



COSA NEWS **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Professor Bogda Koczwara, President, COSA

While climate change and global finances might have taken centre stage on front pages of newspapers in recent weeks, cancer control has remained firmly on the agenda both nationally and internationally. In recent months we have witnessed the publication of new data cancer treatments, ipilimumab for melanoma treatment and exemestane for breast cancer prevention, government funding for cetuximab for colorectal cancer and a bold push by the Australian government in the area of tobacco control. Nationally, the Cancer Australia merger with NBOCC opens a new era of consolidation of cancer control nationally and, internationally, the UN Summit on non-communicable diseases in September promises to put the topic of cancer as chronic illness and its global burden firmly on the agenda. All these developments attest to the importance of cancer as a major public issue and the important role COSA can play. On the not so optimistic front, while NHMRC funding has been preserved this year (COSA lobbied for this earlier this year), the clinical trial funding to rural and regional centres has not been extended, cancer workforce remains stretched and new therapies and interventions require ongoing evaluation and prudent decision making regarding how best to incorporate them to the overall health care spending. There is so much we need to do.

COSA is unique as a cancer organisation in Australia and around the world in its multidisciplinary approach to cancer control. No other organisation has the same broad representation across disciplines involved in cancer control from prevention to treatment, to follow up and supportive care. Our unique partnership with the Cancer Council adds the solid grounding in public health and prevention and our alliance with Cancer Voices brings in the considered views of consumers who partner with us on so many levels from advocacy, to education to research and care development. It is indeed a broad view and the day to day glimpse of the work in the COSA office attests to that – from guideline development to clinical trial database for adolescent and young adults to bringing together executive officers of clinical trial groups so research collaboration can occur across tumour types to advising MSAC on new technologies. It is all in a days' work.

What makes COSA unique is not just that it can bring under its umbrella every cancer discipline that may be of relevance to a particular task. What is unique is that the issues are considered across disciplines rather than within disciplines – COSA's way of doing things is to try to see connections rather than barriers. The COSA ASM theme for 2011 Bridging Gaps, Breaking Barriers summarises what COSA is about. Our strength is in our diversity but our power is in bringing this diversity together to serve one common goal – improving cancer control. We hope to see many of you in Perth this year. The ASM will be addressing the key issues that we grapple with, funding for cancer research, workforce development and emerging patterns of practice. For the first time we partner with primary care on issues of cancer and hope that this partnership will mark a new beginning that will only broaden COSA's relevance in cancer control. Once again we have strong disease specific focus with great leadership provided by ANZUP in the field of urological oncology. Under the energetic

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leadership of Nik Zeps, the ASM 2011 promises to be the foremost event of 2011 cancer calendar.

As COSA's sphere of influence grows its operational structures continue to evolve to ensure that they match the needs of the growing organisation. This year COSA Executive and Council have done a lot of work reviewing COSA governance to ensure compliance with legal requirements and the greatest efficiency of operations. COSA needs an ability to make decisions in a timely fashion while ensuring that they are considered and well informed. The Council and the Executive believe that in order for the appropriate level of strategic direction and oversight to be provided, COSA needs to be governed by a smaller Board than the current COSA Council. It is thus proposed that the current executive will assume this role. The change will allow the Executive to be appropriately empowered to represent COSA's interest and will retain the Council as a peak advisory body for the organisation. This move may in fact allow COSA to broaden the representation at Council as we are developing partnerships with other professions who identify themselves with cancer care.

It is very important that we communicate these proposed changes to the COSA membership (please see a detailed discussion on the proposed governance changes overleaf) and we would very much welcome your feedback on these matters as we are preparing to put these recommendations to a vote at the Annual General Meeting. Much work needs to be done to ensure that members are aware of what happens at COSA and how they can be involved in COSA activities. Over the forthcoming months we hope to strengthen our communication strategy that we deliver via the Marryalyan and the web. I also hope to meet with COSA members as I opportunistically end up in different parts of the country. And of course there is email and the COSA website so please contact us if you have a view that needs sharing. I hope that many of you will become involved in COSA activities either through participation in COSA groups or subcommittees so please put your hand up when the call comes. It is a great opportunity to meet new colleagues and to develop skills and to be part of the growing community of cancer professionals. The work is not done yet, and there is so much that we can do.

See you in Perth in November.

Professor Bogda Koczwara
COSA President
August 2011

Executive Officers Report

I am so pleased to offer my first report in the Marryalyan. Some of you may already know me through my long association with the cancer community having spent seven years employed by the Cancer Council

NSW managing their clinical trials and research grants programs. For the last three years I worked for Professor Robyn Ward at Prince of Wales Hospital managing the Research Support Office overseeing research ethics and governance on the Randwick hospitals campus. Hopefully you'll agree I have the capability, knowledge and experience to manage COSA with enthusiasm and vigour. I have known Marg McJannett for many years and hope I can continue to build on the strong foundations she laid.

My priorities for the immediate future are to:

- Ensure the proposed COSA governance changes are appropriately managed for a smooth transition, and are well communicated to the COSA membership
- Establish sound systems, policies and procedures that will strengthen the work of COSA and its members
- Support Bogda Koczwara (President), Sandro Porceddu (President Elect), past presidents, Council, Executive, Committees, Groups and Sustaining Members to ensure that COSA reaches new heights
- Support Nik Zeps in the delivery of an excellent ASM in Perth 2011
- Carefully consider COSA's ongoing project activities and ensure agreed milestones are achieved
- Ensure COSA operates to budget to enable ongoing sustainability
- Ensure that the profile and membership of COSA continues to increase and COSA's relevance to members continues to grow

This list is a work in progress!

Since commencing in the role in March, it has been a very busy five months for me trying to come up to speed on all things COSA! We've achieved an enormous amount with our limited resources, a snapshot of which is provided below:

- COSA has secured funding from Cancer Australia to develop a strategy for greater consumer engagement in clinical cancer research. We will work with our already established Cancer Trials Consumer Network, the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups and other stakeholders to develop and implement this important project.
- In May 2011, COSA hosted a fifth AYA workshop. Over 100 people attended, one third of whom completed an evaluation – 82% of respondents rated the workshop 'excellent' or 'very good' and all respondents felt there is value in COSA continuing to host future events. Key outcomes from the workshop include: establishing 'AYA champions'; ongoing desire to meet the emotional and psychosocial needs of the AYA population; and the need for appropriate support for patient transition between paediatric and adult services. A full report is available on request.

■ Our three guidelines for AYA cancer are at differing stages of development or completion:

- Fertility Preservation is complete and currently with DoHA for review
- Psychosocial Issues – by the time of printing the public consultation for this guideline will have closed and the feedback and comments will be rolling in
- Early Detection (“Lumps and Bumps”) is under development
- COSA has committed over \$90,000 from our CanTeen Youth Cancer Networks funding toward supporting the ALLG trial ALL6.
- COSA’s work in Cancer Care Coordination continues to progress, with a conference planned for 6-7 March 2012 in Melbourne. An international speaker has been secured and sponsorship support is being sought.
- Through our Developing Nations Interest Group, COSA has established a fellowship program for mid career oncologists and other cancer specialists from South East Asia to spend time in Australian centres. We welcome our first COSA fellow in late August – a radiation physicist from Vietnam, who has a busy schedule observing at Liverpool, Royal Prince Alfred and Royal North Shore Hospitals. We are grateful to the College of Radiologists for their financial support for this fellow. Arrangements are being finalised for the second fellow – a medical oncologist from Bangkok Thailand, whose visit to Royal Adelaide Hospital is also taking shape.

■ COSA’s Head and Neck Nutrition Guidelines, and the Guidelines for Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETs) are finalised and available on our wiki platform accessible via the COSA website www.cosa.org.au

- COSA has made multiple submissions to government on behalf of our members in response to important issues which affect our membership:
- to the Senate Inquiry regarding PBS deferrals
 - to the WHO Civil Society Interactive Hearing on noncommunicable diseases
 - to DIISR regarding the 2011 Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure Roadmap
 - comment on the 2011 Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure Exposure Draft
 - regarding RANZCR Guidelines for Written Radiology Reports
 - to MSAC regarding Genetic testing for hereditary mutations of the von Hippel Lindau gene

Planning for the ASM in Perth in November has kept us all extremely busy. We are fortunate to have entered a partnership with the Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP) for this year’s ASM – fortunate on many levels: firstly

with our focus on prostate cancer we couldn’t ask for a more qualified group to partner with; and secondly because we have the benefit of Marg McJannett’s many years of experience assisting in the planning (I’m sure most of you know that Marg is now the Executive Officer for ANZUP).

