



## COSA NEWS **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Welcome to the second edition of the Marryalyan for 2010.

Before I report on the activities of COSA, I must mention that an era has just closed, with the retirement of Professor Tom Reeve AC CBE on June 30, 2010 from his position as Medical Director of the Australian Cancer Network. (ACN)

This is a very sad event for all of us who have been involved with Tom and the cancer guidelines movement in Australia. ACN was formed under the auspice of the Australian Cancer Society and COSA in January 1994. Tom took the position as Medical Director of the ACN after his initial retirement and his dedication to the task, his persistence and his skill at recruiting committed people to work on the extremely important clinical guidelines has been an inspiration to many.



*Professor Tom Reeve AC CBE at his Farewell*

We thanked Tom at his farewell function in Sydney on July 15. I am sure you will join me in wishing Tom and his beloved Mary Jo a very happy and healthy retirement.



*Professor Tom Reeve AC CBE receiving Cancer Council Australia Gold Medal from President, Professor Ian Frazer*

The pace of activity around COSA seems to constantly increase with many important

activities running alongside each other. I will mention some of these that have been occupying much of the time of the COSA team in Sydney.

### **COSA ASM 2010**

We have great expectations for this year's ASM. Planning started early and the program has been finalised ahead of schedule. Thanks to Eva Segelov and her tireless efforts, along with her extraordinary convening committee, we have a program that is stimulating, diverse, comprehensive and most importantly multidisciplinary. The disease focus is on breast and gynaecological malignancies, with excellent coverage of many areas of interest in both these disease areas. With our meeting theme "Cancer and Beyond" – which highlights issues around survivorship and the aftermath of cancer – along with translational research. Please take a few minutes to visit the COSA website [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au) to review the program. There really is something for everyone, and if breast and gynaecological cancers are not your area, you will find many sessions of interest. Tuesday will be more focused on Breast Cancer, Wednesday on Survivorship and Thursday on Translational Research.

A new feature this year will be the inaugural COSA Presidential Lecture, and I am pleased to announce that Professor Donald Metcalf, whose work lead to the identification and eventual clinical introduction of the CSFs into clinical practice, will present on "Taking the Colony Stimulating Factors to Clinical Oncology". We are also delighted that Prof Ian Frazer will present in this session.

Following the Presidential lecture on Thursday afternoon we will again host the Hot Topic debate. This year's topic "Pill or Potato: Prevention is Better than Cure?" facilitated by the one and only Adam Spencer which I believe will be outstanding.

We have worked hard to build on the COSA ASM as a natural focus for clinical cancer activities and meetings in Australia. This year a number of satellite meetings will be held in conjunction with the COSA ASM

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including the annual meeting of the ANZ Breast Cancer Trials Group, the inaugural meeting of the new breast surgeons' organisation – Breast SurgANZ, the Sino-Australian Surgical Oncology Conference and the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC).

With the successful implementation of COSA's Clinical Professionals Days last year, the ASM will again host a number of these meetings both before and after the ASM. I would like to congratulate the successful groups and look forward to hearing and reading about the outcomes of their educational event. We will again see a Pre COSA consumer day Co-Chaired by Ian Roos and Leonie Young and their organising committee. This year for the first time COSA and the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups are delighted to partner with the Parkville Comprehensive Cancer Centre on Friday 12 November. The workshop will bring together the CCTGs and the translational scientists to discuss what can and should be done to facilitate our efforts to bring cancer research to the clinic.

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

## ASM 2011

The 2011 ASM will be in Perth. With Nik Zeps the convenor, we plan to continue the focus on Translational Research and work to make the COSA ASM a natural venue for Australian scientists and clinicians involved in translational research to present their work. The diseases on which the meeting will focus will be colorectal and liver metastasis, with a strong urological component.

The program committee is now being formed – we look forward to active participation from all the COSA groups.

## COSA & Cancer Cooperative Trial Groups

The enabling grant that COSA and the CCTGs were awarded by the NHMRC in 2005 came to an end in June 2010. We are indebted to Steve Ackland for the work that he has put in to this. The formation and continuation of the Executive Officers' network, the umbrella clinical trials insurance scheme, and the standardised clinical trials insurance scheme and the educational programs for clinical trial staff are amongst the major outcomes of this project.

While we were not successful in securing NHMRC funding for the continuation of this grant, we have been actively exploring other means of contributing to the independent trials program in Australia. We put together an excellent submission to a recent parliamentary enquiry, and recently reached the second round for an Australian Cancer Research Foundation grant. This application was for funding to help bring the CCTGs together to lead to more cooperative and efficient processes. After much thought, we decided not to proceed with a full application this year, but to continue to work with the CCTGs to find ways that all the organisations can work together for the collective good. A meeting was held in Sydney on June 30th, and we hope to have another around the time of the ASM.

## Asian Oncology Summit

COSA was involved in the Asian Oncology Summit in Bali in early April. There was a plenary, arranged by COSA and The Lancet Oncology, where original research from cooperative trials groups was presented. It was an excellent session, with presentations from Phyllis Butow, Danny Rischin, Harry Iland, David Goldstein and Bryan Burmeister demonstrating the range and quality of research being done in Australia. Each talk was followed by a commentary from an Asian Oncologist who reflected on the relevance of this work in the Asian context.

We also took the opportunity of being in Bali to meet with representatives of oncology societies from Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan and China. It is quite clear that there is a potential role for COSA to help oncologists in Indonesia and Malaysia by facilitating mid-career oncologists from those countries to spend time in Australian centres to see how things are done here and to see what lessons they could potentially learn. We are now working on a specific proposal.



*Attendees at the Asian Oncology Summit*

We are currently exploring the potential for involvement with future Asian Oncology Summits. The next AOS will be held in Hong Kong and we hope to again make a contribution.

## ACTNOW

In early June, COSA organised the ACTNOW weekend. This is an educational weekend for medical oncologists that has been organised by one of the pharmaceutical companies for a number of years. Soon after our industry workshop last year, COSA was approached with a proposal that we organise this weekend, using an untied grant from the company.



*Eva Segelov presenting at ACTNOW educational weekend with Chris Steer*

Eva Segelov took the lead and by all accounts it was a very successful weekend, probably better attended and more appreciated by the attendees than it would have been had it been the standard industry event. Thanks to all those who helped make this happen.

It may be that this will be a model for COSA's involvement in continuing professional development, where we can act as a broker between those who support these events and the clinicians who attend.



Attendees at the ACTNOW Forum at Bowral in May

## People

It is with pleasure that I welcome Sandro Porceddu to the Executive of COSA. He took up this position recently ahead of his taking the role of President Elect from January 2011 when I hand the Presidency to Bogda Koczwara. Sandro is the Chair of the Radiation Oncology group and I look forward to his contribution to the Executive and also to his bringing our Radiation Oncology colleagues closer to the work of COSA.



Sandro Porceddu  
– President Elect  
2011-2012

We recently said goodbye to Margie Campbell who has worked with Steve Ackland on the enabling grant. Margie put a lot of work into the successful completion of the umbrella insurance policy and for that we are very grateful. Tanya Wigg also left for a position with the Juvenile Diabetes Council that was more suited to her background and skills. During her time with us, Tanya worked very well on the Tissue Banking project, the ACTNOW weekend and other projects. We wish both Margie and Tanya well. We also welcomed Mari Bakker in May as the CCTG Umbrella Insurance & Enabling Project Coordinator, and Rhonda Cousins our new project coordinator who started in early July. On behalf of COSA I welcome you both and we look forward to meeting you personally over the coming weeks and months. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Kathy Ansell for her ongoing commitment and efforts on behalf of COSA. Kathy manages and drives a number of interest groups/projects while continuing to support the numerous activities we are involved in across cancer care and control.

I also wish to recognise and thank all of those people who contribute to the success and vitality of COSA. To all the staff in Sydney, to the Executive, to the Council and to the members, it is through all of our contributions that COSA has become the vital

organisation it is today. Finally I acknowledge again the tireless work of Marg McJannett that keeps the entire enterprise going.

Bruce Mann  
President – COSA



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS THE TOM REEVE ORATION AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANCER CARE

The Tom Reeve Award, which is offered by COSA is to formally recognise a national leader resident in Australia who has made a significant contribution over a relatively long period towards cancer care through research, clinical leadership and/or community service.

**I would like to invite you to nominate a candidate for the 2010 Tom Reeve Oration Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care.**

Nominations must be made by a COSA member with support from a Council Chair.

Each nomination should include:

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

The successful nominee will be presented with a Gold Marryalyan at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting (November) at which he/she will deliver an address highlighting appropriate aspects of their area of professional interest.

