



COSA NEWS **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Welcome to the final edition of the Marryalyan for 2010. The hectic pace of COSA activity has continued since my last report.

COSA ASM 2010

This year's promises to be "the best COSA ASM ever". A/Prof Eva Segelov's tireless leadership of the convening committee has produced a program that is multidisciplinary, stimulating and diverse. In line with our policy over recent years, the meeting has a focus on breast and gynaecological malignancies. In these areas, the program will present a state of the art coverage with many prominent invited speakers. In addition to the coverage of medical matters, there is excellent coverage of many areas of interest to cancer care professionals, whether involved in breast and gynaecological cancers or not. With our meeting theme "Cancer and Beyond" – highlights issues around survivorship and the aftermath of cancer, as well as going beyond treatment into translational research. Visit the COSA website www.cosa.org.au to review the program.

This year we are introducing a two day trainee's workshop (6 - 7 November) - *Everything you need to know about Breast Cancer*. This will be targeted at advanced trainees in Surgery, Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology, and open to other cancer care professionals. Multidisciplinary care is accepted in all of the medical disciplines, and COSA is ideally placed to deliver multidisciplinary education. All facets of breast cancer management will be covered, from diagnosis and work-up to local and systemic treatment and management of metastatic disease. Leading clinicians from around Australia will present, and we are anticipating an excellent attendance. We see this as something that could become a feature of the weekend before COSA in coming years.

Another new feature of this year's meeting is the inaugural Presidential Lecture. I am delighted that Emeritus Professor Donald Metcalf AC accepted my invitation to give this lecture. His

presentation "Taking the Colony Stimulating Factors to Clinical Oncology" will be an excellent description of Translational Cancer Research.

We have worked hard to build on the COSA ASM as a natural focus for clinical cancer activities and meetings in Australia. There will be a number of satellite meetings held in conjunction with the ASM including the annual meeting of the ANZ Breast Cancer Trials Group, the inaugural meeting of the new breast surgeons' organisation – Breast SurgANZ, the Sino-Australian Surgical Oncology Conference and the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC).

The pre-ASM consumer day committee is co-Chaired by Ian Roos and Leonie Young and they have developed a program focussing on issues of importance to those affected by a range of cancers.

On Friday 12 November COSA and the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups will partner with the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre for a Translational Research Workshop. There is a desire to support and develop translational cancer research in Australia. The trials groups and the laboratory scientists want this to happen. Exactly how to do it and what the barriers are is less clear. This workshop aims to bring the key groups together to identify the issues and work on a plan to address them.

Please plan to attend, and encourage others who might not be COSA ASM regulars to come along and experience the richness of the ASM.

ASM 2011

The 2011 ASM (15 – 17 November) will be in Perth. With Nik Zeps the convenor, we plan to continue the focus on Translational Research and work to make the COSA ASM a forum for Australian scientists and clinicians involved in translational research to present their work.

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The diseases on which the meeting will focus will be colorectal cancer and liver metastasis, with a strong urological component. The program committee is now being formed – we look forward to active participation from all the COSA groups.

We will again host a weekend workshop for trainees and allied health pre ASM on *Everything you need to know about Colorectal Cancer*.

COSA & Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups

The enabling grant from the NHMRC has wound up, but I am pleased to report that the spirit of the enabling grant remains alive. The collaboration and cooperation developed between the groups continues. The CCTGs will be involved in the Translational Research workshop after the COSA ASM, and work continues to identify ways in which the CCTGs can work more closely together to improve scientific and financial performance. Our council meeting in November will be shortened to allow time for a meeting to follow up the one we had in June to discuss ways in which the CCTGs can work together.

Asian Oncology Summit

COSA will again be involved in the Asian Oncology Summit. In Bali in April, COSA and The Lancet Oncology co-organised a plenary at this meeting, where original Australian work was presented. The Lancet Oncology will be organising another meeting next year, this time in Hong Kong, and there will be further plenaries focussing on research from the region. We see this as valuable in itself, but also an opportunity to develop the links with the oncology community in this part of the world.

We have made progress on the proposal to facilitate fellowships for mid-career oncologists from those Indonesia and Malaysia countries to spend time in Australian centres to see how things are done here and to see what lessons they could potentially learn. Kathy Ansell and the Developing Nations Interest group have worked on a proposal and had a number of excellent responses to a call for interest. We are now working with societies from the countries to see how best we can help meet their needs.

NETs

The next step in our Neuroendocrine Tumour project is to complete Australian management guidelines. The project has been progressing well, with the complete guidelines due to be posted on a publically available wiki platform over the next month, and launched at a breakfast session during the COSA ASM. There will be a discussion forum on the wiki platform to allow feedback and evolution of the guidelines over time. Our thanks go to the NETs working group for their dedication to this initiative.

AYA

COSA has been working with CanTeen and Cancer Australia over the last 2 years to improve outcomes for adolescents and young adults (AYAs) with cancer.

As part of a \$15 million grant from the Australian government, COSA is leading three national projects to improve management and care in the AYA area by:

1. developing an AYA Cancer Network
2. producing AYA cancer clinical practice guidelines and protocols
3. increasing AYA cancer clinical research and participation of AYAs with cancer in clinical trials.

Progress has been made in all three areas, with a number of meetings and workshops planned in association with the COSA ASM. Thanks to David Thomas and others who have worked hard to maintain COSA's profile in these projects and thereby to ensure that the work remains focussed on the issues relevant to AYS patients and their clinicians.

As this is my final report for the Marryalyan as President I would like to thank to Society for giving me the opportunity to be President over the last two years. This is a remarkable organisation, made up of committed people from the full range of cancer care professionals, who come together because of a shared commitment to the needs of those affected by cancer. Sitting around the Council table, I am always impressed by the diversity of talent represented there, and so it is not surprising that our organisation is thriving. Many of the issues presented to me as President are not things I have had much to do with in my regular job as a surgical oncologist, but I have found COSA colleagues always prepared to help. I particularly thank Ian Olver. As CEO of the Cancer Council and a Council and Executive member of COSA, he has been a source of encouragement and wise council. I will be handing the Presidential responsibilities to Bogda Koczwara in January, confident that she will continue to guide the organisation well, and confident that in our Executive and Council we have the people who will ably support her.

I wish to acknowledge the work of all the staff in Sydney who do most of the work to realise the ideas and plans of the Council. They have mastered the art of encouraging overcommitted clinicians to join teleconferences and review documents.

Finally I acknowledge again the friendship, support, commitment and tireless work of Marg McJannett. One of Marg's key tasks is to keep the President honest and engaged, and she has done this with great skill over the last two years. Marg is invaluable to COSA, and makes a major contribution to all that we do and thus to the wellbeing of those affected by cancer in Australia. I look forward to supporting her ongoing contribution to our organisation.

I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and holiday. I look forward to catching up with many of you at the ASM in November.



Professor Bruce Mann
President - COSA

COSA ASM Convenor's report

This year's COSA is a must for any cancer professional. The dynamic program integrates the latest Australian and international research and current controversies, focussing on breast cancer, survivorship issues and translational research, but with a broad coverage of contemporary topics.

The pre and post COSA seminars and professional days will also provide high quality cancer education and interaction with your Australian peers. The weekend "Everything you need to know about breast cancer" workshop is designed for medical/surgical/radiation oncology trainees as well as junior allied practitioners and is not to be missed. A special communications workshop is also a new feature on the Monday prior to the main meeting.

This year we will also indulge our creative sides, with the inaugural "COSA's got talent" at the Annual Dinner, and the "Cancer and Beyond" photographic competition.

Our 'hot topic' debate will be compared by Adam Spencer and lay open the dilemma of how responsible individuals should be for their own health - "Potatoes not pills"!

I urge you to look at the program and at our distinguished array of national and international speakers at www.cosa2010.org. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Eva Segelov

**Convenor 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting
"Cancer and Beyond"**

ANZCHOG group (ANZ Children's Haematology & Oncology Group)

ANZCHOG's 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting was held recently in Sydney. The meeting was very successful with specific focus on Symptom Management, Lymphoma, Coagulation Disorders, Stem Cell Transplantation and Long Term Survivorship. A number of international speakers ensured attendees a global perspective of the key themes. A satellite symposium entitled Long Term Survivors of Childhood Cancer preceded the ASM. The symposium was supported by the NSW Cancer Institute and was very well received by

all those who attended. The ASM provided an excellent opportunity for all multi-disciplinary groups to meet including the newly-formed psycho-oncology group and the long term follow up group. Long term follow up of childhood cancer survivors is becoming an increasingly important issue as more children are being cured.

ANZCHOG held their first consumer forum at the ASM with representatives from all states coming together as a first step in developing a consumer participation framework for ANZCHOG. The workshop provided participants with information about current perspectives and experiences of consumer participation in health assisted by presentations from both Cancer Australia and Cancer Voices Australia. An afternoon of facilitated discussion followed enabling a range of viewpoints on the relevant issues for ANZCHOG to be captured.

An education workshop and forum on breaking bad news was also held for junior clinicians. These sessions were valuable in providing important information on current and future RACP curriculum requirements as well as a vehicle for skill development. ANZCHOG intends to further develop the educational program for junior clinicians and researchers with plans underway already for an expanded program at next year's ASM.

The Australian Children's Cancer Trials (ACCT) group has opened their first Phase I study for children with refractory solid and CNS tumours. Four sites are currently open and several more will follow in the next few months. This is an important step in supporting their primary goal of providing children with access to a greater range of therapies where standard of care fails to treat their disease. A Phase I/II study for relapsed, recurrent or progressive neuroblastoma is also scheduled to open shortly.

ANZCHOG is looking forward to being part of the 43rd Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP) from 25 – 30 October 2011 in Auckland. The ANZCHOG ASM will be held in conjunction with this international event. Further information about this will be forthcoming in the next Marryalyan.

Peter Downie, Chair

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Breast group

The COSA ASM to be held at the Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre - 9 November - 11 November 2010, will this year have a major breast cancer focus. The meeting is being held in parallel and overlapping with meetings run by the ANZBCTG and also the inaugural BreastSurgANZ Society's scientific meeting. The BreastSurg ANZ meeting is on Monday and merges with the other groups on Tuesday and Wednesday. The excellent program and visiting specialists should see a concentration of breast specialists in Melbourne for an extremely high quality meeting and a rationalisation of time spent at domestic meetings. The provisional program is on the COSA website under pre-conference meetings. The visiting specialists include Drs Monica

Morrow and Mark Kissin. A SNAC II investigators meeting will be held on Sunday evening prior to the BreastSurg ANZ meeting. *An Advanced Trainee Workshop - Everything you need to know about Breast Cancer* will be held the weekend before (6-7 November) the ASM. This includes a fantastic teaching program for all trainees interested in the management of breast disease from all disciplines. The main COSA program includes comprehensive multidisciplinary breast specific/focussed presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday in particular with many high quality international and local contributors.

The formation of the BreastSurgANZ Society to represent the interests of Australian and New Zealand breast surgeons is progressing well. Invitations/applications for membership have been circulated and there are already over 130 applicants for inaugural membership. The society has an executive officer, Ann Tolman, who may be contacted on xo@breastsurganz.com if a membership pack has not been sent to you or there are other inquiries.

The position of chair of the breast group is open for election at this coming ASM. If there are any nominees please forward your details to me prior to the meeting. Andrew.Spillane@melanoma.org.au

Andrew Spillane, Chair
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Cancer Biology group

The COSA ASM is almost upon us and there is plenty of content for those of you with a specific interest in biological based cancer research. The COSA ASM is an ideal opportunity to come and hear what is the latest thinking in the translation of basic research into clinical practice. There are "Meet the Experts" sessions at 7am on each day featuring the likes of Prof Hani Gabra of Imperial College London, Prof Klaus Pantel of the Institute of Tumor Biology, University Medical Center Hamburg, Prof Antoni Ribas of the UCLA Medical Center and Prof Christos Sotiriou of the Jules Bordet Cancer Institute, Brussels.

The conference opens with biology in the front seat with the symposium entitled "Is it all in the genes? Cancer in 2010". Prof Mark Robson of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center will speak on familial cancer genes and their relevance to cancer care, followed by Prof Christos Sotiriou who will bring us up to speed on how useful molecular signals really are in clinical practice. Prof Geoff Lindeman of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and University of Melbourne will prompt us to remember that genes have to act in cells and tissues and that these are regulated by other factors including hormones through his team's world breaking work on breast stem cells and how they may be involved in cancer. Finally, Prof Rowan Chlebowski of the UCLA Medical Centre will round off the presentations with a further reminder that cancer occurs in people and that there are gene and environment interactions that we

must also be aware of and may be the basis of significant strategies to prevent and treat cancer.

Over the next two days there will be numerous sessions throughout the program that will be of interest including a specific basic and translational research "Best of the Best" oral and poster presentations. The opening symposium on Thursday returns to the theme of the role of genes in cancer and asks the provocative question "Bench to bedside - breakthrough or behemoth?". We are led to believe that genes will be the answer to the treatment and prevention of cancer but there are many hurdles to overcome to achieve this. Speakers including Prof Toni Ribas, Prof Ian Frazer, Dr Clare Scott of the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Prof Edison Liu of the Genome Institute of Singapore will discuss how such knowledge can be translated into effective cancer care.

An Australian focus on translational cancer research will continue later in the day in a breakout session involving Prof Stephen Fox of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Prof Christos Sotiriou, Dr Oliver Seiber of the Ludwig Cancer Institute and Catherine Johnson of the Calvary Mater Newcastle.

There will be a 2 hour workshop on circulating tumour cells on the final day after the close of the main meeting run by Prof Rik Thompson and Prof Alex Dobrovik with Prof Klaus Pantel.

Finally, Friday will feature the inaugural COSA & CCTG's/Victorian CCC Translational workshop which promises to address the practical issues of undertaking translational research projects from cooperative clinical trials groups.

Nik Zeps, Chair
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Cancer Nurses Society of Australia

Since the last edition of the Marryalyan, the CNSA held its Winter Congress in Perth. It was a hugely successful Congress, with 360 delegates from all over Australia and New Zealand in attendance. My sincere thanks to the local organising committee led by Lucy Patton for the effort and energy they put into every aspect of the Congress to ensure it was a success. Winter Congress is always a time to celebrate the vibrancy of CNSA and Congress this year was no exception. In addition to recognising the successes of the past 12 months, the many groups and committees of the Society met to plan for 2011 and beyond.

For me there were many memorable events including:

Launching the revised Chemotherapy Position Statements: Louise Nicholson, NEC representative for Tasmania launched the revised "Cancer Nurses Society of Australia Position Statement on the Minimum Education Requirements for Nurses involved in the Administration of Anti-Cancer Drugs within the Oncology and Non-

Oncology Setting” and the “Cancer Nurses Society of Australia Position Statement on the Minimum Safety Requirements for Nurses involved in the Administration of Anti-Cancer Drugs within the Oncology and Non-Oncology Setting”.

These will be on the CNSA website very soon:
http://www.cnsa.org.au/publications_policies_pub.htm.

Celebrating new affiliations: At the Congress Welcome Reception, it was my pleasure to invite Mary Duffy, Lung Cancer Nurse Coordinator from Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, to announce the newly established affiliation between the CNSA and The Lung Cancer Nurses Forum, c/o The Australian Lung Foundation Inc.

CNSA looks forward to a long and productive affiliation between our two groups.

Leadership, Diversity and Innovation: the Global Perspective: Throughout Winter Congress, the themes of the meeting were evident in posters, plenary and concurrent sessions. Each of our invited speakers was informative and entertaining and left us in no doubt of the task ahead of us, as we consider the challenge of caring for people affected by cancer in the years ahead. But Dr Julia Downing’s presentations on the magnitude of unmet needs for cancer and palliative care in Africa, left us humbled and in awe of what she and her nursing colleagues in Uganda have, and continue to achieve. Julia and her colleagues’ successes include, advocating successfully for changes to the law so that nurses can carry opioid analgesics to patients in remote villages without fear of being arrested; ensuring that children with terminal illnesses have access to the most basic human rights such as a bed, food and pain relief; developing and establishing databases to gather data necessary to convince government agencies of the value of palliative care, to name but a few.

New members: Winter Congress attracted 32 new members to CNSA and of course to COSA and so a warm welcome to each of you.

Next year our Winter Congress will be in Sydney and preparations are well underway for another successful Winter Congress.

Mei Krishnasamy, Chair

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Cancer Pharmacists group

Where has the year gone? This is my third report of the Marrayalyan and I am not sure where the time has passed.

COSA ASM 2010 - Melbourne November 9th, 10th and 11th.

The COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne is not far away. Hopefully you have all registered for the conference. The final program is available through the COSA webpage. The Pharmacy AGM is to be held on the Wednesday afternoon. If you have any issues to add

on the agenda please forward them to me. We hope to see many of you in Melbourne for this event.

Website

Don’t forget to access the COSA website. It is good to see many people have utilised the Pharmacy discussion forum. Continue to utilise this valuable resource. In the near future the website will be undergoing some changes to its layout. Keep looking out for these significant changes.