I have been so impressed by the work of those readily engaged with COSA, particularly the dedicated staff, and am very thankful to Kathy Ansell for acting as Executive Officer until I officially commenced in the post. Rhonda DeSouza (nee Cousins) and Fran Doughton continue to do a sterling job, and in early August we welcomed Hayley Griffin to the COSA team as a new Project Coordinator.

I look forward to meeting more of you in person very soon, and working with you and for you to ensure COSA is the best it can be.

Marie Malica
Executive Officer

Changes to COSA Governance

In 2010, the COSA Council approved the move for COSA to become a Company Limited by Guarantee. COSA members will also recall that the membership voted on and approved a revised Constitution at the AGM in November 2010. On reflection and discussion at COSA Council it was determined that the revised governance structure and constitution may require further revision to better support COSA as a strong, stable and effective organisation moving into the future.

Earlier this year COSA Council convened a Governance Working Party to guide the revision and make recommendations to the COSA Council for consideration and approval. The Governance Working Party members are Stephen Ackland, Haryana Dhillon, Bogda Koczwara, Marie Malica, Ian Olver, Sandro Porceddu, Ian Roos and Bernard Stewart. We are fortunate to have the continued involvement of Steve Ackland, who led the Constitution review in 2010.

The Working Party held a successful full day workshop on Wednesday 6 July, facilitated by Geoff Carter – an expert on Corporate Governance, who has successfully applied similar Constitution development projects for many private, not-for-profit, government and corporate entity organisations.

The key points guiding the recommendations presented to Council by the Working Party were:

- COSA’s move to a Company Limited by Guarantee is appropriate given its national role and thus should be governed by the Federal jurisdiction
- COSA should retain and enhance the COSA Council as the main advisory body representing COSA groups. This approach acknowledges the

value of COSA's history and its multidisciplinary representation

- COSA should establish a smaller Board of Directors to provide Governance of the organisation – such Board can evolve from the current Executive but should increase in size to 8-11 members
- The Constitution wording should be reviewed to ensure clarity and to reflect the proposed changes
- It was stressed that this is about valuing the past and the history of the organisation and ensuring this is protected and the Council is maintained.

The COSA Council currently performs the role of the COSA Board. There are 41 voting positions on Council representing all the Professional and Disease Groups of COSA (e.g. surgical oncology and lung), as well as the Sustaining Members (i.e. the 14 Cooperative Trials Groups). Currently there are 37 individual members on Council (4 members holding dual positions).

The contemporary governance trend is towards smaller boards (the average board size for the top 300 ASX listed companies is between 7 and 9). Recognising the importance of a board structure and size to reflect good governance and ensure effective decision making and director contribution, the COSA Governance Working Party recommended to Council that a smaller more manageable board be established.

Approved Recommendations

1. The COSA Council transitions to become a “membership advisory body”. This will allow chairs of all COSA Groups, Interest Groups, Sustaining Members and other affiliated organisations a seat at the table. The title of COSA Council will be retained and their role will be that of an advisory body and counsel, as opposed to one of governance.
2. A new COSA Board be convened as the governing body of the organisation comprising 8-11 members.
3. The COSA Constitution be revised to clearly define:
 - COSA Objects and Powers
 - Rights, Powers and Obligations of COSA Members
 - Forum for linkage and consultation with members of the Board
 - Composition and Size of the Board
 - Office Bearers
 - Delegations of Powers of the Board
 - Proceedings of the Board
 - COSA Groups and issues around establishment, functions, powers, duties and accountabilities
 - Define the role of Cancer Council Australia on the Board

The Constitution

One of the key criteria that influence organisational success are the ‘rules’ by which the organisation is governed and this starts with the **Constitution** – the document that **provides the overarching context and foundation for the governance of the organisation.**

A Constitution is more than just a ‘legal document’. It should be a ‘working document’ that enhances functional governance and becomes **a procedural framework to enhance the achievement of the organisation’s purpose.**

Any changes should only be made to ensure that power is clearly and appropriately delegated, that governance roles are unambiguous and that accountability mechanisms are robust (i.e. members have understandable processes by which they can enact their rights and powers and the board know what it may and is expected to do and achieve) and most importantly, only be made in the best interests of the future sustainability and growth of the organisation.

COSA’s revised Constitution will form the ‘blueprint’ for effective member engagement, effectual board composition and robust governance processes and will articulate a clear delineation of **who is responsible for what and who they are accountable to.**

It will be a document that enables robust governance rather than constrain it. It will ensure the Board is given the power to govern effectively on behalf of the Members. It will not be a set of operational rules for management. Organisational operational rules, while ultimately the ‘responsibility’ of the Board, and will be devised by the Executive Officer under board-delegated powers and authorities.

Next Steps

We expect that the revision of the Constitution should not be too onerous as much of the hard work was done by Steve Ackland and his group in 2010. The main revisions will reflect the points outlined above, particularly the revised Board size and structure.

Effective and timely communication of the proposed changes is also an important factor which is at the top of our minds. The first draft of the revised Constitution will be considered by the COSA Executive Committee at their meeting on 29 August. COSA Council will also be consulted and ultimately approve the revision. The final draft will be presented at the COSA AGM in November for ratification by the COSA membership. We will endeavour to keep you informed of any pertinent progress we make, and welcome your comments and feedback during this process. Please feel free to contact Marie Malica (marie.malica@cancer.org.au) if you have any concerns or comments.

We look forward to working with you to make COSA bigger, better and stronger!

COSA ASM 2012

Location change – we're going to Brisbane!

We are pleased to announce the 2012 COSA ASM will now be held in Brisbane, 13-15 November 2012, at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

You may recall that COSA initially planned to host the 2012 meeting in Adelaide – this change presents a very exciting opportunity for COSA members and the Australian cancer research community. The logistics are still being finalised, so stay tuned – more information will follow shortly!

The Living with Cancer Education Program Facilitator Training at Cancer Council Victoria 8 & 9 November 2011

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 Mangers on 13 11 20 or email lwcep@cancervic.org.au

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Congratulations to Professor John Zalberg – recipient of the MOGA Cancer Achievement Award 2011

The Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) joined again with Novartis Oncology to make available this special award recognising outstanding Australian contributions to cancer research and control. The Cancer Achievement Award formally recognises the contributions made by scientists, clinicians and other health care professionals to the scientific study of cancer in Australia.

Since 1999 this Award has been presented to ten leaders in the field of Australian Oncology. MOGA are delighted to announce that the winner of the 2011 Award was Professor John R. Zalberg OAM in recognition of his skills, commitment and achievement as an outstanding Australian medical oncologist. Professor Zalberg is the Chief Medical Officer and Executive Director at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne.

Professor Zalberg was presented with a cash prize and an award at the MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide on Friday 12th August 2011 at which he also delivered a formal address on his area of professional interest.

GROUP REPORTS

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia

The CNSA 14th *Winter Congress* was held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, from the 21st-23rd July. The meeting was another very successful meeting for the CNSA with over 350 attendees. The Congress enjoyed an excellent start with the launch of the new *eviQEd* resource at the Welcome Reception, by Professor David Currow, Chief Cancer Officer and CEO of the Cancer Institute NSW. *eviQEd* is a program that provides cancer health professionals with online/blended point of care education activities and programs to standardise and implement best clinical practice. We were fortunate to have Dr Helen Zorbas, CEO of Cancer Australia, open the meeting. Dr Zorbas set the scene for the two days with a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities ahead for cancer care providers across Australia. The Congress program included an excellent range of papers led by our International keynote speaker Dr. Marilyn Hass, Nurse Practitioner, from Carolina USA. The program theme "Navigating the Complexities of Cancer Care" provided participants with an opportunity to learn from multidisciplinary experts engaged in research, practice development and care innovations from point of diagnosis, through to end of life care. A full report on the Congress will be available in the August edition of the CNSA Newsletter at: www.cnsa.org.au/CNSA_Winter_conference.htm.

The 2011 AGM: Since the inception of the CNSA, the expectations and needs of the Society's members have changed considerably. The membership now expects greater sophistication, value for money and autonomous leadership from its NEC. In response to this, a Constitution Working Party appointed by the NEC of the Association in 2010, was charged with the development of a series of proposed changes to the MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES of the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia Incorporated, responsive to member feedback and key directions detailed in the CNSA Strategic Plan (2011-2013). The Constitution Working Party included: Dr Donna Milne, Ms Tracey Doherty, Dr Kate Cameron, Ms Catherine Johnson, Ms Gabrielle Prest, Associate Professor Alexandra McCarthy and Associate Professor Mei Krishnasamy. The changes proposed by the Working Party were sent out to members 21 days ahead of the AGM as required in the CNSA Memorandum and Articles. 150 members were present at the AGM meeting at Winter Congress. Each of the proposed changes were put to the members in attendance with a person nominated to speak for and against (as relevant) each of the points.

Point 1: The introduction of a CNSA only membership option (in addition to the existing CNSA/COSA membership option) to be introduced as a staged implementation. OUTCOME: The proposal was unanimously supported by all members present at the AGM. *Detailed discussion will now follow between COSA and the CNSA to manage a smooth transition.*

Point 2: The introduction of CNSA student and associate membership options (in addition to existing CNSA/COSA membership options). OUTCOME: The proposal was unanimously supported by all members present at the AGM.

Point 3: To change the title Chair to President of the CNSA and to introduce a President elect position to the CNSA NEC, to commence in 2012. OUTCOME: The proposal was unanimously supported by all members present at the AGM.

Point 4: To introduce the position of Secretary and Treasurer as new roles to the existing CNSA NEC in 2012 and 2013. OUTCOME: The proposal was unanimously supported by all members at the AGM.

Point 5: To change the current structure of the CNSA NEC, replacing the State and Territory representatives with a joint Regional Chair/ State representative position. OUTCOME: Following discussion, this proposal was not carried and a decision was made to set up a working group to further consider and develop proposals for NEC representation, to best meet the needs of the CNSA in future.

In addition, the inaugural Executive Officer of the CNSA Julie Calvert, was introduced to the CNSA membership during the AGM and the appointment of a part-time administrative support position announced.

In May, the successful 2011 CNSA Travel Grant recipients were announced. Many thanks to IPSEN for their ongoing support and commitment to the CNSA and to the Winter Congress Travel Grants. The successful applicants were:

- Kath Watty: Awarded a CNSA Travel Grant to attend the Oncology Nursing Society conference in the US, 2011;
- Dianne Saward: Awarded a CNSA Travel Grant to attend the End of Life Care Conference in London, 2011;
- Carmel Henderson: Awarded a CNSA Travel Grant to attend the ECCO conference in Stockholm, 2011;
- Nicole Gaven: Awarded the IPSEN CNSA Winter Congress Travel Award, and
- Sharon Carson: Awarded the inaugural Perth & Environs Regional Group Travel Award to attend Winter Congress.

Many congratulations to them all. For more information about the CNSA grants please visit: www.cnsa.org.au/grants_scholarship_research_travel.htm

The *Australian Journal of Cancer Nursing* continues to go from strength to strength. In December 2010, an edition focusing on the needs of children, adolescents and young adults was published. This was followed by a recent edition (May 2011) on radiation oncology nursing. Future editions planned include a focus on palliative care, care coordination, complex wound and skin management and nurse-led services.

The Specialist Interest Groups of CNSA (Breast and

Radiation Oncology) have been busy establishing new projects and building membership numbers. At Winter Congress the new CNSA Gynae SIG was launched under the dynamic leadership of Pauline Tanner and Judy Eddy. The aims of the new Gynae SIG are to provide a forum for professional networking and collaboration; provide opportunities for educational and research activities; act as a point of reference for nursing practice issues; develop guidelines for specialty areas of cancer nursing practice and, establish processes for peer review of evidenced-based practice. If you would like to know more about the SIG or how to join please contact Pauline.Tanner@health.wa.gov.au or Judith_Eddy@health.qld.gov.au. Plans are also underway to establish a skin and complex wound management SIG. If you are interested in knowing more about this or would like to become involved in any of the CNSA SIGs please visit the CNSA website.

CNSA members continue to take an active role in many state, national and international initiatives, demonstrating the contribution of nurses to excellent cancer care. The Regional Groups continue to work with great enthusiasm to deliver educational opportunities for nurses working with patients diagnosed with cancer, irrespective of where they live. Sandy McKiernan from WA represents the CNSA on the COSA ASM planning committee ahead of the ASM in Perth in November – and this promises to be another excellent meeting.

Meg Rogers from Victoria represents the CNSA on the mCRC:CARE project, an initiative to connect Australian nurses with Resources and Education about metastatic colorectal cancer. mCRC :CARE will be profiled at Winter Congress in Sydney.

The CNSA and the Australian and New Zealand Lung Cancer Nurse Group continue to work to develop opportunities for professional development for nurses working with people diagnosed with lung cancer. The ANZ- LCNF had a strong presence at this year's Winter Congress and ran a very attended and successful successful workshop. To learn more about the Forum please visit: www.anzlcnf.com.au.

The CNSA NEC is very pleased to announce that an MoU has been signed between the CNSA and the Cancer Nurses Section of the New Zealand Nurses' Organisation Inc. The CNSA looks forward to a long and productive collaboration between the organisations. The CNSA is also pleased to be working with ANZUP, contributing nursing perspective to their program as part of the COSA ASM this year. The CNSA continues to work closely with COSA to identify new opportunities for collaborations and strengthen existing links to promote advancement across all aspects of cancer care.

Mei Krishnasamy, Chair

Email: meinir.krishnasamy@petermac.org

COSA Clinical Professional Days 2011

This is the third 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:

| COSA Group | Chair | Workshop Title |
|-------------------|------------------|--|
| Familial Cancer | Gillian Mitchell | Familial Cancer – Research and Practice: COSA Clinical Professional Day. To be held at KConFab in Queensland, August 2011. |
| Neuro-Oncology | Eng-Siew Koh | Brain Tumours: New tools for Diagnosis, Treatment and Research. To be held at the RCPA Pathology Update Meeting in Sydney, March 2012. |
| Nutrition | Judith Bauer | Workshop: Implementation of Evidence Based Guidelines for the Nutritional Management of Head & Neck Cancer. Meeting: Nutrition Steering Group Committee (re guidelines update). To be held at the ASM in Perth, November 2011. |
| Psycho-Oncology | Haryana Dhillon | Psycho Oncology Partnerships against cancer – bridging gaps, breaking barriers. To be held at the ASM in Perth, November 2011. |
| Urologic Oncology | Ian Davis | Practical issues in genitourinary cancer: interactive case-based discussions. To be held at the ASM in Perth, November 2011. |

Congratulations to the successful applicants. Unfortunately we were unable to fund all the applications received this year, as it was very competitive.

Cancer Pharmacists group

Membership

It is pleasing to see that our membership continues to remain healthy. However, I do want members to continue to encourage other pharmacists to join. Encourage new pharmacists working in cancer to join COSA, and remind those old pharmacists that haven't yet joined COSA of the benefits membership brings.

ASM 2011 – Perth November 15th, 16th and 17th

Planning for the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth is well underway. The theme for the ASM is “Partnerships against cancer - bridging gaps, breaking barriers”, and will highlight the opportunities and challenges facing cancer health care today and in the future. Visit the website www.cosa2011.org for more information and to register for the meeting. We hope to see as many of you in Perth for this event.

The CPG educational courses

■ Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacy Practitioners

The 2 day course has now been running successfully for 3 years. We held the fourth course in February this year, and the course was well received by participants. The CPG have decided to run this course annually, and will be planning for the fifth course sometime in early 2012. More information will be forwarded to members towards the end of this year.

■ Advanced clinical practice for Cancer Pharmacists

Save the date. The CPG is in the middle of planning its advanced clinical practice course. The event is to be held in Melbourne 17-18 September. Watch the COSA website for further information. Once we set up a registration portal, members will be notified by email.

CPG committee work

The CPG is often asked to respond to requests from the COSA Council. Some of the work we have been involved in includes:

■ CPG and eviQ

eviQ and the CPG have been in recent discussion regarding the potential for collaboration to enhance the quality of pharmaceutical information that is displayed on the eviQ website. CPG members were asked to participate in an eviQ Reference Committee, and indicate any particular area of expertise/interest which was collated by eviQ. If you missed this email, please let me know.

■ eviQ extravasation review

CPG pharmacists Michael Cain, Maria Larizza, Jude Lees, Geeta Sandhu and Ben Stevenson

were recently invited by NSW Cancer Institute to participate in the eviQ Extravasation Protocol Review. They joined other pharmacists, nurses and eviQ staff. It was a very productive day with pharmacists having a lot to contribute. Keep an eye out for changes when the revised protocol is posted.

■ Cancer Learning

CPG pharmacists Jim Siderov and Christine Carrington were involved in a workshop held by Cancer Australia. The workshop held in May 2011 was to inform the development of a Cancer Professional Development Strategy for Cancer Australia. The Strategy will provide recommendations about how Cancer Learning and other related professional development resources and activities can support the provision of safe, evidence-based practice and high-quality cancer care.

■ Etoposide labelling

The CPG were asked to respond to an industry request on the issue of etoposide labelling. Following discussions with representatives from the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) and the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) a response was sent.