Nominations and supporting documentation should be sent by the **closing date of Friday 24 September 2010.**

## Call for Papers

### Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology

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

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<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/apjco>



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

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The ANZCHOG 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Sydney from August 31 – September 3. The meeting themes for this year are; Symptom Management, Lymphoma, Coagulation Disorders, Stem Cell Transplantation and Long Term Survivorship. The ASM will be preceded by a satellite symposium on Long Term Survivors of Childhood Cancer supported by the NSW Cancer Institute. There will be a number of international speakers involved in both the scientific meeting program and the satellite symposium. Further information about the ASM can be found on the ANZCHOG website [www.anzchog.org](http://www.anzchog.org).

A very successful first meeting of the Psycho-Oncology group was held in Sydney in March. The meeting enabled representatives from ANZCHOG sites to share their research activities and progress the development of a research agenda for the group incorporating collaborative opportunities. The success of the workshop was also attributed to the participation of Professor Madeleine King, who is the Quality of Life Chair, PoCoG.

ANZCHOG has completed a benchmarking exercise looking at clinical trial enrolments for children and adolescents from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) backgrounds. The resultant snapshot indicates a notable under-representation in patient enrolment numbers for CALD/ATSI patients. A simple clinical trials information sheet has been translated into languages identified as being most in demand to assist patients and families understand the clinical trial process. It is envisioned that this initiative will overcome the initial language barrier which can sometimes exist when considering patients for enrolment on an available open clinical trial in children and adolescents.

The Australian Children's Cancer Clinical Trials Registry is now online at [www.anzchogtrials.org](http://www.anzchogtrials.org). The majority of trials open at Australian and New Zealand institutions are run in collaboration with international consortiums which makes it difficult for patients and families to determine what clinical trials are available locally. The registry lists all open trials at Australian children's cancer centres with New Zealand centres to be included soon.

Trial activity is continuing through the Australian Children's Cancer Trials (ACCT), ANZCHOG's early phase clinical trial arm. A Phase II study for relapsed, recurrent or progressive neuroblastoma is expected to open at all Australian and New Zealand centres towards the end of 2010. Work is also continuing on the ethics streamlining projects.

**Peter Downie, Chair**

**Email: [peter.downie@rch.org.au](mailto:peter.downie@rch.org.au)**

## Breast group

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The COSA ASM to be held at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre 9 – 11 November 2010 – with meetings Pre and Post COSA ASM on 8 & 12 November. This year there is a major breast cancer focus, but also the meeting being held in parallel and overlapping with meetings run by the ANZBCTG, and also the inaugural BreastSurgANZ Society's first scientific meeting. The BreastSurg ANZ meeting is on Monday and merges with the other groups on Tuesday and Wednesday. The excellent program and visiting specialists should see a concentration of breast specialists in Melbourne for an extremely high quality meeting and a rationalisation of time spent at domestic meetings. The provisional program is on the COSA website under pre-programs. The visiting specialists include Drs Monica Morrow, Mark Kissin and Edith Perez.

The formation of the BreastSurg ANZ Society to represent the interests of Australian and New Zealand breast surgeons is progressing well. Invitations/applications for membership have been circulated and there are already over 100 applications for membership submitted. The society has an Executive Officer, Ann Tolman, who may be contacted on [xo@breastsurganz.com](mailto:xo@breastsurganz.com) if a membership pack has not been sent to you or there are other inquiries.

**Andrew Spillane, Chair**

**Email: [andrew.spillane@smu.org.au](mailto:andrew.spillane@smu.org.au)**

## Cancer Nurses Society of Australia

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The first half of 2010 has been a busy time for the CNSA. Members have been working hard to sustain and develop the many committees, regional and Specialist Interest Groups that are the essence of our Society. The CNSA Executive has been working to develop exciting new collaborations with like-minded professional groups and we look forward to announcing these collaborations at Winter Congress in Perth, in July.

The NEC has been working to develop our strategic thinking around ways to continue to grow and diversify services to CNSA members. Finding ways of attracting new nurses to the CNSA, many of whom will have different expectations and needs of a professional society, has occupied much of our planning this year. Our ideas will be presented to members at Congress and through our Members Survey this year. The NEC look forward to a productive discussion with members, ensuring that CNSA looks to the future with a clear mandate and direction responsive to the needs of nurses who care for people with cancer throughout Australia.

One of the many important contributions made by a peak professional body such as CNSA is to provide its members with an opportunity to engage with and respond to current and salient professional issues. The

past few months have been particularly busy in this regard for CNSA members.

Since the beginning of 2010, the NEC has been approached by four research groups to access CNSA members, as expert participants in varied areas of study.

CNSA members have provided significant input to policy and strategic documents including the submission by CNSA to the development of the NSW Cancer Plan 2011-2015.

New cytotoxic positions statements developed by CNSA members will be available at Winter Congress and via the website in July. These are just some of the initiatives that CNSA members have been engaged with on behalf of the membership this year.

Before closing I would like to thank everyone who has given their time to continue to make CNSA such a vibrant Society and in particular, to the members of Winter Congress Local Organising Committee for their incredible hard work over the past few months. The 13th Winter Congress will be held in Perth from the 29th-31st July, 2010. The theme of our Congress is Leadership, Diversity and Innovation: The Global Picture. <http://www.cnsa2010.com/>

I look forward to seeing many of you in Perth – it promises to be an excellent Congress!

**Mei Krishnasamy, Chair**

**Email: [meinir.krishnasamy@petermac.org](mailto:meinir.krishnasamy@petermac.org)**

## Cancer Pharmacists group

Welcome to all our new members and thanks to those ongoing members for your continued support of the CPG and COSA. Our group membership is still high at 90 pharmacists and continues to demonstrate the benefits people can see in becoming a member. Please continue to encourage other pharmacists to join. The CPG is involved in numerous aspects of COSA, and we are also moving forward with our own standards of practice. Members will be able to assist in developing these standards. A full list of member benefits is available on the COSA webpage.

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

Planning for the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne is well underway. A draft program is available through the COSA webpage. Start organising your abstracts now. The closing date for abstracts is August 2nd. We hope to see as many of you in Melbourne for this event.

### **Website**

The COSA website offers discussion forums for members. Please utilise this facility. Not only do members have the opportunity to post questions,

but this is where the CPG will post updates and information about areas of interest and current developments. Recent discussion threads included “docetaxel reactions”, “capping carboplatin doses” and issues relating to the availability of mitomycin and streptozocin. Ensure you are registered to receive email notifications of new postings. To do this, login to the website, go to “Profile Management” and access “Forum Settings” and tick the Cancer Pharmacists box.

### **The CPG course ‘Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacy Practitioners’ Brisbane 2010**

The 2 day course is designed to assist pharmacists in developing their clinical skills in cancer pharmacy practice. The course combines both lectures and interactive workshops to assist practitioners in developing their skills in providing cancer treatment to patients.

Our third course is well underway for the weekend of 22nd and 23rd August this year. The course content was updated following feedback from the first two courses. The courses have been a great success, and always well attended. Places are limited to 48 to allow better workshop interaction. Further information can be found on the front page of the COSA website. If you are interested, or know of anyone who may benefit from such a course, review the information on the webpage.

### **COSA Projects**

The CPG has been involved in many projects with COSA, some of which are coming to fruition. These include the **drug access project**, the **Guidelines for the Prescribing, Dispensing & Administration of Chemotherapy** and the **Neutropenic Fever Guidelines Working Party**. If you are interested in finding out more about any of the projects listed or require further information please email me and I can direct you to the appropriate liaison. The CPG are also keen to develop Working parties to assist in important aspects of pharmaceutical care for cancer patients. However, we need individuals not only to assist, but to take the lead in these areas. Two areas considered important were to develop “competencies and/or accreditation of pharmacists working in cancer” and “guidelines for the pharmaceutical care of cancer patients”.

If you are interested in taking on any of these projects please reply to me via email.

That’s about it for now.

**Jim Siderov, Chair**

**Email: [jim.siderov@austin.org.au](mailto:jim.siderov@austin.org.au)**

## Cancer Research group

Change is indeed in the air. Whilst change is generally regarded as a good thing, it is not always clear whether changes in leadership or branding are anything more than a superficial attempt to breathe new life into something that is inherently deeply ingrained in its

current activities and intentions. As with politics, the proposal for a name change for the “Cancer Research” group to better reflect its intent and mandate must be based on substance that leads to demonstrable benefit if there is to be enduring support from its constituents.