The CPG course ‘Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacy Practitioners’

Our third course was successfully held in August this year. Special thanks to Dan McKavanagh for organising the event. The course was a great success, with 50 attendees. The CPG will be reviewing the process for future events. We hope that in 2011 we cannot only offer this course again but hold an advanced seminar as well. We will keep members posted. If you would like to be involved in the organisation of these events, just drop me a line.

CPG working hard

The CPG continues to work with COSA and other groups to advocate for pharmacists in cancer therapy. Recently the CPG met, together with other groups, with the Department of Health and Ageing in Canberra to discuss the revised arrangements for efficient funding of chemotherapy drugs. There is still much to be done before the implementation of this program, proposed for late 2011. The CPG have also been asked to participate in the development of a guidance document on cytotoxic medicines and related waste for South Australian Health.

Working parties

The CPG has been keen to develop working parties to assist in important aspects of pharmaceutical care for cancer patients. Many thanks go to those individuals who have put their hands up to assist. We have not forgotten you. Please be patient as we are working through some processes at the moment.

That’s about it for now. Please email me if you want to know more.

Jim Siderov, Chair

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Clinical Research Professionals group

ASM 2010

This year we are again able to hold a workshop in conjunction with the COSA Enabling Project. The workshop is being held on Monday 8th November prior to the ASM and will be a fantastic day. The agenda for the workshop is

Risk Management in Clinical Trials

- Clinical Trial Agreements
- Legal & Regulatory Considerations
- Insurance & Indemnity
- Compensation for Injury
- Protection of Information

Molecular Pathology

- An introduction to this fast growing emerging discipline of molecular pathology
- Gain an understanding of how predictive markers enable personalised medicine
- How molecular pathology is used in clinical diagnostics

Clinical Research Professionals Workload Planning

- Presentation of various workload planning tools developed by VCOG research professionals

After the workshop, there will be the opportunity to network and meet colleagues in your profession. It is a fantastic opportunity for professional development – so if you are going to the ASM & have not registered for the workshop, do so now as it is nearing capacity. For more information please contact Cate O’Kane, Cate.OKane@petermac.org or visit the COSA website www.cosa2010.org (register via website)

ASM 2011

Planning has also commenced for the 38th Annual Scientific Meeting to be held at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, 15–17 November 2011. We are looking for a local CRPG representative for the 2011 ASM convening committee. Please advise me urgently if you are interested.

Annual General Meeting

We extend a warm invitation to any members of the CRPG who are able to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held at the ASM. We will meet in Room 105/106 at 12.45 hrs on Tuesday 9 November. At this meeting, issues for the group are tabled including projects to work on for the following year. We value the input from all the membership. If you are unable to attend please forward any suggestions to me to table at the AGM. Although there is no planned committee election this year it would be great if you could identify your interest in joining the committee or holding a position of office to assist with succession planning.

Sandie Grierson, Chair

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Cancer Voices Australia

CVA & Anon v Myriad and Others

CVA, backed by Maurice Blackburn Lawyers has issued a Federal Court Challenge to Myriad Genetics regarding

the ‘ownership’ of the gene patenting the BRAC-1 gene. The first hearing proved successful with Myriad writing to CVA stating – that they wished to gift the patent to the people of Australia, but that this offer does not constitute that the patent is invalid. CVA is assessing the situation and currently meeting with its lawyers to consider next steps. This is a good outcome and will be important in CVA’s continued argument that genes and other biological materials which exist in nature, even if isolated, are not the product of human ingenuity. They are the product of human discovery.

National Pain Summit

CVA representatives attended the National Pain Summit in Canberra in March and recently have been included in the discussions to form a national Pain organisation. The meeting is to take place in Sydney in late September

E-health and National Broadband Rollout

CVA has written to the Government regarding the continued roll-out of the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement which features major catch up projects in rural areas. The success of this agreement also depends on the establishment of a National Broadband Network.

This matter CVA believes is backbone for the distribution of a national E-health system in Australia. The design of the system will depend upon quality broadband telecommunications and connectivity. The E-health system is potentially the ‘National Broadband Networks’ largest customer.

Furthermore the National Health Agreement and its connectivity and interoperability with lead (metropolitan) clinical facilities – a remit of the recent funding awarded to Regional and Rural Cancer Centres - must be underpinned by a comprehensive electronic health strategy that includes the provision of high speed access to our rural and regional community. CVA cites a large body of evidence that highlights the disparity in health-care outcomes for those people who reside outside the metropolitan areas. Such a system is vital to this country.

Advocacy and Research Training for Consumers

Advocacy Training for consumers is important to get our message to the wider community. CVA and other cancer organisations conduct training in conjunction with Cancer Councils (varying involvement) in each state once or twice a year.

A number of organisations have expressed the need for:

- Basic Training for those without prior experience of advocacy and committee work
- Advanced Training for those who have either completed the Basic Training or already have some experience

- Research Training for those interested in being involved with research committees

The Board of Cancer Voices Australia is holding a workshop at the end of September on training to review what is offered by each state Cancer Voices as well as identify what other training exists for this specific purpose.

Conferences/Seminars

During the period CVA representatives attended the following:

NBOCC – Sydney July 2010

CA – NBOCC – Transitional Working Party July 2010

Rural and Regional Cancer Centres – Lessons Learnt July 2010

Quality Working Group – DoHA July 2010

ALLG – Sydney July 2010

Sydney Cancer Conference – July 2010

AHEC Meeting – Canberra August 2010

PCFA Conference – Gold Coast August 2010

ANZCHOG – Sydney September 2010

ARCS Conference – September 2010

John Stubbs, Executive Officer

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Gastrointestinal group

It is a pleasure to take over as Chair of the GI Group after great leadership from Chris Karapetis, who has certainly raised the Australian profile in contemporary CRC research internationally! This year at the ASM there is a one day focus of CRC in partnership with our SASO colleagues (Sino Australian Surgical Society); many other sessions are also of interest including the Plenary on “Complexity of Pelvic Cancers” - check it all out at www.cosa2010.org.

Next year for the ASM in Perth, colorectal cancer will be a major theme, and the weekend preceding we will run a trainee “Everything you need to know about CRC” workshop, similar to the one being run this year for breast cancer. We have a say in inviting some international CRC experts, so any preferences, please let me know.

One of the issues I hope to tackle in combination with MOG and the Pharmacy group is the current situation with the extremely high cost of the commonly used off patent drugs oxaliplatin and irinotecan, for indications not currently reimbursed but where there is good data to support their use. As they are off patent, no PBS application is likely to be made by the pharmaceutical companies, yet the cost to self funding patients mostly remains at the on-patent level of several thousand dollars per cycle. If anyone is interested in helping with

this issue, please let me know. Always open also to any suggestions for activities for the GI group.

Best wishes.

Eva Segelov, Chair

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Gynaecology group

Creating external visibility of ANZGOG's value to the community is one of our key objectives in the hope that this will either directly or indirectly increase recruitment into clinical trials. I would like to thank Ayanthi Salgado and her team for organising all the panellists involved in the extremely successful ANZGOG information luncheons in Sydney and Melbourne – an excellent initiative to promote ANZGOG and gynaecological cancer clinical trials to the public! And now to WA and Queensland!

We have just two trials open to recruitment at present – Symptom Benefit and PORTEC-3. Both studies have recruited well in the last couple of months. OVAR16 closed in July after a very successful 11 month accrual period during which we recruited 65 patients – comfortably above our target of 50. We hope to have OUTBACK and ICON6 open in the next few months and PARAGON early in 2011.

Michael Friedlander, Danny Rischin, Linda Mileschkin, Alison Brand, Julie Martyn and Chee Lee represented ANZGOG at the Intergroup Meeting in Chicago in June where consolidation of the Outback and Symptom Benefit trials was successful. Michael Friedlander, David Bowtell, Phil Beale and I represented ANZGOG in Vancouver in late June at the Fourth Ovarian Cancer Consensus Conference...details will be reported at the IGCS meeting in October in Prague. Currently we are confirming attendance of ANZGOG representatives at this meeting.

I would like to thank Karen Livingstone, Debbie Lee, Helene O'Neill, Pennie Stoyles and Sarah Hutchings of the ANZGOG Consumer and Community Committee for agreeing to organise our next community event: “Time Out for Me – An ANZGOG Initiative for Women”. It is promising to be “just what the doctor ordered”!!! Please show your support by helping to spread the word to your patients and colleagues.

I look forward to welcoming you all at the ANZGOG General Meeting at COSA on November 8th!

