



COSA NEWS **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Bogda Koczwarra, President 2011-12 & Sandro Porceddu, President 2013-14

The conclusion of this year's COSA Annual Scientific Meeting brought to an end Bogda Koczwarra's 2-year term as President. And what a 2 years it has been for COSA. This really has been a watershed period for our organisation.

Importantly, under Bogda's leadership, with strong support from Marie Malica and the Governance working party led by Ian Roos, the team were successful in having the new Constitution passed at the most recent Annual General Meeting. This is a significant step in the future growth of COSA. Becoming a company limited by guarantee will allow us to function more effectively as a national entity and move forward on a number of issues that have been on hold, and bringing new organisations to the table such as the ANZ Head and Neck Cancer Society and Faculty of Radiation Oncology. This new structure will require us to operate under more stringent reporting rules, enhancing our transparency and accountability and ultimately strengthening our organisation.

There is no doubt the combined COSA/IPOS conference was a great success. We had record numbers of delegates, an excellent scientific program and healthy sponsorship. The conference also served as an important venue for a number of key-

stakeholder workshops and forums related to cancer control. The conference organising team did an outstanding job, and the new 'app' with easy to navigate program schedule, abstracts and bio's was highly professional. Congratulations to all of the members of the various organising committee's that made this conference possible.

As the new President, I look forward to working with President-Elect Mei Krishnasamy, Council, members, Executive team, COSA staff, CCA, CCTG's, Cancer Australia, special interest groups and affiliated organisations. I hope to continue to build on the strength and profile of COSA created by my predecessors. Thankfully, in addition to the excellent team, I have also inherited an organisation with a healthy budget to allow maintenance of COSA's productivity. Over the next 2 years I hope to continue to support the various projects within COSA, seek opportunities for new ones, explore new ways to engage and communicate with the membership and work on the details of the Board Charter for the new Constitution.

I remain keen to hear from the membership about ideas in which COSA can help promote improving cancer control.

I wish you all a safe and restful festive season

Sandro V Porceddu
President - COSA

From the Immediate Past **President Bogda Koczwarra**

In the 40 years of COSA, a time as President is but a fleeting moment. A little bit like tending to an orchard, you cherish the fruit that is ready and plant the trees without expectation that you may be there to sit in their shade. How can one then reflect on the past two years? It is hard to find the words that truly reflect the many moments along my journey as a COSA President, the celebrations and the challenges. Which one should one mention? The successes? Or the worries?

What remains to be said is just one thing. Thank you!

**Special
Christmas
Edition!**

Thank you to Sandro for being such a wonderful President Elect – always supportive, insightful and engaging. COSA will be in good hands under his leadership.

Thank you to COSA Council for being collegial, involved and not afraid to tackle the difficult issues.

Thank you to the Past Presidents of COSA who treasure their ongoing connection to the organisation and are there to ensure that the story continues.

Thank you to COSA Staff – Marie, Fran, Hayley, Jess, Kate and Jenny for never faltering under the pressure – sometimes COSA work is like a giant cauldron about to boil over. That is until Marie steps in. Marie, you keep it all ticking and you lead a great and really happy team. That is not a mean feat.

Thank you to COSA members for making it such a vibrant, collegial, energetic organisation. You rock! And may you rock for another 40 years!

Professor Bogda Koczwar
Immediate Past President - COSA

Introducing the 2013-2014 COSA President Elect – Associate Professor Mei Krishnasamy

Mei's vision for COSA

COSA provides Australian cancer clinicians of all professional disciplines, with the opportunity to influence cancer outcomes at individual, community, national and international levels. Its strength as an organisation lies in its capacity to influence from interdisciplinary and consumer perspectives - perspectives COSA promotes as essential enablers of cancer advocacy, optimal models of care delivery, excellent professional education and world-class cancer research.



Mei Krishnasamy

To continue its impressive standing as a vibrant, responsive, member-based society, COSA must continue to look to its existing strengths, building on its capacity to influence for the many, some and few through active engagement, collaboration and interaction with its current groups, affiliated organisations and strategic relationships. But the future for COSA must also include a desire and intent to diversify its affiliations, to attract new members and to foster new strategic alignments that will ensure the Society's relevance as a progressive organisation, responsive to the changing needs of its members and national and international cancer contexts. To continue to influence the face of cancer care and to inform and challenge the cancer workforce, COSA will need to look to linkages across many domains, including science and medicine, IT, economics, social geography, and many other areas that will inform and drive innovations in cancer control.

At the end of 2012, I will complete a three year term of office as President of the Cancer Nurses Society of

Australia (CNSA). During that time, the 600 strong member based organisation has chosen to move towards independent governance, shifting its relationship with COSA from one of member group to a fully independent, incorporated body. This move reflects a desire by the CNSA to strengthen its capacity to respond to the needs of its current members but also crucially, to enable diversification of its activities and affiliated members to bring a new body of nurses working with or increasingly important to the outcomes of people affected by cancer to the CNSA community. This new body of CNSA members will, through affiliation with the CNSA, be introduced to the relevance of COSA as the peak Australian body for multidisciplinary cancer clinicians and researchers. I firmly believe that investment in strengthening the many COSA groups – whether as bodies that remain fully within the COSA framework or for some, as for CNSA through strengthening independent standing, will be the key to a dynamic, relevant and financially viable COSA for years to come. In addition, the last three years at CNSA has seen three new memorandums of understanding contracts signed between the CNSA and nursing groups across Australia and New Zealand, groups not previously associated with CNSA. This brings new membership, new perspectives and opportunities for growth, diversification and strength of advocacy to CNSA and through CNSA, to COSA. CNSA has increased its European and global visibility and its contribution to national policy development and advocacy. There has also been considerable investment in essential infrastructure to support the growth of the CNSA's activities and a new look website is currently in development. My term of office has also seen the appointment of the first CNSA Executive Officer. These achievements have required considerable energy and perseverance on my part and have been met with significant membership commitment and engagement. However the success of any member based organisation lies with its Board, Executive or Council. Throughout my time as President of CNSA, I have been fortunate to have had the advice, support and opportunity for critical discussions with an impressive National Executive Committee. I firmly believe that the future strength of COSA lies with ongoing investment in the diversity, engagement and influence of its current Council and Executive with and through members or, in any new governance structure that evolves to best meet the needs of the COSA community.

The role of President for CNSA has enabled me to have a seat on COSA Council and Executive for the last three years. This time has afforded me an opportunity to learn about the history of COSA, its strengths and the opportunities for evolution. I have an awareness and appreciation of the challenges ahead for COSA but with a recognition of the considerable capacity, skill and desire of all involved with this internationally recognised Society to see it succeed long into the future.

At a workshop I recently attended, one of the participants said "if we can think of it now it's not future proofing!" My vision for the future for COSA is aspirational - it is to contribute to the evolution of a Society prepared for and actively seeking ways to address what is yet unknown! Easy!

Executive Officer's Report

I can hardly believe 2012 is almost over, but if I reflect on how much COSA has achieved throughout the year I'm not surprised that Christmas is just around the corner.

Here's a little snapshot of memorable items from my perspective which might not be captured elsewhere in this issue of the *Marryalyan*.

Consumer Engagement in Clinical Cancer Research Project

- COSA's role in this project is now complete. We have delivered to Cancer Australia: (i) a comprehensive strategy of learning and support initiatives for consumers working within the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups that (we hope!) will effectively engage consumers at all levels of clinical cancer research; and (ii) a web based resource that will enhance the knowledge, skills and confidence of consumers, which can be used extensively by CCTGs and a wider audience. This online resource includes 22 voiceover learning presentations, 3 videos, testimonials from consumers working within the CCTGs, and other resources such as glossaries.
- The next steps will involve an independent quality review of the web-based consumer resource and the implementation of a promotion and dissemination plan, prior to its release on Cancer Australia's website.
- Further research identified through the project suggested researchers could benefit from a similar resource to further strengthen consumer engagement collaboration to reduce the burden of cancer and improve outcomes for all people affected by cancer.
- Jenny Hughes's contract as the Project Coordinator on this Cancer Australia funded project finished on Friday 2 November. Jenny is commended for her outstanding work on this project and we wish her well for the future.

Cancer Survivorship

Cancer Survivorship continues to be a growing area of interest for COSA members. At their November meeting, COSA Council approved the formation of a COSA Survivorship Group. COSA members who expressed a willingness to participate met at the ASM in Brisbane to commence discussions about appropriate activities for the group, a summary of which includes:

- Collating the available systematic reviews related to cancer survivorship
- Considering the need for specialist referrals to allied health outside the public hospital system
- Exploration of what cancer survivorship is and how this differs from life
- Integration of community-based organisations, particularly Cancer Councils, into the delivery of post-treatment cancer care

- Models of care and survivorship planning

The group will formally elect a chair and identify smaller groups to tackle specific issues in the coming months.

The McKeon Review

In collaboration with Cancer Council Australia and the CCTGs COSA made a submission to the Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia Panel in March 2012, which focussed on increased support for clinical research, particularly clinical trials. The Panel released a consultation paper and we responded to the call for comments in October. It was pleasing to see many of COSA's recommendations adopted by the review panel.

COSA governance

You'll see a more detailed report on COSA governance later in this edition, but I couldn't miss this opportunity to thank the membership for supporting the proposed changes and approving the new Constitution. I will be very busy over the next few months drafting the Board Charter and election processes and look forward to consulting and engaging with you all as we move this ahead.

COSA staff changes

- **Hayley Griffin** will commence maternity leave in February 2013, and we are currently recruiting for her temporary replacement (of course she will come back to us!). Hayley's main activities presently involve COSA's clinical trials and AYA activities
- **Jenny Hughes** left us in November when her Cancer Australia funded contract expired
- **Jessica Harris** is also pregnant and will commence maternity leave in May 2013
- And...wait for it... **Fran Doughton** will also be taking maternity leave in May
- Luckily for COSA, **Rhonda De Souza** returned from maternity leave in November. Rhonda has again picked up Biobanking and NETs, and might take on additional COSA projects when we re-evaluate the project portfolio with all these staff changes
- **Kate Whittaker** and I are still here!

I'm sure you'll all join me in congratulating our soon-to-be mothers and wish them all the very best.

Thank you to the COSA staff and members for your continued support throughout 2012.

Best wishes for the Festive Season

Marie Malica
Executive Officer



Changes to COSA Governance and outcomes of the AGM

We are pleased to report the COSA membership unanimously approved the proposed changes to COSA governance and the Constitution at the AGM held in Brisbane on 14 November 2012.

As many members would appreciate we have been working on these changes for some time now and the Council are pleased we can now move ahead with the changes and register as a company limited by guarantee.

In summary the proposed changes are:

- Members will be individuals who join COSA
- Sustaining membership will be replaced by “Affiliated Organisation” membership and be expanded to include other organisations in addition to the cancer cooperative trials groups (for example CNSA and MOGA)
- Members of Affiliated Organisations will be eligible for discounted COSA membership
- COSA members will continue to elect the President

- COSA Council will be the main advisory body of COSA and be responsible for electing the Board from within its current or previous membership
- The name of the Society will be changed from the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia to the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia as resolved at the 2010 AGM

The finer details of implementation of the new Board will be determined by COSA Council and contained in a Board Charter. This charter will also include details of the Director nomination process and term, as well as Board committees such as the Audit and Risk Committee. It is proposed that the Board Charter will be submitted to Council for approval in March 2013 and the Board appointments will commence from April 2013 ensuring that the new Governance structure can be in operation by the new financial year commencing 1 July 2013.

COSA will continue to engage with the membership to ensure you have the opportunity to comment on the proposed Board Charter and nomination processes.

Thank you to all the members who attended the AGM and made sure your voice was heard!



COSA Awards presented at the ASM

Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care

Professor David Ball was announced the 2012 recipient of the Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care at the conference dinner held on the Wednesday evening of the ASM. In his typical humble manner, Professor Ball delivered a wonderful oration paying homage to the individuals whose guidance and leadership influenced his career, including the opening slide featuring a photo of himself with Tom Reeve. Professor Ball also spoke of his commitment to the work of COSA and highlighted his regular attendance at the ASM – his first was COSA’s second!



COSA Psycho-Oncology Awards

In addition to the Tom Reeve Award, COSA presented two new awards at the conference dinner, the COSA Australian Psycho-Oncology Award which was presented to **Professor Afaf Girgis** and the COSA New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award presented to **Dr Haryana Dhillon**.

Australia has a proud history of excellence in psycho-oncology care and research. COSA, the Australian Psycho-Oncology Group (OZPOS) and the Psycho-Oncology Cooperative Research Group (PoCoG) have fostered this field of oncologic care and ensured its place as part of multi-disciplinary care. These awards are an opportunity to recognise the highest level of contribution to Psycho-Oncology from amongst our members.



L-R: Maggie Watson, IPOS President, Sandro Porcedu, Barry Bultz IPOS Vice President, Bogda Koczwara

COSA 2012 ASM Convenor's Report



2012 Convenor: Krissy Carrington

I am delighted to present this report wrapping up what I believe to be a highlight on the COSA calendar for 2012 – the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting held in my home town of Brisbane, 13-15 November.

I must admit I was a little hesitant when Marie approached me inviting me to be the 2012 convenor. I've been actively involved in COSA for many years now; I represented the Cancer Pharmacists Group on COSA Council from January 2003 to December 2009, was on the Executive Council from mid-2008 to the end of 2009 and have been a member of many ASM organising committees over the years, so I know what goes in to organising the COSA conference. But I had big shoes to fill – Eva Segelov's expertise for 3 years and then Nik Zep's enthusiasm in 2011. I've come out the other end unscathed (but exhausted!) and I couldn't be more proud of the conference we have delivered!

In 2012 we had the exciting opportunity to partner with the International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS) – a first for COSA and IPOS. As an advocate for the growing field of psycho-oncology in Australia I saw this as the ideal event to highlight the outstanding work of Australian psycho-oncologists to their international peers, and I have been so impressed by the end result. Almost 1300 delegates registered for the joint confer-

ence themed "Impact through translation: Cancer research informing practice".

The COSA Program Committee aimed to build upon the legacy of previous meetings and provide a forum for our broad range of disciplines to come together to hear from opinion leaders about key issues in cancer control as well as to engage with one another in breakout sessions that always maintained a multidisciplinary theme.

This year COSA's scientific program focussed on melanoma, skin cancer, and carcinoma of unknown primary. The CUP focus was a perfect match for the emphasis on psycho-oncology highlighting the issues faced by such an uncertain diagnosis. We had numerous delegates applaud us for including CUP on the COSA program as it receives little or no attention at major oncology meetings. The melanoma and skin program was well presented, particularly as Australian expertise is so highly recognised locally and internationally.

Following a warm indigenous welcome to country and the official opening by the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Dr James Holland opened with an enlightening educational lecture "Are we winning the war on cancer". This was followed with the first of 3 joint plenary sessions, one held each day of the conference:

- Implementing psycho-oncology: Evidence into practice – this plenary really set the scene for the 3-day joint conference. This informative session was chaired by Jimmie Holland MD, widely recognised as the founder of psycho-oncology, and featured world renowned speakers on the topic – Stirling Moorey, Galina Velikova and Linda Carlson.
- Responding to challenges in the treatment of patients with melanoma and skin cancer – a lively panel discussion chaired by Matt Loscalzo provided a forum for discussion of the complex issues which arise in the care of patients with melanoma and skin cancer.
- The closing debate – a sometimes tradition at the COSA ASM – didn't disappoint this year under Adam Spencer's entertaining and enthusiastic facilitation. The topic of "Whose life is it anyway? Arguing for greater regulation to promote optimal outcomes in oncology" was deftly won by Bogda Koczwara's negative team.

COSA delegates were also treated to a typically passionate presentation by Professor Ian Frazer AC who delivered the COSA Presidential Lecture on "Cancer prevention and treatment: A revolution in progress". We are honoured to have Professor Frazer's continued support of COSA and the ASM.

The social program didn't disappoint either with the ASM dinner a highlight of the program. The venue was packed to capacity and the food menu delicious. Many woke with 'morning after feet' from dancing the night away to the fabulous band.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many people whose hard work and diligence made a meeting like this come together so successfully: the COSA Program

Ho!
Ho!
Ho!



Committee, COSA staff, our ASM partners IPOS, our sponsors and exhibitors, and our conference organisers ASN events. Each made a unique contribution to make this an enjoyable and successful conference. Also thanks to the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre and its staff who provided what I hope you will all agree was a fantastic venue. I hope to see you all next year in Adelaide!



2012 COSA ASM Program Committee

Christine Carrington
2012 ASM Convenor

Advanced Trainees Weekend

The COSA trainees' week-end ran prior to the main meeting with this year's theme being Melanoma, following on from Breast and Colorectal Cancer in the preceding years. The workshop was very well attended with 105 trainees from Medical and Radiation Oncology, General and Plastic Surgery, Nursing and Allied Health and a melanoma patient advocate.

Our speakers were predominantly local and our international guest Dr Dan Coit, a Surgical Oncologist from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, was a standout achieving that unique combination of high level intellectual interpretation of modern data and engaging very directly with his audience. The general feedback was very positive, specifically that the content was thorough and well directed. The COSA trainees' week-end is a great initiative and I'm sure will continue to be well attended.

Christopher Allan & Victoria Atkinson
Workshop Co-Convenors

International Speaker Profiles

For those not fortunate enough to attend this year's COSA-IPOS Joint Meeting, or those just wanting to know a little more about two of the international guests, COSA took 5 minutes to speak with Dr Dan Coit, professor of surgery at the Weill-Cornell Medical School, and attending surgeon at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) and Dr Harpreet Wasan who leads the clinical service in gastrointestinal cancers and oncology clinical research programme at Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College London.

Dr Dan Coit

Dr Coit received his medical degree at the University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine. He completed residency training in general surgery at New England Deaconess Hospital, and completed a surgical oncology fellowship at the MSKCC.



Dr Dan Coit

Dr Coit's clinical and research interests have focused primarily on detecting and defining the clinical significance of individual melanoma cells in the sentinel lymph nodes, blood, and bone marrow of melanoma patients, with the goal of identifying patients at highest risk of cancer recurrence following surgery to remove a melanoma. In 1991, he introduced lymph-node mapping and sentinel lymph-node biopsy for melanoma and other selected skin cancers.

Dr Coit has had a lifelong strong commitment to surgical education. This has been recognised by the MSKCC surgical fellows with two Faculty Teacher awards.

A member of numerous boards and committees, Dr Coit has served as Director of Surgical Education for the Surgical Oncology Fellowship Training Program at MSKCC from 1991 to 1997, Director of the Society of Surgical Oncology Training Committee (where he oversaw the administration of all surgical oncology fellowships across the nation) from 1994 to 1999, and Chief of the Gastric and Mixed Tumor Service in MSKCC's Department of Surgery from 1997 until October 2003. On a national and international level, Dr Coit is involved in advancing new ways to diagnose and treat melanoma as a member of the American Joint Commission on Cancer Melanoma Staging Committee, and Chairman of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Melanoma Panel. He has published widely a number of topics related to melanoma in peer reviewed journals. He served as editor of the Melanoma section of the Annals of Surgical Oncology.

Was this your first time to Brisbane?

This was my third trip to Brisbane – once on vacation, and one prior time to speak at an Australian College of Surgeons meeting. I was very much impressed by how well the city has recovered from the devastation caused by the flooding that surged through the riverfront area less than two years ago. And as always, I am enormously grateful for the warm hospitality of the organisers, of new friends and old.

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes

What was your overall impression of the conference?

Very interesting and effective juxtaposition of COSA and IPOS agendas.

Highlights of the meeting?

Reception at the Governor's mansion and the eclipse!!

Any other comments?

I very much enjoyed participating in the Trainees Weekend; that was a real highlight of the trip. The audience was very interested and interactive, and the talks by the other speakers were terrific. The group was small enough to enable some real dialogue in the Q&A sessions. Trainees are our most important legacy.

Dr Harpreet Wasan

Dr Wasan leads the clinical service in gastrointestinal cancers and oncology clinical research programme at Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College London. The two are integrated within the routine HPB service. He is on the UK National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI)



Dr Harpreet Wasan

committee of both the advanced colorectal cancer and the upper gastrointestinal / HPB groups. Around 15 GI trials, of all phases are running at any one time under his leadership at Hammersmith Hospital. In 2011, a clinico-translational basic science laboratory was set up to complement the trials work to allow the rapid parallel developments in personalised cancer medicine focussing on on the PI3K/AKT/DNA-PK pathway in GI cancers. He is also involved in developing the upcoming UK national CRC personalized medicine trial FOCUS4. Dr Wasan is chief investigator of the UK MRC COIN-B metastatic colorectal cancer trial, Co-CI for The FOXFIRE trial, and CUP-ONE, a global clinico-translational study of metastatic 'Cancer of unknown primary' looking at novel forms of metastatic diagnosis and treatment, from tumour molecular profiles irrespective of the primary cancer-origin or site. He was also co-chief investigator of the advanced Biliary cancer Phase III trial (ABC02) which has set the global standard of care. He has many other UK national consultative roles, journal involvement, is an invited faculty member of many international GI cancer conferences.

Was this your first time to Brisbane?

