



## COSA NEWS **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



*Professor Bogda Koczwara, President, COSA*

How time flies. It seems like only yesterday we were saying goodbye in Perth and here we are almost six months later. It seems that the clock speeds up as the tasks are growing. With less than a year before my handing the baton of the Presidency, I am getting anxious about how much is yet to be done before the clock strikes and I retire. So in my report for this Marryalyan there is no time to reflect on the past (except for how well Marie looked in the Santa's Helper outfit in the December Marryalyan). It is all about looking ahead.

The conversation we had started in November about where we are going with COSA continued in February when the Council considered **strategic directions** for the organisation. We grappled with some fundamental questions of how does COSA add value? How are we unique? How can we best support our members? What does membership really mean? The discussions highlighted that there was a lot that we could be proud of; the growth and cultivation of groups that had started with COSA and are now growing in strength, the multidisciplinary nature, to collegiality of the members. But we also are learning that different members have different needs that may need to be addressed differently and we need to develop flexible ways of doing so. For some, this may be advocacy and partnership with other like organisations, for others the individual professional

development and joining in with other like-minded individuals. Ian Roos and the membership working party are working at putting some detail into the answers relating to members' rights and obligations that will be presented for wider consultation soon. The outcomes of the strategic meeting will also be available to members for their feedback and I do hope that we will have an opportunity to hear from you about what you see as the main strength of COSA. And this year, you can do it in person! Come and **meet the COSA Council for breakfast** as we meet in Sydney in May, Melbourne in August and Brisbane in November. Announcements will be forwarded to the members in advance of each event which will take place before COSA Council meetings. Contact the COSA office for further details.

This year COSA is hosting a number of professional events that focus on supporting our members in new ways. The Cancer Care Coordination Conference was a great success in early March; the ACTNOW in May supporting ACT and NSW members is shaping up to be a great event with a fabulous program (maybe other states will follow next year?) and of course the **ASM in November** is building up to be a real winner. As you are probably aware by now COSA is partnering with the International Psycho Oncology Society (IPOS) for a joint conference at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, 13-15 November 2012. Along with COSA, IPOS is working with their Australian counterparts Cancer Council Queensland, the Australian Psycho-Oncology Society (OZPOS – also COSA's Psycho-Oncology Group) and the Psycho-Oncology Cooperative Research Group (PoCoG) to deliver a world-class scientific program. The COSA and IPOS meetings will run in a true collaborative sense – we'll hold a joint plenary each day and then each society will run plenary and concurrent sessions aimed at their members. The COSA Program Committee, chaired by Christine Carrington, has drafted an excellent program and has already finalised all session topics and coordinators. We are in the process of confirming the invited international

speakers. The topics for the joint COSA-IPOS plenaries include *“Implementing Psycho-Oncology: Evidence into Practice”* opening plenary on Tuesday morning, *“Responding to challenges in the treatment of patients with melanoma and skin cancer”* panel discussion on Wednesday afternoon and *“Whose life is it anyway? Arguing for greater regulation to promote optimal outcomes in oncology”* will be the closing debate on Thursday afternoon. We have secured Professor Ian Frazer to give the Presidential Lecture on Thursday afternoon. If you haven't registered for the ASM yet I encourage you to do so quickly, particularly as the joint conference dinner tickets are limited and if last year's dinner was any indication, I expect this year's will be another fun evening with lots of socialising and dancing! All this and more information is available on the conference website at [www.cosa-ipos.org](http://www.cosa-ipos.org).

But that is not all! We are planning to host a workshop looking at supporting **rural cancer centres** *“Beyond bricks and mortar”* in August and we will be asking for your feedback on what are the key priorities to be addressed in rural cancer care. We want to engage with Health Workforce Australia regarding cancer workforce, we are engaging with the TGA and the government on strategies how to address **shortages in cancer drugs** (Dan Mellor is an invaluable resource here). We have been working with consumers on engaging them in cancer research and with cooperative trials groups to cultivate a **coordinated and strategic approach to cancer research** (Sandro Porceddu is really bringing people together here). The list goes on... It seems that no key area of cancer is untouched by the COSA touch... I hope that you can see the trend here – COSA is such a wonderful vehicle of fabulous people, full of energy, talent and vitality... And I am left with the best job of all – of acknowledging each and every one of them. Thank you all (you know who you are) for making COSA what it is today and please continue to do so. And come to breakfast when we are in your town!

Till then, Bogda

**Professor Bogda Koczwara**  
President - COSA

## Executive Officer's Report

March 2012 marked my one year anniversary with COSA and what a busy, fruitful and rewarding year it has been. I have survived my first ASM and was fortunate to have Margaret McJannett still involved through our partnership with ANZUP – seven years experience building the COSA ASM to the success it has achieved cannot go unnoticed and unappreciated – so thank you again Marg.

Since my last report in the December Marryalyan the COSA team has been as busy as ever delivering on all our projects. The COSA Group reports on the following pages outline much of this work, but I'd also like to highlight a few which do not appear elsewhere.

- Implementation of COSA's Cancer Australia funded *Consumer Engagement in Clinical Cancer Research* project is well underway, with the Steering Committee holding regular meetings. Following the completion of the literature search report and consumer needs assessment workshop in December 2011, the needs analysis is complete and work has now commenced on developing the educational modules. We have recently established a Curriculum Committee which will advise and support the development, piloting and evaluation of the suite of online learning and development modules for consumers working within the cancer cooperative trials groups (CCTGs).
- In February 2012 I was invited to present at the ANZ Breast Cancer Trials Group Board's strategic planning day. Now that the COSA Enabling Grant is complete, this presented the perfect opportunity to share COSA's vision with one of the most active CCTGs and discuss how we can continue to work together in the future to achieve our mutual goals.
- In February I also attended the Australian Institute for Company Director's course *“The Not-for-Profit Board”*. Participation in this interactive workshop has given me important knowledge which will no doubt assist me during COSA's governance revision.

Do you have any questions for COSA Council?  
Want to know what activities are planned for 2012?  
Want an update on the proposed changes discussed at the AGM last year...

## Come and meet COSA Council in Sydney at the COSA Members' Breakfast

DATE Friday 25 May 2012 TIME 8:00am - 9:30am

LOCATION - to be advised

Please RSVP to [cosa@cancer.org.au](mailto:cosa@cancer.org.au) by Friday 18 May 2012

Please note that events in Melbourne (31 August) and Brisbane (12 November) are also being planned.

- Recent submissions made by COSA on behalf of our members include:
  - Tripartite National Strategic Plan for Radiation Oncology, November 2011
  - Joint submission with Cancer Council Australia to the Senate Community Affairs Committees regarding the factors affecting the supply of health services and medical professionals in rural areas, December 2011
  - Joint submission with Cancer Voices Australia to the Senate Community Affairs Committees inquiry into Palliative Care in Australia, March 2012
  - Joint submission with Cancer Council Australia and the 14 Cancer Cooperative Trials Group to the McKeon Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia, March 2012
- COSA is hosting the ACTNOW workshop, 19-20 May in Bowral. ACTNOW (ACT and NSW Oncology Weekend) is supported by Roche, through an unrestricted educational grant to COSA. The weekend is an educational and networking opportunity for training and practicing oncologists across ACT and NSW. Registration is filling fast, so if you haven't registered or would like more information, please contact the ACTNOW secretariat via email [cosa@cancer.org.au](mailto:cosa@cancer.org.au).

### COSA-IPOS ASM 2012

The planning for this year's ASM in Brisbane is progressing very well. I am so impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of the COSA ASM Program Committee members: Christine Carrington (convenor), Bryan Burmeister, Haryana Dhillon, Bogda Koczwara, Sandro Porceddu, Tim Shaw, Leanne Stone, Jane Turner and Desmond Yip. Of course they are well supported by Fran & myself, as well as Mike & Kylie from ASN Events.

The Program Committee held a very successful half-day brainstorming workshop in Brisbane on 23 February. A draft program has been finalised with all session topics and coordinators identified. The draft program is now available on the ASM website [www.cosa-ipos.org](http://www.cosa-ipos.org).

As you probably know by now COSA disease themes are skin cancer and carcinoma of unknown primary. CUP will feature on Tuesday's program and skin on Wednesday – a perfect synergy with the total solar eclipse which will be most visible from Cairns at 6:38am EST on 14 November. We are hoping to find a vantage point in Brisbane where we can at least catch a glimpse!