Michael Quinn, Chair

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Melanoma & Skin group

The highlight for the Melanoma and Skin group in 2010 will be the upcoming Melanoma Meeting to be held in Sydney in November. This comprises a group of meetings most particularly the fourth interdisciplinary Melanoma and Skin Cancer Centre Meeting. The three previous meetings have been highly beneficial to

practicing clinicians in this area and the Sydney meeting will no doubt provide further stimulating interaction and discussion around providing the best clinical care to our patients, and to continue to facilitate research and improved practices. The meeting will be combined with the society for Melanoma Research and this provides a great forum, particularly for basic and translational investigators to share information. On the Saturday of this meeting the pathology group will run a full day Symposium. This unique combination of meetings has also allowed for an excellent update for primary care clinicians to be run and facilitated by some of the worlds leading melanoma experts. The meeting will be hosted by the Melanoma Institute of Australia and this is a fantastic opportunity for local clinicians and researchers to gain such ready access to the international melanoma community.

2010 has seen a real buzz develop in the melanoma community regarding some exciting new options for treatment in more advanced disease. There is now a series of trials open at many centres around the country examining the role and efficacy of BRAF inhibitors. Australian centres have played a key role in the development and trialling of these drugs and will obviously continue to do so into the future. There has also been a strong evidence for the use of Ipilimumab from phase three trials presented at ASCO this year.

The ANZMTG has several open trials in particular investigating the role of whole brain radiotherapy in melanoma. Centres around the country continue to make an important contribution to MSLT-II, the most significant surgical trial running currently. Importantly two of the current projects are examining the quality of life/functional issues related to treatments, a fairly neglected area in melanoma research to date.

Finally the seventh International Sentinel Node Society meeting will be held in Yokohama in Japan on the 18th to the 20th of November this year. This is always an interesting meeting and again full of interest around melanoma.

David Speakman, Chair

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Neuro-Oncology group

A few updates from the Neuro-Oncology group.

The committee (chaired by Dr Michael Rodriguez) working with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) is currently reviewing the final version of "Central Nervous System Tumours Structured Reporting Protocol" for anatomical pathologists. A number of COSA Neuro-Oncology members are contributing to this process. This document will be available for public comment shortly.

Likewise, the Australian Cancer Network working party (chaired by Prof Michael Barton) is working well developing a set of Consumer Guidelines to match the "Clinical Practice Guidelines for the management of adult gliomas: astrocytomas and oligodendrogliomas"

which were successfully launched in late 2009 at the COSA ASM. Hopefully this consumer document will also be available shortly for public comment from both consumers and clinicians.

COSA Neuro-Oncology members will be contacted shortly to submit their current list of neuro-oncology trials (& study contact details) so it will be easier to know which studies are happening at which sites around Australia. This list will include both cooperative trials (via COGNO) and also pharmaceutical company initiated studies and investigator-initiated (sponsored) studies. This will optimise opportunities for neuro-oncology patients around Australia.

The 2010 Hubert Stuerzl Memorial Neuro-Oncology Fellowship - which is open to trainees (including neurosurgical, radiation oncology or medical oncology) kindly donated by Merck Sharp and Dohme (previously Schering-Plough Australia) and administered via MOGA (Medical Oncology Group of Australia) was this year awarded to Melanie Wai Yin Jackson, a radiation oncology trainee at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth. This award will facilitate attendance of an international neuro-oncology conference as well as an international preceptorship. (This award is named to honour the memory of the late Hubert Stuerzl who was a dynamic product manager for temozolomide for Schering Plough Australia. Hubert did a great deal to support the neuro-oncology clinical and patient networks around Australia).

AGOG (Australian Genomics and Clinical Outcomes of Glioma) is continuing to expand its activities in Western Australia and NSW initially. Prof Lyle Palmer who was the Principal Investigator has relocated to Canada and Prof Anna Nowak and Dr Kerrie McDonald have taken on the reins, along with an active group of other chief and associate investigators. AGOG collects tissue, blood, demographic information and clinical outcome information and will be looking at potential genetic signatures and predictive and prognostic biomarkers in glioma patients.

We continue to have a close working relationship with COGNO (Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology). The first international collaboration comes in the form of CATNON which is a Phase III study looking at the role of the Stupp (concurrent chemo-radiation_ protocol in the setting of anaplastic astrocytoma (in patients who do not have the 1p19q co-deletion). A number of centres around Australia have already opened up their sites for recruitment in recent weeks and other sites are to open shortly. The first patient was recently recruited in Hobart. Prof Anna Nowak is the Australian PI of the study. Another protocol which has now completed development and had a NSW Ethics approval so far is a national study called CABARET (Dr Kathryn Field is the PI, working with a very active protocol development committee). CABARET will be looking at the use of carboplatin and bevacizumab (versus bevacizumab alone) in the setting of recurrent glioma. The CABARET study will be opening up in 19-20 clinical sites around Australia including some regional centres. Dr Meera Agar (who

chairs the COSA Palliative Care group and is an active member of the COSA Neuro-Oncology group and COGNO), along with an active protocol committee, is shortly opening a pilot version of a steroid-sparing protocol in recurrent and end-stage glioma.

COGNO is holding their 3rd ASM along with the NSA (Neurosurgical Society of Australasia) in Coolool from 2nd – 3rd October. The neurosurgical meeting starts on the 30th September with the overlap sessions being on Saturday 2nd October and COGNO satellite meeting being on the 3rd October. Dr Lindy Jeffree is the 2010 COGNO ASM Convenor. There is an exciting international panel including European neuro-oncologist Prof Michael Weller, USA neuro-oncologist James Vredenburgh and USA neurosurgeon Linda Liau. The COSA Neuro-Oncology group AGM will be held during the COGNO ASM on 2nd October at 5.30pm. (Contact cogno@ctc.usyd.edu.au for more information regarding the ASM or COGNO).

Please contact me if you would like to be involved in the COSA Neuro-Oncology group Executive for 2011.

Warm regards to all.

Liz Hovey, Chair

Email: Elizabeth.Hovey@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Nutrition group

There have been several activities undertaken by the Nutrition group over the past few months. The major project continues to be the development of evidence based guidelines for the nutritional management of head and neck cancer for which project dietitian Teresa Brown has provided an update below. 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, Rochelle Kurmis and Teresa Brown.

A preliminary discussion has been held with Claire Hewat, CEO Dietitians Association of Australia, Margaret McJannett EO of COSA and Judy Bauer regarding forming a closer working relationship between the two organisations for mutual benefit. As a result of a very positive initial meeting, formal negotiations will now occur. Of particular interest is the Wiki platform for evidence-based guidelines.

Nicole Kiss has been our tireless representative on the Annual Scientific Meeting Organising Committee and we thank her for her outstanding contribution. We are extremely pleased that this is the first year the Nutrition group has an invited speaker, Dr Rowan Chlebowski, and we look forward to several of his presentations during the congress. Other presenters of note include Dr Jervoise Andreyev, former chair of BAPEN, dietitian Amanda Hill, the Nutrition group's Thursday Breakfast session "Nutrition Building the Evidence and Delivering Best Practice" with Anna Boltong, Liz Isenring, and Janelle Loeliger and a session entitled "Nutrition Fitness and Employment" featuring Fiona Stacey and Rowan

Chlebowski. There are several other presentations by dietitians during the congress in the best of the best oral and poster sessions – congratulations on this success. The Nutrition groups Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12.30-1.30. Steve Pratt will be our representative on the Organising Committee for the 2011 Perth ASM.

Wendy Davidson, Teresa Brown and Steve Pratt are currently undertaking a review of website links to recommended nutrition education material for clients from the Cancer Councils as well as other sources such as NEMO (Nutrition Education Materials Online) from Queensland Health.

I look forward to seeing many members in Melbourne.

Judy Bauer PhD, AdvAPD

Assoc Professor Nutrition & Dietetics, UQ, Chair

Project Update: Development of evidence-based guidelines for the nutritional management of head and neck cancer

The project has now been underway for 15 months and we are moving towards completion of phase two of the project - literature searching, retrieval and critical appraisal. A total of 272 papers have now been reviewed independently by two members of the dietitian Steering Committee. For the small number that we did not reach consensus on for our grading of the level and quality of evidence, a third member of the committee completed a review to enable consensus to be reached.

The project dietitian, Teresa Brown, has been working on summarising the results of the literature review into a table format for each clinical area and question to be addressed, so that recommendation statements can be formulated and discussed with the multidisciplinary steering committee. The guidelines will then be ready in a draft format for wider key stakeholder consultation.

