

JUNE 2026

THE PARTNER NETWORK

BULLETIN



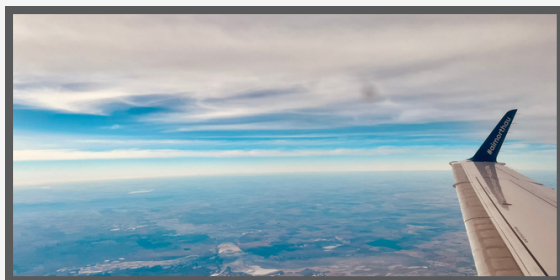
GET INVOLVED

Welcome to the PARTNER Network Bulletin where we bring members opportunities to participate in cutting-edge research and practical solutions to enhance healthcare in rural communities.

[**Read More on our website**](#)

Mid-Year Update

As we reach the midpoint of the year, we're proud to reflect on the progress made across the PARTNER Network and the growing impact of our collaborative efforts. We thank our members and partners for their ongoing support, engagement and commitment, and look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen primary health research and improve care outcomes throughout the remainder of 2026.



Kimberley, WA



Kimberley, WA



PARTNER Network Resources

[**PARTNER Network Website**](#)



[**PARTNER GP training Module**](#)

NETWORK UPDATES

PARTNER Updates

- The PARTNER Network team has been busy attending National and State Health conferences across Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales, showcasing the program's progress and engaging in important conversations about advancing research in rural and regional communities.
- Happy International Nurses Day to all nurses for May 12, thank you for your unwavering commitment to caring for others.
- On May 20 we celebrated World Clinical Trial Day, where we celebrated the important role clinical trials play in advancing medical knowledge and creating better healthcare outcomes for communities everywhere



Clinical Trials Institute team and PARTNER coordinator, VIC

The Daffodil Centre needs your help!

Researchers from the Daffodil Centre (University of Sydney and Cancer Council NSW) are seeking GPs and practice nurses to participate in a qualitative study exploring healthcare professionals' perspectives on a potential digital platform for population-wide cancer risk assessment to enable future risk-based cancer screening in Australia; participation involves a 5-minute online survey and a 30-minute Zoom interview, with a \$100 gift voucher provided upon completion in recognition of participants' time.



RDA QLD Practice Owners' Conference 2026



Kimberley, WA

Where Are We Now?



116 General Practices



30 approved trials



14 key health topics covered



33 sites participating across 20 unique trials

PARTNER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

DUE TO START RECRUITING IN 2026

▶ ROSELLA: Implementation of risk-stratified population screening for Australia's most common cancers

Summary: A hybrid effectiveness–implementation study of a genomic cancer risk assessment tool for melanoma, prostate, breast and bowel cancer. The study aims to determine how best to deliver cancer risk assessment via a DNA test at scale within general practice, to support personalised cancer screening recommendations for the Australian population.

CURRENTLY RECRUITING

DREAM

Summary: The primary aim of DREAM is to investigate the efficacy of Duloxetine, compared with placebo, on leg pain intensity in people with chronic sciatica.

GP Requirements:

- Screen and enrol patients
- May include follow up visits
- Disseminate documents to the DREAM research team via email or fax

GP/Participants receive:

- GPs receive \$33 for screening, \$99 for screening and enrolment, \$66 for the follow-up.

NATIONAL



RDA QLD Practice Owners' Conference 2026

Internet-delivered primary care for shoulder pain

Summary: Rotator cuff-related shoulder pain is common, affecting around 1.8 million Australians, with 40% experiencing disability beyond 12 months. This project aims to compare the effectiveness of internet-delivered care, with or without telehealth in addition to usual care, versus usual care alone on pain and disability, waiting times, quality of life, global change, and psychological/cognitive outcomes such as outcome expectations.

GP Requirements:

- Identify eligible patients
- Contact patients and share study information
- Promote the project within the practice using a poster

Participating GPs Receive:

- Financial reimbursement
- Education on the latest research in shoulder pain
- Opportunities to improve patient care

NATIONAL

ASSURE-Echo

Summary: Thickening, reduced mobility and narrowing (stenosis) of the aortic valve is a common problem that occurs with ageing. An echocardiogram ("echo") is the single most useful test to identify this. Widespread use of echo to screen for this problem is not currently feasible because an expert sonographer is needed to acquire these images. Access to echo is especially limited in rural and remote Australia. ASSURE-ECHO aims to identify the feasibility and value of AI-guided echocardiography for AS screening in the community

GP requirements:

- Identify eligible patients
- Disseminate invitation letters
- Ensure a consultation room is available when a clinic is booked
- No active role for GPs as active cardiologist involved

Participants Receive:

- Free heart screening and echocardiography.

