Title of Project: Acupuncture for Cancer-related Symptoms: protocols and safety considerations

(FOR Code/s): 1104

Supervisor: Dr Suzanne Grant Contact: s.grant@uws.edu.au
Co-supervisor: Dr Xiaoshu Zhu x.zhu@uws.edu.au

Location of Project: Campbelltown

Project Background

Acupuncture is increasingly used in integrative oncology settings for both inpatients and outpatients as an adjunctive treatment for cancer related symptoms in the US and Canada [1]. Some of the symptoms for which acupuncture is used are xerostomia, cancer-related fatigue, nausea and vomiting, pain, diarrhoea, hot flashes, immunosuppression (neutropenia and leukopenia), breathlessness, post-operative ileus, anxiety and depression and chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy. An increasing number of clinical trials have been conducted to show the efficacy of acupuncture in the treatment of these symptoms. While these trials are of some use to clinicians there is no synthesis of the actual interventions themselves and provide limited guidance to acupuncturists working in integrative oncology settings.

Aim of Study:

To create protocols for the acupuncture treatment of cancer-related symptoms and document any safety considerations for specific symptoms.

Methods

Mixed research methods including literature review and pilot survey will be employed for a design of various protocols in this project.

Ethics Application Requirements:

N/A

Key References: