



COSA NEWS **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Sandro V Porceddu, President, COSA

The first three months of 2013 have flown by so quickly. I am so impressed by the excellent work done by the COSA members and staff – often it goes unrecognised until you're in the hot seat!

In recent months I have had the opportunity to represent COSA at a number of meetings, such as the National Cancer Expert Reference Group informing COAG, and Cancer Australia's Intercollegiate Advisory Group. It is impressive to see how highly regarded COSA is among these groups, and the opportunity it provides to have high-level input on matters relating to cancer control.

Over recent weeks members have featured prominently in the media on behalf of COSA. Dan Mellor and Christine Carrington featured in the broadcast and print media about the availability of chemotherapy drugs online and the possible side effects of taking such drugs without a prescription. I spoke on the matter of a cure for cancer and vaccination of boys to prevent oropharyngeal cancer following an invitation from the West Australian Clinical Oncology Group (WACOG) to present to their constituents. One of my presentations concentrated on new data linked to the rise in throat cancers, where I encouraged parents to have their young sons vaccinated against human papilloma virus after a surge in throat cancers linked to the virus. HPV,

the same sexually transmitted virus that causes some cervical cancers is now known to be responsible for up to 80 per cent of cancers of the tonsils and back of the tongue. Previously, smoking was thought to be the major cause. The national HPV vaccination program, which has been given to schoolgirls to prevent cervical cancer since 2007, is a simple way to reduce future cancer risk in boys as well.

With the passing of the new Constitution we are moving rapidly toward formally operating as a Company Limited by Guarantee. We are working diligently to implement the processes and procedures outlined in the Constitution – at the time of writing this report the Council are voting on the members which you nominated for the new Board. I look forward to announcing the new Board membership in the very near future.

Marie Malica and the team are continuing their work toward improving our engagement with members and the broader community through various electronic media, and are close to launching our new website and revamped e-newsletter.

In this issue of the Marryalyan I would like to highlight two important Groups who have been very productive over the past few months – the Cancer Care Coordination and Geriatric Oncology Interest Groups.

- The Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group have an excellent program planned for their Professional Development Day to be held at the CNSA Winter Congress in July. Their workshop will showcase a position paper developed by members of the COSA Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group on the role of the cancer care coordinator. The paper aims to provide a consistent understanding of the cancer care coordinator role across Australia and acknowledges additional roles often described as care coordination. Delegates will also explore the practical implementation of screening tools into their clinical

setting. We are covering the registration costs of this workshop for COSA members.

- The Geriatric Oncology Interest Group held a Concept Development Day in March 2013. This workshop, attended by 26 health professionals from varying backgrounds, provided attendees with a chance to present a synopsis of a geriatric oncology clinical study they would like to develop, and obtain feedback on how to improve the research and structure of their proposals. Once completed, the workshop report will be available in the members' area of the COSA website.

Please feel free to contact me or Marie with any comments or suggestions at cosa@cancer.org.au

Sandro V Porceddu
President - COSA

Executive Officer's Report

Well, one might think that things slow down over the Festive Season and the New Year, but at COSA I think things just get busier!

One of the significant functions we fulfil on behalf of our members is advocating to government on important issues – the most recent matter being the recent Senate Inquiry into the supply of chemotherapy drugs such as docetaxel. COSA's submission outlined the wide ranging ramifications of the PBS price disclosure cuts, and the data we presented was of great interest to the Senators of the Committee. In the short term, while negotiations with the Government continue, these costs have been absorbed but this is not viable in the longer term, particularly with another round of PBS price reductions (including paclitaxel) on 1 April 2013. Our sincere thanks go to the submission working group, chaired by Dan Mellor, for producing a high quality document in a very short amount of time.

In early April, the Minister for Health, the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP, released the report of the McKeon Review – Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research – Better Health through Research. As COSA members would be aware, in partnership with Cancer Council Australia and the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups, we put forward a submission particularly requesting the review panel place emphasis in support for clinical research and clinical trials. It was pleasing to see many of COSA's recommendations appear in the final report, most notably those relating to support for: the infrastructure required for databases and biobanks; clinical research within health services; improved research education for health service providers and clinician researchers; and streamlined ethical approval.

COSA ASM 2013

The COSA ASM Program Committee is making excellent progress with the program, with the draft program outline already available on the conference website www.cosa2013.org.

As I'm sure all members are now aware the 40th ASM theme "Cancer Care Coming of Age" will highlight

geriatric oncology – an emerging area of interest for COSA members. The disease theme will concentrate on gastro-intestinal cancers and will encompass gastric, oesophagus and hepatobiliary tumours which are often neglected at major meetings. To allow delegates the flexibility to attend sessions in their area of interest the program is structured so that geriatric oncology will be featured on Tuesday, upper GI cancers on Wednesday, and colorectal cancer on Thursday.

In addition to an extensive and broad representation from Australia, I am delighted to announce that the following invited international speakers are confirmed:

- A/Prof Thomas Aloia, Surgical Oncologist, USA
- Prof Dirk Arnold, Medical Oncologist, Germany
- Dr Vanessa Blair, Surgeon, New Zealand
- A/Prof Alex Chan, Pharmacist, Singapore
- Dr Ian Chau, Medical Oncologist, UK
- Prof Harvey Cohen, Geriatric Oncologist, USA
- Prof Patti Ganz, Medical Oncologist, USA
- Dr Lee Jones, Exercise Physiologist, USA
- Dr Janine Overcash, Geriatric Nurse Practitioner, USA
- Prof Bas Wijnhoven, Surgeon, The Netherlands
- Prof Rebecca Wong, Radiation Oncologist, Canada

One of the ASM highlights is the Presidential Lecture on the final day. We are honoured that Professor Ian Maddocks accepted our invitation to deliver the lecture. Professor Maddocks is an eminent palliative care specialist and was awarded Senior Australian of the Year in 2013. Now Emeritus Professor at Flinders University, he continues daily care for the terminally ill.

COSA will once again host the Advanced Trainees Weekend prior to the ASM, 10-11 November 2013 in Adelaide. Similarly to the ASM, the Trainees Weekend will feature upper GI cancers on Saturday and lower on Sunday. This intensive weekend workshop is aimed at advanced trainees in surgery, medical and radiation oncology; as well as junior medical staff, nurses and allied health professionals. Leading clinicians in Australia are invited to facilitate a balanced, multidisciplinary program, including plenary sessions, advanced knowledge workshops, meet the experts and interactive sessions to consider more complex cases in the management of gastro-intestinal cancers.

COSA and the CCTGs

COSA continues to work with the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups (CCTGs) to progress issues of common importance. Together we convened a workshop at the 2012 ASM – Long-term follow-up of clinical trial participants: Challenges and opportunities – to enable stakeholders to discuss the current limitations and opportunities to increase long-term follow-up of clinical trial participants, in order to improve cancer care in the future.

The key issues identified from the workshop were:

- The need for long term outcome data
- The potential of health record linkage
- Embedding research in clinical practice
- Supporting clinical research professionals

The workshop also resulted in an extensive list of recommendations for COSA and the CCTGs, individually and collectively. The challenge will be to prioritise what is achievable in the short and long term and by whom. COSA will continue to work with the CCTGs and other organisations, to advocate for and implement the workshop recommendations.

Baby news!

Announcing the newest addition to the COSA team. Hayley Griffin gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on 21 February 2013 – Adabelle Scarlett Grace, weighing 3.35kg. We wish Hayley and her family all the very best, and look forward to welcoming Hayley back to work in 12 months.

Marie Malica
Executive Officer

THE TOM REEVE ORATION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANCER CARE

The Tom Reeve Award, offered annually by COSA, formally recognises a national leader who has made a significant contribution to cancer care.

Nominations are now open for the 2013 Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care, closing Wednesday 13 June 2013.

To be eligible nominees must:

- have made a significant contribution to cancer care through research, clinical leadership and/or community service
- have made a substantial contribution over a relatively long period of time
- be nominated by a COSA member and have support from a member of COSA Council
- be an Australian resident

Each nomination should include:

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

The successful nominee will be presented with a Gold Marryalyan at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting (November) at which he/she will deliver an address highlighting appropriate aspects of their area of professional interest, which will also be published in the Society's journal *Cancer Forum*.