COSA's partnership with IPOS in 2012 presents the ideal opportunity for a world class scientific conference featuring psycho-oncology. This partnership will bring together two important meetings and allow each society's members to participate in both meetings – the difficulty as always will be in deciding which sessions to attend.

Registrations and abstract submission are now open. As a first, COSA is inviting applications for self-designed symposia. This new initiative enables presenters the opportunity to design their own 'private' symposium with a specific theme that is supported by a number of abstracts. Details of the symposium submission guidelines can be found on the ASM website [www.cosa-ipos.org](http://www.cosa-ipos.org). Closing date for symposium applications is 7 May, where as individual COSA abstracts close 14 August.

Once again COSA will be offering travel grants to financial COSA members. Funding for Clinical Professional Days will also be available for COSA Groups. Please see the relevant advertisements in this publication for further information or visit the COSA website [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au).

### Trainees Weekend

COSA will again host the Advanced Trainees weekend prior to the ASM, 10-11 November 2012 in Brisbane. This intensive two-day course titled "*Everything you need to know about skin cancer*" is aimed at advanced trainees in surgery, medical and radiation oncology; as well as junior medical staff, nurses and allied health professionals. Leading clinicians in Australia are invited to facilitate a balanced, multidisciplinary program, including plenary sessions, advanced knowledge workshops, meet the experts and interactive sessions to consider more complex cases in skin cancer management.

**Marie Malica**  
Executive Officer

Free and complete online access to  
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**Clinical Oncology**  
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COSA members can access your official journal for FREE through the member's section of the COSA website.

[www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au)

Simply log-in using your member number and password, and follow the links for full access to the Journal through Blackwell Synergy.

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## Abstract Submission Guidelines

### Online Abstract Submission

Abstract submission is online at <http://www.cosa-ipos.org/>.

You are able to cut and paste your abstract into the online system. The link used for submission will first ask you to load your personal details on your "dashboard". This is the same site for registration and accommodation if required, and is an enduring page that will last for future COSA meetings. If you registered for the 2010 or 2011 COSA ASM &/or submitted an abstract, your details should still be in the system and can be updated if necessary. This will not apply if you have previously attended an IPOS Congress only.

You should keep all emails sent to you from this page. Once you begin your abstract submission, a number of specific background questions will be asked. The reviewers can see your answer to these questions. Once you have made your submission, you can return and edit it up until the closing date for submissions.

1. Abstract submissions close:

**Monday 7 May 2012 - IPOS (Psycho-Oncology) Abstracts**

**Tuesday 14 August 2012 – COSA (all other) Abstracts**

2. Abstracts are invited to be submitted under one of the following categories:

**Psycho-Oncology \***

**Basic and Translational Research**

**Clinical Science**

**Education and Professional Development**

**Epidemiology**

**Health Services**

**Supportive Care**

**Tumour Stream: Skin and melanoma\*\***

**Tumour Stream: Carcinoma of the unknown primary \*\***

**Service Provision \*\*\***

**Trials in Progress \*\*\***

\* The psycho-oncology category is only accessible by indicating you want your abstract reviewed by IPOS and it has an earlier submission deadline. All other abstract categories are being reviewed by COSA.

\*\* The tumour streams vary from year to year

\*\*\* These abstract categories are for non scientific abstracts. They do not need to follow the normal abstract format and are only considered for poster submission and are still eligible for poster awards.

3. Maximum text length allowed is 300 words in length including sub-headings. To assist your preparation, abstracts may be structured under the sub-headings Aims, Methods, Results, Conclusions. The sub-headings must be concise, with only the first word starting with a capital letter.

4. Reports of completed studies are preferred and will be given preference in selecting oral presentations, especially over abstracts which do not report results but indicate that they will be reported at the meeting or mere descriptions of trial methodology. Results of research will be given preference over descriptions of services for oral presentations.

5. Abstracts reporting quantitative studies should contain the planned accrual target and the actual number of patients recruited, levels of significance and confidence intervals of results. Abstracts of qualitative research should indicate how they chose their sample size (e.g. data saturation) and the methodology of analysis.

6. Abstracts will be "blinded" to the reviewers. They will not be able to see the authoring or organisation information, so submitters must not assume that there will be knowledge of the previous work of a group or strength of a research group or researcher.

7. Most of the submitted abstracts will be allocated posters as there will only be a limited number of slots for oral presentations. The best posters will be selected for specific poster presentation sessions with a discussant.

8. Images are not accepted in abstracts.

### Examples of exemplary abstracts

Please take the time to go to the conference website (<http://www.cosa-ipos.org/>) to review examples of an exemplary abstract, and abstracts which would not meet the standard required for acceptance.



## THE TOM REEVE ORATION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANCER CARE

The Tom Reeve Award, which is offered by the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia, formally recognises a national leader and resident in Australia who has made a significant contribution over a relatively long period towards cancer care through research, clinical leadership and/or community service.

### **Nominations are now open for the 2012 Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care.**

Nominations must be made by a COSA member with support from a Council Chair.

Each nomination should include:

- An explanation of the nominee's work in the area of cancer control or research
- An evaluation of the accomplishments of the nominee
- Letters of reference from two individuals from outside the nominees' institution (where applicable). These letters should contain a critical appraisal of the nominee's work



*2011 Tom Reeve Award recipient Professor Phyllis Butow with Professor Bogda Koczwara*

The successful nominee will be presented with a Gold Marryalyan at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting (November) at which he/she will deliver an address highlighting appropriate aspects of their area of professional interest.

Nominations and supporting documentation should be sent to [cosa@cancer.org.au](mailto:cosa@cancer.org.au) by **Wednesday 13 June 2012.**

## COSA 2012 Travel Grants

### **COSA Travel Grants**

COSA is pleased to call for travel grant applications from financial Society members to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Brisbane from 13-15 November 2012. Each grant will be up to the value of \$1,000.

### **COSA-IPSEN Travel Award**

In 2012 IPSEN continues its tradition of sponsoring four COSA members with travel grants up to the value of \$1,100. Recipients will have their names published in the Marryalyan and in the IPSEN Affinity Newsletter that goes to health care professionals within Australia.



### **COSA Trainee Travel Grants**

COSA trainee travel grants aim to assist oncology trainees in Medical, Surgical or Radiation to attend the ASM or the Advanced Trainees Weekend in Brisbane 10-11 November 2012.

**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 refer to [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au) for further information on all travel grants.

## Clinical Professional Day Funding

COSA invites applications from its constituent professional groups for grants of up to \$7000 (+GST) to conduct "professional day" meetings or educational sessions aimed at fostering professional development. All COSA's disease, specialist, craft and interest groups are encouraged to apply for a professional day grant. If your group was not a recipient in previous years we encourage you to apply for a grant in 2012.

The aim is to hold professional days on Monday 12 November 2012, immediately prior to COSA's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Brisbane 13-15 November 2012. Due to demand, some professional days may be held during or immediately after the ASM (program and space allowing). Depending on the circumstances, grants may also be allocated to support professional days at other times/places in the year.

Visit the grants section in the members' area of the COSA website [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au) for guidelines and application form. **Deadline for submissions is Wednesday 13 June 2012.**

## GROUP REPORTS

### Cancer Biology Group

The Cancer Biology Group will seek to expand its role in facilitating translational research in 2012 through two main avenues. We will continue to work on our program of biobanking from clinical trials and specifically we will be developing a web based interface through a grant we were partners in from the National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources (NECTAR). This will enable Cloud-based Bioinformatics Tools for other biobanks and population databases and our COSA initiative will integrate with these so that there is greater consistency at a national level. In addition to this work we will continue to advocate for enhanced funding and investment in infrastructure for biobanking from clinical trials through the NHMRC and DIISRTE.

We will also seek closer alliances with pathologists who are a vital partner in any cancer biology program of research and work is underway with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia to explore how this might be done. In addition we are in discussion with the Metastasis Research Society of Australia through Prof Rik Thompson to determine how we may be able to partner more closely in a mutually beneficial way. We welcome such approaches and hope that how we develop this partnership may serve as the template for future alliances in the future.

I again ask that any member of COSA that wishes to engage more with promoting translational research

through COSA contact me or Jessica Harris ([jessica.harris@cancer.org.au](mailto:jessica.harris@cancer.org.au)) as we would welcome your input in any of the areas we are currently working on.

**Nik Zeps, Chair**  
**Email: [nik.zeps@sjog.org.au](mailto:nik.zeps@sjog.org.au)**

### Cancer Nurses Society of Australia

The beginning of 2012 has seen the CNSA off to a busy start. The CNSA NEC met in Melbourne from 2-3 March 2012 for our yearly face-to-face Strategic Planning meeting. The weekend was spent agreeing priorities for the next 12 months and in revising and re-focusing key action points from the 2011-2013 CNSA Strategic Plan. It was a very productive couple of days, culminating in a clear vision for the next 12 months and beyond.

The CNSA's strategic goals for 2012-2013 include:

1. Engaging membership and building partnerships
2. Ensuring the financial growth of the CNSA
3. Influence cancer control policy
4. Facilitating cancer nurses' professional development irrespective of geographical location
5. Align the Constitution and Governance Framework with strategic priorities of the CNSA

Key actions directed to achieving these prioritised goals include:

- Invest in communication strategies that respond to, attract and retain the CNSA members
- Broaden the membership base by marketing the CNSA to the wider nursing community.
- Target and develop national and international partnerships that foster the profile and practice of cancer nursing
- Develop and implement strategies to ensure that the CNSA is seen as a key stakeholder in cancer care policy development, review and implementation
- Develop, use and adapt key policy materials that articulate the role of the nurse in cancer control

For more details of our strategic plan visit:  
[www.cnsa.org.au](http://www.cnsa.org.au).

The meeting in Melbourne also allowed existing members of the NEC to officially welcome new NEC members, Mary Ryan, NSW representative; Renae Grundy, Tasmanian representative; Amanda Robertson, SA Representative and to welcome Anne Melon (NSW) back to the NEC as the first CNSA NEC Secretary.

The CNSA NEC has been working with the COSA Office and Executive to progress planned changes to the Governance of the CNSA as voted for by the membership at the 2011 Winter Congress. The timeline for the introduction of a CNSA only membership option and self-management of member services is on track for April 2013. More details can be found in the CNSA news on our website: [www.cnsa.org.au](http://www.cnsa.org.au).

Preparations for the 15th CNSA Winter Congress in Tasmania on 26-28 July are well underway. Louise Nicholson and the local organizing committee have worked hard to develop a strong academic program and great social activities. The program can be found at: <https://www.dconferences.com.au/cnsa2012>. The program is an impressive combination of national and international experts from across many disciplines, focusing on promoting partnerships for optimal patient care. The CNSA is very proud that the affiliations we have with COSA, the Australian and New Zealand Lung Cancer Nurses Forum, ANZUP and the New Zealand Nurses Organisation - Cancer Nurses Section and CoNNO members. We look forward to strengthening existing and building new relationships with all those coming to Tasmania.

The Regional Group Chairs have had an impressive start to the year with a series of well-attended and evaluated education session occurring across the country. Several members of the CNSA have also been involved in policy document revisions; revision of patient education materials and participation in several research projects by clinical nurses and academics from across Australia. The Specialist Interest Groups remain active, pursuing opportunities for new membership, collaborative practice development and research initiatives. To learn more about the work of the Breast, Radiation Oncology and Gynae-Oncology SIGs and Regional Groups contact: [www.cnsa.org.au](http://www.cnsa.org.au)

The CNSA continues to enjoy a vibrant and productive relationship with the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC), contributing to international initiatives to develop, implement and evaluate patient safety frameworks. In addition, an exciting opportunity to establish a relationship with the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) has presented itself through a planned meeting to take place between members of the CNSA NEC and the President of EONS. The CNSA NEC is looking forward very much to exploring this affiliation and to strengthening our recent affiliation with the UICC.

**Mei Krishnasamy, Chair**  
**President, Cancer Nurses Society of Australia**  
**A Shared Voice ... A Shared Vision**  
**Email: [meinir.krishnasamy@petermac.org](mailto:meinir.krishnasamy@petermac.org)**

## Cancer Pharmacists Group

The beginning of 2012 has been an exciting time for the CPG. The CPG committee has been busy working on several new initiatives and projects to benefit cancer pharmacists across Australia.

Welcome to our new members who have recently joined the CPG. Our group membership is at an all-time high. Please continue to encourage other cancer pharmacists to join COSA. The benefits of membership are numerous, and it only costs \$100 per year. Other member benefits include access to the Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology, access to the active CPG discussion forum on the COSA website, reduced registration at COSA events (the Annual Scientific Meeting, CPG seminars), access to Cancer Forum (the official journal of COSA and the Cancer Council Australia), opportunity to join and participate in COSA's multidisciplinary interest groups, and even a 10% discount at Cancer Council stores! All members also have web-access to the Natural Medicines Database, a leading source of evidence-based information on complementary and alternative medicines.

### ASM 2012 – Brisbane 13-15 November 2012

Planning for the next COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane is now well underway, so start organising your abstracts now. CPG member and past-Chair, Dr Christine Carrington, has agreed to be the convenor for this meeting. Keep an eye out on the COSA web page for further information. We hope to see many of you in Brisbane for this event.

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

Following the success of the first four courses, the CPG are pleased to offer this course again. Designed to assist pharmacists in developing their clinical skills in cancer pharmacy practice, the 2-day course combines informative lectures with interactive workshops to assist practitioners in developing their skills and abilities in the many processes involved in providing cancer treatment to patients. The course is aimed at

pharmacists who have a basic knowledge of cancer but have less than 2 years' experience. At the time of writing, registrations were filling up quickly.

The CPG committee is always happy to receive feedback and comments from members. On the basis of feedback we have recently received we have introduced three new initiatives.

### 1) Regular Email Updates

We will keep all members up to date with a regular eNewsletter from the CPG Committee. We are very aware of not wanting to fill up email boxes but at the same time feel that it is very important to keep all members informed about CPG developments (updates sent in January and February 2012).

### 2) Recognition of CPG Member Achievements

We would like to incorporate a section detailing CPG member achievements into the eNewsletter. We would like to hear from you if you have had a paper accepted for publication, a poster or oral presentation accepted for a conference, or been an invited speaker at a state, national or international conference. Please forward an abstract and brief description to [dan.mellor@petermac.org](mailto:dan.mellor@petermac.org) (including reference citation if published). It is important that we celebrate the achievements of cancer pharmacists in Australia and let others know what we are doing.

### 3) COSA 2012 Annual Scientific Meeting – Abstract Mentoring Program

The CPG committee is keen to become more involved in the coordination and facilitation of research for cancer pharmacists. As a first step we would like to encourage as many pharmacists as possible to present their work at the COSA 2012 ASM in Brisbane. There are quite a few CPG members who have never presented their work and who may be wondering where to start. To help, we would like to offer a mentoring program for any CPG member who needs guidance with their project or abstract. This is not about generating ideas or helping with the actual project work but about advising on issues such as data collection, study design and offering editorial advice for abstracts. If you are a pharmacist and you feel as though this program may benefit you please email [dan.mellor@petermac.org](mailto:dan.mellor@petermac.org) with a short description of how we may be able to help. Depending on the response we may approach some experienced researchers from outside of the committee to lend a hand.

### Enhanced links between the CPG and the British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA)

Over 85 CPG members took the opportunity to register as BOPA members at no cost. This will allow those CPG members to access the BOPA eLearning modules for cancer pharmacists. The feedback about this initiative from CPG members has been overwhelmingly positive.

### Cancer Drug Shortages

The CPG has been playing a leading role in the national response to government about shortages of critical medicines, including chemotherapy. COSA has been issuing information about the shortages as it becomes available.

### Keep the feedback coming...

We aim to keep the Cancer Pharmacists Group one of the most vibrant and active COSA Groups. To achieve this we need the help and input of all members. Please send any comments or suggestions to any committee member – we are always happy to hear from our members.

**Dan Mellor, Chair**

**Email: [dan.mellor@petermac.org](mailto:dan.mellor@petermac.org)**

## Clinical Research Professionals Group

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The year started with a busy meeting and a warm welcome to our 2012 Committee –

Sam Ruell, Peter MacCallum CC, Melbourne (Deputy Chairperson)

Dianne Lindsay, ANZBCTG, Newcastle (Secretary)

Hema Rajandran, Sir Charles Gairdner, Perth

Jill Davison, Peter MacCallum CC, Melbourne

Maria Mury, St Vincent's, Sydney

Sally Dean, Calvary Mater, Newcastle

Valerie Jakrot, Melanoma Institute, Sydney.

Representing the COSA CRPC, I attended a *Clinical Trials Action Group (CTAG)* update on 3 February which was held in Canberra at the NHMRC offices. The agenda for this meeting focused on clinical trial networks and how they can be supported; the health care environment and what influence this might have on how clinical trials are conducted; and workforce issues such as building researcher capacity to conduct clinical trials.

Workshop attendees included representatives from academia, industry and the health care sector. Most agreed that mechanisms to support major pragmatic clinical trials which are cost effective are required urgently. Also, healthcare investors should regard clinical trials as a critical quality and safety aspect of health care that directly contribute to improving outcomes for patients and therefore performance indicators that relate to research output would contribute to building capacity. Consumers could play an integral part in lobbying for such investment.

Workforce issues were discussed highlighting the increasing costs and complexity of the regulatory environment associated with conducting clinical trials which are steering pharmaceutical companies to countries where these issues are minimised. Relevant to our group is the need to streamline and make accessible



education strategies for investigators and research professionals, such as mutual acceptance of accredited GCP training or access to a free on-line nationally acceptable course. A GCP training course suitable to the Australian setting – such as the NIH course – could be a quick win that greatly contributes towards streamlining research practice.

The Victorian Cooperative Oncology Group Clinical Research Professionals Committee has produced a statement proposing a recognised minimum standard of GCP training that sponsors should accept and recognise without further requirement for additional training. This group has endorsed this statement and welcomes any further comments.

The big issue for our group to focus on this year is our membership, their needs and how we can address those needs. Communication is critical and we will be investigating how this can best be achieved. I would also welcome suggestions from any individual or group.

**Deborah Howell, Chair**  
**Email: [Deborah.Howell@petermac.org](mailto:Deborah.Howell@petermac.org)**

## Familial Cancer Group

The COSA FCC Group has a number of focus areas for 2012 and any of the FCC Group members are very welcome to contribute to some or all of these. The main activity of the FCC group in 2012 has been to start the planning for the Clinical Professional Day in conjunction with the Familial Cancer Research and Practice meeting in August, and the familial cancer input to the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting which will be held in Brisbane 13-15 November 2012.

### **1. Planning for the COSA/ Human Genetics Society of Australia (HGSA) Clinical Professional Day (Tuesday 21st August, Mantra resort, Kingscliff)**

Planning is progressing and invitations are being extended to potential speakers providing funding can be sourced from COSA/HGSA. The current program is split into four themes:

**Massively Parallel Sequencing: issues for transition to clinical service.** This will be a short presentation of the science and then a panel-facilitated discussion with audience participation about the various benefits and pitfalls of the inevitable transition of this technology into clinical practice

**Rare tumours** (Cowdens, Peutz Jegher, Li Fraumeni management guidelines update). These will be concise talks focussing on the practical considerations of identifying and managing people with these syndromes.

**Pancreatic cancer:** the genetics of and update of current screening modalities and screening trials.

**Psychosocial session:** genetic counselling and management of adolescents at risk of hereditary cancer syndromes.

### **2. Planning for the familial cancer contribution to the COSA ASM**

The FCC Group has proposed a number of talks focussed on the hereditary genetics of skin cancers and lung cancer in keeping with the themes of the meeting. There will be a familial cancer session to be of interest to the general medical community although the content of these talks are still to be developed – any suggestions welcome especially for QLD-based professionals to present.

### **3. Developing and actioning a national consensus for routine immunohistochemistry (IHC) for mismatch repair (MMR) proteins in colorectal cancer to detect Lynch syndrome**

Routine IHC for MMR proteins at the time of presentation with colorectal cancer has not been fully embraced across the whole of the country. The WA genetics service has been a leader in this field and Dr Nicholas Pachter, consultant geneticist in WA, will lead the COSA FCC Group's development of a national consensus document. The purposes of this document is to then engage the wider COSA community and Cancer Australia to develop a formal position statement recommending the routine use of IHC for the optimal identification of families with Lynch syndrome

### **4. Developing methods for the practical introduction and implementation of medical prevention strategies for breast and colorectal cancers**

There is now good evidence in support of selective estrogen receptor modifiers for breast cancer prevention in high risk women and reasonable evidence in support of aspirin for cancer prevention in Lynch syndrome. The uptake of SERM use has been poor worldwide and there are a number of reasons underlying this. Some of these are related to personalised risk prediction and Assoc Prof Kelly-Anne Phillips is leading this initiative, but there are also practical barriers including who will actually prescribe the SERM and provide follow up. Similar issues are likely to arise for the implementation of aspirin for medical prevention. It is these barriers that will be addressed by the COSA FCC group in 2012

### **5. Developing the COSA FCC Group membership, including a formal affiliation with the HGSA**

COSA membership is a major focus of the COSA Council, but is a particular opportunity for the FCC Group as the HGSA is very keen to develop a closer relationship with the COSA FCC Group. I am a member of the COSA membership Working Group and through this will be maintaining a close dialogue with Kevin Carpenter, HGSA President, to progress a closer and formal relationship between our organisations. This will help to provide a forum for HGSA members with an interest in hereditary cancer syndromes to engage with each other and the wider familial cancer community and also to widen the reach of COSA to groups of professionals who otherwise would not think to join a cancer group as cancer only forms part of their day-to-day practice.

**Gillian Mitchell, Chair**  
**Email: [gillian.mitchell@petermac.org](mailto:gillian.mitchell@petermac.org)**

## Gynaecology Group

2011 was a year of consolidation for ANZGOG. A highlight of the year was our involvement in leading quality consumer engagement activities across a number of states in Australia. Obtaining funding for large scale co-operative clinical trials remains an ongoing problem, not only for ANZGOG, but for all the cancer cooperative groups. We are hopeful that the combined efforts of all of the groups, and COSA, will see this situation improve.

ANZGOG trials recruited 95 patients during 2011. With three locally developed trials all recruiting internationally in 2012, we are already seeing good recruitment numbers across a range of trials including Symptom Benefit, OUTBACK and PARAGON. We continue to partner with the NHMRC CTC on all our trials. In addition, we have strong collaborations with international research groups such as the Gynecologic Cancer Intergroup, the Gynecologic Oncology Group and other European and North American groups.

Research outputs have continued to increase with 11 peer reviewed manuscripts published this year including a number relating from the Ovarian Cancer Consensus Conference attended by a number of ANZGOG members in 2010.

ANZGOG has just had another highly successful ASM in the Gold Coast at the end of February. We had a record 170 participants. Our international guest speakers were Gillian Thomas, radiation Oncologist from the Sunnybrook Cancer Centre in Toronto and Rob Coleman and Pedro Ramirez from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Texas. The theme for the ASM 2012 was "Individualized Gynaecological Cancer Medicine". The programme was varied, challenging and exciting. The programme highlights included 7 scientific sessions, a debate, workshops for nurses and study coordinators, a "consumer perspective" session presented by the ANZGOG Consumer and Community Committee and a Radiation Oncology workshop. There were 7 new trial concepts presented for consideration by the ANZGOG Research and Advisory Committee.

ANZGOG and its Consumer and Community Committee have organised five Consumer Engagement events. A total of 134 patients, carers and health care professionals attended these sessions which were held in Canberra, Adelaide, Sydney, Perth and the Gold Coast. These events increase public awareness of Gynaecological Cancer research and support trial recruitment. The next Consumer Engagement event is planned for August 2012 in Newcastle.

**Alison Brand, Chair**  
**Email: [Alison.Brand@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Alison.Brand@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au)**

## Lung Group

The major upcoming event for the COSA Lung group in 2012 is the bi-annual Australian Lung Cancer Conference (ALCC). We have the opportunity of showcasing our contributions to the study and practice of lung cancer at the 4th ALCC, 23-25 August 2012, Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia. Hopefully we can springboard from this to the IASLC 15th World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC), which Australia is hosting in Sydney Oct 27-30, 2013.

I encourage everyone with lung cancer interest to contribute or at least attend the ALCC this year, which will include a Lung Cancer nurses day and also a face to face meeting of the Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group (ALTG).

Information on the 2012 Australian Lung Cancer Conference can be found at: <http://www.alcc.net.au>

For those considering IASLC membership, go to: <http://iaslc.org/membership/become-a-member/>

Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group (ALTG):  
[www.altg.com.au](http://www.altg.com.au)

**Nick Pavlakis, Chair**  
**Email: [pavlakis@med.usyd.edu.au](mailto:pavlakis@med.usyd.edu.au)**

### Living with Cancer Education Program Facilitator training at Cancer Council Victoria

15 & 16 May and  
11 & 12 September 2012

The Living with Cancer Education Program is delivered by health professionals for people with cancer, their family & friends. This two day training course includes information on the range of issues people face when they are living with cancer as well as group facilitation skills, adult learning techniques, and program promotion.

*Book early, as places are limited!*

For more information please contact Michele Meachen and Sue Hegarty - Living with Cancer Education Program Managers on

**13 11 20** or email [lwcep@cancervic.org.au](mailto:lwcep@cancervic.org.au)

We have had a strong start to 2012 with some highly successful key neuro-oncology events for both the health professional and consumer community.

We are pleased to report the outstanding success of the **first inaugural COSA Neuro-oncology Group Clinical Professional Day (CPD)**, held on Friday, 9 March 2012 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Day was programmed in conjunction with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) 'Pathology Update' 2012 and the 'Genetics and Genomics in Personalised Medicine' Conferences.

The title for the Day's program was "**Brain Tumours: New tools for Diagnosis, Treatment and Research**". We were particularly honoured to have two of the world's leading clinicians in the field of neuro-oncology as our international guest speakers: Professor Martin van den Bent, Neuro-oncologist, The Netherlands, and Professor Paul Kleihues, Neuro-pathologist, Switzerland, who is currently in NSW undertaking a six month Fellowship with the Cure for Life Foundation and the Lowy Cancer Centre, University New South Wales.

A summary of the CPD program is contained below:

9.00-9.10	<b>Welcome and Program overview</b> Dr Eng-Siew Koh, Chair, COSA Neuro-oncology Group	<b>Session 1 Chair:</b> <b>Dr Michael Buckland</b>
9.10-10.00	<b>Pathological diagnosis and biomarkers in Glioma</b> Speaker: Professor Martin van den Bent, The Netherlands	
10.00-10.50	<b>The definition of primary and secondary glioblastoma</b> Speaker: Prof Paul Kleihues, Neuropathologist, Switzerland	
10.50-11.10	<b>CNS tumours - RCPA structured reporting protocol</b> Speaker: Dr Michael Rodriguez, Neuropathologist, NSW	
11.10-11.30	Morning Tea	
11.30-12.00	<b>Established and potential roles for PET imaging biomarkers in glioma management</b> Speaker: Dr Rob Ware, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, VIC	<b>Session 2 Chair:</b> <b>A/Prof Michael Back</b>
12.00-12.20	<b>Use of 5-ALA in glioma resection</b> Speaker: Dr Lindy Jeffree, Neurosurgeon, Qld	
12.20-12.50	<b>Informational needs &amp; quality of life in brain tumour patients</b> Speaker: A/Prof Monika Janda, Behavioural Scientist, QLD	
12.50-1.10	<b>Neuro-oncology Care Coordination</b> Speaker: Dr Eng-Siew Koh, Liverpool Hospital, NSW	
1.10-2.00	Lunch	
2.00-2.10	<b>COSA - promotion &amp; membership</b> Dr Eng-Siew Koh, Chair, COSA Neuro-oncology Group	
2.10-3.00	<b>Managing Glioma in 2012: are we ready for personalised medicine?</b> Speaker: Professor Martin van den Bent, The Netherlands	<b>Session 3 Chair:</b> <b>Dr Liz Hovey</b>
3.00-3.40	<b>Managing Glioma in 2012: Multi-disciplinary Expert Panel discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tissue Banking for clinical and research purposes</li> <li>• Biomarkers in Glioma, funding models for newer diagnostic tests</li> </ul> Panel members: Prof Martin van den Bent, Prof Kleihues, Dr Kerrie McDonald, Dr Michael Buckland, Dr Lindy Jeffree.	
3.40-4.00	Meeting Close and Afternoon Tea	
4.00-4.30	<b>COSA Neuro-oncology Group AGM</b>	<b>Dr Eng-Siew Koh</b>

There was an excellent response from health professionals and key consumer advocates, with 161 attendees from all Australian states and territories (except NT) and also New Zealand, with a further 13 persons on the waiting list [who unfortunately couldn't be accommodated due to venue being at capacity].

Feedback and evaluation from the CPD was overwhelmingly positive with presentations from the two international guest speakers particularly well received, but with equally strong from a range of prominent Australian clinicians.

Special thanks to members of the Planning Committee led by Dr Koh, comprised of Deputy Chair A/Prof Kate Drummond (Vic), Dr Michael Buckland and Dr Michael Rodriguez, Neuropathologists (NSW), Dr Liz Hovey, Medical Oncologist (NSW), Dr Kerrie McDonald, Translational Scientist (NSW) and Ms Mhairi Mackinnon, Neuro-oncology Care Coordinator from Qld. Ms Narelle Barnett, from Liverpool Hospital, Cancer Services provided invaluable administrative support and oversight of the event.

We would like to acknowledge all sponsors of the event – COSA, Roche (supporting Professor van den Bent), Cure for Life Foundation and University New South Wales, (supporting Professor Kleihues), RCPA, and Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centre/South Western Sydney Local Health District.

During his Australian week-long tour sponsored by Roche from 3-10 March, Professor Martin van den Bent had many professional engagements, which included: the HOTT meeting in Melbourne, covering: 'Optimising outcomes in high grade glioma'; 'Treatment strategies for high grade glioma', 'True versus pseudo-response in the era of anti-angiogenics', and 'The molecular characterization of glioma'. In Queensland, he gave an interactive presentation on 'Insights into the Management of Anaplastic Glioma' and also discussed tissue banking in glioma.

#### **Brain Tumour Consumer Forum, Sydney, Thursday 8 March 2012**

This event was co-hosted by the Sydney Neuro-oncology Group (SNOG) and the (BTAA), in particular, Ms Allison O'Dea (SNOG Clinical Research Coordinator), Mr Denis Strangman (BTAA Secretary), and Mr Matt Pitt and Mrs Susan Pitt (BTAA Co-Chairs).

Professor van den Bent presented an overview of current and promising therapies for brain tumours, particularly for primary malignant tumours in adults. Other speakers included well known Medical Oncologist Dr Helen Wheeler, neuro-oncology care coordinator Ms Alanah Bailey from as well as number of key consumer advocates. The event was very well attended by over 145 patients and carers who came from several states around Australia.

#### **Update on current active COGNO (Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology) trials:**

- 1. CATNON**, Australian PI Professor Anna Nowak from WA, is a Phase III study addressing the role of the EORTC protocol (adjuvant chemo-radiation proven in Glioblastoma) in the setting of anaplastic astrocytoma (in patients who do not have the 1p19q co-deletion). There are currently nine activated sites recruiting around Australia with two more sites to be opened soon. As at March 2012, 62 patients have been registered and 31 patients randomized.
- 2. CABARET**, PI Dr Kathryn Field, from Victoria, is a Phase II randomized study addressing the use of carboplatin and bevacizumab (versus bevacizumab alone) in the setting of recurrent glioblastoma. The CABARET study now has 17 active sites across Australia. Part I of the study (randomization to Bevacizumab versus Bevacizumab + carboplatin) is now closed. Part II of the study (for randomization upon further disease progression) continues.
- 3. SEED**, PI Palliative care specialist A/Professor Meera Agar, opened in July 2011 as a pilot study of a steroid-sparing protocol in recurrent glioma, brain metastases and metastatic cancer. There are 5 active sites in NSW.

#### **Important upcoming 2012 Neuro-oncology Events:**

##### **Brain Cancer Action Week: 7-13 May 2012**

This week will be dedicated to raising awareness about brain tumours, with several key educational opportunities for brain tumour patients and families and well as health professionals across different Australian states.

Notable events include the upcoming Cancer Institute NSW sponsored Brain Cancer Support and Education forum at the Menzies Hotel Sydney on Thursday 10 May 2012. Special Guest speakers include Professor Patrick Wen from Dana-Farber's Center for Neuro-Oncology, Boston and Professor Paul Kleihues, visiting Neuro-pathologist from Switzerland.

##### **The Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology's (COGNO) 5th Annual Scientific Meeting, 7-9 August 2012**

will be held in Brisbane with planned joint sessions with the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) ASM that same week. Local co-Convenors will be COSA Neuro-oncology Group member Dr Zarnie Lwin, Medical Oncologist and Dr Matthew Foote, Radiation Oncologist.

The theme of the meeting is '*Neuroimaging: Novel Approaches for Glioma*'.

Confirmed esteemed international guest speakers will be neurosurgeon Dr Michael Vogelbaum from Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, and Dr Susan Chang, neuro-oncologist from the University of San Francisco.



For the first time, there will also be time for preferred abstracts; the call for Abstracts is now open with submission closing date: 20 April 2012.

The preliminary program and other details are available here: <http://www.cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm2012>

#### Goals for 2012 include:

- Building and developing the ANZ network of health professionals and key consumer advocates providing care coordination and psycho-social support to brain tumour patients and carers across Australia and New Zealand. Continue discussions around recurrent funding for neuro-oncology care coordinators and other issues regarding the role eg KPIs.
- Working with other key health professional and consumer groups in advocating and lobbying relevant bodies concerning issues such as reimbursement/payment for genetic and molecular testing for specific brain tumours.
- Improved engagement of COSA Neuro-Oncology Group members and as to their preferences for group development, roles and functions. Encouraging new members (both current COSA and non-COSA members) to join this interest Group.

Please contact Dr Koh if you have suggestions regarding any aspect of COSA Neuro-Oncology.

Best wishes,

**Eng Siew Koh, Chair**

**Email: [eng-siew.koh@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:eng-siew.koh@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)**

## Palliative Care Group

The focus of the group since the last report has been to formulate a COSA response to the senate enquiry into palliative care provision in Australia. The terms of reference outline eight factors the committee will review and cover the efficient use of palliative, health and aged care resources; the effectiveness of various palliative care arrangements; the composition of the palliative care workforce; the adequacy of standards applying to palliative care provision; and the availability and funding of research, information and data about palliative care in Australia. Advance care planning will also be considered, including end-of-life communication conversations between health care professionals and dying patients; national consistency in law and policy supporting advance care directives; and scope for including advance care plans in personal electronic health records. The COSA submission made several key points, which include:

- Ensuring that palliative care is on the agenda of all Australian health care organisations and funded adequately.

- Services provided should meet quality standards of palliative care
- There is a need for accountability for organisations that receive funding for palliative care.
- Services should be provided in an integrated fashion, in collaboration with cancer care services.
- Working across state and territory boundaries to improve access to palliative care, linking and coordinating palliative care services in hospitals, hospices, primary care practices, aged care facilities and community agencies providing care at home.
- Promoting the value of palliative care to the community and facilitating education of the healthcare workforce in the practice of quality palliative care.
- Support is needed for routine data collection in clinical services and continued promotion of palliative care research.

**Meera Agar, Chair**

**Email: [meera.agar@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:meera.agar@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)**

### Australia Day 2012 Honours List

COSA congratulates the following members:

**Prof John Forbes AM**

**Prof Stephen Clarke OAM**

## Psycho-Oncology Group

### Forging links with other professional organisations

OZPOS is well connected with the psycho-oncology community. We have identified our limited presence and exposure to other relevant psychological, social work and supportive care professional organisations to be a weakness. One of our priorities during 2012 is to remedy this situation, by making contact and discussing formal relationships between OZPOS and other organisations. If members have formal roles or contacts within other associations please do get in touch, it would be great to have advice and input on how to go about working effectively with other bodies

### Psycho-Oncology Awards

In partnership with the Psycho-Oncology Cooperative Research Group (PoCoG) we are actively developing some Australian Psycho-Oncology Awards. We have a strong track record of psycho-oncology practice and research in this country, a track record that is strong enough to warrant regular awards for excellence in practice and research. As award guidelines are

developed they will be discussed with the broader OZPOS membership and, as always, your thoughts and input will be appreciated. At this stage we are considering two main awards: Excellence and leadership in psycho-oncology and an early career award.

### **IPOS 2012:**

By now you should all be well aware of that we are hosting IPOS 2012. This will be a joint IPOS-COSA meeting held in Brisbane in November. Our collaboration with PoCoG, Cancer Council Queensland and COSA is working very well and the program is coming together beautifully, with plenty of sessions of interest for practitioners and researchers alike.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of the international and national program committees. These groups are working very productively to draw together relevant and high quality presentations on topical issues for the meeting.

An important variation in the usual COSA process this year is the earlier abstract submission deadline. Any abstracts to be considered for inclusion in the IPOS meeting program must be submitted according to the May deadlines as advertised. Get thinking and churning through your research and practice data – we are looking forward to having a very strong program to keep us all alert and interested in November.

**Haryana Dhillon, Chair**

**Email: [haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au](mailto:haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au)**

## **Urologic Oncology Group**

The Urologic Oncology group continues to celebrate a fantastic ASM in 2011, where genitourinary cancer was a key theme. The partnership with ANZUP Cancer Trials Group enhanced the meeting for both organisations and showcased the quality and breadth of clinical practice and research in Australia for these cancers.

COSA sponsored the Clinical Professional Day and this was highly successful. This investment will continue to bear fruit as we plan to continue this initiative and evolve it in the future to provide additional training opportunities in the future.

The 2012 ASM will obviously not have the same emphasis however our stream will still 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's deputy chair and USANZ nominee, Shomik Sengupta, who is representing us on the ASM convening committee this year.

The COSA Urologic Oncology group has considerable overlapping interests and membership with ANZUP but there are some key areas of distinction. Specifically, COSA has a clear role in advocacy, research links other than clinical trials, education, overarching support of

CCTGs, communication, and the Executive Officers Network. All of us regardless of our professional discipline have roles and interests in these areas as part of our involvement in the broader profession and COSA will continue to play a key part in these processes. For this reason I strongly encourage you and particularly younger clinicians and researchers to join the group and continue to participate and promote these agendas.

Of interest to all our members will be the ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting, to be held on 15-17 July 2012 at the Four Points By Sheraton in Sydney. The program will include:

- State of the art presentations from leading international and Australian experts;
- Up-to-date management and research for prostate and other genitourinary cancers;
- Opportunities for researchers to present their research;
- Clinical trial concept development workshop/s;
- Overviews of current and planned ANZUP trials;
- A comprehensive program for trainees covering all aspects of genitourinary cancers;
- A consumer and community engagement forum; and
- A translational workshop.

More information can be found at <http://www.anzup.org.au/content.aspx?page=upcoming>. ANZUP has secured some great national and international speakers and we anticipate that this will be a landmark meeting. Please encourage your friends, colleagues and particularly your trainees to join ANZUP and come along. Note that there is a discount for earlybird registration before 14 May 2012; and importantly that there is a member discount, great value for your ANZUP membership fee of \$0!

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

**Ian Davis, Chair**

**Email: [ian.davis@ludwig.edu.au](mailto:ian.davis@ludwig.edu.au)**



**ANZUP**  
Cancer Trials Group Limited

For information  
please visit  
[www.anzup.org.au](http://www.anzup.org.au)

## Annual Scientific Meeting

15-17 JULY 2012

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON,  
SYDNEY DARLING HARBOUR

*'State of the art multi-disciplinary  
care in urological cancers'*

# COSA Interest Group Updates

## AYA Interest Group

COSA has been 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 education opportunities and resources, such as:

- Post Graduate Certificate in Adolescent Health & Welfare Oncology, University of Melbourne
- Sydney Youth Cancer Service education day on common tumours in AYAs
- CanTeen training day in the use of the AYA Oncology Psychosocial Care Manual
- Teenage Cancer Trust's 7th International Conference on Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Medicine, London
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report "Cancer in adolescents and young adults in Australia" (see below)
- CanTeen Research to Practice Paper on "Supporting AYA siblings of cancer patients: the family context"

COSA has also received funding to conduct a sixth AYA Cancer Workshop in 2012. 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 has been completed and is on COSA's wiki site at: [http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:AYA\\_cancer\\_fertility\\_preservation](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 draft guidance is on COSA's wiki site at:

[http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:Psychosocial\\_management\\_of\\_AYA\\_cancer\\_patients](http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:Psychosocial_management_of_AYA_cancer_patients). Following final review by the Department of Health and Ageing, COSA will 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. COSA has formed a working group of multidisciplinary health professionals to review the available literature, consider current best practice and develop this guidance. The guidance has been drafted and loaded onto COSA's wiki site prior to circulation to AYA Cancer Network members and other stakeholders for public consultation during April.

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](http://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.

COSA also created a comprehensive list of cancer trials in both the identified priority areas and other cancers commonly affecting AYAs by collating data from the Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ANZCTR), ClinicalTrials.gov (CT.gov) and each of the Cancer Clinical Trial Cooperative Groups (CCTGs),

facilitated through the COSA & CCTG Executive Officers Network.

The collection and analysis of AYA cancer incidence, mortality and survival data – initiated by this project – has been completed by the AIHW. Providing a comprehensive picture of cancer in young people aged 15–29 the AIHW report, *Cancer in adolescents and young adults in Australia*, was finalised and published in December 2011 and is available for free download or hard copy purchase at <http://aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737420603&tab=2>.

