MEDIA RELEASE

New registry established to combat thyroid cancer

8 May 2018

A new cancer registry is hoping to better understand the differences in care and outcomes for thyroid cancer patients in New Zealand and Australia.

Dr Liane Ioannou, Prof Jonathan Serpell and A/Prof Susannah Ahern from Monash University, under the auspices of the Australian and New Zealand Endocrine Surgeons (ANZES), have established the Australian and New Zealand Thyroid Cancer Registry (ANZTCR) to monitor and improve the quality of care provided to patients diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

Dr Ioannou said the ANZTCR captures clinical data from patients over 18 years of age who have been diagnosed with thyroid cancer at participating sites.

Since the 1990s thyroid cancer has become the fastest increasing malignancy in Australia. In 2014, 2,693 Australians were diagnosed with the disease, with the number projected to rise to 3,300 in 2018.

“At the moment we don’t know why the occurrence of thyroid cancer is growing in Australia. It is likely to be related to both increased detection as well as increased incidence, but it is not well understood,” Dr Ioannou said.

“The ANZTCR is currently operating across sites in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, with more than 30 sites expected to come on board throughout 2018-2019 in both Australia and New Zealand.”

Endocrine surgeons throughout New Zealand and Australia have played a critical role in the success of the project to date.

“They’ve been engaged since the pilot program commenced in 2017 and we have started collecting patient data which will help the ANZTCR better understand thyroid cancer incidence and outcomes” Dr Ioannou said.

There are very few established thyroid cancer registries internationally, however clinical quality registries have shown valuable outcomes and patient benefits in other cancers.

The ANZTCR, also supported by consumer organisation the Australian Thyroid Foundation, will position New Zealand and Australia as international leaders in the treatment and quality of care provided to patients diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

In conjunction with Prof Serpell and A/Prof Ahern, Dr Ioannou will present her research at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeon’s 87th Annual Scientific Congress which is being held in Sydney between 7-11 May. The congress brings together some of the top surgical and medical minds from across New Zealand, Australia, and the rest of the world.

For more information about the Annual Scientific Congress please visit: https://asc.surgeons.org/

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