Nominations and supporting documentation should be sent to cosa@cancer.org.au by **Wednesday 13 June 2013.**



Previous Tom Reeve Award recipients: (L-R) Patsy Yates (2009), David Ball (2012), Phyllis Butow (2011) & Alan Coates AM (2006)



Abstract Submission Guidelines

Online Abstract Submission

Abstract submission is online at
<http://www.cosa2013.org/>

You are able to cut and paste your abstract from a Word document, into the online submission system. The link used for submission will first ask you to load your personal details on your "registration dashboard". This is the same site for registration and accommodation if required, and is an enduring page that will last for future COSA meetings. If you registered for the 2011 or 2012 COSA ASM &/or submitted an abstract, your details should still be in the system and can be updated if necessary.

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

1. Abstract submissions close:
Wednesday 14 August 2013 – COSA Abstract submissions

Wednesday 10 July 2013 – COSA Symposium abstract submissions
(Please refer to the Symposium Submission Guidelines for additional information)
2. Abstracts are invited to be submitted under one of the following categories:
 - Basic and Translational Research
 - Clinical Research
 - Education
 - Epidemiology
 - Health Services
 - Supportive Care *
 - Gastrointestinal Cancers (Conference theme)
 - Geriatric Oncology (Conference theme)
 - Service Provision **
 - Trials in Progress **

- * Supportive Care is a highly subscribed category. Submitters should consider the suitability of this category when submitting an abstract, as the potential for being awarded a presentation in the Supportive Care category is reduced.
 - ** These abstract categories are for non-scientific abstracts. They do not need to follow the normal abstract format and are only considered for poster submission and are still eligible for poster awards.
3. Maximum text length allowed is 300 words in length including sub-headings. To assist your preparation, abstracts may be structured under the sub-headings Aims, Methods, Results, Conclusions. The sub-headings must be concise, with only the first word starting with a capital letter.
 4. Reports of completed studies are preferred, and will be given preference in selecting oral presentations, especially over abstracts which do not report results but indicate that they will be reported at the meeting or mere descriptions of trial methodology. Results of research will be given preference over descriptions of services for oral presentations.
 5. Abstracts reporting quantitative studies should contain the planned accrual target and the actual number of patients recruited, levels of significance and confidence intervals of results. Abstracts of qualitative research should indicate how they chose their sample size (e.g. data saturation) and the methodology of analysis.
 6. Abstracts will be "blinded" to the reviewers. They will not be able to see the authoring or organisation information. Submitters must not assume that there will be knowledge of the previous work of a group or strength of a research group or researcher.
 7. Most of the submitted abstracts will be allocated posters as there will only be a limited number of slots for oral presentations. The best posters will be selected for specific poster presentation sessions with a discussant.
 8. Images are not accepted in abstracts.

Examples of exemplary abstracts

Please take the time to go to the conference website (<http://www.cosa2013.org/>) to review examples of an exemplary abstract, and abstracts which would not meet the standard required for acceptance.

Clinical Professional Day Funding

COSA invites applications from its constituent professional groups for grants of **up to \$7000** (+GST) to conduct “professional day” meetings or educational sessions aimed at fostering professional development. All COSA’s disease, specialist, craft and interest groups are encouraged to apply for a professional day grant. If your group was not a recipient in previous years we encourage you to apply for a grant in 2013.

The aim is to hold professional days on Monday 11 November 2013, immediately prior to COSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Adelaide 12-14 November 2013. Due to demand, some professional days may be held during or immediately after the ASM (program and space allowing). Depending on the circumstances, grants may also be allocated to support professional days at other times/places in the year.

Visit the members’ area of the COSA website www.cosa.org.au for guidelines and application form. Deadline for submissions is Friday 31 May 2013.

COSA 2013 Travel Grants

COSA Travel Grants

COSA is pleased to call for travel grant applications from financial Society members to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Adelaide from 12-14 November 2013. Each grant will be up to the value of \$1,000.

COSA-IPSEN Travel Award

In 2013 IPSEN continues its tradition of sponsoring four COSA members with travel grants up to the value of \$1,100. Recipients will have their names published in the Marryalyan and in the IPSEN Affinity Newsletter that goes to health care professionals within Australia.



COSA Trainee Travel Grants

COSA trainee travel grants aim to assist oncology trainees in Medical, Surgical or Radiation to attend the ASM or the Advanced Trainees Weekend in Adelaide 9-10 November 2013. Each grant will be up to the value of \$1,000.

**All travel grant applications close:
Monday 20 August 2013**

All funds awarded are to be used for expenses incurred in attending the ASM. Please note all recipients of travel grants will be reimbursed after the event.

Please refer to www.cosa.org.au for further information on all travel grants.

Group Reports

Cancer Biology Group

You would be forgiven for thinking that it has all gone a little quiet in regard to the issue of biobanking from clinical trials since the release of the consultation report early in 2011. Essentially the recommendations made in the report required a funding source and partnerships with biobanks and pathology practices. Unfortunately we have been in difficult financial times and in 2011 some will remember the threat to the medical research budget that resulted in the *Discoveries need Dollars* campaign. This meant that we were working within an environment that was barely meeting the needs of existing research requirements let alone funding new ones. Similarly, state governments and other Federal funding agencies like DIISRTE have been in belt tightening mode.

During 2011 the NHMRC through its Research Committee undertook a review of the existing enabling grant scheme (COSA held one of these grants which ended in 2010) and in particular the grants awarded to biobanks. A series of workshops were held and the existing biobanks were invited to submit proposals in relation to a national strategy, which centred around 'cancer' and 'brain and other'. Proposals were submitted to NHMRC in August 2011 and a Biobank working group formed in October 2011, chaired by Nik Zeps. A review of the proposals in the light of existing funding constraints as well as consideration of whether the NHMRC could fund infrastructure in this way through its granting scheme led the Research Committee to advise the CEO of the NHMRC to end the scheme once existing grants finished. Naturally the biobanking community were deeply disappointed by this news and in particular biobanks like that of the ALLG were faced with closure through loss of leveraged funding in addition to the loss in direct support from the NHMRC.

During this period, the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) were also examining the role of pathologists and pathology practices in biobanking. A position statement was sent to Minister Plibersek by the president of the RCPA indicating that they felt that greater engagement and resources directed toward pathology would be one way to enhance biobanking in Australia. The NHMRC Biobank Working Group, working within the constraints of no more funding for enabling grants, devised a scheme whereby the costs of biobanking could be met via cost recovery through Direct Research Costs (DRCs) in project (and other) grants. This means that the NHMRC will fund biobanks indirectly through the peer-reviewed granting scheme. There are obvious downsides to this model for biobanks in that only NHMRC funded grants can direct any funds to them and these don't represent the largest clients of biobanks currently. Similarly it does not address the cost of prospective collection which must be met through other sources.

However, for clinical trials I believe there are some upsides. Many clinical trials now require biobanking as well as upfront genetic analysis for patient stratification.

Both of these costs may now be put in full into any grant application and Grant Review Panels will be briefed about how to review such costs. The RCPA has also approached the government with respect to prospective fees paid through Medicare for these items and whilst not successful at this stage, there will be growing pressure to do so as personalized 'precision' medicine becomes more and more embedded into clinical practice. There is therefore some cause for optimism that biobanking from clinical trials may obtain more support in the near future.

Clearly the funding pressures present some challenges and these must be met not only in Australia but at an international level. It is therefore COSA's pleasure and honour to be host of the Marble Arch International Working Group on Biobanking on the 4 May this year. This group is comprised of the heads of most of the major cancer biobanks around the world and is a semi-informal organization aimed at discussing the pressing issues in an open forum. They meet twice a year alongside the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) Annual Scientific Meeting (Sydney, 4-9 May 2013) and the European, Middle-Eastern and African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB – Verona, 9-11 October 2013) and have done so since their inception in December 2005 at Marble Arch in London (I am an inaugural member). Biobanking from clinical trials is an issue common to many of those attending and we are delighted that they will hold their meeting as our guests. In many respects for biobanking from clinical trials it is a case of watch this space.