No, second time - first was unfortunately during the floods last year.

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes

What was your overall impression of the conference?

Excellent and well organised. There are too many meetings that don't focus on the link between clinical treatment issues and patient welfare, communication, risk/benefit from a patient / carer perspective and quality of care delivery including psychosocial issues.

This meeting is unique to my knowledge in this void and important to "bridge" this gap.

Highlights of the meeting?

Many

Of course I would say the CUP plenary session as I was part of it!

The Conference Dinner, as it allowed me to meet many colleagues and also the Aboriginal show in the Exhibition Hall made it less of a work-thing for me and even more enjoyable.

I also managed to visit the University of Queensland which was another highlight.

Any other comments?

Keep up the great work and themes.

There was a lot going on at the same time which made it difficult to go to everything, plus more time for discussion / audience participation should be encouraged.

COSA Consumer Forum

A committee consisting of representatives from CanSpeak Queensland, Cancer Council Queensland and COSA worked together to organise the annual COSA Consumer Forum. The Consumer Forum has become an important component and a standard inclusion to COSA's Annual Scientific Meetings over the past years. These Forums provide a two-way education opportunity to both the research and general communities about important issues relating to cancer diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and advocacy. Australians are fortunate to have support from these key cancer organisations and the opportunities to learn and discuss important cancer-related issues provided.

The theme for the Consumer Forum "What Does Research Mean For Me? Improving the cancer experience"

mirrored the main conference theme. The audience of 81 delegates were privileged to hear presentations by a number of the international guest speakers in Brisbane for the conference as well as inspiring and insightful presentations by people who have been affected by cancer.

The President of COSA, Professor Bogda Koczwara and the President of IPOS, Professor Maggie Watson, jointly opened the forum and spoke about the progress research is making in improving outcomes for people affected by cancer. Their commitment to supporting the community and ensuring they are well informed about this progress was reiterated.

The Forum was chaired by Leonie Young, the President of CanSpeak Queensland. CanSpeak – the voice of the cancer community, is the prominent consumer advocacy body representing the interests of people whose lives have been affected by cancer. The aims of CanSpeak and likeminded organisations at both a state and national level, reflect their desire to effectively engage people at the grassroots level.

The first session was a presentation by Professor Ian Davis, Head of Eastern Health Clinical School at Monash University and Senior Oncologist, Eastern Health. As a member of COSA Council, COSA Executive and founder of the Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group Ltd (ANZUP),





he was the ideal person to introduce the audience to the mysteries of research. Professor Davis' innovative presentation explained in terms easily understood by the lay community why research is important, how it is undertaken and translated into clinical practice.

This presentation set the scene for what was to follow with the audience hearing from Jimmie Holland MD and Bill Breitbart MD both from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, Devon McGoldrick from the LIVESTRONG Foundation, and providing the consumer experience, Dr Ian Roos, Sherril Molloy and Robyn Wagner.

Jimmie Holland has been a leader in raising the profile of psycho-oncology as a subspecialty within oncology and her presentation addressed the science of the care of the whole patient; Bill Breitbart is Chief of the Psychiatry Service at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre and his wonderfully inspiring presentation addressed putting research into practice and finding meaning and spirituality in cancer; and Devon McGoldrick, the Director of the Community Programs and Engagement team at the LIVESTRONG Foundation spoke about how they design and implement programs and services to support people affected by cancer around the world.

Key to the Forum's program were the three presentations by those who really understand the cancer experience and whose lives have been affected by cancer. Dr Ian Roos, interim Chair of CanSpeak Australia is a prominent and well regarded consumer advocate. His presentation addressed the consumer perspective in clinical trials and how people with the lived experience can add value to research when their perspective is provided; Sherril Molloy, a member of the CanSpeak Queensland Advisory Committee spoke about her experience as the mother of a young woman whose life was lost to melanoma and of the issues not only pertinent to the family but also to her daughter Carla who struggled to maintain her identity as a young woman amongst the reality of her diagnosis and subsequent treatments; Robyn Wagner, who has been diagnosed with a cancer of the unknown primary (CUP) spoke about what it means to live with uncertainty and her drive to raise awareness both with researchers and the general community. Her inspiring account left the audience very much more informed about CUP and the issues for people with this diagnosis.

The Forum concluded with a Q & A panel discussion moderated by Professor Jeff Dunn, CEO of the Cancer Council Queensland. Panel participants included some of the previous speakers. Danielle Tindle and Nancy Lins also joined the panel. Danielle is a member of the CanSpeak Queensland Advisory Committee and a PhD researcher at the Institute of Health and Biomedical Research, Queensland University of Technology. Her research is examining the cancer survivorship experiences of Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA). As a ten year survivor of AYA cancer herself, Danielle brought a unique perspective to this discussion as she has extensive experience working in this field and advocating for young patients. Nancy who is CEO and President of N.E. Lins & Associates also brought her valued perspective gained through her experience as a

senior executive at the American Cancer Society and at the Union for International Cancer Control in Geneva, Switzerland to the eclectic mix of panellists.

Positive feedback and engagement from the audience demonstrated how valued the COSA Consumer Forum is for people affected by cancer.

Leonie Young CanSpeak Queensland



Ms Leonie Young speaking at the Consumer Forum

Submitted Symposia

In 2012 COSA introduced a new initiative calling for self-designed symposia for inclusion in the official ASM program. Symposia nominations were submitted via the usual abstract process and reviewed by the abstract review committee. There were 3 successful symposia nominations:

- Medicines Matter – see report in the Cancer Pharmacists Group report on page 15
- Nutrition an Essential Ingredient for Cancer Care – see report in the Nutrition Group report on page 18
- Translating the evidence to improve cancer care for Indigenous people – see below

Translating the evidence to improve cancer care for Indigenous people

Dianne L O'Connell¹ Carla Treloar² Christy Newman²
Gail Garvey³ Patricia Valery³ Rajah Supramaniam¹

1. Cancer Council NSW, Woolloomooloo, NSW, Australia
2. National Centre for HIV Social Research, University of NSW, Sydney, NSW, Australia
3. Epidemiology & Health Systems, Menzies School of Health Research, Brisbane, QLD, Australia

In previous COSA Annual Scientific Meetings, presentations on this emerging area of research were in different concurrent sessions according to their disciplinary group. This made attending all relevant talks in this area problematic. We therefore saw the opportunity to submit a proposal for a symposium as a chance to present a single coherent session on the latest research that may explain the determinants of poorer cancer outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and outline the challenges in translating the evidence into actions.

The speakers presented new findings from their latest research on barriers to Indigenous people accessing cancer treatment, the assumptions made and approaches used by health care workers when treating Indigenous people with cancer, the supportive care needs of Indigenous people with cancer in Queensland and the role of treatment, comorbidities and stage of cancer at diagnosis in explaining the poorer outcomes experienced by Indigenous people with cancer.

Mr Supramaniam summarised the challenges in transferring these research findings into knowledge that researchers, health services, clinicians and individuals can use.

Finally Prof O'Connell led an open discussion of the implications for translating this evidence into programs and improved outcomes for Indigenous people with cancer.

There was very positive feedback from the audience about the symposium and the speakers enjoyed the opportunity to present collaboratively and we encourage future COSA Annual Scientific Meetings organising committees to continue to call for symposium proposals.

Rajah Supramaniam & Dianne O'Connell

Report from 2012 COSA Fellow

I am most grateful to the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) for providing me the opportunity to attend the COSA 39th Annual Scientific Meeting and IPOS 14th World Congress Of Psycho-Oncology in Brisbane, Australia. I am participating in a palliative care fellowship program at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne under Dr Odette Spruyt. It is in this fellowship program that I was provided the opportunity to attend the conference. This was an excellent opportunity for me to get an overview of a wide range of topics in the area of palliative medicine and its advancement into psycho-oncological care. This would definitely lead to enhancement of my clinical skills as a palliative care physician. The sessions provided practical reviews of current research and therapies in these areas. It was the first joint conference held by COSA and IPOS and so it provided opportunity for experts of many different streams of medicine to take part and contribute their research and ideas in the conference. The delegates were able to participate in both formal and informal discussions with international experts on both the palliative and psycho-oncological issues. I hope to incorporate some of these ideas into my practice back home.

I especially liked the plenary sessions on "Implementing Psycho-Oncology: Evidence into Practice", "Beyond the Surface" and "Inequalities in Cancer Care"

The relevant and interesting sessions for me were: "Radiotherapy for the non-radiation oncologists" and "When cancer is no longer curable"

Other sessions that I attended were COSA Best of the Best Orals-Supportive Care and Nutrition-An essential ingredient for cancer care

I would not have been able to attend this conference without the support of COSA.

Dr Sanjay Dhiraaj, MD (Anaesthesiology)

Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, India

Email: s_dhiraaj@yahoo.com



L-R: Kate Whittaker, Sanjay Dhiraaj and Marie Malica

Congratulations Amanda Goldrick from New South Wales

The recipient of the 'New Member Hamper' drawn post ASM

COSA welcomes all of its new members

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.

- Full search capabilities
- Free email table-of-contents alerts
- OnlineEarly alerts
- All available in email or RSS and Atom formats

Discover more with Wiley-Blackwell.

 **WILEY-
BLACKWELL**

COSA “BEST OF THE BEST” AWARDS

COSA Best of the Best Oral Presentation Winners 2012

Education and Professional Development – Jenny Hughes

Consumer learning: education for consumers working with Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups. abs #18

Basic and Translational – Rebekah McWhirter

A genome-wide association study of vulvar cancer in Aboriginal women resident in Arnhem Land. abs #24

Carcinoma of Unknown Primary – Joint Winners

Linda Mileszkin – *Cancer of the unknown primary (CUP): a population-based analysis of temporal change and socio-economic disparities. abs #32*

Erin Moth – *Carcinoma of unknown primary: presentation and prognosis in South West Sydney. abs#33*

Epidemiology – Aaron Thrift
Predicting absolute risks for oesophageal adenocarcinoma. abs#161

Melanoma and Skin Cancer – Diona Damian
Topical immunotherapy with diphenylprone for cutaneous metastatic melanoma. abs #124

Health Services – Belinda Lambros

Exploring reasons for extended length of stay in older cancer patients. abs #148

Clinical Sciences – Belinda Kiely

Using scenarios to explain life expectancy in advanced cancer: attitudes of people with a cancer experience. abs#152

Supportive Care – Christine Carrington

The impact of the day pharmacist on chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting: a prospective, observational study. abs #29

COSA Best of the Best Poster Oral Presentation Winners 2012

Epidemiology and Health Services – Philippa Youl

Impact of prevention on future cancer incidence in Australia. abs #710

Clinical Research – Bryan Chan

Safety to tele-oncology and chemotherapy delivery in rural centres. abs #701

Translational Research – Patricia Valery

Breast cancer diagnosis and patterns of treatment: does being Indigenous make a difference? abs #715

Education and Supportive Care – Louisa Fitz-Gerald

A multi-disciplinary practical support team for patients and families. abs#716



2012 Doreen Akkerman Supportive Care Award Jenelle Loeliger

*Investigation malnutrition in Victorian cancer services:
results from a point prevalence study. abs#323*

This award is made possible with the generous support of Cancer Council Victoria

COSA 2012 Travel Grant Recipients

The following COSA members received travel grants to attend either the 2012 COSA-IPOS Joint Meeting or the COSA Advanced Trainees Weekend.

COSA Travel Grants

Kellie Bilinski
Bryan Chan
Bianca Devitt
Helen Gooden
Alison Hocking
Nicole Kiss
Heather Lane
Jude Lees
Erin Moth

COSA/IPSEN Travel Grants

Laura Emery
Carlo Pirri



COSA acknowledges IPSEN for their continued support through educational grants in 2012

COSA Trainee Travel Grants

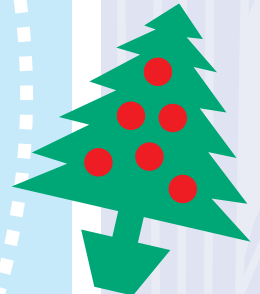
Lei Chang
Ajay Gupta
Deme Karikios
Bob Li
Anne Long
Prashanth Prithviraj
Akshat Saxena
Ali Tafreshi
Yuan Tian
Siaw Sze Tiong

COSA, PoCoG & OZPOS Travel Grants

The following COSA, PoCoG and OZPOS members received travel grants to attend the 2012 COSA-IPOS Joint Meeting.

Lisa Beatty
Lizz Lobb
Rebecca Bergin

Sue McConaghey
Anna Collins
Fiona McDonald
Tania Douglas
Roger Moulton
Jemma Gilchrist
Pandora Patterson
Emma Goddard
Astrid Przedziecki
Kristy Hodgson
Lesley Stafford
Laura Kirsten
Efty Stavrou
Sylvie Lambert
Hayley Whitford



Eli Lilly Luminous Awards 2012



Luminous Award winners with members of the judging panel, COSA and Eli Lilly representatives

Sophie Scott from the ABC and Janelle Miles, Courier Mail, Queensland took out the broadcast and print categories respectively of the Luminous Awards for 2012.

“Both Sophie and Janelle’s entries clearly met the award criteria and were undoubtedly high quality examples of oncology journalism,” said John Stubbs, Chair of the Luminous Awards Australia judging panel.

Sophie Scott, ABC, took out the broadcast category with a series of stories on Cancer Breakthroughs. Scott’s stories highlighted new data, research and treatments for the many faces of cancer and accurately reflected the sometimes complex science behind the medical breakthroughs.

Janelle Miles’ entry consisted of two articles on cancer genetics entitled, ‘Genetic hope for cancer’

and ‘Trial targets pancreas cancer’. New research that may identify a genetic link to pancreatic cancer (one of the cancers with the poorest outcomes) is highlighted in Janelle’s articles. They provide a balanced view for all persons who may have a family member affected by this disease and the importance of further research in this area.

For the second year in a row, the Financial Review’s Jill Margo was named as highly commended in the print category of the award for her articles ‘How to hold on to what you have got - a three part series in sexual rehabilitation following surgical treatment for cancer of the prostate gland’.

The Luminous Awards are hosted by COSA in partnership with Eli Lilly Australia.



"I used the download app for keeping my notes and it was great. First time I have ever done that on my iPad and it worked well. Wonderful conference... well organised... excellent programme...loved the dinner and the band!!!!!!...well done to all the organisers"



"It's great to receive these 'Day in Review' messages when we are not attending the meeting. It makes me feel like I am present!"

"It was generally well organized and one of the best conferences I've attended."

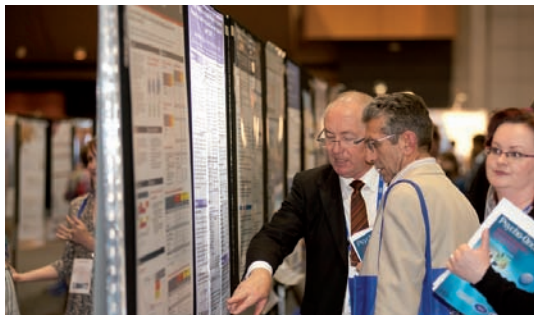


**Ho!
Ho!
Ho!**



“Overall, an excellent conference. The joint conference format added to the interest and stimulation.”

“It was my first COSA and it was above and beyond what I had expected”



“The joint conference was excellent. Having attended COSA for a number of years, the addition of the psychosocial content enriched the program.”



“I had a great time at #COSAIPOS! One of the best international conferences I have attended:) thank you @COSAoncology & @IPOSpsychOncol ” – via Twitter

“This was an exceptional conference, the research informing practice theme was perfect....”



Group Reports

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia

This year's Winter Congress in Hobart in July, our 15th Annual Meeting, was a fantastic success for the CNSA. Our conference theme "Promoting Partnerships for Optimal Patient Outcomes," was evident across all aspects of the meeting and offered those of us in attendance an opportunity to think and hear about innovative ways to engage with and improve the care of people affected by cancer, irrespective of where we live and work. Our international and national invited speakers provided us with excellent, multidisciplinary insights into advances in cancer care, including world-leading robotic surgery, geriatric oncology, wound care and the use of technology to better support patient decision making and self-care. The quality of the posters presented and concurrent sessions delivered was impressive, demonstrating the diversity, expertise and commitment of CNSA members to excellent cancer care.

The NEC was delighted to be able to show off the new look CNSA website at Winter Congress in Hobart and invite members to vote for a preferred CNSA logo. In December, the CNSA is delighted to announce it will launch its new look website at www.cnsa.org.au.



As I stand down as President of CNSA, it is my great pleasure to hand over the Presidency to Sandy McKiernan. Sandy is the Director of Cancer Information and Support Services at Cancer Council WA, this role oversees the strategic and operational direction of all cancer services provided by CCWA to people affected by cancer as well as health professional education related to supportive and palliative care. Sandy has over 20 years' experience as a Cancer Nurse in the public and not for profit sector in WA and completed her Masters of Public Health in 2004. Sandy has played an active role in the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia since 2003 including Grants and Education Committee member, the inaugural chair of CNSA – Perth and Environs, the National Executive Committee WA Representative for the last three years and is currently President Elect taking up the Presidency in January 2013. Sandy will join COSA Council in January 2013 in her role as the CNSA President and I look forward to working with the CNSA in my new role as President Elect of COSA.

Mei Krishnasamy
President, Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
www.cnsa.org.au

Email: meinir.krishnasamy@petermac.org

Cancer Pharmacists Group

We have made it to the end of a busy and productive year for the Cancer Pharmacists Group. The last half of the year saw us turn our attention toward the joint COSA/IPOS ASM in Brisbane. There was something for

everyone at this year's meeting which was well attended by cancer pharmacists from across Australia (more below). The CPG would like to thank COSA for supporting both our pre-conference professional day and our self-contained mini-symposium; Medicines Matter. It was great to meet many people – old and new faces alike – and the CPG committee is already looking forward to the 2013 COSA ASM to be held in Adelaide. We will see COSA celebrate its 40th birthday so there are sure to be some significant celebrations to come over the next 12 months!

I would like to wish all CPG members and our friends at COSA a very happy holiday season and healthy, prosperous and productive new year.

COSA/IPOS ASM 2012 - Brisbane 12-15 November

CPG Clinical Professional Day – Mon 12 Nov 2012

Almost 50 delegates registered to attend the COSA CPGs clinical professional day on Monday 12 November 2012 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The sessions generated much discussion throughout the day. I would like to thank all delegates, all of the speakers for agreeing to present and also Jude Lees, Gail Rowan and Michael Powell for setting the agenda for the day.

The morning session (chaired by Jude Lees, Deputy Chair, COSA CPG) saw a number of presentations loosely based around a theme of supportive care issues for cancer pharmacists. Michael Powell (Senior Oncology Pharmacist, Gold Coast Hospital) gave a talk on methotrexate induced renal failure. Gail Rowan (Senior Pharmacist, Peter Mac) spoke about platinum hypersensitivity & desensitisation and Krissy Carrington (Super Convenor) presented: nausea – the final frontier! The morning session concluded with a presentation from Dan McKavanagh on cardiotoxicity at the cellular level.

Dan Mellor (Chair, COSA CPG) chaired the afternoon session and led an interactive workshop on the development of national KPIs for cancer pharmacy. The group came up with a shortlist of activity and quality measures that should be considered for national implementation. Following the success of this session, a small working group will be established (led by Krissy Carrington) to take this project forward. Three more presentations followed: Geeta Sandhu (Senior Pharmacist, Princess Alexandra Hospital) spoke about CAMS & the evidence for harm with chemotherapy, Senthil Lingaratnam (Senior Pharmacist, Peter Mac) presented on Immunogenic toxicities of anti-cancer therapies, and Zeyad Ibrahim (Oncology Manager, HPS Pharmacy) gave a talk about ifosfamide-induced encephalopathy. The day finished with a lively Q&A panel session involving all speakers.

The CPG would like to thank COSA for financially supporting our professional workshop.



CPG Mini-Symposium – COSA ASM 2012

This was a new concept for COSA and the mini-symposium took the form of a 1.5 hour themed-session held as a concurrent session in the main ASM program between 11am-12.30pm on Tuesday 13 November. This session was also a big success with a wide multidisciplinary audience (pharmacy, medical, nursing, industry to name a few) in attendance, as shown during the Q&A session! The mini-symposium was titled: Medicines Matter and aimed to showcase a number of research projects completed by cancer pharmacists in Australia which are of interest to a wider audience. I chaired the session and there were three presentations

- Jude Lees presented on Polypharmacy in Geriatric Cancer Patients
- Jim Siderov presented on Chemotherapy Contamination Issues
- Dan Mellor presented on Issues with Patient Access to Cancer Drugs caused by our drug regulatory system.

The CPG hopes this concept will continue at future COSA ASMs. Once again, we would like to thank COSA and the ASM organising committee for supporting the CPG application to hold this session.

CPG Annual General Meeting

The CPG Annual General Meeting took place during the COSA ASM on Tuesday 13 November at 12.30-1.30pm. Thanks to all of those members who attended and also thanks to those who sent their apologies in advance. The draft minutes will be sent to all CPG members shortly.

Clinical Courses for Cancer Pharmacists

CPG course ‘Advanced Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists Course’ on 13 & 14 October 2012, Melbourne

Our advanced course aimed at experienced cancer pharmacists with 5 or more years of experience, took place in October. Over 25 pharmacists from all over Australia attended and the feedback received after the course was extremely positive. I would like to thank all delegates and speakers for giving up their time to attend this course.

CPG course ‘Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacy Practitioners Course’ – Brisbane, 2013

The CPG will be 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. We are currently working on confirming the dates for this course.

Dan Mellor, Chair

Email: dan.mellor@petermac.org

Familial Cancer Group

The FCC Group coordinated a successful Clinical Professional Day (CPD) alongside the annual Familial Cancer meeting in Kingscliff NSW in August 2012. There was a range of national and international speakers, all with a focus on clinical aspects of familial cancer and its practice. The CPD was evaluated by personnel from “The Centre for Genetics Education” based at the Royal North Shore Hospital SYDNEY. The CGE is the education arm of the NSW Genetics service of NSW Health and is funded as a state-wide service by NSW Health. The evaluation was based on the evaluation sheets completed by attendees. In summary there were 200 registrants for the day and the CPD drew mostly strongly appreciative comments. The multi-disciplinary topics, relevance to clinical practice, excellence of speakers, time for questions/discussions and attention to time-keeping were cited as the main points of satisfaction. Suggestions for future meetings included inviting more clinicians to present their research findings that have clinical implications and giving a range of opportunities for the attendees/potential attendees to suggest topics for future meetings. To this end, any suggestions are welcome from COSA FCC Group members at any time, either direct to me (gillian.mitchell@petermac.org) or through the COSA administration.

The COSA FCC Group held its AGM during the CPD in August and discussed the membership of the group and ways to increase and stimulate membership and engagement with the Group. Links with the Human Genetics Society of Australia (HGSA) were highlighted as an essential relationship (see alter).

Next year the CPD will occur embedded within the Familial Cancer/InSIGHT meeting in Cairns in 25-31st August which will be a fantastic meeting (see the kConFab website for current links <http://www.kconfab.org/Index.shtml>). The FCC Group Executive is working on the CPD component of that meeting. There will also be a strong familial cancer flavour to the COSA annual meeting in Adelaide in 2013 coordinated by Nicola Poplawski and Graeme Suthers.

The membership of the COSA FCC Group is a broad-ranging mix of clinicians and researchers but it is under-represented with genetic counsellors. The passing of the new COSA constitution should enable COSA to forge closer links with the HGSA and find a way of making COSA membership more attractive to genetics professional who have not yet considered joining COSA. The HGSA disbanded its familial cancer group a few years ago so there is a need to provide a forum for familial cancer practitioners to communicate and reach a broader range of people interested and/or involved with familial cancer practice. Developing links with the HGSA will be a major focus for the FCC Group in 2013.

In 2013 the cancer genetics section of the eviQ guideline network (<https://www.eviq.org.au/>) expanded to become a national working group which has enabled more point of care guidelines to be created and



updated. This will be a major advance to harmonise familial cancer practice across Australia and funds have been recently awarded to evaluate the implementation of eviQ guidelines in clinical familial cancer practice over the coming years. The scope of the cancer genetics section will be increased to include evaluation of new genetic discoveries and determine the readiness for clinical practice and this will start in early 2013.

Gillian Mitchell, Chair

Email; gillian.mitchell@petermac.org

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

2012 was a year of consolidation and growth for the Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG). The organization underwent a restructure last year which led to reorganization and streamlining of the central office, resulting in increased efficiencies and cost savings for ANZGOG.

The ANZGOG trial portfolio currently has six active trials in Ovarian, Cervical and Endometrial Cancer which are all recruiting well. A highlight for the Group was the success of the OUTBACK Trial grant application with the NHMRC. The RESOLVE and ICON8 Trials have also received favourable reviews and we are hopeful that they too will receive funding. On top of the usual sources of funding for our trials, for the first time this year, ANZGOG received grant monies from the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation, for which we are very grateful.

2012 has also been highlighted by a number of new initiatives instituted by Alison Evans, our Executive Officer, to raise ANZGOG's profile in the community. These initiatives aim to increase community and corporate awareness, engage new members and kick start public fundraising for the organization so that we are no longer solely dependent on government grants to support our activities. Whilst we will always be dependent on government funding for our large randomized control trials, ANZGOG is working to develop an independent funding stream to give us greater flexibility to fund trials in the development and start-up phase, which always precedes the active recruitment of patients into trials by up to 2 years.

ANZGOG welcomed several new members to the ANZGOG Consumer and Community Committee (CCC) at the ANZGOG Annual General Meeting on October 31st in Sydney. These new members bring special skills and support to the group and we have exciting plans ahead, so watch this space!

ANZGOG will be hosting a Consumer event in Newcastle on December 8th. This is our first regional event and we have an outstanding panel of presenters lined up who will highlight current research trends in gynaecological cancer and provide a forum for discussion of issues around "Living with Gynae Cancer".

Finally I would like to congratulate Prof Michael Friedlander, the Founding Chair of ANZGOG, who is the 2012 recipient of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society Award for Excellence in Gynecological Oncology for his work in cancer research. This is a great honour and we are very proud of his accomplishment.



Prof Michael Friedlander

Alison Brand, Chair

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

Melanoma & Skin Group

The 2012 COSA 39th Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane had a major focus on skin cancer, both melanoma and non-melanoma. The meeting was preceded by a trainees workshop on Sunday November 11th which was for all oncology disciplines and organised by Chris Allan (surgeon), Matthew Foote (radiation oncologist) and Victoria Atkinson (medical oncologist), all of whom are an integral part of the melanoma multidisciplinary service at Princess Alexandra Hospital. The COSA meeting was fortunate to have as a guest speaker Dan Coit from the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Dr Coit is a world renowned surgeon with an interest in both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers. He is credited for the introduction of lymph node mapping and sentinel lymph node biopsy in skin cancers. Highlights of the meeting relating to skin cancer were the "best of the best oral presentations on skin cancer" on Tuesday Nov 13th which included a meta-analysis on the issue of completion node dissection after positive sentinel node biopsy. On Wednesday, there was also a laboratory-based session on skin cancer basic science entitled "Of mice and men". This was followed by a plenary titled "Skin Cancer; Beyond the Surface". This session was chaired by Associate Professor Mark Smithers.

Dan Coit discussed myths and misconceptions on the management of melanoma. He highlighted the fact that Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy (SLNB) remains a useful staging and prognostic procedure for thick melanomas but there is still no convincing evidence that it alters survival.

He also highlighted that there is a lack of evidence that a completion lymph node dissection improves survival in the presence of a positive SLN, despite its routine use. Interestingly, patients with positive SLN are more likely to fail systemically rather than regionally.

Professor Adele Green a leading international epidemiologist in skin cancer noted her research confirming Australians have the highest rate of melanoma in the world and that 1 in 10 Queenslanders have a life-time risk of developing some form of cutaneous melanoma. She highlighted findings from her Journal of Clinical Oncology article (2012) looking at the 20 year survival

from thin melanoma in Queensland. She noted that for thin melanomas adverse predictors of outcome included male, older, scalp/neck, thickness, level and acral lentiginous morphology.

Professor Grant McArthur, leading medical oncologist researcher from PeterMac talked about targeted therapy and personalised care.

Peter Soyer, Professor of Dermatology, highlighted the role of dermoscopy in the screening and diagnosing of melanoma.

The session concluded with a talk from Julie Fraser, who gave an account of her experience as a melanoma patient.

After lunch there was an interactive plenary which included and chaired by Matthew Loscalzo. The panel included a variety of health professionals involved in care patients with melanoma and revolved around several difficult hypothetical cases. This was followed late in the afternoon by a session involving various management strategies for non-melanomatous skin cancers. In summary COSA 2012 did highlight the commonest cancer in Australians and was appropriately held in the skin cancer capital of the world.

Contributions from Bryan Burmeister and Sandro Porceddu

David Speakman, Chair

Email: David.Speakman@petermac.org

Neuro-Oncology Group

COGNO held its **5th Annual Scientific Meeting** from Tuesday 7 August to Thursday 9 August 2012, in conjunction with the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) Annual Scientific Meeting (8-11 August). A highlight was the half-day Joint Neuro-Oncology Symposium with MOGA on 9 August. COGNO was pleased to host Professor Susan Chang and Professor Michael Vogelbaum, as well as a number of well-known Australian experts as part of the COGNO program. Local co-Convenors were COSA Neuro-oncology Group member Dr Zarnie Lwin, Medical Oncologist and Dr Matthew Foote, Radiation Oncologist. The theme of the meeting was 'Neuroimaging: Novel Approaches for Glioma'.

Brisbane Brain Tumour Consumer Forum, Saturday 11 August 2012

Brain Tumour Alliance Australia (BTAA), in conjunction with Cancer Council Queensland held a successful patient and carer Forum in Brisbane on Saturday 11 August 2012, attended by approximately 60 people, with special guest speaker Professor Susan M Chang from San Francisco.

The **Austin Health Brain Tumour Support Service** held a highly successful **Brain Tumour Clinical Professional Day** on Friday 17 August 2012, attended by over 100 predominantly health professionals from across Victoria.

Areas covered included education regarding the patient journey taken following the diagnosis of a brain tumour, emphasising the particular challenges faced in rural and regional areas and the importance of supportive care provision and care coordination in this complex patient group. An important goal and outcome of this Day was to form and strengthen networking amongst Victorian health professionals supporting people with brain tumours.

Many other initiatives both in educating the health professional community, discussions regarding supportive care of brain tumour patients and carers; as well as consumer / advocacy initiatives were undertaken across Australia during 2012.

Selected Neuro-oncology publication/ references of interest

1. Phase III Trial of Chemoradiotherapy for **Anaplastic Oligodendroglioma**: Long-Term Results of RTOG 9402. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23071247>
2. **Management of GBM in the elderly**
Wick et al. Temozolomide chemotherapy alone versus radiotherapy alone for malignant astrocytoma in the elderly: the NOA-08 randomised, phase 3 trial. *Lancet Oncol.* 2012 Jul;13(7):707-15. Epub 2012 May 10.
Malmström A et al. Temozolomide versus standard 6-week radiotherapy versus hypofractionated radiotherapy in patients older than 60 years with glioblastoma: the Nordic randomised, phase 3 trial. *Lancet Oncol.* 2012 Sep;13(9):916-26. Epub 2012 Aug 8. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22877848>
3. Preliminary results of the phase III AVAGLIO study presented at the Society of Neuro-oncology Meeting, November 2012.

Here is a synopsis of the presented Abstract:

AVaglio is a phase III, randomised, double blind, placebo controlled trial that assessed the efficacy and safety profile of Avastin in combination with radiation and temozolomide chemotherapy following surgery or biopsy in patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma. Patients were randomised to receive either:

Avastin plus radiation and temozolomide chemotherapy for six weeks followed by a four-week break.

Patients then received Avastin and temozolomide for up to six cycles, followed by Avastin alone until disease progression VERSUS Radiation, temozolomide and placebo for six weeks followed by a four-week break. Patients then received temozolomide and placebo for up to six cycles, followed by placebo until disease progression.

The co-primary endpoints of the study were overall survival and progression free survival as assessed by trial investigators. Secondary endpoints included PFS as assessed by an independent review committee, one- and



two-year survival rates, health-related quality of life measures and safety profile.

The results of the phase III AVAglio trial were presented in Plenary Session 5 by Professor Olivier Chinot, AVAglio Principal Investigator, President of Association des Neuro-Oncologues d'Expression Française (ANOEF), Head of the Neuro-Oncology Department, University Hospital Timone, Marseille, France (Abstract OT-03, Saturday 17 November).

The study showed Avastin (bevacizumab) in combination with radiation and temozolomide chemotherapy reduced the risk of cancer worsening or death (progression-free survival; PFS) by 36 percent compared to radiation and temozolomide chemotherapy plus placebo (HR=0.64; $p < 0.0001$) in people with newly diagnosed glioblastoma, the most common and aggressive form of primary brain cancer. PFS assessed by trial investigators was a co-primary endpoint for the study. The interim results for overall survival (OS), the other co-primary endpoint, did not reach statistical significance (HR=0.89; $p = 0.2135$). Final data on overall survival are expected in 2013. The data were presented at the 17th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology in Washington D.C., USA.

No new safety findings were observed in the AVAglio study and adverse events were consistent with those seen in previous trials of Avastin across tumour types for approved indications.

Primary endpoints:

- The 36 percent reduction in the risk of disease worsening or death can also be referred to as a 56 percent improvement in PFS (HR=0.64; $p < 0.0001$).
- A 4.4 month improvement in median PFS was observed when people with newly diagnosed glioblastoma received Avastin in combination with radiation and chemotherapy compared to those who received radiation and chemotherapy plus placebo (10.6 months vs. 6.2 months, respectively, $p < 0.0001$).
- Interim results for overall survival did not reach statistical significance (HR=0.89; $p = 0.2135$). Final data on OS are expected in 2013.

Secondary endpoints:

- An independent review committee assessment of PFS showed a 39 percent reduction in the risk of disease worsening or death, which can also be referred to as a 64 percent improvement in PFS (HR=0.61; $p < 0.0001$). This was consistent with the magnitude of benefit assessed by the trial investigators.
- The one-year survival rate was 66 percent for the placebo arm versus 72 percent in the Avastin arm ($p = 0.052$).
- The study also showed that during the progression free time patients were able to maintain both their functional independence and a number of relevant health-related quality of life measures, emphasising the importance of extending the PFS time for patients. An additional benefit was that patients in the Avastin arm required less corticosteroids as a result of the extended PFS time.

Select upcoming activities planned for 2013:

- Brain Cancer Action Week – early May 2013
- International Brain Tumour Awareness Week: Sunday 27 October - Saturday 2 November.
- 6th COGNO ASM to be held in Sydney, 25-26 October 2013 – mark your calendars!

Please contact Dr Koh (Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.) 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

Nutrition Group

The Nutrition Group was well represented at the ASM. On day one, we held a symposium featuring dietitians completing PhD's in aspects of oncology nutrition. Jenelle Loeliger's oral presentation regarding malnutrition prevalence in Victorian hospitals won the session prize and she was successful in winning The Doreen Akkerman Award for Supportive Care prize. Other members featured in posters presentations and oral presentations.

The wiki based head and neck guidelines continue to be well received with the Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society recently endorsing the guidelines. We thank Cancer Council Australia for ongoing support with hosting the wiki guidelines and particularly Jutta von Dincklage for her dedication and advice. The 2012 update is almost finalised thanks to the work of dietitian Elise Strange. A publication led by former project manager Teresa Brown was accepted in November for the Journal of Nutrition & Dietetics which is UK based. This will further assist the international dissemination of this important work.



Judith Bauer, Chair

Email: j.bauer1@uq.edu.au

Oncology Social Work Group

As I write this report, we have just had a successful conference at COSA, with a wonderful IPOS program that was very well attended. It was a great way to end a very busy year. There have been many achievements this year amongst them OSWA has been involved in the following submissions:

- Submission to the Senate inquiry into the Provision of Palliative Care in Australia, March. OSWA is currently preparing a response to the Senate report published in September;
- Revisions submitted to the draft of the new edition of the Hope and Hurdles: Information guide to women with secondary breast cancer, BCNA;
- Response to Draft National Cancer Workforce Strategy, Health Workforce Australia, October.

OSWA has had several focus areas for the year much of which I'm happy to report has been attended to or is in process of. These priority areas have been:

- executive team building
- improving the website
- social work workforce issues
- planning an OSWA conference in 2013
- palliative care submission to the senate
- education survey
- reviewing OSWA's strategic plan at the end of 2012

The main piece of news is that 2013 OSWA conference planning has been underway the theme of the conference is Effecting Change – OSWA 4-6 April 2013, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. For the first time we will hold pre-conference workshops to give greater professional development opportunities. For further info please check the website www.oswa.net.au

Enjoy the festive season and the opportunity to hopefully take a break. For further information please email me on angela.cotroneo@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Angela Cotroneo, Chair

Email: angela.cotroneo@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Psycho-Oncology Group

COSA-IPOS 2012

What a fantastic experience the joint COSA-IPOS meeting was, I hope all of you enjoyed it as much as I did. Firstly, I'd like to thank Phyllis Butow, Jane Turner and Jeff Dunn for this leadership of the international and national IPOS Program Committees and to Krissy Carrington for her leadership as COSA Convenor. My thanks also to Melanie Price, Marie Malica and Megan Dwyer who kept everything on track and moving toward ensuring a smooth and high-quality meeting.

The quality of presentations and new data was extraordinary. Having the sessions themed this year helped to

work out which sessions to attend and meant a little less time running between rooms. Research in progress poster presentations gave a great opportunity to review and discuss ongoing research, there was such a diversity of projects. I particularly enjoyed Galina Velikova's work on using patient reported outcomes in clinical practice. It was inspiring to see how investment of time and thought could improve outcomes for patients and clinicians. Thanks so much to everyone who contributed their work to the meeting; it was a very positive promotion of high quality Psycho-Oncology research and practice.

IPOS Academies

There was something for everyone at the IPOS Academies, run on the weekend preceding the Conference. From publishing to meaning-making, the diverse program attracted attendees from all over the planet. The range of activities reflected the diversity required to deliver high-quality psycho-oncology care to people living with cancer. The two sessions I attended provided an excellent review of the state of knowledge in two diverse areas and opened up discussion about future research directions and how we might further knowledge and practice. Thank you to all the Academy convenors for the time and effort they put into delivering these wonderful training opportunities.

Psycho-Oncology Awards

I would like to thank COSA for their support in establishing our two COSA, OZPOS, PoCoG Psycho-Oncology Awards. It was great to see our group and two of our members recognised in this way. Congratulations to Professor Afaf Girgis, who was the very deserving winner of the COSA Psycho-Oncology Award. An apt recognition of Afaf's many years of dedication and contribution to psycho-oncology. We hope that these awards will continue, providing an ongoing opportunity for our group to recognise excellence within the Australian Psycho-Oncology community.

Priorities for 2013 and beyond

Our annual general meeting was very well attended this year, and included a presentation from Melanie Price of PoCoG who discussed the opportunities for OZPOS and PoCoG to collaborate more closely on our mutual interests. There was enthusiasm to revisit the issue of health professional burn-out and psycho-oncology services role in supporting the clinical teams. A team of people will come together in the new year to develop some research questions around this topic.

With the move toward activity based funding, many psycho-oncology clinicians are concerned about the high potential for diminishing funding for psycho-oncology services. During 2013 we will be looking more at the role and activities performed by psycho-oncology staff to assist with defining this more clearly. In a related issue, it has become clear that there is an extraordinary range of practice models and some streamlining of procedures and processes may assist people in establishing a best practice psycho-oncology service. Forming another activity that the group will undertake over the coming year. If you are interested in assisting with any of this please do get in touch with me.



Thanks so much for a wonderful year in Australian Psycho-Oncology; I look forward to working hard alongside of all of you in 2013.

Haryana Dhillon, Chair

Email: haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au

Regional & Rural Group

2012 has been a productive year for the COSA Regional and Rural Interest Group. Over 60 people attended the "More than bricks and mortar" workshop in Canberra on 3 August 2012 to discuss cancer service development in regional and rural Australia. Participants included doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and administrators working in cancer service delivery around Australia as well as consumer representatives and research professionals. Participants agreed that the outcomes by which the success of a regional cancer centres is measured must be determined by the local community and incorporate safety and quality end-points in addition to conventional clinical end-points. A report from the workshop is available to COSA members.

The workshop led to the development of a list of recommendations including a regular networking meeting of rural centres, the first of which took place in Brisbane prior to the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in November under the auspices of Cancer Australia. Representatives from a number of regional cancer centres presented developments at their centre to the forum, sharing successes and challenges so that other centres may learn from their experiences. A key focus was collaborative networking.

COSA looks forward to collaborating with participants at both events in 2013 to improve cancer service development in regional and rural Australia.

Please contact Jessica Harris, COSA Project Coordinator (jessica.harris@cancer.org.au) for more information on the activities of the group.

Adam Boyce, Chair

Email: aboyce@svh.org.au

Urologic Oncology Group

COSA members are once again coming down after a great Annual Scientific Meeting, this year in conjunction with the International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS). Genitourinary cancers were not a major theme this year for the ASM because we were so strongly represented in 2011 in the joint COSA-ANZUP meeting. As always, though, the Urologic Oncology group put up a strong showing. Our group members contributed several posters, won travel grants and prizes, chaired various sessions and participated as speakers in others. The main urologic oncology group activity was the session chaired by Shomik Sengupta on 15 Nov entitled, "Minding your P's and Q's: Psychosocial aspects of urologic cancer," involving great talks from Anna Collins, Frank Gardiner, Haryana Dhillon and Prunella Blinman. Although attendance at the session was not huge, in part due to a number of other concurrent sessions, the presentations were great and the audience was very

interested and engaged. I was also privileged to participate in some other sessions including the Consumer Forum and a session on cooperative trials. I do encourage you all to continue to mark the COSA ASM in your diaries well in advance: the broad base of this multidisciplinary organisation and its ASM is not reproduced anywhere else in Australia.

