



COSA NEWS **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Professor Bruce Mann, President, COSA

Welcome to the final edition of the Marryalyan for 2009. With many activities and issues progressing simultaneously, the team at COSA has been particularly busy over recent months.

COSA ASM 2009

COSA's 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting is approaching and all signs point to this being an excellent meeting. Our thanks go to members of our dedicated Convening Committee who have worked hard to ensure there is plenty on the program for everyone, with state of the art plenaries on the management of lung and CNS cancers, parallel sessions on topics ranging from the financial costs of cancer to drug safety, an interactive session which will focus on international projects ("So you think you can help"), and much more. Our "Hot Topic Debate" this year will focus on how the pool of cancer research money should be divided. "Only one pie, how do we slice it?" will be convened by Ms Jenny Brockie, host of the SBS Insight program. We thank and acknowledge all our industry sponsors.

There will be meetings of two of the Cooperative Cancer Trials Groups – COGNO and ANZUP – after the ASM, and a number of COSA supported meetings before and after, including meetings related to Care Coordination, Geriatric Oncology, Oncology Social Work and Psycho-

Oncology. It is very pleasing that the COSA ASM is able to be a focus for an increasing range of meetings and activities by various professional groups involved in cancer care.

Early registration numbers are promising but we would like to see more of you attend, and please encourage others who might not be COSA ASM regulars to come along and experience the richness of this meeting.

COSA ASM 2010

While most of our attention has been focused on the 2009 ASM, the framework for 2010 has also been laid. The 2010 ASM will be in Melbourne from 9 to 11 November. Eva Segelov has agreed to be the convener. After the excellent meeting she convened in Sydney in 2008, and the great work she has done pulling the program together for 2009, we asked her to convene in 2010 so that her corporate knowledge of our ASM and all its complexities would not be lost. I am delighted that she agreed to my request, and we are building a strong Melbourne-based convening committee to support Eva.

COSA considered being part of the Australian Health and Medical Research Congress, but decided that our meeting had become too big and complex to fit within another meeting.

The 2010 meeting will focus on the aftermath of cancer and also on translational research. The focus will be on breast and gynaecological cancers, as well as hepatobiliary and pancreatic cancer, but we also expect to have strong programs in some other diseases.

We are very pleased that the Australian and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group will be having its Annual Scientific meeting in association with our 2010 ASM. The Sino-Australian Surgical Oncology meeting will also be part of the ASM, and we are in discussions with other groups who may join us as well. **Please note the dates in your diaries – 9 to 11 November 2010. It will be a meeting not to be missed.**

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Public issues

There are a number of issues that have occupied much of COSA's time and attention in recent months. These are described throughout this edition of the *Marryalyan*, but I will summarise some of the most prominent.

- **Regional and Rural Cancer Centres.** COSA has been advocating for improved cancer care for people in regional areas for many years, and we were delighted with the Federal Government's announcement of the allocation in the budget of more than \$500 million to build regional cancer centres in Canberra and up to 9 other sites.

Our current objective is to maximise the chance that this initiative translates to optimal cancer care for patients in regional and rural Australia. We held a workshop in Canberra on 4 August to discuss the best possible structure and function of regional cancer centres. It was well attended with representatives from most of the states, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) as well as key cancer clinicians and consumers. The afternoon workshop was ably facilitated by Ian Olver. There was general agreement that the workshop was productive and the recommendations were useful. The report from the workshop is available on the COSA website.

The guidelines for submissions for funding were released by the Prime Minister and the Health Minister recently. COSA is now working on our response to these draft guidelines. One of our major points will be the need for these newly established centres to fit clearly within a network of cancer centres that includes both regional and metropolitan centres. Such a network is essential to allow patients with complex problems access to optimal treatment and to ensure efficient development of common resources and services such as clinical practice guidelines and clinical trials.

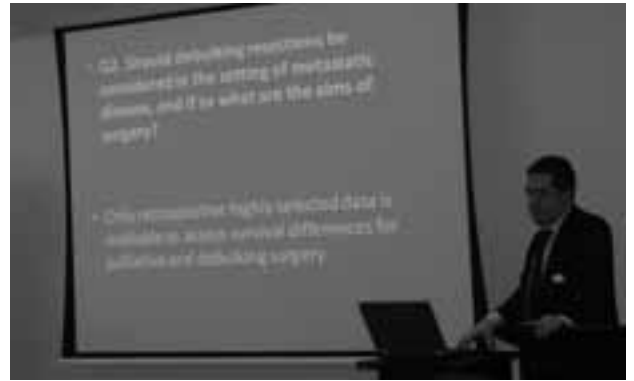
- **Tissue Banking.** Our project to facilitate tissue banking associated with cooperative trials group trials throughout Australia continues. We have consulted with the CCTGs to gain a better understanding of what they are doing and where the gaps are. We have commissioned Deloittes to help produce a solutions paper which will guide the national biobanking standards for clinical trials. This will be the subject of a forum on Monday November 16th immediately prior to the ASM. Thanks to Nik Zeps, David



COSA President, Professor Bruce Mann, welcomed attendees to the workshop "Regional and Rural Cancer Centres: A Way Forward" held in Canberra on 4 August.

Goldstein and Steve Ackland, who have been working with COSA's new project officer, Tanya Wigg and Marg McJannett on this important project.

- **NETs.** The next step after our 2008 workshop on Neuroendocrine Tumours was to convene a meeting to formulate draft Australian Guidelines for the management of NETs. Yu Jo Chua worked with David Goldstein, Kathy Ansell and Marg McJannett to organise a successful meeting in Melbourne in August. This meeting was supported by unrestricted grants from Novartis and Ipsen, and the draft consensus guidelines document is in preparation.



Dr Ben Thomson reviewing the surgical management for the NETs guidelines

- **AYA.** Implementation of the Federal Government's Youth Cancer Networks Program is progressing. This initiative was the result of a 2007 election promise whereby \$14 million was committed to improve cancer outcomes in this small but special group of patients.

Most of this money will be spent in the various states on development of AYA cancer services, but a portion has been retained for national projects to support those services, including development of guidelines, a national AYA cancer network and increasing AYA patients' access to clinical research.

Thanks to the hard work of David Thomas with support from Lisa Maree Herron and our AYA Cancer Steering Committee, working with CanTeen and other stakeholders, detailed proposals have been developed for national projects that will significantly contribute to improving outcomes for AYA patients.

- **Gene patents.** The issue of patents over genetic sequences was brought to public attention when the licensee of the patent for the BRCA 1 and 2 genes threatened to invoke its commercial rights over testing for mutations in these genes in Australia. The issue became the topic for our Hot Topic debate at our 2009 ASM. A Senate Inquiry was established, at which many COSA members presented on behalf of their own institutions, I represented COSA and Ian Olver represented the Cancer Council Australia.

The challenge is that the law needs to encourage invention of new diagnostics and therapeutics to allow more effective treatments to be developed and introduced, yet not allow unreasonable commercial exploitation. The committee was certainly interested in our views, and we were asked to make specific recommendations on ways in which the law should be changed. We thank Dr Luigi Palombi for his help with our submissions.

As this is the final *Marryalyan* for 2009, I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and holiday season. I look forward to catching up with many of you at the ASM in November.

I wish to acknowledge the work of all of those who contribute to the success and vitality of COSA. My thanks to the Executive, Council, interest group Chairs and all our members. It is through all those contributions that COSA has become the vital organisation that it is today. Finally I acknowledge again the tireless work of Marg McJannett and her team that keeps the entire enterprise going.

Professor Bruce Mann
President – COSA

COSA ASM Posters

As was the case last year most of the submitted papers for COSA this year will be presented as posters. However there will be more prominence given to posters with time to interact with delegates at specific viewing times but also with poster discussion times with senior faculty members. We will further improve on these based on last year's experience. There will also be prizes awarded for the best posters in each major subject grouping on each day.

Roche

COSA acknowledges Roche for their continued support of the Best of the Best Awards.

COSA Annual General Meeting

Will be held in **Room 5** at the **Gold Coast Convention Centre, Qld** on
Wednesday 18 November 2009 from 12:30pm – 1:30pm

The 2009 "Tom Reeve Oration Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care" will be announced at the ASM Conference dinner

Congratulations go to the winners of:



★ COSA Travel Grants

Carrie Lethborg, Margaret Colbeck, Prunella Blinman, Mary Ryan, Kathleen Scott, Haryana Dhillon, Francina Wade, Cate O'Kane, Anna Petterson, Georgina Halkett, Merran Findlay and Addie Wootten.

★ COSA-IPSEN Travel Grant Awards

Azad Arun, Belinda Kiely and Lakshmi Venkateswaran.



★ COSA Trainee Travel Grants

Bhaumik Shah, Kathryn Field, Viet Phan, Shang Heng On Yeap, Aneta Suder, Laurence Kreiger, Sumitra Ananda, Baerin Houghton, Sarwin Bishnoi, Victoria Bray, Steven Kao, Shang Sukumaran, Roy Amitesh and Kim Ann Ung.

Presentations for the grants will take place at the ASM final session.

COSA SUPPORTS ADVANCED TRAINING SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP

The Specialist Advisory Committee (Medical Oncology), Royal Australasian College of Physicians and MOGA have organised a Workshop for Supervisors of Advanced Training to be held at COSA's Annual Scientific Meeting on Thursday 19 November

Venue: Gold Coast Convention Centre, Broadbeach, QLD

Speakers: Dr Craig Lewis (SACMO), Prof Kevin Forsyth (Dean of Education, RACP), A/Prof Fran Boyle

Topics: The details of advanced training and the College – role of the SAC, role of the supervisor, who to contact, forms, Independent Review of Training

- Proposed assessment tools for advanced training
- The difficult trainee
- Teaching on the Run

Who should attend: Anyone who is currently serving as a supervisor, but we want to particularly encourage attendance of new supervisors and those who have not previously attended a workshop.

