



The Cancer Cachexia Action Network presents a seminar by:

Associate Professor Barry Laird

Cancer Cachexia – from a nutritional to an inflammatory condition

Abstract: *The systemic inflammatory response (SIR) resulting from the host-tumor interface is recognized as a central tenet of cancer, following its established role in non-malignant disease. Using the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group – Performance Status (ECOG-PS) and modified Glasgow Prognostic Score (mGPS) as a framework, we have systematically examined key aspects of cachexia including frailty, lean mass, measures of appetite and weight, to confirm that in cachexia, function and inflammation are the central pillars. Our work to date supports the increasing recognition and change of cachexia from a nutritional to an inflammatory condition.*



Date: Friday, April 21, 2023

Time: 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. (ET)

For a meeting invite please
email: Sean Parnell at
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Barry is currently an academic clinician that specializes in palliative medicine. He is passionate about improving symptoms in people with life limiting illness. His focus in research is understanding how the tumor-host interaction in cancer is implicated in the genesis of symptoms. He is part of the Edinburgh Palliative and Supportive Care Group (EPaS – Group Lead Professor Marie Fallon) at the Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine. Barry holds consultant positions in Palliative Medicine at the Edinburgh Cancer Centre and St Columba's Hospice. His work has demonstrated that this inflammatory response influences survival and also quality of life in patients with advanced cancer. This understanding provides valuable insight into the genesis of cachexia, fatigue, pain and reduced physical function which in turn can inform potential novel therapeutic targets to address these. The overarching aim is to improve the care of patients with cancer through improved prognostication, stratification and efficacy of therapies through an evidence based translational research program from basic science to clinical trials. Professor Laird has close collaborations with local clinicians, multidisciplinary academic research groups and industry partners.

Funded by

