinical Research, the pharmaceutical industry, government and leading clinical research bodies as supporters.

\*MTP Connect was formed as an industry-led independent not-for-profit organisation in November 2015 as part of the Federal Government’s Industry Growth Centre Initiative.

## NEWSFLASH.....

## CLINTRIAL REFER RURAL NSW APP

The ClinTrial Refer Rural NSW app is live! Congratulations to Stephen Millard on championing his app. Stephen is a Clinical Research Manager currently based at the Orange Health Service looking after clinical trials for both Haematology and Oncology. We did a Q&A with Stephen reflecting on his experience on developing his app.

1. What lead you to the ClinTrial Refer apps?

Working at St George previously I had seen the project grow from a developmental seed to a live platform. It was easy to see the future benefits to patients and practitioners.

2. How did you find the development process?

The development process was straightforward and hindered only by the time I could spend supplying information. The team were knowledgeable, helpful and knew their product.

3. What are your future plans with your app?

The future plans for the app involve wide distribution across the central west to make GP's more aware of our trials, perhaps preventing unnecessary referrals to the cities for treatment.



## NEWSFLASH.....

## THE THING ABOUT CANCER

In a recent episode of **The Thing About Cancer** podcast, Julie tackles common cancer genetic questions with genetic oncologist Hilda High.

“Some people have a mistake in a gene—we call it a mutation—that’s been passed down in that family, and that particular mistake is increasing their risk, so in their case, there is a hereditary component. Most cancer is not hereditary.”

- Hilda High, genetic oncologist

Follow this [link](#) to listen to the podcast.



**ClinTrial Refer  
Cancer Genetics**

## ClinTrial Refer

CONNECTING PATIENTS  
DOCTORS &  
CLINICAL TRIAL SITES



In 2016 the Clinical Trials Stream was awarded a \$40,000 grant from Sydney Health Partners to accelerate the development of the Sydney Health Partners ClinTrial Refer app.

Since then, University of Sydney Medical School students have been populating the app with information on the currently recruiting clinical trials from across Sydney Health Partners' partner organisations. While the app is now available for download it will be officially launched in October 2017, and will include an accurate and comprehensive list of the currently recruiting trials across all of the partner organisations. The Sydney Health Partners ClinTrial app will be the first to include trials from a range of different disciplines - including cardiology,

One of the students working on the trial is Fatima Tahir. It will increase recruitment to trials, thereby assisting researchers who are conducting clinical research across the partnership. Finally, it will give patients the opportunity to participate in clinical trials that will improve emerging therapies and guide treatment.

The user friendly smartphone app can be searched by speciality, sub-category, location, trial status and sponsor. This will allow clinicians and researchers to access all currently recruiting trials within the partnership.

Click on this [link](#) to read the rest of the interview.



**Sydney**  
HealthPartners

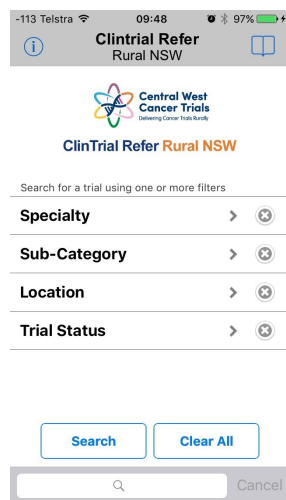
**ClinTrial Refer**



Reminder for our members that the community forum is up and running. Some members have already logged on to participate.

Registration process is quick and easy just like our apps, sign up and discuss your most passionate topics relating to clinical trials, the latest trends or just to vent your frustration, we're all ears.

We'll see you there!

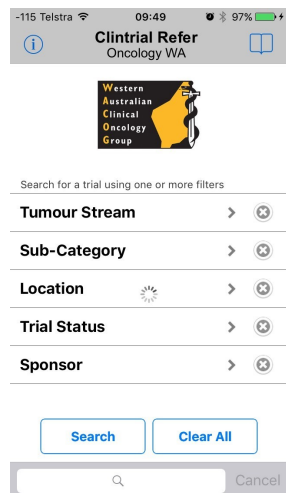


*Congratulations to:*

*Stephen Millard for championing their ClinTrial Refer Rural NSW app which went live on 21/08/2017.*



**ClinTrial Refer  
Oncology WA**



*Congratulations to:*

*WACOG for championing their ClinTrial Refer Oncology WA app which went live on 05/10/2017.*



ClinTrial Refer is a template for any Clinical Trial Portfolio. For information on this project, or how to license your own app contact:

Roslyn Ristuccia (SESLHD) A/Prof Judith Trotman (SLHD). Feedback on this newsletter or want to contribute:?

Email [Roslyn Ristuccia](#) or [Rolland Suen](#).