Nik Zeps, Chair

Email: nik.zeps@sjog.org.au

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia

The start of 2013 and my Presidential term has been a busy one for CNSA with a range of activities and projects already underway. After many months in the making, our long-awaited new website was launched in February with a fresh new look, more information about the society and for the first time, a members only access area with a growing number of resources. If you are yet to visit the site I urge you to do so as soon as you can at www.cnsa.org.au

I am also pleased to confirm that the CNSA is now a COSA Affiliated Organisation as endorsed at the first COSA Council meeting in March. The CNSA see this as an important step to ensuring continued close ties to COSA and other Affiliated Organisations. The final phase towards an independent CNSA has now been completed and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in this lengthy process and in particular Rob Firth and the Finance Team at Cancer Council Australia for ensuring these final steps have been seamless.

As the year is quickly passing by – it's exciting to see that registrations for the CNSA 16th Winter Congress 2013 are now open. Hosted in Brisbane, 25-27 July with the theme of "Connecting Cancer Care" we welcome Ms Brenda Nevidjon, President Elect of the

International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care as our key note speaker. Through her diverse clinical and administrative experiences in Canada, Switzerland and the United States, Ms Nevidjon has devoted her energy to bridging practice settings and academic environments to advance patient care, creating innovative work environments, promoting scholarship in practitioners, and developing leaders. She also has helped develop professional nursing organisations at the local, national, and international levels and has made lasting contributions to the Oncology Nursing Society.

Ms Beth Faiman also joins us from Ohio, USA, to present in-depth updates on the diagnosis treatment and care of people affected by Multiple Myeloma. As an Adult Nurse Practitioner, active author, presenter and educator, Ms Faiman brings a wealth of nursing knowledge to our shores for this challenging disease.

To see the full Winter Congress program in detail including pre congress workshops please visit www.cnsawintercongress.com.au. Early bird rates are open until 31 May 2013.

The National Executive Committee would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member Ms Samantha Gibson, WA Representative. Samantha has come to the NEC with extensive experience after being chair of the CNSA Perth and Environs Regional Group for the last two years. We look forward to engaging her in the work of CNSA.

Sandy McKiernan
President, Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
www.cnsa.org.au
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Cancer Pharmacists Group

2013 started with a flurry of activity for the Cancer Pharmacists Group (CPG). We are already working on plans for the COSA ASM in November, with a number of pharmacy focused sessions included in the program. Our next foundation clinical pharmacy course for cancer pharmacists is confirmed for 18-19 May (Brisbane) and preparation is now nearing completion. At the time of writing, registration had reached capacity for this extremely popular course so it is looking sure to be another great success. In addition to all of that we led the COSA submission to a Senate Inquiry on the costs of chemotherapy drugs and have circulated a draft position statement on the handling and preparation of monoclonal antibodies.

The current CPG committee comes to the end of its two-year term of office at the Annual General Meeting to be held in Adelaide during the COSA ASM. We are looking for members who are interested in joining the committee to nominate in due course. Until the AGM it is full steam ahead with the current committed team.

COSA ASM 2013 – Adelaide Convention Centre - 12-14 November 2013

The program is taking shape and we would like to thank Ben Stevenson for his work on the organising committee for the ASM. The program is clinically focussed with many sessions very relevant to cancer pharmacists. The CPG would like to thank COSA for supporting an overseas speaker nominated by the committee. Associate Professor Alex Chan from Singapore is confirmed to attend and we know he will be great addition to the program. Many of you will know Alex, but if not, he is a clinical cancer pharmacist with an academic appointment at the National University of Singapore. He has many varied research interests and we hope to tap into them at many points across the ASM program.

Following the success last year's symposium, a "Medicines Matter" session has been confirmed as part of the main ASM program. The session is taking shape and the committee is working with Ben Stevenson to finalise topics and speakers.

The CPG committee also intends to submit a funding request to COSA for a pre-conference Clinical Professional Day. If approved, it would likely be held on Monday 11 November. Please keep this in mind before you book your travel and accommodation. We will let members know in due course if the submission is successful.

The CPG Annual General Meeting will take place during the ASM (time and date TBC).

Clinical Courses for Cancer Pharmacists "Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacy Practitioners Course" – 18-19 May 2013, Brisbane

The CPG is running our foundation course again in 2013. This course is designed for cancer pharmacists with under 2 years of experience to consolidate, enhance and develop their skills. At the time of writing this report the course had just reached capacity. The committee would like to thank Dan McKavanagh (local convenor) for his tireless efforts in making this course a success (again!). This is the first time that the CPG has worked with ASN Events to organise this course and we appreciate the efforts of Mike Pickford and Kylie Bierman. Administrative support from Rhonda DeSouza (COSA Project Coordinator) is also much appreciated.

Senate Inquiry

"Inquiry into the supply of chemotherapy drugs such as docetaxel"

Dan Mellor (Chair, COSA CPG) chaired a working party that worked on a submission from COSA to this Inquiry. Representation included members of the CPG and Cancer Council of Australia. Rhonda DeSouza co-ordinated the writing and submission of the COSA document and worked tirelessly to keep everyone on track (we had a very short timeline due to the very short period of time from the calling of the Inquiry to

when submissions were due). Dan Mellor appeared as a witness (representing COSA) at the hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee in Sydney on 28 March 2013.

Dan Mellor, Chair

Email: dan.mellor@petermac.org

Clinical Trials & Research Professionals Group

The year started with a busy meeting and a warm welcome to our 2013 Committee

Chair: Sam Ruell, Peter MacCallum CC, Melbourne

Deputy Chair: Hema Rajandran, Sir Charles Gairdner, Perth

Members: Sally Dean, Calvary Mater, Newcastle (Secretary); Dianne Lindsay, ANZBCTG, Newcastle; Jill Davison, Peter MacCallum CC, Melbourne; Maria Mury, St Vincent's, Sydney; Anne Woollett, Barwon Health, Melbourne; Valerie Jakrot, Melanoma Institute, Sydney.

Recent months have been taken up with a review of the current Clinical Research Professionals Group (CRPG), and the future direction of the Group in 2013 and beyond.

To initiate this review process I attended the Executive Officer Network (EON) meeting late last year representing the CRPG.

With a view to building an improved relationship and communication links with the Trial Groups, this meeting proved extremely beneficial. It was reassuring to hear that a Group such as ours was considered an essential national voice across groups, networks and geographical locations. We also discussed the need for the CRPG to assist with training and education.

Our final discussions revolved around the name of our Group, Clinical Research Professionals. We have known for some time that perhaps this name does not clarify our target membership, and therefore we have amended our name to the **Clinical Trials & Research Professionals Group (CTRPG)**

The Group of course continues to represent the people involved in cancer clinical research that includes collection and management of data within oncology research. This includes **clinical trial coordinators, research nurses, clinical research managers, data managers, clinical research associates, and health information managers involved in research.**

From here we aim to provide members with a quarterly newsletter, as well as interim communiqués with appropriate job vacancies, and/or any industry related updates that we may feel are useful for our members.

We also recognise the need to respond to training requirements for our members and therefore we are also submitting a Clinical Professional Day Grant application for a workshop at the 2013 ASM.

Our Group continues its commitment to achieving and promoting excellence in cancer clinical research by way of the specialised contribution of research professionals, through education, information, leadership, networking and professionalism. Our individual roles of course, have differing emphasis on functions, but many of the daily activities across these roles have commonalities that mean we have a great deal of experience to share with one another.

In an ever evolving and demanding industry, it is imperative that we increase the network and communication among clinical trials and research professionals, and **therefore we would like to encourage all COSA members with involvement in Clinical Trials and Research to become CTRPG members at the forth coming annual COSA membership renewal.**

As a group we would also welcome any suggestions and feedback from COSA Groups or Individuals.

Sam Ruell, Chair

Email: sam.ruell@petermac.org

Familial Cancer Group

The COSA FCC Group Executive comprises of

Chair: Gillian Mitchell (VIC)

Members: Lara Lipton (VIC), Nicola Poplawski (SA), Nicholas Pachter (WA), Mary-Anne Young (VIC), Finlay Macrae (VIC), Rachel Susman (QLD) and Cliff Meldrum (NSW).

The purpose of the FCC Group Executive is to collate the views of the FCC Group members and feed these back to COSA Council, provide advice about matters pertaining to Familial Cancer to COSA Council and provide a mechanism to promote excellence in the practice of Familial Cancer management in Australia. In addition the COSA FCC Group Executive participates in developing the program for the COSA ASM as well as organising the COSA Clinical Professional Day (CPD) alongside the Australian Annual Familial Aspects of Cancer: Research and Practice. All of these functions aim to facilitate the work of the COSA FCC Group and COSA in general to improve the care and outcomes of people at increased cancer risk.

Terms of reference (TOR) for the group were drafted but then put on hold before they could be ratified by the wider Group membership because COSA had plans to develop templates for terms of reference to be used by all COSA Groups. However, those draft templates could not be developed until the new COSA Constitution was ratified and the necessary documentation developed and approved, so the COSA FCC TOR will be delayed until these new templates are available.

In 2013 the COSA FCC Group CPD will not occur as the Australian Annual Familial Aspects of Cancer: Research and Practice meeting will be an extended meeting held in Cairns, 25-31 August in conjunction with the International Society for Gastrointestinal

and Hereditary Tumours (InSiGHT) meeting <http://wired.ivvy.com/event/A1DYPE>. In addition, on the Wednesday between the main Familial Cancer and InSiGHT meetings there will be a single day meeting focussed on mutation variation (led by Prof Finlay Macrae) covering a range of topics from laboratory identification to clinical practice issues. The classic COSA FCC Group CPD will return in 2014.

Nicola Poplawski and Graeme Suthers have been working with the SA convenor for the COSA ASM meeting in 2013 to ensure there are a wide variety of talks with a focus on familial cancer throughout the 2013 ASM. This is looking to be a very good contribution from the familial cancer community to raise awareness of familial cancer issues in oncology health professionals.

The Executive Group is also busy:

- drafting two prescribing guides for risk-reducing medications for breast and cancers associated with Lynch syndrome and they are almost ready for distribution to the wider FCC Group for comment.
- developing a national position statement for routine assessment of colorectal cancers for evidence of Lynch syndrome at the point of cancer diagnosis. The intention is that this statement is endorsed by the relevant Royal Colleges and is brought to the attention of policy makers across Australia. The wider FCC Group will have the opportunity to make comment about the statement as the drafts develop.
- developing a position statement about the use of breast cancer SNPs and other SNPs for cancer predisposition at the current time, especially using currently available proprietary SNP tests. The RCPA, HGSA, RACGP are all involved with this draft which will be circulated around shortly for comments from the wider group

A regular (almost monthly) email update will continue to be sent to the COSA FCC Group members with links to or PDF attachments of recent interesting published articles that might be of relevance to the familial cancer community. Any articles of interest that come to the attention of an FCC Group member can be sent directly to me for inclusion in subsequent updates.

Gillian Mitchell, Chair

Email: gillian.mitchell@petermac.org

Gynaecological Oncology Group ANZGOG (Australia & New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group)

ANZGOG trial recruitment was at an all-time high at the end of 2012 and we look forward to this trend continuing well into 2013. We would like to acknowledge and thank our dedicated research teams at over 50 hospitals across Australia and New Zealand and our colleagues at the Clinical Trials Centre. These amazing people work tirelessly to ensure the high standards of our clinical trials and good clinical practice is maintained.

ANZGOG held a highly successful Annual Scientific Meeting for 2013 at the Sofitel, Gold Coast in March. The 4-day conference was attended by over 150 delegates from multi-disciplinary professions working in the gynaecological cancer research arena. The conference theme this year was "ANZ Clinical Trials – What is the Future?". The international keynote speakers, Professor Henry Kitchener and Professor Iain McNeish inspired much discussion amongst the delegates with their insights into gynaecological cancer clinical trials, including the role of surgical trials and translational research.



ANZGOG Consumers & Directors

An excellent educational workshop program ran concurrently with the conference and included a Radiation Oncology Contouring Workshop with 25 radiation oncologists from Australia participating and a Professional Development Day for study coordinators and data managers. Both workshops were organized and coordinated by ANZGOG members. The conference networking program offered delegates ample occasion to catch up with colleagues across Australia and New Zealand and to "let loose" after a full day of thought provoking scientific sessions!

ANZGOG Directors and key representatives from all states and disciplines are 'Looking to 2018' at a strategic planning day in early May. The aim of the strategic planning meeting will be to outline goals and pathways to achieving a sustainable and expanding clinical trials portfolio along with increased links and activities within the wider community.

ANZGOG started 2013 looking to the future - A future where corporate sponsorship funds our clinical trial start-ups and sustains our activities. Our first step in this direction is to promote ANZGOG and its achievements

in gynaecological cancer research to the wider community and engage the public in our mission. The ANZGOG Consumer and Community Committee is currently involved in developing a Community Ambassador Program to encourage grassroots fundraising and raise gynaecological cancer awareness. We are also actively engaging in media networking avenues... so watch this space!

Alison Brand, Chair

Email: Alison.Brand@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au



*Dr Alison Brand,
Chair ANZGOG*

Neuro-Oncology Group

There has been a strong start to the 2013 calendar year with visiting international renown speakers in Australia, including neuro-oncologists Prof Warren Mason from Toronto, Canada and Prof Wolfgang Wick from Germany.

In Parallel, Brain Tumour Alliance Australia (BTAA), in conjunction with Austin Health and the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre, convened a Melbourne Forum attended by nearly 100 participants on Sunday 3 March, 2013. Their keynote speaker was Prof Warren Mason.

For more information on this event, see <http://www.btaa.org.au>

Selected upcoming events in 2013:

Brain Cancer Action Week will be held across different Australian States Sunday 28 April to Saturday 4 May 2013 with many key events and initiatives. Two are highlighted below:

- Cancer Institute NSW Brain Tumour Support and Education Forum – Wednesday 1 May 2013, Sydney <http://www.cancerinstitute.org.au/events/i/brain-tumour-support-and-education-forum-2013>
- Brain Tumour Clinical Education Day - A free forum for health professionals - Friday May 3 2013, hosted by Cancer Council Queensland, Brisbane www.cancerqld.org.au
For enquiries, please contact sarahthompson@cancerqld.org.au

COGNO will hold its **6th Annual Scientific Meeting** from 25-26 October 2013 in Sydney.

COGNO is pleased to host Professor Mitchel Berger (neurosurgeon and scientist, University San Francisco) and Professor Jan Buckner (neuro-oncologist from the Mayo Clinic), as well as a number of well-known Australian experts as part of the COGNO program. The 2013 Convenor is Dr Eng-Siew Koh, Radiation Oncologist. For further information, see <http://www.cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm2013>

Selected Neuro-oncology publication/ references of interest

Recht et al. Steroid-Sparing Effect of Corticorelin Acetate in Peritumoral Cerebral Edema Is Associated With Improvement in Steroid-Induced Myopathy. *JCO* 31 (9). 2013 : 1182-1187.

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

Best wishes,

Eng-Siew Koh, Chair and Kate Drummond, Deputy Chair

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

Psycho-Oncology Group

Developing standards of practice documentation

Practice standards of psychological service documentation vary markedly between practices and even across hospitals in the public sector. Such variation is a marked difference in practice implementation, as is the acceptable communication with other members of the healthcare team about psychological issues for patients. Our aim during the next 6 months is to document the variation in practice and develop guidelines that practitioners can use to support best practice in the delivery of psychological services.

How will activity based funding impact your practice? A question vexing many health professionals at this time, psychological support services need to be proactive to ensure that all aspects of their services are considered within funding models.

Burn-out in health professionals.

During our annual meeting in November there was strong interest in pursuing some work assessing burn-out in healthcare professionals and the psychological services role in providing support to them. If you are interested in participating in this work, please get in touch we need to establish a working group to plan and undertake this work.

COSA ASM 2013

This year's COSA Annual Scientific Meeting is shaping up to be of great interest to members of the psycho-oncology community, with a focus on cancer in the elderly and GI cancer there will be much for us to discuss, debate and learn. Particular highlights for me are the proposed sessions on physical activity and cancer, as well as a discussion of the state of knowledge about cognition after cancer. There is still plenty of time to submit your own abstracts and contribute to what looks like being an excellent program. Our thanks to Lisa Beatty who is representing our Group on the program committee and working very hard on our behalf.