Teresa also recently presented an update on the guidelines progress at the Australia New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society ASM, Manly NSW, and at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre Nutrition Department, annual professional development day. Both were well received, and many clinicians are looking forward to the final results!

Teresa Brown APD, Project Dietitian

Judith Bauer, Chair

Email: judy.bauer@uhealth.com.au

Palliative Care group

The Palliative Care group continues to provide input into strategies arising out of the National Pain Summit; working with the cancer pain and palliative care group, led by Dr Melanie Lovell (Palliative Medicine physician, Sydney) to address the specific actions and strategies put forward for cancer pain management. There will be opportunity at the ASM to contribute to a workshop and discussion on cancer pain so hope to see you all there.

Don't forget to register for the ASM - Dr Sara Booth is an invited speaker at the COSA ASM this year. Sara is an internationally renowned palliative medicine specialist and researcher, from Addenbrooke's Hospital, and University of Cambridge, UK. So this is the year for those of you more focussed on palliative care to come join us at the ASM!

Also noteworthy is a nurses hub which has been added to the caresearch website (www.caresearch.com.au), particularly to provide evidence based resources and information for nurses working in palliative care; or frequently caring for people with advanced disease.

The 9th of October is world hospice and palliative care day, aiming to highlight working partnerships between service providers, government, patients, caregivers and communities in providing quality palliative care. For more information on what is happening and how to get involved: www.worldday.org.

Meera Agar, Chair

Email: meera.agar@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Psycho-Oncology group

Professional Day:

COSA Council is thanked for generously providing funding for a second Professional Day. This will be held on Monday 8th November in Melbourne, the day before the commencement of the ASM.

The opening session will include presentations from leading researchers and clinicians about survivorship issues. This will be followed by oral presentations, and our International speaker Matt Loscalzo has agreed to act as discussant.

There will be a panel discussion again, but this year the focus will be on practical challenges facing those involved in clinical care. A series of cases will be selected from submissions for the panel to comment on aspects of assessment and management.

Further oral presentations will continue after the lunch break.

This year there will be two workshops:

- Liz Foley will conduct two sessions on mindfulness;
- Jane Turner will conduct a session on helping parents with cancer communicate with their children.

Members can find full details about the programme and registration on the COSA website.

COSA ASM:

Members who have not already registered for the COSA ASM are strongly encouraged to do so.

The theme for the meeting which is to be held in Melbourne from 9th to 11th November is "Cancer and Beyond" covering the cancer experience from diagnosis

through treatment and to the years beyond for cancer patients, their families and carers. The focus will be on breast cancer, gynaecological cancer, urological cancer, melanoma cancer and translational research.

The following outline of some of the sessions makes it clear it will be of great interest to members.

Tuesday 9th November

- Breakfast sessions. Meet the expert
 - 1. Sexuality and survivorship. The expert is **Isabel White** and the session will be chaired by Keith Cox
 - 2. Lymphoedema – where are we in 2010? The expert is **Robyn Box**, and the session will be chaired by David Speakman. There will an opportunity for panel discussion
 - 3. Innovative models for palliative care service provision. The expert is **Sara Booth**, and the session will be chaired by Jennifer Phillips

11-00 am Concurrent session. What are common cancer misperceptions and how can we overcome them? Chair is Mei Krishnasamy

Speakers are:

- **Penny Schofield:** What place do hope and optimism have in lung cancer?
- **Belinda Kiely:** Median survival - is this the right measure to discuss patients?
- **Michael Quinn:** Is there any evidence base to support the use of vaginal dilators following pelvic radiation?
- **Rowan Chlebowski:** Are multivitamins good for you?

4-00 pm Tuesday. Concurrent session. Mental health and cancer. Chair is Jane Turner

Speakers are:

- **Brian Kelly:** Delirium in cancer patients
- **Dianne Clifton:** Impact of steroids on mental state
- **Cathy Mason:** Management of depression
- **Jane Fletcher:** Non-pharmacological approaches to management of anxiety

Wednesday 10th November

- Breakfast session. Meet the expert Helping Women and Men to Get the Best Out of Each Other When Confronted by Cancer. The expert is our international speaker Matt Loscalzo, and the session will be chaired by Jane Fletcher.

8-30 am Plenary session. Long-term issues faced by cancer survivors and their families. The chair is Carrie Lethborg

Speakers are:

- **Michael Jefford:** Will "survivorship centres" survive?
- **Hani Gabra:** Monitoring for recurrence - Is it time to change the paradigm? -

- **Isabel White:** Psychosexual service for people adversely affected by cancer and its treatment
- **Rowan Chlebowski:** Menopausal hormonal therapy and cancer outcomes: an issue for cancer survivors
- **Matt Loscalzo:** Wounded Warriors and Healing Heroes: Building Strengths-Based Patient-Centered Partnerships in Cancer Care

11-00 am Concurrent session. Cancer professionals - 'survivorship' issues in the workforce. How will the cancer workforce and individuals cope with the increasing demand for services? The chair is Afaf Girgis.

Speakers are:

- **Matt Loscalzo:** Interdisciplinary staff leadership model
- **Julie Sharrock:** Reflective practice: Supporting nurses to attend to the person as well as the treatment
- **Jane Turner:** Stress and Burnout

11-00 am. Concurrent session. Let's talk about sex: Practical tips for helping your patients. The chair is Susan Neuhaus

Speakers are:

- **Amanda Hordern:** It's all in your mind - cancer patients' attitudes towards sex
- **Kathryn Schubach:** What are the current treatment strategies for men suffering from erectile dysfunction after radiotherapy for localised prostate cancer?
- **Susan Carr:** Communicating about sex
- **Addie Wootten:** Below the Belt: Men, Sex and Cancer

4-00 pm. Concurrent session. Focus on carers - Is life ever the same? A discussion of challenges faced by carers of cancer patients. Chair is Bruce Mann

Speakers are:

- **Helen Garner:** 'Offering the spare room - the risk of caring'-
- **Carrie Lethborg:** Caring for someone you love who has cancer - an experience of suffering and meaning
- **Cynthia Holland:** My Kite will Fly - addressing the needs of younger carers
- **Panel discussion** including expert: **Greg Wheeler**

Thursday 11th November

- Breakfast session. Supportive Care: "It's not just being nice" Chair is Bogda Koczwara

Speakers are:

- **Bogda Koczwara:** Setting the scene. What are the challenges for supportive care in Australia?
- **Mei Krishnasamy:** Defining Supportive Care. What is it, who does it and how?

- **Jane Turner:** Why does supportive care matter? Evidence and its gaps

Panel discussion: How can we improve supportive care delivery in Australia?

11-00 am Concurrent session: Nutrition, fitness & employment. What challenges lie ahead once cancer treatment has finished? The chair is Judy Bauer

Speakers are:

- **Fiona Stacey:** Development and evaluation of an exercise and nutrition program (ENRICH) for cancer survivors and carers
- **Martin Hauer-Jensen:** Goal-oriented cancer survivorship research
- **Danielle Tindle:** After AYA cancer: Life, love and (the fear of) lumps
- **Suzie Hooper:** Cancer rehab programs
- **Rowan Chlebowski:** Obesity, physical activity and breast cancer recurrence and outcome

Inaugural survivorship workshop:

Survivorship is increasingly being recognised as a core issue in both research and clinical practice. An Inaugural COSA Cancer Survivorship workshop is being conducted on conclusion of the ASM on Thursday 11th November. This invitation-only workshop aims to establish a nationally-coordinated approach to setting directions in survivorship care, and to foster and encourage collaborations and identify points of difference with a view to improving our competitive position internationally.

Invitation to members:

As 2010 is the second year of my second term as Chair of OZPOS, it will be necessary to elect a new Chair this year, to take over the role in 2011/2012. I encourage members to consider nomination for election, and am happy to provide details about the role: jane.turner@uq.edu.au. The election for the new Chair will take place at the AGM to be held at the COSA ASM on Tuesday 9th November at lunchtime.

Jane Turner, Chair

Email: jane.turner@uq.edu.au

Radiation Oncology group

I can't believe it is already October. Before long the COSA ASM 2010 will be over for another year and we'll be commencing planning for the 2011 meeting.

As many of you know I have accepted the offer to be the next President-Elect of COSA and would like to thank those who sent me their well wishes. I look forward to my new role next year.

Over the past few months we've been working at strengthening our ties with the Faculty of Radiation Oncology (FRO). Margaret McJannett has been liaising with Natalia Vukolova the Executive Officer of FRO. This has resulted in the recent achievements of COSA being featured in the recent College magazine. It is

anticipated that this will be done on a regular basis as a way of promoting COSA and its activities within the College. We hope that the COSA President will meet annually with the Faculty board to discuss potential opportunities between the 2 groups. FRO have recently provided financial support for the Registrar Teaching event and I encourage all Radiation Oncology Trainees to consider registering and participating.

