

Northern Clinical School  
The University of Sydney  
NSW, Australia  
Improving Palliative, Aged and Chronic Care  
through Clinical Research and Translation  
University of Technology Sydney  
NSW, Australia

Samuel Allingham, BMath [Hons]  
Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration  
Australian Health Services Research Institute  
Innovation Campus  
University of Wollongong  
NSW, Australia

Jane L. Phillips, RN, BSN, PhD, FACN  
Improving Palliative, Aged and Chronic Care  
through Clinical Research and Translation  
University of Technology Sydney  
NSW, Australia

Linda Brown, MBus, BBus [Mgmt]  
Improving Palliative, Aged and Chronic Care  
through Clinical Research and Translation  
University of Technology Sydney  
NSW, Australia

David C. Currow, BMed, MPH, PhD, FRACP,  
FAHMS  
Improving Palliative, Aged and Chronic Care  
through Clinical Research and Translation  
University of Technology Sydney  
NSW, Australia

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### Authors' Response



To the Editors:

We appreciate the response of Clark et al. to our article, Challenges in Recruiting Patients to a Controlled Feasibility Study of a Drug for Opioid-Induced Constipation: Lessons From the Population With Advanced Cancer (*JPSM* 2019;57(5):e5–e8), and their extensive experience from the Australian Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration. Although we agree that distress from constipation may be limited to a small percentage of the cancer population and contribute to recruitment challenges, other factors we encountered included late referrals, rapid trajectory of disease, limited opioid use, and disinterest because of dealing with multiple issues during advanced illness. Attributing the problem to one issue is a bit like looking for a needle in a haystack. Nonetheless, we agree: Although constipation has been reported in as many as 70%–90% of opioid-treated cancer patients, perhaps as Clark points out, it is a small subset that experiences significant distress.

Dr Janet Bull, MD, MBA  
Four Seasons  
Flat Rock, North Carolina, USA  
E-mail: [jbull@fourseasonscfl.org](mailto:jbull@fourseasonscfl.org)

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