The workshop will commence immediately following the HOT TOPIC DEBATE:

"Only One Pie, How Do We Slice It?" Cancer Research In Australia, facilitated by Jenny Brockie, from the SBS *Insight* program.

To register, please email Kay Francis at the MOGA executive (kfrancis@moga.org.au or moga@moga.org.au). Registrations close Monday 16 November

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

ANZCHOG is looking forward to the COSA ASM, with the opportunity to highlight current research in paediatric brain tumours. Delegates will hear from Dr Jacques Grill, Director of the Brain Tumor Program at the Gustave Roussy Institute in Villejuif, France, along with Assoc Prof David Ashley from the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, and Dr Normand Laperriere from Princess Margaret Hospital and the University of Toronto, Canada.

There will also be a session on survivorship, a significant area of concern, research and practice within the paediatric and adolescent and young adult (AYA) fields.

Although many tumours in children are not found in adult patients, I would encourage all delegates to attend these sessions.

ANZCHOG has a new Psycho-Oncology group which will hold a workshop at the end of November to set a research agenda for this growing area of interest.

In the area of clinical trials, Assoc Prof David Ashley (Director of the Children's Cancer Centre at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne, and CEO of Australian Children's Cancer Trials) has recently attended a conference and meetings with representatives of the USA-based children's cancer trials consortium, Pediatric Oncology Experimental Therapeutics Investigators Consortium (POETIC). This has opened up potential opportunities for ANZCHOG's paediatric cancer centres to participate in POETIC trials and for our trials to be opened by members of POETIC.

Another area of activity for ANZCHOG has been to commission a discussion paper on issues relating to patients and families from culturally and linguistically (CALD) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) backgrounds. The discussion paper raises many issues, varying from state to state along with the profile of its CALD and ATSI populations, especially relating to getting children from these backgrounds onto clinical trials. ANZCHOG will further pursue these issues to ensure these patients receive the best possible care.

Peter Downie, Chair

Email: peter.downie@rch.org.au

Breast group

The COSA Breast group will have a busy year ahead with breast cancer being one of the focus diseases at the 2010 meeting. This meeting will be co-hosted by the ANZBCTG and hopefully signals a closer cooperation with the groups.

The BreastScreen evaluation report has been recently made public and is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/screening/publishing.nsf/Content/br-evaluation-report-cnt>

This major assessment of BreastScreen has called for invitation of women from 45 to 75 and more standardisation of service provision across different

jurisdictions. There is the possibility of co-locating symptomatic and screening clinics and more rigorous differentiation of very high risk women as being not suitable for the BreastScreen program. The document is long but seems a sensible and realistic appraisal of the current service and provides clear direction for the future.

There has been the ongoing observation by a number of colleagues in NSW that the Medicare rebate for MRI in BRCA carriers is not being utilised because of the limited access to accredited MRI machines. I would appreciate any feedback from members of this subgroup if this has indeed been their experience both in NSW and throughout the country. This important investigation needs to be available and compensated by Medicare for this high risk group of women and also more broadly in clinically indicated situations.

Andrew Spillane, Chair

Email: andrew.spillane@smu.org.au

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia

The city of Newcastle hosted the CNSA's 12th Winter Congress in June 2009. Keynote speakers this year include Sara Faithful, from the UK, and Nancy Teixeira, from the USA. Of particular note the CNSA launched our position statement on *Tobacco Control and Smoking Cessation* at WC (www.cnsa.org.au on the publications page), along with launching the final EdCaN Framework and Resources site (www.edcan.org). Our annual Winter Congress will be held in Perth in 2010.

I have no idea where the last few months went after Winter Congress!! But I do know that great work has progressed. There has been quiet a flurry of activity in getting CNSA representatives onto the following activities: a COSA Nutrition/Head and Neck project, Prostate Cancer Foundation activities, research activities, a Cancer Australia Lung Cancer Advisory Group, and others. We were invited to join the Australia and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group (ANZMTG) and have been asked to review the ANMC (Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council) guideline document on professional boundaries 'A Nurse's Guide to Professional Relationships' (developed in conjunction with the New Zealand Nursing Council), and which are consistent with the Codes of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

The ballot has been held for elections for state/territory position representatives on the National Executive Committee. As we have previously announced on email, Dr Mei Krishnasamy from Melbourne will 'spring' into the Chair role in January 2010. Joining her will be Louise Nicholson (TAS, and remaining on the committee), and the newly elected members: Tracey Doherty (SA), Sandy McKeirnan (WA), Donna Milne (VIC), Sandie McCarthy (QLD), Megan Nutt (ACT) and Anne Mellon (NSW). Tish Lancaster is an ex-officio member as the Asia-Pacific representative to ISNCC.

Congratulations to those nurses – thank you too to the others who also nominated and showed great interest and commitment to the CNSA. It was the hottest ballot we have had for years!!

Of course planning is underway for Winter Congress in Perth in 2010. Lucy Patton will chair the Local Organising Committee there and work with Maryanne Hargraves, our WC Coordinator, to achieve another great Winter Congress.

I have been progressing discussions with our near neighbours in New Zealand, looking to work more closely with them into the future. If you have any particular contacts over there you could share with me I would be keen to hear of them if you emailed me.

We head into another busy couple of months. I know that Chris Long from QLD has been contributing well to the scientific program for the Annual Scientific Meeting of COSA on the Gold Coast in November. Perhaps we'll see you there. As I write, I know many cancer nurses are also packing their bags to head to Perth for the annual Palliative Care Conference – hope you are having a small holiday break with that too!!

International Society in Cancer Care (ISNCC) - The CNSA is participating in planning for the 16th international meeting to be held in Atlanta, USA, next year in March 2010. See www.isncc.org for further details.

See the CNSA Sept Newsletter on our website for a more detailed wrap up of the activities of the CNSA.

Gabrielle Prest, Chair

Email: gprest@nursing.edu.au

Cancer Pharmacists group

This is the last Marryalyan for 2009 so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the CPG committee for their assistance and hard work in 2009: Jim Siderov, Ben Stevenson, Dan Mellor and Vicki Wilmot. I would also like to thank all the CPG members for your continued support of the group.

CPG AGM

The CPG AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th November 2009 at 7.15am at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, Queensland. If you are attending COSA then please make every effort to attend the AGM, breakfast will be provided. I do require names of those attending in person for catering purposes. A call for agenda items will be made soon and the agenda will be circulated shortly after to enable those that cannot attend in person to register any comments. The CPG committee for 2010 will also be announced at the CPG AGM.

ASM 2009

I probably don't need to remind you that the COSA ASM 2009 is on November 17th -19th at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, Queensland. The program is the best yet with something for all health care professionals with a wide variety of speakers and topics. I encourage you to attend sessions outside your usual 'zone' to learn something new and enrich your knowledge. For an updated program please visit the COSA website www.cosa.org.au.

The CPG have invited Dermot Ball a cancer pharmacist from the UK as our international pharmacy speaker. Members have been asking for a pharmacy international

speaker for a few years so please show your support by attending and hearing what Dermot has to say. Dermot is a Cancer Network Pharmacist for the North London Cancer Network in the UK and is currently also working with the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) as the Chemotherapy Safety Project Pharmacist. He was a member of the expert advisory panel for the NCEPOD (National Patient Enquiry into Patient Outcomes & Death) report on deaths that occurred within 30 days of chemotherapy. Dermot has also been leading the update on the general guidance for oncology drugs within the British National Formulary (BNF). Dermot will be speaking at the first plenary session at the ASM on safety in cancer and will also be talking in the concurrent sessions.

ASM 2010

This will be held in Melbourne so start planning now. Maria Larizza, Senior Oncology Pharmacist at The Alfred will be the CPG representative for the convening committee. Thanks Maria!

The CPG course 'Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacy Practitioners' 2010

Following the success of the first course, a 2nd course will be held on February 6th and 7th 2010 in Brisbane.

The 2 day course is designed to assist pharmacists in developing their clinical skills in cancer pharmacy practice and combines informative lectures with interactive workshops to assist practitioners in developing their skills and abilities in the many processes involved in providing cancer treatment to patients. The course is aimed at pharmacists who are already working in the area of cancer but have less than 2 years experience. For more information and to register you or your staff please visit the COSA website or cpg.iamevents.com.au/index.php. Early bird rate closes on 1st December and COSA/CPG members get a further discount on the registration price.

We are also planning to hold a more advanced level course on 'Cancer Therapeutics for Cancer Pharmacists' in 2010, to meet the needs of our membership. Further information will be circulated soon.

The website

The website has been reviewed and some changes have been made, including the discussion forum format. Please continue to feedback comments on the website to the committee or to COSA. There are some excellent discussion threads happening so please continue to use the forum. This is where we post updates and information about areas of interest and current developments.

Occupational exposure to cytotoxic chemotherapy and monoclonal antibodies

A response has been received by the Cancer Council Australia on the risks associated with occupational exposure to antineoplastic agents and monoclonal antibodies. This will be discussed at the CPG AGM 2009 and circulated prior to this.

Etoposide

The report to support the standardisation of the prescribing, dispensing and labelling of etoposide

formulations is complete and the results will be presented at COSA 2009. The intention is to use the report to develop multi-disciplinary recommendations on the prescribing, supply and labelling of etoposide.