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

**Wayne Nicholls, Chair**  
**Email: [Wayne\\_Nicholls@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Wayne_Nicholls@health.qld.gov.au)**

## Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group

The Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group's three working groups continue to drive a number of activities to promote improvements in coordination of cancer services in Australia. On March 8-9 2012, we hosted the Third National Cancer Care Coordination Conference. The conference was attended by more than 250 health professionals with an interest in cancer care coordination, and covered topics of high importance to contemporary cancer services. Our Keynote speaker from the UK, Professor Emma Ream, provided an overview of the key coordination needs of people affected by cancer and presented findings from her research about innovative models to ensure patient centred models of care. Other topics which generated considerable interest include survivorship care, the needs of older people with cancer, and models of coordination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. My congratulations go to Douglas Bellamy and the conference planning team for the success of the conference. Many thanks also to Kathy Ansell and the COSA team for their support.

The cancer care coordination contacts database launched in June 2011 continues to provide an excellent networking tool. If you are a Cancer Care Coordinator and have not already done so, you can add your details in the database. It provides information on the care coordinator's work contact details, the coordinator's specialty area of care and also any new resources or service improvement initiatives. The database is accessed through the member's area of the COSA website

COSA has provided a small grant to support a review of the literature on outcome measures for Cancer Care Coordination. The review is in its final stages of preparation and will be ready for publication in the next few months. The review will be used to guide the development of a larger piece of work to develop

and recommend measures for evaluating cancer care coordination activities.

I thank COSA for its ongoing support of the care coordinator working groups.

**Patsy Yates, Chair**  
**Email: [p.yates@qut.edu.au](mailto:p.yates@qut.edu.au)**

## Developing Nations Interest Group

COSA Asia Pacific Mentoring Program 2012

In 2011 we saw the successful completion of two pilot fellowships for the COSA Asia Pacific Mentoring Program. The fellowships were awarded to

- Dr Kanakorn Runglodvatana, medical oncologist from Vajira Hospital Bangkok, who spent 12 weeks at the Royal Adelaide Hospital Cancer Centre under the guidance of Dr Nimit Singhal and the multidisciplinary team.
- Nguyen Thanh Binh, radiation physicist from K Hospital Hanoi (in collaboration with RANZCR) whose primary stay was at the Liverpool Radiation Oncology Unit and undertook brief visits at Royal North Shore Hospital and Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney.

The pilot fellowships were a culmination of a number of years working with our Developing Nations Interest Group members to build a framework for a mentoring program. We are delighted with the success of the pilot program and thank the mentors who tailored the programs to meet the needs of the visiting fellows. The feedback from the visiting fellows was that it was wonderful to have specialists in their fields to share knowledge, protocols and techniques.

*"With knowledge that I learned from the Liverpool Cancer Centre I will be happy to return to my Hospital and share with my colleagues when I go back to Hanoi"*  
Ngyuen Thanh Binh, Hanoi Vietnam.

Dr Nimit Singhal, Royal Adelaide Hospital, who supervised Dr Runglodvatana's fellowship, said that being a mentor has very positive aspects ...  
*"Understanding their [the fellows] work and cultural differences provides insight and the potential for future tie ups and collaborations, it was a rewarding experience and I would like to do it again."*

COSA would like to build on the current platform of health professionals/institutions prepared to host a visiting fellow and are **Seeking Expressions of Interest from COSA members interested in hosting a visiting fellow from the Asia Pacific region.**

The fellowship includes:

- Return airfare
- Visa costs



- Health insurance
- Accommodation
- Living allowance
- Registration/attendance costs for the COSA ASM

If you, with the support of your department and/or institution, are interested in facilitating a COSA funded mentorship program in your field of expertise, please visit <http://www.cosa.org.au/groups/developing-nations.html> or contact [cosa@cancer.org.au](mailto:cosa@cancer.org.au) for an application form.

COSA has committed funding for another fellowship in 2012. Keep an eye out for COSA's call for 2012 Asia Pacific Fellowship applications.

**Matthew Links, Chair**

**Email: [matthew.links@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:matthew.links@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au)**

## NETs Interest Group

The aim of the COSA Neuroendocrine Tumour Interest Group for 2012 is to build on two main initiatives it has developed in the last year. This includes updating the Guidelines ([http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:NETs\\_guidelines](http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:NETs_guidelines)) to reflect recent advances in NETs management and emerging treatment options. Users of the Guidelines are encouraged to contribute to their currency by contributing comments and suggesting improvements through the wiki-platform. More sites have been identified for the SIGNATURE NETs registry, and are in the process of seeking ethics approval for this important project, which will facilitate a better understanding of this disease. The registry is still open to participation from further sites; interested investigators should contact Jessica Harris [jessica.harris@cancer.org.au](mailto:jessica.harris@cancer.org.au), the COSA NETs Project Coordinator.

**Yu Jo Chua, Chair**

**Email: [yujochua@gmail.com](mailto:yujochua@gmail.com)**

## Other Reports

### Cancer Voices Australia

#### 1. *Cancer Voices Australia (CVA) and Others v. Myriad - Gene patenting*

The case was held in the Federal Court of Australia before Mr Justice Nicholson from the 20th to 24th February 2012. Following 5 days of expert witness testimony and discussion, the Judge has reserved his decision. It is expected that the decision will be handed down later this year.

CVA attracted significant media exposure in response to the matter and was represented on national radio (ABC and 6PR), television (ABC and the Project) and the newspapers (Australia wide).

Dr Graeme Suthers, was the expert witness for CVA in this case and is to be congratulated for his involvement in this matter.

#### 2. *Clinical Trials*

CVA's Executive Officer, John Stubbs, has presented at an NHMRC meeting, a Medicines Australia Media briefing and clinical trials groups on the benefits of supporting clinical trials and seeking to ensure funding remains on the government agenda.

Through the COSA CCTG's consumers are meeting to develop a suite of key deliverables to support and mentor consumers appointed to or interested in becoming members of the various consumer advisory panels. In all, there are nine Cancer Voices representatives engaged in this project.

#### 3. *Cancer Drug Shortage*

Cancer Voices Australia has joined with COSA and other groups in a letter to the heads of the Therapeutics Goods Authority seeking clarification of the media statements in relation to the shortage of certain chemotherapy drugs and the impact this will have on cancer patients' treatment and subsequent outcomes. The letter has called for a joint meeting of all relevant parties to address this issue. CVA understands that an announcement will be made by the Government in early April detailing new suppliers and improved measures to address the matter.

#### 4. *National Cancer Expert Reference Group (NCERG)*

CVA continues to be represented by its Chair on this project, which is looking at a national perspective on cancer care and control and reports to COAG.

#### 5. *Cancer Australia – Consumer Engagement – National Framework*

CVA has entered into discussions with Cancer Australia regarding Stage 2 of this project. Our Chair, Ian Roos, along with many other committed consumers is looking forward to the next element of this project. The Framework document is now being adopted by many cancer organisations and has received strong national and international recognition.

CVA's EO – John Stubbs was recently appointed to the CA – Intercollegiate Advisory Group

#### 6. *CeHA – Consumers e-Health Alliance*

CVA established this working group following a successful meeting with all relevant e-health parties in Melbourne in December 2010. Of major concern for CVA was the governance issue/s surrounding the establishment of a framework to include all parties, especially consumers. Acting as a broker for the department and collaborating with CHF and industry groups, CeHA has attained considerable respect in this arena. CeHA's second submission to the Senate (no 37)

directs attention to the lack of valid information to the community including our Parliamentarians regarding the July 1 launch of the now PCHR. There will be an important meeting on the 3rd and 4th April of between CeHA and other consumer groups to finalise its response to the Senate hearing to be held in Sydney in late April.

### **7. MBS Review of RT items**

CVA will be engaged with RANZCR on this important issue and met with representatives from the government to discuss the TOR and membership of the review committee. The review is to commence in early July 2012 and expected to report by June 2013.

### **8. Positron Emission Tomography (PET)**

CVA has spoken to representatives from MSAC and the Department on this issue. There is evidence from the community that patients have been charged out of pocket fees of up to \$800 for services relating to their cancer for which a rebate is not approved. This can cause immense confusion and stress to the patient and their family and in some cases a lack of full disclosure to the patient about the treatment and its cost. A Perth radio announcer has spoken to CVA and we are in touch with his community.

### **9. PATS/IPTAAS**

A PATS alliance comprising representatives from Cancer Voices Australia, Cancer Council Australia, Leukaemia Foundation Australia, and Breast Cancer

Network Australia and facilitated by the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia is developing ideas to raise this important issue with MPs. However, federation applies!

Both NSW and SA have made a number of changes to their PATS structure and policy, closing the NSW Tamworth office, South Australia, PATS will no longer be given to carers who are with a patient who is an inpatient – these are significant policy changes with a significant impact on cancer patients. This matter has been referred to the state CVs but clinicians may be involved indirectly.

### **10. Cancer Pain Pathway Working Group**

CVA is engaged with a number of researchers and clinicians to establish suitable guidelines to address the issues of cancer pain and its impact on people affected by cancer. The Australian Adult Cancer Pain Pathway Working Group continues to meet on a regular basis and has developed a Pain Pathway for Adult Cancers.

### **11. Palliative Care – Senate Inquiry**

CVA has partnered with COSA on developing a joint submission to the Senate Inquiry into Palliative Care in this country. CVA thanks its EO and Yvonne McMaster for their valuable contribution to the submission.

*John Stubbs, Executive Officer*

*Email: [john.stubbs@cancer.org.au](mailto:john.stubbs@cancer.org.au)*

## **Clinical Practice Guidelines for Surveillance Colonoscopy in adenoma follow-up; following curative resection of colorectal cancer; and for cancer surveillance in inflammatory bowel disease**

These Guidelines are an update (and a substantial expansion) of several small sections of the 2005 Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prevention, Early Detection and Management of Colorectal Cancer. They focus on the appropriate use of colonoscopy in CRC prevention and address three simple questions;

- (i) when to repeat colonoscopy after adenomatous polypectomy,
- (ii) when to repeat colonoscopy after curative resection for colorectal cancer, and
- (iii) when to perform colonoscopy in those patients with inflammatory bowel disease, who have an increased risk of developing CRC?

Thus, they address the issue of appropriate scheduling of future colonoscopy in patients known to be at above-average risk for CRC development (i.e. patients who have already had adenomatous polyps removed or surgery for CRC, and patients with inflammatory bowel disease). The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist those involved in the Australian healthcare system in making decisions about the timing of surveillance colonoscopy, namely referring general practitioners and colonoscopists, with the intention of reducing the incidence of and mortality from CRC.

The Guidelines were approved by NHMRC in December 2011 and can now be accessed via the Cancer Council Australia Cancer Guidelines Portal at [http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Guidelines:Colorectal\\_cancer/Colonoscopy\\_surveillance](http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Guidelines:Colorectal_cancer/Colonoscopy_surveillance).

# Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
<b>2012</b>		
1- 4 May	TROG 24th Annual Scientific Meeting <a href="http://www.trog.com.au">www.trog.com.au</a>	Darwin, Northern Territory
9-13 May	ESTRO 31 International Oncology Forum <a href="http://www.estro.org">www.estro.org</a>	Barcelona, Spain
15-18 May	ALLG Scientific Meeting <a href="http://www.allg.org.au">www.allg.org.au</a>	Sydney, New South Wales
24-26 May	9th Australasian Lymphology Association Conference <a href="http://www.alaconference.com.au">www.alaconference.com.au</a>	Cairns, Queensland
1-5 Jun	ASCO Annual Conference <a href="http://www.asco.org">www.asco.org</a>	Chicago, Illinois, USA
27-30 Jun	ESMO 14th World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer <a href="http://worldgicancer.com">http://worldgicancer.com</a>	Barcelona, Spain
28-30 Jun	MASCC/ISOO International Symposium <a href="http://www.mascc.org">www.mascc.org</a> 'Supportive Care makes excellent cancer care possible'	New York City, USA
15-17 Jul	ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting <a href="http://www.anzup.org.au">www.anzup.org.au</a>	Sydney, New South Wales
17-20 Jul	Pan Pacific Lymphoma Conference <a href="http://www.unmc.edu/cce/panpacific/">www.unmc.edu/cce/panpacific/</a>	Maui, Hawaii, USA
18-21 Jul	ANZ BCTG Annual Scientific Meeting <a href="http://www.anzbctg.org/content.aspx?page=asm">www.anzbctg.org/content.aspx?page=asm</a>	Hobart, Tasmania
26-28 Jul	CNSA 15th Winter Congress 2012 <a href="http://www.cnsa.org.au">www.cnsa.org.au</a>	Hobart, Tasmania
7-11 Aug	COGNO 5th Annual Scientific Meeting <a href="http://www.cogno.org.au">www.cogno.org.au</a>	Brisbane, Queensland
8-10 Aug	MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting <a href="http://www.moga.org.au">www.moga.org.au</a>	Brisbane, Queensland
23-25 Aug	Australian 4th Lung Cancer Conference <a href="http://www.alcc.net.au">www.alcc.net.au</a>	Adelaide, South Australia
24-26 Aug	ANZCHOG Annual Scientific Meeting <a href="http://www.anzchog.org">www.anzchog.org</a>	Gold Coast, Queensland
27-30 Aug	UICC World Cancer Congress <a href="http://www.uicc.org">www.uicc.org</a>	Montreal, Canada
30 Aug - 2 Sep	14th Congress of the Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology - Combined with RANZCR 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting <a href="http://www.aocr2012.com">www.aocr2012.com</a>	Sydney, New South Wales
9-15 Sep	Australia & Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) Workshop 2012 <a href="http://www.acordworkshop.org.au">www.acordworkshop.org.au</a>	Sunshine Coast, Queensland
19-21 Sep	16th Congress of the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) <a href="http://www.essoweb.org/eursso">www.essoweb.org/eursso</a>	Valencia, Spain
25-27 Sep	12th Meeting of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology <a href="http://www.siog.org/">www.siog.org/</a>	Manchester, UK
26-29 Sep	Sydney Cancer Conference <a href="http://sydney.edu.au/cancer-research/SCC2012/">http://sydney.edu.au/cancer-research/SCC2012/</a>	Sydney, New South Wales
28 Sep - 2 Oct	37th ESMO Congress <a href="http://www.esmo.org/events/vienna-2012-congress.html">www.esmo.org/events/vienna-2012-congress.html</a>	Vienna, Austria
13-16 Oct	14th Biannual Meeting of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society <a href="http://www2.kenes.com/igcs2012/Pages/home.aspx">www2.kenes.com/igcs2012/Pages/home.aspx</a>	Vancouver, Canada
23-26 Oct	Sydney International Breast Cancer Congress 2012 <a href="http://www.sydneybreastcancer2012.com">www.sydneybreastcancer2012.com</a>	Sydney, New South Wales
13-15 Nov	COSA-IPOS Scientific Meeting <a href="http://www.cosa-ipos.org">www.cosa-ipos.org</a>	Brisbane, Queensland
<b>2013</b>		
19-22 Jun	10th International Gastric Cancer Congress <a href="http://www.10igcc.com">www.10igcc.com</a>	Verona, Italy
26 Sep - 1 Oct	ECCO 17 - 38th ESMO Multidisciplinary Congress <a href="http://www.ecco-org.eu">www.ecco-org.eu</a>	Brussels, Belgium
<b>2014</b>		
19-22 Jun	10th International Gastric Cancer Congress <a href="http://www.10igcc.com">www.10igcc.com</a>	Verona, Italy
26 Sep - 1 Oct	ECCO 17 - 38th ESMO Multidisciplinary Congress <a href="http://www.ecco-org.eu">www.ecco-org.eu</a>	Brussels, Belgium



**Clinical  
Oncological  
Society of  
Australia**

**IPOS**

**INTERNATIONAL  
PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY  
SOCIETY**

JOINT MEETING OF  
**COSA's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting  
and IPOS 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress**

**BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA**

# **13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

## **Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre**

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'***

COSA's disease themes include skin cancers and carcinoma of unknown primary. The partnership between COSA and IPOS will ensure the joint conference has a definite psycho-oncology focus.

#### **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**

Director of the Chief Executive's Office Government of the Hong Kong SAR

**Dr Stirling Mooney**

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

**Prof Galina Velikova**

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

**Dr Harpreet Wasan**

Consultant Oncologist, Hammersmith Hospital Imperial College London, UK

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES:  
7 September 2012**

For more information visit:

**[www.cosa-ipos.org](http://www.cosa-ipos.org)**

**ABSTRACTS CLOSE:  
14 August (COSA)  
7 May (Psycho-oncology)**