On another front, Margaret, Bruce, Swee Tan (President of the Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society) and I have entered discussions on ways to improve collaboration between the 2 groups. Both groups have a range of differing resources and expertise and a mutual interest in reducing the burden of head and neck cancer. We recently had a teleconference to explore possible ways of doing this and believe there are a range of projects where both groups could collaborate. I plan to act as a facilitator between the COSA and ANZHNC executive groups.

I look forward to catching up at the COSA ASM in Melbourne.

Sandro Porceddu, Chair

Email: sandro_porceddu@health.qld.gov.au

Regional & Rural group

Once again regional health issues have been thrust into the limelight. The current state of play in federal politics has meant that close to \$10 billion has been promised to regional and rural infrastructure projects. The current HHF funds have also been promised to rural health. Most of last years \$560M funding allocations have been announced although a few projects are still being pursued and hopefully these will gather momentum soon.

With enhanced services being developed it is a great opportunity to think of ways to establish a network to maximise the benefits of these centres. It will also be a good time to look at how these regional cancer centres can be pivotal in attracting other aligned services such as surgery, diagnostic services, IT platforms and improved inpatient services to our regional hospitals. Human capital is also a critical issue. At the recent "Informa" symposium in Melbourne it was quite clear that staffing of cancer centres is a major problem across the regions and solutions need to be found. Again appropriate networking may be of assistance. A regional and rural forum on this topic would be beneficial.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the upcoming ASM. I would like to encourage forward thinking for Perth 2011 to develop a regional and rural program. Networking and improve patient centred care/ collaborative care models could be building blocks for this.

To quote the PM "let's move forward" and continue to build the emerging regional and rural cancer network. To make these regional centres of excellence is going to take a lot of work.

I look forward to correspondence on this issue.

Adam Boyce, Chair

Email: drboyce@bigpond.net.au

Social Work group

The COSA ASM is almost upon us, and the programme looks fantastic with lots of sessions to suit all the various groups. From a social work perspective, it looks to be another exciting conference, with lots of sessions of interest throughout the week. One of the keynote international speakers that COSA has invited is Dr Matt Loscalzo - Dr Loscalzo is the Associate Clinical Professor, Medicine Cancer Symptom Control Program, University of California.

Dr Loscalzo focusses on the psychosocial aspects of cancer, and how patients and their families cope with cancer and its treatments at all points along the disease continuum. Areas of focus include:

- Gaining a better understanding of how people manage distress and make adaptations that result in growth and positive change.
- Implementing problem-based distress screening procedures that prospectively identify patients requiring assessment and possible intervention to remove barriers to medical care and to support optimal coping.
- Testing problem-solving models that enable patients and family members to maximize the benefits of medical care.
- Testing psycho-behavioural and other strengths-based interventions related to palliative care and coping.
- Testing models that enhance gender communication relating to stressful events, especially chronic illness.

The National keynote speaker is Dr Carrie Lethborg - Dr Lethborg is a psycho-oncology clinician, researcher and educator with over 20 years experience. She holds the positions of Clinical Leader, Cancer Social Work and Coordinator Psycho-social Care – Cancer Services at St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne as well as honorary appointments at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and at the University of Melbourne. She is Chair of the Western and Central Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service – Supportive Care Advisory Group, Deputy Chair of the Victorian Cooperative Oncology Groups' Psycho-Oncology Committee and is an executive member of the State Government Advisory group for cancer survivorship, Oncology Social Work Australia, Australian Psycho-Oncology Society, Cancer Social Work Victoria and the Clinical Advisory Group for the Western and Central Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service. Dr Lethborg is currently completing an NHMRC and Victorian Cancer Agency funded Post Doctoral study trialling a Meaning and Purpose based therapy in an advanced cancer population. She is widely published in peer review journals and text books as well as producing an award winning children's book for children with a parent with cancer. She is the

recipient of multiple awards including the Emerging Leader Award for Catholic Health Australia, the Award for Excellence for Social Work Research, the Premier's Excellence Award for Improving Cancer Care in Victoria (2009), the International AOSW Naomi Stearns award (2009).

OSWA acknowledges the very generous supportive contributions made by COSA in enabling the OSWA workshop to take place. OSWA was successful in its application for the COSA professional grant, and has also received generous support from COSA in assistance with planning and venue. I encourage all members to visit the COSA website, and register for the COSA conference. We look forward to seeing you in Melbourne in November.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email
angela.cotroneo@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Angela Cotroneo, Chair

Email: angela.cotroneo@email.cs.nsw.gov.au

COSA & Cancer Cooperative Trial Groups Enabling Project Update

COSA & Cooperative Groups Enabling Project are committed to continue the well established objectives set out over the previous five years and to explore other areas of common interest. Mari Bakker and Julie Coffey have joined COSA and will endeavour to continue to maintain these significant achievements. One highlight for the group has been the establishment of a Clinical Trial Research Agreement for Cooperative Trial Groups (CTRA CTG) template means a streamlined process for cooperative clinical trials for Victoria, Queensland and NSW.

The COSA Executive Officers Network (EON) has also modified the Australian CTRA CTG template to create a version which can be used in New Zealand. This is currently under review and will be finalised before the end of 2010. The Northern Territory and Tasmania will follow with their own review with the hope that these states will also endorse the Medicines Australia CTRA for cooperative trials.

The Enabling Project will focus on the Quality Assurance component, in particular, the provision of online training modules for clinical research staff. Currently Fifty clinical research staff study coordinators, data managers & clinical investigators and other interested parties from the CTG have been asked to complete the existing ARCS Good Clinical Practice (GCP) online modules. Feedback and review will follow this process and the final result aims at endorsing and providing these modules for COSA members.

The partnership with the Association of Clinical & Regulatory Scientists (ARCS) is progressing and we are currently in the process of developing oncology-specific online modules in order to supplement the existing online Good Clinical Research (GCP) modules.

The Enabling Project has also successfully established the Umbrella Clinical Trials Insurance Scheme for participating CTGs. The scheme has commenced its second year in June this year.

In November 2009 COSA and the Cooperative Groups Executive Officer Network, with financial support from ANZGOG, facilitated a Cancer Clinical Trials Consumer Network Workshop and invited consumer representatives from each of the CCTGs to attend the workshop during COSA ASM at Gold Coast.

This initiative was met very positively and COSA was asked to provide ongoing support to the CCTG Consumer groups to continue to meet and progress their objectives. COSA Council has supported this request and another workshop will be held under the umbrella of the COSA EON during COSA ASM 2010. Some of the initial aims of the consumer network will be to:

- build a broader cancer clinical trials consumer network that is not specific to any particular type of cancer but focussed on issues common to all cancer clinical trials and all CCTGs
- enhance consumer engagement and consumer engagement frameworks across CCTGs
- provide ongoing professional development opportunities for CCTG consumer representatives in relation to clinical trials both nationally and internationally
- help increase awareness of the contribution and importance of industry-independent clinical trials research in both Australia and New Zealand.

We believe a coordinated, national training program will enable a greater number of interested consumer representatives to develop the skills and knowledge needed to participate effectively in the development, management and evaluation of cancer clinical research.

Professor Steve Ackland, Chair

Ms Julie Coffey and Mari Bakker, Program Coordinators

COSA Interest Group Updates

AYA Interest group

COSA is leading three national projects 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 guidelines and protocols
3. increasing AYA cancer clinical research and participation of AYAs with cancer in clinical trials.

These projects are funded by the Australian Government's Youth Cancer Networks Program, administered by CanTeen.

Our AYA Cancer Steering Group met by teleconference in September to review project developments and plan the forthcoming AYA Cancer Workshop (see below).

AYA cancer network

COSA has formed an AYA Cancer Network to inform, link and support health professionals providing cancer care to AYAs as well as the policy and program managers coordinating the Youth Cancer Networks Program (YCNP) projects.

COSA has invited all YCNP project partners and AYA Cancer Network members to a workshop on 12 November in Melbourne, to hear about the progress of YCNP projects – with brief presentations about each of the YCNP projects – and identify opportunities for collaboration, national coordination and/or to prevent duplication in the development of AYA cancer services and programs.

This is the fourth AYA Cancer Workshop convened by COSA in recent years. It will enable YCNP project partners to discuss achievements and challenges to date with a large group of multidisciplinary professionals experienced in the treatment and care of adolescents and young adults with cancer. Participants will recommend strategies to support implementation of the YCNP projects and to improve AYA cancer services and thus outcomes.