The COSA guidelines for the Prescribing, Dispensing & Administration of Chemotherapy

ASCO have recently released their guidelines 'The American Society of Clinical Oncology/Oncology Nursing Society Chemotherapy Administration Safety Standards'. At the time of writing this they have been issued as an early release in the Journal of Clinical Oncology and hence no citation is available. It is pleasing to note that they have referenced the COSA guidelines. Just a reminder that a copy of the COSA guidelines is available to members and non members on the front page of the COSA website as a PDF document.

The Intravenous Chemotherapy Supply program (ICSP) and new PBS rules

As you will know the planned implementation date of September 1, 2009 has been delayed pending further negotiation with stakeholders. COSA and the CPG will continue to keep you informed of where this is heading and the final arrangements.

Regional Cancer Services

Following the Australian government's announcement of \$560 million to develop regional cancer services a national workshop was convened by Australia's peak non-government clinical and community-based cancer organisations in August 2009. A report is available on the COSA website.

Drug access

COSA is developing a project to review patient access to pharmaceuticals used to treat cancers or cancer-related conditions. This is in response to healthcare professional and consumer group concerns regarding equity of access to expensive pharmaceuticals. The CPG is one of the key groups involved and I will keep members informed. Thanks to Dan Mellor for assisting with this.

Expressions of Interest for COSA related projects

Thanks to all those who sent in EOIs for the Neutropenic Fever Guidelines Working Party and the multidisciplinary steering committee for the Head and Neck Nutrition Guidelines. Your names have been passed onto the relevant persons.

That's it from me for 2009; see you at the Gold Coast in November – remember to bring your sunscreen, your enthusiasm and your dancing feet for the dinner.

Christine Carrington, Chair

Email: christine_carrington@health.qld.gov.au

Cancer Research group

The Tissue Banking project has certainly been a feature for our group this year. In saying that, it should be emphasised that such a project represents only one facet of 'Cancer Research'. In contemplating future direction for this group; I have been investigating the profile and nominated interests of the active COSA members, and in fact – the Tissue Banking Project is an area that would

seem to be of low interest to many who identify themselves with the Cancer Research group. That is, those who identify themselves as being actively engaged in laboratory based Cancer Research probably number less than 50 out of the 350 + members who nominate 'Cancer Research' as one of their groups. Most of those who nominated an affiliation with 'Cancer Research' also nominated at least one other group, with only 11 people stating that this was their only group. Of those 11 only five were obviously laboratory based.

This quick review of membership suggests that the Cancer Research group, established some 30 years ago to provide a forum for those interested in doing research of all types, is probably a concept somewhat immersed within the broader COSA group now. Almost everyone engaged in cancer care or control is doing 'research' and logically elect to identify with the professional or disease type group closer to their specialty. It would seem fair to state that "Cancer Research" as a group is no longer as useful for a person to specifically identify oneself with.

This begs the question as to whether it is time to revisit the need for this group or perhaps a new incarnation is required. As a laboratory researcher myself, I am aware that very few of my colleagues find motive to be involved with COSA or attend the ASM; an observation I have had since I joined in 2002. There are numerous reasons for this, but perhaps the main ones are that COSA ASM hasn't traditionally catered sessions related to laboratory research and with well known financial limits in research, researchers obviously choose to spend their budgets attending meetings where there are such sessions. This creates a vicious cycle, that to date, has meant that laboratory based research has not been recognised within COSA. The question is, do we want to break that cycle, and if yes then perhaps we should look at reestablishing the 'Cancer Research' group and forming instead; a 'Laboratory Research' group. Some have suggested this be called a 'translational' group, but that also applies to any kind of research if it can be 'translated' into clinical practice and is not a useful discriminator in the cancer field.

Molecular biology is already having an impact in the clinic and this will be increasingly so. This impact will be felt throughout the continuum of care, both in primary prevention and in treatment and as such, it is in my view, extremely important that basic laboratory research be developed as a focus of interest for COSA. I would be delighted to hear from any COSA members on whether they share this view or disagree with it. I will be holding an informal meeting at COSA ASM this year on the Wednesday evening 5.30pm-6pm: meeting room 9 (prior to the dinner). Please email tanya.wigg@cancer.org.au to register your interest in attending &/or simply email your thoughts if you cannot be there.

Nik Zeps, Chair

Email: nik.zeps@sjog.org.au

Cancer Voices Australia

Recognition for work in Cancer

Ian Roos, inaugural Chair of Cancer Voices Victoria and board member of CVA was awarded the Medal of the

Order of Australia (OAM) in the June honours' list for his services to cancer patients. Ian became a vocal advocate for cancer patients following diagnosis with prostate cancer some 10 years ago. He holds a number of Government appointments and works closely with Cancer Australia as chair of its Research advisory panel. This is a fitting recognition for a great consumer.

Regional and Rural Cancer Centres

John Stubbs, Executive Officer of CVA was appointed to the Ministerial task force established to develop the draft guiding principles for RRCC. The principles were released by the Prime Minister on Friday 11 September 2009 and can be found on the Department's website at www.health.gov.au/hhf. CVA urges all interested parties to review and comment on the guidelines by early October 2009.

COSA hosted a Regional and Rural Cancer Centre Seminar in Canberra in early August and both John Stubbs and Ian Roos attended and provided a consumer overview at the conclusion of the meeting.

Intravenous Chemotherapy Supply Program

The Commonwealth Government has proposed a new model for funding intravenous cancer chemotherapy called the (ICSP).

CVA has major concerns with the proposal in terms of:

- Patient Safety
- Restriction of access
- Flow on to the patient of costs

We are continuing dialogue with the government on this matter.

Australian Health Ethics Committee

John Stubbs Executive Officer of CVA was recently appointed to the Australian Health Ethics Committee. This is a significant appointment for cancer consumers as the matter of ethical research, clinical trials and patient consent are of the utmost interest to cancer patients.

Other

In addition, the following remain at the forefront of CVA's advocacy agenda:

- eHealth – governance and privacy
- Radiotherapy – services, machines and staffing
- Genetics – genetic testing and the 'ownership' of genes
- Access and Equity of Cancer services

COSA Annual Scientific Meeting

CVA thanks COSA for the continued support for the Consumer Forum – the title this year is "It's just not about cancer".

CVA Annual General Meeting

CVA invites all COSA Annual Scientific Meeting attendees to its Annual General Meeting to be held prior to the Consumer Forum at 12 Noon on Monday 16 November.

John Stubbs, Executive Officer

Email: john.stubbs@cancer.org.au

Clinical Research Professionals group

ASM 2009

This year we are again able to hold a workshop in conjunction with the COSA Enabling Project. The workshop is being held on Monday 16th November on the day prior to the ASM and will be a fantastic workshop. The agenda can be found on the conference website, but in summary the day will cover

- A review of the updated RECIST criteria,
- Budgets; both private & public facilities, how and when to renegotiate your budget and funding for cooperative group trials.
- Ethics & Governance. In this session we will look at the separation of Ethics & Governance and how some Institutions have set up their Governance Units. We will also discuss how current ethics and governance issues are impacting Australia's ability to attract clinical trials.
- Influencing Skills & Conflict Management: A great interactive session has been put together on developing good influencing skills as well as conflict management. Mick Walsh will be the facilitator of the session and will no doubt be beneficial to all working in this area.

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.

ASM 2010

Planning has also commenced for our 2010 ASM to be held in Melbourne with a focus on breast cancer and hepatobiliary. The CRPG representative for the 2010 ASM convening committee will be Cate O'Kane. It is the intention of the Clinical Research Professionals to hold a workshop next year as well, so please email me (Cate.O'Kane@mcri.edu.au) with content ideas you would like to see covered in the workshop.

Annual General Meeting

We extend a warm invitation to any members of the CRPG who are able to attend the Annual General Meeting held at the ASM (see program for date & time). At this meeting, issues for the group are tabled including projects to work on for the following year.

The committee elections take place at this time also. This year, the following vacancies are

- Chair
- Deputy Chair
- Secretary
- General Committee Members

If you are interested in joining the committee or holding a position of office, feel free to contact myself or Kathy Hall for more information.

Nomination forms are available from Kathy (Kathy.Hall@mater.health.nsw.gov.au)

Finally, this is my last *Marryalyan* report and my final few months as Chair of the Clinical Research Professionals group. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for all their support. It has been a great opportunity for me both professionally and personally. I look forward to staying on the committee next year and support the new incoming Chair as well as representing the CRPG on the organising committee of next year's ASM.

Cate O'Kane, Chair

Email: cateok@yahoo.com

Epidemiology group

The focus of the Epidemiology group in recent months has been the acquisition and analysis of national cancer data to support two COSA initiatives. Both are collaborations between COSA and the Australasian Association of Cancer Registries and the AIHW that hosts the Australian Cancer Database. The first collaboration is addressing COSA's needs for geographical analysis of cancer incidence with respect to extant and planned cancer services, particularly radiotherapy, in rural and regional areas. Some preliminary material was presented to the Regional and Rural Cancer Workshop held in Canberra in August and further analyses will be presented at the COSA ASM in November. The second collaboration is to meet the data needs of COSA's Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Steering Committee Research Subgroup. Negotiations are underway within the same collaborative framework to obtain national data on incidence of these cancers and to explore questions surrounding the types of oncology service/facility at which this group of patients is treated and the extent to which clinical trial participation might be influenced by geographical and social factors. It is hoped to have some data available for the group to discuss at the ASM in November.