Aside from the great science and networking, this was a pivotal year for COSA in that the revised Constitution was passed at the COSA AGM. This now allows COSA to move ahead with its plans to become a company limited by guarantee. This evolution of the organisation was a very necessary one but could not proceed until the Constitution was passed by the members. The new Constitution also clarifies the role of COSA Council as well as membership criteria and lays the foundation for how COSA will represent the interests of its members in the future. A key part of these considerations will be how the COSA groups such as ours are engaged, as well as the role of external organisations with similar interests but incomplete overlap, such as ANZUP. I am very glad to see COSA enter this new phase of its evolution at the sprightly age of 40.

Most of the activity for the GU cancer community this year has in fact been through ANZUP rather than through the COSA Urologic Oncology group. In my last Marryalyan report I reflected on how the two organisations can work together to represent your interests and meet the goals of both organisations. I still firmly believe that there are good reasons for belonging to and participating in both organisations. Primarily this is because there are separate needs to be met. ANZUP is a cooperative clinical trials group. Its function is to perform clinical research. Part of this involves educational and training activities, fostering research links, and building collaborations and shared systems. COSA has separate activities in terms of advocacy, public education, influencing health policy, research links other than clinical trials. It also provides broader educational links mainly in the context of its ASM, where we meet with people working in other cancer types and learn things that we might not learn in our subspecialty meetings. It's painful for some people to admit, but a GU medical oncologist can learn things from a breast surgeon, and a GU surgeon can learn from a psychologist or a nurse working in colorectal cancer! COSA is the only organisation in Australia where it is possible to do this.

We are however all short of time and it is not possible to go to every meeting, no matter how highly we rank it philosophically. It is no surprise that people will be selective and this is especially the case when their particular field is not the key theme for the wider meeting. Unfortunately this was reflected in the attendance for the Urologic Oncology Group Annual General Meeting, which we are required to hold every year according to our Terms of Reference. We did not have a quorum for this meeting: two members of the group executive are not enough to constitute a quorum! We will reschedule for the next COSA ASM in Adelaide in 2013. I can report to you though that we received no other nominations for the group executive and so this continues unchanged: Ian Davis (chair), Shomik Sengupta (deputy chair), and Scott Williams (secretary). I would like to express my thanks to Shomik and Scott for continuing

these roles; they both contribute very substantially.

I circulated a note to group members asking for feedback on the group and many of the points I've raised, and in particular asking why members did not attend the AGM or the broader ASM, whether members still saw their membership as relevant and other comments. Many thanks to those of you who responded, although obviously this was a limited sample. It was not surprising that the main reason people were unable to attend was lack of time, either to attend the main ASM at all, or to come to the AGM if they were at the ASM. Most respondents still believe that COSA and the Urologic Oncology group remain relevant for the reasons I have outlined but some did suggest that ANZUP might evolve into the group through which we have our main representation on COSA Council. This is something for us to consider in the future as we see how COSA evolves and has already happened for some COSA groups. Whatever the outcome, we must ensure that our eclectic and diverse membership retains appropriate representation at COSA and I can assure you that this will be the case.

ANZUP remains very active across all GU tumour types. Our work is greatly enriched by the involvement of our Consumer Advisory Panel, which now includes representation across our tumour types and better involvement of our consumer members within the subcommittees. We could not work without them, and similarly we could not work without the tireless involvement of our Quality of Life & Supportive Care subcommittee and our Translational and Correlative Research subcommittee. If you are not a member of ANZUP, consider joining at www.anzup.org.au and think about how you might want to participate in and contribute to these processes.

The ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting will be held 14-16 July 2013 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. Our hard working convening committee led by Shomik Sengupta has put together a fantastic program including high profile local and international speakers. We will once again include a trainees' day and the program for this has shaped up very well. Other regular program items include presentations of original research, updates on current trials, a trial workshop, a consumer forum, and a great social program. Put it into your diaries now and make sure that your colleagues know about it and your trainees have the opportunity to attend what will be another great meeting.

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



WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

2013 FELLOWSHIPS IN HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Fellowships of interest to members include:

Dr Dorothea Sandars Churchill Fellowship

For medical/veterinary parasitology or Parkinson's Disease, or advances in medicine in general.

Dr Dorothea Sandars and Irene Lee Churchill Fellowship (2 Fellowships)

For the study or update of skills for the enhancement of the delivery of palliative care; and for an issue in the field of ophthalmology.

Leslie (Les) J. Fleming Churchill Fellowship

For oncology and cancer research.

Vincent Fairfax Churchill Fellowship

For the study of a project to enrich the quality of life for Australians in their advancing years.

Mr and Mrs Gerald Frank New Churchill Fellowship

For a project that focuses on cancer research.

Jack Brockhoff Foundation Churchill Fellowship (2 Fellowships)

For projects focusing on health and/or community welfare for the benefit of Victorians (For Victorian residents only).

Application close Wednesday 20 February 2013

For further information and application forms please visit www.churchilltrust.com.au or contact the National Office, freecall 1800 777 231 or phone 02 6247 8333

COSA Interest Group Updates

AYA Interest Group

COSA's work to implement three of the Youth Cancer Networks Program (YCNP) national projects is ongoing. These projects are intended to improve management and care of adolescents and young adults (AYAs) with cancer by:

1. Developing an AYA Cancer Network
2. Producing AYA cancer clinical practice guidance and protocols
3. Increasing AYA cancer clinical research and participation of AYAs with cancer in clinical trials

These projects were funded by the Australian Government's YCNP, administered by CanTeen.

AYA Cancer Network

Information was disseminated to the AYA Cancer Network members about resources and education opportunities, such as:

- The University of Melbourne postgraduate certificate program developed by the Centre for Adolescent Health (Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne) and the ONTrac at Peter Mac Victorian AYA Cancer Service
- 2012 COSA AYA Cancer Workshop "Expanding the Continuum of Care"

COSA (with support from CanTeen) held this sixth AYA Cancer Workshop on Monday 12 November 2012 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, prior to the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting.



Following the success of previous workshops to enhance service delivery and build networks, the current workshop aimed to provide adult oncologists with AYA patients updated information and relevant case studies. The program included presentations on melanoma, bone sarcomas (overview and surgical management), fertility preservation, communicating with AYAs,

complexities of AYA care and recent AYA research. Key speakers included Prof Adèle Green, Dr Matthew Foote, Dr Peter Steadman, Dr Warren Joubert, Dr Kate Stern and A/Prof Michael Coory.

Attendance was excellent for such a workshop with 57 delegates from around Australia and New Zealand and was received highly by those who completed the evaluation form with 100% of delegates rating it excellent (55%) or very good (45%) and 100% of delegates indicating it fully (97%) or somewhat (3%) met their expectations.

COSA members, especially adult oncologists, are encouraged to attend future AYA workshops to get the most out of these exciting and useful opportunities.

Clinical practice guidance and protocols

COSA, with the invaluable assistance of expert working groups, has developed clinical practice guidance in three areas of AYA cancer management (described below). COSA has begun to promote these guidances to health professionals and relevant organisations across Australia.

Fertility preservation: This guidance on fertility preservation for AYAs diagnosed with cancer includes advice about discussing fertility risks and options with young people, assessing risk, fertility preservation options, and monitoring for late effects on reproductive function and endocrine and sexual health. The guidance is complete and available on COSA's wiki site at: http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:AYA_cancer_fertility_preservation.

Psychosocial management: This guidance provides 'good practice points' to assist health professionals in recognising and meeting the particular psychosocial needs of their AYA patients. The guidance is complete and available on COSA's wiki site at: http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:Psychosocial_management_of_AYA_cancer_patients.

Early Detection: This guidance is intended to help general practitioners and other primary health care professionals with early detection and appropriate referral of AYAs with suspected cancer. The guidance is complete and available on COSA's wiki site at: http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:Early_detection_of_cancer_in_AYAs

As part of this YCNP project, Cancer Institute NSW (CINSW) has also developed a range of point of care evidence-based protocols/resources. These are published on the eviQ website (www.eviq.org.au) under the AYA content stream. Information includes links to relevant AYA resources, eviQ AYA frequently asked questions, fact sheets, patient information sheets and treatment statements. **Supporting clinical research and increasing trial participation**

The purpose of this project is to encourage and support development of new clinical research that addresses an identified priority cancer type or issue for AYA patients – where there is a reasonable cohort of AYA patients and/or a significant survival gap.

Recruitment for the AYA-PK Study is on-going at sev-

eral centres in Australia. This study investigates pharmacological and pharmacodynamic activity of chemotherapy in patients with Ewing sarcoma, osteosarcoma and Hodgkin's lymphoma and how it varies as an effect of puberty and gender.

The ALL6 trial – investigating whether a paediatric acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) treatment protocol can be extended to patients aged 15-40 years in adult settings and examining factors that might impair dose delivery – is open for recruitment and sites are being activated across Australia.

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

In August the Executive met to discuss the strategic priorities of the Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group. The feedback received from the Cancer Care Coordination Conference held in Melbourne in March 2012 formed much of the basis for discussion.

Much discussion was centred on the need to clarify the scope and role of the Cancer Care Coordinator, as well as the models and the tools to support this role. Another strong area emerging from the Conference feedback was the need for Performance Indicators, and the need to better understand coordination issues across an individual's cancer experience.

The Executive identified potential priority activities as being the development of a **Position Paper** to address the need for a consistency in the principles and scope of practice for Cancer Care Coordinators. Such work would guide future projects, which may include development of **Clinical Practice Guidelines**, and **Communication Strategies**.

It was agreed that the **Cancer Care Coordination Conference** will be held every second year with the next scheduled for 2014. A **Professional Development Day** will be held every other year to provide practical workshops for delegates. Plans are currently underway for the 2013 professional development day – keep an eye out for announcements soon.

The **Professional development and educational** group will also explore opportunities for hosting webinars and collaborative links with EdCaN and Cancer Learning.

The Communication and Networking group will continue to produce The Coordinator newsletter biannually and manage the **National Contacts Database**.

The next step is to receive feedback and support from COSA Council on our future initiatives. I hope to be able to approach members of the Interest Group to participate in these projects.

Patsy Yates, Chair

Email: p.yates@qut.edu.au

Complementary and Integrative Therapies Interest Group

It was great to meet so many members of the interest group at our recent ASM in Brisbane. It was also very encouraging to see a good turnout representing many disciplines and institutions at our AGM. It was suggested that communication to the membership needed to be more regular and that we should work towards seeking support for a keynote speaker who holds clinical and/or research expertise in integrative oncology from a medical speciality and plan to conduct at least one concurrent session on complementary and integrative oncology at the 2013 ASM in Adelaide.

During the second half of 2012 the executive has been working on two discrete projects that are detailed below.