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

Clinical practice guidelines

An expert working group has been formed to develop clinical practice guidance about fertility preservation and related issues for AYAs diagnosed with cancer. The multidisciplinary group – which includes adult and paediatric oncologists, fertility specialists, AYA clinical nurse consultants and representatives of patients and other specialties – met in Sydney on 20 October to confirm the scope, clinical questions to be addressed and process of developing this guidance. Members are now assessing the evidence and will meet again in November to develop recommendations.

COSA is forming another expert working group to help scope and produce clinical practice guidance about psychosocial care of AYA patients, building on the work done by Dr Susan Palmer for CanTeen in developing assessment tools for psychosocial screening and care planning. We hope this working group will be able to meet during or soon after the COSA ASM in Melbourne next month.

If you are interested in contributing to, or reviewing either of these guidelines please email cosa@cancer.org.au

Clinical research

COSA's AYA Cancer Research Working Group met in July to advise on project objectives and strategies to

increase clinical research addressing priority questions for AYAs diagnosed with cancer and their families.

One of the objectives of the clinical research project is to establish a database registry of all current clinical trials recruiting AYA cancer patients. This will allow both clinicians and patients to be advised of suitable trials, with the aim of increasing the participation of AYA patients in clinical trials. To measure the outcome of this project, it is also critical to establish accurate baseline data on the number of AYA patients (15 to 25 years inclusive) participating in clinical trials.

We have consulted with the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre and Cancer Australia to determine what information exists, and the opportunities to collaborate or use existing platforms to collate and present information about clinical trials open to AYA cancer patients. To ensure completeness, COSA is also approaching the cooperative clinical trials groups to collate information about relevant trials and AYA participation rates.

In consultation with Cancer Australia and CanTeen, the Research Working Group has developed criteria for assessing applications for funding for AYA cancer research projects. The criteria also will help improve the coordination of clinical research activity. The NHMRC criteria (Scientific Quality; Significance and Innovation; Track Record) were endorsed as an initial and credible guide, and an additional two criteria recommended when considering applications for research funding: Collaboration (the research encourages collaboration, nationally and/or internationally between investigators with similar interests) and Strategic Fit (the research addresses one or more of the AYA cancer research priorities). COSA has also offered to recruit appropriate non-conflicted cancer health professionals (such as members of the AYA Cancer Research Working Group) who could provide independent advice to funding bodies on the strength of grant applications for AYA cancer research.

Interested in further study relating to AYA cancer care?

The Centre for Adolescent Health (Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne) and the onTrac@PeterMac Victorian AYA Cancer Service have developed a new postgraduate certificate program on AYA cancer care/ oncology to be offered by the University of Melbourne in 2011. This program is the result of a national project funded by the Australian Government's Youth Cancer Networks Program.

The Graduate Certificate of Adolescent Health and Welfare Oncology stream is offered part-time and can be completed in one year. It has a multidisciplinary focus and will be offered via distance education (online) to allow for a flexible program of study designed to meet participant needs regardless of context or location. Scholarships are currently available and cover a significant portion of the course fees.

See the course website <http://www.rch.org.au/cah/courses> for more information on this exciting opportunity to enhance your knowledge and skills in working with young people with cancer.

David Thomas, Chair

Biobanking Interest group [formerly Tissue Banking]

There is a nationally recognised imperative to support efficient and timely access to biospecimens for cancer clinical trials and research. COSA's report on "Developing a nationally coordinated approach to biobanking for Cancer Clinical Trials in Australia" is available on the COSA website www.cosa.org.au

The recommendations from this report have been reviewed by members of the working group and we thank Nik Zeps, David Goldstein and Steve Ackland for their contributions. A short term action is 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.

Nik Zeps, Chair

Cancer Care Coordination Interest group

To support work in priority areas identified by the CCC Interest group, expressions of interest were called from within the interest group for those wishing to participate in working groups of the COSA Care Coordination Interest group. The working groups include:

- Networking and communications (Lead by Jacinta Elks, QLD)
- Professional development/education (including responsibility for future conferences) (Lead by Douglas Bellamy (NSW))
- Research and evaluation (Lead by Patsy Yates)

An Executive committee comprised of the three working group leaders, and Violet Platt (WA) has been formed to lead and coordinate the Cancer Care Coordination Interest group's working group activities. Each working group has a planning teleconference scheduled during Sept-Oct to identify priority activities.

A breakfast session "Cancer Care Coordination – Where are we at?" is to be held in conjunction with the COSA ASM. At the session, panellists will discuss progress with respect to Cancer Care Coordination in Australia. Each of the CCC working groups will provide a response, by outlining initiatives planned/underway focussed on improving the coordination of cancer care in Australia.

COSA hosted a meeting on July 27 between an expert group from the COSA Care Coordination Interest

group and Professor Kathy Eager, an expert in outcome measures from the University of Wollongong. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss approaches to developing and implementing outcome measures appropriate for cancer care coordination. The meeting agreed the next steps for the COSA CCC Interest group would be to:

1. Develop a framework for evaluation
2. Agree on the levels (patient, provider and system) and associated domains of evaluation that are relevant to CCC
3. Undertake a critical review of existing measures and the evidence underpinning these
4. Consider development of guidelines for evaluation that may be applicable to different contexts

Patsy Yates, Chair

NETs Interest group

The management guidelines for NETs have been progressing well, with most of the sections close to being finalised. The complete guidelines will be posted on a publically available wiki platform over the next month, and launched at the NETs breakfast session at the COSA ASM. The discussion forum on the wiki platform will allow wider feedback and evolution of the guidelines over time. Our thanks go to the NETs working group for their dedication to this initiative.

Yu Jo Chua, Chair

Complementary Therapies Interest Group

The Executive is looking forward to the Conference and the Complementary Therapies Concept Development Workshop to be held on Friday November 12, the day following the COSA ASM.

A dedicated session at the 2010 ASM

A scientific session dedicated to presentation of recent advances in complementary care will take place on Tuesday afternoon. Dr Lesley Braun a pharmacist, researcher and educator will be chairing this session.

Concept Development Workshop Nov 12th – some places still available so register your interest!

The workshop will take place at the Melbourne Convention Centre and aims to provide interested COSA members with a better understanding on how to approach research around complementary & integrative therapies. If you have ever hoped to undertake your own project, here is your chance to get started!

You do not have to attend with a concept. Experts in oncology research fields will be on hand to give guidance on how to understand research in complementary and integrative therapies.

The workshop is free to COSA members attending the COSA ASM.

- \$50.00 for a COSA member attending the workshop on the day only
- \$120.00 for a Non-COSA member attending on the day only

To see program please go to conference website, <http://www.cosa2010.org/> Post-conference meetings. If you are not attending the Conference and wish to register your interest, contact kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au.

I look forward to seeing you all in Melbourne in November.

Bogda Koczwara

Other news

Centre for Palliative Care

The "CENTREPIECE" is the newsletter for the Centre for Palliative Care and the purpose of this is to promote evidence-based practice in palliative care. For more information about the Centre, and to view the newsletter please visit their website www.centreforpallcare.org.

If you would like a hard copy of the newsletter, please ring 03 9416 0000 or email: centreforpallcare.org.

Polo Ralph Lauren Pink Pony Campaign scholarships- applications now open.

Nurses and community health workers in rural, regional and remote Australia are invited to apply for scholarships to expand their skills in caring for local women with breast cancer. Scholarships are available for educational activities such as further study or attendance at conferences. The scholarships are funded by the **Polo Ralph Lauren Pink Pony Campaign** - a collaboration between **Polo Ralph Lauren** and **National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC)**.

Nurses and community health workers providing care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are encouraged to apply.

Information on how to apply for a scholarship, and the application form can be found on the NBOCC website: www.nbocc.org.au/pinkpony.

Scholarship applications close: Monday 25 October 2010.

Please contact NBOCC directly if you require any further information:

Phone: 02 9357 9414
Email: janelle.webb@nbocc.org.au

COSA Member benefits

Your membership to COSA entitles you to a free subscription to the

Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology

APJCO is an important vehicle for the collaboration and exchanging of information on key issues and developments in the Asia-Pacific region on all aspects of cancer treatment and care.

Any COSA members not receiving copies should contact the Society at cosa@cancer.org.au.