In previous reports we have signalled the intent to change the “Cancer Research” group name to something that better reflects the current activity around bringing our molecular understanding of cancer into clinical practice. Suggestions have included “Biological Research group”, “Translational Biology group” and “Cancer Biology group”. I began a forum on this in the members’ area on the COSA webpage in the beginning of June but to date there have been no comments or further posts. I am not sure if this is due to a lack of interest in the topic or the website. From a review of the topics posted and responses given it would appear that only the Cancer Pharmacists group is finding this web feature useful at this stage. Nevertheless, it probably does accurately reflect a suspicion that very few members of COSA see the Cancer Research group as one they identify with specifically and that the topic of name change is seen as largely irrelevant.

COSA is integrating ‘translational biology research’ into the ASM and also addressing the issue of how to promote such research separately on Friday the 12th November at a one day satellite symposium to be held jointly with the CCTGs and the Parkville Comprehensive Cancer Centres. I would encourage anyone interested in biological based research into cancer to put aside a day on the Friday to attend what will be an important meeting aimed at providing practical proposals to enhance our national capacity to undertake translational cancer research.

We will seek to change the name of the Cancer Research group at the AGM this year. I am confident that with initiatives like biobanking from clinical trials and with the advent of an increasing number of targeted therapies and molecular pathology tests, the transition to a translational cancer biology group will be one that is based on a substantial intent for COSA to engage more fully in this field and not just an exercise in window dressing.

**Nik Zeps, Chair**

**Email: [nik.zeps@sjog.org.au](mailto:nik.zeps@sjog.org.au)**

## **Cancer Voices Australia**

### **Challenge to Genetic Testing**

On the 8th July 2010, Cancer Voices Australia, in conjunction with law firm Maurice Blackburn and Yvonne D’Arcy, a Brisbane woman with breast cancer, will launch legal action in the Federal Court against four biotech companies to challenge a patent over human genetic material. The case will focus on the patent over a gene mutation known as BRCA1 which is associated with an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer.

CVA will argue that the patent held by companies including Myriad Genetics Inc and Melbourne-based Genetic Technologies Ltd (known as Patent 686,004) is invalid.

A US Court decision in March this year ruled that patents were improperly granted, including the BRCA1 mutation, but with no such ruling in Australia CVA believes that the challenge is timely.

This is a test case in which Cancer Voices Australia strongly believes. There are ethical and moral issues surrounding the commercialisation of human body material and we have decided to address this important legal question in the interests of people affected by cancer.

Cancer diagnosis is a time of stress for all people affected by cancer and CV members believe in the importance of control over our disease and treatment options. CVA believes that patents have the potential to increase the cost of treating all cancers and perhaps denying a vital pathway to good treatment outcomes.

CVA is supported in this test case by patent law expert Professor Luigi Palombi from the Australian National University.

### **Clinical Trials Action Group**

CVA is disappointed in the delay of the Government in releasing this important report. The report follows extensive stakeholder engagement and the real need to develop sustainable Clinical Trials in this country.

### **National Pain Summit**

Following a successful National Meeting in March this year CVA has been approached to provide a cancer consumer perspective to the decisions that need to be made in developing the first draft of the constitution. CVA Chair Ian Roos, a member of the inaugural steering committee leading up to the Summit will engage with the broader consumer consultation after a first draft of the constitution is available.

Cancer pain is now nationally recognised and CVA has placed a position statement on this issue on our website.

### **Regional and Rural Cancer Centres**

CVA welcomes the recent announcements by the Government on this matter and its state organisations will work with the various jurisdictions and successful tenderers to ensure that consumer input to design and operation is considered.

### **COSA COGs**

In the preceding months CVA and its representatives has worked closely with the Cooperative Trials Groups regarding consumer input and training of representatives. There is confusion surrounding training, appointment and the role that consumers will need to play in working with the groups. The formation

of a national network of trial coordinators, national protocols and pooling and sharing of consumers is being discussed and we believe this is a positive move.

## Conferences/Seminars

During the period CVA representatives attended the following:

- NBOCC – Sydney March 2010
- Cancer Voices WA – March 2010
- Regional and Rural Cancer Centres – Canberra March 2010
- CHF Meeting – Canberra March 2010
- Colonoscopy Guidelines – April and June 2010
- CVA Board – Face to Face - Sydney May 2010
- COSA ACTNOW – Bowral May 2010
- AHEC Meeting – Canberra May 2010
- NPS Conference – Melbourne May 2010
- RORIC – Darwin May 2010
- NHMRC Guidelines – Melbourne June 2010
- E-Health - Sydney and Canberra (ongoing)

## Acknowledgements

Cancer Voices Australia acknowledges the support and assistance of COSA in carrying out its important advocacy work.

**John Stubbs, Executive Officer**

**Email: [john.stubbs@cancer.org.au](mailto:john.stubbs@cancer.org.au)**

## Clinical Research Professionals group

Great news! Our submission for a COSA Professional Day Funding Grant has been approved in principal by the COSA Executive. We look forward to another successful workshop at the COSA ASM. A draft outline for the workshop on Monday 8 November, 9am start is: Molecular Markers and Cancer; Introduction to Biomarker & Biomarker Research; Project Management; Time Management.

We continue to investigate the possibility of obtaining CNE points for both the workshop, and COSA ASM. Please view the COSA ASM website for updates.

Some of you may have been involved in the ASCO Survey of Cooperative Group Sites. The results make for interesting reading along with the National Cancer Institute/Institutes of Medicine book. Links to these publications are:

**Challenges to National Cancer Institute–Supported Cooperative Group Clinical Trial Participation: An ASCO Survey of Cooperative Group Sites Baer et al**

DOI: 10.1200/JOP.200028; posted online ahead of print at <http://jop.ascopubs.org>

**A National Cancer Clinical Trials System for the 21st Century: Reinvigorating the NCI Cooperative Group Program** [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12879](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12879)

Look out for a “Forum” discussion on this topic.

## Projects 2010

The update to our web page on the COSA website is underway. Our plans to identify and target practicing members and survey needs analysis of members are developing.

If you have any suggestions or comments you would like addressed by the group please contact us. We are also happy to receive any items of interest for dissemination to the group.

**Sandie Grierson, Chair**

**Email: [Sandie.Grierson@smu.org.au](mailto:Sandie.Grierson@smu.org.au)**

## Medical Oncology group

Plans are well advanced for the 2010, fourth Australia & Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) Workshop, 12-17 September on the Sunshine Coast. A/Prof Martin Stockler has developed a new Program that includes a range of innovative practical sessions. The faculty of international and Australian specialists includes a number of new members; A/Prof Amy Abernethy Duke University School of Medicine, USA: Prof David Currow, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Cancer Institute: Prof Geoff Delaney, Department of Radiation Oncology, Liverpool Hospital: Prof Elizabeth Eisenhauer, Department of Oncology, Queens University: Prof Michael Findlay, Faculty of Medical Sciences - University of Auckland: A/Prof Reena Nair, Department of Medical Oncology Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai: A/Prof John Seymour, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Sixty participants from China, Japan, Taiwan, Pakistan, India, Canada, Singapore and the US will participate in this year's Workshop. We thank the collaborating organisations COSA, ESMO, ASCO, ACCR and Cancer Council Australia.

MOGA and the Private Cancer Physicians of Australia (PCPA) have joined forces for a joint Annual Scientific Meeting-Personalised Medical Oncology, Sydney, 12-13 August. A/Prof Stephen Della-Fiorentina and his Working Group have put together a meeting that will explore the molecular biology of cancer; the targeting of new therapeutic options to maximise patient outcomes; the issue of survivorship as a key aspect of oncology practice; the balance between evidence based medicine and, medicine for the individual; the power of advocacy in improving access to treatments for our population; information technology solutions and, the future of health reform in Australia. Overseas speakers will

include Prof Roman Perez-Soler, New York University, Prof David Quinn, University of Southern California and A/Prof Peter Ellis, McMaster University. Further information at <https://secure.dconferences.com.au/moga2010/registration.php>

MOGA will present the latest in cutting-edge oncology research and science from the world's premier oncology event on Saturday 14 August 2010 in Sydney with Best of ASCO® 2010 Australia. This one day program aims to enable oncology professionals in Australia and the Asia Pacific region to review and debate the scientific, research and practice changing highlights presented at ASCO in core sessions dealing with the major tumour types and in consideration of the Australian and regional context. Further information at <https://secure.dconferences.com.au/moga2010/registration.php>

MOGA has continued its work in the area of advocacy and lobbying on oncology drugs. We are waiting on advice on a proposal to change the restrictions for prescribing lapatinib and trastuzumab. MOGA is following up with the PBAC regarding regular stakeholder meetings to deal with specific oncology drugs issues on a more timely basis, especially off-patent drugs and drugs whose listed indications do not correspond to clinical use or current high level trial data. MOGA has also provided advice to the PBAC to support the listing of carboplatin plus pemetrexed

and cisplatin plus pemetrexed regimens for first line treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). With the PCPA we are following up on the issue of billing for bisphosphonates with Medicare Australia.