IPOS 2013

Abstracts for the IPOS 2013 Congress close in May 2013. Don't forget to send your abstracts in and head to Amsterdam, The Netherlands for another program of excellence in Psycho-Oncology research and practice.

Psycho-Oncology Awards back again for 2013

COSA will again be awarding the two COSA Psycho-Oncology Awards. So start thinking of your colleagues who may be deserving recipients of the Australian Psycho-Oncology Award or the New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the strength and diversity of psycho-oncology research and practice in Australia.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you during the year and working to improve psycho-oncology services across Australia.

Haryana Dhillon, Chair

Email: haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au

Regional & Rural Group

The COSA Regional and Rural Group is a multidisciplinary group focused on the unique issues facing cancer service delivery outside metropolitan areas. Our goals are to work at highlighting the deficiencies in service delivery and to enhance the equity of access to current best practice care, cancer services and clinical trials.

The Group has held a number of workshops, most recently in August 2012 to address cancer service development in regional and rural Australia. This workshop generated a number of recommendations that are outlined in the report sent to COSA members. This is an opportune time for the implementation of these recommendations, considering the ongoing development of regional cancer centres around Australia.

The Group will circulate the workshop report to relevant government and non-government organisations as well as plan a follow-up workshop in 2013/14. The Group is also continuing to collaborate with Cancer Australia and Health Workforce Australia on regional and rural cancer service issues.

The Group plans to expand the engagement of its members during 2013 and have invited members to nominate for a position on the Regional and Rural Group Executive. The Executive meets face-to-face once a year and by teleconference at least every two months. The Executive is responsible for projects such as workshops, reports, submissions to government and receives support from the COSA Secretariat. The Group Chair sits on COSA Council.

In other news, the Radiation Oncology Tripartite Committee recently released the Tripartite National Strategic Plan for Radiation Oncology 2012-2022. Many of the recommendations related to regional and rural cancer services in the plan align with those made at the COSA workshop. The plan is available at www.radiationoncology.com.au

Adam Boyce, Chair

Email: aboyce@svh.org.au

Survivorship Group

Welcome to the first Survivorship Group report for the Marralyan. I am delighted to be writing the first report after the formation of this Group in November 2012. There has been overwhelming enthusiasm and interest in the Group, with more than 60 members, with a broad range of professional qualifications and positions within healthcare and research expressing interest in joining the Group.

Since the formation of the Group, we have taken the opportunity to establish a working group to evaluate available Cancer Survivorship Guidelines with the aim of establishing an Australian standard. The working group met in February 2013 immediately after the Flinders Survivorship Conference. We had the opportunity to discuss the issues of survivorship care in Australia, our ability to deliver equitable services and the need to understand what has already been done around the world. The working group is currently collating and evaluating

guidelines from around the world and hope to seek input from the broader membership of COSA and other stakeholders later in the year.

In the near future we will start work on establishing our repository of available reviews and evidence to help guide the work of the group. These are first small steps but will ensure that we have the weight of evidence behind our future activities. We are grateful to Chantal Gebbie (COSA Project Coordinator) for her support and work on Survivorship activities.

Haryana Dhillon, Acting Chair

Email: haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au

Urologic Oncology Group

Group members might not be aware, but there has been a lot of activity going on behind the scenes within COSA since the last Marralyan. The revised Constitution was adopted by the COSA membership at the AGM in November and COSA is now working vigorously towards making this happen. From a day to day perspective you should not notice much difference; however the new governance model gives us a much better foundation from which to work as an organisation to meet the needs of all our members. Another key point was clarification of membership issues and in particular the roles of what were previously called Sustaining Members, now Affiliated Organisations: groups such as the cooperative clinical trials groups including ANZUP. There is still quite a bit of work to be done on these points but in the end you can remain confident that your voice will be heard, you will have the best representation, the organisation will be governed well, COSA Council will continue to provide key intellectual and scientific guidance for COSA, and that COSA will remain the peak multidisciplinary body for cancer in Australia.

I indicated in the last Marralyan that our Group Annual General Meeting was not held in 2012 due to lack of attendance. Many thanks to those of you who replied with reasons as to why you could not be there. There are always good reasons for this, but I do encourage you to continue to be involved in the Group and to attend the meetings wherever you can. The COSA Urologic Oncology Group continues to have roles and functions that are distinct from other organisations such as ANZUP and we need your input to ensure that we are appropriately representing you and your interests. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you need more information on COSA or want to give your input on any issue. The group forum on the COSA web site is also available for your use.

Otherwise, most of the activity in recent times has again centred around ANZUP and our various trials and projects. We successfully obtained funding from NHMRC or Cancer Australia for several projects that are now steaming ahead: the phase III accelerated BEP proposal (Peter Grimison); the BCG-MMC non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer study (Dickon Hayne); and a study involving gay and bisexual men with prostate cancer (Jane Ussher). These were fantastic outcomes, but not content to settle for that we have been busy putting a range of applications in for competitive grant funding in the

current round. Look out for studies coming to your centre or a centre near you!

Planning for the ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting is well advanced, led by Shomik Sengupta as convenor of a wonderful and very hard-working team. The ANZUP ASM will be held 14-16 July 2013 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. Our international speakers include Axel Heidenreich (urologist, Germany), Jason Efstathiou (radiation oncologist, MGH Harvard Medical School, USA), David Latini (clinical psychologist, Baylor College of Medicine, USA), and Bob Figlin (medical oncologist, Cedars Sinai, USA); as well as a fantastic program of local speakers. The program includes a trainee day, consumer forum, a meeting of the ANZUP Scientific Advisory Committee open to all ANZUP members, an evening symposium on prostate cancer, plenary sessions, trial updates, new trial concept development, poster sessions, oral presentations by the

best of our researchers, a great social program and much more. The 2012 meeting was one of the highlights of the year so put this in your diary and register now. Make sure you also invite your colleagues and make it possible for your trainees to come too.

We are pleased to offer travel grants and more information is available on the web site: <http://www.anzup.org.au/content.aspx?page=asm-home> Remember that ANZUP membership is free so this is great value for your membership!

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

Ian Davis, Chair

Email: ian.davis@monash.edu

Free and complete online access to
Asia-Pacific Journal of
Clinical Oncology
for COSA members

COSA members can access your official journal for FREE through the member's section of the COSA website.

www.cosa.org.au

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

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**GLOBAL ADVANCES IN
CONTROVERSIES AND SKIN CANCER**

2013

ABSTRACTS
NOW OPEN

BRISBANE, QLD, AUSTRALIA 21 – 24 Nov 2013

Global Controversies and Advances in Skin Cancer (GC-SC 2013) will provide an international stage for high-level, cutting-edge debate across the full spectrum of skin cancer – from prevention and diagnosis to treatment, management and survivorship – in a single forum. The program will feature internationally renowned invited speakers, including Patrick Moore (USA), Alistair Cochran (USA), Jan Nico Bouwes Bavinck (Netherlands) and Adèle Green (Brisbane).

Researchers, public health practitioners, clinicians and related professionals should not miss this opportunity to discuss, debate and direct the current controversies and advances in skin cancer from across the globe.

The Australian National Melanoma Conference and celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Queensland Melanoma Project will be held jointly with GC-SC 2013.

Program and registration details are available at www.gc-sc.org



Australia Day 2013 Honours List

COSA congratulates the following member:

Prof Helen Zorbas AO

COSA Interest Group Updates

AYA Interest Group

The main focus of the Group over the past few years has been delivering the projects funded to COSA under Youth Cancer Networks Program. This year the Group plans to formalise its structure by establishing membership and terms of reference for an AYA Executive Committee. The Group will then hold a strategic planning meeting to discuss future priorities and develop an agenda for ongoing activities for the next 3 years. This meeting will also provide an opportunity to discuss what ongoing funding is required and identify possible sources of income.

Following the success of the AYA cancer workshop held at the COSA 2012 ASM in Brisbane, another workshop is planned for 2013 which will be held separately from the COSA ASM. Feedback from the last COSA AYA cancer workshop indicated that participants found the workshop a valuable source of networking and information sharing.

AYA Cancer Network

In December 2012 a survey was undertaken by COSA to evaluate the success of the AYA Cancer Network and to help develop plans around activities of the network.

The survey closed on 31 January 2013 and preliminary results indicate that members have found the AYA Cancer Network facilitated access to other health professionals and the development of connections between these individuals.

The full report of this survey will be released shortly.

Clinical practice guidance and protocols

Promotion of the clinical practice guidance in AYA cancer management in the areas of fertility preservation, psychosocial management and early detection continues to health professionals and relevant organisations across Australia. All three guidances are available on the wiki platform hosted by Cancer Council Australia http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Main_Page

Supporting clinical research and increasing trial participation

The AYA-PK Study and the ALL6 trial continue to recruit patients in several sites in Australia.

If you would like more information about any of the above or if you would like to join the AYA Cancer Network, and receive information about COSA AYA activities, please email cosa@cancer.org.au

Wayne Nicholls, Chair

Email: Wayne_Nicholls@health.qld.gov.au

Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group

The Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group has been progressing nicely against the projects and timeline of the strategic plan from 2012.

A project team has been formed, led by Jacinta Elks, to develop a position paper with an aim to clarify the cancer care coordinator role. Members of this group are:

Jacinta Elks

Sunshine Coast Health District

Rachel Jenkin

Western Australian Cancer and Palliative Care Network

Catherine Johnson

Calvary Mater Hospital Newcastle

Jo Keyser

Midwest, Northern and Remote Country Health Service Western Australia

Dr Eng-Siew Koh

Liverpool Hospital NSW;
University of New South Wales

Dr Donna Milne

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre Melbourne

Carmel O'Kane

Wimmeria Health Care Group, Victoria

Marion Strong

Toowoomba Hospital, Queensland

The project team have met twice via teleconference, and will meet in Sydney in late April to progress its development. The position paper aims to provide a consistent understanding of the cancer care coordinator role across Australia and will launch this paper in July. The paper also aims to be an important mechanism for providing a framework for development of care coordinator roles and for improving understanding of the role by consumers, members of the multidisciplinary team, health service managers and funders.

Douglas Bellamy has been leading the Professional Development Group in organising Cancer Care Coordination Professional Development Day: Updating this key role, a pre-conference workshop at the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) Winter Congress 2013 sponsored by COSA. This workshop will be held on Thursday 25 July and you can register through the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia's conference website www.cnsawintercongress.com.au. COSA is kindly covering the cost of registration for the first 50 COSA members to attend. You will need a code for this discount so please contact COSA if you are interested. After this, normal CNSA workshop fees will apply but we welcome anyone interested to attend. The program includes the launch, presentation and critical panel analysis of the position paper, and an afternoon workshop session on the use of screening tools across settings of care.

The Professional Development Group is preparing for another **Cancer Care Coordination Conference** for 2014. This will be held in **Sydney, 4-5 March 2014**, more details will follow soon. Save the date!

The next edition of The Coordinator newsletter will be distributed at the end of April. All COSA members who indicated they have an interest in care coordination, and the contacts listed on the National Contact's Database receive this newsletter. If you are not on the database please consider filling in and submitting the form available on the COSA website within the care coordination resource section www.cosa.org.au/groups/ccc.html. The database is accessed by members only however, anyone involved in care coordination can register their details. It allows colleagues to link together nationally to share research and project updates and identify professionals for patient referrals.

COSA is currently undergoing governance and membership changes. One change is the removal of COSA/CNSA membership option. Once current memberships under this category expire, COSA members wishing to also hold CNSA membership will need to purchase this separately. CNSA has become an affiliated organisation of COSA and CNSA members will be offered a 10% discount on COSA membership.

I'd like to thank everyone who has shown interest in the Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group's projects and educational opportunities. I look forward to keeping you informed of how you can be involved, and more details about the upcoming conference in March 2014.

Patsy Yates, Chair

Email: p.yates@qut.edu.au

 MOGA

 NOVARTIS
ONCOLOGY

CANCER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2013

Call for Nominations

The Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) and Novartis Oncology are pleased to announce the 2013 CANCER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD recognising outstanding Australian contributions to cancer research and control.

The Cancer Achievement Award formally recognises the contributions made by scientists, clinicians and other health care professionals to the scientific study of cancer in Australia.

Since 1999 this Award has been presented to 13 leaders in the field of Australian Oncology: the recipient of the 2012 Award was Professor Michael Barton OAM, Research Director of the Collaboration for Cancer Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CCORE) and the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research at Liverpool Hospital. In 2011 the Award recipient was Professor John Zalcberg, Director of the Division of Haematology and Medical Oncology at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

The successful applicant will be presented with the award at the MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne on Friday 2nd August 2013 at which he/she will deliver a formal address on their area of professional interest.

Nominations may be made by any individual. Each nomination should include:

- Biographical outline of the nominee (Australian resident)
- A list of the nominee's major relevant publications,
- An explanation of the nominee's work in the area of cancer control or research,
- An evaluation of the accomplishments of the nominee, and additionally
- Letters of reference from two individuals from outside the nominees' institution containing a critical appraisal of the nominee's work.

Closing date for applications: **Friday 31 May 2013**

Applications will be assessed by the MOGA Awards Committee and are to be sent to:

Dr Rosemary Harrup, Awards Committee Chairman

c/- MOGA Secretariat, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

P: 02 9256 9652 F: 02 9247 3022

E: moqa@moqa.org.au

Complementary and Integrative Therapies Interest Group

The CITIG Executive is continuing to work on two COSA Council approved projects that aim to promote awareness of the emerging evidence-based, multidisciplinary field of complementary and integrative oncology.

Position statement on the use of complementary and alternative medicine by cancer patients

A multidisciplinary national working party chaired by Dr Lesley Braun, Monash University, has been developing a position statement for health professionals confronted by the scenario of when a cancer patient chooses to use complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). The guiding questions for the position statement are as follows:

- What approach should a conventional health care provider take in the case of a patient who has decided to use a non-medical therapy as an alternative to medical cancer treatment and seeks the involvement of a conventional health care provider in this process?
- What approach should be taken by a conventional health care provider in the case of a patient who has decided to use a non-medical therapy to complement medical cancer treatment and seeks the involvement of a conventional health care provider in this process in the case of therapies:
 - which are unlikely to do harm but for which there is evidence of potential benefit
 - for which the evidence either for or against the treatment is equivocal
 - for which there is no available scientific evidence indicating it may be of benefit or present potential harm
 - which are likely to do harm
- What are the moral and legal responsibilities of a conventional health care provider when faced with these issues in a medical setting?

The final draft was sent to COSA members for comment and review in April 2013.

CITIG National Research Survey

A national online survey of COSA members will be conducted in April in order to gain a snap shot of recent and current (2012 – 2015) Australian research investigating the application of complementary and integrative therapies in oncology settings. The survey results will identify research gaps and possibly provide an impetus for funding bodies to offer greater opportunities in the field on complementary and integrative therapies in oncology.

The Interest Group will report on the results of the research audit at the 2013 COSA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Adelaide.

2013 Directions

At the Brisbane AGM in November 2012, attendees noted that there were several proffered oral and poster presentations of a complementary and integrative oncology nature in a variety of sessions in the ASM program. Attendees felt a submission should be made to conduct a special symposium on complementary and integrative oncology at the 2013 ASM. It was also suggested that the Interest Group should enhance and increase its presence within our Society via newsletters, institutional affiliations with likeminded organisations and by convening workshops and sessions at the 2013 ASM. These ideas will form the basis of new activities and strategies for the Group in 2013.

We encourage all COSA members with an interest in complementary and integrative oncology to join the Group.

Articles of interest to members

Highlights from the Ninth International Conference of the Society for Integrative Oncology.

<http://ascopost.com/issues/november-15-2012/highlights-from-the-ninth-international-conference-of-the-society-for-integrative-oncology.aspx>

Music therapies for cancer patients

Music reduces the anxiety cancer patients feel, according to a major international review of the effectiveness of music therapy conducted by Cochrane Reviews. It might also reduce pain and improve the quality of life for people with cancer. Professor Joke Bradt of Drexel University in Philadelphia, analysed evidence from 1891 patients taking part in 30 clinical trials. Music interventions provided by trained music therapists as well as listening to pre-recorded music both show positive outcomes in this review.

