



COSA NEWS **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Professor Bogda Koczwar, President, COSA

It is hard to believe but this is actually my last Marryalyan column as the COSA President. No, I am not going anywhere yet, but with the new schedule of the Marryalyan where our last issue is the Christmas issue, my contribution to the next edition will be as brand new retiree rather than “the one with whom the buck stops”. It seems like it was only yesterday that I had been drafting my first Marryalyan column and now it is time to sit down to the last one. Such is life, you may say, and if we in oncology do not know about how fleeting time is, we have not learned much from our profession.

But this column is not meant to be about the reflections of an individual, even if she has a privilege to hold the Presidency, as COSA is not a one man show. I want to write about COSA as an organisation. This opening is more to remind us all that time is ticking, not just for me but for all of us. For the President, the time at the helm is just a blink. What matters is an enduring track record of the organisation and this year COSA is officially becoming middle aged and turning 40! That is a pretty impressive achievement for an organisation built around professions, many of which did not exist 50 years ago. But it is also a good time to reflect on where we are and where should be going over the next 40 years. We hope to have many opportunities to ponder this over the next 12 months for the COSA Birthday Bash, but

let me focus my reflection today on where are we at 40 as opposed to where I am 15 months into my Presidency.

This year COSA is facing the significant challenge of ensuring that the members engage in the decision process regarding its organisational structure. We started the discussion about governance in 2010 and it is time to arrive at the resolution stage. The proposed changes described in more detail elsewhere in this issue (pages 3-5), are designed to allow COSA to grow and engage with the growing number of cancer organisations of similar interest, while maintaining a flexible structure that supports the growing and evolving interests of individual members. We want to build on the tradition of COSA but ensure that its operations are supported by the strong foundations of sound corporate governance that an organisation of this size requires in the modern age. Please familiarise yourself with the proposed changes, get involved in the online and face to face discussion, come to breakfasts that COSA will be hosting in Melbourne and Brisbane (we have had one in Sydney), speak to your colleagues, but most importantly do have a say in how you want COSA to grow. And have a say at the Annual General Meeting in November. You are part of COSA – your vote counts.

We have had an example that your vote matters just recently when you were involved in choosing the next President Elect. It is great to see two outstanding individuals stepping up to offer their vision for the organisation. We have received an outstanding response from members – as the voting is anonymous, I do not know the results of the ballot but I am delighted that so many of you had a say. I hope to see more of this type of engagement in the future and I congratulate both Jane Turner and Mei Krishnasamy for their outstanding vision and commitment to COSA.

Organisations like COSA are built on the strength, passion and commitment of individuals. Being part of COSA is not a job;

it is a bit of a mission, more a realisation of values that you live by. I am reminded of this observation as I reflect on the selection of the recipient of the Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contribution to Cancer Care. David Ball presents a magnificent package of sharp intellect, warm compassion and generous collegiality that I have been a direct recipient of when I worked with him during the many ACORD workshops. COSA members, you have chosen well! Again!

Just a few more examples of COSA members on a mission – the Brisbane team in charge of our ASM – Krissy Carrington, Jane Turner, Sandro Porceddu and Bryan Burmeister are shaping out an outstanding program for the Annual Scientific Meeting – how did they rope in the solar eclipse to highlight the topic of melanoma is beyond me! This will be an outstanding meeting for not only the scientific program, but also the social events (the eclipse and a few others) and the world class collaboration with our psycho-oncology colleagues around the world. From *Winning the War on Cancer* to *Where's Wally?* Intrigued? Just come to the meeting and see for yourself.

In the meantime, we are off to Canberra to shape the future of rural cancer care. The rural workshop entitled “*More than Bricks and Mortar*” will take place on the 3rd of August and brings together the key stakeholders involved in rural cancer care delivery across all jurisdictions to identify the key issues that need to be addressed to deliver world class cancer care for rural Australia. With the investment of over half a billion dollars in infrastructure, it is imperative that the human and organisational aspect of care delivery matches the infrastructure investment. The workshop is expected to deliver a solid action plan which will serve as a framework for monitoring developments in this area.

So, as I am taking stock of all the buzz in the COSA hive, I have no doubt of the bright future ahead. I will hand over to Sandro in November knowing that I am handing over to an outstanding colleague, with great vision and wonderful capacity to engage with a diverse COSA membership. My task for now is to make sure that I do my bit of finalising the necessary changes to organisational structure of COSA to assist Sandro and the team in taking the organisation to the next 40 years of success. I do need your help here so please get engaged. And of course I am not leaving without cutting the COSA Birthday cake!!!

See you all in Brisbane, Bogda

Professor Bogda Koczwara
President - COSA

Executive Officer's Report

Where do the days, weeks, months go?? It hardly seems like four months have passed since the last Marryalyan, but because so much has happened in between reports it may well have been longer.

It was great to meet some of you at the **COSA Members' Breakfast** held in Sydney on 25 May. This event provided an excellent forum for a vibrant and open discussion about what the proposed changes really mean for COSA members. We found that despite our best efforts in communicating change, it's not always easy to understand in written materials, and the face-to-face discussion really helped both the COSA members present as well as the Council. So if you're in Melbourne on 31 August please come along to the COSA Members' Breakfast there, otherwise we hope to see you at the breakfast prior to the ASM on Monday 12 November in Brisbane.

To learn more about our activities as the peak society for health professionals working in cancer care, I recommend you read the COSA Groups reports on the following pages. I'd also like to highlight a few key items which do not appear elsewhere in this newsletter but are equally important to showcase.

- COSA's Cancer Australia funded *Consumer Engagement in Clinical Cancer Research* project has reached a huge milestone recently. Some of the e-learning modules have been approved by Cancer Australia and will be tested for user suitability and functionality throughout August.
- John Zalberg and Mei Krishnasamy represented COSA at a private meeting with the McKeon review panel on 1 May 2012 to discuss our submission to the Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia, March 2012. Adequate funding for cancer research – particularly investigator initiated clinical trials run by the CCTGs – remains an ongoing challenge. Generally they are sympathetic to the issues presented by COSA and the CCTGs, but it remains unclear as to how additional funds may be sourced.
- Bogda Koczwara was invited to attend as a witness at the Senate hearing regarding the factors affecting the supply of health services and medical professionals in rural areas in Canberra on Friday 11 May 2012 following our joint submission with Cancer Council Australia.
- Jane Phillips represented COSA at the Senate hearing for the inquiry into Palliative Care in Australia on 2 July 2012.
- On 2 May I attended the Cancer Council NSW Research Awards where I was pleased to see Prof Anna Nowak, COSA member, awarded a cancer research grant for her work in brain cancer. Liz Hovey accepted the award on behalf of Anna – I guess travelling from Perth might have been a bit too much to ask of Anna!

COSA Annual Scientific Meeting

COSA's partnership with IPOS this year is proving to be very fruitful for all involved – from the collaboration for joint plenaries to planning the conference dinner – this is shaping up to be an excellent opportunity for both societies and their members.

I hope you read this before abstracts close on 14 August 2012! We don't intend to extend the abstract deadline this year so get in quickly and don't wait for an extension that might never come!

Travels grants close on 20 August, allowing time for successful recipients to register before the early bird deadline of 7 September. Please visit the website for all registration, program and travel grant information www.cosa-ipos.org.

Here at COSA we are already busily planning for future ASMs: namely Adelaide in 2013, Hobart in 2014 and Melbourne in 2015. Nimit Singhal, our convenor in Adelaide in 2013, has a clinical interest in treating geriatric oncology patients, so in 2013 the conference will definitely have that flavour. Nimit and his Geriatric Oncology Interest Group colleague, Christopher Steer, have been communicating with the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) about potential partnership opportunities in 2013. Whilst SIOG will hold its official ASM in Belgium next year, they are very keen to have an obvious presence at the COSA ASMs in 2012 and 2013.

Trainees Weekend

Planning for the COSA Advanced Trainees weekend is well and truly under way. I must give my sincere thanks to the Organising Committee for the way they've worked collaboratively to compile an excellent program – Chris Allan, Victoria Atkinson, Bruce Mann and David Speakman are all to be congratulated. This intensive two-day course titled "Everything you need to know about melanoma" is aimed at advanced trainees in surgery, medical and radiation oncology trainees, cancer nurses and other allied health professionals. Dan Coit from MSK in New York, one of the invited international speakers to the ASM, will also present at the trainees weekend. The workshop will be held prior to the ASM, 10-11 November 2012 in Brisbane. Program and registration information can be found at <http://www.cosa-ipos.org/cosa-trainee-weekend/>.

Staff changes at COSA

On 3 May COSA said goodbye to Kathy Ansell – but not forever! Kath made the tough decision to leave full time work to spend more time with her family but she assures us she'll keep up her COSA membership. Kath's enthusiasm and dedication to the work of COSA will be sorely missed.

We welcomed Kate Whittaker as COSA Project Coordinator on 28 May. Kate previously worked as the Research Governance Officer at Cancer Council NSW, supporting the Ethics Committee and Cancer Research Committee. Kate's affable nature, organisational skills and understanding of the cancer research environment make her an excellent candidate for this role in supporting the Interest Groups in Cancer Care Coordination, Developing Nations and Geriatric Oncology.

Marie Malica
Executive Officer

Proposed changes to COSA Governance and Constitution

At the November AGM, COSA members will be invited to vote on the proposed changes to the COSA Governance as summarised in the amended Constitution. The following outlines the background behind the change, the details of changes and how you can learn more. It is critical that members familiarise themselves with these changes so they can provide feedback before they are presented and cast an informed vote on the day.

Why change?

As COSA is becoming larger and its membership is more diverse, and as cancer care evolves, there is a need for our organisation to engage with multiple organisations and individuals who may wish to become part of COSA and at the same time maintain a strong, effective and flexible governance process that is compliant with modern governance expectations. At present the role of the governing body (the Board) and members' forum is discharged to the COSA Council. While the Council is most appropriate as a members forum and could grow to include new members' interests, growing the Council as a governing body is problematic as it is not possible for the Council to discharge its Board requirements within its current size.

The purpose of the proposed changes is to ensure that COSA creates an effective smaller board to govern the organisation, while preserving the role of the Council as an advisory forum that incorporates all the interests of COSA members and has the capacity to grow as new members come on board. The process of this change requires clarification of members' rights and responsibilities to ensure consistency and fairness and to ensure that the historical value of the COSA Council is not diminished by the proposed changes.

Proposed changes:

COSA Governance

- a. The Board of COSA shall consist of eight (8) to eleven (11) members: comprising the incumbent President and President Elect, and six (6) members elected by the COSA Council from within its current or previous membership; two (2) may be co-opted as required; and one (1) shall be nominated by Cancer Council Australia.
- b. COSA Council will provide advice to the Board and serve as the main forum of representation for COSA Members and Affiliated Organisations.
- c. Individual COSA Members will have an option of representation at the COSA Council via the Chair of the Group(s) they select. Affiliated Organisations will be entitled to a seat at the COSA Council. The COSA Council representative of the Affiliated Organisation must be a COSA member.
- d. At no stage will Affiliated Organisations hold more than 49% of the COSA Council seats.
- e. COSA Members will have the right to vote at the AGM. Affiliated Organisations will not have a vote at the AGM but their COSA Council representatives and their own organisation members who are COSA Members can exercise their individual member votes as they see fit.

COSA Organisational structure

1. COSA will provide 2 types of membership:
 - **Individual** – open to all individual health care professionals working or training in the cancer field. Holders of individual membership will be known as **COSA Members**.
 - **Organisational** – open to independent organisations of cancer professionals that share their objectives with those of COSA. Organisational members will be known as **Affiliated Organisations**.
2. Members rights and obligations are summarised in the table below:

Membership	Rights	Obligations
Individual Member (Not a member of a COSA Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote at the COSA AGM • ASM registration discount • Access to resources and publications • Contact COSA to voice opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment to the objects of COSA • Responsibility towards the maintenance of a sustained interest in the affairs and objects of COSA • Compliance with the Constitution
Individual Member (Member of a COSA Group)	<i>As above plus...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represented on COSA Council through Group representative • Educational opportunities <i>ie. Clinical Professional Days</i> 	<i>As above plus...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to Group activities • Vote for Chair/ Committee * • Attend Group Meetings • Active in Group processes <p><i>* In the instance of only one nominee for Chair or committee position – members should be asked to vote to endorse the nominee</i></p>
Affiliated Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat/vote on COSA Council (representative must be a COSA member) • Vote for COSA Board • No vote at AGM • Discounted membership to members • Provide advice to Board/ Council • Receive COSA communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominee must be a COSA member • Attend 2/3 Council meetings annually** • Pay annual membership fee • Contribute to strategic advice to the Board • Become members of committees as required • Advise COSA on particular issues • Actively promote COSA within its networks <p><i>** Proxy can be nominated in advance (must be a COSA member)</i></p>

3. COSA Members will be invited to join COSA Groups; however membership of COSA Groups will not be mandatory. It will be explicit that Group membership will entail active contribution.
4. All COSA professional, tumour specific and Interest Groups will become "COSA Groups" with same rights and obligations.
5. An annual review of COSA Group activities and structure will be conducted as a part of good governance and Groups that are in abeyance may be dissolved at the discretion of the Board on the advice of Council.
6. Where there is duplication between a COSA Group and an independent professional

organisation, such as CNSA and MOGA, the COSA Group may not be required. In consultation with the relevant parties and on the advice of COSA Council the Board may elect that the professional organisation that is also a COSA Affiliated Organisation takes that role.

Questions?

Please contact Marie Malica on marie.malica@cancer.org.au if you wish to obtain any more information regarding the proposed changes or if you wish to share your feedback.

You are also invited to join us for the COSA Breakfast in Melbourne on 31 August and Brisbane on 12 November if you'd like to discuss this directly with COSA Council.

THE TOM REEVE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANCER CARE

2012 Award Announcement

COSA is pleased to announce the 2012 recipient of the Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care, Professor David Ball MB BS, FRANZCR.



Professor David Ball graduated in medicine from the University of Adelaide in 1972, became a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of

Radiologists in 1976, and subsequently received the degree of Doctor of Medicine (University of Adelaide) in 2001 for lung cancer research. Prof Ball has devoted nearly his entire professional life to the care of patients with lung cancer and other cancers of the chest. His primary research interests are tumour volume definition and staging of non-small cell lung cancer, and concurrent drug/radiation therapy of inoperable non-small cell lung cancer.

His current appointment as a highly respected Radiation Oncologist is the Deputy Director, Division of Radiation Oncology and Cancer Imaging Chair, Lung Service (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Victoria).

As many noted in letters of recommendation for this award Prof Ball's achievements are too numerous to list, however a couple to highlight are:

- The development of novel radiation schedules and approaches for non-small cell lung cancer.
- Collaboration with basic scientists in designing and interpreting preclinical radiation and radiobiology studies.
- Leadership in major International and National bodies including the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), Tans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG), Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group (ALTG) and the NHMRC Guidelines for Management of Lung Cancer.
- Teaching and mentoring trainees and young Radiation Oncologists with passion, intellectual rigor and a keen sense that the Radiation Oncologist is above all a doctor whose focus is the patient, not merely a technician focused on the technology.

COSA encourages those attending the COSA-IPOS Annual Scientific Meeting to register for the conference dinner where Professor Ball will deliver his oration and be presented with the Gold Marryalyan.

Do you have any questions for COSA Council?

Want to know what activities are planned for the remainder of 2012 and 2013?

Want an update on the proposed changes discussed at the AGM last year...

Come and meet COSA Council in at the upcoming **COSA Members' Breakfast**

MELBOURNE BREAKFAST

Friday 31 August 2012 8:00am – 9:30am
Cancer Council Victoria

BRISBANE BREAKFAST

Monday 12 November 8:00am – 9:30am
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Please **RSVP** to cosa@cancer.org.au
by Friday 24 August 2012 (for Melbourne)
Monday 29 October 2012 (for Brisbane)

GROUP REPORTS

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia

It's been another busy couple of months for the CNSA. Our Winter Congress in July in Hobart lived up to its promise of being a very successful event with an impressive and packed program. This year's theme "*Promoting Partnerships for Optimal Patient Outcomes*" spoke to the potential of nursing to drive innovation and change in the way we engage with people affected by cancer. The conference provided nurses from across Australia with opportunities to explore how we work with each other and, crucially, with other members of the health care team in acute, sub-acute and community settings to drive an agenda of self-management, rehabilitation and survivorship for cancer as it becomes increasingly recognised as a chronic disease. Following the decision at last year's AGM in Sydney to bring about fundamental changes to the CNSA with the introduction of CNSA only membership replacing joint COSA/CNSA membership, I have been working with the COSA Executive and COSA Council on behalf of the CNSA, to ensure that the relationship between CNSA and COSA remains a strong and collaborative one. Details are still being finalised with both Societies confident of a beneficial outcome.

Work is also being undertaken to develop a new CNSA website, ensuring that it becomes a dynamic and relevant communication mechanism for all CNSA members. Several of the NEC and national CNSA members have been working incredibly hard with our website designers, and our "new look" website was presented to members for their review and feedback at Winter Congress in Hobart.

With the "new look" website comes an opportunity to consider whether CNSA needs to refresh our logo. At

Winter Congress, a series of new logos were presented alongside our existing logo, for members' consideration.

The last couple of months have also seen the first opportunity to celebrate our new relationship with the New Zealand Nurses Organization (NZNO) – Cancer Nurses Section. On 2-3 May, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend and present at the NZNO Cancer Nurses Section meeting in Wellington. It was an enthusiastic meeting of dynamic NZ nurses working to advance cancer care across the country. Many of the issues we discussed are similar across Australia and NZ and there is clearly great opportunity for both Organizations to work together to drive improvements in outcomes for people affected by cancer.

As always, the Regional Groups, the Specialist Interest Groups and individual members have been very active on behalf of the CNSA and the energy they so generously put into the CNSA is recognised far beyond the shores of Australia. This year, in Prague, the CNSA will for the first time have a presence in the form of a booth at the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care Conference in September. The CNSA already enjoys a long and strong association with the ISNCC but this will be the first time that the CNSA will have a visible presence, where nurses from around the world can visit the CNSA booth and find out more about our dynamic Society. While in Prague I will also be exploring opportunities to link CNSA members with members of the European Oncology Nursing Society.

In May, Vivienne Van Dissel joined as the new ACT Representative to the CNSA NEC, replacing Megan Nutt who has now moved fully into the CNSA Treasurer role. We extend a warm welcome to Vivienne and look forward to engaging her in the work of the CNSA and COSA.

Mei Krishnasamy, Chair
President, Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
A Shared Voice ... A Shared Vision
Email: meinir.krishnasamy@petermac.org

COSA Clinical Professional Day 2012

This is the fourth year that COSA has offered Clinical Professional Day funding. The aim of these grants is to support professional groups to conduct “professional day” meetings or educational sessions aimed at fostering professional development. The COSA Groups successful this year are:

GROUP: Cancer Pharmacists Group

CHAIR: Dan Mellor

WORKSHOP: Cancer Pharmacists Workshop on Supportive Care, KPIs and Benchmarking

GROUP: Familial Cancer Group

CHAIR: Gillian Mitchell

WORKSHOP: COSA Familial Cancer Clinical Professional Day

GROUP: Oncology Social Workers

CHAIR: Angela Cotroneo

WORKSHOP: Travel grants for COSA/OSWA members to attend the COSA-IPOS ASM

GROUP: Psycho-oncology Group

CHAIR: Haryana Dhillon

WORKSHOP: Travel grants for PoCoG or OzPOS members to attend the COSA-IPOS ASM

Congratulations to the successful applicants.

ASM 2012 - Brisbane 13 -15 November

CPG Clinical Professional Day – Mon 12 Nov 2012

The CPG will hold a clinical professional day on Monday 12 November 2012 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The main program of the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) will commence on Tuesday 13 November. A detailed program for our professional day workshop will be available shortly. Attendance at the study day is free of charge for pharmacists who have paid the full registration fee, either member or non-member, for the COSA ASM (i.e. not just a single day registration). If you have already registered and want to attend, go back to your delegate dashboard on the ASM website www.cosa-ipos.org as a “Returning Delegate”.

The morning session will include a number of talks based on important supportive care issues. The afternoon session will be a workshop to discuss, develop and agree on a standard suite of KPIs for cancer pharmacy services to allow national benchmarking.

The CPG would like to thank COSA for financially supporting our professional workshop.

CPG Mini-Symposium – COSA ASM 2012

In addition to our success with the clinical professional day, we submitted a self-contained pharmacy-focused mini-symposium for consideration by the ASM Program Committee and this was selected for presentation. This is a new concept for COSA and the mini-symposium will take the form of a 1.5 hour themed-session to be held at some point during the main program of the COSA ASM (at this point it is provisionally planned for 11am-12.30pm on Tuesday 13 November, however that is subject to change). More details will follow regarding the timing and location of this session: *Medicines Matter!* The content of this session has been approved as part of the submission:

- *Jude Lees* will present on *Polypharmacy in Geriatric Cancer Patients*
- *Jim Siderov* will present on *Chemotherapy Contamination Issues*
- *Dan Mellor* will present on *Issues with Patient Access to Cancer Drugs*.

CPG Annual General Meeting

It is likely that the CPG Annual General Meeting will take place during the COSA ASM on Tuesday 13 November at 12.30-1.30pm.

Clinical Courses for Cancer Pharmacists

CPG course ‘Advanced Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists Course’ on 13-14 October 2012 in Melbourne

Cancer Pharmacists Group

The first half of 2012 has been a busy and exciting time for the CPG. The CPG committee has been working on several new initiatives and projects to benefit cancer pharmacists across Australia. We are looking forward to the COSA ASM in Brisbane and to our next advanced course for cancer pharmacists.

The date and location have been confirmed for our second advanced course. Further details about the program will be out soon.



Presenters from the CPG clinical course - names left to right - Ben Stevenson (SA), Jude Lees (SA), Dan Mellor (VIC), Geeta Sandhu (QLD), Dan McKavanagh (QLD)

CPG course 'Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacy Practitioners Course' on 26 - 27 May 2012 in Brisbane

The 5th CPG Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Course took place in Brisbane. I would like to thank all participants who gave up their time to make the weekend such a success. I would also like to thank all speakers for their expertise and generously giving up their time, particularly Dan McKavanagh for all of the organisational work! There have now been over 250 pharmacists who have participated in this course and there is still strong demand. We will certainly be running the course again in early 2013.

Dan Mellor, Chair

Email: dan.mellor@petermac.org

Melanoma & Skin Group

The last half of 2012 will be a busy time in the Melanoma world. In particular, Melanoma and Skin Cancer is one of the featured tumour streams at COSA's Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane this year.

On the weekend prior to the conference, Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November we will be holding a Multidisciplinary trainees weekend covering all aspects of Melanoma with many local presenters. We are privileged also to have Mr Daniel Coit MD FACS, a Surgical Oncologist from the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York as a conference visitor, to be present at this weekend. I encourage you to all alert your trainees in various disciplines to this excellent educational opportunity. The COSA meeting itself will highlight Melanoma on the Wednesday and Thursday and there is an extremely interesting program particularly around the new targeted therapies.

I also wish to recommend to you an excellent article from the United States of America which is a clinical practice guideline for Sentinel Node Biopsy in Melanoma developed by ASCO and SSO, a link is attached below. This gives an excellent summary of the state of play of Sentinel Node Biopsy.

WONG SL, Balch CM, Hurley P, Agarwala SS, et al. Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy for Melanoma: American Society of Clinical Oncology and Society of Surgical Oncology Joint Clinical Practice Guideline. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2012.

PubMed: www.amedeo.com/p2.php?id=22766987&rs=mel&pm=5656b046eed5cd2

ABSTRACT available

Share: <http://hub.amedeo.com/22766987>

COSA Travel Grants

COSA offers a range of travel grants to help and support its members to attend the 2012 Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane from 13-15 November. Grant opportunities include:

- **COSA Travel Grants up to the value of \$1000** (available to COSA members only)
- **COSA-IPSEN Travel Award to the value of \$1,100** (available to COSA members only)
- **COSA Trainee Travel Grants up to the value of \$1000**
- **PoCoG, OZPOS and COSA Travel Grants up to the value of \$500** (available to COSA and PoCoG or OZPOS only)
- **COSA Travel Grants for Oncology Social Workers up to the value of \$500** (available to members of COSA and OSWA only)

All travel grant applications close: Monday 20 August 2012

All funds awarded are to be used for expenses incurred in attending the ASM.

Please note all recipients of travel grants will be reimbursed after the event.

Please visit the COSA website www.cosa.org.au for further information on all travel grants



Listed below are several other important meetings that will be of great interest to many of you.

The University of Queensland Skin Cancer Conference 2012, Queenstown, New Zealand (14th – 16th September 2012) <http://skincancerconference.com.au/2012/index.htm>

SKMRC Inaugural Melanoma Conference, Fremantle, Western Australia (23rd-24th October 2012)
The Scott Kirkbride Melanoma Research Centre (SKMRC) is hosting the Inaugural Melanoma Conference. <http://www.skmrc.org.au/>. To register: <http://www.melanomaconference2012.org.au/register.html>

9th International Society of Melanoma Research Congress, California, USA (8th – 10th November 2012) <http://melanomacongress.com/>

6th World Meeting of Interdisciplinary Melanoma Skin Cancer Centers & 8th European Association of Dermato-Oncology Congress, Barcelona Spain, (14th -17th November 2012), www.melanoma2012.com
To register: <http://sbc.eventszone.net/myCongress5/form.php?thisFormCongress=melanoma12&thisFormLanguage=en>

The Joint International Oncology Congress including the 8th International Sentinel Node Society, Los Angeles, USA (29th November - 1st December 2012) <http://www.sn-cancermets.org/index.shtml>

Finally, the ANZMTG Annual Scientific and General Meeting will be held on **Monday 10 December 2012** in Sydney. With so much research activity in Melanoma currently, this is a great opportunity for collaboration.

David Speakman, Chair

Email: David.Speakman@petermac.org

Familial Cancer Group

The Familial Cancer Group has been focussed on the program for the FCC Clinical Professional Day at the Mantra resort in Kingscliff on 21st August 2012. This CPD forms part of the wider familial cancer conference "Familial aspects of cancer: research and practice 2012". Registrations are still open for this conference and participants can attend for single or multiple days. The website link is through the kConFab website <http://www.kconfab.org/>. The whole conference is looking very interesting with something for clinical practitioners, clinical researchers and laboratory researchers. It is a great opportunity to mix with a wide variety of people who are interested in familial cancer. We will have our COSA FCC Group AGM at the meeting during the lunchtime of the CPD on the 21st as it is likely that many of the Group members will be at Kingscliff. While we are not having our AGM during the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane in November, we will still arrange a get together during the ASM after one of the sessions which will be communicated to the Group during one of my monthly updates to the Group.

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Two other single-day meetings are also scheduled alongside the main familial cancer meeting; one is focussed on cancer risk prediction <http://www.pedigree.org.au> and the other on the effect of mammographic density on breast cancer risk <http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/ystudymd>. Both of these meetings are very complementary to the main familial cancer meeting so would be worth considering for anyone intending to travel up to Kingscliff for the main meeting.

Next year the familial cancer Clinical Professional Day will take place alongside the COSA ASM in Adelaide as the Familial aspects of cancer: research and practice 2013 meeting is already a large meeting combining with the InSIGHT consortium.

The COSA FCC Group has been preparing a position statement for COSA about the marketing of the Brevagen breast cancer risk genetic test that is available for ordering by any doctor, not just those who specialise in familial cancer. The statement is in its final stages and will be signed by COSA, Human genetics Society of Australia (HGSA) and the Royal Australian College of Pathologists. The statement covers the clinical utility and discriminatory ability of the test and highlights the fact that this is still a genetic test and as such would need to be declared to an insurance company when applying for new insurance policies. The statement suggests that use of this test is still best considered as part of a specialised assessment through a familial cancer genetics service/by a medical professional experienced cancer risk assessment.

Since I started as the Chair of the Familial Cancer Group I have sent out a monthly update to the Group about potentially interesting findings/events pertaining to the practice of familial cancer. These are sent out in email format. Anyone interested in receiving these email updates is very welcome to join the COSA FCC Group by contacting Fran Doughton at COSA, email - cosa@cancer.org.au. In recent times I have highlighted the recent grating of an MBS listing for a germline genetic test, VHL, and how this might be the start of a new funding mechanism for genetic testing. Whether the MBS route is the most attractive for funding genetic tests given the rapidity of change in technology and knowledge in this area is still under debate and views of the clinical and laboratory community are being sought. It is important that the funding mechanism is got right as we know the demand for genetic testing will only continue to increase. The recent article showing a high rate of germline BRCA mutations in serious ovarian cancer and the presence of a BRCA mutation has an important impact on survival and response to systemic chemotherapy is just one example of how germline genetic testing will soon be part of routine clinical oncology practice.