Graham Giles, Chair

Email: graham.giles@cancervic.org.au

Familial Cancer group

The Familial Cancer Clinics' Professional Development day, "Familial Cancer: Research & Practice 2009" meeting was held at a new venue this year, Mantra on Salt Beach, Kingscliff on the 11th August. Although many missed the more isolated feel of Couran Cove, there was fairly unanimous support for the ease of access to Kingscliff! Attendance included geneticists, counsellors, scientists, oncologists, urologists, gynaecologists and breast surgeons and this allowed us to comprehensively discuss emerging issues in the management of high risk patients. New data was reviewed regarding the screening of men with BRCA 1 and 2 for prostate cancer and the IMPACT study continues to recruit such men in clinics around Australia, testing the hypothesis that early and intensive screening will reduce prostate cancer mortality. The role of PARP inhibitors in the management of BRCA1 and 2 carriers was discussed and data presented. It is acknowledged that the advent of PARP inhibitors is likely to increase demand for BRCA1 and 2 testing in women with metastatic disease who may be considered for such therapy and who may not otherwise have undergone testing. Genetic counsellors Janet Tyler and Jess Koehler presented their experience of counselling patients who were considering entering a trial of a PARPi and were having genetic testing partly or largely to facilitate this. The day was rounded off with sessions on Von Hippel Lindau syndrome and familial hyperparathyroidism.

The biennial International Society for Gastrointestinal Hereditary Tumours (InSIGHT) meeting in Dusseldorf this year in June was enjoyable and informative with some very high impact presentations. Further analysis of the CAPP 2 study which randomised persons with HNPCC to use aspirin or resistant starch for polyp prevention has revealed an advantage to aspirin in this setting and this will be followed up in the CAPP 3 study. Australian investigators contributed significant numbers to this international effort. The finding of mutations in the *EPCAM* gene causing HNPCC with loss of MSH2 in tumours will hopefully allow



Professor Graham Giles presenting data on Australian Cancer Demographic & R&R Cancer Centres

us to make a genetic diagnosis in a number of families in whom mutation detection has so far failed. The next InSIGHT meeting will occur in 2011 in San Antonio and is highly recommended for those interested in hereditary GI syndromes, polyposis and screening of high risk populations.

Lara Lipton, Chair

Email: lara.lipton@mh.org.au

Gastrointestinal group

The 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting of COSA is rapidly approaching. Whilst GI cancer is not a major theme at this year's conference, the program is full of topics of general interest and is sure to provide a great educational opportunity for all who attend. On the first day of the meeting there will be a session focusing on colon cancer prevention which will be chaired by Bruce Armstrong. Other broad themes to be covered include geriatric oncology and remote and rural oncology.

A meeting of the Gastrointestinal group will be held at the COSA ASM on Thursday Nov 19th at 12.30 in meeting room 3. Please come along to offer your suggestions and thoughts on issues that our group can address. Whilst the AGITG represents the premier GI cancer research organisation, the COSA GI group can provide a voice in matters such as education, government health policy, health care funding, cancer prevention, cancer screening, treatment access and resource utilisation. There are many other topics that you may wish for the group to consider, so please attend the meeting and help contribute to the group's activity. Alternatively, feel free to contact me with your thoughts and suggestions.

Chris Karapetis, Chair

Email: c.karapetis@flinders.edu.au

Gynaecology group

ANZGOG has recently become incorporated and we need to thank Ayanthi Salgado for an enormous amount of work in ensuring a timely outcome for what has been a long and arduous process. Thanks also go to John Simes and Kim Russell-Cooper at the CTC for all their support.

The executive of ANZGOG had a strategic planning meeting on the 30th of August ably facilitated by Monique Pirrone from GE Healthcare. A number of priorities were discussed and hopefully these will be actioned in the near future.

Our clinical trials portfolio is somewhat quiet at present but we have recently commenced OVAR 16 with 3 sites having commenced accruing patients. PORTEC 3 continues to accrue at the optimal rate and a number of new trials are currently under consideration including "AURELIA" which is a randomised trial of Caelyx or weekly Paclitaxel or Topotecan, single agents versus these agents in combination with Bevacizumab in patients with platinum resistant ovarian cancer, having received no more than 2 lines of therapy.

It is hoped that the PARAGON study which is led by Michael Friedlander will receive funding and

subsequently become an Intergroup study in the near future.

The Symptom Benefit Study also led by Michael Friedlander is making excellent progress and has now been adopted as an Intergroup protocol.

ANZGOG sub-committees continue to work effectively and we are very grateful indeed for all the efforts of our committee Chairs and also for the support from our group of community representatives who gives us invaluable advice.

The next annual meeting of ANZGOG will be in Noosa from the 24th to 27th of February 2010 and it is hoped that as many of our Members will attend particularly since Dr Michael Bookman is our guest for the meeting.

Michael Quinn, Chair

Email: maquinn@unimelb.edu.au

Lung group

With the 2009 COSA ASM fast approaching and Lung cancer being one of the two focus areas, the news for the Lung group revolves around the exciting Lung/Thoracic Cancer component of the program. We will have several expert international speakers and a broad program that should appeal to the multiple interest groups (medical, nursing and allied health) that highlights COSA's stance as the premier multidisciplinary cancer organisation in Australia. Included will be a number of original research abstracts from Australian investigators. It is hoped that with the "airplay" the treatment of lung cancer will receive, its status as the greatest cancer killer, coupled with an invigorated patient advocacy, that finally, the relevant funding groups may apportion their funds accordingly to benefit lung cancer "victims" also, not just focusing on smoking cessation/prevention.

In regards to the management of lung cancer, 2009 has seen the publication of several key Phase III trials with the potential to change practice in advanced/metastatic lung cancer. Most are centred on the use of high cost drugs as "maintenance" therapy following first line chemotherapy – if only the criteria for PBAC drug approval are fulfilled for relatively prompt access for our patients. Perhaps the most important realisation for the lung cancer scientific community is that accurate diagnosis and histological sub-classification of non-small cell lung cancer has therapeutic implications. This therefore involves diagnosticians, pathologists as well as those involved with lung cancer treatment and it is hoped that COSA may assist in influencing modern best practice through communication to the relevant practice groups.

Nick Pavlakis, Chair

Email: pavlakis@med.usyd.edu.au

Medical Oncology group

I am pleased to be able to make my first report as the new Chairman of MOGA on behalf of the Executive Committee of MOGA including: Professor Michael Brown (Deputy Chairman), Dr Christopher Steer

(Treasurer), Dr Andrew Cameron (National Trainee Representative), Dr Linda Mileshekin, Dr Catherine Shannon, Associate Professor Gary Richardson, Dr Paul de Souza, and Dr Diana Adams.

On behalf of the Association I would like to acknowledge and thank Associate Professor Bogda Koczwara for her many contributions as Chair of MOGA over the last two years and for being such an inspirational as well as hard working leader. Thanks are also due to Dr Craig Lewis, who stepped down from his role as Deputy Chair at our recent AGM in Canberra in August.

In this, our 30th Anniversary year MOGA's operations and activities have focused on the growing needs of our profession and our increasing role in contributing to cancer control in Australia. Key educational programs developed for Medical Oncology trainees such as Communication Skills sessions on *Discussing Prognosis* have been offered in Perth, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide to date, with a Melbourne session planned for early October. An inaugural *Basic Science of Oncology Program* that attracted record attendances earlier this year is now available online to members and is set to become an annual program with plans for 2010 nearing finalisation.

These programs form part of a portfolio of educational opportunities that support Medical Oncology trainees and junior consultants in developing skills that they may not acquire in day to day training. More importantly, these programs reach beyond our membership and are open to other cancer disciplines and, as such, strengthen the quality of cancer care in Australia in general. For instance, the new *Education Program in Cancer Care* (EPICC www.epicc.org.au), developed by MOGA in conjunction with Cancer Australia was launched in early August and aims to extend this training beyond cancer specialties to the general practice and other non cancer specialties. This free online program has received substantial interest from medical and allied health practitioners and has recorded a large number of program participants from Australia, New Zealand and other countries in only a small number of weeks. Many MOGA and COSA members from other craft groups contributed to the development of this excellent educational resource. Congratulations and thanks to all concerned.

The MOGA 30th Anniversary Annual Scientific Meeting, on the theme of the *Epidemiology of Cancer: From Cause to Care*, held from 15-16 August 2009, at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra was well attended. We were delighted to be able to welcome Professor Jim Bishop, Chief Medical Officer and Medical Oncologist to this historic meeting and above all as the recipient of the 30th Anniversary Novartis Oncology Cancer Achievement Award. The Meeting was convened by Professor Robin Stuart-Harris, and focused on current research and new developments in clinical practice relating to the theme. International Keynote speakers included:

Professor Derek Raghavan MD Chair and Director of the Cleveland Clinic Taussig Institute, Ohio, USA and an active researcher in genitourinary oncology and geriatric oncology, who has helped address disparities in cancer care.

Dr William Foulkes Director of the Program in Cancer Genetics and Associate Professor in the Departments of Medicine, Human Genetics, Oncology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Practicing in clinical cancer genetics with interests in translational research in hereditary cancer, particularly breast, colorectal and prostate cancer.

Dr Thomas Rohan MD Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, USA. A cancer epidemiologist whose research focuses largely on the etiology and pathogenesis of breast cancer.

Dr Thomas E Hutson DO Director of Genitourinary Oncology for Texas Oncology; PA at the Baylor University Medical Center, Sammons Cancer Center in Dallas, Texas, USA and Co-Chair of GU research for US Oncology. Dr Hutson specialises in genitourinary oncology with a research focus in renal cell carcinoma, bladder cancer and prostate cancer.

The Program included a popular Symposium on *Gaining Momentum in Immunotherapy: Where are we now?* a thought provoking symposium on the role of immunotherapy in oncology with three of the world's leading experts:

Professor Peter Hersey, Newcastle Melanoma Unit, NSW, Australia

Dr Stephen Hodi, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass, USA

Professor Jonathan Cebon, Ludwig Institute, VIC, Australia

The symposium provided an overview of immunotherapy, focusing on its two primary growth areas: vaccines and checkpoint modulators, and their associated mechanisms of actions.