Recruiting in TAS

MedCan 3: Medicinal Cannabis

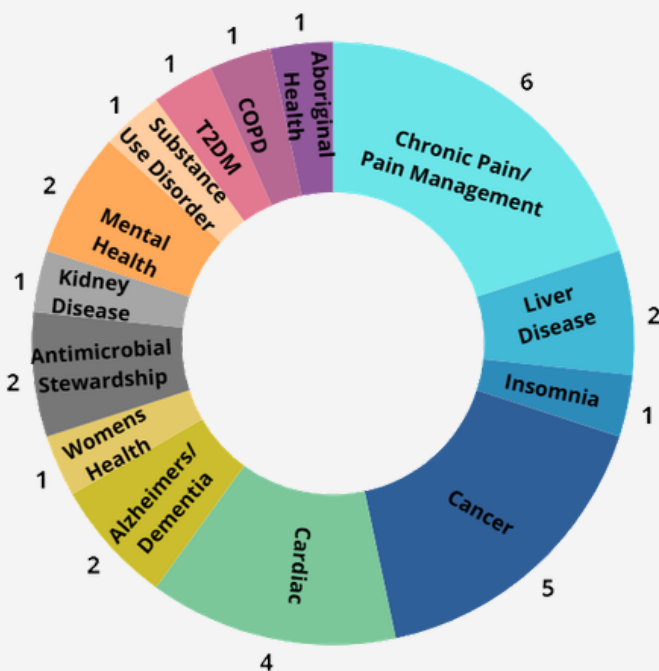
Summary: People with advanced cancer may experience a wide range of distressing and difficult-to-manage symptoms. MedCan 3 aims to reduce symptom burden in patients with advanced cancer by assessing the effect of escalating doses of THC/CBD 1:20 versus placebo on total symptom distress scores.

GP Requirements:

- Referrers continue to provide normal clinical care
- Trial staff prescribe, dispense drug & monitor patients

Recruiting in QLD

PARTNER Research Areas



PIA-STUDY: Probucol in Alzheimer's Study

Summary: Scientists have discovered that a build-up of molecules in the blood may cause damage to brain capillaries, potentially contributing to Alzheimer's disease. The primary objective of this trial is to evaluate the efficacy of Probucol (Lorelco) on cognitive performance in patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD) over a 104-week treatment period.

GP Requirements:

- Identify and refer eligible patients
- Distribute trial brochures
- May assist in gathering baseline data (by negotiation)

Participating GPs Receive:

- Training materials and ongoing support

Recruiting in TAS, SA, WA

REST UP: Research and Evaluation Study of digital Treatment of insomnia in Underserved Populations

Summary: REST UP is evaluating an interactive digital CBTi program called Bedtime Window in aims to improve access to CBTi in rural and regional Australia. Practices will be allocated to either the self-guided digital CBTi, GP-guided digital CBTi, or augmented usual care (control) group, with control patients receiving access to the program once the study is complete.

GP Requirements:

- Nominate (or self-nominate) a practice champion to send email/SMS EOIs to eligible patients via the EMR and act as the primary contact for the study.
- For those in the GP-guided group, complete a concise online training module to support patient onboarding and provide follow up consultations (~ 3 visits).

Participating GPs Receive:

- GPs - Mentoring from GP investigators and access to CPD points in the measuring outcomes category.
- GP/Practice - \$200 voucher for the practice champion, plus \$100 for each patient recruited (aim of 10).
- Patients - Free digital CBTi access and 3 x \$30 vouchers for completing study surveys.

NATIONAL



Goondiwindi, QLD

COLCOT-T2D: COLchicine and non enteric coated aspirin in the Cardiovascular Outcomes Trial of patients with T2D

Summary: People with type 2 diabetes are more likely to develop cardiovascular disease. The COLCOT-T2D trial aims to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Colchicine and non enteric-coated aspirin, used either in combination or alone, to improve cardiovascular outcomes in high-risk patients with type 2 diabetes.

GP requirements:

- Identify eligible patients
- Disseminate study information via letter or email
- Conduct baseline and 6-monthly visits (may be completed by a practice nurse or a Curtin University research nurse)
- Provide medical updates (with patient consent) for an approximately 3-year follow-up period

Participating GPs Receive:

- Up to \$800 reimbursement per completed participant
- Site training and support

Recruiting in WA

EQUIPP: EQUIpping the general Public to prevent and overcome chronic Pain

Summary: The project aims to test a method of co-designing and delivering public messaging and education about chronic pain in rural populations.

GP Requirements:

Practices can engage with EQUIPP in whatever way is most useful and relevant to their patients, team and community.

This may include:

- Displaying and sharing patient information materials and clinic resources
- Using EQUIPP consultation aids and script pads (digital and paper-based)
- Attending CPD, education and networking opportunities
- Promoting community survey activities
- Providing feedback on resources and implementation as the project evolves.

Recruiting in SA & VIC



PARTNER National Office team and Cancer research colleague, VIC

OPTIMAS-GP: The Optimal Implementation of Antimicrobial Stewardship in General Practice

Summary: Combating antimicrobial resistance is a global health priority. The OPTIMAS-GP study will investigate the most effective ways to implement evidence-based antimicrobial stewardship activities in general practice. Co-designed with consumers and doctors, the study aims to safely reduce antibiotic prescriptions for respiratory tract infections, with sustainability of these activities a key aim.

GP requirements

- 1 hour onboarding training
- GPs: 7 hour online training, Access the AMS toolbox during consultations
- Staff: Fortnightly audits using Best Practice app

Participating GPs Receive:

- \$3,200 for the two year participation

Clinics receive:

- \$4500 for the two year participation

Recruiting in TAS, VIC

EASY-AS: Early valve replacement in severe ASYmptomatic Aortic Stenosis

Summary: The EASY-AS trial is investigating the most effective way to manage people with severe but asymptomatic aortic stenosis. It addresses a fundamental unresolved question in cardiology: the relative benefits of early aortic valve replacement (AVR) versus watchful waiting in asymptomatic patients with severe aortic stenosis.

GP Requirements:

- Patient identification and referral
- Distribution of trial information

NATIONAL



Do any of these research projects interest you?

A **PARTNER State Coordinator** will be in touch soon to offer more information. Alternatively please email the partner-network@unimelb.edu.au with any enquiries!

Do you have a research study recruiting in rural primary care clinics?

complete our investigator-led clinical trial enquiry form.

[click here to enquire](#)