

CommNETs



Commonwealth Neuroendocrine Tumour Collaboration

February 2021 Virtual Workshop Report

CommNETs hosted a virtual research workshop 10, 11, 16 and 17 February 2021 including a main conference event and five satellite project working group sessions. The virtual format facilitated larger attendance numbers, including over 65 registered, and increased participation from NET nurses, patients, and patient advocates. Diverse investigator engagement included representation from specialties such as pathology, endocrinology, nuclear medicine, nuclear physics, surgery, radiation oncology, and medical oncology. In addition to tri-nation member country attendance, CommNETs welcomed participation from Kenya and the United Kingdom.

Despite the acknowledged impact of COVID-19 on patient care and NET research over the past year, CommNETs congratulated project members who successfully published the completion of the following initiatives:

- [Financial Toxicity \(Australia\)](#)
- [Lung NETs Guidelines](#)
- [Why are there so few surgical trials in NETs?](#)
- Surgical Small Bowel NETs Symposia
 - [Surgical Management of Small Bowel NETs](#)
 - [Management of Locally Advanced Unresectable Tumours](#)
 - [Primary Tumour Resection Metastatic Disease](#)
 - [Multifocal Tumours](#)
 - [Presenting with Acute Obstruction or Perforation](#)
 - [Extent of Lymph Node Dissection](#)

Ongoing projects highlighted during the main conference event included the DIRECT-NETs study examining patient preferences for treatment, and the Shared Care Models project outcomes which have already influenced education and impacted care delivery.

Leadership from parent organizations CCTG (Canadian Cancer Trials Group) and AGITG (Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trial Group) presented the impact of COVID-19 on trial activity and operations within their respective groups, which lead into a panel discussion of the current climate for clinical trials in NETs. Optimism remains for the future of trials as demonstrated through the continued recruitment during the second wave of the pandemic in all 3 member nations

of Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. Recent developments in virtual care delivery and research offers the prospect for remote trial access with the potential to provide convenience for patients, particularly in rural settings, and the expedition of data collection.



The CommNETs strategic plan and COVID-19 addendum were presented and discussed. Suggestions for plans to move forward post COVID-19 included the desire for more virtual workshops and platforms to connect more frequently throughout the year between annual workshops. As a result of the strong support for continued virtual workshops, CommNETs aims to conduct a second 2021 workshop in 6 months.

The surgical working group, PRRT and QoL, NET indicators continuation, familial NET registry, and cognitive snapshot project satellite sessions following the main conference event were well attended. Thanks to the strong engagement of CommNETs collaborators, progress was made for planned work on existing projects and advancement of new ideas. CommNETs relies on the commitment of colleagues and partners to connect and lead research, and the continued collective effort of this group was evident through the excellent participation at the 2021 Virtual Research Workshop. This forum for collaboration has hopefully created an environment for project members to continue to remain connected throughout the year.