

Media Release

Sydney app wins \$65,000 in international competition

A team of Sydney clinicians has won \$65,000 for developing an app which has increased the number of cancer patients enrolling in clinical trials by 60 per cent.

The team, from Sydney Local Health District and South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, competed with more than 50 teams around the world and took out second place in the HeroX crowd-sourcing challenge run by the US-based Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation.

The team's app, ClinTrial Refer, was developed in 2013 and enables doctors to instantly connect patients with current recruiting trials.

"ClinTrial Refer has been such a success because it does what it says it will do," says St George Hospital Clinical Research Unit manager Roslyn Ristuccia.

"It has changed the behaviour of doctors because they now have knowledge in their pockets, and enrolling patients into clinical trials is being seen as the first solution, rather than the last.

"This project has been instrumental in increasing enrolment to clinical trials - a great breakthrough - and it is our patients that are benefitting. We are delighted to be a prize winner in this worldwide competition," she said.

The prize money will go towards developing similar apps for clinical trials in other medical disciplines.

"ClinTrial Refer is an innovative tool that brings together clinicians, researchers and patients, and is breaking down traditional hospital silos," says the Director of Concord Repatriation General Hospital's Haematology Clinical Research Unit, Associate Professor Judith Trotman.

"Clinical trials are vitally important to patient care. Researchers are constantly striving to find answers to improve the quality of life of our patients, and ClinTrial means better and faster access to their work."

For more information on ClinTrial Refer, please go to: www.clintrial.org.au