Jim Siderov, Chair

Email: jim.siderov@austin.org.au

Clinical Research Professionals group

COSA ASM 2011

Planning for the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting is well under way. Although the Clinical Research Professional Group are not holding a pre ASM workshop this year there are multiple sessions of special interest to Clinical Research Professionals. A brief, outline of the two sessions we have been involved in planning are concurrent sessions on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th November 11.00 – 12.30 hrs. The Tuesday session will be run as a workshop with an ethics theme discussing novel approaches to consent. Wednesday's topic is “Delivering better clinical trials in Australia: making the dream a reality.” Planned presentations at this session are: Clinical Trial Action Group report- what are the next steps?; NH&MRC perspective; A pain free ethics process-myth or reality.

The Clinical Research Professional Group AGM is planned for the Wednesday afternoon 5:30pm – 6.30pm. The AGM is really important as it is the only opportunity we have to meet face to face each year to discuss the activities of the group. It is also an election year making it doubly important. There will be positions on the Committee to be filled for commencement as of January 2012. We will be calling for nominations to the Committee in the near future. Terms are for a period of two years with members being able to re-nominate for a further 2 year period up to a maximum of 4 years in

total. We hope to receive many nominations then see many of you at the AGM for voting.

Clinical Trials Action Group

The Clinical Trials Action Group Report was released on 3 March 2011, with a recommendation of “An invitation to comment on a list of standard items associated with conducting clinical trials”. Prior to the report, the Clinical Research Professional Committee of the Victoria Cooperative Oncology Group (VCOG) had taken the lead to “Restore Common Sense to Clinical Trials Management”. A review of current processes led to the recommendation of proposals for streamlining the unnecessary procedures and requirements of the multiple Standard Operating Procedures for Electronic Data Capture and Central Radiology that are both time consuming and costly. The Clinical Research Professional Group supported the approach unanimously, and suggested adding Good Clinical Practise training to the list of subjects for a common approach/procedure. The plan was to lobby ARCS Australia Ltd (formerly the Association of Regulatory & Clinical Scientists) and Pharma to advocate for the situation to be changed but will make a submission to the Clinical Trials Action Group in response to their invitation. I would strongly encourage all members to make individual and organisational submissions. This fits very well with the planned session at the ASM!

Looking forward to receiving your enquiry regarding joining the Committee!

Sandie Grierson, Chair

Email: Sandie.Grierson@smu.org.au

Familial Cancer group

The Familial Cancer Group of COSA has spent the last three months focussed on planning the FCC Professional Development Day in conjunction with the Familial Cancer Research and Practice Annual Meeting 23-26 August 2011 and the FCC component of the COSA ASM in November. Both meetings should be very informative to both the specialist familial cancer as well as the general oncology audiences.

The final program of the scientific meeting of the Familial Cancer Research and Practice Annual Meeting is still to be determined (keep watch at the kConFab website <http://www.kconfab.org/Index.shtml>) but the COSA FCC professional day on the 23 August will be broadly spilt into four sessions:

1. “clinical practice in the absence of guidelines” where we will have presentations and discussions on the management of breast cancer risk in families where no germline mutation in a breast cancer predisposition gene has been found, gastrointestinal risk management in families with polyp history in the absence of a germline mutation and cancer screening in Li Fraumeni syndrome families
2. “psychosocial aspects of risk reducing surgery”

3. “rare cancer syndromes” including immunohistochemistry for SDH mutations and NF2 syndrome
4. “chemoprevention in hereditary cancer syndromes”. We are fortunate to have Sir Prof John Burn to present insights into colorectal cancer prevention as the PI for the CAPP chemoprevention studies and hopefully Jack Cuzick of the breast cancer

On the day before the COSA FCC Professional Development Day (22 August) Professor John Hooper will be hosting a satellite meeting “Predicting cancer risk and mutation status: evidence to shape best practice”. This should be an informative meeting and as well as Australian speakers will have Jack Cuzick discussing his risk prediction model developed through the IBIS breast cancer prevention studies. Details of this meeting can be found at www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/predictingcancer.

Dr Nicholas Pachter has been the COSA FCC representative on the 2011 COSA ASM organising committee and has achieved the inclusion of a number of FCC-related talks in many of the specific tumour sessions throughout the meeting as well as a specific FCC session on the first day of the meeting which will be focussed on the clinical and technical issues of next generation sequencing in clinical practice. Please see the ASM website www.cosa2011.org for details of the program and registration.

I have been trying to keep the COSA FCC group at the front of the minds of its membership by sending a monthly update about topics of interest to the group. This has covered a number of topics such as breast cancer chemoprevention and the call for comments about genetic testing for VHL being subject of a Medicare item number. The COSA FCC Group provided specific feedback to the MSAC committee dealing with this application. The feedback I have had from FCC Group members about the regular updates is that they like this update but so far the updates have not generated a lot of traffic using the discussion forums on the COSA website. I have requested that the group give suggestions about how we might engage the membership more actively in topics of interest.

Finally the FCC Group has been trying to select areas in which we might help to guide clinical practice linked to Familial Cancer. Two areas are likely to be our focus over the coming year:

1. To work with the Australian Society of Gynaecological Oncologists (ASGO) and The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) to develop guidelines for surgery and pathological assessment of risk reducing bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
2. To work with ASGO, RANZCOG and RCPA to develop guidelines for immunohistochemistry of mismatch repair gene proteins in endometrial cancer as a way to improve identification of new families

with Lynch syndrome (hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer syndrome)

Any comments on either of these topics are welcome either through a discussion forum on the COSA website or by email to me on Gillian.mitchell@petermac.org

Gillian Mitchell, Chair

Email: gillian.mitchell@petermac.org

Gynaecology group

The Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) had its most successful Annual Scientific Meeting in February on the Gold Coast. More than 140 people attended and our guest was Prof Uzi Beller from Israel who updated us on the current status of inherited gynaecological cancers in two outstanding presentations. Feedback about the meeting has been uniformly favourable. The meeting was preceded by an excellent morning of governance training for the Board.

ANZGOG 2012 will be at the Sofitel, Gold Coast from 22-25 February with Prof Gillian Thomas from Toronto as our keynote speaker. The theme of the meeting will be 'Individualised Gynaecological Cancer Medicine'

Since the ASM two successful community information meetings have been held; one in Canberra and the other in Adelaide. We are very grateful to the local organisers, speakers and community committee members who gave so freely of their time. A further meeting is scheduled for Sydney on August 27th.

We are grateful to Karen Livingstone who represented us at the National Framework for Consumer Involvement in Cancer Control.

Our trial portfolio continues to grow albeit slowly. PORTEC3 is accruing well overall but ANZGOG sites have slowed down recently. Please keep this study in mind as the only way to assess the value of adjuvant cytotoxic therapy in high risk endometrial cancer! We await the results of an NH&MRC application in relation to ICON 8. PARAGON is just about ready to start and Symptom Benefit is well underway.

Our next meeting will be in Perth at the COSA ASM. Please do try and attend what looks like a very exciting meeting!

Michael Quinn, Chair

Email: maquinn@unimelb.edu.au

Neuro-Oncology group

Brain Cancer Action Week (BCAW) was held the week of 8-14 May 2011, enabling brain cancer to be in the national spotlight, highlighting its impact on patients and carers, and promoting all aspects of clinical care and research. BCaw is an initiative of Cancer Council NSW in collaboration with the Cancer Institute NSW Oncology Group Neuro-Oncology. Funds from the BCaw campaign are being directed towards Cancer Council NSW brain cancer patient support services and the Strategic Research Partnership Grant (STREP) to provide funding for the Australian Genomics and Clinical Outcomes of High Grade Glioma (AGOG) project.

Continuing education in rural and remote health – second round now open



NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH
ALLIANCE INC.

The second round of the Rural Health Continuing Education Stream Two (RHCE2) is open for applications until 8 August 2011. The RHCE2 program is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Health and Ageing and administered by the Alliance.

RHCE2 grants are available for organisations and groups of individuals to access, develop and/or provide continuing professional development (CPD), continuing professional education (CPE), multi-disciplinary training or inter-

professional learning (IPL) and orientation activities that meet the needs of:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers;
- allied health professionals;
- general practitioners, or
- nurses and midwives

who practise in rural and remote areas of Australia.

In the 2011 round, priority will be given to funding gaps in existing arrangements for CPD and supporting initiatives that can be demonstrated by evidence-

based research as in need of urgent intervention. Multiple applications will be accepted but, given the strongly competitive nature of the RHCE2 grants, no single entity will be allocated more than one grant.

Applications must be made on the online application form on the RHCE2 website at <http://rhce.ruralhealth.org.au>.