The FCC Group is also looking at ways of increasing membership both of COSA and the FCC Group. There is a large group of people who work in familial cancer but are not members of COSA or have ever considered joining COSA. Many of these are genetics-focussed and cancer genetics many only play a partial role in their day to day practice. The FCC Group is working with the HGSA to engage the genetic counsellors and laboratory scientists who would like access to a Group for professional engagement and to help drive development of this speciality for the benefit of our patients and delivery of our professional services.

Gillian Mitchell, Chair

Email: gillian.mitchell@petermac.org

Medical Oncology Group of Australia

Life at MOGA is never dull and includes participating in an array of meetings including the recent June Scientific Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in Chicago. It was good to catch up with our colleagues in the US and from around the world. Best of ASCO® Australia on Saturday August 11 in Brisbane will provide a fantastic opportunity for all Australian oncology professionals and allied health professional members to review and debate the ASCO highlights, consider new developments since June and review these in the light of the Australian context with local and international tumour specialists.

During ASCO I had a profitable meeting with the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) including President Professor Martine Piccart. ESMO is a valued collaborator and MOGA is currently working with ESMO and other collegiate organisations in America, Europe, Asia and Africa to encourage more interchange including fellowships, awards, trainee exchanges,

scientific meetings and other mutually beneficial educational and professional development opportunities. I have also recently been appointed as the ESMO Australian and Pacific Regional representative. In this new capacity it is noteworthy that the Australia and Asia Pacific Oncology Research Development Workshop 2012 (Coolum, Sunshine Coast Queensland, 9-14 September) is fast approaching and under the leadership of A/Prof Martin Stockler will include a new complement of leading international cancer specialists as faculty and a dynamic new learning program providing craft specific clinical trials training sessions. Congratulations go to the MOGA Secretariat for securing additional funds not only for ACORD from a range of new sources but most notably a major new travel award for Australian medical oncologists to study abroad valued at \$10,000, supported by the Astellas Oceania Foundation.

The MOGA Executive members have kept busy over the last months and we thank them for their efforts. We welcomed Dr Joanna Dewar, to the Executive to represent the West. Dr Rosemary Harrup is to be congratulated for taking on the role of Deputy Chair and has also been active in working with the Australian Health Workforce Agency on workforce issues on MOGA's behalf, including a recent submission on workforce vulnerabilities. MOGA also recently made a submission to the Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research (The McKeon Review). The Review provides a long overdue opportunity to identify how Australia can continue to grow and develop our health and medical research sector both nationally and globally, culminating in the development of a 10-year strategic health and medical research plan for the nation to be released in September. The Review is also an opportunity to examine and re-focus our national health and medical research priorities to ensure that they are better integrated with the economic, social and environmental challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of our nation. MOGA's submission aimed to ensure that Australia's national health and medical research effort incorporates the full range of mechanisms to support the conduct of oncology health and medical research at international best practice standards and the findings of that research is incorporated into clinical practice, national healthcare policies and programs. Highlights from our submission are:

- It is estimated that our national health system expenditure will grow to \$3.3 trillion by 2023 and our national health costs are projected to increase from 9.3% in 2003 to 12.4% of GDP in 2033, reflecting the ageing population and increased burden of diseases, such as cancer. MOGA asserts that without matching investment in health and medical research, Australia will not be able to respond optimally to this demand and disease burden.
- MOGA believes that the establishment of a co-ordinated strategic approach to the funding, planning and implementation of Australian cancer research through a National Cancer Institute is needed to achieve greater efficiencies and ultimately

better national outcomes in cancer control, management, patient care and clinical practice.

- MOGA believes that there is a need for increased research on; population health and health services to support prevention, morbidity and mortality initiative; clinical, health services and translational research to ensure best practice supportive care and services, along with innovation and efficient service delivery to cancer patients; survivorship and palliative care in recognition of the unmet needs of people with cancer, end of life and associated care requirements, the needs of carers and family members and the growing number of cancer survivors

Our commitment to oncology education training saw the successful delivery of the fourth Sciences of Oncology Program in May which was attended by fifty-four medical oncology trainees from around the country. Our thanks to all the presenters, as well as Professor Stephen Clarke AOM and the MOGA National Trainee representative Dr Deme Karikios who developed this year's Program with its strong focus on new developments in the sciences of oncology for clinical practice.

The Association's work with oncology drugs, treatment and related issues is a priority. A new MOGA oncology Drugs Working Group including Dr Christopher Steer and A/Professor Michael Michael and representatives of the PCPA and HSANZ is now meeting quarterly with the PCAC, DOHA and other groups. Some of the key issues and activities in this area include;

- **Authority Streamlining**

Parity in streamlining in public and private sectors is an important step in advancing e-prescribing.

- **Recent Oncology Drug Submissions: Prostate Cancer Drugs and Metastatic RCC**

MOGA has made two recent oncology drugs submissions to the PBAC. The first on melanoma drugs (vemurafenib and ipilimumab) and the cobas 48000brafv600 mutation test plus the vexed codependent technology process. The second submission was to support the application to the PBAC for reimbursement for neoadjuvant trastuzumab for early and locally advanced breast cancer.

- **National Drugs Shortages**

The issue of drug shortages had come to prominence in Australia over the last 6-12 months. There are many reasons behind the shortages most related to manufacturing. MOGA, the COSA Pharmacy Group and related stakeholder groups have written to Government advising that Australia needs to follow the US model, including implementation of rules that require companies to alert Government and the TGA of any impending shortages; make this information available on a dedicated website; and TGA be able to identify another source for the drug within a set period of time to avert the shortage.

- **Listings for Orphan and Off Patent Oncology Drugs**
MOGA is currently in discussions with the regulators on priority drugs that are not listed on the PBS, are off patent, are listed for limited indications, or where listing would result in no cost and consideration, could be given to deregistering them, changing listings or developing ways of allowing them into appropriate clinical use.

- **MSAC and Co-dependent Technologies**

MOGA is concerned that technology is moving so rapidly that a monopoly on testing does not occur, that standards are introduced and that any test approved can be delivered at any laboratory/facility in Australia.

- **Electronic Prescribing**

MOGA has advocated for the need to make e-prescribing available through both the public and private systems and issues surrounding off the chart prescribing in the public sector and additional streamlining across both sectors.

And finally, the scientific program for the 2012 MOGA ASM, 8-10 August, Targeting Cancer from Diagnosis to Cure at the Sofitel Hotel, Brisbane, will focus on targeted therapies and new advances in melanoma, lung, breast, prostate and colorectal cancers. A line up of distinguished local and international guest speakers has been organised; including Professor Heinz-Josef Lenz and Professor Lillian Siu (USA), Professor Alberto Sobrero (Italy) and Professor Ian Tannock (Canada). Leading Australian invited speakers include Professor Grant Macarthur (Melbourne), Professor Michael Boyer (Sydney), Associate Professor Nicole McCarthy (Brisbane) and Dr Ben Tran (Melbourne). Two Industry Symposia will focus on high interest subjects, the first on Surrogate End Points in Oncology Drugs with Dr Suzanne Hill, the new Chair of the PBAC. This is an important opportunity to address a key issue that requires national attention and the input of our profession. The second Industry Symposium with Professor Alberto Sobrero, chaired by A/Prof Nick Pavlakis, on angiogenesis in clinical practice will also be one of the many meeting highlights. We look forward to welcoming our oncology colleagues to the Brisbane meeting which promises to be another robust, dynamic and informative professional development and networking opportunity for consultants, trainees and other allied health professionals.

Gary Richardson

MOGA Chairman

Email: gary.richardson@ocv.net.au

Queen's Birthday Honours List

COSA congratulates the following members:

Professor Ian Frazer – AC

Professor Philip Clingan – OAM

Paediatric Oncology Group & ANZCHOG

Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology and Oncology Group (ANZCHOG) is continuing to strengthen and grow, as we undertake a range of activities and projects that will have an impact on our ability to provide the best possible care for our patients and families.

ANZCHOG's 2012 Annual Scientific Meeting (24-26 August)

To be held on the Gold Coast, an exciting program has been planned around the theme of "The Challenge of Relapsed Disease". The committee has secured a number of distinguished international speakers (including Dr Peter Adamson, Chair of the Children's Oncology Group and Professor Myra Bluebond-Langner, Chair of Paediatric Palliative Care at Great Ormond St) and some of our top national paediatric professionals will be presenting research and workshops across a range of topics and disciplines. Program and registration details can be found here:

<http://www.anzchog2012.org/index.php>. All welcome!

Clinical trial news

ANZCHOG and its trials sub-group, Australian Children's Cancer Trials (ACCT) currently have six multi-site trials open to recruitment across Australian and NZ children's cancer centres and are undertaking one preclinical study. Another two multi-site trials are expected to be opened soon.

ANZCHOG/ACCT have continued to build their international collaborations, with ACCT hosting a meeting of the five international early phase paediatric oncology groups in early June alongside the ASCO Chicago meeting. The group has been named the Early Phase Paediatric International Cancer (EPPIC) Alliance, and will assist ACCT to facilitate the conduct of additional early phase trials in Australia and NZ.

ANZCHOG Clinical Trial Research Initiatives

ANZCHOG continues to build the capacity for our members to undertake research and clinical trials through a range of initiatives. Recently, ANZCHOG recognised the limited funding available to small research projects and awarded seed funding through a competitive process to three exciting projects that we hope will provide the foundation for larger, externally funded paediatric projects. Later this year, ANZCHOG will be launching a series of trial and concept development workshops to encourage the development of investigator-initiated, national collaborative trials.

