Major improvements in early diagnosis and management have improved five year survival to 69%. The outlook for some other GI cancers remains poor. For example outcomes for pancreatic cancer have not improved despite widespread research, with a five year survival rate of only 8%.

Australia has one of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world, with 732 Australians diagnosed in 2014. Most people diagnosed with mesothelioma will die as a result of their illness. While mesothelioma is rare in other countries, its frequency in Australia is a legacy of our history of mining and using asbestos. Due to the long lead time from exposure to diagnosis patients are often older and male. Many talented local WA clinicians are contributing to understanding and treating this deadly disease.

As always, we intend deliver you a scientific program that is as diverse as the COSA multidisciplinary membership. We hope that many of you will submit abstracts to the program to showcase your research work! Be sure to diarise 13-15 November 2018 now. We look forward to seeing you in Perth.

Tim Clay
2018 COSA ASM Convenor

COSA is pleased to announce the ASM is heading west to Perth again in 2018.

COSA’s 45th ASM will focus on gastro-intestinal cancer and mesothelioma with possible sub-themes of technology and genomics. The program will capture the extensive research being undertaken across these cancers, and the diversity of new treatments being trialled and implemented.