Further information: <http://rhce.ruralhealth.org.au/> or
Wendy Downs – RHCE2 Program Manager: 02 6162 3374

BCAW was organised in association with 'Grey Matters'. BCAW Ambassadors included Marcella Zemanek, Johanna Griggs, Kate and Tom Waterhouse and Julian Huxley. Successful local and state initiatives were held in both NSW and Queensland this year, with highlights including Brain Tumour Support and Education Forums in these states, Central Coast NSW, and other consumer-led events. Details of further events held can be found via <http://braincanceraction.com.au/>.

The **consumer version of the Clinical Practice Guidelines** for the Management of Adult Gliomas: astrocytomas and oligodendrogliomas were officially launched at the Brain Tumour Support and Education Forum, Sydney on Friday 13 May by the Chair of the Guidelines working party, Professor Michael Barton.

The consumer guideline citation is as below:
Cancer Council Australia. Adult gliomas (astrocytomas and oligodendrogliomas): a guide for patients, their families and carers. Sydney: Cancer Council Australia; 2011 ISBN: 978-0-9807421-3-8. Electronic versions of both the clinician and consumer guidelines are available via: <http://www.cancer.org.au/Healthprofessionals/clinicalguidelines/braintumours.htm>.

The Australian Genomics and Clinical Outcomes of Glioma (AGOG) study held its Annual Meeting on 11 May in Sydney, in which Professor Anna Nowak (WA) and Dr Kerrie McDonald (NSW) lead an active group of investigators. AGOG collects tumour tissue, blood, and clinico-demographic information. Expressions of interest are being welcomed to allow clinicians and/or researchers wishing to access AGOG samples and data. See the AGOG website (www.agog.org.au) for further details.

We continue to have a close working relationship with the Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO). Highlighted are the following active trials and their current status:

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 seven activated sites recruiting around Australia with potentially seven more sites to be opened in the near future. As at mid June 2011, 33 patients have been registered and 16 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 9 active sites across Australia, and as at mid June 2011, has recruited 20 patients.
3. **SEED**, PI Palliative care specialist A/Professor Meera Agar, opened in July/August 2011 as a pilot study of a steroid-sparing protocol in recurrent glioma, brain metastases and metastatic cancer patients across 5 sites in NSW.

COGNO held its fourth Annual Scientific Meeting from Saturday 6 August to Sunday 7 August 2011 this year in conjunction with the Macquarie Neurosurgical Research and Clinical Symposium at Macquarie University, Sydney. Saturday 6th August was designed as a joint day with a particular focus on brain tumours, ranging from translational science to clinical management updates and emerging technology. Feedback regarding the meeting has been extremely positive with attendance on Saturday surpassing 90 registrants with the meeting and program regarded as an overall success. Several travel grants were also distributed to facilitate interstate attendees. Dr Siew Koh and Dr Vanessa Estall were this year's COGNO ASM Co-Convenors. The program was led by an exciting line-up of three international speakers – oncologist Dr Annika Malmström from Sweden, and academic neurosurgeons A/Professors Wai Hoe Ng and Christopher Ang from Singapore. A particularly dynamic and interactive session of presentations by six of the lead translational glioma scientists across Australia was very well received. See <http://www.cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm2011> for the final ASM program.

Ongoing Items for 2011-12:

Proposed issues for ongoing development and advocacy by COSA Neuro-Oncology include the development of a **national network of nursing care coordinators** (both Neuro-Oncology- specific and those with generic portfolios that include brain tumours) and creation of an updated **database of health professionals providing psycho-social support** to brain tumour patients and carers, so as to build collegial support and sharing of common experiences and resources.

Pleasingly, COSA Neuro-oncology has been successful in securing support for a **COSA Professional Day, to be held on Friday 9 March 2012** in conjunction with the RCPA Pathology Update Meeting and the "Genetics and Genomics in Personalised Medicine" Conference to be held at the Convention Centre in Sydney. This will be the first time the COSA Neuro-oncology Group will engage in such a Professional Day, which will afford those health professionals interested in a broad range of neuro-oncology practice a timely opportunity for education, interaction and peer support. Anyone with ideas for topics/speakers for this event as the program is being developed are most welcome to contact Dr Koh.

Please contact Dr Koh (eng-siew.koh@sswahs.nsw.gov.au) if you have suggestions regarding any aspect of COSA Neuro-Oncology.

Best wishes,

Eng Siew Koh, Chair;

Kate Drummond, Deputy Chair

Email: eng-siew.koh@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Nutrition group

There has been a tremendous amount of activities undertaken by the Nutrition group over the past few months. The major project continued to be the evidence based guidelines for the nutritional management of

head and neck cancer for which project dietitian, Teresa Brown has provided an update below. The final version is now published and receiving international attention. Thank you to Teresa for her fantastic work as project dietitian and Merran Findlay as project director. Also thank you to the following Nutrition Group members who have spent countless hours on the review process – Katherine Bell, Bella Talwar, Liz Isenring, Nicole Kiss, Janelle Loeliger, Wendy Davidson, Jan Hill, Kelly Taylor, Ashley Sandison and Rochelle Kurmis.

Our other major effort has been the special nutrition edition of Cancer Forum in July. This issue highlights the diversity of research currently undertaken by Australian dietitians. The eight articles include topics related to nutrition intervention during treatment and survivorship, the application of evidence to practice and the role of mentoring. Thank you to Executive Editor Sophie West who managed to keep over 20 authors on track!

Steve Pratt has been our representative on the committee for the Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth in November 2011. This year the Nutrition Group has received a grant to hold a preconference event. The morning will be a workshop on implementation of the evidence based guidelines for the nutritional management of head and neck cancer which will be available to all COSA members. The afternoon will cover issues such as updating guidelines, nutrition group research projects specifically for the Nutrition Group members.

*Judy Bauer PhD, AdvAPD
Assoc Professor Nutrition & Dietetics, UQ*

Project Update: Evidence based guidelines for the nutritional management of head and neck cancer

After two years of work the project was completed in July with the publication of the final guidelines. The draft guidelines were published on the COSA website in April 2011 and were open for public consultation. Feedback was received from a range of disciplines, including medical, dentistry, speech pathology, pharmacy, nursing and of course, dietitians. Using this new web-based wiki format meant that it was easy to disseminate to international stakeholders and so responses were also received from international colleagues including from New Zealand and the UK! Over a ten day period we recorded 92 unique visitors to the website (from 23 June till 3 July). 51% of the visitors came from Google, 29% had a direct link in an email promotion or had staff access and 20% were referred from another site (eg. COSA, Facebook, Google etc).

The feedback received from consultation has been incorporated and the updated version of the guidelines has been uploaded. Endorsement is also being finalised from the following organisations: Dietitian Association of Australia, Dietitians New Zealand, British Dietetic Association, and the Cancer Institute NSW Oncology Group (Head and Neck).

The COSA nutrition group has been fortunate to receive a grant this year to hold a pre-conference workshop

event at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting 2011, in Perth. This will be an ideal opportunity to promote the guidelines and will be open to the multidisciplinary audience to attend! Look forward to seeing you there!

*Teresa Brown APD
Project Dietitian*

Judy Bauer, Chair
Email: judy.bauer@uhealth.com.au

Psycho-Oncology group

ACORD Workshop

Calls for applications to attend the 2012 ACORD Workshop are circulating at the moment. I encourage any OZPOS member interested in developing their research skills to think about applying. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend a week working on a research protocol and discussing research with likeminded people with the support of a highly skilled faculty. There are members of OZPOS and POCOG who can offer assistance in the application process – don't hesitate to get in touch and ask.

The ACORD faculty, COSA and OZPOS will hold a pre-ACORD workshop at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting. This workshop will give you a more detailed picture of what is involved, what the experience will give you and how to go about submitting your application.

“Brain Training” – Can it help “chemo brain?”

A/Prof Janette Vardy, Dr Haryana Dhillon and Dr Victoria Bray are leading a research study evaluating a home and web-based cognitive rehabilitation programme (“Brain Train”) for adult cancer survivors experiencing cognitive symptoms following adjuvant chemotherapy. Cancer survivors are required to have completed chemotherapy within the last 6–60 months and be cancer free.

All study participants will take part in a telephone consultation where they are given skills to help manage their cognitive difficulties. In addition, half of the participants will receive the cognitive rehabilitation programme.

Study assessments, comprising questionnaires and a 20-minute computer-based cognition task, together with the intervention are all done at home.

This study is being conducted Australia wide and participants require access to computer and internet facilities. Patients can self refer to the study via our freecall number (see below).

If you would like to know more about the study or refer a patient, please contact the study coordinator:

**Dr Victoria Bray on 1800 778 167
or 02 9767 5132.**

COSA ASM

In no time at all this year's Annual Scientific Meeting will roll around. The program is looking very enticing, with psychosocial content woven into many sessions. As abstracts have now closed, I hope you were able to submit and will soon be hearing about their progress. Paul Katris is representing OZPOS on the ASM Committee this year, thanks Paul for all the time and energy you have put into the meeting.

OZPOS-POCOG Professional Day

OZPOS and POCOG will be running our third professional day on Monday 14 November. This is shaping up to be a great day with several sessions for presentation of psychosocial research, workshops and plenty of opportunities for networking and catching up with our peers.

Given the importance of screening for distress in patients and carers, we will hold a workshop to discuss implementation of screening in practice and the referral pathways that need to be established. We anticipate this will feed into a national research initiative that will evaluate distress screening in practice.

We are also delighted to be running a session in partnership with ANZUP. Our discussion will focus on caring for men with prostate or testicular cancer. This will be great multidisciplinary session with lots of opportunity for debate. Thanks to our ANZUP friends for their vision and cooperation that has made this possible.

OzPOS Executive - Invitation to members:

I've not been overwhelmed with people wanting to take part in an executive committee. It is important, if OZPOS is to meet the needs of the membership that we maintain an ongoing dialogue. Please do think about the Executive Committee and what it might contribute and we will discuss this at our meeting in November. In the mean time please do contact me about any issues pertinent to the work of OzPOS:

haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au

Haryana Dhillon, Chair

Email: haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au

Urologic Oncology group

It has been an exciting year for genitourinary cancer treatment and research. Four new treatments have been approved by the US FDA for castrate-resistant prostate cancer. New data in RCC were presented at the ASCO GU and main ASCO meetings. Mature data from Australian & New Zealand Urogenital & Prostate Cancer Trials Group Ltd (ANZUP) studies have been presented for testicular cancer. New biological insights and new potential therapies are coming through for urothelial cancer. Grant opportunities directed at genitourinary cancers are popping up everywhere. More and more there is a real need for all the relevant disciplines to come together to improve routine clinical service delivery, build opportunities for collaborative research,

take advantage of these systems to improve training, and play an advocacy role where applicable. If you're not part of the group but genitourinary cancers are part of your life, this could be your home.

On August 5 ANZUP joined with the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ) to hold a Scientific Meeting at the Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre. The program planned to interweave high quality presentations, review current trials, discuss potential new concepts and explore future collaborations. This was a highly successful day of intellectual exchange and is certainly the beginning of what will be a long and fruitful relationship for everyone involved. ANZUP also held its Annual General Meeting on the same day.

You will also be very aware that genitourinary cancer will be one of the key themes of the 2011 ASM to be held in Perth from 15-17 November. If you haven't noticed it on the ASM flyers I am delighted to announce that ANZUP is now a formal partner in the ASM and this will be the premier scientific event for ANZUP this year. The Urologic Oncology group executive has been working very hard on the program together with ANZUP and has come up with a great program spread over the entirety of the meeting. We have confirmed several fantastic international speakers: Seth Lerner (academic urologist from Baylor College of Medicine, Texas); Tim Eisen (medical oncologist from Cambridge and chair of the SORCE trial); Howard Scher (medical oncologist and prostate cancer guru); Chris Sweeney (now at Harvard and well known to us all); and Isabel White (nurse researcher who came to the ASM in 2010 to wide acclaim). There will also be a galaxy of star Australian speakers. Several breakfast sessions and an evening satellite symposium are also planned. The 2011 COSA/sanofi-aventis prostate cancer research grant winner will also be announced.

If this excites you, register now! Don't be put off by the geography: Perth is a great place to visit any time and especially in November. Put it in your diaries now and plan to bring your colleagues. And if you're excited, of course you will be a member of both organisations. Note that membership of ANZUP is still free.

We will also be holding a Clinical Professional Day just prior to the main ASM on Monday 14 November 2011, to be chaired by Shomik Sengupta. This will be a day of interactive discussions based on genitourinary cancer cases. It will probably be of most use to medical trainees (urology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, palliative care, pathology, radiology, others) and also to nurses, but anyone is welcome and we hope this will be of use to you.

The Urologic Oncology group wishes to continue to grow its eclectic membership and become even more inclusive, so if you are not a member and want to be, or you know of someone who should be, please feel very welcome to participate. We particularly encourage

trainees on all disciplines to come along and be part of this very successful and valuable initiative.

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@ludwig.edu.au

COSA INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

AYA Interest group

COSA has been implementing 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 Youth Cancer Networks Program, administered by CanTeen.

AYA Cancer Network

COSA convened a fifth AYA Cancer Workshop on Friday 13 May in Sydney. The workshop brought together more than 100 participants including key stakeholders in the YCNP; AYA, adult and paediatric oncologists and health professionals; researchers and patient representatives. There were several attendees who were new to the AYA Cancer Network.

The workshop consisted of four plenaries:

- Models of care/service delivery
- Engaging adult oncology
- Referral pathways
- Sustaining and enhancing AYA cancer services beyond June 2012

Presentations on the current status, successes and challenges in these areas nationally and subsequent discussion enabled participants to identify what others are doing well and/or differently and the common issues they are facing.

This was followed by four concurrent break-out sessions to discuss activities 'on-the-ground', covering specific areas of interest: project collaborations, clinical research, education opportunities and improving AYA cancer services.

CONGRATULATIONS

Winner of the sanofi-aventis 2011 Advancing Care for Prostate Patients Grants.



COSA is pleased to announce the winner of the 2011 Advancing Care for Prostate Patients Grant is Dr Olivia Wright for her submission: Impact of Micronutrients on gene expression: Prostate Cancer - Lycopene (ImoGEX-PC-Lyc Study).

Dr Wright is a lecturer in Nutrition & Dietetics at the University of Queensland. The purpose of the study is to conduct a small, translational research trial in a group of men with varying severities of prostate cancer, to determine the whole-genome effects of lycopene supplementation, potentially identifying additional therapeutic targets of this micronutrient.

We look forward to learning more about her research results at the 2012 ASM in Brisbane.

David Speakman

Chair, COSA Grants & Awards Committee



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Australia



Because health matters

Participants agreed the key challenges now are to maintain momentum, build on successful models of care and education and strengthen the AYA position by interrelationships with other health professionals and partners. A full report of the workshop, including key recommendations and outcomes is on the COSA website: <http://www.cosa.org.au/groups/aya/publications.html>

COSA's AYA Cancer Steering Group met after the AYA Cancer Workshop to discuss clinical trial investment and funding, project updates and priorities for 2011/2012. The group agreed there was value in continuing this COSA-run event where key stakeholders could network, exchange ideas, discuss national projects and consider future development for AYA cancer services.

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:



L to R: Dr Wayne Nicholls, AYA Chair; Mr Andrew Young, CEO CanTeen; Ms Marie Malica, COSA Executive Officer

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.

Following final review by the Department of Health and Ageing, COSA will 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. The guidance was circulated to AYA Cancer Network members and other stakeholders for public consultation during July. Feedback will now be considered by the working group and the guidance finalised in September.

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 draft guidance over the coming months.

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

In consultation with the Research Working Group, COSA developed criteria for assessing applications for

funding and allocating the Clinical Trials Investment Fund provided as part of this project. COSA liaised with Cancer Australia about AYA-related project applications that made it through the NHMRC process, but were not successful in receiving funding. The Research Working Group made the decision to assist ALLG with funding of

ALL-6, as this study fit the NHMRC criteria as well as the 2 additional criteria of collaboration and strategic fit. The new ALL-6 study will investigate whether a paediatric acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) protocol can be extended to patients aged 15-40 years in adult settings and examine factors that might impair dose delivery.

Another project objective has been to collate information about and promote clinical trials recruiting AYA cancer patients to clinicians and patients, with the aim of increasing AYA participation rates. COSA has now created a comprehensive list of open cancer trials 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 Executive Officers Network). While this data provides an indication of the baseline number of trials open to AYA patients, it needs to be interpreted with caution as the data is only as up-to-date and complete as the source information.

A third goal was to develop a registry or database of all currently available clinical trials for AYA cancer patients. Due to the recent creation of the Australian Cancer Trials website, the initial plan to create a stand-alone AYA trial registry was no longer practical. Australian Cancer Trials (ACT Online) draws trial information daily from the ANZCTR and CT.gov registry, has an "Adolescent (15-25 years)" search parameter, multiple cancer types search and will enable a search by state if required in the future.

The AYA Cancer Research Working Group plans to meet again to discuss the next steps for developing strategies to increase AYA participation in clinical trials, such as decreasing or increasing age eligibility cut-off, and tools to promote open trials.

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

Biobanking Interest group

There is a nationally recognised imperative to support efficient and timely access to biospecimens for cancer clinical trials and research. There remain however significant barriers to accessing biospecimens in terms of infrastructure, resources and funding. As a short term action, COSA intends to centralise the information for Clinical Trials Groups and researchers on the new COSA website, via links to existing databases and posting key resources. Information will include names of the trials groups and key contacts, an inventory of trials with

biospecimens, sample consent forms, SOPs and fact sheets.

A number of biobanking meetings are also scheduled for November 2011 in Perth, with further details and registration information available at <http://www.abna2011.org/>

Thursday 17 November 2011 3.00pm-6.00pm (after the COSA ASM)

Workshop; ABN co-badged with COSA
“Biobanking from Clinical Trials”

Friday 18 November 2011

9th Annual Australasian Biospecimen Network Association (ABNA) Meeting
“Diagnostics, Research and Biobanks - Integration for improved health outcomes”

Members of the COSA biobanking group and other interested parties are strongly encouraged to attend these key events.

Nik Zeps, Chair

Cancer Care Coordination Interest group

The Cancer Care Coordination (CCC) Interest Group continues to be supported by three working groups:

- Education & Conference – led by Douglas Bellamy (NSW)
- Networking and Communication – led by Jacinta Elks (QLD)
- Research – led by Patsy Yates (QLD)

The Education and Conference Working Group are busily planning for the Cancer Care Coordination Conference to be held 6 & 7 March 2012 at the Novotel, St Kilda Melbourne. Professor Emma Ream, University College London has accepted an invitation as the international guest speaker. We look forward to hearing her experiences on what has been done in the UK in terms of the patient navigation and meeting their supportive care needs. Prof Ream has also done work with guiding patients and carers in being more proactive and tying this into dealing with the ever increasing workload of the cancer care coordinator.

The Networking and Communication Group has launched the first database of cancer care coordinator contacts across the country. This database of contacts has been established to provide opportunities for networking and sharing of information with colleagues working in their designated role across Australia. It can also function as a tool to assist Cancer Care Coordinators with linking and transferring patients regionally or interstate. The information is available in the members' area of the COSA website www.cosa.org.au.

COSA recently held a meeting to facilitate discussions amongst key health service leaders about measuring

outcomes from cancer care coordination. The meeting agreed there was a need to develop a framework and a set of principles to assist cancer care coordinators working in various roles to evaluate their practice. COSA also aims to provide care coordinators with information about existing evidence based resources to assist them in evaluating their practice. A report from the meeting will be available shortly.

The CCC Interest Group would like to thank COSA for its ongoing support of these important activities.

Patsy Yates, Chair

Complementary & Integrative Therapies Interest Group

I have accepted the role as Interest Group Chair for the coming term now that Bogda Koczwara has stepped down and as she is very busy in her role as COSA President. We would like to thank Bogda for all her hard work in the formative stages of the group and for guiding and progressing the area of complementary therapies in our Society. We warmly welcome Dr Haryana Dhillon who has kindly accepted a position on the Executive steering committee. Please refer to the COSA website for further details.

The Executive Committee has supported the development of a survey to the COSA membership later this year which aims to gain information about the current research activity in relation to complementary therapies amongst the COSA members.

Judith A Smith from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre Assistant Professor, Department of Gynecologic Medical Oncology has been invited as the international speaker for oncology pharmacy interest group. Judith has a strong interest in complementary therapy use and we look forward to her presentations. Judith has participated in laboratory research that has focused on evaluating the safety and potential efficacy of complementary and alternative medications agents for the treatment of gynaecological and breast cancers.

Don't forget, The Natural Medicines Database provides members with up-to-date, evidence-based, scientific and clinical information on complementary, alternative, and integrative therapies. It is a valuable resource provided by COSA and available free to COSA members. The information is updated daily by qualified pharmacists.

Paul Katris, Chair

Email: pkatris@cancerwa.asn.au

Developing Nations Interest group

In 2010 the Developing Nations Interest Group put forward a proposal to the COSA Executive for funding to support a mentoring program. We are delighted

to report that they have agreed to provide the initial funding to support a fellow in 2011 as a pilot for the program. COSA has also received funding from the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) who have also collaborated to support a FRO-sponsored Fellowship position in radiation oncology or radiation physics.

The mentoring program is aimed at assisting health professionals working at mid career level from the Asia Pacific region to receive support to visit a cancer unit within the Australian hospital system for a period of up to three months.

The visiting fellow for the COSA/RANZCR is Binh Nguyen, a radiation physicist from K Hospital, Hanoi. Binh will be arriving in Australia for a 10 week term on August 13. He will be mentored by Dr Dion Forstner, Director of Radiation Oncology at Liverpool Hospital and will also visit Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney.

The COSA fellowship has been awarded to Dr Kanakorn Runglodvatana, medical oncologist from Vajira Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand. Dr Runglodvatana will undertake his fellowship at the Medical Oncology Department, Royal Adelaide Hospital. Dr Nimit Singhal and Dr Sid Selva will be overseeing his learning program. COSA wishes to thank the supervisors and their teams who have kindly provided their time to support the Fellowship program.

I look forward to reporting on the first fellowships to visit our shores later this year.

Matthew Links, Chair

Geriatrics Oncology Interest group

Since November 2010 we have progressed with formation of a formalized executive committee that will steer the interest group activities. Please refer to the COSA website www.cosa.org.au for the current Executive membership.

A major objective of the interest group is to progress with seeing the validation of the Adelaide Screening Tool. The members plan to embark on a project of pooling data collected from a number of centres that have used the Adelaide Screening Tool. The data can then be published collectively adding strength to the tool. Professor Jane Phillips has kindly offered to steer this project.

The Executive can also see the benefits of a framework which identifies the different geriatric oncology assessment tools. It has been suggested that a "Fact Sheet" be developed which provides the summation of the literature and which geriatric oncology tools have been validated. This can go on the COSA website.

Medical graduates participating in the combined oncology /geriatric training programs have highlighted

the challenges of the current training program. Oncology experience is not accepted as the core geriatric training program. As Chair of the interest group we wish to raise awareness with government of the importance and acknowledging the sub specialty and ask what needs to be addressed for the well being of the patients.

The year is progressing quickly; I am off to International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) in November. As well as presenting a number of abstracts I hope to bring back the latest happenings in geriatric oncology.

If you are interested in joining the interest group please let us know and select your preferences in your member profile of the COSA website or email to the COSA Project Coordinator, kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au.

Christopher Steer, Chair

NETs Interest group

The NETs interest group has been involved with two key projects over the past months; the NETs Guidelines and NETs Registry.

The consensus guidelines for gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours (GEP NETs) aim to raise awareness of the increasing multidisciplinary management options for patients with this uncommon group of diseases. These guidelines were opened for public consultation from Feb to June 2011, with constructive comments received on a number of sections. The guidelines are now being revised by the working group to incorporate the feedback. Please continue to visit the wiki site http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:NETs_guidelines to see the guidelines evolve over time.

The new NETs registry will facilitate the collection of retrospective and prospective data on patients with neuroendocrine tumours (NETs) in Australia. Greater understanding of the trends in diagnosis and treatment of NETs, as well as the evaluation of long term outcomes will help optimise the clinical care for patients with these rare tumours. The SIGNATURE™ database was initiated by Ipsen, and in November 2010 COSA negotiated to take over sponsorship of the project. Ipsen will continue to provide funding for the database but have no direct access to data. Plans are currently being finalised by the SAC and COSA for rolling-out the registry to interested sites.

For further information on these projects or to express your interest in joining the NETs interest group, please contact: cosa@cancer.org.au (Attention: NETs Project Coordinator).

Yu Jo Chua, Chair

OTHER REPORTS

Cancer Voices Australia

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

CVA has been a party to this case. This matter continues to evoke discussions for and against the issue, but CVA believes that the merits of the case support patient involvement. Following protracted negotiations the Court date has been rescheduled for February 2012.

2. **Clinical Trials Action Group (CTAG)**

CVA's Executive Officer, John Stubbs, was a member of this Group and their report was released in June this year. The Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry Advisory Committee has been reconstituted as a result of the CTAG report and will hold its first meeting in early August where the TOR will be addressed, agreed and the establishment of regular meetings to review the recommendations of the Report. This is an important issue for cancer patients especially, as many Cancer Voices members are involved as consumers with the Clinical Trials Groups. They are also part of the COSA Cancer Clinical Trials Consumer Network who collectively meet to review and promote cancer clinical trials in this country.

3. **Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee Recommendations – Senate Inquiry**

Cancer Voices Australia has made a submission to the Inquiry and will appear before the Senate on this matter on Monday 25th July in Canberra.

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

CVA has been 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's Chair, Ian Roos, Chaired the National framework for Consumer Involvement in Cancer Care and Control. The final report is completed and will be distributed to all interested parties following printing. This joint project between CA and CVA and engagement with over 40 consumers, clinical and supportive organisations and over 200 consumers, provide a framework for effective engagement of consumers in cancer control. Representatives from state (NSW, SA, Vic and QLD) CVs were also involved.