Member support and development

ANZCHOG has supported our members to undertake a range of professional development opportunities,

including completion of Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Oncology), provided support for members to participate in MJA's Clinical Trials Research Summit in Sydney, funding support for members to attend ASM, and have recently offered a joint ANZCHOG/UCLH clinical fellowship in paediatric & adolescent haematology and oncology. In addition, ANZCHOG supports our members to develop their trial development skills through attending workshops hosted by Cancer Research Economics Support Team and Cancer Australia's Chair in Quality of Life.

It is a great time to be involved with ANZCHOG – particularly as in 2012 membership is free!

Please visit our website at <http://www.anzchog.org/>

Peter Downie, Chair

Email: peter.downie@rch.org.au

Psycho-Oncology Group

Psycho-Oncology Awards

Nominations for the inaugural COSA Psycho-Oncology Awards given in partnership with the COSA, OZPOS and the Psycho-Oncology Cooperative Research Group (PoCoG) have now closed and are under consideration by the awards committee. The first is the COSA Psycho-Oncology Award designed to recognise the highest level of contribution to psycho-oncology. The second is the COSA New Investigator Award recognising a psycho-oncology investigator, early in their career, who has made an outstanding contribution through their research. These awards will be presented during the combined IPOS-COSA meeting this year – an added incentive to come to the meeting and share in the recognition of your colleagues.

Fear of Cancer Recurrence – a PoCoG Clinical Research Project

The PoCoG Team are currently recruiting psycho-oncology health professionals to participate in a randomised controlled trial of an intervention to reduce fear of cancer recurrence after a diagnosis of cancer. After diagnosis and completion of adjuvant therapy up to 50% of people will report clinically significant levels of fear of cancer recurrence (FCR). We lack evidence-based treatments for high FCR.

If you are interested in participating or learning more about the study, please contact the FCR Coordinators via email conquer.fear@psych.usyd.edu.au

IPOS 2012

While November seems a long way off the National and International IPOS Committee members have been very busy reviewing abstracts and putting together a program that is diverse, with a little something for everyone. Invitations for oral presentations have been sent and speakers should accept by 14 August. We have instigated

a “Research in Progress” poster session, so those projects continuing to collect data can discuss their design and logistical issues, without presenting premature results. There will also be a number of high quality symposia on a broad range of psycho-oncology issues, please do review the program in detail and plan your time to make the most of this year’s exciting meeting.

IPOS Academies

IPOS Academies will be run on the weekend preceding the Annual Meeting. The Academies are being run with both national and international leaders in the field contributing their expertise. This is a great opportunity to explore some novel areas and develop new clinical skills for evidence-based practice. Attendance at the Academies and the full meeting will attract Continuing Medical Education points – for an added incentive.

Haryana Dhillon, Chair

Email: haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au

Regional & Rural Group

2012 is proving to be a busy time for the COSA Regional and Rural Group. COSA President Bogda Koczwara appeared before the Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs in May, following the group’s submission to the Senate inquiry into the factors affecting the supply of health services and medical professionals in rural areas. Senators were particularly interested in optimal cancer care for Australians living in regional and rural areas, the collection of cancer data and patient assisted travel schemes. The Committee is due to report on the 15 August 2012 after receiving 126 submissions and attending 6 public hearings.

The second COSA workshop on regional and rural cancer care “More than bricks and mortar: cancer service development in regional and rural Australia” was held in Canberra on 3 August 2012. The workshop brought together key government representatives and cancer care professionals to develop strategies to improve the provision of cancer services in regional and rural Australia. The workshop provided COSA with an opportunity to build on the Federal Government’s recent investment of \$560 million in Regional Cancer Centres around Australia. A report from the workshop will be available in late August 2012.

Please contact Jessica Harris, COSA Project Coordinator (jessica.harris@cancer.org.au) for more information.

Adam Boyce, Chair

Email: aboyce@svh.org.au

Oncology Social Work Group

We are looking forward to another wonderful conference coming up in November. Members will be aware that this year the COSA ASM is being held in conjunction with the IPOS conference. This provides

us with a rare and exciting opportunity to be part of what is shaping up to be an excellent conference. There are many exciting things happening in the program, including the IPOS academies which precede the conference. I encourage members to have a look at the website to see what’s on www.cosa-ipos.org. We have also been able to organise an OSWA session within the conference, this session is based on clinical innovative practice with some fantastic presentations by Australian social workers, and will be co-chaired by Matt Loscalzo. COSA have generously awarded travel grants to the social work group, and we encourage members to get on the COSA website and apply www.cosa.org.au, this is a great way to get to attend a conference with some much needed financial assistance.

Another exciting coming attraction is the OSWA Conference 2013 which is in the early stages of planning and is set for the first quarter of 2013; this will have in part an indigenous focus. For further information please visit the OSWA website www.oswa.net.au.

Behind the scenes OSWA members have been very proactive in advocating and lobbying, in particular in areas of palliative care and issues for rural and regional cancer patients. If you would like to be involved please contact us.

We look forward to seeing you in November, for further information please do not hesitate to email me.

Angela Cotroneo, Chair

Email: angela.cotroneo@sswhs.nsw.gov.au

ARCs Linkage Project Funding – Round 2

Congratulations to the following COSA members and their collaborators who have recently been awarded funding through the Australia Research Committee:

**Prof Afaf Girgis; Prof Phyllis Butow;
Prof David Goldstein; Prof Sanchia Aranda;
Mr Chris Sargeant et al**

Communication skills training for oncology health care professionals working with culturally and linguistically diverse patients

Dr Timothy Dobbins et al

Cluster randomised controlled trial of a psycho-educational intervention for people with a family history of depression for use in general practice

Prof Ian Olver; Dr Genevieve Baratinny et al

Public and ethical responses to mandated alcohol warning labels about increased long-term risk of cancer

Urologic Oncology Group

As I come to write this report it gives me the opportunity to reflect on the Group and how it is working. COSA Council has also been thinking quite a bit about how Groups will operate in the future and particularly those like ours with close links to other organisations with similar but incompletely overlapping agendas. In the case of the Urologic Oncology Group our interests and membership overlap with ANZUP Cancer Trials Group and most of the activity in the group since the last report has been under the auspices of ANZUP, as described below.

There do remain however significant points of difference between the groups. ANZUP is a cooperative clinical trials group with the mission to conduct and promote cooperative clinical trials and psychosocial research in prostate and other urogenital cancers, and the vision of conducting such research to improve treatment of these cancers. This includes functions such as involvement of a diverse range of disciplines, building collaborations and shared systems, fostering a culture of research, and providing training opportunities. COSA has additional roles in terms of advocacy, public education, influencing health policy, research links other than clinical trials, and providing broader educational initiatives beyond only genitourinary cancer predominantly in the context of the COSA ASM, where we have the opportunity to mix with and learn from clinicians and researchers in other cancer types. COSA and ANZUP have additional roles in other initiatives such as national tissue banking strategies and in setting up systems such as the recently completed Enabling Grant. For these reasons I continue to encourage all of you with an interest, and particularly younger clinicians and researchers, to join and contribute to both groups.

ANZUP has been very active since the last report, culminating in our highly successful and first stand-alone Annual Scientific Meeting, held in Sydney on 15-17 July 2012 and convened by Peter Grimison, Paul Sved and Amy Hayden with the wonderful and tireless support of Marg McJannett with the assistance of our project officer Yi Feng. Over 190 delegates attended a feature packed program, including the contribution of our four outstanding international speakers: Daniel Heng, Shahrokh Shariat, Michel Bolla and Donna Berry. Kicking off the first day was our Trainee Day coordinated by Shomik Sengupta and Paul Sved with sponsorship from Abbott and Amgen Oncology. This was based on the highly successful CPD initiative run jointly by ANZUP and the COSA Urologic Oncology Group at the ASM in Perth in 2011. Many thanks to the chairs, panellists and of course the attendees. We plan to make this an annual event.

The first day of the ASM also saw an educational forum for the ANZUP Consumer Advisory Panel, followed by the ANZUP Community Engagement Forum entitled, "A little below the belt." This forum showcased both consumers and clinical leaders and was intended to improve awareness of clinical trials and to facilitate

community involvement. The forum was followed by an open meeting of the ANZUP Scientific Advisory Committee and then the welcome reception. Monday 16 July saw the commencement of the scientific program which began with a Meet the Expert breakfast session on RCC (Danny Heng) and urothelial cancers (Shahrokh Shariat). We were delighted to welcome the Federal Minister for Health, the Honorable Tanya Plibersek MP who officially opened the conference. The plenary session covered bladder, prostate and testicular cancer and was followed by sessions on ANZUP trials and collaborative research updates.

Monday afternoon saw a very vigorous concept development session and was followed by another session dealing with minimizing the adverse effects of therapy. This was followed by the ANZUP AGM and a poster walkaround session, and the much-anticipated conference dinner.

Tuesday once again opened with a breakfast session looking at issues relating to androgen deprivation therapy for prostate cancer; specifically, quality of life issues (Donna Berry) and clinical questions (Michel Bolla). Following this was the Best of the Best abstracts, a germ cell session, and the morning concluded with a showcase of Australian genitourinary cancer research. The afternoon saw updates of ANZUP trials and collaborations in bladder cancer; a session on frontiers of prostate cancer management; and then a most entertaining debate between Michel Bolla and Shahrokh Shariat on high risk prostate cancer. The meeting closed with the presentation of prizes and awards.

We are very grateful to our meeting sponsors: Janssen (platinum sponsor); Pfizer Oncology and Sanofi (gold sponsors); Ipsen, Amgen Oncology, Novartis and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (silver sponsors); and AstraZeneca and Cancer Institute NSW (bronze sponsors).