The Cochrane report is available here:

Music interventions for improving psychological and physical outcomes in cancer patients

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD006911.pub2/full>

Get the Facts on Complementary & Alternative Medicine

The Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database was first released in September 1999. It provides answers to questions about natural medicines, herbs, dietary supplements, sports supplements, minerals, vitamins, etc.

Each record includes an easily printable Patient Information handout. You can also click on the references in a citation to see abstracts of research articles. Qualified pharmacists update the database daily with new information.

COSA Members have free online access to the Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database via the COSA website (www.cosa.org.au).

New Cancer Council Australia position statement on alternative and complementary therapies

Cancer Council Australia has published a new position statement on complementary and alternative therapies. The statement considers the evidence, risks and benefits associated with these therapies, and makes considered recommendations for cancer patients and health practitioners.

<http://www.cancer.org.au/news/news-articles/new-statement-on-alternative-and-complementary-therapies.html>

An evidence-based systematic review of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM): Recommendations concerning the efficacy and safety of popular CAMs used by cancer patients.

Carlo Pirri, Murdoch University, Murdoch, WA, Australia

<http://cosa-ipos-2012.p.asnevents.com.au/event/abstract/2985>

SUMMARY

Top 10 Most Effective & Safe Complementary Therapies For People With Cancer:

1. Relaxation Techniques
2. Health Professional-Led Support Groups
3. Physical Activity Programmes
4. Music Therapy
5. Meditation (Including Mindfulness)
6. Acupuncture
7. Massage Therapy
8. Omega-3 Fatty Acids
9. Yoga
10. Ginger

Paul Katris, Chair

Email: pkatris@cancerwa.asn.au

Developing Nations Interest Group

In 2013 the Developing Nations Interest Group will offer another fellowship under the Asia-Pacific Mentoring Program (APMP). Applications will open in April with information promoted through the COSA website and email notification. We are seeking interested hosts, COSA members working in an Australian cancer centre, to apply their interest in mentoring a suitable mid-career oncology professional

from the Asia-Pacific Region on an observership for 10-12 weeks. If you have any questions or would like to indicate your interest please contact Kate Whittaker, kate.whittaker@cancer.org.au. Also, if you have a current relationship with a program or individual in the Asia-Pacific Region please encourage them to fill in a fellowship application. Individual applications are reviewed against the significance and impact of the proposed learning outcomes on the fellow's home institution and country. The aim of the APMP is to foster and enhance knowledge and expertise; establish stronger ties and partnerships with new and developing cancer centres in the Asia-Pacific region; and identify areas and strategies for future professional development and research. More details will come via email.

In 2012, Dr Sanjay Dhiraaj, an anaesthesiologist at the Sanjay Ghandi Postgraduate Institute for Medical Sciences (SGPIMS) was the recipient of the fellowship in 2012. He carried out his program under the guidance of Dr Odette Spruyt at the Department of Pain and Palliative Care at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (PMCC) and had the opportunity to visit other consultation services, community services and hospices within the Melbourne area.

Since his return to India, Sanjay has begun to integrate palliative care services into SGPIMS. This has involved organising and conducting two workshops in palliative care in which he engaged the Head of Palliative Care at Makerree University Hospital and the Medical Director of Cairdeas International Palliative Care Foundation. The first workshop was on Leadership development in Palliative Care which was over five days from the end of January, and the second workshop was on Symptom management in Palliative Care and ran over three days in early February. He has also initiated a process of creating an inpatient facility. COSA will remain in contact with Sanjay to follow the progress of his work and we believe the strong relationships he made whilst on the COSA fellowship will benefit the integration of palliative care into SGPIMS.

COSA, in collaboration with Prince of Wales Hospital (POWH) and the Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH) in Fiji, submitted a grant application through the AusAID Australian Leadership Awards scheme for the funding of an additional Asia-Pacific Mentoring program. If successful, this funding would provide a fellowship for a pharmacist from CWMH to undertake a program at POWH. This program would provide the pharmacist with experience in Australian protocols and guidelines in the safety and manufacturing of chemotherapy, and involvement with a multidisciplinary team. COSA has been notified that the application has progressed to the next review, and will know the final outcome in May.

Matthew Links, Chair

Email: Matthew.Links@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Ray Lowenthal, Deputy Chair

Kate Whittaker, COSA Project Coordinator

Geriatric Oncology Interest Group

The Geriatric Oncology Concept Development Day was held on Friday 22 March 2013 in Sydney. This workshop provided clinicians and researchers with a chance to present a synopsis of a geriatric oncology clinical study they would like to develop. Seven proposals were heard on the day, and these researchers gained expert feedback on how to improve the research and structure of their proposals focusing on content, study design, data collection, recruitment, interventions and funding considerations. 26 professionals attended the workshop with backgrounds in nursing, palliative care, pscho oncology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, biostatistics, clinical trials and health service research, consumer perspective, geriatric medicine. Feedback received from attendees was positive, with many people expressing their gratitude in the opportunity to network with other like-minded professionals with a focus of cancer in the elderly, as well as those experienced in study design and clinical trials research. A formal evaluation and report from the workshop will be produced shortly. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Jane Phillips in organising this workshop and facilitating on the day. Jane is also coordinating a working group to develop a paper on the measures and approaches to research design focusing on geriatric oncology arising from the Concept Development Day.

Nimit Singhal and myself are preparing to submit a proposal to COSA to hold a Clinical Professional Day prior to the 2013 COSA Annual Scientific Meeting. The theme of the day will be Cancer in the Older Adult- Incorporating geriatric assessment into the oncology clinic. This day will aim to cover practical ways to integrate assessment and intervention into the clinical setting. It recognises the number of different models being employed nationally and internationally and the day will draw on expertise to develop models of assessment and intervention in Australian hospital, clinics and cancer centres. More details will follow if a grant is obtained to hold this workshop.

This Group is thankful for the support of COSA in acknowledging the important and increasing focus of geriatric oncology in Australia.

Christopher Steer, Chair

Email: Christopher.Steer@bordermedonc.com.au

NETs Interest Group

The aim of the COSA Neuroendocrine Tumour Interest Group for 2013 is to build on two ongoing initiatives. The first involves updating the Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours (http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:NETs_guidelines) to reflect recent advances in NETs management and emerging treatment options. Users of the guidelines are encouraged to contribute to their currency by providing comments and suggesting improvements through the wiki-platform.

The other project is the SIGNETURE registry, which

facilitates the collection of retrospective and prospective data on patients with NETs in Australia. The number of sites participating in the registry is growing with ethics approval at 3 sites in South Australia (Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Flinders Medical Centre), 3 in NSW (St George Hospital, Royal North Shore Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital), 1 in ACT (The Canberra Hospital) and 1 in Victoria (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre). One ethics application remains under consideration in Western Australia (Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital) and the registry is still open to participation from further sites. Recruitment is expected to improve now that ethics approvals have been gained, staff have been trained in the use of the database, and a number of the large sites have existing data ready to be entered in the registry.

Please contact Rhonda DeSouza, COSA Project Coordinator (rhonda.desouza@cancer.org.au) for more information on either of these projects.

Yu Jo Chua, Chair

Email: yujochua@gmail.com

COSA Membership

COSA Membership renewals OPENING SOON!

All COSA members will have received notification earlier in the year that the COSA membership period was switching to financial year thus giving all members 6 months complementary membership.

The 2013 membership period will open in the coming weeks to coincide with the launch of a new COSA website! All members will receive an email alerting them to the renewal period opening which will contain clear instructions on how to renew their COSA membership.