Project 1: Health Professionals Position Statement on CAM Use

The interest group is developing a position statement for health professionals for when patients under their care are contemplating or using CAMs. The guiding questions for the Working Group established for the project are:

- 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?
 - 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 CIT interest group has established a Working Group of COSA members, chaired by Dr Lesley Braun, Senior Research Fellow at Alfred Health to lead this project. The interest group also formed an Advisory Group to provide additional support in specialty areas not represented by the Working Group. Several teleconferences have been conducted and the project is progressing well.



Project 2: Survey of CIT Research activity in oncology settings

The COSA CIT is conducting a national survey of the COSA membership to gain some understanding of recent and current (2011 – 2014) Australian research investigating the application of complementary and integrative therapies in oncology settings. The survey has been uploaded to the Survey Monkey platform. Pilot testing of the tool has been undertaken and the tool was modified accordingly. The proposal has been submitted to the Ethics and Research Governance Office at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne as a low-risk ethics application. All COSA members aware of recent and/or current research of complementary nature in cancer are encouraged to complete the brief survey when it is circulated in early 2013.

Progress

The research audit will be carried out in two distinct phases:

1. The COSA membership will be surveyed
2. Other possible audit participants will also be determined via recommendations from COSA members when completing the survey tool and other expert opinion

If any members wish to have further details regarding the above two projects or any other matters pertaining to the interest group please contact:

Paul Katris – pkatris@cancerwa.asn.au or
Dr Lesley Braun - L.Braun@alfred.org.au

Paul Katris, Chair

Email: pkatris@cancerwa.asn.au

Developing Nations Interest Group

Dr Sanjay Dhiraaj arrived in Australia in October to begin his 10 week fellowship at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne. Sanjay is a Professor within the Department of Anaesthesiology at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science (SGPGIMS) from India. He will be mentored by Dr Odette Spruyt, Director of Pain and Palliative Care at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Whilst based at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Sanjay will experience the care of cancer patients in a comprehensive, multidisciplinary team. Sanjay's placement will provide a valuable, ongoing relationship with Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. He aims to develop a training program in his home Institution which will hopefully see correspondence maintained with Odette through knowledge sharing and the evaluation of his projects at SGPGIMS.

Sanjay attended the COSA ASM last month which gave him the opportunity to connect and engage with various oncology health professionals. He has provided a report of his experience of the Conference which you can read on page 9 of this newsletter. His family will be visiting Australia over the Christmas break and Odette has been kind enough to invite them to spend Christmas Day with

her. We thank Odette greatly for her kindness and for hosting this valuable fellowship.

Applications have closed for Round 13 of AusAID Australian Leadership Awards. This initiative provides funding for Australian organisations with an established program. The program must aim to develop leadership, address priority regional development issues, and build partnerships and links with their partner organisations in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This is the first time COSA is applying for a grant under this scheme to hopefully gain funding to support an additional fellowship under the Asia-Pacific Mentoring Program. COSA, in collaboration with the potential fellowship recipient and the host organisation are hopeful of obtaining the grant. I thank the contributors for their input to the application.

The Developing Nations Executive will review the process of receiving applications for the 2013 round of the Asia-Pacific Mentoring Program. This will hopefully streamline the process to allow easy identification of suitable links between mentors and hosts prior to the assessment of applications.

I'd like to say a special thank you to Ray Lowenthal as Co-Chair of the group, and acknowledge his support and contribution to the work of the executive.

Matthew Links, Chair

Email: Matthew.Links@SESI.AHS.HEALTH.NSW.GOV.AU

Geriatric Oncology Interest Group

The Geriatric Oncology Executive is hosting a Concept Development Day to be held on Friday 22nd March 2013 at COSA/Cancer Council Australia boardrooms in Sydney. COSA members who successfully submit a research proposal with a focus on geriatric oncology will be invited to attend the Day allowing them to gain feedback on strengthening their research idea. Some attendees will be selected to present, while others will form the general audience. The audience members will vary in professional background and provide expert feedback and advice on the research presented by clinical professionals and researchers. All attendees will gain useful tips from this forum to implement into their own work. Selected oncology professionals including a health economist and biostatistician will be in attendance to provide specialised feedback. The call for expressions of interest is currently open and will continue through to the middle of January. Successful applicants will be notified and required to submit a registration and abstract prior to the Day but those who wish to apply for funding towards their attendance will be required to submit their registration and abstract in February to be assessed. The Executive expects this to be a fully engaging, exciting and helpful forum to provide feedback for COSA members wishing to advance their research in the field of Geriatric Oncology. For more information or to request an Expression of Interest form, please contact Kate Whittaker at kate.whittaker@cancer.org.au

At the COSA ASM held last month, Nimit Singhal and Jude Lees of the Executive hosted a meet and greet of members of the broader Geriatric Oncology Interest

group. Nimit and Jude discussed the Executive's current focus areas and the project's for 2013. It was also an opportunity for interest group members to network and discuss their work, resources, and areas of interest in geriatric oncology. Feedback received from this meeting was positive and the Executive will be looking at how to best engage with the broader membership moving forward.

2013 is not far away and it will be an exciting year for geriatric oncology across many projects, including: the Concept Development Day in March; Cancer Forum November edition; and the COSA ASM held in November in Adelaide which will have a geriatric oncology focus, so put these events in your diaries.

Christopher Steer, Chair

Email: Christopher.Steer@bordermedonc.com.au

NETs Interest Group

The multidisciplinary management of Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETs) has taken another step forward, with a collaboration of interested specialities now reaching across the Tasman. Participants at the recent ANZNET meeting, hosted by the University of Auckland on 17-18 August 2012, mandated an ambitious programme to improve clinical care and translational discovery for NETs in New Zealand, and hope to conduct this work alongside their Australian counterparts. The programme will be called 'NETwork'.

The NETwork programme builds on the small size and collegiality of New Zealand, and aims to create a backbone of regional Multi-disciplinary Meetings (MDM's) with a virtual National Meeting for difficult cases and those that illustrate unaddressed policy issues. Regional champions have been appointed. Synoptic reports for pathologists have been written and disseminated. Funding has been established for a large translational genomics programme specifically focused on NETs (thanks to generous support from the Translational Medicine Trust). The MDM's will act as the focal point for a prospective national registry, proactive trial registration, and fresh frozen tissue collection.

While the NETwork programme has a kiwi focus, there are distinct opportunities for Australians. Participants at the ANZNET meeting discussed ongoing collaboration in clinical trial recruitment and participation on each other's MDM's through video links. Together, clinicians in the two countries could create one of the world's largest clinical and translational cohorts. Participants from both nations echoed the same sentiment – we are ready to take on this challenge!

The ongoing collaboration with colleagues in New Zealand has also seen the COSA guidelines for the diagnosis and management of gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours adopted by New Zealand at the meeting in Auckland. The guidelines have recently been updated to include New Zealand and show endorsement by Cancer Trials New Zealand.

For any further information on NETwork please contact Dr Ben Lawrence (Medical Oncologist, Auckland

Hospital; Clinical Senior Research Fellow at University of Auckland).

Yu Jo Chua, Chair

Email: yujochoa@gmail.com

COSA Team Profiles

Since December 2011 COSA has had a couple of staff changes. Please take a moment to meet two more of our fabulous team members, Rhonda DeSouza and Kate Whittaker.

Rhonda DeSouza

Job Title: Project Coordinator

Date joined COSA: 5 July 2010

Project Portfolio: Biobanking, neuroendocrine tumours, technical input for the COSA wiki platform

Career Background: Rhonda holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) and has also completed a Graduate Diploma in Health Economics. She initially worked as a clinician for 5 years in Australia and England, specializing in spinal cord injury. Rhonda then worked in medical device companies for 10 years, with roles across the product lifecycle (in research and development, conducting global clinical trials and managing all aspects of regulatory affairs). The Project Coordinator position at COSA presented a unique opportunity to use these diverse skills and broaden her experience in the area of cancer care and control. Rhonda recently returned to work 3 days a week following the birth of a gorgeous little girl. She looks forward to progressing existing projects and new challenges.

Kate Whittaker

Job Title: Project Coordinator

Date joined COSA: 29 May 2012

Project Portfolio: Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group, Developing Nations Interest Group, Geriatric Oncology Interest Group.

Career Background: In 2010, Kate completed a Bachelor of Health from Macquarie University, during which time she volunteered at Cancer Council NSW (CCNSW) working on a pre-election campaign raising the profile for CCNSW's political priorities to the incoming state government. With an interest in research, Kate moved into the role of Research Governance Officer at CCNSW working with the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) and Cancer Research Committee. Currently, she continues to work on community based advocacy initiatives as a member of the North Sydney Cancer Advocacy Network (CAN), and next year looks forward to beginning her Masters in Public Health.



COSA MEMBERSHIP

*COSA Membership renewals will open in 2013
– more information will follow shortly!*

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

Membership Renewals

For those members that are due to renew their COSA membership in 2013, an email will be sent to you in early 2013. Your current 2012 membership is valid until the renewal period opens.

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		
23-26 February	10th International Congress of Andrology www.ica2013.com	Melbourne, Victoria
26 February - 1 March	TROG 25th Annual Scientific Meeting www.2013trogasm.com	Wellington, New Zealand
7-8 March	13th International Meeting on Psychosocial Aspects of Hereditary Cancer www.impahc2013.com.au	Sydney, New South Wales
8-9 March	St Jude-Viva Forum in Pediatric Oncology www.viva.sg/stjude	Singapore
15 March	ALTG Meeting www.altg.com.au	Melbourne, Victoria
20-21 March	PaCCSC Annual Scientific Meeting www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/97/Default.aspx	Sydney, New South Wales
20-23 March	ANZGOG Annual Scientific Meeting www.anzgog.org.au	Gold Coast, Queensland
22-24 March	Women's Health 2013: The 21st Annual Congress http://academyofwomenshealth.org/conference	Washington DC, USA
7-10 April	12th National Rural Health Conference http://nrha.org.au/12nrhc	Adelaide, Australia
7-10 May	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress 2013 www.surgeons.org	Auckland, New Zealand
14-17 May	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au	Adelaide, South Australia
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.ioigcc.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.anzbtg.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/eurssso	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
23-25 October	2013 Oceania Tobacco Control Conference www.smokefreeoceania.org.nz/	Auckland, New Zealand
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
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	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
12-14 November	COSA's 40th Annual Scientific Meeting 2013 www.cosa.org.au	Adelaide, South Australia
12-15 November	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au	Sydney, New South Wales
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
18-20 November	COSA's 41st Annual Scientific Meeting 2014 www.cosa.org.au	Hobart, Tasmania



12-14
November
2013

Adelaide
Convention
Centre



COSA's 40th

Annual Scientific Meeting

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

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