Our international faculty was superb and we are grateful to the following companies / organisations for their additional support to cover the costs of their attendance:

- Dr Donna Berry – CNSA and ANZUP
- Prof Michel Bolla's attendance – Ipsen for supporting
- Dr Daniel Heng – Pfizer
- Dr Shahrokh Shariat – ANZUP

We are also grateful to –

- Novartis for once again supporting the ANZUP/Novartis Travel Grants;
- Bayer for sponsoring the Barista and Café Bar; and
- Astellas for the Best of the Best Oral and Poster Awards.

We also acknowledge the support of Cancer Australia and of the ANZUP corporate supporters: Sanofi, Amgen, Pfizer and Ipsen.

The ANZUP ASM once again highlighted the wonderful depth and breadth of research and collaboration across

genitourinary cancers with the buzz and verbal feedback very positive. We will be circulating details of ANZUP's 2013 ASM shortly so please make sure you lock this into your diaries! The ASM will also become a great opportunity for future networking. Membership of ANZUP continues to be free of charge so join now at www.anzup.org.au.

Genitourinary cancer was a key theme for the joint COSA-ANZUP ASM of 2011 and so this will not be the case in 2012; however, we will continue to have a presence. Our group will be represented with a dedicated session in the program. As always, the ASM program will contain something for everyone including all of our Group members. Many thanks to our group deputy chair and USANZ nominee, Shomik Sengupta, who is representing us on the ASM convening committee this year.

On a personal note, many of you will be aware that I have left my previous position at Austin Health and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research to take up a new role at Monash University and Eastern Health in Victoria. This will not affect my interest or activities in all things COSA or ANZUP! I am very grateful for all the opportunities I had in my previous position and I know that treatment and research in genitourinary and other cancers will continue to go from strength to strength there, particularly in the context of the new Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre. Thanks to so many of you who have expressed kind words and best wishes to me.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want further information on COSA or Margaret McJannett margaret@anzup.org.au if you would like to participate more actively with ANZUP.

Ian Davis, Chair
Email: ian.davis@monash.edu

Cancer Achievement Award

The Medical Oncology Group of Australia and Novartis Oncology are pleased to announce that the Cancer Achievement Award 2012 recipient is

Professor Michael Barton OAM

For more than a decade the Cancer Achievement Award has recognised the unique role that Australian oncologists play in providing outstanding leadership in clinical practice, research and academic achievement.

***COSA wishes to congratulate
Professor Barton OAM***

Volunteer to be a Cancer Forum Book Reviewer



Cancer Council Australia is seeking volunteers to complete book reviews for Cancer Forum.

Book reviewers will receive a free review copy of an oncology-related book and be asked to write a review of 200-500 words.

Sign up with this short form:
<http://bit.ly/bookreviewer>

ACT & NSW Oncology Weekend (ACTNOW) 2012

Following on from the success of the 2010 ACTNOW workshop, COSA once again hosted this educational weekend for medical oncologists and advanced trainees in the ACT and NSW region.

ACTNOW 2012 was held at the Gibraltar Hotel in Bowral from the 18-20 May 2012.

This unique meeting focuses on a broad range of topics within medical oncology as well as key aspects of patient care across the spectrum of cancer care and general medicine. In attendance was a mix of 50 medical oncologists and advanced trainees, many of which took advantage of the beautiful surrounds and had their families join them for the weekend.

Delegates learned about new advances in genitourinary cancers and the new agents in kidney, bladder and prostate malignancies as well as non-ovarian gynaecological cancers. A session on issues common within survivorship and advances in palliative care covered approaches to patient care, medication management and public policy development. Updates on radiation therapy, management of hepatitis recrudescence with chemotherapy and guidelines for referral to a genetics service provided valuable information to oncologists which are not always met in core oncology training. Journal club and critical appraisal of practice changing publications generated discussions

around adoption of these measures within units.

The organising committee included Diana Adams, Nick Coupe, David Dalley, Amanda Goldrick and Desmond Yip – I'd like to extend my thanks to them all. The conference was run by COSA through the help of an unrestricted grant by Roche. Valuable appraisal of the conference was received by delegates and topics for the 2013 Conference are already being collected.

A/Prof Stephen Della-Fiorentina
Macarthur Cancer Centre
Convenor



Clinical
Oncological
Society of
Australia

Trainee Weekend

“Everything you need to know about melanoma”

DATE: Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 November 2012 (preceding the COSA ASM)

VENUE: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Open to Surgical, Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology Trainees, Cancer Nurses and other Allied Health Professionals

Intensive 2 day course, topics include:

- Introduction to melanoma
- Aetiology and Epidemiology
- Identifying at risk moles
- Biopsy techniques
- Pathology reporting
- Surgery for primary disease
- Sentinel lymph node biopsy
- What to do for a patient with a palpable lymph node
- Surgery for stages III and IV
- Adjuvant medical treatment for Stage III disease
- New paradigms for Stage IV disease
- Follow-up and staging tests
- Radiotherapy for melanoma
- Palliative care for the melanoma patient
- The role of the specialist melanoma nurse
- Case discussions

The panel includes National and International experts in the fields of surgery, medical and radiation oncology. Dan Coit MD, Head of the melanoma service at Memorial Sloan Kettering New York will be present, teaching and commenting over many sessions.

TRAVEL GRANTS ON OFFER

Registration fees:

- \$350 medical
- \$150 allied health

Discounts apply for delegates also attending the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting, 12-15 November 2012 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

For more information and to register www.cosa-ipos.org



This meeting is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Roche Products Pty Limited.

COSA Interest Group Updates

AYA Interest Group

COSA is still continuing to implement three of the Youth Cancer Networks Program (YCNP) national projects, intended to improve management and care of adolescents and young adults (AYAs) with cancer by:

1. Developing an AYA Cancer Network
2. Producing AYA cancer clinical practice guidance and protocols
3. Increasing AYA cancer clinical research and participation of AYAs with cancer in clinical trials

These projects were funded by the Australian Government's YCNP, administered by CanTeen.

AYA Cancer Network

Information was disseminated to the AYA Cancer Network members about resources and education opportunities, such as:

- Collaboration opportunity on NHMRC-funded research project "Patterns and Experiences of Care for Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer"
- OnTrac@PeterMac AYA oncology seminar, Melbourne
- CanTeen skills based group support program "Truce"
- NCI Cancer Bulletin feature article on AYA cancer survivors and chronic health problems

COSA has also received funding to conduct a sixth AYA Cancer Workshop in 2012. Planning for this workshop has now commenced, with current activities centred

on program development and speaker confirmation. The workshop is expected to be held on **Monday 12 November 2012** in Brisbane, prior to the Annual Scientific Meeting (13-15 November). Further details will be available soon.

Clinical practice guidance and protocols

COSA, with the invaluable assistance of expert working groups, has been developing clinical practice guidance about three areas of AYA cancer management:

Fertility preservation: This guidance on fertility preservation for AYAs diagnosed with cancer includes advice about discussing fertility risks and options with young people, assessing risk, fertility preservation options, and monitoring for late effects on reproductive function and endocrine and sexual health. The guidance is complete and available on COSA's wiki site at: http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:AYA_cancer_fertility_preservation.

COSA has begun to promote the guidance to health professionals and relevant organisations across Australia.

Psychosocial management: This guidance provides 'good practice points' to assist health professionals in recognising and meeting the particular psychosocial needs of their AYA patients. The guidance is now complete and available on COSA's wiki site at: http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:Psychosocial_management_of_AYA_cancer_patients.

COSA has begun to promote the guidance to health professionals and relevant organisations across Australia.

Early Detection: This guidance is intended to help general practitioners and other primary health care professionals with early detection and appropriate referral of AYAs with suspected cancer. The draft guidance has been completed and loaded onto COSA's Wiki site at: http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:Early_detection_of_cancer_in_AYAs

Following final review by the Department of Health and Ageing, COSA will promote the guidance to health professionals and relevant organisations across Australia.

As part of this YCNP project, Cancer Institute NSW (CINSW) has also developed a range of point of care evidence-based protocols/resources. These are published on the eviQ website (www.eviq.org.au) under the AYA content stream. Information includes links to relevant AYA resources, eviQ AYA frequently asked questions, fact sheets, patient information sheets and treatment statements.

Supporting clinical research and increasing trials participation

The purpose of this project is to encourage and support development of new clinical research that addresses an identified priority cancer type or issue for AYA patients – where there is a reasonable cohort of AYA patients and/or a significant survival gap.

Recruitment for the AYA-PK Study is on-going at several centres in Australia. This study investigates pharmacological and pharmacodynamic activity of chemotherapy in patients with Ewing sarcoma, osteosarcoma and Hodgkin's lymphoma and how it varies as an effect of puberty and gender.

The ALL6 trial – investigating whether a paediatric acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) treatment protocol can be extended to patients aged 15-40 years in adult settings and examining factors that might impair dose delivery – is open for recruitment and sites have been activated across Australia.

If you would like to join the AYA Cancer Network, and receive information about YCNP projects, please email cosa@cancer.org.au

Wayne Nicholls, Chair

Email: Wayne_Nicholls@health.qld.gov.au

New fertility decision aid is now available

Fertility-related Choices: A Decision Aid for Younger Women with Early Breast Cancer is a free booklet for young women who have recently been diagnosed with early breast cancer.



This booklet can assist health professionals in starting the difficult conversations with women about breast cancer treatment, how it can affect fertility, and fertility options to consider. There are also some worksheets to help women think about these issues.

This booklet may be helpful to women who:

- have recently been diagnosed with early breast cancer
- are still of reproductive age (having regular periods and no menopausal symptoms), and
- are thinking of starting a family or having more children in the future.

"I wish this resource had been available when I was diagnosed. I spent hours googling and trawling through internet sites looking for the very information in the Fertility Choices decision aid. No one can tell you what impact your treatment will have on your fertility, it is important that young women go into their fight armed with this valuable information to make informed decisions".