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

The Minister's office has agreed to meet with interested parties on the continued issues surrounding the development of the Government's PCEHR processes and CeHA. The Minister has agreed to maintain direct involvement with consumers on this issue. Unfortunately there's a lot of miss-information in the media and the internet. CeHA has tried to overcome this matter by direct engagement with the Minister who has responded accordingly. This is a clear example of consumer engagement at the highest level.

7. **PET/MRI – Access to Radiology**

CVA has been working to improve access to diagnostic radiology in general and PET/MRI in particular. This

issue directly impacts upon many people affected by cancer who require access to diagnostic radiology, including PET and MRI for detection, pre-treatment planning and monitoring of cancer, particularly advanced cancer. DoHA is currently undertaking a review of all diagnostic imaging with the report to be released in December 2011.

8. **Stereotactic Radiotherapy**

The Radiation Oncology Research Implementation Committee and the Medical Services Advisory Committee are also reviewing the current status of Stereotactic Radiotherapy and Stereotactic Radiosurgery and whether the evidence is there for the introduction of new MBS items for 'gamma-knife' and 'cyber-knife' proprietary technologies. CVA has met with Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists, and other bodies to develop a 'position statement' on SRT and SRS.

9. **ANROTAT Project**

CVA has been involved, through its Chair, with the, "Assessment of New Radiation Oncology Treatments and Technologies (ANROTAT)" which the Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG) is conducting on behalf of the Department of Health and Ageing. The project, "Assessment of New Radiation Oncology Treatments and Technologies (ANROTAT)" is being undertaken in response to a recognised need for the Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) to support appropriate new radiation oncology technologies and treatments as they become available, to ensure optimal patient care. A research framework is being developed and piloted to assess the safety, clinical efficacy and cost effectiveness of IMRT and IGRT in four tumour site-specific projects:

- Nasopharynx (IMRT)
- Anal Canal (IMRT)
- Post-Prostatectomy (IMRT)
- Intact Prostate. Volumetric Imaging versus the use of fiducial markers (IGRT)

10. **PATS/IPTAAS**

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing is reported as saying that it was aware of how important Patient Assisted Travel Schemes were to people living in rural and remote Australia and that they were working in conjunction with State Health Departments to produce a nationally consistent scheme which would take better account of the out of pocket expenses of patients. Given the Commonwealth has taken back about a third of the States' GST revenue to fund improvements to the healthcare system. It may be logical to think/assume that they take responsibility for PATS funding and introduce a nationally consistent scheme themselves, but apparently, for whatever reason, that is not going to happen. As a result representatives from Cancer Voices Australia, Cancer Council Australia, Leukaemia Foundation Australia, and Breast Cancer Network Australia attended a meeting facilitated by the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia to progress this matter – we are awaiting a report of the meeting, but in the interim, maintain strong links with CCA on this matter.

Ian Roos, Chair

Email: i.roos@bigpond.com

Calendar of Events

| Date | Event | Venue |
|------------------|---|---|
| 2011 | | |
| 24-26 August | Australasian Gastro-intestinal Trials Group (AGITG) www.gicancer.org.au | Melbourne, Victoria |
| 1-3 September | Tri-Society Head & Neck Oncology Meeting www.headneckmeeting.sg/ | Marina Bay Sands, Singapore |
| 15-17 September | 15th Congress of the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) www.essoweb.org/eursso/ | Bordeaux, France |
| 23-27 September | ECCO 16 - 36th ESMO Multidisciplinary Congress www.ecco-org.eu | Stockholm, Sweden |
| 6-7 October | IV InterAmerican Oncology Conference 'Current Status and Future of Anti-Cancer Targeted Therapies' www.oncologyconferences.com.ar | Buenos Aires, Argentina |
| 6-8 October | Australasian Society for Breast Disease Scientific Meeting www.asbd.org.au | Melbourne, Victoria |
| 6-9 October | RANZCR/Annual Scientific Meeting www.ranzcr.edu.au | Melbourne, Victoria |
| 15-16 October | Australian Sarcoma Study Group (ASSG) www.australiansarcomagroup.org | Melbourne, Victoria |
| 16-20 October | IPOS 13th World Congress of Psycho Oncology www.ipos-society.org | Lara-Antalya, Turkey |
| 17-20 October | Oceania Tobacco Control Conference 2011 'Burying the Habit: Moving to a Tobacco Free Future' www.oceaniatc2011.org/ | Brisbane, Queensland |
| 3-5 November | 11th Meeting of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology 'Geriatric Oncology: Cancer in Senior Adults' www.siog.org/ | Paris, France |
| 8-11 November | Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group (ALLG) Scientific Meeting www.petermac.org/allg | Brisbane, Queensland |
| 10-11 November | 21st Asia Pacific Cancer Conference (APCC) 2011 www.apcc2011.com/ | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| 15 - 17 November | COSA - ANZUP 38th Annual Scientific Meeting 'Partnerships against cancer – bridging gaps, breaking barriers' www.cosa2011.org | Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, Western Australia |
| 2012 | | |
| 22-25 February | ANZGOG ASM www.anzdog.org.au | Gold Coast, Queensland |
| 6-7 March | COSA Cancer Care Coordination Conference | St Kilda, Victoria |
| 16-18 March | Women's Health 2012: The 20th Annual Congress www.bioconferences.com/conferences/WomensHealth/ | Washington DC, USA |
| 1- 4 May | TROG 24th Annual Scientific Meeting www.trog.com.au | Darwin, Northern Territory |
| 9-13 May | ESTRO 31 International Oncology Forum www.estro.org | Barcelona, Spain |
| 1-5 June | ASCO Annual Conference www.asco.org | Chicago, Illinois, USA |
| 28-30 June | MASCC/ISOO International Symposium 'Supportive Care makes excellent cancer care possible' www.mascc.org | New York City, USA |
| 26-28 July | CNSA 15th Winter Congress 2012 www.cnsa.org.au | Hobart, Tasmania |
| 27-30 August | UICC World Cancer Congress www.uicc.org/ | Montreal, Canada |
| 9-15 September | Australia & Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) Workshop 2012 www.acordworkshop.org.au/ | Sunshine Coast, Queensland |
| 23-26 October | Sydney International Breast Cancer Congress 2012 www.sydneybreastcancer2012.com/ | Sydney, New South Wales |
| 13-15 November | COSA 39th Annual Scientific Meeting | Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland |
| 2013 | | |
| 19-22 June | 10th International Gastric Cancer Congress www.10igcc.com | Verona, Italy |
| 26 Sept - 1 Oct | ECCO 17 - 38th ESMO Multidisciplinary Congress www.ecco-org.eu | Brussels, Belgium |

COSA's 38th Annual Scientific Meeting

*'Partnerships against cancer – bridging gaps,
breaking barriers'*

November 15-17th 2011, Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre

2011 INVITED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Dr Paul Baas

Thoracic oncologist, Division of Medical Oncology, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam.

Miss Sue Clark

Consultant Colorectal Surgeon, Department of Surgery, St Marks Hospital and Academic Institute.

Prof Jessica Corner

Head, School of Health Sciences, University of Southampton, UK.

Prof Tim Eisen

Senior Lecturer, Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK.

Dr Irwin Epstein

Hunter College School of Social Work, City University of New York (CUNY), New York NY, USA.

Prof Seth P Lerner

Professor of Urology, Baylor Clinic, Houston, Texas, USA.

Dr Karl Lorenz

Associate Professor of Medicine, UCLA; and Palliative Consultant at the VA Greater Los Angeles, USA.

Prof Lesley Rushton

Occupational Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Imperial College, London, UK.

Dr Howard I Scher

D. Wayne Calloway Chair in Urologic Oncology Chief, Genitourinary Oncology Service, Sidney Kimmel Center for Prostate and Urologic Cancers, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.

A/Prof Judith A Smith

Associate Professor, Department of Gynecologic Oncology & Reproductive Medicine, Division of Surgery, The UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston; and Adjunct Professor, Department of Clinical Sciences and Administration, College of Pharmacy, University of Houston, USA.

Prof Chris Sweeney

Medical Oncologist, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, USA.

Dr Gillian Thomas

Head, Division of Radiation Oncology and Department of Radiation Oncology, Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre; and Department of Radiation Oncology and

Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Toronto, Canada.

Prof David Weller

Primary Care Clinical Studies Development Group for the National Cancer Research Institute School of Medicine, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Dr Isabel White

Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery, King's College London, UK.

Dr Christopher P Wild

Director, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Lyon, France.

Dr Chris Womack

Clinical Histopathologist, AstraZeneca; Honorary Professor of Histopathology, Manchester University, UK.

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