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Full Reference. Connolly E, Bucio-Noble D, Koh J, Sykes E, McNamee N, Singh A, Aref A, Ye L, Karim R, Maclean F, Bhadri V, Nassif Haddad E, Ingram D, Morey R, Wani K, Lazar A, Thomas D, Ballinger M, Simes J, Scott C, Barker H, Milesi B, Ratnayake G, Cain J, Zhukova N, Hains P, Horvath L, Grimison P, Robinson P, Reddel R. *Expression of emerging therapeutic target B7-H3 in sarcoma - a mass spectrometry-based proteomic analysis of >1000 sarcoma samples*



I was very grateful to receive support to attend the 2025 Connective Tissue Oncology Society (CTOS) Annual Meeting in Boca Raton, Florida. CTOS is the premier international conference dedicated exclusively to sarcoma. This year's meeting brought together more than 1,200 delegates from around the world, including sarcoma researchers and multidisciplinary clinicians and healthcare professionals across medical oncology, surgery, radiation oncology, pathology and radiology, as well as industry partners and patient advocates. The program spanned clinical, translational and basic science research.

Highlights at CTOS included several highly anticipated and practice-changing updates, particularly in the treatment of chondrosarcoma- a rare and aggressive bone cancer with no currently approved medical treatments. Results were presented for registrational Phase II ChonDRAgon trial. Ozekibart (INBRX-109), a tetravalent DR5 agonist, demonstrated a clinically meaningful benefit for patients with chondrosarcoma. Ozekibart reduced the risk of disease progression or death by 52% compared to placebo, more than doubling median progression-free survival (5.5 months vs. 2.7 months).

The global consensus meeting that I led on genetic predisposition, held on the day prior to the meeting, has been cited a highlight by others. The sarcoma patient advocate group SPAGN newsletter 'CTOS 2025 Highlights', dated 21 November 2025, included;

'Last week, ahead of CTOS 2025, more than 70 international experts and patient advocates came together to discuss genetic predispositions in sarcoma — an area where up to 20% of cases may be linked to inherited factors, yet clear clinical guidance remains limited. Led by Dr. Liz Connolly (Melbourne) and Dr. Kjetil Boye (Oslo), the group focused on key clinical questions and priority research needs. The outcomes will contribute to a global consensus paper planned for publication in 2026.'

Attending CTOS strengthened my knowledge of the current therapeutic landscape in sarcoma and the translational research that directly informs developments in the field. Discussions throughout the meeting highlighted how rapidly emerging targets are being translated into clinical studies. I was able to connect with several international investigators in clinical and translational sarcoma research, including researchers whose work I had followed but not previously met in person, and with whom I have remained in contact since the meeting.



Leading Genetic Predisposition in Sarcoma global consensus meeting with head of Norwegian sarcoma group Kjetil Boye.

The knowledge gained from CTOS will directly inform both my clinical practice and future research directions. Sarcoma is a rare and heterogeneous group of cancers, and progress often relies on highly specialised expertise rather than large phase III trials or guideline-driven evidence alone. Much of the nuance in sarcoma management comes from emerging data, early-phase studies and international experience. Dedicated sarcoma meetings such as CTOS play a critical role in making this information visible and accessible, allowing me, as a dedicated sarcoma medical oncologist, to provide the best care for the rare and ultra-rare cancers I treat. Given that many sarcoma studies are international collaborative efforts, these meetings are also important for identifying new studies and opportunities for participation. As a sarcoma translational researcher, exposure to basic and translational research both energises me and informs my research questions and approaches.

My personal highlight was the opportunity to meet and talk with people in the sarcoma community, both colleagues I have met before and new people. As there are only a limited number of sarcoma specialists in Australia, it is special and invigorating to be among many people who share enthusiasm for this rare disease and to feel part of a wider community all seeking to improve things in this challenging malignancy.

Overall, attending CTOS 2025 was an important opportunity to present our translational research on an international stage, expand collaborative networks, and ensure that my clinical and research practice remains aligned with emerging evidence in sarcoma. I am very appreciative of the support from Sydney Cancer Partners that enabled me to attend.