- Genya

The booklet was developed by University of Sydney PhD candidate Michelle Peate, with the guidance of a reference group of leading Australian breast cancer experts. The production and distribution of the booklet is a collaborative effort between the McGrath Foundation and Breast Cancer Network Australia.

You can download a copy of the booklet from BCNA's website at www.bcna.org.au > About breast cancer > young women. To order a copy on behalf of a woman, phone BCNA on (free call) 1800 500 258. As we have a limited number of copies, please order booklets only on an as-need basis (restriction of 3 booklets per order).

Biobanking Interest Group

In late 2009 the Centre for Genetic Epidemiology & Biostatistics at the University of Western Australia (UWA) developed an open-source platform to provide a suite of secure, integrated web-based tools that incorporate the functions required to conduct a complex study or clinical trial. In 2012 COSA became part of The Cloud-based Bioinformatics Tools project based on this platform, funded by the Australian government's National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources (NeCTAR) initiative. This project is a collaboration between the Centre at UWA, The Centre for Mega Epidemiology at Melbourne University, St John of God Hospital, Perth and COSA. The Cloud-based Bioinformatics Tool will be developed to include additional functionality required by cancer clinical trials for data collection, tissue banking and analysis. Pilot projects have been identified and will be tested over the next few months in collaboration with the NHMRC Clinical Trial Centre.

Nik Zeps, Chair

Email: nik.zeps@sjog.org.au

Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group

In the last edition of the Marryalyan, we reported on the 2012 National Cancer Care Coordination Conference, Towards New Horizons, held on 6–7 March 2012. The conference was attended by 257 participants from across Australia and New Zealand. A report on the conference is available on the COSA website <http://www.cosa.org.au/about-us/general-publications.html#reportspapers> and the presentations are available in the members area of the website. There were many excellent presentations addressing interesting new developments in cancer care coordination. I encourage you to review the site for more information.

Since the conference, the Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group has spent some time reviewing issues identified in this final 'open forum' discussion session held at the end of the conference. The open forum provided an opportunity to review achievements of the group to date, and discuss priorities for the future in three key areas, research, education and collaboration. Key issues raised by participants during the session related to the continued need to demonstrate outcomes from care coordinator positions, the need to improve access to the coordinators and ensure more standardised approaches to practice to reduce variations across services, and the need for better information and tools to support care coordinator practice. Members also discussed the format and frequency for future Cancer Care Coordination Conferences. The Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group's three working groups have also sought feedback from members about priority issues relevant to cancer care coordination. The Group's executive has collated this information to inform development of a work plan for the next few years. The Executive will meet in August to formulate this plan and we encourage you to email suggestions to committee members.

Patsy Yates, Chair

Email: p.yates@qut.edu.au

Complementary and Integrative Therapies Interest Group

The group continues to work on two projects regarding the use of complementary and integrative therapies (CITs) in cancer care. Following discussion at the last COSA Council meeting the CIT Interest Group will form a working party to develop a position statement on the use of complementary and alternative therapies by cancer patients. It is hoped a position statement will provide some guidance for health professionals when a patient chooses to use non-advised complementary or alternative therapies.

The CIT Interest Group is also developing a survey to gauge the level of research activity into the application of complementary and integrative therapies in oncology

settings around Australia. The aim of this survey is to identify areas of need in this type of cancer research. The survey will inform COSA and interested researchers and practitioners, as well as the policies and priorities of funding bodies, and in turn help ensure Australian researchers and their institutions are included in future funding opportunities.

Please contact Jessica Harris, COSA Project Coordinator (jessica.harris@cancer.org.au) for more information on either of these projects.

Paul Katris, Chair
Email: pkatris@cancerwa.asn.au

Developing Nations Interest Group

In 2011 the Developing Nations Interest Group piloted a mentoring program which saw two health professionals undertake fellowships in Australia. Due to the program's success COSA has provided funding to support a fellow in 2012. The mentoring program is aimed at supporting mid-career health professionals from the Asia Pacific region by providing funding for them to spend up to three months at a cancer unit within the Australian hospital system. In 2012 submissions were received from two host institutions and six potential fellows. This year COSA will fund one fellow under this program and will look to apply for AUSAid funding for a second.

The Review Committee assessed the applications and met via teleconference to discuss the candidates for the funding. The Committee was impressed by the standard of applications received. The process identified some excellent projects in need of a mentor and would greatly benefit from linking with an Australian institution. These included projects in pharmacy, nursing, radiation oncology, and physiotherapy.

In 2012 COSA will fund Dr Sanjay Dhirraaj, a Professor within the Department of Anaesthesiology at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science (SGPGIMS) from India. Sanjay will be arriving in Australia on a 10-12 week term in either September or October, with the exact date to be confirmed. He will be mentored by Dr Odette Spruyt, Director of Pain and Palliative Care at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. COSA wishes to thank Odette and her team who have kindly provided their time to support the Fellowship program.

Whilst based at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Sanjay will experience the care of cancer patients in a comprehensive, multidisciplinary team. This will include having the opportunity to observe how patients are managed in the hospital and community from diagnosis through to end of life care. Sanjay wishes to use these observations and programs to aid the formulation of palliative care protocols at SGPGIMS. Part of his training will see him develop his communication skills

in a methodological fashion as an essential element in providing palliative care. Sanjay's placement will provide a valuable, ongoing relationship with Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. He aims to develop a training program in his home Institution which will hopefully see correspondence maintained with Odette through knowledge sharing and the evaluation of his projects at SGPGIMS.

Sanjay will attend the COSA ASM in November and have the opportunity to connect and engage with health professionals from all cancer areas. I encourage you to listen out for any information regarding the Developing Nations Interest Group at the COSA ASM and introduce yourself to Sanjay.

The Developing Nations Interest Group will apply for AUSAid funding in October 2012. In the hope of obtaining a grant, this would allow COSA to support another fellow under the Asia-Pacific Mentoring Program.

I look forward to welcoming our fellows to our shores later this year.

Matthew Links, Chair
Email: matthew.links@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Geriatric Oncology Interest Group

The Geriatric Oncology Group is in full swing preparing for some key events in 2013.

The COSA 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) will have a focus on Geriatric Oncology throughout the program. Nimit Singhal, a member of our Geriatric Oncology Interest group, and I will be involved in COSA's preparations leading up to the 2013 ASM. Nimit is the convenor for this meeting to be held in Adelaide, and I will be liaising with the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) on behalf of COSA to confirm their presence. As a Board member of SIOG I would like to explore how the International Society can increase their link with Australia. With Nimit and myself actively working with COSA I am confident that we can assume a strong Geriatric Oncology presence for this meeting. At around the same time, the November 2013 edition of Cancer Forum will feature Geriatric Oncology. The Group is currently developing a content structure and approaching authors for this edition which will aim to cover current and emerging research, multidisciplinary teams in Geriatric Oncology and perhaps a look at the work of international teams. There will be a great Geriatric Oncology focus in November 2013 in Cancer Forum and at the ASM, and the Group is looking to really capitalise on this and make some strong collaborative connections along the way.

Before the events in November 2013, the Interest Group will hold a Concept Development Day in March. Planning is now progressing well after an initial slow start. This project is being driven by Jane Phillips, Chair of the

Research Working Group with much input from the Executive team. The Concept Development Day will aim to provide a confidential forum for which research proposals can be displayed and discussed. Participants will have the opportunity to present their proposals to the group followed by a facilitated discussion in which to gain feedback on their project. A broad scope of attendees will provide a comprehensive and realistic guideline for the practicality of the proposal. Interested health professionals will be invited to submit an expression of interest and abstract of their research proposal to Kate Whittaker, COSA Project Coordinator. Information for applicants including criteria for submissions and the review process will be made available via the COSA Geriatric Oncology Interest Group member's area of the website in the near future.

Timelines for this process are still being determined with an estimate that expressions of interest will open in October or November this year. Numbers for this day will be limited and a competitive review process will determine final attendance. More information will be made available soon through the COSA website and in the next edition of this Newsletter. All members of the Geriatric Oncology Interest Group will be emailed with this information once the timeline is confirmed, but if you'd like to be directly informed of this process as more information becomes available please email Kate Whittaker at kate.whittaker@cancer.org.au.

There will be much hard work and planning for the Group over the next year and I thank the members of the Executive and the Interest Group for their commitment.

Christopher Steer, Chair
Email: Christoper.Steer@bordermedonc.com.au

NETs Interest Group

The Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETs) Interest Group continues to work on two important projects, the SIGNETURE Registry and the guidelines for the diagnosis and management of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours.

SIGNETURE is an observational registry that facilitates the collection of retrospective and prospective data on patients with NETs in Australia. The number of sites participating in the registry is growing with ethics approval granted for Queen Elizabeth Hospital (SA), Royal Adelaide Hospital (SA) and The Canberra Hospital (ACT) and ethics applications underway at eight additional sites. COSA hopes that the register will facilitate greater understanding of the diagnosis and treatment of NETs in Australia, as well as allowing for the evaluation of long term outcomes to optimise clinical care for patients with these rare tumours.

The guidelines for the diagnosis and management of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours (GEP-NETS) were developed through a collaborative effort between clinicians from Australia and New Zealand in 2009. They have been hosted on the COSA website since they were launched on the wiki platform in 2010 and have served as national guidelines for Australia, with regular updates made by the group to reflect emerging treatment advances. The guidelines will be adopted as national guidelines in New Zealand in August 2012, and will serve to strengthen cooperation on both sides of the Tasman to progress the management of this rare group of diseases.

Please contact Jessica Harris, COSA Project Coordinator (jessica.harris@cancer.org.au) for more information on either of these projects.

Yu Jo Chua, Chair
Email: yujochua@gmail.com

Cancer Institute NSW Awards 2012

COSA wishes to congratulate the following members who have been recognised at this year's Cancer Institute NSW Awards:

2012 Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Researcher - Professor Phyllis Butow an Australian pioneer in psycho-oncology

Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Research Scholar - Dr Steven Kao from the University of Sydney and Sydney Catalyst Translational Cancer Research Centre for his research concerning patient responses to mesothelioma therapies.

Premier's Award for Innovation in Cancer Clinical Trials - Dr Craig Underhill from the Border Medical Oncology Research Unit for his work concerning clinical trials in the Murrumbidgee region for a range of cancers including prostate, colorectal, lung and melanoma.

Premier's Award for Excellence in Translational Cancer Research - Child Cancer Research Collaborative including Professor Michelle Haber AM, the Collaborative have developed a ground breaking test to predict which children with leukaemia are at highest risk of relapse on standard therapy.

STRATEGIC RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS (STREP) GRANTS 2013



Call for Applications

Closing date: 21st September 2012

Cancer Council NSW funds Strategic Research Partnership (STREP) Grants to develop highly effective research groups in clinical and/or public health settings that have national and international standing; and to advance strategic clinical, population and/or public health research which has the potential to directly impact cancer control policy and/or practice in NSW.

Applications which demonstrate the following characteristics are welcomed:

- strong leadership from clinicians or public health practitioners;
- groups that are inherently multidisciplinary;
- groups able to demonstrate that they embrace the overall objectives of the STREP Grant scheme.

STREP Grants offer opportunities for research teams that have demonstrated their potential to undertake high quality scientific research, have an ability to identify the pressing questions that must be answered to improve patient and/or population outcomes in cancer control, and have some existing capability in practice focussed research and practice innovation.

Strategic Research Partnerships will be funded for five years from January 2013 with a guideline range of \$300,000 to \$400,000 annually.

Applications for Strategic Research Partnership Grants are to be submitted by **5pm, Friday 21st September 2012**.

Research groups working in institutions located in all Australian jurisdictions are eligible to submit applications, however at least one Chief Investigator must be from a NSW institution and have a primary role in at least one component of the proposal.

The **Information for Applicants** and the **Policy and Conditions of Awards** can be obtained from the Cancer Council NSW website at www.cancercouncil.com.au

For further details contact Nicci Bartley on telephone (02) 9334 1987 or e-mail research@nswcc.org.au

2013 Survivorship Conference



FLINDERS CENTRE
for INNOVATION
in CANCER



The inaugural national conference bringing together clinicians, researchers and survivors to focus on understanding and addressing the issues facing cancer survivors and the priorities for survivorship care and research.

February 1-3, 2013

Stamford Grand Hotel
Glennelg, South Australia

Keynote Speakers

Guest international speakers include **Professor Patti Ganz** (UCLA Medical Centre, USA) and **Dr Lee Jones** (Duke University Medical Centre, USA).

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND REGISTRATIONS

Abstract submission deadline: November 23, 2012
Earlybird registration deadline: December 7, 2012

for more details please visit

www.fcic.org.au

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
2012		
7-11 Aug	COGNO 5th Annual Scientific Meeting www.cogno.org.au	Brisbane, Queensland
8-10 Aug	MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting www.moga.org.au	Brisbane, Queensland
16-17 Aug	Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Endometrial and Cervical Cancer Symposium www.vcccproject.vic.gov.au/VCCCEndometrialandCervicalCancerSymposium	Melbourne, Victoria
23-25 Aug	Australian 4th Lung Cancer Conference www.alcc.net.au	Adelaide, South Australia
24-26 Aug	ANZCHOG Annual Scientific Meeting www.anzhog.org	Gold Coast, Queensland
27-30 Aug	UICC World Cancer Congress www.uicc.org	Montreal, Canada
30 Aug - 2 Sep	14th Congress of the Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology - Combined with RANZCR 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting www.aocr2012.com	Sydney, New South Wales
9-15 Sep	Australia & Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) Workshop 2012 www.acordworkshop.org.au	Sunshine Coast, Queensland
19-21 Sep	16th Congress of the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) www.essoweb.org/eursso	Valencia, Spain
27-28 Sep	Sydney Cancer Conference http://sydney.edu.au/cancer-research/SCC2012/	Sydney, New South Wales
28 Sep - 2 Oct	37th ESMO Congress www.esmo.org/events/vienna-2012-congress.html	Vienna, Austria
13-14 Oct	2012 Annual Sarcoma Conference www.australiansarcomagroup.org	Sydney, New South Wales
13-16 Oct	14th Biannual Meeting of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society www2.kenes.com/igcs2012/Pages/home.aspx	Vancouver, Canada
23-26 Oct	Sydney International Breast Cancer Congress 2012 www.sydneybreastcancer2012.com	Sydney, New South Wales
24-26 Oct	Australian and New Zealand Head & Neck Cancer Society Annual Scientific Meeting & International Federation of Head and Neck Oncological Societies 2012 World Tour www.anzhncs.org	Brisbane, Queensland
25-27 Oct	12th Meeting of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology www.siog.org/	Manchester, UK
13-15 Nov	COSA-IPOS Scientific Meeting www.cosa-ipos.org	Brisbane, Queensland
13-16 Nov	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au	Melbourne, Victoria
2013		
1-3 Feb	Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer - 2013 Survivorship Conference www.fcic.org.au	Glenelg, South Australia
26 Feb - 1 Mar	TROG 25th Annual Scientific Meeting www.trog.com.au	New Zealand
7-8 Mar	13th International Meeting of Psychosocial Aspects of Hereditary Cancer www.impahc2013.com.au	Sydney, New South Wales
8-9 Mar	St Jude-Viva Forum in Pediatric Oncology http://www.viva.sg/stjude/	TBC
20-23 Mar	ANZGOG Annual Scientific Meeting www.anzgog.org.au	Gold Coast, Queensland
22-24 Mar	Women's Health 2013: The 21st Annual Congress http://academyofwomenshealth.org/conference/	Washington DC, USA
7-10 May	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress 2013 www.surgeons.org	Auckland, New Zealand
31 May - 4 Jun	ASCO Annual Conference www.asco.org	Chicago, Illinois, USA
19-22 June	10th International Gastric Cancer Congress www.1oigcc.com	Verona, Italy
26 Sep - 1 Oct	ECCO 17 - 38th ESMO Multidisciplinary Congress www.ecco-org.eu	Brussels, Belgium
18-20 Oct	22nd Asia Pacific Cancer Conference (APCC) 2013 http://apcc2013.com/	Tianjin, China
12-14 Nov	COSA's 40th Annual Scientific Meeting 2013 www.cosa.org.au	Adelaide, South Australia
2014		
6-9 May	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress 2014 www.surgeons.org	Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
8-11 Nov	15th Biennial Meeting of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society	Melbourne, Victoria
18-20 Nov	COSA's 41st Annual Scientific Meeting 2014 www.cosa.org.au	Hobart, Tasmania



Clinical
Oncological
Society of
Australia

IPOS

INTERNATIONAL
PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY
SOCIETY

JOINT MEETING OF
COSAs 39th Annual Scientific Meeting
and IPOS 14th World Congress

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

13th-15th November 2012

In 2012, the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia and the International Psycho-Oncology Society along with Cancer Council Queensland, Psycho-Oncology Co-operative Research Group and the Australian Psychosocial Oncology Society will partner to present a world-class scientific meeting.

'Impact Through Translation: Cancer Research Informing Practice'
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

The 2012 Annual Scientific Meeting welcomes clinicians and researchers working in cancer from medical and radiation oncology, surgery, nursing, pharmacy and allied health. This year's scientific program will focus on melanoma, skin cancer and carcinoma of unknown primary and the partnership between COSA and IPOS will ensure the joint conference has a definite psycho-oncology focus.

Program Highlights Include:

- **Daily COSA-IPOS Joint Plenaries**
 - Opening Plenary "Implementing Psycho-Oncology: Evidence into Practice" chaired by Jimmie Holland MD, widely recognized as the founder of psycho-oncology, and featuring world renowned speakers on the topic.
 - An informative panel discussion chaired by Matt Loscalzo – *Responding to challenges in the treatment of patients with melanoma and skin cancer*
 - Closing Hot Topic debate moderated by Adam Spencer "Whose life is it anyway? Arguing for greater regulation to promote optimal outcomes in oncology"
- **COSA Presidential Lecture delivered by Prof Ian Frazer AC, Thursday 15 November**
- **Pre Conference Meetings including:**
 - COSA Advanced Trainees Weekend: 10-11 November 2012
 - IPOS Academies: 11-12 November 2012
 - COSA Cancer Pharmacists Group Workshop: 12 November 2012





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In addition to a daily joint plenary session, COSA and IPOS will hold plenary and concurrent sessions simultaneously throughout the 3 day conference. Registered delegates are welcome to move freely between sessions to ensure they obtain the utmost benefit the exciting program has to offer.

2012 Invited International Speakers Include:

Dr Daniel Coit

Surgical oncologist, co-leader of the Melanoma Disease Management Team, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, USA

Prof Gabriel Leung

Professor, School of Public Health, University of Hong Kong

Dr Stirling Moorey

Chair, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy Group, Psychotherapy Faculty, Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK

Prof Galina Velikova

Professor of Psychosocial and Medical Oncology, University of Leeds, UK

Dr Harpreet Wasan

Consultant Oncologist, Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College London, UK

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

**EARLY BIRD
REGISTRATION
CLOSES:**

**7 September
2012**



PLATINUM



**COSA
ABSTRACTS
CLOSE**

**14 August
2012**

GOLD



SILVER



For more information visit: www.cosa-ipos.org