Additional sessions examined topics ranging from Oncology Drugs and their Availability, Cancer and the Media, Genetics and Cancer, Urological Cancer through to the history of Medical Oncology in Australia.

The ASM was followed by the highly successful, inaugural Best of ASCO® – designed to bring the highlights from the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting to Australian professionals. Best of ASCO was marketed extensively through the Australian network of collegiate oncology bodies and societies, as well as to MOGA contacts in the Asia Pacific. MOGA considers the 2009 Best of ASCO a great success, which was confirmed through members' and participants' feedback. It was great to see some hard science back as the focus of a MOGA meeting and to provide members with an opportunity for spirited and lively professional interchange – the halls of some workplaces were buzzing with discussion for days after the event!

Also, thank you to our entire national expert group who served as presenters (not an easy task to speak on someone else's research and then answer questions about it):

Breast Cancer – Associate Professor Fran Boyle

Gynaecological Cancers – Professor Michael Friedlander

Supportive Care – Associate Professor Bogda Koczwara

Genitourinary Cancer – Professor Derek Raghavan

Lung Cancer – Professor Michael Millward

Gastrointestinal Cancers: Upper – Associate Professor Tim Price

Gastrointestinal Cancers: Lower – Dr Niall Tebbutt

Thanks are due to Roche Australia for funding the Meeting with an unrestricted educational grant, as well as to ASCO, the speakers, the session chairs and the planning committee comprised of Dr Craig Lewis (Convenor), Professor Michael Brown and Associate Professor Bogda Koczwara. MOGA is committed to providing Best of ASCO Australia again in 2010 in conjunction with the Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney.

The advocacy role of MOGA over the last few months has centred on issues of access to oncology drugs. The MOGA 2009 Horizon Scanning report on new and emergent oncology drugs and related treatments has been in development since ASCO in June and will be tabled at our multidisciplinary annual Oncology Drugs Roundtable Meeting in November. In addition, MOGA's recommendations of expanding the listing for goserolin for early stage breast cancer have gone forward and the outcomes from a discussion paper on the Herceptin program for early stage breast cancer developed by MOGA are moving ahead. MOGA has also joined with COSA, PCPA and other professional groups in providing extensive feedback to the Department of Health and Ageing on the Intravenous Chemotherapy Supply Program.

In celebration of thirty years of Medical Oncology in Australia, several historic pieces documenting progress over the past three decades were developed in 2009 and recently launched. A narrative recounting the many years of MOGA, *Memories of MOGA*, by Professor Ian Olver was included as a supplement in the ASM Program Booklet and a short film, *View from the Chair*, highlighting MOGA's past Chairmen was produced and screened at the Annual Scientific Meeting. This will soon be online on the new MOGA website.

The Australian Medical Oncologist Workforce Study 2009 is also in the final stages of development and it has proven a considerable challenge to gather national data on Medical Oncology practices. This study will provide vital information on the status of the Medical Oncology workforce in Australia, in particular in the areas of rural and remote Australia. We have been assisted with this project by Professor Michael Barton and his expertise in working on the WA Radiation Oncology Workforce.

MOGA continues to be an active collaborator with other cancer organisations nationally and internationally, and plans are well advanced for Australia & Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development Workshop (ACORD www.acord.org.au) 2010 with applications opening on 7 December this year.

This will be the fourth ACORD Workshop to be held in our region and is one of only three workshops of its kind worldwide with the support of its collaborating partners: the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the European Society for Medical Oncology and the Clinical

Oncological Society of Australia. The underpinning goals of ACORD consist of imparting principles of good clinical trial design to apply in the clinic and in future research, and exposing participants to the full spectrum of challenges in clinical research through the teaching and mentorship by the international Faculty. ACORD also provides a forum to foster trans-national relationships and to facilitate greater research cooperation across the Australia – Asia Pacific region.

I look forward to providing the next update on MOGA activities.

Michael Michael, Chair

Email: michael.michael@petermac.org

Neuro-Oncology group

The neuro-oncology community is gearing up for the 2009 COSA Gold Coast ASM programme. Brain tumours are to be highlighted and will be a feature of the entire programme. Roger Stupp (Swiss medical oncologist) is probably the most well known global name in neuro-oncology (due to his eponymous Stupp protocol for glioblastoma multiforme) and he is one of our featured international speakers. The other neuro-oncology international speakers include Normand Laperriere from Canada and Renato LaRocca, a US medical oncologist. We will have all our guests working very hard throughout the programme. We also have an esteemed line-up of local speakers.

Tuesday 17 November will include a session on dealing with patients who pose cognitive and behavioural challenges as well as a session updating on whether there is in fact a link between mobile phones and brain tumours. **Wednesday 18 November** programme will begin with a brain tumour breakfast to highlight more uncommon primary brain tumours (such as ependymoma, chordoma and medulloblastoma). This session will have a paediatric/adolescent emphasis but will also have relevance to adult patients with these diagnoses. This breakfast session will feature yet another esteemed international expert – Dr Jacques Grill from France, a paediatric neuro-oncologist. The breakout sessions for the rest of Wednesday will be emphasising cerebral metastases in the morning; and spinal cord metastases in the afternoon. **Thursday 19 November** programme will start with a “Meet the Professor” breakfast with Roger Stupp followed by a plenary session on high grade gliomas; followed by an opportunity to hear local neuro-oncology research updates with “Best of the Neuro-Oncology Abstracts”. The Neuro-Oncology group AGM will be held 12.30pm Thursday lunchtime. There will also be a symposium on Thursday afternoon highlighting surgical and imaging advances in the glioma field, including an update from the AGOG (Australian Genomics and Outcomes in Glioma) programme. A big thankyou goes out to the ASM working party (which includes Kate Drummond, Lawrence Cher, Eng-Siew Koh, Lauren Martin, Ann Ratcliffe, Meera Agar and Kerrie McDonald) who have helped me enormously in putting together this varied and exciting programme.

There will be the COGNO satellite meeting (& 2nd ASM) on the **Friday 20 November**. This meeting will feature the same distinguished panel of international guests and will provide an opportunity to discuss up

and coming studies such as the CATNON study (an EORTC study which looks at a cross-over design of a modified Stupp protocol approach up-front for patients with anaplastic astrocytoma without 1p and 19q deletion) and to discuss new concepts. For all those participating in the COGNO meeting there will be a neuro-oncology dinner the preceding night (Thursday 19th November – venue to be confirmed).

The *National Consensus Guidelines for the Management of Astrocytomas and Oligodendrogliomas in Adults* will be officially launched at the COSA Gold Coast ASM (Thursday 19th November as part of the Glioma). It is currently being printed. In the interim, the draft version is available for perusal on www.cancer.org.au (click onto clinical guidelines, then onto brain tumours); alternatively the full link is <http://www.cancer.org.au/Healthprofessionals/clinicalguidelines/brain tumours.htm>

A sincere thank you from both myself as Project Officer and from Professor Michael Barton (Chair), on behalf of everyone involved, to Emeritus Professor Tom Reeve for steering the project as Convenor and to Christine Vuletic, his executive assistant. A big thank you to Steve Newton who donated the money in memory of his wife Val, making the project possible.

Looking forward to seeing you all very soon. The Gold Coast meeting is not to be missed.

Liz Hovey, Chair

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



Clinical
Oncological
Society of
Australia



Nutrition group

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

Following a successful submission to the Cancer Institute NSWOG (Head and Neck) for funding support to develop evidence based guidelines for the nutritional management of head and neck cancer; I was appointed project officer and commenced in July 2009.

This project will aim to develop national guidelines for this patient group which have a high incidence of malnutrition, often related to dysphagia and the side effects of their treatment. The aim is to address the entire patient care pathway from diagnosis, pre treatment, primary treatment, post treatment and rehabilitation, recurrent disease and palliative care. The guidelines will be submitted to COSA, CINSWOG and the Dietitians Association of Australia for endorsement.

Key achievements on the project to date include: advising key stakeholders of the project; forming the multidisciplinary steering committee and dietitian sub committee. These groups will be used for consultation during the guideline development, and should be finalised by the end of September with initial meetings held to determine the content and scope of the guidelines. The next steps will be to commence the extensive literature reviews required and commence the critical appraisal process using NHMRC guidelines.

Further updates will continue to appear here, so watch this space!

Teresa Brown APD – Project Dietitian
On behalf of Judith Bauer, Chair

Email: judy.bauer@uhealth.com.au

Palliative Care group

The Palliative Care group in COSA would like to plan for a professional day in 2010. Members are welcome to submit suggestions for a focus or topic for the day to group chair: meera.agar@sswhs.nsw.gov.au by Friday 13th November 2009. The group also needs to form a working party to further develop its role within COSA – if you are interested in participating please be in contact with the group chair. We are hoping for representation from a broad range of disciplines, including pharmacy, research professionals and oncology professionals with an interest in palliative and supportive care.

Recently the *Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines and the Needs Assessment Tool Progressive Disease – Cancer* (NAT: PD-C) have been released. These resources were developed and evaluated with support from the Australian Government Department of Health & Ageing. Further information is available from Ms Amy Waller at the Centre for Health Research & Psycho-Oncology (CHeRP) on Ph: (02) 4913 8609 or by email: amy.waller@newcastle.edu.au A summary version of the *Guidelines* and the NAT: PD-C are both available at <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-centre/cherp/professional-resources>.

I also draw your attention to APLI: Australasian Palliative Link International. APLI is a group of Australian palliative care personnel and supporters interested in the supportive development of palliative care in the Asia-Pacific region. For any practitioners who would be interested please find more details on membership and aims of this organisation at: <http://www1.petermac.org/apli/>

Meera Agar, Chair

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

Psycho-Oncology group

Research

PoCoG Concept Development Workshop. This workshop was conducted in Sydney over two days in September.

- Day 1 was a productive and collaborative day which drew together stakeholders with an interest in the topic of screening for distress. Summaries were provided of the international and national research which has been conducted on this topic in the past. To date, there is evidence that routine screening for distress and symptoms can increase discussion of these morbidities in doctor-patient encounters, and there is emerging evidence from pre-post studies conducted in Australia that this intervention can reduce morbidity. However no randomised controlled trial has been able to show evidence of increased uptake of psychosocial referral, or improved outcomes in distress long-term, resulting from routine screening. Pending outcomes of grant submissions already made in 2009 PoCoG will consider developing a project to examine this issue further.
- Day 2 provided an opportunity for the four writing teams developed on the basis of the previous Concept Development Workshop to meet face-to-face and discuss their protocols in detail. The specific outcomes of this day will be listed in the workshop final report available on the PoCoG website.

Scientific Meetings

- IPOS Congress: Australia was well-represented at the International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS) Meeting in Vienna in June, with both oral and poster presentations by members. Professor Phyllis Butow was presented with the Bernard Fox Memorial Award, and presented an overview of some of her research and other achievements. Congratulations Phyllis!

The initial meeting of the newly-established IPOS Federation was held, with useful discussion about international roles. Various working groups have been developed, for example to review curriculum and education in psycho-oncology. Tom Hack from Canada is chairing the task force on Guidelines, training and accreditation group examining Clinical Practice Guidelines, of which I am also a member.

The next IPOS meeting will be in Quebec from 25th to 29th May 2010. Informal discussion amongst delegates in Vienna led to the notion that members of OZPOS could work collectively to enable substantial

submissions to be made for workshops or themed sessions to be presented, strengthening our presence internationally. Members are encouraged to consider this and discuss further at the ASM in November.

- OZPOZ/PoCoG Professional Day. Members who have not registered for the Professional Day on 16th November are strongly encouraged to do so. The Professional Day is an initiative of COSA to foster the educational and professional needs of the various groups. The program for this day brings together researchers and clinicians working in the field of psycho-oncology, and will provide opportunities for discussion about implementation of evidence-based psychosocial care.
- COSA ASM. The ASM is being held on the Gold Coast from 17th to 19th November, and members who have not registered yet are encouraged to do so. The program is very inclusive of psychosocial issues, and just some examples are listed below.

Tuesday 17th November:

- **Breakfast session 7:00am:** PoCoG database of quality of life measures presented by Madeleine King
- **Plenary 8:30am:** Look before you leap: Awareness: includes presentation about Screening for Distress by international speaker Barry Bultz
- **Concurrent session 11:00am:** Nutrition, exercise and cancer: includes presentations by Naomi Rogers about sleep, and Sandi Hayes and Janette Vardy about exercise
- **Concurrent session 11:00am:** Lung cancer: includes presentation by Afaf Girgis about carers
- **Plenary 1:30pm:** Lung cancer-state of the art: includes presentation on Psychosocial Interventions in Lung Cancer by international speaker Patricia Hollen
- **Concurrent session 4:00pm:** Workshop: dealing with patients with cognitive and behavioural problems
- **Concurrent session 4:00pm:** Mesothelioma: includes presentation by international speaker Patricia Hollen on quality of life evaluation in mesothelioma

Wednesday 18th November

- **Breakfast session 7:15am:** international speaker Carolyn Messner discussing communication for lung cancer patients and their carers for the health care team
- **Plenary 8:30am:** The brain and cancer: includes presentation by international speaker Carolyn Messner about psychosocial support services for people living with brain tumours and their carers
- **Concurrent session 11:00am:** The best of the best Supportive Care oral presentations: includes participation of international speaker Barry Bultz as discussant
- **Plenary 1:30pm:** Tyranny of distance: includes presentations about care coordination by Patsy Yates and presentations by international speakers Carolyn Messner and Patricia Hollen

- **Concurrent session 4:00pm:** Running an effective psycho-oncology service: includes presentation by three international speakers – Barry Bultz, Carolyn Messner and Patricia Hollen, and presentation by Belinda Thewes about screening for distress in rural settings

Thursday 19th November:

- **Plenary 8:30am:** Primary brain tumours: State of the art: includes launch of Guidelines which are inclusive of psychosocial issues
- **Concurrent session 11:00am:** Financial cost of cancer: includes presentation by Louise Gordon on financial aspects of psychosocial care
- **Concurrent session 11:00am:** Complementary care in cancer: challenges for practicing oncology professionals includes several presentations of interest including communication about complementary care by Penny Schofield
- **Hot topic 1:30pm:** Only one pie – how do we slice it?

Update on CanNET Project: the development of the Online Cancer Services Directory

The Online Cancer Services Directory is an initiative arising out of CanNET NSW, a Cancer Australia, Cancer Institute NSW funded project to network cancer services across the public, private and primary sectors of Northern New South Wales.

The directory will take the form of a website designed to help general practitioners, clinicians and consumers search for cancer-related services by cancer type and/or location, in the CanNET NSW region. It will specifically include a list of multidisciplinary teams and cancer treatment centres, including chemotherapy and radiotherapy units.

It is intended that general practitioners will be able to use this directory to find a cancer specialist that works within a multidisciplinary team environment for patient referral. Consumers will be able to search for their nearest cancer treatment centres, public and private, and find information about how to make an appointment, and where available, specific intake instructions relevant to their treatment.

Currently, the directory is in its final stages of development for the CanNET NSW region. It will be accessible through the Cancer Institute NSW website and regular updates will be furnished to reflect changes in services. Over the coming year, the Cancer Institute NSW will be expanding the directory to include the same cancer services for the whole of New South Wales. Contact: Bronwen Conn, Project Officer, Cancer Institute NSW | PO Box 41, Alexandria NSW 1435 | www.cancerinstitute.org.au

Professional Development

Two initiatives in Queensland are progressing, funded by the Queensland Health State Cancer Care Funding Initiative.

- The first involves a strategy to develop a cohort of skilled communication skills trainers across Queensland, to ensure that staff working in oncology have local access to communication skills training.

Two Train-the-trainer workshops have been conducted with 17 health professionals drawn from across the State, utilising resources developed by the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre. Newly-trained facilitators have delivered workshops in Townville, Cairns, Rockhampton and Brisbane, supported by an experienced facilitator to ensure confidence and sustainability. Further workshops are planned for the Gold Coast and Brisbane.

- The second initiative is designed to build capacity amongst experienced psychologists working in cancer care, and expand confidence and skills base especially in regard to highly complex clinical situations. A pilot project of videoconferencing peer supervision has started, with participating psychologists working in cancer care in Cairns, Toowoomba, Bundaberg and Brisbane.

I can provide further information about these initiatives: jane.turner@uq.edu.au

Jane Turner, Chair

Email: jane.turner@uq.edu.au

Radiation Oncology group

We are already nearing the end of September and the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting is almost upon us. The organising committee have produced a first class programme and promises to be another exciting event.

The Gold Coast is a wonderful place to be in November. The weather is warm and sunny and there are plenty of activities on offer. I urge all of you to come and join us this year in Queensland.

Also worth noting is that this year's Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists meeting will be held in Brisbane between 22-25 October at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. It has been combined with The Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR) and The Australasian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM). Drs Brigid Hickey and Helen Perez and their organising team have produced a superb program for this year.

Planning for next year's COSA ASM to be held in Melbourne has already begun, and I am seeking a member of the Radiation Oncology group to volunteer for the organising committee. This is a unique opportunity to interact and network with people from other disciplines but with a similar interest in oncology. If interested please contact me on sandro_porceddu@health.qld.gov.au

Look forward to seeing you at the ASM.

Sandro Porceddu, Chair

Email: sandro_porceddu@health.qld.gov.au

Regional & Rural group

The dust has barely had time to settle (quite literally for those on the East Coast) and it will soon be time to prepare and submit proposals to the HHF for funding for the Regional Cancer Centres of Excellence Program. This funding of \$560M to establish new, or enhance

existing regional cancer centres is a most welcome commitment by the Federal Government.

The main aim of the program is to improve the access of patients in regional and rural Australia to a national network of high quality cancer treatment centres. It is hoped this will foster a culture of excellence amongst existing centres and act as a springboard for the development of comprehensive cancer care in areas that have the capacity to grow.

On August 4th a National Workshop was held in Canberra to discuss how the \$560M could best reduce the stark geographical inequities in cancer outcomes. I would like to thank all of the invited delegates who attended. A copy of the report, "A way forward for regional cancer centres – independent expert recommendations" can be found on the COSA website. A list of all those who attended can be found on this. This meeting has proven very useful in the establishment of the draft guiding principles for regional cancer centres. These guidelines will be finalised after October 8th. They are to be found on the Department of Health website www.health.gov.au/hhf

Once the guidelines have been checked it is proposed that invitations for applications will be advertised nationally. Applications will need to follow the basic principles listed below:

- Demonstrate need
- Aligns with cancer services
- Provides or links to comprehensive cancer care
- Provides equitable and affordable access
- Addresses sustainability and workforce issues, and
- Supports clinical research networks

I would like to extend a thank you to all members who submitted abstracts for the November ASM. I look forward to meeting with everyone at the Gold Coast. There are several sessions dedicated to regional and rural issues so I encourage everyone to attend.

I would also like to take the opportunity to ask for volunteers from the Regional and Rural group to assist with the 2010 ASM program development. Please email me if you are able to assist.

Adam Boyce, Chair

Email: drboyce@bigpond.net.au

Social Work group

As the year draws to a close it seems that there are lots of things happening about the place. The important date for the diary is November 17-19th for the COSA ASM. The program looks great and will offer participants lots of interesting sessions across the spectrum of oncology care. Following the conference the social work group (OSWA) will be having their annual conference 20-21st November. This has been made possible through the assistance of COSA via the successful grant application. This year's conference theme is "Progressing Social Work Practice: More Tools for the Tool Box" This year our

International Keynote Speaker is Carolyn Messner DSW, MSW, LCSW-R, BCD. She is the Director of Education and Training at CancerCare in the United States. She is also an Adjunct Instructor for the Post-Master's Certificate Program in Social Work Administration and Supervision at the Hunter College School of Social Work, City University of New York. Our National Keynote Speaker is Dr Pam McGrath B.Soc.Wk; MA; PhD. Pam is a NHMRC Senior Research Fellow and is Director of the International Program for Psycho-Social Health Research at the Central Queensland University. For more information about conference program or details on how to register please visit the OSWA website on www.oswa.net.au.

To other news, as always our members have been busy in their own practice, providing excellence in psycho-social care, to this end I would like to congratulate Dr Carrie Lethborg who was awarded the Catholic Health Australia 2009 Emerging Leader award, congratulations and well deserved! Alongside of this Dr Cynthia Holland was awarded a Churchill fellowship to continue her work with young people, this is a wonderful achievement. Cynthia has been instrumental in the development of a new resource for young people. For more information or to have a look at this great resource please go to www.mykitewillfly.com.au This really is fantastic innovative work. There are lots of various projects, research collaborations and clinical practice that oncology social workers are involved in across the country, to be part of this I encourage you to visit the website and join the organisation.

As this is the last *Marryalyan* for the year, I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas, I hope you have some time to enjoy family and friends and wish everyone a wonderful New Year. I hope to see you all at the COSA ASM in November!

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

Angela Cotroneo, Chair

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

Surgical Oncology group

The recent highlight for the Surgical Oncology group has been International Surgical Week (ISW 2009), held in Adelaide 6-10 September.

The meeting represented four integrated societies including the International Association of Endocrine Surgeons (IAES), International Association for Surgical Metabolism and Nutrition (IASMEN) and Breast Surgery International (BSI), and a wide number of other international societies such as the International Society for Digestive Diseases (ISDS).

A very strong programme featured management of a diverse range of malignancies and it was a great privilege to have so many internationally renowned speakers.

Highlights included a postgraduate programme in breast surgery featuring a global perspective on the management of breast cancer with a diversity of

presentations from advanced oncoplastic techniques to the challenges in providing breast cancer services in low and middle income countries, Saudi Arabia and rural Appalachia. The theme of 'cancer services for all' permeated through all aspects of the programme and encouraged surgeons to think of what contributions can be made on a global, as well as a regional basis.

The BSI symposium focused on evidence based care, with the role of the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre being showcased and discussion of the place of surgical guidelines and roles for consumer advocates. Trainees were also offered the opportunity to attend a case-based clinical educational session on breast disease – a rare opportunity with so many international experts.

There were excellent discussion sessions on minimally invasive treatment of colorectal cancer and predictors of recurrence and survival along with global differences in the management for primary liver neoplasms with comparison between Japan, Italy and Germany.

A number of satellite meetings including an interactive educational programme "NETs – surgical and medical treatment strategies" added to a fabulous programme that catered for all surgeons involved in cancer management.

The major upcoming event for the Surgical Oncology group will be the Australian Sarcoma Group meeting 'Sarcoma Management Towards 2020' to be held in Brisbane 17-18 October. It promises to be a very stimulating meeting and all clinicians with an interest in sarcoma management are strongly encouraged to attend.

Susan Neuhaus, Chair

Email: susan_neuhaus@hotmail.com

Urologic Oncology group

Most of the activity for the group in recent months has centred around the COSA ASM. Jarad Martin and his team have come up with a fantastic program for urologic cancers. All this activity will take place on Thurs 19 Nov 2009, and the ANZUP ASM/AGM will take place on Friday 20 Nov 2009 at the same venue. I encourage you to attend the whole COSA ASM and to stay on for ANZUP, however if your time is limited then you can come for Thursday and Friday and get all the best bits of the genitourinary cancer program while staying only one night.

We start on the Thursday with a breakfast session sponsored by sanofi-aventis on the topic of improving the chemotherapy experience. The COSA/sanofi-aventis "Advancing Care for Prostate Cancer Patients 2009 Research Grants" will be formally announced then, although if you read the July *Marryalyan* you will

already know who our winners are. Later in the morning we have a session on multidisciplinary clinical trials for prostate cancer, with some eminent local speakers. The Urologic Oncology group AGM will take place at lunch time: bring your lunch and have a say in how the group is run. In the afternoon we have a satellite meeting sponsored by Novartis entitled, "A holistic approach to the RCC patient." This will be a case-based interactive session and will be chaired by Ron Bukowski from Cleveland. All of these promise to be entertaining and educational and you would be insane to miss any of it.

On Friday 20 November, ANZUP will hold its ASM and AGM and will incorporate the Scientific Advisory Committee. We are fortunate that Ron Bukowski will stay on and attend this meeting. The agenda will cover our current and pending trials, look at the concepts that have been coming up from the membership and the subcommittees, discuss strategies for integrating basic and translational research questions into our clinical trials, and set overall strategies for the group. COSA and ANZUP work very closely together but have distinct agendas and remits. I strongly encourage you to become a member of ANZUP as well as COSA, and have your say in setting the research and advocacy agenda for genitourinary cancers in Australia and New Zealand. Membership of ANZUP is free and anyone can join a subcommittee of the Scientific Advisory Committee. More information and application forms are available on our newly launched website: <http://www.anzup.org>

The 2010 COSA ASM will be held in Melbourne at our shiny new convention centre. Urologic Oncology will be a key part of the program. If you are interested in seeing how the process of organising a conference works, or want to participate in planning the program, please let me know.

COSA promotes eclectic membership and we have been fortunate that the membership of the Urologic Oncology group covers a wide range of disciplines and craft groups. This is already paying off in terms of bringing people together and identifying new opportunities for collaboration and research. We also have very effective consumer/community input and this will be very important as we move ahead in setting priorities for our activities into the future. We continue to develop links with various other groups within COSA and other cooperative trial groups nationally and internationally. We want to continue this very positive trend, so please encourage other people with an interest to join.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want further information or you would like to contribute to the groups.

Ian Davis, Chair

Email: ian.davis@ludwig.edu.au

Please mark your diaries!

COSA 2010 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
will be held at the Melbourne Convention Centre
9th – 11th November 2010



Care Coordination

The Care Coordination Interest group has been building on the previous work undertaken by COSA and group members have now volunteered their time to work in identified key areas of care coordination. Smaller working parties are involved in progressing work around, key outcome measures, professional development, research, standards and guideline development. The 'key outcome group' has developed a draft outcomes measurement tool that is being piloted by a small group of care coordinators.

A half day Care Coordinators Workshop will be held prior to this year's ASM. The half day workshop on November 16 aims to identify an agreed set of data items and tools for measuring care coordination outcomes. The workshop sessions will include

- Understanding Outcomes from Care Coordination: An overview of the COSA Care Coordination Outcomes Framework
- Principles for Measuring Care Coordination Outcomes
- Identifying Data Items and Tools for Measuring Care Coordination Outcomes
- Collecting and Reporting Care Coordination Outcomes Data in Practice

COSA is well placed to provide a forum for care coordinators and it is an exciting time to be involved. You are invited to share ideas on professional development needs, network and be a voice for care coordinator's working concerns.

If you are interested in joining the interest group and/or would like to attend the workshop on November 16 please contact Kathy Ansell at COSA, email kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au.

Patsy Yates, Chair

Complementary Medicines

The Complementary Medicines Interest group members who have been involved in the development of the resources for the website are nearing completion of the work. The CAM website section is under construction and a small working group has been formed to assist with advice and feedback on the appearance and ease of access on the website. The website section on the COSA site will be launched at the ASM.

CAM interest group members will have an opportunity to catch up at the ASM, so grab your lunch on the Thursday and come along to meeting room 7. I have commitments at an international meeting at this time and unfortunately will not be at the ASM this year. Kathy Ansell and the working group members look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Bogda Koczwarra, Chair

Developing Nations

The developing nations group is gearing up for a most interesting session at the ASM. This session will take place on Wednesday 18 at 4 pm. Titled 'So you think you can help' this will be an interactive session based upon the audience experiences, ideas and opinions which will lend to the concept of developing a cancer service abroad. Dr Allan Meares, specialist plastic surgeon and Interplast board member and Dr Nick Coatesworth – Vice-President, Medecins Sans Frontieres Australia (the international organisation – Doctors Without Borders), will be members of the panel and help guide the discussion. There will be interesting debate as the audience provide comment on topics around screening, education, treatment and the future direction for the COSA interest group. We welcome your participation and look forward to seeing you at the ASM.

Matthew Links, Chair

Geriatric Oncology

An important geriatric oncology survey has been recently circulated to COSA members. This survey will provide a window into the current management of older cancer patients in Australia. My thanks go to Dr Lakshmi Venkateswaran who has steered this project for the interest group. If you have not yet completed the survey can I urge you to take the time to provide valuable feedback.

The survey will be presented at a Geriatric Oncology workshop on 16 November on the Gold Coast, prior to the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting. This workshop objective is to define a national geriatric assessment tool for the Australian clinical setting. The main objectives for the workshop are to:

- Outline the current tools used abroad and in key centres in Australia;
- Identify the essential components of an ideal screening tool
- Consider the choice of the best tool based upon assessment criteria, feasibility, coverage of geriatric domains, patient acceptability, patient category and tool validation.
- Determine the outcome of the assessment model in Australia and the evaluation process

Further details regarding the workshop are available on the COSA – ASM website. To register your interest to attend this workshop, please contact Kathy Ansell at kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au.

I am now the "Cancer in the Elderly" lead on the Biogrid SAC and we have a meeting in Melbourne October 10th. This is a great opportunity to see potential geriatric oncology studies emerge in the near future. I look forward to seeing you at the ASM.

Christopher Steer, Chair

Guidelines for management of NETs

Development of guidelines for the management of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours (GEP-NETs) in Australia has significantly progressed, following COSA's second workshop of experts in Melbourne on 21 August 2009.

The need for recommendations for optimal diagnosis and management of these rare and complex tumours was established at the first Australian NETs consensus workshop, convened by COSA in partnership with the Australian and New Zealand Hepatic, Pancreatic & Biliary Association (ANZHPBA), the Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG) and the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine (ANZSNM), in July 2008.

The development of consensus guidelines is being led by the chair of COSA's NETs Interest Group, Dr Yu Jo Chua.

In the lead up to the August workshop, working groups of clinicians were established for each specialty area of diagnosis and management, to review existing evidence and/or current practice and draft guidelines relevant to their area of expertise. Former COSA President Professor David Goldstein facilitated the workshop, which brought together key contributors to the management of NETs from across Australia, representing all relevant disciplines and specialist groups, to review the draft recommendations. Participants identified issues requiring further investigation and those where there is consensus on guidelines for practice.



Dr Yu Jo Chua and working group clinicians at the NETs workshop

The working groups are now reviewing recommendations from the workshop to finalise their relevant chapters of the guidelines with the aim of having a final draft of the guidelines for presentation to the COSA Council at its next meeting in November.

The NETs consensus workshops were supported by unrestricted education grants from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia and Ipsen Pty Ltd.

Yu Jo Chu, Chair

Tissue Banking

As outlined in the last two previous *Marryalyan* updates, the tissue banking project has been a feature project this year. In summary, the goals have been to develop a strategy toward enhancing the infrastructure around using

biological specimens from Cooperative Group clinical trials for laboratory based translational research. This is progressing well, with a consultancy firm (Deloitte) appointed to assist with developing a solutions paper after further feedback in the coming month. We have scheduled a forum for invited stakeholders on the day before COSA ASM (16th November 2009) and a draft solutions paper is being circulated to those participating, for prior review. Tanya Wigg has joined the COSA team and is taking over coordinating this project from Paula Donaldson. I would like to thank Paula for all her work and wish her well for the future and extend a warm welcome on behalf of the Research group to Tanya.

Nik Zeps, Chair

COSA & Cancer Cooperative Trial Groups Enabling Project Update

In 2007 and 2008, the COSA Executive Officers Network (EON) developed a standard Clinical Trial Research Agreement (CTRA) for Cooperative Trial Groups (CTGs) in consultation with the Victorian Managed Insurance Agency (VMIA) and the NSW Department of Health. This standard CTRA for CTGs has been endorsed by VMIA, NSW Health and QLD Health and is currently being used by CTGs. The COSA EON are currently seeking support in other jurisdictional Health Departments for this national initiative. The CTRA for CTGs to be used in New Zealand, which has been developed by the COSA EON, is currently undergoing review in NZ. The development of these standard CTRAs for CTGs represents a substantial initiative towards the streamlining of processes associated with the management of clinical trials.

For the remainder of its funding period, The Enabling Project will focus on the Quality Assurance component, in particular, the provision of online training modules for clinical research staff. To achieve this, we are currently exploring partnering with a service provider to develop some oncology-specific online modules in order to supplement their existing online Good Clinical Research (GCP) modules.

In May 2009, we recently submitted an Expression of Interest for Continued Support from the NHMRC for the COSA & Cancer Cooperative Trial Groups Enabling Project. We look forward to a successful outcome from the NHMRC.

A combined Clinical Research Professionals group and the COSA & Cooperative Groups Enabling Project Workshop is scheduled for 16 November 2009, the day prior to the start of the COSA ASM. This Workshop is relevant to clinical research staff of all levels and clinical investigators and will cover an update on RECIST criteria, finance and budgeting for clinical trials, the separation of ethics and research governance and clinical trial research agreements. Further information regarding this Workshop, is available on the COSA ASM website.

Professor Steve Ackland, Chair
Dr Margie Campbell, Program Coordinator

Other news

New information for men with prostate cancer, their partners and families



Each year about 18,700 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in Australia. This diagnosis can have a significant impact on the person, his partner and his family. Some men and their partners go on to develop depression and anxiety. These are clinical illnesses, for which effective treatments are available.

A free booklet designed for taking care of mental health following a diagnosis of prostate cancer has been developed by *beyondblue: the national depression initiative* and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. The booklet contains comprehensive information on common reactions to diagnosis, undergoing treatment and what to expect on the cancer journey.

Maintaining Your Well-Being: Information on depression and anxiety for men with prostate cancer and their partners is now available for order at www.beyondblue.org.au

eviQ Cancer Treatments Online

Since 2005, the Cancer Institute NSW has provided cancer clinicians with 24-hour access to free, peer maintained and evidence based cancer treatment information via the CI-SCaT website. To date, 580 clinicians from all states and territories have participated in the development of content for CI-SCaT. Due to the increasing use of CI-SCaT, it was decided to rebuild the resource to provide a more user friendly, tailored, point of care resource to support clinical practice.

The new system, eviQ Cancer Treatments Online, (www.eviq.org.au) will be available from 8.00am on Tuesday 20 October 2009. The site has many new

features, including a suite of new calculators, information for primary health care clinicians, exportability to other information systems, secure discussion forums for clinicians and personalised web pages and filtered views for selected user groups. eviQ access requires a username and password, obtained through completion of a registration form, and all COSA members are encouraged to register.

The official launch of eviQ will take place at the 2009 Clinical Oncological Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting, and the Cancer Institute NSW looks forward to providing a new program to assist clinicians in the delivery of safe and optimal treatment for patients.

PATIENT BLOOD MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The National Blood Authority (NBA) and the Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT) submitted a proposal to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in 2007 requesting the review of the NHMRC/ASBT Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Use of Blood Components (2001). NHMRC subsequently included the review in its work program and assigned a Guidelines Assessment Register expert. The review is being undertaken under the auspices of the ANZSBT and the NHMRC with funding and project management provided by the NBA on behalf of all governments. The NBA has facilitated the formulation of a Steering Committee, Expert Working Group, and Clinical/Consumer Reference Groups.

The review will result in the production of 5 clinically focussed guidelines and 1 product focussed guideline. A 3 phased approach has been adopted with 2 guidelines being developed in each phase as follows:

- Phase 1 – Peri-operative and Critical Bleeding Guidelines
- Phase 2 – Obstetrics and Medical Guidelines
- Phase 3 – Paediatric/Neonates and Product Guidelines

Interested groups, organisations and individuals will be invited to make submissions on the draft recommendations when they are made available for public consultation later this year.

You can keep up to date with the development of the Patient Blood Management Guidelines by visiting the NBA website at: www.nba.gov.au/guidelines/review.html

Polo Ralph Lauren Pink Pony Campaign

Applications open for scholarships to improve local breast cancer care

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. 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).

The scholarships will be awarded for further study or attendance at conferences to improve the care and support of women diagnosed with breast cancer in rural, regional and remote areas. Nurses and community health workers providing care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are encouraged to apply.

How 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: Friday 30 October 2009

COSA'S 36TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING



**Clinical
Oncological
Society of
Australia**

**17-19 November 2009
Gold Coast Convention Centre**



Cancer Services and Our Community: o awareness o access o action

INVITED SPEAKERS INCLUDE

A/Professor David Ball, Radiation Oncologist, Associate Director – Education, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia

Dr Barry Bultz, Adjunct Professor and Chief, Division of Psychosocial Oncology, Director, Department of Psychosocial Resources and Program Leader, Psychosocial Oncology, Supportive, Pain and Palliative Care, Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Calgary, Canada

Dr Normand Laperriere, Staff Radiation Oncologist, Princess Margaret Hospital and Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dr Bernard J Park, Thoracic Surgeon, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA

Dr Roger Stupp, Multidisciplinary Oncology Center, University of Lausanne Hospitals, Lausanne, Switzerland

Professor Patricia Hollen, Malvina Yuille Boyd Professor of Oncology Nursing, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, USA

Dr Dermot Ball, Network Pharmacist, North London Cancer Network, UK

Dr Catherine Terret, Department of Geriatric Oncology, Centre Leon Berard, Lyon, France

Dr Jacques Grill, Department of Paediatric and Adolescent Oncology, Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France

Dr Natasha Leighl, Medical Oncologist, Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, Canada

Dr Carolyn Messner, Director of Education and Training, Education Department, CancerCare, New York, USA

Dr Ron Bukowski, Professor of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, Ohio, USA

Dr Renato LaRocca, Director, Kentuckiana Cancer Institute, Kentucky, USA

Professor Tony Mok, Professor, Department of Clinical Oncology, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

All details and processes online at WWW.cosa2009.org

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PLEASE NOTE THE MEETING THIS YEAR WILL RUN FROM TUESDAY 17 NOV TO THURSDAY 19 NOV