At the 2012 Annual General Meeting held in November the membership approved some changes to COSA membership categories to be available in 2013. The new categories and membership prices are listed below:

• COSA – medical (1 year)	\$170
• COSA – medical (2 years)	\$325
• COSA – non medical (1 year)	\$110
• COSA – non medical (2 years)	\$210
• COSA Student member	no charge
• COSA Retiree member (1 year)	\$55

In addition, organisations now have the opportunity to join COSA as an Affiliated Organisation. This membership brings many opportunities to both organisations, one of which is discounted COSA membership to members of Affiliated Organisations. Membership costs are listed below:

• COSA medical affiliates (1 year)	\$155
• COSA non-medical affiliates (1 year)	\$100

For more information regarding Affiliate Organisation Memberships please contact COSA cosa@cancer.org.au

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your membership, please do not hesitate to contact the COSA office on 02 8063 4100 or email cosa@cancer.org.au

Calendar of Events

Dates	Event	Location
2013		
2-4 May	Australian Practice Nurses Association National Conference www.apna.asn.au	Melbourne, Victoria
5-9 May	International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories www.isber.org/mtgs/2013/pathologysession.cfm	Sydney, New South Wales
7-10 May	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress 2013 www.surgeons.org	Auckland, New Zealand
8-10 May	11th Behavioural Research in Cancer Control Conference www.themeetingpeople.com.au/brcc13	Adelaide, South Australia
9-11 May	4th International Society of Advanced Care Planning and End of Life Care www.acpelsociety.com/conference/	Melbourne, Victoria
14-17 May	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au	Adelaide, South Australia
15-17 May	Second Lowy Cancer Symposium http://lowycancersymposium.org/	Sydney, New South Wales
18-19 May	COSA Cancer Pharmacists Group Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacy Practitioners Course www.cpg2013.org.au/	Brisbane, Queensland
31 May - 2 June	ANZCHOG Annual Scientific Meeting www.anzchog2013.org	Melbourne, Victoria
31 May - 4 June	ASCO Annual Meeting www.asco.org	Chicago, Illinois, USA
19-22 June	10th International Gastric Cancer Congress www.10igcc.com	Verona, Italy
27-29 June	MASCC/ISOO 2013 International Cancer Care Symposium http://mascc.kenes.com	Berlin, Germany
10-13 July	ANZBCTG 35th Annual Scientific Meeting www.anzbctg.org/content.aspx?page=asmpublic	Brisbane, Queensland
14-16 July	ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting www.anzup.org.au	Gold Coast, Queensland
25-27 July	CNSA Winter Congress www.cnsa.org.au/	Brisbane, Queensland
31 July - 2 August	MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting www.moga.org.au/news-events/events/save-date-o	Melbourne, Victoria
6-10 August	14th Australasian Prostate Cancer Conference and 2013 Prostate Cancer World Congress www.prostatecancercongress.org.au	Melbourne, Victoria
3-6 September	12th Australian Palliative Care Conference www.dconferences.com.au/apcc2013	Canberra, ACT
26 September - 1 October	17th ECCO - 38th ESMO - 32nd ESTRO European Cancer Congress www.ecco-org.eu	Brussels, Belgium
27 September - 1 October	17th Congress of the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) www.essoweb.org/eursso	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
8-10 October	AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting http://agitg.org.au/	Melbourne, Victoria
17-20 October	RANZCR 64th Annual Scientific Meeting www.ranzcr2013.com	Auckland, New Zealand
18-20 October	22nd Asia Pacific Cancer Conference (APCC) 2013 http://apcc2013.com/	Tianjin, China
23-25 October	2013 Oceania Tobacco Control Conference www.smokefreeoceania.org.nz/	Auckland, New Zealand
23-25 October	2013 Translational Cancer Research Conference www.translationalcancerresearchconference.info	Newcastle, New South Wales
24-26 October	2013 Annual Meeting of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) http://siog.org/	Copenhagen, Denmark
25-26 October	COGNO 6th Annual Scientific Meeting www.cogno.org.au	Sydney, New South Wales
27-30 October	15th World Conference on Lung Cancer www.2013worldlungcancer.org	Sydney, New South Wales
4-8 November	IPOS 15th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology www.ipos-society.org/ipos2013	Rotterdam, The Netherlands
9-10 November	COSA Advanced Trainees Weekend www.cosa2013.org	Adelaide, South Australia
12-14 November	COSA's 40th Annual Scientific Meeting 2013 www.cosa2013.org	Adelaide, South Australia
12-15 November	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au	Sydney, New South Wales
21-24 November	Global Controversies and Advances in Skin Cancer 2013 www.gc-sc.org	Brisbane, Queensland
2014		
6 - 9 May	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress 2014 www.surgeons.org	Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
8-11 November	15th Biennial Meeting of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society	Melbourne, Victoria



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12-14
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COSA's 40th Annual Scientific Meeting

Cancer Care Coming of Age
The 2013 theme will include
geriatric oncology and
gastro-intestinal cancers

Cancer Care Coming of Age

Convenor's welcome

COSA's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) is considered the premier gathering of cancer health professionals in our region each year. Delegates to the meeting include clinicians and researchers representing medical and radiation oncologists, cancer surgeons, nurses, pharmacists, and allied health workers.

In 2013 we are hosting COSA's 40th ASM at the Adelaide Convention Centre 12-14 November. The theme for the 40th conference "**Cancer Care Coming of Age**" will highlight geriatric oncology – an emerging area of interest especially for COSA members.

For those delegates and COSA members that I haven't met personally, I am a medical oncologist at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and am proud to act as the 2013 convenor on behalf of COSA. My main areas of interest include clinical trials and cancer in elderly – that's one of the reasons we decided to focus on geriatric oncology in 2013. The disease theme will concentrate on gastro-intestinal cancers and will encompass gastric, oesophagus and hepatobiliary tumours which are often neglected at major meetings.

The scientific program will be complemented by high quality oral and poster presentations and an exhibition promoting the latest in cancer pharmaceuticals, medical, diagnostic and therapeutic equipment and developments in supportive care and cancer education. Of course the Program Committee and I will ensure the full program includes the broad range of multidisciplinary sessions the COSA membership has come to appreciate at the ASM.

The social events, traditionally highly regarded by our multidisciplinary delegates, will offer an opportunity to renew friendships and establish new professional connections – presenting networking prospects not possible at any other forum and remembered for many months to come after the event.

I look forward to meeting you at the conference in Adelaide in 2013.

Nimit Singhal

COSA ASM 2013 Convenor



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COSA's 40th Annual Scientific Meeting

Adelaide Convention Centre



12-14
November
2013

Program

COSA 40th ASM theme "**Cancer Care Coming of Age**" will highlight geriatric oncology and gastro-intestinal cancers. To allow delegates the flexibility to attend sessions in their area of interest the 3-day program is structured so that geriatric oncology will be featured on Tuesday, upper gastro-intestinal and hepatobiliary cancers on Wednesday, and colorectal cancer on Thursday.

Please visit the conference website regularly for updates on the draft program:

www.cosa2013.org/program

Symposium
submission
abstracts
close:
10 July 2013

Abstracts
close:
14 August
2013

Travel grant
applications
close:
19 August
2013

Early bird
registration
closes:
6 September
2013

Confirmed international speakers

A/Prof Thomas Aloia

Surgical Oncologist,
MD Anderson
Cancer Center,
Houston Texas USA

Prof Dirk Arnold

Medical Oncologist,
Martin Luther University
Halle-Wittenberg,
Halle Germany

Dr Vanessa Blair

Surgeon,
Whangarei Hospital
and University of Auckland,
New Zealand

A/Prof Alex Chan

Pharmacist,
National University of Singapore
and National Cancer Centre
Singapore

Dr Ian Chau

Medical Oncologist,
Royal Marsden Hospital, London
and the Institute of Cancer Research,
Surrey UK

Prof Harvey Cohen

Geriatric Oncologist,
Duke University School of Medicine,
North Carolina USA

Prof Patti Ganz

Medical Oncologist,
David Geffen School of Medicine UCLA
and Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center,
Los Angeles USA

Dr Lee Jones

Exercise Physiologist,
Duke Cancer Institute,
North Carolina USA

Dr Janine Overcash

Geriatric Nurse Practitioner,
James Comprehensive Cancer Center
and Ohio State University, USA

Prof Bas Wijnhoven

Surgeon,
Erasmus MC Rotterdam,
The Netherlands

Prof Rebecca Wong

Radiation Oncologist,
Princess Margaret Hospital,
Toronto Canada

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