Prof Michael Brown, MOGA Deputy Chairman organised a successful Basic Sciences of Oncology Weekend for advanced medical oncology trainees in late March with presenters Prof Stephen Clarke, Prof Stephen Ackland, A/Prof Chris Milross, Dr Nathan Harvey and Dr Sandra O'Toole. Fifty Australian and New Zealand medical oncology trainees attended The World is your Oyster - International Career Opportunities for Young Australian Oncologists on 27 March 2010 in Sydney. We thank the presenters A/Prof Chris Milross, Dean, Faculty of Radiation Oncology (FRO), A/Prof Bogda Koczwara, incoming COSA President and Dr Prunella Blinman, ACORD Alumnus. MOGA thanks FRO, COSA and ESMO for partnering with us for this event and assisting in promoting the many professional opportunities and benefits available to young Australian oncologists.

The Australian Medical Oncology Workforce Study 2009 released in March continues to attract considerable interest from national media outlets, governmental agencies and politicians. The Study has proven to be a major catalyst for opening positive dialogue on the

## Professional Day Funding Grants

This is the second year COSA has offered Professional Development Day funding. The aim of the grant (up to \$7000) is to support professional groups to conduct "professional day" meetings or educational sessions aimed at fostering professional development. The professional groups who were successful this year are:

**CHAIR:** Bogda Koczwara      **GROUP:** **Complementary & Integrative Therapies Interest group**

**AIM:** This one day workshop will help potential investigators develop new research concepts exploring the interface between complementary and integrative therapies in Australian oncology settings. The workshop will be held on November 12, 2010.

**CHAIR:** David Thomas      **GROUP:** **AYA**

**AIM:** Provide a forum for interested multidisciplinary professionals to share knowledge and build professional learning networks. A one day workshop on November 12, 2010.

**CHAIR:** Angela Cotroneo      **GROUP:** **Oncology Social Work Australia - OSWA**

**AIM:** This two day meeting, on November 12 & 13 will bring together the national group of oncology social workers in order to provide specific and directed professional development as well as providing opportunity for experiential skills based learning.

**CHAIR:** Jane Turner      **GROUP:** **Psycho-Oncology**

**AIM:** OZPOS is keen to build on the enthusiasm generated by the 2009 Professional Day. We aim to establish Professional Days as regular events, and engagement of members in another Professional Day, planned for November 8, 2010 would provide traction in moving towards self-funded events in the future.

**CHAIR:** Sandie Grierson      **GROUP:** **Clinical Research Professionals group**

**AIM:** Objectives of the workshop is to address and improve clinical research service delivery issues and to provide a forum for sharing creative ideas and best practices.

**CHAIR:** Jim Siderov      **GROUP:** **Cancer Pharmacists group**

**AIM:** The Cancer Pharmacist group was successful in receiving a funding grant to support the clinical skills workshop for cancer pharmacists. To be held in Brisbane in August.



national oncology workforce with State and Federal Ministers as well as the newly established National Workforce Agency. The Working Group that developed the Study led by A/Prof Bogda Koczwara recently presented their findings at ASCO in Chicago.

I look forward to updating you on future MOGA initiatives and activities.

**Michael Michael, Chair**

**Email: michael.michael@petermac.org**

## Neuro-Oncology group

A few updates from the Neuro-Oncology group.

A few COSA neuro-oncology members (including Dr Eng-Siew Koh, Dr Lindy Jeffree and Dr Elizabeth Hovey) are working with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) and Dr Michael Rodriguez (who is chairing the committee which includes a number of other neuropathologists) on developing the 1st Edition of "Central Nervous System Tumours Structured Reporting Protocol" for anatomical pathologists. This document is coming along quickly.

Prof Michael Barton is chairing an Australian Cancer Network working party (including COSA Neuro-Oncology group members - Dr Kate Drummond, Dr Janet Hardy, Dr Jane Turner, Dr Elizabeth Hovey and consumers Denis Strangman and Sally Payne) to develop a set of Consumer Guidelines to match the "Clinical Practice Guidelines for the management of adult gliomas: astrocytomas and oligodendrogliomas" which were successfully launched late last year. Progress is rapid. Emeritus Professor Tom Reeve is the ACN Convenor of the process (as one of the last set of guidelines he is presiding over before his imminent retirement) along with his tireless executive assistant Christine Vuletich.

This year the NSW Neuro-Oncology group, Cancer Council NSW along with Cancer Institute NSW ran an inaugural "Brain Cancer Action Week" in the 1st week of May. This came about due to a very active working committee including Kerrie McDonald (Chair of NSW Neuro-Oncology group), Robyn Leonard, Kay Duffy, Lindy Kohn and Catherine Bullivant with help from multiple consumer advocates including Marcella Zemanek and Gail O'Brien). The week had a number of components including a media and public launch at Kirribilli House on 2nd May including a launch speech by Nicola Roxon, Federal Health Minister. There was also a very well attended Patient/Consumer Forum (with over 200 registrations) held in the city on the 4th May at the Menzies Hotel with many excellent speakers from the clinical and patient communities. The paediatric and adult streams were held concurrently. Keynote speaker was visiting US neuro-oncologist Professor Tim Cloughesy, Director, UCLA Neuro-Oncology Program (whose visit was kindly sponsored by Roche Australia). There was also a successful St George Hospital Neurosciences Forum on the 6th May. Another event

on the 6th May was the AGOG (Australian Genomics and Clinical Outcomes of Glioma) Investigator Meeting. There were other notable fundraising efforts throughout the week (including the Annual Cure for Life Foundation Ball). Given Nicola Roxon's support this year, we are hoping to move forward with this being a national initiative (rather than NSW alone) in the years ahead.

We continue to have a close working relationship with COGNO (Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology). The first international collaboration comes in the form of CATNON which is a Phase III study looking at the role of the Stupp concurrent chemoradiation protocol in the setting of anaplastic astrocytoma (in patients who do not have the 1p19q co-deletion). A number of centres around Australia are currently opening up the study. Prof Anna Nowak is the Australian PI of the study. Other protocols are nearing development completion including a national study called CABARET (Dr Kathryn Field is the PI, working with a very active protocol development committee) which will be looking at the use of carboplatin and bevacizumab (versus bevacizumab alone) in the setting of recurrent glioma. Dr Meera Agar, one of COGNO's palliative care members, along with an active protocol committee, is also moving along with a pilot version of a steroid-sparing protocol in recurrent and end-stage glioma.

### **COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting – 2nd/3rd October 2010, Hyatt Regency Coolum, Sunshine Coast**

COGNO is holding their 3rd ASM along with the NSA (Neurosurgical Society of Australasia) and COSA members are invited to attend.

This year's scientific meeting has the benefit of three world-renowned international speakers:

- Professor Linda Liau, neurosurgeon, molecular biologist, and director of the brain tumour program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.
- Professor Michael Weller, neurologist, cancer researcher and chairman of the Department of Neurology at University Hospital Zurich.
- Professor James Vredenburgh, medical oncologist and director of clinical research and of the neuro-oncology fellowship program at Duke University Medical Centre.

The meeting will focus on future treatments for glioma, the use of biomarkers, and challenges in clinical trials. For the full program please visit <http://www.cogno.org.au/docview.aspx?id=37>

Warm regards to all.

**Liz Hovey, Chair**

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

## CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### To Support A Developing Nations Mentoring Program

#### **COSA Developing Nations Interest Group Mentoring Program**

This program aims to facilitate transfer of expertise from Cancer Treatment Centres or Research Institutions in Australia to mid-career level health professionals living and working in developing nations in the Asia Pacific region by mentoring and fostering learning networks through short term fellowships of a three month period.

The fellowship is open to all COSA medical, nursing and allied health professionals willing to consider developing a program to host a fellow from a developing nation within the Asia Pacific region. To find out more, look in the COSA website, at [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au) - interest groups – developing nations.

Please forward your expression of interest to Kathy Ansell, Project Coordinator at [kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au](mailto:kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au) by **COB Friday August 6, 2010.**

### **Nutrition group**

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

The first year of the project has been successfully completed – how time flies! We have now progressed well in to phase 2 - literature searching, retrieval and critical appraisal. The project dietitian completed the search and retrieval in March 2010. From the search terms and exclusion criteria used a total of 2,026 papers were found. From the title and abstract, a total of 260 papers were identified for inclusion and shared among the committee. The project dietitian and one other member of the dietitian sub committee have been performing independent reviews and critical appraisal of each of the identified papers over the last 3 months. The papers have been graded with a level of evidence according to NHMRC guidelines and have been assessed for their quality using the American Dietetic Association (ADA) Evidence Analysis Process and Evidence Analysis Library. The aim is to complete this component of the project by early July, and then move to the next phase of summarising the findings

and formulate recommendations for discussion with the multidisciplinary steering committee.

Some members of the dietitian steering committee also recently met with staff at COSA to investigate utilising their Wiki technology as a novel way of developing guidelines, obtaining stakeholder feedback and enabling maintenance and keeping the guidelines current when new evidence is published. We feel very excited to be part of this new process and can see the many benefits it may have.

The project dietitian has also been invited to present at the ANZHNS meeting in Sydney in September 2010 to provide an update on this project to date, and will also be presenting at a pre-conference workshop on certain aspects of the guideline content.

**Judith Bauer, Chair**

**Email: [judy.bauer@uhealth.com.au](mailto:judy.bauer@uhealth.com.au)**

### **Palliative Care group**

COSA and the Palliative Care group had opportunity to comment on the draft National Pain Strategy (<http://www.painsummit.org.au/>), and attend the National Pain Summit; and in that capacity put on the table issues faced when managing cancer pain or pain related to cancer treatment; and thoughts on practical strategies to take forward. COSA will continue to be involved following on from the National Pain Summit; working with the cancer pain and palliative care group, led by Dr Melanie Lovell (Palliative Medicine physician, Sydney) to address the specific actions and strategies put forward for cancer pain management.

The next biennial conference of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine is in Adelaide, 14th - 17th September 2010. The theme of this conference is "Ars moriendi- Palliative medicine in the 21st Century". Ars moriendi is "The art of dying". Ars moriendi comes from two 15th Century Latin texts offering advice on the protocols and procedures of a good death, explaining how to "die well. Go to <http://www.willorganise.com.au/anzspm2010> for more information. The Palliative Care Nurses Association is holding the PCNA 3rd Biennial Conference, with the theme of Excellence & Innovation from 27th - 28th August 2010 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

At a policy level the last few months have brought a few developments pertinent to palliative care. Palliative Care Australia has released a document to provide End-of-life guidance: Health system reform and care at the end of life: A guidance document represents a shared vision for the development of high-quality palliative and end-of-life care in Australia. The document is available for your perusal at <http://www.palliativecare.org.au/>. Many of you will be very familiar with the National Consensus Statement: Essential Elements for Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration.

This has stimulated significant discussion, and in particular of relevance to those with advanced cancer making sure any policy document can both guide clinicians to respond appropriately in reversible clinical deterioration, but also provide high quality end of life care when this is required.

And finally I am delighted to announce that Dr Sara Booth is an invited speaker at the COSA ASM this year. Sara is an internationally renowned palliative medicine specialist and researcher, from Addenbrooke's Hospital, and University of Cambridge, UK. So this is the year for those of you more focused on palliative care to come join us at the ASM!

**Meera Agar, Chair**

**Email: [meera.agar@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:meera.agar@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)**

## Psycho-Oncology group

### Scientific Meetings

- **IPOS Congress:** OZPOS/PoCoG had a significant presence at the IPOS 2010 conference in Quebec City in May.
  - Phyllis Butow facilitated a pre-congress workshop: Teaching communication about palliative care and end-of-life issues
  - Kerrie Clover co-facilitated a pre-congress workshop: Evidence-based screening for distress in cancer - a hands-on demonstration of methods
  - Afaf Girgis presented a workshop: Facilitating the implementation of the Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines and the Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease – Cancer in Clinical Practice
  - A number of others members of OZPOS/PoCoG gave oral presentations, some of whom included: Suzanne Chambers; Penny Schofield; Janette Vardy; Belinda Thewes and Haryana Dhillon.
  - As in previous years, the quality of contributions to the meeting from members of OZPOS and PoCoG was outstanding. Congratulations to all of those who made oral presentations and those with poster presentations, proving that Australia continues to “punch above its weight”!
- **COSA ASM:**
  - The theme for the ASM to be held in Melbourne from 9th to 11th November is “Cancer and Beyond” covering the cancer experience from diagnosis through treatment and to the years beyond for cancer patients, their families and carers.
  - The focus will be on breast cancer, gynaecology cancer, urological cancer, melanoma cancer and translational research.

- The invited International Speaker for psychosocial oncology/social work is Matt Loscalzo. Those of us who heard him present at IPOS were impressed with his rigour and passion and look forward to his significant contribution to the scientific program.
- Members are strongly encouraged to attend the ASM

### New resources:

- Phyllis Butow is one of the editors of a new text: Working as a multidisciplinary team. In: Handbook of communication in cancer and palliative care. Eds. Kissane DW, Bultz B, Butow P, Finlay I. Oxford University Press, Oxford. 2010.
- Afaf Girgis is one of the editors of a new text: In consultation: When cancer crosses disciplines. Eds. Olver I, Robotin M, Girgis A. Imperial College Press, London. 2010.

### Invitation to members:

- COSA Council is thanked for generously providing funding for a second Professional Day. This will be held on Monday 8th November in Melbourne, the day before the commencement of the ASM. Members who attended last year were enthusiastic about the opportunity to hear oral presentations about cutting edge research and participate in clinically-focused workshops. A similar format will be used this year, and we are looking forward to the involvement of our International Speaker for the ASM, Matt Loscalzo. Details about the full programme and registration will be forwarded soon.

As 2010 is the second year of my second term as Chair of OZPOS, it will be necessary to elect a new Chair this year, to take over the role in 2011/2012. I encourage members to consider nomination for election, and am happy to provide details about the role: [jane.turner@uq.edu.au](mailto:jane.turner@uq.edu.au).

**Jane Turner, Chair**

**Email: [jane.turner@uq.edu.au](mailto:jane.turner@uq.edu.au)**

## Radiation Oncology group

I would like to highlight that at this year's COSA ASM we will feature a session on the safe delivery of therapy in cancer care. This area has been covered before at previous ASM's but this session will include some new areas not previously discussed. The session will include key people from this field. A/Professor Annette Haworth from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre will highlight the progress of the Development of a National Dosimetry Centre and Professor Robert Thomas will discuss Surgical Safety Audits at a state level. Chris Baggoley from the ACSQHC will give a presentation on Safety and Quality at a global level. We are also honoured to have Dr Helen Zorbas the recently

appointed CEO of Cancer Australia and NBOCC talk on Multidisciplinary Clinics: Lessons Learnt. I hope to see you there.

In other news I am pleased to mention that Australian Radiation Oncologists were well represented at this year's ASCO. Dr Belinda Campbell, a radiation oncologist from PeterMac gave a presentation to a large audience on her work in Hodgkins Disease and Radiotherapy. Professor David Joseph from Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital in WA received significant media press on his involvement with breast cancer and local radiotherapy using a new device.

Over the past couple of months COSA and the Faculty of Radiation Oncology have been working toward improving dialogue in order to strengthen our relationship. There are several key areas in which both groups could benefit from closer ties. A COSA President's report will now be included in the College's newsletter on an annual basis.

**Sandro Porceddu, Chair**

**Email: [sandro\\_porceddu@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:sandro_porceddu@health.qld.gov.au)**

## Regional & Rural group

By now the majority of Rural Centres of Excellence grants have been distributed. The scope of handouts was certainly broader than expected. There have been a number of substantial projects announced. However the distribution of handouts has made the ideal of Regional Cancer Centres of Excellence more difficult. What must be avoided is a store on every corner approach to cancer care delivery. The real challenge that we now face is how to develop existing and "new" centres into an effective network of cancer centres across each of the states and nationally.

With this in mind I would like to try and arrange a teleconference (or if more convenient a forum on the COSA website) to discuss ideas on how to progress this.

I would also like to ask if anyone would be interested in taking on the role of the Regional and Rural chair. It would be great to know before the ASM as I will not be able to attend this year. It is certainly a rewarding role and it has given me a far greater insight in to how my region compares to other regional centres around Australia.

So please contact me with any queries regarding the rural infrastructure programme or other pressing issues. I would appreciate feedback on these issues as I think we need to put our case forward to the politicians. Otherwise we may lose momentum as other political issues are put forward in the lead up to a federal election.

**Adam Boyce, Chair**

**Email: [drboyce@bigpond.net.au](mailto:drboyce@bigpond.net.au)**

## Social Work group

Planning for this year's ASM is moving full steam ahead; from a psycho-social perspective the program looks fantastic. This year COSA has sponsored Matt Loscalzo as one of the keynote international speakers. The program overall provides excellent opportunity for learning and updating of information. I encourage members to look at the website and register for the conference. Following the COSA ASM OSWA will be holding its 6th oncology social work conference. This is specifically geared at clinical oncology social work professional skills, and we look forward to an invigorating and stimulating two days, the Melbourne team has been hard at work pulling it all together, for further details on how to register for COSA and OSWA as well as information on travel grants please visit [www.oswa.net.au](http://www.oswa.net.au). We would like to acknowledge the generous support of COSA through their professional grants and their support with international speakers.

OSWA has been busy with strategic planning, on the first weekend in May 2010, sixteen oncology social workers from around the country converged on Sydney to hold a two day strategic meeting for Oncology Social Work Australia (OSWA). It was a very productive and encouraging two days. It was also a long and hardworking weekend for all involved. This resulted in what looks like a strong plan of how we continue ahead to provide clinical leadership, input and delivery of research, comment on policy and direct patient care as well as peer support and development. The document will be available shortly to members on the website.

In other news, many social workers have been busy attending conferences and workshops internationally; several of our members have been presenting their work/research at IPOS and in Dublin over the past several months. To this end, the University of Melbourne is once again offering an oncology subject that commences in August. Around the country there are several research projects that are well underway. Dr Cynthia Holland has returned to the States where she went following her award of the Churchill Scholarship - she was continuing work on her "My Kite will Fly" resource.

In other news OSWA has also been quite involved in responding to possible changes to patient travel schemes, acknowledging recent changes to Centrelink benefits and contributing to further discussion about patient travel and accommodation. In all things we are constant and busy and look forward to seeing you at the COSA ASM in November. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email [angela.cotroneo@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:angela.cotroneo@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)

**Angela Cotroneo, Chair**

**Email: [angela.cotroneo@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:angela.cotroneo@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)**

## Surgical Oncology group

The Surgical Oncology group highlights for 2010 include the very successful RACS ASC in Perth. The international visitor, Laura Esserman, Professor of Surgery and Radiology at UCSF/Mt Zion Medical Centre spoke about leadership in surgical oncology and a new paradigm for treating breast cancer with intensive pre-operative assessment.

COSA has partnered with General Surgeons Australia (GSA) to provide a breast cancer registrar/trainees day prior to their ASM in 2011. While this is a breast group activity, it is a continuation of the process that the Surgical Oncology group commenced in 2008. Consideration is being given to repeating in the highly successful 'Cancer and Surgery' module that was run in 2008. This would enable a cancer education focus to be offered on a rotational 4-year basis to all general surgical trainees.

Discussions are also continuing in relation to developing relationships between the COSA Surgical Oncology group and the SSO.

A group in South Australia is currently exploring an approach to multilayered pre-operative optimization strategies in patients undergoing major (intra-abdominal) cancer resection. The initial focus will be on those patients undergoing high-risk surgery who have an 'optimisation window' provided by neo-adjuvant treatment (prior to resection). The strategies include nutritional, anaesthetic, psychosocial and exercise physiology directed. This project is in a developmental

phase but the group is interested in hearing from any interested parties (contact A/Prof Neuhaus). It is hoped that a pilot project will commence early 2011.

With increased funding in some states providing nursing positions in Cancer Care Coordination roles, the group is particularly interested in developing a strategy to enhance the availability of surgical nurses in these positions. Breast cancer nurses are well established, but a similar model of care for patients with for example, melanoma and sarcoma would be extremely valuable in a surgical setting. The group would welcome input from any interested parties.

**Susan Neuhaus, Chair**

**Email: [susanneuhaus@apsa.com.au](mailto:susanneuhaus@apsa.com.au)**

## Urologic Oncology group

Activities over the last few months have once again focussed on the ASM. This year the Urologic Oncology group plans to hold a symposium on Thursday 11 November 2010 and this is likely to cover the controversial topic of PSA screening. We are also in negotiations regarding securing an international speaker for our session. The COSA ASM will be a great opportunity to demonstrate the breadth and quality of basic, translational and clinical research in genitourinary cancer in Australia. The program for the other days is also very interesting and exciting and the 2010 ASM promises to continue the recent record-breaking streak of ASMs. I strongly encourage you to attend the entire meeting and to contribute your work for presentation.

The Group AGM will be held on Thursday 11 November 2010. According to our terms of reference, we must conduct an election for the three executive positions currently held by Ian Davis, Scott Williams and Shomik Sengupta. Please nominate, vote, attend, and have your say in how the Group and COSA as a whole are run.

COSA is pleased and proud to collaborate once again with sanofi-aventis to present the 2010 Advancing Care for Prostate Patients Research Grants. At the time of writing the committee has received and is reviewing several very high quality applications. A total of \$40,000 is available for the grants, which can range from \$5000 to \$40,000. The selection committee will determine the successful applicant(s) based on defined criteria and will announce the outcome at the ASM. The 2009 winners will be presenting the outcome of their work at that time also, so come along and see how this great initiative is succeeding.

On Friday 20 November 2010, ANZUP will hold its Annual Scientific Meeting. This will also include an open meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee. Please make plans now to attend this meeting and to participate in the running of ANZUP. ANZUP works closely with COSA and it is great once again to share resources and help you to make the best use of your time by running the two ASMs in sequence.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Winner of the sanofi-aventis 2010 Advancing Care for Prostate Patients Grants.

We had some strong applications this year but sadly, there can only be one winner. I am pleased to announce Dr Sylvie Lambert is the winner of the 2010 Advancing Care for Prostate Patients Grant.

*Dr Sylvie Lambert is a post doctoral research fellow from the School of Medicine and Public Health; Hunter Medical Research Institute & Centre for Health Research & Psycho-Oncology (CHeRP); University of Newcastle. Her project will be a feasibility study of a self-directed supportive care intervention to enhance the illness adjustment of couples affected by prostate cancer. Ms Lambert will report on her research outcome at the 2011 ASM.*

A/Prof Ian Davis

The Urologic Oncology group is proud to have an eclectic mix of members representing a wide range of disciplines and craft groups involved in the care of patients with genitourinary cancers. Already this is paying off in terms of new opportunities for collaboration in research of all types. We wish to continue to grow and become more inclusive, so if you are not a member and want to be, or you know of someone who should be, please feel very welcome to participate. We particularly encourage trainees on all disciplines to come along and be part of this very successful and valuable initiative.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want further information or you would like to participate more actively.

**Ian Davis, Chair**

**Email: [ian.davis@ludwig.edu.au](mailto:ian.davis@ludwig.edu.au)**

## **COSA Interest Group Updates**

### **AYA Interest group**

For more than five years, CanTeen – in partnership with COSA and other organisations – has been advocating for better outcomes for young people with cancer. COSA and the COSA AYA Interest Group have been a key part of the success of this work since COSA partnered with CanTeen to conduct the first (Australian) AYA cancer workshop in May 2005.

The Youth Cancer Fund is an initiative of CanTeen in partnership with the Sony Foundation and aims to improve survival and quality of life for young people with cancer. The Fund was established in the last year and aims to raise a total of \$30m for youth cancer projects.

The Youth Cancer Fund includes the Youth Cancer Networks Program (\$15m), funded by the Australian Government and managed by CanTeen.

Through the Fund, five jurisdictional projects and seven national projects (plus a national evaluation project) have now been established to develop services and improve outcomes for adolescents and young adults with cancer. We are very pleased to report that all of the projects have now commenced with the last project agreement executed in July.

**Andrew Young**  
**CanTeen**

## **COSA Youth Cancer Projects**

COSA is progressing implementation of three of the national projects to improve management and care of adolescents and young adults (AYAs) with cancer by

1. developing an AYA Cancer Network
2. producing AYA cancer clinical practice guidelines and protocols

3. increasing AYA cancer clinical research and participation of AYAs with cancer in clinical trials.

COSA's AYA Cancer Steering Group met in Melbourne on 15 April to ratify and advise on project strategies. The group also discussed and identified opportunities to support and facilitate the other YCNP national and jurisdictional projects.

### **AYA Cancer Network**

COSA is facilitating an AYA Cancer Network to inform, link and support health professionals providing cancer care to AYAs as well as the policy and program managers coordinating the Youth Cancer Networks jurisdictional projects.

COSA has convened three workshops in recent years to bring together stakeholders and help coordinate efforts to improve treatment, support and access to clinical trials for AYAs with cancer to improve their survival rates and psychosocial outcomes. We are currently planning the next AYA Cancer Network workshop as a satellite meeting to COSA's Annual Scientific Meeting in November.

If you would like to join the network, and receive details of the AYA Cancer Network workshop when confirmed, please email [cosa@cancer.org.au](mailto:cosa@cancer.org.au)

### **Clinical practice guidelines**

Our AYA Cancer Steering Group has identified several issues in AYA cancer care (or variations in practice) for which evidence-based guidance is needed, and recommended the first guideline to be developed by COSA should focus on the issue of fertility preservation for adolescents and young adults diagnosed with cancer. While the scope and audience are not yet confirmed, the topics for the other two guidelines are:

- psychosocial risk assessment of AYA patients
- detection of cancer in AYAs – to improve awareness and early detection.

A working group of experts is being formed to review the evidence and help develop the fertility preservation guideline using COSA's Wiki platform. Using the Wiki will enable more efficient and consultative development as well as ongoing review and prompt updating of recommendations as new evidence emerges.

If you are interested in reviewing this guideline when it is ready for consultation please email [cosa@cancer.org.au](mailto:cosa@cancer.org.au)

### **Clinical research**

In March, a subgroup of the AYA Cancer Steering Group reviewed several grant applications being submitted for AYA cancer research topics, acknowledging those that addressed one (or more) of the AYA cancer research priorities identified by COSA's AYA Cancer Research Working Group. In reviewing the applications, we noted the limitations and potential duplication/overlap of some protocols and considered how the AYA Cancer

Research Steering Group could encourage research collaborations to avoid these. We have written to Cancer Australia about this issue and to seek advice about how we can advise funding bodies about priorities in AYA cancer clinical research.

One of the objectives of the clinical research project is establishing a registry or database of all currently available clinical trials recruiting AYA cancer patients, to promote suitable trials to both clinicians and patients. We have consulted with the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre and Cancer Australia to determine what information exists, and the opportunities to collaborate or use existing platforms to collate and present information about clinical trials open to AYA cancer patients.

To support this project's need for baseline data, Professor Graham Giles, Chair of COSA's Epidemiology group and the Australasian Association of Cancer Registries, has been investigating the availability of data to establish AYA cancer incidence, mortality, survival and clinical trial participation rates. This analysis of data will now be performed by the AIHW Cancer and Screening Unit, in collaboration with Professor Giles and his team and our AYA Cancer Research Working Group. A report of incidence, mortality and survival data and trends is expected before the end of 2010.

The AYA Cancer Research Working Group will meet later this month to advise on project objectives and strategies to increase AYA cancer clinical research.

**David Thomas – Chair**

## Cancer Care Coordination Interest group

The March Conference, held on the Gold Coast was very well attended and highlighted the considerable progress that has been made in the development and implementation of the Cancer Care Coordination role.

The final session of the March conference was a strategic planning workshop which focused on setting priorities to improve the effectiveness of the cancer care coordinator role. Participants agreed on a number of strategies, and endorsed the recommendation that the cancer care coordination interest group within COSA continue to work towards implementing the recommendations emerging from the conference. A detailed report on the March conference report is available on the COSA website, under Interest Groups.



*Douglas Bellamy presenting at the Cancer Care Coordination Conference in March on the Gold Coast*

To support work in priority areas identified at the conference, expressions of interest were called from within the interest group for those wishing to participate in working groups of the COSA Care Coordination Interest Group. An Executive committee is being formed to lead and coordinate the Cancer Care Coordination Interest Group's work within three priority areas:

- Networking and communications
- Professional development/education (including responsibility for future conferences)
- Research and evaluation



*Prof Kathy Eager presenting at the Cancer Care Coordination Conference in March on the Gold Coast*

Building on the outcomes of previous Cancer Care Coordination workshops held by COSA, a meeting is scheduled on July 27 between an expert group from the COSA Care Coordination Interest Group and Professor Kathy Eager, an expert in outcome measures from the University of Wollongong. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss approaches to developing and implementing outcome measures appropriate for cancer care coordination activities.

**Patsy Yates, Chair**

## Complementary & Integrative Therapies Interest group

There have been a lot of developments in our group thanks to the energetic Executive. Here is a brief summary of all the developments including upcoming events where we would love to see you.

### ***A dedicated session at the 2010 ASM***

A scientific session dedicated to presentation of recent advances in complementary care will take place on Tuesday afternoon. Rowan Chlebowski from UCLA has agreed to be an expert discussant so please submit your research data by August 2nd!

### ***Concept Development Workshop Nov 12th – only 40 places so register your interest!***

This workshop will take place on November 12 at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The Interest Group would like to develop its research capacity in this area and COSA is well placed to facilitate a collaborative approach. We see a Concept Development Workshop as

an opportunity to advance this initiative in the area of complementary & integrative therapies.

Objectives of the workshop are to:

- present embryonic new concepts for feedback and discussion
- increase networking with other health professionals with an interest in complementary & integrative therapies
- identification of areas for potential collaboration in research
- potential for development of complementary research register managed by COSA

To register your interest, contact [kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au](mailto:kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au). Preferences will be given to concept developers so start thinking about your research idea.

### **Website development – contributions needed!**

We hope to soon offer more resources on the web including access to the Natural Medicines Database and The Journal of Integrated Oncology. The website is an important information service to the members so it is essential that it is a useful and accurate resource. If you would like to contribute to this work, we would love to hear from you – please indicate your interest to Kathy Ansell on [kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au](mailto:kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au)

### **Do we need position statement on quackery?**

Many of you would have seen recent reports regarding use of alternative cancer treatments and their effect on cancer patients. Some members have indicated interest in developing a position statement on this issue. If you wish to join the group working on this issue please contact Kathy on [kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au](mailto:kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au)

### **Chemotherapy – Herb/Nutritional Supplement Interaction Project**

Surveys consistently show that complementary therapies, including herbal medicines and nutritional supplements, are used by people with cancer. There is a pressing need for interaction information to be gathered, synthesised and disseminated to all healthcare professionals who manage patients with cancer.

This project seeks to undertake comprehensive reviews of the literature to establish the level of evidence suggesting an interaction between 3-5 key chemotherapeutic agents and the most commonly used herbal and nutritional supplements in Australia. To achieve these goals, a team comprising of several motivated drug information pharmacists, medical oncologists and nurses with clinical expertise would be ideal. It is anticipated that the results will be published in appropriate journals and disseminated to COSA members. For more information please contact Lesley Braun, COSA Interest Group Executive Member on: [l.braun@alfred.org.au](mailto:l.braun@alfred.org.au)

### **Note name change**

In order to distinguish ourselves from the alternative providers, the Executive has elected to change the name of the group to Complementary and Integrative Interest Group.

### **Editor for newsletter needed.**

We feel that this amount of news should be ideally distributed regularly. If you have a writing/editing talent and are interested in compiling a regular email newsletter, we would love to hear from you.

See you all in Melbourne in November.

**Bogda Koczvara, Chair**

## **Developing Nations Interest group**

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Early this year the Developing Nations Interest Group put forward a proposal to the COSA Executive for funding to support a mentoring program. We are delighted to report that they have agreed to provide the initial funding to establish this program.

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

The objective is to demonstrate a variety of models of care including multidisciplinary team meetings; clinical coordination; integrated research and education. COSA hopes to facilitate learning around alternate methods of care and to foster ongoing links between the two countries.

We would also like to sponsor these health professionals to attend the ASM whilst they are in Australia. For COSA members it is an opportunity for us to learn about their organisation of cancer care in the country of origin and receive some education about what we can do and what is needed.

There is much work to be done to establish the process and procedure, however I look forward to announcing the first fellow to visit our shores under this new COSA mentoring program.

**Matthew Links - Chair**

## **Geriatric Oncology Interest group**

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A number of Geriatric Oncology Interest group members are progressing well with the geriatric oncology audit project. This report will provide valuable insight into current medical oncology clinical practices. The results from this project will be reported at the ASM in November.



It was a pleasure to speak at the COSA ActNow Clinical Oncology Weekend for Clinicians in NSW and ACT meeting held in Bowral in late May. My talk generated a great deal of interest in this field.

We have received Cancer Australia funding to conduct a research project in the regional area around Albury/Wodonga. In a collaboration with the Hume Regional Integrated Cancer Service (Hume RICS) and Border Medical Oncology we plan on studying the impact of a cancer care coordinator specifically for older patients. We will be applying the geriatric assessment screening tool currently in use at the Royal Adelaide Hospital to all patients over the age of 70 years and mapping the referral patterns that result. We hope to study the health economic impacts of this more streamlined and coordinated approach to the care of our older patients.

The Journal of Geriatric Oncology was launched at the recent ASCO meeting in Chicago. As a member of the editorial board I would welcome papers from COSA members. [www.geriatriconcology.net](http://www.geriatriconcology.net) .

We certainly have some exciting projects underway. If you are interested in joining the interest group please let us know - email: [kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au](mailto:kathy.ansell@cancer.org.au)

**Chris Steer - Chair**

## NETs Interest group

The management guidelines for NETs have progressed, with the first few sections being placed on a closed wiki platform to open the final edits to the larger consulting group and begin our clinicians introduction to the technology. It is anticipated that the complete guideline document will be ready for public viewing in the coming months. For progress reports and/or to express your interest in joining the NETs interest group, please contact [rhonda.cousins@cancer.org.au](mailto:rhonda.cousins@cancer.org.au)

**Yu Jo Chua - Chair**

## Tissue Banking Interest group

Our project to facilitate tissue banking (bio-banking) associated with the CCTGs throughout Australia continues, with thanks to Nik Zeps, David Goldstein and Steve Ackland for their contributions.

COSA's report on "Developing a nationally coordinated approach to biobanking for Cancer Clinical Trials in Australia" was finalised at the end of March 2010 and is available on the COSA website [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au)

The working group will be re-convening in July, with an aim to review and action the key recommendations.

**Nik Zeps - Chair**

## Other News

### New NBOCC Online Modules

Commencing in June, National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC), in collaboration with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), will host a series of online breast cancer education modules for clinicians, nurses and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers in regional and rural Australia.

The three online modules address the continuum of breast cancer care after diagnosis:

4. Breast cancer diagnosis – what now?, presented by Dr Tony Green, Breast Surgeon, Cairns and Dr Geoffrey Beadle, Medical Oncologist, Wesley Medical Centre, Brisbane.
5. Breast cancer treatment – managing the impact, presented by Associate Professor Jane Turner, psychiatrist, University of Queensland School of Medicine, Brisbane.
6. Breast cancer treatment is over – what's next?, presented by Dr Julie Thompson, Manager Primary Care, NBOCC.

Extending information for rural health professionals is a project of the Supporting Women in Rural Areas Diagnosed with Breast Cancer Program, funded by the Australian Government and delivered by NBOCC.

To register for one or more of the online modules, please visit <http://nbocc.org.au/health-professionals/education/education-for-health-professionals-in-rural-areas>.

### COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting – 2nd/3rd October 2010, Hyatt Regency Coolum, Sunshine Coast

COSA members are invited to join us at the COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting.

This year's scientific meeting has the benefit of three world-renowned international speakers:

- Professor Linda Liao, neurosurgeon, molecular biologist, and director of the brain tumour program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.
- Professor Michael Weller, neurologist, cancer researcher and chairman of the Department of Neurology at University Hospital Zurich.
- Professor James Vredenburgh, medical oncologist and director of clinical research and of the neuro-oncology fellowship program at Duke University Medical Centre.

The meeting will focus on future treatments for glioma, the use of biomarkers, and challenges in clinical trials. For the full program please visit <http://www.cogno.org.au/docview.aspx?id=37>

I hope to see you there.

**Lindy Jeffree**  
**Convenor, COGNO ASM 2010**

## COSA ASM Message Board

### "BEST OF THE BEST" AWARDS

We acknowledge Roche for their ongoing support in providing an unrestricted grant for the Best of the Best prizes.

\$2,000 is awarded to the best oral presentation and poster in each of the "Best of the Best" categories. Additional prizes up to the value of \$500 will also be awarded to new and innovative research.

Please note: Abstracts for the 2010 COSA meeting are invited to be submitted under one of the following categories: Basic and Translational Research, Supportive Care, Clinical Science, Education and Professional Development, Epidemiology, Health Services, Tumour Stream 1: Breast, Tumour Stream 2: Gynae, Tumour Stream 3: Urogenital, Tumour Stream 4: Colorectal, Service Provision, and

Trials in Progress – new category. The Trials in Progress category is intended to facilitate awareness of and to encourage discussion of new clinical research and promote the exchange of ideas on clinical trial design. Please note: This special category will not include oral presentations.

JUST A REMINDER ABSTRACTS CLOSE ON 2 AUGUST, 2010 - SEE ALL ASM DATES ON BACK PAGE.

### COSA Travel Grant Opportunities

The Grants available are:

- COSA Travel Grants
- COSA-IPSEN Travel Grant Awards
- COSA Trainee Travel Grants

Please refer to the COSA website for further information on all grants & fellowships: [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au)

This year's COSA ASM Conference Dinner presents:

## COSA'S GOT TALENT

Can you sing/dance/act or do stand up comedy or tricks with your dog?

**WE NEED YOU!!**

**Acts include:**

COSA string orchestra (interested string instrument players, please contact Sid Selva-Nayagam - [sselvana@mail.rah.sa.gov.au](mailto:sselvana@mail.rah.sa.gov.au) - for music to learn at home, with one on-site rehearsal during COSA prior to performance!)

**Contact us for a place in**

"COSA's Got Talent" (auditions may apply!)

### HOTT & HOTTAH WINNERS

Applications are now being reviewed with the winners being presented their award at COSA's Annual Scientific Meeting. *COSA thanks Roche for their ongoing support.*



### INAUGURAL PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE

**Introduction** – Bruce Mann

*The inaugural Presidential lecture will deliver insights from one of the first and greatest Australian translational researcher, whose work – the development of colony stimulating factors – has had a profound impact on clinical practice.*

**Chair:** Ian Frazer – **Speaker:** Don Metcalf

**HOT TOPIC DEBATE** – "Prevention is better than cure: if only all cancers were preventable" – **Facilitator** Adam Spencer.

*This is the last session on the ASM 2010 programme and stimulates discussion and debate.*



## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

### Cancer and beyond: Through the lens

**Do you see yourself as a promising photographer?**

This year for the first time COSA is running a photography competition "**Cancer and beyond: Through the lens.**"

We invite members to capture some of your "key moments" in the workplace – images that represent your work in caring for patients, caring for each other, professional development and/or research.

The 20 best photographs will be exhibited at COSA's Annual Scientific Meeting, 9–11 November in Melbourne. All images will become part of a COSA photo library, a resource for our members.

**Prizes will be awarded for the best entries**



Entries can range from digitally produced images using any photographic or scientific technology. Images could be taken through the lens of a microscope (e.g. microphotograph) or instrumentation generated (e.g. gene mapping) or produced by using any other technology that reflects your research.

**The competition prizes are courtesy of COSA and our supporters:**

**First prize**

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

**Runners up**

Runners up will receive:

- A framed copy of their image from COSA
- Cinema movie tickets.

**Criteria for entry**

Entries will only be accepted from COSA members. Visit [www.cosa2010.org](http://www.cosa2010.org) and select "Photo Competition" for the full entry criteria, image specifications, conditions of entry and judging criteria.

**Entries close at 5pm, Friday 8 October 2010.**

# COSA's 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting

9-11 November 2010 | Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

## 'Cancer & Beyond'



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Check out our website [www.cosa2010.org](http://www.cosa2010.org) and DIARISE NOW!

See you there,

Eva Segelov,  
2010 convenor

### THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

#### PLATINUM



#### GOLD



#### SILVER



#### BRONZE



# COSA's 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting

9-11 November 2010 | Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre



## 'Cancer & Beyond'

### KEY DATES:

**REGISTRATION AND  
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION  
NOW OPEN**

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION  
DEADLINE 2 AUGUST 2010**

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION  
CLOSES 6 SEPTEMBER 2010**

## 2010 Invited Speakers include:

### Dr Monica Morrow, MD, FACS

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

### Dr Christos Sotiriou, MD, PhD

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

### Dr Sara Booth MD FRCP

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

### Dr Isabel White

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

### Prof Martin Hauer-Jensen, MD, PhD, FACS

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

### Dr Jervoise Andreyev MA PhD FRCP

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

### A/Prof Ann Partridge

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

### A/Prof Matt Loscalzo

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

### Professor Hani Gabra

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

### Dr Rowan Chlebowski

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

### Mr Mark Kisson

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

### Dr Edith Perez

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

### Dr Antoni Ribas

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

### Dr Mark Robson

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



## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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