COSA Annual General Meeting

Will be held in Room 109 at the
Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre,
Melbourne, Victoria on Wednesday 10 November 2010
from 12:30pm – 1:30pm

AGENDA

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES: Bruce Mann
2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM:
The minutes of the meeting held 18 November 2009 to be confirmed.
3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Bruce Mann
4. BUSINESS:
 - Financial Reports & Auditor's Statements: Rob Firth
Appointment of Auditor
 - Company Limited by Guarantee – Constitution Bruce Mann
To consider and, if thought fit, pass, with or without modification, the following resolutions and special resolution:
The Association apply for registration of the Association under The Corporations Act as a company limited by guarantee and the application for registration as a company limited by guarantee adopt the constitution, a copy which is annexed hereto and marked "A".

General Information
Rule 30.1 provides that a member may only vote in person. Proxies are not permitted.
5. 2011 SUBSCRIPTIONS Bruce Mann
6. NEW BUSINESS:
 - Change of Group Name Bruce Mann
– Cancer Research Group to Cancer Biology Group
7. NEXT MEETING:
The next AGM will be Wednesday 16 November 2011 Perth Convention Centre

**LESS THAN 4 WEEKS TO GO FOR AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER
CANCER MEETING COSA'S ASM -
SO REGISTER NOW!! www.cosa2010.org**

Full program on the web page:

The COSA ANZ BCTG program is now uploaded to the conference web page

http://www.cosa2010.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=70&Itemid=76.

Please take time to view the array of high quality speakers along with a truly exceptional program on offer at this year's ASM. As per our usual process a pocket timetable guide will be made available at the conference to assist your movement between sessions.

**Coming to a
satellite meeting
pre or post COSA?**

Details are evolving in relation to the broad range of special interest groups/ meetings taking place pre and post the ASM.

Even if you have already registered, it is easy to add/ amend your preferences to your profile.

Simply return to the registration page and your dashboard will allow you to make the changes.

**Interested in making
up a table for the
Conference Dinner?**

Speak to your friends and organise a table for the Conference Dinner, Wednesday 10 November

Visit the COSA Booth on the first day of the conference and book yourself a table.

**CONGRATULATIONS
go to the winners of:**

COSA TRAVEL GRANTS

Ilona Juraskova; Sally Goss; James Harrison; Liliana Lyniv; Talia Hayman; Pauline Tanner; Chris McKeon; Johanna Dalton; Shannon Pike; Joanne Bowen; Rachel Gibson; Cindy Tan; Peter O'Shaughnessy; Rachel Dear; Amanda O'Reilly

COSA-IPSEN TRAVEL GRANTS

Caitlin Sheehan; Elizabeth Lobb; Kylie Museth

COSA TRAINEE TRAVEL GRANTS

Hilda High; Darshit Thaker; Kate Webber; Bavanthi Balakrishnar; Hilary Martin; Viet Phan; Terence Chua; Adnan Nagrial; Jain Kumal; Baerin Houghton

Presentations for the grants will take place during the ASM – please check the final program.

★ **Attention: Singers,
Musicians and
Dancers!** ★

DO YOU HAVE TALENT?

★ There are currently 2 acts for 'COSAs Got Talent' that need your help

- ★ **Broadway Spectacular** needing about 15-20 singers/simple dance moves
- ★ **Classical Ensemble** requiring players of intermediate level or higher


Please contact **Fran Boyle** for the Broadway Spectacular fran.b@bigpond.net.au or **Sid Selva** for the Classical Ensemble Sudarsha. Selva-Nayagam@health.sa.gov.au

Music will be circulated prior to the ASM and groups will be offered a run through prior to the performance.

Clinical
Oncological
Society of
Australia

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT!
**COSA'S
38th
Annual
Scientific
Meeting**

15-17th November 2011
Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
TUMOUR STREAM FOCUS: Colorectal And Urological Malignancies



For more information visit www.cosa.org.au Tel - 61 2 8063 4100

COSA Education and Professional Development - Spaced Education Pilot

An exciting new COSA initiative later this year will be to pilot a Spaced Education program (a new and evidence based online learning program developed recently at Harvard). The ASM survivorship plenary "Beyond Cancer" has been identified as an excellent session to form the foundation for the subsequent online training program. It is anticipated that this plenary will provide key points for the online module, and is an area of strong professional interest. We would like to acknowledge the Workforce Education and Development Group at the University of Sydney for their contribution to this project.

Are you a budding Photographer?

"Cancer and beyond: Through the lens", the inaugural COSA Photography Competition is open to all members of COSA

Details can be found at

http://www.cosa2010.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=74&Itemid=79

First Prize

is a Panasonic LUMIX DMC-FH20-S Digital Camera RRP \$349

Entries close 5pm, Friday 22 October 2010



COSA Annual Report

If a member is interested in receiving a hard copy of the COSA Annual Report, please contact:

The COSA Secretariat

Phone: 02 8063 4100

Email: cosa@cancer.org.au

who will be happy to mail you a copy.

TOM REEVE ORATION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANCER CARE

Congratulations to the 2010 recipient of the Tom Reeve Oration Award

PROFESSOR JOHN FORBES

COSA's 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting

9-11 November 2010 | Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

'Cancer & Beyond'



The COSA Annual Scientific meeting has become an unmissable event on the calendar of all Australian cancer health professionals. This year, we anticipate almost 2000 participants from all aspects of cancer care will participate in our 3 day meeting, flanked by professional days and specialty seminars.

Our theme 'Cancer and Beyond' will focus not only on state of the art diagnosis and management of cancer, but long term issues both for survivors and carers, living with the legacy of cancer and its aftermath. The tumour streams to be highlighted are breast and gynaecological cancers, melanoma, familial cancers and urological cancer, tied together through a focus on translational research and survivorship. There is something for everyone, with topics such as "Mental health issues in cancer patients" "Survivorship as a cancer health professional" and "Personalised medicine and how it will change practise."

Our 2010 partners are the ANZ Breast Cancer Trials Group, BreastSurg ANZ, the Sixth Sino-Australia/New Zealand (RACS) Conference on Surgical Oncology and the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) and others.

COSA will again host a number of pre and post satellite meetings, 'Clinical Professional Days' and a Consumer Forum. We will also facilitate meetings of a number of the National Cooperative Cancer Trials Groups including ANZ Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG), ANZ Melanoma Trials Group (ANZMTG), ANZ Gynaecology Oncology Group (ANZGOG) and ANZ Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP).

The growth in our ASM has led to innovations, such as:

- Streamlining of abstract submission and evaluation, with emphasis on high quality original research presenting mature data
- Large number of awards for "Best of the Best" Oral and Poster sessions
- A pre COSA workshop relating to a conference stream. "Everything you want to know about breast cancer" will be of particular value to trainees and junior staff, as it includes basic research and its translation into clinical practice.
- Inaugural Presidential Lecture, preceding our "Hot Topic Debate"
- ..And for a bit of fun, we are introducing "COSA's got talent" at our Conference Dinner!

We have already confirmed a number of leading experts from both Australia and the international community.

SO... CAN YOU AFFORD TO MISS OUT???

Check out our website www.cosa2010.org and DIARISE NOW!

See you there,

Eva Segelov,
2010 convenor

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



COSA's 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting

9-11 November 2010 | Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre



'Cancer & Beyond'



Australian New Zealand
Breast Cancer Trials Group

2010 Invited Speakers include:

Dr Monica Morrow, MD, FACS

Surgical oncologist with a practice dedicated to the treatment of breast cancer. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA

Dr Christos Sotiriou, MD, PhD

Head of Functional Genomics & Translational Research Unit Jules Bordet Institute, Brussels, Belgium

Dr Sara Booth MD FRCP

Clinical Director Palliative Care Services; Associate Lecturer University of Cambridge, London, UK

Dr Isabel White

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

Prof Martin Hauer-Jensen, MD, PhD, FACS

Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Surgery, and Pathology University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas, USA

Dr Jervoise Andreyev MA PhD FRCP

Co-chair of the British Society of Gastroenterology Guidelines Royal Marsden Hospital, London, UK

A/Prof Ann Partridge

Assistant Professor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard, Boston USA

A/Prof Matt Loscalzo

Associate Clinical Professor Medicine, Cancer Symptom Control Program, University of California, USA

Professor Hani Gabra

Professor of Medical Oncology, Division of Surgery, Oncology, Reproductive Biology and Anaesthetics, Imperial College, UK

Dr Rowan Chlebowski

Department of oncology and internal medicine, Harbor/UCLA Medical Centre California, USA

Mr Mark Kisson

Consultant Breast and Melanoma Surgeon, Mount Alvernia Hospital Guildford, UK

Dr Edith Perez

MD, Practicing haematology, oncology and internal medicine, Mayo clinic, Jacksonville, Florida USA

Dr Antoni Ribas

MD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Surgery at University of California, Los Angeles USA

Dr Mark Robson

MD Practicing Oncologist Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, NY USA

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE

