



COSA NEWS **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Sandro V Porceddu, President, COSA

It gives me great pleasure to announce that COSA is now officially a company limited by guarantee and operating under our new name of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Limited. The organisation now has an elected 9 member Board which held its first meeting on Friday 19 July, following which the larger revamped COSA Council met and welcomed new Affiliated Organisation members. In addition to our current colleagues of CNSA, MOGA and the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups (CCTGs) we are delighted to welcome our new affiliates, the ANZ Head and Neck Cancer Society (ANZHNCS), Australasian Metastasis Research Society (OzMRS), RANZCR Faculty of Radiation Oncology (FRO), and the Royal College of Pathologists Australia (RCPA). I have been professionally involved with both the ANZHNCS and FRO for many years and so it is with great personal pride to have them join COSA. I look forward to these new collaborations as we broaden our membership and strengthen the influence we have as the largest Australian multidisciplinary organisation involved with cancer control.

The introduction of COSA Affiliated Organisations not only allows those groups to have a seat at Council but also opens up opportunities for their members to engage with COSA – members old and new (and receive a discount on membership too).

Many of you would be aware that CNSA have now moved to establish their organisation independent of COSA – a move reflecting their evolution into an effective and functioning society. COSA is proud to have been involved with CNSA since its inception and looks forward to its ongoing success. We remain keen to continue collaborating with CNSA on mutual projects of interest.

COSA, and its Groups, have had another productive few months, with a number of submissions and representations at high level committees. In Dan Mellor's piece from the CPG in the last edition of the Marryalyan you may have read that we made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into access of chemotherapy drugs – credit to Dan and the team for such an excellent submission which has been quoted several times since in the Senate.

In May, COSA joined forces with the CCTGs and put forward a joint submission to the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority on the development of standard costs for conducting Clinical Trials in Australia. In addition to responding to the discussion paper questions, we proposed seven key recommendations. In doing so, we highlighted the differences in trials conducted by CCTGs compared with industry and therefore the need for differing funding models to account for this.

COSA recently convened a working party to formulate a response to the NHMRC's public consultation on the review of the conditions for qualifying or waiving consent in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. While COSA is supportive of some of the proposed revisions on the opt-out approach, in conjunction with our Clinical Trials Research Professionals Group, we highlighted some pragmatic issues for consideration by the committee. However we also acknowledged the option for opt out consent would provide ethical review bodies with an additional tool to apply to types of low risk research such as epidemiological studies and clinical registries.

July was a busy month at COSA. Subscription renewals opened after complimentary membership for the first six months of the calendar year. We launched our new website. Improving COSA communications is a key priority for me as COSA President and I hope the revamped website will be a cornerstone for that. We will continue to communicate our progress and projects via the Marryalyan while at the same time increasing our electronic communications.

Please feel free to contact me or Marie Malica with any comments or suggestions.

Sandro V Porceddu
President - COSA

Executive Officer's Report

Where did that last 4 months go? How does time go by so quickly at COSA? I think the answer to these questions lies in the fact that COSA is such a productive organisation that achieves so much with minimal resources. I often meet people that don't appreciate all the other activities of COSA besides the ASM. Obviously the ASM is our feature event – the one which we are best known for – but it's not our only activity. I know some of our members read the Marryalyan from cover to cover so you're across most things (I know you're out there because you take time to let me know when you spot a typo!) There are other members who aren't fully informed about everything we do. But it's not just our membership that we need to keep informed – we need to become more creative about promoting ourselves outside the organisation too. Launching the new website and opening up the Affiliated Organisation membership category are just two examples of how we have started to improve our communications and expand our reach.

In his report Sandro explains how we are broadening COSA's reach through our network of Affiliated Organisations. Many of them have provided reports in this newsletter for the first time, so I encourage you to read them. I also encourage you to engage with them, and us, more. Write to us and let us know if you have an idea for a great project that you think COSA is ideally placed to take carriage of – you never know, we might be able to take it up. Communicate more with your COSA Group Chairs – they have been elected by you, to represent you and your needs. Do you think we've got the mix of COSA Groups right? Are you a member of a COSA Group that you think doesn't represent your views well? Are you involved in an emerging area of oncology practice that is not represented by COSA and think we should do something about it? When we asked you about cancer survivorship last year we had such a positive response that we established a Cancer Survivorship Group. The Group has commenced on a very ambitious project to determine the "Critical Components" of survivorship care in Australia. None of this work could be done without your contributions. So what I'm saying is that we listen and we act and we want to hear from you!

COSA Annual Scientific Meeting 2013

Come to the ASM in Adelaide this November – early bird registrations close 6 September. It's sure to be a great meeting – Nimit Singhal and his Organising Committee have formulated an excellent program featuring geriatric oncology and gastro-intestinal cancers. Tell your trainees and allied health colleagues about the COSA Trainees Weekend prior to the ASM, or even come along yourself. Saturday will feature upper GI and Sunday lower GI cancers. Submit an abstract for the ASM – abstracts close 14 August. Apply for a travel grant – applications close 19 August. Attend one of the five pre-conference workshops being run by your Group:

Cancer Pharmacists Group Workshop

Clinical Trials Research Professionals Group - Clinical Trials Management, GCP and Quality Practices Workshop

Geriatric Oncology – Adequate Assessment – Appropriate Treatment: Practical ways to incorporate geriatric assessment and intervention into the oncology clinic

Psycho-oncology and Survivorship – Thriving not just surviving: Living well with cancer at any age

COSA Annual Scientific Meeting 2014

I am delighted to announce that the COSA ASM will be held in conjunction with the UICC World Cancer Congress next year at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. We are in the process of formalising the arrangements but for now I can confirm the COSA ASM will run Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th December 2014, and the UICC WCC Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th December 2014. Thursday 4th December will be a joint COSA/WCC day and we are planning to host some stimulating joint sessions and enable each society's delegates the opportunity to move freely between sessions. Mei Krishnasamy, COSA President Elect, has agreed to act as convenor and has already confirmed a great group of experts as the Organising Committee. Our themes will concentrate on supportive care, cancer survivorship and palliative care. This is an exciting opportunity for COSA delegates and we hope both events will be appealing.

Staff changes at COSA

Rachael Babin has joined the COSA team as Fran Doughton's maternity leave replacement for 12 months. Rachael is a fantastic asset to the team, having most recently worked at MOGA. Her experience there in health communications has been a great advantage for COSA for the launch of our new website and membership renewals. Welcome to the team Rachael!

My report wouldn't be complete with the announcement of another COSA baby! Fran Doughton gave birth to a beautiful (of course!) baby girl, Harriette (Hattie) on 29 May. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Fran, Bernard and Hattie all the very best.

Marie Malica
Executive Officer

Introducing the new COSA Board

We are pleased to announce the membership of the COSA Board.

- A/Professor Sandro Porceddu, COSA President
- A/Professor Mei Krishnasamy, COSA President Elect
- Dr Christine Carrington
- Professor Ian Davis
- Dr Haryana Dhillon
- Professor David Goldstein
- A/Professor Chris Karapetis
- Professor Bruce Mann
- Professor Ian Olver AM

The Board is now responsible for COSA business, finance and strategic direction. The Board receives advice from COSA Council on matters relating to COSA strategy, programs, projects and other activities.

COSA Council continues to act as the main scientific and advisory body representing all COSA members. Now that governance and finance have transferred to the Board, Council meetings can focus on cancer control matters. COSA Council comprises the Chair of each COSA Group and each Affiliated Organisation representative.

COSA Clinical Professional Day 2013

COSA is pleased to once again offer Clinical Professional Day grant funding. The aim of these grants is to support COSA Groups to conduct "professional day" meetings or educational sessions aimed at fostering professional development. Please visit the conference website to register for the events which are held as pre-conference workshops on Monday 11 November 2013, prior to the ASM in Adelaide www.cosa2013.org.au.

The successful recipients in 2013 are:

GROUP: Cancer Pharmacists

CHAIR: Dan Mellor

WORKSHOP: Cancer Pharmacists Workshop

WHEN: Monday 11 November 2013

GROUP: Clinical Trials Research Professionals

CHAIR: Hema Rajandran

WORKSHOP: Clinical Trials Management, GCP and Quality Practices Workshop

WHEN: Monday 11 November 2013

GROUP: Geriatric Oncology

CHAIR: Christopher Steer

WORKSHOP: Adequate Assessment: Appropriate Treatment - Practical ways to incorporate geriatric assessment and intervention into the oncology clinic

WHEN: Monday 11 November 2013

GROUP: Psycho-oncology and Survivorship

CHAIR: Haryana Dhillon

WORKSHOP: Thriving not just surviving: living well with cancer at any age

WHEN: Monday 11 November 2013

GROUP: Nutrition

CHAIR: Judy Bauer

WORKSHOP: Novel body composition assessment methods for patients with cancer – use of CT analysis

WHEN: 13 May 2014 (registration information TBA)

Congratulations to the successful applicants.

THE TOM REEVE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANCER CARE

2013 Award Announcement

Professor Ian Frazer AC, FRS, FAA
BSc (Hons), MB ChB, MD,
FTSE, FRACGP,
FRCP(Ed), FRCPA,
FAICD, FASM



COSA is proud to announce the 2013 recipient of the Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care, **Professor Ian Frazer AC.**

As one of his referees stated, the Tom Reeve award "is an award for someone who has made a significant contribution over a lifetime to cancer in Australia, and there could be few more deserving than Ian."

Professor Frazer is best known for his work on the HPV vaccine. This vaccine has already significantly reduced HPV-related disease in Australia and elsewhere around the world and will almost certainly have a profound effect on HPV-related cancers such as cervical and anal carcinomas, as well as benign wart disease

that carries significant morbidity. He is now researching further vaccines for viral related skin cancers among other projects.

For his achievements Professor Frazer was named Australian of the Year in 2006 and subsequently received the award of Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for "eminent service to medical research, particularly through leadership roles in the discovery of the Human Papilloma Virus vaccines and its role in preventing cervical cancer, to higher education and as a supporter of charitable organisations". He used both opportunities to promote a cancer awareness message to the public, politicians, clinicians and researchers. He has won many other prestigious research awards.

Professor Frazer is currently CEO and Director of Research at the Translational Research Institute, a joint initiative of the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, the Mater Medical Research Institute and the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

COSA encourages those attending the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting to register for the conference dinner where Professor Frazer will deliver his oration and be presented with the Gold Marryalyan.

COSA Travel Grants

COSA Travel Grants

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

COSA-IPSEN Travel Award

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



COSA Trainee Travel Grants

COSA trainee travel grants aim to assist oncology trainees in Medical, Surgical or Radiation to attend the ASM or the Advanced Trainees Weekend in Adelaide 9-10 November 2013.

**All travel grant applications close:
Monday 19 August 2013**

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

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

GROUP REPORTS

Cancer Biology Group

COSA hosts the Marble Arch International Working Group on Biobanks meeting

COSA has been engaged in consultations around biobanking from clinical trials and recognises the importance of research based upon biospecimens. A review of this sector has recently been published in the Cancer Forum (*Tissue banking and its role in clinical and biological advances in oncology, Cancer Forum, March 2013: Vol 37, Issue 1*) highlighting that identification of new targets to treat cancer as well as validation of existing ones is dependent on access to high quality, well annotated biospecimens. There has been some concern over the last 2 years that Australia may be falling behind in competitiveness in research based upon biospecimens. This has been driven by concerns over sustainable funding as well as keeping up to date with international standards.

The Marble Arch International Working Group on Biobanks (MAWG) was founded in 2005 by a group of international leaders in biobanking from the cancer sector. It is not an official body and has avoided becoming incorporated or being too formal to ensure that its aim of providing a forum for vigorous debate about biobanking may be achieved. In brief, the members are able to discuss issues in more detail than is possible at conferences as well as allowing for more open, and in some cases, very contentious debate. The members all hold very senior positions within their respective countries and are therefore able to take forward consensus views arising from the MAWG meetings to drive a more internationally harmonised environment. The MAWG meets twice a year alongside the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) and European, Middle Eastern and African Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB) Annual Scientific Meetings. In May this year ISBER held its ASM in Sydney and COSA kindly offered to host the MAWG meeting at the Cancer Council Offices.

Members attending included Profs Peter Watson and Brent Schacter from the Canadian Tissue Research Network (CTRnet), Prof Bill Grizzle and Kathy Sexton from the University of Alabama, Prof Eoin Gaffney from Biobank Ireland, Prof Jim Vaught head of the OBBR at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) USA, Profs Bas De Jong and Peter Reigman from Erasmus University in the Netherlands, Marianna Bledsoe from Veteran's Affairs, USA, Marianne Henderson from the NIH USA, Jane Carpenter from the Australian Breast Cancer Biobank at the Westmead Hospital, A/Prof Nik Zeps from St John of God Health Care, Alison Parry-Jones and Prof Geraldine Thomas from the Welsh Cancer Biobank, Dr Roger Bjugn from Oslo University Hospital, Dr Antonio Campos from the AC Camargo Hospital in Sao Paulo Brazil and Rita Lawlor, President of the ESBB from Italy. Daniel Simeon Dubach joined by Skype from Switzerland.

The issues discussed included how to ensure that high quality samples were available for new technologies such as next generation sequencing, how to maintain high ethical standards including how to manage incidental findings from whole genome analysis and how to achieve sustainable business practices. These discussions will form the basis of position papers emerging from the Group over the next 12 months.

The MAWG would once again like to thank Marie Malica for kindly assisting with all the necessary logistics for the meeting and to recognise COSA for its leadership in supporting biobanking as an integral part of the cancer care continuum.

Nik Zeps, Chair

Email: nik.zeps@sjog.org.au

Cancer Care Coordination Group

The Cancer Care Coordination Group continues to work hard to provide a national approach to planning, implementation and evaluation of Cancer Care Coordinator positions and activities in Australia.

Since my last update in April, the project team developing the COSA position paper on the role of the cancer care coordinator has made great progress. The Group reviewed 109 full text articles, Australian state based evaluations of the role of the coordinator, and national cancer care initiative reports over the past 10 years to evaluate the key principles underpinning the role of the coordinator and provide recommendations as to who is best placed to undertake this role. The key principles of the draft position paper were presented by Jacinta Elks at the COSA *Cancer Care Coordination Professional Development Day: Updating this Key Role* on 25th July 2013 in Brisbane. The presentation of key concepts and recommendations within the paper formed the basis of critical analysis by an expert multidisciplinary panel.

I acknowledge the huge undertaking that the development of this position paper has been to date and thank Jacinta and the project team for their dedication to the project. This paper will progress work in care coordination to improve understanding of the coordinator role by consumers, members of the multidisciplinary team, health service managers and funders. The second half of 2013 will allow the draft position paper to undergo a formal consultation period and subsequently its completion to be an official COSA position paper on the role of the cancer care coordinator.

Douglas Bellamy led the Professional Development Group in organising the Professional Development Day as a pre-conference workshop at the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) Winter Congress 2013 sponsored by COSA. This workshop was held on Thursday 25th July. I will report on the outcomes of this activity in my next report.

As mentioned in the April edition, the next Cancer Care Coordination Conference titled '*Constructing Cancer Care*

'Across the Continuum' will be held at the Swissotel in Sydney on 4th and 5th March in 2014. We are excited to announce that COSA has been successful in securing Professor Jessica Corner as the invited international speaker. Professor Corner is Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom. You can visit the Conference website at <http://cosacc2014.org/> to keep up to date with the latest information on the program and confirmed speakers as this becomes available. You can also now register for the conference at early bird rates. Follow twitter for the latest updates on the conference @COSA_CCCC_2014 / https://twitter.com/COSA_CCCC_2014.

The next edition of *The Coordinator* newsletter will be distributed in October. This e-newsletter is distributed to all Interest Group members and coordinators listed on the COSA National Contact Database. The e-newsletter is one way the Interest Group reports to the membership about the progress of its current projects, opportunities to be involved and communicates any research or resources of interest to coordinators. If you have anything you believe is of interest or benefit for the Cancer Care Coordination membership for inclusion in the next edition, please contact Kate Whittaker, Project Coordinator, at kate.whittaker@cancer.org.au

Patsy Yates, Chair

Cancer Pharmacists Group



Plans for the COSA ASM in November are now at an advanced stage with a number of pharmacy-focused sessions included in the program. We are also pleased to announce that the CPG will be holding a pre-ASM Professional Day for the second consecutive year. Our thanks go to COSA for supporting this important educational opportunity for cancer pharmacists.

The current CPG Committee comes to the end of its two-year term of office at the Annual General Meeting to be held in Adelaide during the COSA ASM. Dan Mellor and Jude Lees will be stepping down from their positions as Chair and Deputy Chair. Leadership of the CPG will be in good hands with Gail Rowan taking over as Chair and Dan McKavanagh as Deputy Chair. The members of the Committee are yet to be finalised.

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

The program is being finalised and we would once again like to thank Ben Stevenson for his work on the Organising Committee for the ASM. The program is clinically focussed with many sessions very relevant to cancer pharmacists.

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

As mentioned, we are pleased that COSA is once again supporting a pre-ASM Clinical Professional Day on Monday 11th November for CPG members. This will be a full day of advanced practice presentations and workshops – incorporating both clinical and professional development topics.

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

Krissy Carrington Elected to the New COSA Board

Congratulations to Krissy Carrington on recently being elected to the new COSA Board. I am sure that she will continue to do her best to uphold the values of COSA and to ensure that our organisation continues to thrive.

Watch this space – Grants for COSA Cancer Pharmacy Group Members

We have managed to secure funding from Roche Australia to provide a number of grants to CPG members. Further information, including the application process, will be circulated soon!

Dan Mellor, Chair

Email: dan.mellor@petermac.org

Clinical Trials Research Professionals Group

Chair: Hema Rajandran, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Cancer Centre; Medical Oncology Clinical Trials Unit, Western Australia

Members: Sally Dean, Calvary Mater, Newcastle (Secretary); Jill Davison, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne; Valerie Jakrot, Melanoma Institute, Sydney; Dianne Lindsay ANZBCTG, Newcastle; Anne Woollett, Barwon Health, Melbourne

It is hard to believe it is past mid-year already following a very busy few months for everyone. There have been a few changes and some exciting events ahead for the Clinical Trials Research Professionals Group (CTRPG).

In recent months I have had the opportunity to be nominated for and accepted the role of Chairperson. My predecessor, Sam Ruell leaves us for the rewarding role of motherhood and as I write this report she is waiting for her little one to arrive. The CTRPG wishes her all the best and I certainly have much to thank her for as we have worked hard together over the past few months towards some key goals for the CTRPG for 2013.

The CTRPG officially had a name change in recent months to further clarify the types of members we advocate for. The Executive Group members are representatives from major cancer units and clinical trial groups across the country and have a shared goal; to represent those who work within clinical trials research units and collaborative groups in a professional and supportive manner. The group has also discussed the need to provide training and education for members; which was a key goal for this year.

Over the past months the CTRPG has had many collective discussions on how best to serve our members and provide opportunities in the area of professional development. This led to a grant application for a Clinical Professional Day (CPD) to be held in the week of the 40th COSA ASM planned for later this year in Adelaide.

I am pleased to be able to announce that our grant application has been successful and a CPD will be held as a full day training workshop on Monday 11th November 2013 in the lead up to the opening day of the 40th COSA ASM.

The training day will be facilitated by the CTRPG and Eleanor Allan from Caledonian Clinical Training. Eleanor has extensive experience in the design and delivery of interactive training for clinical research personnel and has specialised in training and quality assurance since 1997. She has conducted training courses throughout the Asia Pacific region for a diverse range of clinical research personnel including CRAs, Project Managers, Study Coordinators, Investigators and Ethics Committees.

COSA members will be able to register attendance at the workshop when completing registration for the ASM through the COSA website. The training day will be a full day interactive workshop focusing on Clinical Trials Management, Quality Practices and GCP for all Clinical Trials Professionals. The CTRPG along with Caledonian Clinical Training hope to see as many members and other clinical trials professionals as possible at the workshop in November.

We have certainly been pleased with the goals achieved by the CTRPG so far. The Clinical Professional Day grant application was a key goal for the Group and we wish to provide a forum for interested parties to further develop their knowledge and skills in the area of clinical trials.

The next few months will be focused on preparing for the Professional Development Day along with our ongoing goal to boost membership and provide further support to our members.

We encourage feedback and suggestions on how we can best meet your needs. Ideas for further CPD days are encouraged. Or perhaps you would like to know more about how to become a member? We encourage you to get in touch with our members and open up a forum for discussion on the way forward for the Group.

As a Group we encourage you to contact us if you wish to share any communication or topics of interest, job vacancies and any other clinical trials related updates that

you wish to share. A newsletter will soon be circulated to members highlighting some of the topics planned for our workshop. I look forward to meeting some of you at the COSA ASM in November.

Hema Rajandran, Chair

Email: Hema.Rajandran@health.wa.gov.au

Complementary and Integrative Therapies Group

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

Under the direction of Dr Lesley Braun the above working party is to be commended for its efforts in completing the position statement task. The Group thanks all those who submitted many individual contributions that were incorporated in several drafts. All members are asked to promote the position statement through their various professional networks and to familiarise themselves with the position statement that in summary encourages cancer related health professionals to:

- Focus on open discussion with their patients regarding CAM;
- Become familiar with reputable resources for CAM information;
- Discuss with patients the concept of evidence based medicine;
- Recognise any limitations to their knowledge of CAM and seek further advice when necessary.
- The full document is now available via the position statements section of the COSA website or via this shortened link here: bit.ly/18Cz50L.

Research Survey

The Group has distributed to the membership the national survey of recent and current (2012–2014) Australian research investigating the application of complementary and integrative therapies in oncology settings. The survey aims to inform COSA and the wider community of research activity in this area and enable the identification of gaps in research subjects and funding to inform policy development and priority setting. The Group will use the survey findings as an advocacy tool to lobby for increased funding in areas of need. We thank COSA members who participated in the survey. Results from the survey will be presented at the 2013 ASM in Adelaide.

National Cancer Institute (US) - Listservs Sign-Up

The mission of the NCI Office of Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine is to:

To improve the quality of care of cancer patients, as well as those at risk for cancer and those recovering from cancer treatment, by contributing to the advancement of evidence-

based CAM practice and the sciences that support it as well as the availability of high-quality information for the health care community, researchers and general public.

Interested persons can connect with the office easily via the website link below in order to receive information updates via the following listservs:

OCCAM Announcements is a listserv that provides monthly cancer CAM email updates about upcoming workshops and lectures, new funding opportunities, publications and other resources.

CAM Highlights from NCI is a monthly feature that highlights a new targeted topic directly related to cancer care and CAM, and is intended for patients, health professionals and the general public

NCI CAM News is a twice yearly newsletter produced by OCCAM to bring you information on the National Cancer Institute's latest CAM activities.
cam.cancer.gov/news_listserv.html

Paul Katris, Chair
Email: pkatris@cancerwa.asn.au

Familial Cancer Group

The COSA FCC group has had a busy start to the year with:

The finalisation of the position statement about direct to consumer SNP profiling for breast cancer risk

This has been drafted by the COSA FCC Group in conjunction with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, the Human Genetics Society of Australasia and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. In summary, the document recommends that the use of a SNP-based breast cancer risk assessment test should only be undertaken after an in-depth discussion led by a clinical professional familiar with the implications of genetic risk assessment and genetic testing, including the potential insurance implications.

The development of “how to prescribe” guides

Guides have been developed for tamoxifen/raloxifene and aspirin as cancer prevention strategies in people at high risk of developing breast and colorectal cancers. These documents have been distributed to the COSA FCC Group members for their use and are also available from me at Gillian.mitchell@petermac.org.

Developing the familial cancer contribution to the COSA ASM program in Adelaide in November

Nicola Poplawski and Graeme Suthers have been working closely with the program convenor and they have been very successful in placing a number of good talks across the program that have a focus on the familial cancer aspects of oncological practice.

Preparing for the Annual Familial Cancer Research and Practice Meeting

The meeting will be held in conjunction with INSIGHT (the International Society for Gastrointestinal and Hereditary Tumours) in August (26-31st August) <http://wired.ivvy.com/event/A1DYPE>. This will be a great meeting covering all the main aspects of familial cancer practice and breaking research findings but of course will have a major focus on hereditary gastrointestinal cancers given co-badging with INSIGHT.

Responding to the consequences of Angelina Jolie's announcement that she inherited a BRCA1 gene mutation

Angelina Jolie recently announced she inherited a BRCA1 gene and chose to have a bilateral risk reducing mastectomy to manage her significant breast cancer risk. For the familial cancer clinics across Australia this has meant an overwhelming increase in numbers of referrals (at least a doubling of referrals) which do not seem to be dropping off at all. It has been striking that the people who are being referred are not the “worried well” but people who are justified to be concerned about the potential risks given their personal and/or family history of cancer. Of course, this additional activity is being managed within current resources; by offering overtime, cutting back on less urgent activities and trying to streamline the assessment and management of new referrals. This event has had a beneficial effect by making us all review our clinic processes and the resulting efficiencies will be continued long after the tsunami of referrals settles down (we hope!). However there will still be a lot of extra activity within the system that will have to be managed without impacting on the quality of care to our patients. The extra awareness of the general public and our clinical colleagues of genetic risk, and “normalising” the discussion about genetic risk, is a great opportunity to help people at risk by enabling a direct communication with them and then being able to provide them with the appropriate advice to reduce and manage their risks.

I hope that we will see many of the familial cancer community at the Cairns meeting. We will need to find ways to publicise this meeting more widely across the general oncology community as I am sure that the clinical translation focus of the meeting will have great relevance for their clinical practice as well as being very interesting!

Gillian Mitchell, Chair
Email: gillian.mitchell@petermac.org

Geriatric Oncology Group

The Geriatric Oncology Group hosted a Concept Development Workshop on 22 March 2013. The workshop was attended by 26 individuals from a diverse and multidisciplinary group of oncology research experts. The workshop report, including evaluation, is available on the COSA website within Geriatric Oncology Group resources. Overall, the workshop was successful especially in identifying Australian based oncology researchers and clinicians, research experts and potential collaborative

partners interested in advancing the Australian based oncology research in the complex care management of elderly cancer patients. **Key outcomes for researchers presenting their proposals included:**

- Opportunities for research collaboration
- Direction and ideas for improving current research proposals
- Statistical and methodology advice and clarity around optimal outcome measures.

While key themes arising from discussion included:

- Importance of research collaboration targeted to cancer in the elderly
- Requiring cross discipline input for the treatment and supportive needs for geriatric oncology patients
- Understanding the study population and impact of an ageing population across various cancer diagnoses and co-morbidities
- Demonstrating economic benefit in research and evaluation
- Exploring use of already established interventions such as Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment, for example the Adelaide tool

This workshop recognised and reflected the interest of oncology professionals to extend their knowledge of the needs of older people with cancer and increase their awareness of current research directions in this field.

Nimit Singhal and Christopher Steer were successful in their application to COSA for funding towards a geriatric oncology focused Clinical Professional Day. The day will be held on Monday 11th November 2013 at the Adelaide Convention Centre prior to the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting. The workshop titled, *Cancer in the Older Adult - Incorporating Geriatric Assessment into the Oncology Clinic*, will aim to cover practical ways to integrate assessment and intervention into the clinical setting. The workshop will recognise the number of different models being employed nationally and internationally, and draw on expertise to develop models of assessment and intervention in Australian hospitals, clinics and cancer centres. More information will be provided in the near future as workshop planning progresses in August and the membership will be informed about how they can participate.

Kate Whittaker, Project Coordinator on behalf of Christopher Steer - on leave

Neuro-Oncology Group

Brain Cancer Action Week was held across different Australian states from 28th April to 4th May 2013 with many key events and initiatives. Two are highlighted below:

Cancer Institute NSW Brain Tumour Support and Education Forum

1st May 2013, Sydney
<http://www.cancerinstitute.org.au/events/i/brain-tumour-support-and-education-forum-2013>

Brain Tumour Clinical Education Day - A forum for health professionals

3rd May, 2013 hosted by Cancer Council Qld, Brisbane
www.cancerqld.org.au.

Selected upcoming events in 2013:

COGNO will hold its 6th Annual Scientific Meeting, its inaugural stand-alone meeting, from 25th to 26th October 2013 in Sydney.

COGNO is pleased to host three international guest speakers: Professor Mitchel Berger, neuro-surgeon and scientist, University San Francisco, Professor Jan Buckner, neuro-oncologist from the Mayo Clinic, and Professor Peter Burger, renowned neuro-pathologist, from Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, as well as a number of well-known Australian experts as part of the COGNO program. The 2013 Convenor is Dr Eng-Siew Koh, Radiation Oncologist from Liverpool Hospital, NSW.

For further information, see <http://www.cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm2013>

The 4th Quadrennial Meeting of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology (WFNO) in conjunction with the Scientific Meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) will be held on 21st to 24th November, 2013 in San Francisco, California. For further information, see <http://www.soc-neuro-onc.org/2013-annual-meeting/>

Please contact Dr Koh (eng-siew.koh@sswahs.nsw.gov.au) if you have suggestions regarding any aspect of the COSA Neuro-Oncology Group.

Best wishes,

Dr Eng-Siew Koh, Chair, and Associate Professor Kate Drummond, Deputy Chair

Queen's Birthday 2013 Honours List

COSA congratulates the following members:

Professor Robyn Lynne Ward AM
 Professor Dorothy Mary Keefe PSM

Nutrition Group

Congratulations to the Nutrition Group's Deputy Chair Merran Findlay on achieving the Advanced Accredited Practising Dietitian credential from the Dietitians Association of Australia. This is wonderful recognition of Merran's expertise in the field.

I am pleased to announce the Nutrition Group has been successful in applications to COSA for the following activities:

Professional Development Day – Assessment of lean body mass using CT scans

This will be held in conjunction with the Dietitians Association of Australia conference in Brisbane, May 2014. Further details will be provided over the coming months.

Nutrition Symposium – Adelaide ASM

A concurrent nutrition session will be held on the first day of the COSA ASM. Confirmed speakers include Merran Findlay, Dr Liz Isenring and PhD scholar Wolf Marx.

The maintenance of the *Evidence based practice guidelines for the nutritional management of patients with head and neck cancer* wiki is ongoing and has been coordinated by dietitian Elise Strange. Thank you to the following Nutrition Group members who have contributed to the review over the past 12 months: Teresa Brown, Wendy Davidson, Jan Hill, Dr Elisabeth Isenring, Bella Talwar, Katherine Bell, Nicole Kiss, Rochelle Kurmis, Jenelle Loeliger, Kelly Taylor and Merran Findlay. Welcome to new members Claire Blake, Belinda Camilleri and Amanda Lowe.

Dietitian Anna Boltong has been appointed as a member of the Organising Committee for the Melbourne ASM in 2014.

Judy Bauer PhD, AdvAPD, Chairperson
Associate Professor and Director Centre for Dietetics
Research, University of Queensland

Lung Cancer Group

This edition of the Marryalyan is timely in providing the opportunity to remind all of the forthcoming 15th World Conference on Lung Cancer, to be held in Sydney October 27-30, with conference presidents our own Profs Michael Boyer and Kwun Fong. This is the premier international scientific meeting on lung cancer held by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC). It's currently held every second year but moving to yearly after the next meeting in Denver. It was a major coup for Australia to host this meeting and a great opportunity for Australian researchers and clinicians to highlight their interest and contributions to lung cancer and mesothelioma research.

A large number of people (including myself) have been involved in the local Organising Committee and have worked hard to ensure that this meeting is a great success,

with representation across a variety of disciplines including but not limited to medical oncology, thoracic medicine, radiation oncology, thoracic surgery, pathology, palliative care and nursing.

A large range of topics are being covered in the meeting from screening and diagnostics to statistics to therapies to advocacy and psychosocial care. A record number of abstracts (>2300) have been submitted with Australia being strongly represented.

May I encourage you to go to the meeting website <http://www.2013worldlungcancer.org/> to register and attend. Please give consideration also to IASLC membership which is open to any physician, scientist, health professional or advocate interested in lung cancer. A discounted membership rate is available for members from developing countries, nurses, allied health professionals and advocates. Free membership is available for Clinical Fellows and Residents for up to two years.

Nick Pavlakis, Chair

Regional and Rural Group

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

Regional Cancer Centres continue to develop (in bricks and mortar form) as a result of previous funding. These builds have provided the much needed impetus to attract new services to the regions. There is, however, an ongoing need to adequately staff and network these centres.

The Group aims to expand the engagement of its members during 2013 and in April invited members to nominate for a position on the Regional and Rural Group Executive. We were delighted by the overwhelming response, multidisciplinary mix and high quality of prospective nominees. In selecting members of the new Executive we used a structured approach based on a predetermined set of criteria. It is essential that the Executive has members with a broad range of experience, and a number of key attributes were considered necessary. These included being directly involved in the delivery of care ("on the ground role"), working in regional and rural areas or being responsible for regional services. It is important to keep the Executive at a manageable size, hence it was also necessary to limit duplication of members in terms of their clinical backgrounds and geographical locations.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the successful new nominees: Jacqui Adams, Leisa Brown, Sidney Davis, Matthew George, Victoria Jones, Louise Nicholson, George Petrou, Sabe Sabesan and Robert Zielinski. I would also like to thank current members Craig Underhill and David Goldstein, as well as Rhonda DeSouza (COSA Project Coordinator) for their help in

establishing the new Executive. And thank you to all of the other regional and rural members who applied. It is always encouraging to see how much interest there is in improving cancer services in the regions.

The Group is currently making plans to hold a 1 day face to face meeting of the new Executive in August. The agenda will include an overview of the workshop held in August 2012 on cancer service development in regional and rural Australia. This workshop generated a number of recommendations which will be reviewed by the Group and plans made to progress their implementation. Other agenda items will include mechanisms for increased collaboration between regional cancer centres and development of the Group's Terms of Reference.

Please feel free to contact me regarding all issues regional and rural.

Adam Boyce, Chair

Email: aboyce@svh.org.au

Urologic Oncology Group and ANZUP Cancer Trials Group

It is a pleasure to write my first contribution to the Marryalyan under COSA's new governance structure and indeed its new name. I am privileged to be a member of the new COSA Board and also to represent the Urologic Oncology Group on COSA Council. At the moment I am also representing ANZUP although we will soon identify another ANZUP member to sit on Council. It is striking to reflect on where we started and how far we have come in such a short time. Five years ago ANZUP did not exist. ANZUP evolved from the core membership of the COSA Urologic Oncology Group and has continued to grow rapidly since then. Both the Urologic Oncology Group and ANZUP were brought into existence to meet the need we saw at that time and still see now: a need to improve treatment of bladder, kidney, testicular and prostate cancers through better collaboration and specifically through clinical trials.

ANZUP has been very busy over the last few months since the last Marryalyan. We have:

- Confirmed ongoing support through Cancer Australia for three years
- Initiated trials based on successful grant funding from 2012
- Built new links with industry and other collaborators
- Designed several new trials and commenced substantial work towards their commencement
- Held a strategy meeting of our fundraising and promotion subcommittee
- Seen substantial activity and engagement of the Consumer Advisory Panel in development of trial documents for potential participants
- Developed new international strategies

As if that were not enough, we are still celebrating the overwhelmingly successful Annual Scientific meeting held on the Gold Coast on 14-16 July 2013. We had well over 200 registrants, a significant increase from the 2012 meeting. In 2011 we instituted a Trainee Day with support from a COSA Clinical Professional Day grant. This was extremely popular and was further developed for the 2012 and then 2013 ASMs. The Trainee Day was held on Sunday 14 July, the day before the main ASM commenced, and consisted of case-based discussions with an illustrious faculty and with great engagement of the attendees. On the same day we held a joint training session for the Consumer Advisory Panel together with the ANZBCTG CAP, followed by a community forum. The ANZUP Scientific Advisory Committee held a face to face meeting open to all members later that afternoon. The evening saw a symposium on prostate cancer. The main meeting was packed with fantastic presentations from our national and international speakers and delegates, including sessions on each of the ANZUP cancers, great plenary presentations, a concept development workshop, best of the best abstracts, a great conference dinner celebration where Certain People were seen ripping up the dance floor, and once again a wonderful sense of community and involvement of all disciplines.

Many thanks to our wonderful convening committee chaired by Shomik Sengupta and including Jarad Martin, Paul Sved, Amy Hayden, Suzanne Chambers, Henry Woo, Kath Schubach, Jasotha Sanmugarajah and our 2012 chair Peter Grimison, together with Margaret McJannett, Yi Feng and our conference organisers YRD. There is a great deal to be done to make a meeting like this so successful and yet it worked very smoothly and the team worked brilliantly to support each other. We are also very grateful to all the Australian and New Zealand speakers and participants, and to our international faculty Jason Efstathiou (radiation oncologist, Harvard Medical School) - sponsored by ANZUP, Robert Figlin (medical oncologist, Cedars-Sinai) - sponsored by Pfizer, and David Latini (clinical psychologist, Baylor College of Medicine) - sponsored by Griffith University. Unfortunately another planned international speaker, Axel Heidenreich (urologist, Germany, sponsored by IPSEN), was unable to attend at the last minute due to health reasons and we wish him a speedy recovery. That meant that extra tasks fell to several other speakers and we are very grateful for the way in which they took up that challenge so enthusiastically and productively.

The 2014 ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Melbourne at the Hilton on the Park on 13-15 July 2014.

Make sure you get in early: put the date in your diaries, request your leave well in advance, make provisions for your trainees to come, and get ready for yet another great meeting. Our convenor for 2014 will be David Pook and we thank him for taking this on.

The pace will not slacken, however: we have some very exciting developments in planning and will keep all members apprised of the progress of these. If you are not a member of ANZUP, or you know or work with someone

who should be, please visit the membership page at www.anzup.org.au to join. Membership remains free. We particularly want to encourage younger clinicians and researchers to join, participate, and become the clinical and research leaders of the future.

The COSA Urologic Oncology Group remains a key component of COSA and has roles and functions that are distinct from those of ANZUP, particularly with respect to advocacy and education. Please consider joining the

Urologic Oncology Group and participating there also. Note that your free ANZUP membership entitles you to a discount on COSA membership.

I will close by thanking the other members of the Urologic Oncology Group executive, Shomik Sengupta and Scott Williams; and also acknowledge the tireless efforts of Marg McJannett and our project officer Yi Feng.

Ian Davis, Chair



TRAINEES WEEKEND

Everything you need to know
about upper gastro-intestinal and
hepatobiliary pancreatic cancers.

DATE

Saturday 9 and
Sunday 10 November 2013
(preceding the COSA ASM)

VENUE

Stamford Plaza Hotel
150 North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000

REGISTRATION

2 day	1 day
\$350 medical	\$200 medical
\$150 allied health	\$100 allied health

DISCOUNTS

Discounts apply for delegates also attending the COSA ASM, 12-14 November 2013 at the Adelaide Convention Centre

Trainee Travel Grants available, visit www.cosa.org.au for more information

For more information and to register visit
www.cosa2013.org

An intensive 2-day course for
advanced trainees in surgery,
medical and radiation oncology; as
well as junior medical staff, nurses
and allied health professionals.

Program highlights

Saturday

The Saturday program will concentrate on upper GI oesophagogastric cancers

- Pathology and staging of oesophagogastric cancer
- Principles of surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy
- Function of the MDT
- Controversies in OG cancer
- Seminal papers

Sunday

The Sunday program will concentrate on hepatobiliary and pancreatic cancers

- Diagnosis, staging and local ablative procedures (RFA, microwave, I lipiodal, SIR Spheres) in HPB cancers
- Principles of surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy
- Controversies in HPB cancers
- Seminal papers



This meeting is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Roche Products Pty Limited.

COSA AFFILIATED ORGANISATION UPDATES

Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG)



The AGITG recruitment territory is continuing to expand internationally with Korea, Canada and numerous European countries now participating in AGITG studies. There are now 95 sites across the globe participating in AGITG research.

INTEGRATE - A randomised phase II double-blind placebo-controlled study of regorafenib in refractory Advanced Oesophago-Gastric Cancer – aims to accrue 150 patients from centres in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Korea.

ICE CREAM - A randomised Phase II study of cetuximab alone or in combination with irinotecan in patients with KRAS WT metastatic CRC and patients harbouring a G13D mutation - will accrue 100 patients from 15 sites in Australia, the United Kingdom, Italy and Spain.

TOP GEAR - A randomised phase II/III trial of preoperative chemoradiotherapy versus preoperative chemotherapy for resectable gastric cancer is currently recruiting patients in Australia and New Zealand with sites across Europe and Canada joining in 2013. Target accrual is 752 patients.

CO.23 - A phase III randomised study of BBI608 and best supportive care versus placebo and best supportive care in patients with pre-treated advanced colorectal carcinoma – conducted in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute of Canada will accrue 650 patients globally with 275 patients recruited at AGITG sites in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. The study will open to accrual in August at 10 sites with a further 30 sites opening later in 2013 and early 2014.

There are currently 10 studies open to recruitment and 13 studies in follow up. **Visit www.agitg.org.au for information on all AGITG studies.**

The 15th AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Melbourne at the Sofitel Hotel on 8-10 October 2013. There will be updates on AGITG clinical trials and interactive workshops. The meeting will feature presentations by world leaders in gastro-intestinal cancer research including:

- Prof Rob Glynn-Jones, University College London
- Dr Richard Goldberg, Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

- Prof Ashley Grossman, Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism
- Dr Stanley Hamilton, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- Prof David Kerr, University of Oxford
- Dr Fotios Loupakis, Istituto Toscano Tumori
- Prof Richard Sullivan, Kings Health Partners, Institute of Cancer Policy and Global Health

On Tuesday 8th October the AGITG will team up with other member organisations of the Federation of Gastrointestinal Societies for Australian Gastrointestinal Week at the Melbourne Convention Centre. Collaborative sessions will involve:

- Australian and New Zealand Gastric and Oesophageal Surgery Association
- Australian and New Zealand Hepatic, Pancreatic and Biliary Association
- Colorectal Surgical Society of Australia and New Zealand

The AGITG and Australasian Pancreatic Club are collaborating to hold a **Pancreas Cancer Research Workshop** on Monday 7th October at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The aim of the workshop is to foster greater collaboration between scientists and clinicians and identify new research proposals.

For information or to register for the 15th Annual Scientific Meeting and Pancreas Cancer Research Workshop visit www.agitg.org.au.

The AGITG is presenting a **Preceptorship in Colorectal Cancer** in Melbourne in August. The two day intensive learning course led by A/Prof Eva Segelov is based on a complete review of literature to understand evolution of treatment for colorectal cancer in the adjuvant and metastatic setting, in the context of current treatment paradigms. Learning is in small group interactive sessions along the Harvard short course model. Forty advanced trainees/junior consultants in Medical, Radiation and Surgical Oncology are sponsored to attend. The format will be that of a short course (retreat) with learning in small groups and active participation from attendees with regard to reviewing papers and presenting cases.

The **GI Cancer Institute** is the public face of the AGITG. The Institute raises awareness of gastro-intestinal cancer and funds for AGITG research. **Engage** is a new information program for patients, survivors, carers and family. Members receive regular newsletters containing information on research and topics of interest. Community Information Forums will be held providing information on GI cancer: the Big Picture, the Latest Research, Quality of Life and Survivorship. To register for an Engage Community Forum visit www.gicancer.org.au:

- Melbourne - Sofitel on Collins - Monday 7 October, 6.30-8.30pm
- Adelaide - Adelaide Convention Centre - Sunday 10 November, 4-6pm
- Sydney - Hilton Hotel Sydney - Thursday 21 November, 6.30-8.30pm

Thousands of kids across Australia have been raising money for gastro-intestinal cancer research by taking the **Gutsy Challenge**. This year, the Gutsy Challenge is asking adults to take a Gutsy Challenge too. The Gutsy Challenge is a fundraiser which raises money for ground breaking research to save, extend and improve the quality of life for people with gastro-intestinal cancer. There are different ways to participate in the Gutsy Challenge:

- Take the fruit and vegetable eating challenge
- Host a healthy lunch or morning tea
- Do something really gutsy like participating in a fun run or other sporting event
- Give up a vice for a week

For more information on how you can join the Gutsy Challenge visit www.gicancer.org.au.

Australia and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG)



35th ANZBCTG Annual Scientific Meeting

The Australia and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG) recently held their 35th Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane.

The meeting brings together breast cancer researchers from Australia and New Zealand to learn about recent advances in breast cancer research worldwide; to share knowledge and research outcomes; and to collaborate, plan and strategise for new breast cancer clinical trial initiatives. The program involves two days of scientific sessions covering timely reviews of breast cancer clinical trials, discussion of new protocols, future trials research and research developments.

Call for Cancer Forum Book Reviewers



Cancer Council Australia is seeking volunteers to complete book reviews for the Cancer Forum.

Book reviewers will receive a free review copy of an oncology-related book and be asked to write a review of 200-500 words. If you are interested in becoming a book reviewer for Cancer Forum, please email info@cancerforum.org.au.

Topics covered during the meeting included managing risk, early breast cancer, translational research, brain metastasis, survivorship and new directions. International guest speakers were Professor Fabrice Andre, Dr Rowan Chlebowski, Dr Corina van den Hurk, Professor Anthony Howell and Dr Angelo Di Leo.

This year, two new awards were presented at the meeting: The Robert Sutherland Award for Excellence in Translational Research and The Alan Coates Award for Excellence in Clinical Trials Research.

The Robert Sutherland Award is named after the late Professor Robert Sutherland AO, who made an enormous contribution to cancer care and cancer research. The award recognises translational researchers and their achievements and contributions to patient outcomes, as well as scientific excellence. The award was presented to Professor Geoffrey Lindeman from The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Victoria, and was presented by Mrs Cheryl Sutherland.



Professor Geoffrey Lindeman receives the Robert Sutherland Award for Excellence in Translational Research from Mrs Cheryl Sutherland

The Alan Coates Award recognises a member of the ANZBCTG who has made an outstanding contribution to the ANZBCTG's clinical trials research program and aims to assist the recipient in their professional development. The award is named after Professor Alan Coates AM, who is one of the founding members of the ANZBCTG and is the former Chief Executive Officer of Cancer Council Australia. Professor Coates presented the award to Associate Professor Prudence Francis from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Victoria.

The ANZBCTG awards program aims to recognise the valuable contribution that ANZBCTG members make to the Group's clinical trials research program; provide professional development opportunities to members; promote the activities of the ANZBCTG; recognise outstanding achievement by researchers, clinicians and scientists in their particular field; and encourage participation in breast cancer clinical trials research.

The 2014 ANZBCTG's Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Wellington, New Zealand from 16-19 July 2014. For more information about the ANZBCTG, the Annual Scientific Meeting or how to become a member of the ANZBCTG, please visit www.anzbctg.org.



As this edition goes to press, the CNSA 16th Winter Congress - Connecting Cancer Care hosted in Brisbane will, I am sure, have been a resounding success. This year's congress will have showcased both international and national cancer nursing specialists incorporating a wide range of nursing research. With over 500 delegates planned, this is shaping up to be one of our strongest congresses to date.

Our pre-congress workshops are always popular and this year we will have seen the COSA Cancer Care Coordinator Group host a workshop to showcase their position paper developed by members on the role of the cancer care coordinator. We have welcomed the opportunity to support the work of Care Coordinators.

CNSA members also recently took up the opportunity to provide comment on the COSA Pharmacist Groups Position Statement on the Safe Handling of Monoclonal Antibodies. Members from a range of clinical settings gave input to support finalising this important work.

CNSA continues to be approached for independent Cancer Nursing input, most recently with the Australian College of Mental Health Nursing – Chronic Disease and Mental Health expert reference group. Two CNSA members have provided input into and development of case studies and the further development of a suite of e-learning modules on identifying and responding to mental health issues in people with chronic diseases including cancer. For the soon to be launched e-learning modules visit <http://www.acmhn.org/chronic-disease-elearning>.

The CNSA website member section continues to provide new and interesting information to our members. Our first ever podcast is soon to be available to members. At a recent CNSA NSW – Sydney Regional Group meeting, Professor Sanchia Aranda gave a wonderful presentation on “Four Decades of Cancer Nursing” – a brilliant insight into not only her career to date but the fast changing environment of cancer care in Australia. Visit <http://www.cnsa.org.au> and log in to the member portal to view this exciting presentation.

Sadly we must say a fond farewell to our Tasmanian Representative Renae Grundy, whom is no longer able

to continue in her position. Renae has provided an impressive contribution to CNSA and we are sorry to have lost her energy and commitment at the National Executive Committee. We are however fortunate to warmly welcome Laura Pyszkowski, who takes on the position Ex Officio until our next round of nominations later this year.

Sandy McKiernan, CNSA President

Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO)



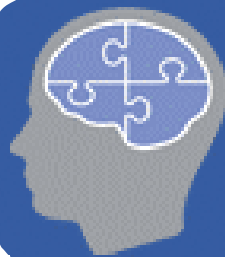
Mark Rosenthal

COGNO is the multidisciplinary Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology. Our work to this point has primarily focussed on chemotherapy and radiotherapy studies in Gliomas but there is also

ongoing work in the area of supportive care and rare brain tumours. In addition, the Group is trying to expand to the field of paediatric brain tumours as well as metastatic disease and there are a number of studies percolating through our Scientific Advisory Committee process.

We have three active studies: CABARET, SEED and CATNON as well as a “patterns of care” study that surveyed an international audience regarding the management of medulloblastoma. Pleasingly, our international profile is remarkably high, due in part to our contribution to international glioma studies as well as posters and presentations at major meetings including ASCO. Further, Dr Elizabeth Hovey was an invited guest at the April NCIC Brain Tumour Research meeting in Toronto and Dr Gail Ryan represented us at the February EORTC Brain Tumour Trials meeting.

A few things to look forward to. First, I encourage all our members to attend our first stand-alone ASM in October. The program covers wide territory and should appeal to anyone with an interest in brain tumour research. Secondly, COGNO has been awarded the right to host the 2016 Asian Society of Neuro-Oncology (ASNO) meeting which we will dovetail with our own ASM. I attended the 2013 ASNO meeting earlier this year in Mumbai and was impressed by the quality of the meeting and the number of attendees (over 500) from almost every Asian country. Third, our strategic meeting confirmed our vision and mission but recognised some fundamental changes were required to the business of COGNO. In particular, we recognised that there needs to be a succession and mentoring process for the COGNO leadership positions as well as increasing representation at international cooperative group meetings. Those with aspirations to higher positions should come and see me!



6th COGNO ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
'Neuro-oncology in the Younger Adult'
25th—26th Oct 2013 | PARKROYAL Sydney Australia
<http://www.cogno.org.au/>

The new-look COGNO ASM website has been relaunched www.cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm-home

Finally, we should take pride in our successes. We are all aware that brain tumours and gliomas in particular represent a small percentage of cancers and the field is relatively young. However, COGNO and its members have, in quick time, elevated neuro-oncology to a position of some prominence nationally and the Group has achieved an international profile in a short time.

Mark Rosenthal, Chair

Medical Oncology Group of Australia Incorporated (MOGA)



2013 continues to be a profitable and productive year for the Medical Oncology Group of Australia Incorporated (MOGA), the peak national body for the medical oncology profession and medical oncology practice.

Media Coverage

MOGA has been the focus of strong interest from the media to provide expert comment on a range of oncology issues. Drugs shortages and access issues continue to be high on the media agenda, in particular issues around oncology drugs and treatment that should be available in Australia but are not. The latter of course arises directly from the deferred and pending decisions through the Australian regulatory system.

Sciences of Oncology Program

The Association's highly-respected Sciences of Oncology Program was held in May and was attended by 60 medical oncology trainees from around the country. The Program developed by Professor Stephen Clarke OAM, Dr Deme Karikios and Dr Tess Schenberg built upon the session platform that has developed over the last four years. A range of new sessions were added to align with emerging trends in the sciences of oncology that are vital to ensuring successful practice in the dynamic world of oncology. The Program has resulted in an ever-expanding and valuable portfolio of education resources for medical oncology trainees and consultants. We thank our many members and colleagues in the Australian oncology community who have and continue to support this important Program by acting as faculty.

MOGA ASM 2013

Blood, Biomarkers and Beyond, Melbourne Convention Centre, 1-2 August followed by Best of ASCO® on 3 August. To register go to: www.mogaasm2013.com

Dr Yoland Antill, Convenor of the 2013 ASM and the members of the planning team have put together an interesting scientific and social program for this year's Annual Meeting in Melbourne. The meeting's focus on biomarkers has provided a timely opportunity for Australian medical oncologists to review their role in the management of patients with cancer and how they guide drug development as well as the impact of targeted therapy. International guest speakers Professor Allen Chan from Hong Kong and Professor Mark Ratain from the USA will provide a range of perspectives on biomarkers and related scientific and research trends. The Scientific Program sessions on specific tumour types include a symposium on Gynaecological and Ovarian Cancer with international speaker Professor Amit Oza from Toronto. Professor Caroline Robert, from the Institut Gustave Roussy, in France will share sessions with Australian specialists on current developments in melanoma research and clinical practice. This year's ASM has attracted a record number of registrants and considerable interest nationally and overseas, including international journals and media outlets. In addition, we are looking forward to welcoming delegates from not only around Australia but Japan, Cuba, Singapore and Taiwan.

MOGA will also be welcoming Professor Kazuo Tamura (President, Japan Society for Medical Oncology (JSMO)) and Professor Akita (Education Committee Chair, JSMO) respectively as international speakers at the ASM and Best of ASCO®. MOGA and JSMO have plans to develop future projects and activities of mutual interest, including plans for the MOGA Chairman to be an international guest speaker at the JSMO Meeting in Sendai in September.

Oncology Drugs and Advocacy

There has been significant progress with the Associations' policy and advocacy work for oncology drugs and treatment. In June MOGA made a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration and published a consultation examining Product Information and consumer medicine information, which focused on the key long standing issues of concern to oncology professionals including the notable gap between PIs and actual clinical practice. MOGA continues to advocate for a new pathway for oncology drugs listing and PI changes for older agents. The company sponsor have indicated they would assist with making a submission for the listing of tamoxifen for breast cancer prevention in Australia in line with recent

developments in the UK and the recent article in the Lancet highlighting the importance of SERMs in breast cancer prevention. All of these recent developments have provided additional support for the submission MOGA put to the regulators more than 18 months ago to support this important listing change.

At its last meeting, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) also made a number of positive recommendations that reflect various positions advocated by MOGA including extending the listing for lenalidomide to include treatment of transfusion dependent, low risk/INT-1, 5q-myelodysplastic syndrome on the basis of acceptable cost effectiveness compared with best supportive care: the listing of vinorelbine tablets on the PBS as an Authority required benefit for the treatment of advanced breast cancer after failure of standard prior therapy which includes anthracyclines, on the basis of clinical need at the price offered in the submission. Most importantly, both ipilimumab and abiraterone, each the subject of ongoing submissions and discussions by MOGA, that were in the post PBAC phase pending subsequent Cabinet as well as Ministerial approvals, have both now gone through the system as of June end and been placed on the PBS.

MOGA has recently requested consideration be given to the large number of antibiotics that are not PBS listed but used extensively in a range of conditions in addition to oncological conditions. Some of these are used in areas such as soft tissue, bone infections and in penicillin sensitive patients where only one available drug exists, there are associated problems and where an alternate on the PBS is a priority.

MOGA was requested to provide the PBAC with a listing of Essential Oncology Drugs that we believed should never go into short supply in Australia. This list, which was submitted in May, was developed with input from Association members with a focus on curative regimens and included some supportive care drugs, antibiotics and anti emetics. There was reasonable consensus from our membership base as to the drugs that should be listed. We are currently developing additional details of the regimen for each drug drawn from the EviQ database so that current prices and costs for each regimen can be determined by the regulator and, if curative, survival benefits will also be considered.

Australian and Asia Pacific Clinical Research Development (ACORD) Workshop

It is all go with plans for the 10th Anniversary of MOGA's ACORD Workshop Program with the next Workshop confirmed for 14-20 September 2014, Coolool, Queensland, Australia; confirmed partners include the American Association for Cancer Research, American Society for Clinical Oncology and Cancer Council Australia. This week-long intensive training program on clinical trials design for cancer researchers in all oncology subspecialties from Australia and the Asia Pacific region is the regional equivalent of programs run by the European Society for Medical Oncology and the American Society for Clinical Oncology.

The Scientific Program includes lectures and practicals with daily plenary sessions providing an overview of a number of relevant topics and skills, such as, ethics, statistics and quality of life; small group by methods and disciplines; concurrent discussions on each oncology discipline; protocol sessions to discuss individual protocols and provide feedback on participants' progress over the week; and office hours – one-on-one time with Faculty Members to discuss their protocol.

ACORD is open to candidates with training in medical, radiation, gynaecological, paediatric, geriatric, surgical oncology and psycho-oncology, palliative care, nursing, pharmacology, haematology, pathology, and allied health disciplines. Registrations will open online at www.acord.org.au from 4 November 2013 through to 24 February 2014. Applicants must write and submit a short concept outline (<500 words) for a proposed clinical research project to be developed at the workshop with supporting referee materials.

Associate Professor Gary Richardson, Chairman

Cancer Achievement Award

The Medical Oncology Group of Australia and Novartis Oncology are pleased to announce that the Cancer Achievement Award 2013 Recipient is

Professor Frances Boyle AM

For more than a decade the Cancer Achievement Award has recognised the unique role that Australian oncologists play in providing outstanding leadership in clinical practice, research and academic achievement.

Upon announcing the award, MOGA commented "Professor Boyle is an outstanding clinician, academic and researcher who has and continues to be an inspiration to her colleagues who are in awe of her boundless energy, drive and enthusiasm for the profession of medical oncology, cancer research and patient care."

COXA wishes to congratulate Professor Boyle AM

OzMRS – The Australasian Chapter of the International Metastasis Research Society

OzMRS is delighted to formally join COSA as an Affiliated Organisation and looks forward to integrating our metastasis research efforts with the more clinical groups represented in COSA.

OzMRS was formed in the build-up towards Australia hosting the 14th International Biennial Congress of the Metastasis Research Society, September 2-5, 2012 at the Brisbane Convention Centre. Conveners Rik Thompson and Robin Anderson, with the support of Australian MRS members from the MRS-2012 local organising committee (LOC), established OzMRS in an effort to bring together researchers, both basic science and clinical, with an interest in metastasis. OzMRS was launched on October 27, 2011 with a one day symposium at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne. Eighty-eight attendees from all over Australia came to hear plenary talks from Professors Dan Welch (University of Kansas), Allan Wells (University of Pittsburgh) and Vivek Mittal (Cornell University), as well as a number of short talks from new investigators, both graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Our three plenary speakers were in Australia for other meetings and generously gave their time to join us in Melbourne. The extent of interest locally and nationally in metastasis research prompted us to keep OzMRS going, and we informally constituted OzMRS with the MRS-2012 LOC as an initial management committee. This includes Dr Erik Thompson (Melbourne), Dr Robin Anderson (Melbourne), Dr Judith Clements (Brisbane), Dr Andreas Evdokiou (Adelaide), Dr Belinda Parker (Melbourne), Dr Normand Pouliot (Melbourne), Dr John Price (Melbourne), Dr Carmela Ricciardelli (Adelaide), Dr Lilian Soon (Sydney), Dr Elizabeth Williams (Melbourne/Brisbane), Dr Mark Waltham (Melbourne) and Dr Alex Swarbrick (Sydney). OzMRS is currently an interest group rather than an incorporated body, and will move toward a more formalised entity in the coming years. We have approximately 100 members from around Australia, and plan to extend to NZ in the coming year. We are very excited to become affiliated with COSA to effect a better interface with clinical aspects of metastasis. OzMRS hopes to stage another one day symposium within the next 12 months, and plans to run an event in conjunction with COSA 2014 in Melbourne.



Participants at the Inaugural OzMRS Metastasis Symposium.

The parent society, MRS, is an international non-profit organisation dedicated to understanding the process of tumour metastasis on a cellular, molecular and biochemical

basis; to the identification of potential therapeutics that would halt the metastatic process and their preclinical evaluation; and to working with clinicians to design and implement clinical trials to bring these new therapeutic strategies into practice. The society was constituted in 1984 with the 1st biennial meeting in London, UK. Subsequent meetings have largely alternated between North America and Europe, with the 2006 meeting being held in Tokushima, Japan. The MRS-2012 meeting marked the first meeting in Australia, and was a great boost for our local metastasis researchers. The 2014 meeting will be in Heidelberg, Germany, Sat 28 June – Tue 1 July, convened by Drs. Jonathan Sleeman and Carrie Rinker Schaeffer. MRS (and OzMRS) commits itself to providing a forum for scientists and clinicians from all over the world with interests in any aspect of the metastatic process. These aims are primarily realised by the organisation of the biennial Metastasis Research Society Congresses and by publication of high quality, peer-reviewed research papers and reviews in the official journals of the Society - *Clinical and Experimental Metastasis*, and *Cancer and Metastasis Reviews*.

The MRS-2012 Conference in Brisbane was highly successful by all counts, thanks to the great support from the our local organising committee, the MRS, our international program committee, our conference organisers (ASN) and the many Institutions that contributed alongside commercial sponsors to help us make the meeting financially viable. It was a very timely meeting with new developments around metastasis including novel clinical trial design, reports of micro heterogeneity and hierarchy from sequencing studies, new emphasis on metastatic testing and sampling, and many new molecular and cellular studies on metastasis, dormancy, dissemination and circulating tumour cells. The Japanese (JAMR) and Chinese (CMRS) metastasis research societies were formally engaged as conference partners, and contributed very positively to the meeting with co-conveners (Dr. Shun'ichiro Taniguchi, Shinshu University Graduate School of Medicine, Matsumoto City, Japan and Dr. Wei-Gang Fang, Peking University Health Science Center, China), plenary speakers, delegates, and representation on the MRS-2012 international program committee. We attracted over 300 delegates from 23 countries with 237 scientific abstracts and had plenary lectures from each of the contributing societies. Dr Joan Massague was the 2012 Paget-Ewing Awardee (recognising scientific excellence and substantial contributions to the understanding and/or control of cancer metastasis) and Dr David Lyden received the Inaugural I.J. "Josh" Fidler Innovation in Metastasis Research Award (Sponsored by Anti-Cancer Inc., USA). It was real highlight that the Josh Fidler award could be presented by Dr. Isiah (Josh) Fidler, who is one of the MRS founders and who gave an outstanding plenary lecture on a novel strategy for targeting brain metastasis.

The MRS website can be found at
<http://www.metastasis-research.org/>.

Contributed by Rik Thompson and Robin Anderson

Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG)



Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG) aims to improve outcomes for people affected by cancer by developing and facilitating high quality, collaborative and clinically relevant research that focuses on interventions and services to optimise psychosocial and supportive care.

- PoCoG provides expert advice, resources and support to researchers and health professionals to increase collaboration and innovation in psycho-oncology research.
- PoCoG brings together researchers, clinicians, health care professionals and consumers to share ideas and form new collaborations and networks.
- PoCoG develops national research capacity and collaborations to conduct large-scale, multi-centre research of clinical relevance and importance, which would be difficult for a single team to undertake.
- PoCoG encourages and collaborates with cooperative cancer trials groups to include psychosocial or quality of life sub-studies in existing and planned research.
- PoCoG provides and promotes resources that support researchers in developing psychosocial and quality of life research.

We are eager for greater participation from professionals in all areas of oncology so please look out for announcements of our events and new initiatives and consider taking part. You can find up-to-date information on PoCoG activities at www.pocog.org.au and please consider joining us. Membership is free and you can sign up on-line.

PoCoG and ANZMTG concept development workshop

In June, PoCoG held a joint concept development workshop with the Australia and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group (ANZMTG). More than 30 delegates attended the workshop including members of scientific committees and working groups, members of the Joint Consumer Advisory Group (JCAG), executive office members and concept presenters as well as invited experts: CREST, Cancer Australia Chair in Cancer QOL and biostatisticians from the ANZMTG and PoCoG. Four concepts submitted by both PoCoG and ANZMTG members were developed throughout the day of the workshop.

Call for submission of proposals to the PoCoG Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for endorsement

This is an opportunity to formally establish research collaborations between PoCoG and other research organisations. We are accepting the submission of proposals to the PoCoG Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for

endorsement at the Open SAC meeting. More information: If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please contact the PoCoG office at pocog.office@sydney.edu.au. **Submissions will close on 30 September 2013.**

Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA)



The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) established the Cancer Services Advisory Committee (CanSAC) in 2009 to provide a focus on cancer related activities with representation from all pathology disciplines. Prof Jane Dahlstrom from the ANU Medical School and ACT Pathology is the current chair.

The initial stimulus for CanSAC derived from the need to provide governance for the National Structured Pathology Reporting for Cancer Project (NSPRC)¹ however it was established with a multidisciplinary approach intended to provide oversight for all cancer related activities within the College including tissue banking and the introduction of new predictive and prognostic assays and biomarkers essential to personalised cancer therapy. CanSAC also acts as a portal for RCPA to Cancer related organisations within Australia including Cancer Australia, the Cancer Monitoring Advisory Group of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), and Cancer Registries. CanSAC was an early advocate for the Intercollegiate Advisory Group in Cancer Australia so the opportunity for RCPA to become involved as an Affiliate Organisation of COSA is especially welcomed.

Some key activities of the RCPA through CanSAC include:

NSPRC

The National Structured Reporting for Cancer Project began in 2008 as a joint project between the Cancer Institute NSW, Cancer Australia and the RCPA. The project aims to develop and implement cancer reporting datasets to improve the quality and comprehensiveness of cancer pathology reports across Australasia. Eighteen protocols for structured (or synoptic) reporting of cancers have now been published to the RCPA website² and a further six are in development. An important component of this project has been the establishment of expert multidisciplinary committees across the full range of cancer types including surgeons, oncologists, radiation oncologists and other cancer care physicians in addition to expert pathologists. This virtual assemblage of well over one hundred cancer experts has become a valuable resource for the RCPA.

ICCR



International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath, UK) have longstanding programs similar to the Australian NSPRC. In 2011,

recognising that standardised cancer datasets are a prerequisite for national and international benchmarking in cancer monitoring and management, and that pathology reports provide key information on tumour classification, staging, prognostic and predictive data, the US, UK and Australasian Colleges joined with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer to form the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) to develop international, evidence-based pathology datasets for all major cancers.

As a proof of concept, the ICCR, chaired by Australian pathologist A/Prof David Ellis, has produced four initial datasets for radical prostatectomy specimens, melanoma, lung and endometrial cancer³. The protocols were prepared by leading international multidisciplinary panels of experts, using modified NHMRC evidentiary criteria⁴ and were subsequently subjected to open international review and revision. All four international expert teams have also published their findings in peer-reviewed journals.^{5,6} The initial quadripartite ICCR has now been joined in its efforts by the European Society of Pathology (ESP), bringing a further 64 countries into the ICCR process. A memorandum of understanding is being developed with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and, more recently, the Editors in Chief for the 4th Edition of the WHO Classification of Neoplastic Diseases have agreed to collaborate with the ICCR.

The ICCR is currently incorporating as a not for profit organisation to better support its rapid expansion. Once incorporated the ICCR will be seeking membership (and sponsorship for dataset development) from interested parties.

1. www.rcpa.edu.au/Publications/StructuredReporting.htm
2. www.rcpa.edu.au/publications/structuredreporting/cancerprotocols.htm
3. www.rcpa.edu.au/Publications/StructuredReporting/ICCR.htm
4. Merlin T, Weston A and Tooher R (2009). Extending an evidence hierarchy to include topics other than treatment: revising the Australian 'levels of evidence'. BMC Medical Research Methodology 9(34).
5. Kench J, Delahunt B, Griffiths DF, Humphrey PA, McGowan T, Trpkov K, Varma M, Wheeler TM and Srigley JR (2013). Dataset for reporting of prostate carcinoma in radical prostatectomy specimens: recommendations from the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting. Histopathology 62:203-218.
6. McCluggage WG, Colgan T, Duggan M, Hacker NF, Mulvany N, Otis C, Wilkinson N, Zaino RJ and Hirschowitz L (2012). Data Set for Reporting of Endometrial Carcinomas: Recommendations From the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) Between United Kingdom, United States, Canada, and Australasia. International Journal of Gynecological Pathology 32:45-65.

International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer

BECOME A MEMBER OF IASLC ▶ WWW.IASLC.ORG

IASLC

**EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE
AUGUST 9, 2013**

**REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 20, 2013**

See you in Sydney Soon!

15th World Conference on Lung Cancer

October 27 – 30, 2013
Sydney, Australia

Register now at
WCLC.IASLC.ORG

NEXT-GENERATION LUNG CANCER CARE



2014

Cancer Care Coordination Conference

**Constructing Cancer Care
Across the Continuum**

**4th & 5th March 2014
Swissotel, 68 Market Street,
Sydney NSW 2000**



Key dates

Abstracts close 22 November 2013

Early bird registration closes 13 December 2013

Cancer Care Coordination: Constructing Cancer Care Across the Continuum.

The Conference will highlight Coordinators as leaders who are well placed to bridge the gap between front line coordination of care across health settings and government shaping the funding decisions and outcome measures for management of transitions in care. Attendees will explore transitions of care, change management, and publishing processes to strengthen communication of the role and educate colleagues on other's experiences. With a focus on patient and carer outcomes, the conference will explore how Coordinators can maintain and sustain their roles by being fiscally accountable and demonstrate their presence as a necessary component across the cancer care continuum. Attendees will hear from presenters and clinicians across disciplines associated with care coordination, and will learn from one another as colleagues report on their work around models, tools, resources and research undertaken in their health care setting.

Attendees will be updated about the work of the COSA Cancer Care Coordination Group including the development of the position paper on the role of the Cancer Care Coordinator and how members can maximise their involvement in the Group's future projects. This conference provides a platform for networking and information sharing between Coordinator colleagues nationally.

**Douglas Bellamy
Convenor**

Key note speaker Professor Jessica Corner

*Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences,
Southampton, UK*

Professor Jessica Corner is Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and has over 25 years of experience in higher education. One of the first students to graduate with a degree in Nursing from London University, she went on to specialise in Cancer Nursing at the Royal Marsden Hospital. She gained her PhD in 1990 from Kings College London. She was Director of the Centre of Cancer and Palliative care Studies and Deputy Dean (Nursing) at the Institute of Cancer Research at the Royal Marsden Hospital for 12 years and was the first nurse to be appointed to a Chair at the Institute. She joined the University of Southampton in 2002. Throughout her career she has pursued a wide range of research interests focussed on improving the care and support for people with cancer combining academic, clinical work and research.



Please check the website for regular updates on the program, more on Jessica Corner and local speakers.

Presentation & Poster Awards on offer visit <http://cosacc2014.org> for registration & program



COSA MEMBERSHIP

COSA Membership renewals have now opened!

All COSA members will have received notification emails that membership renewals are now open with clear instructions on how to update profiles on the new COSA website. You may recall we've switched from calendar year to financial year thus giving all members 6 months complementary membership.

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

■ COSA—medical (1 year)	\$170	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ COSA medical affiliates (1 year) \$155 ■ COSA non-medical affiliates (1 year) \$100 <p>For more information regarding Affiliate Organisation Memberships please contact COSA: cosa@cancer.org.au.</p> <p>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.</p>
■ 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	

COSA MEMBER MERRAN FINDLAY RECOGNISED WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

We were delighted to learn recently that COSA member Merran Findlay, Senior Oncology Dietitian from the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, has been awarded the prestigious Advanced Accredited Practising Dietitian (AdvAPD) credential by the Dietitian's Association of Australia (DAA).

Congratulations Merran! This esteemed credential is awarded to proactive leaders who use high-level nutrition and dietetic skills to influence the health of the community. Ms Findlay was recognised for her leadership in the field of nutritional care for people with cancer.

DAA President Liz Kellett congratulated Ms Findlay who now joins an elite list of less than two per cent of the DAA membership with the AdvAPD credential.

'Merran is a role model for the profession of nutrition and dietetics and we are pleased to be able to

formally recognise her outstanding professional achievements,' Ms Kellett said.

The inspiring Sydney-based dietitian was honoured with the accolade, *'I've been very fortunate that my career has provided me with the opportunity to work amongst the leading cancer clinicians in Australia. The AdvAPD credential provides both recognition for my professional contribution and a sense of personal achievement,'* Ms Findlay said.

Director of Cancer Services at the Sydney Local Health District, Associate Professor Philip Beale said, *'Merran is an extraordinary dietitian and we are very proud of her achievement. She is a major asset to our multidisciplinary team at RPA and is most certainly considered a leader in her field.'*

Ms Findlay has been recognised for her work in developing internationally endorsed evidence-based practice guidelines and a

successful overseas sabbatical to centres of excellence in the USA, Canada and the UK. Through her pursuit of excellence in clinical practice and dedication to University of Sydney training programs, she is committed to ensuring patients have access to skilled dietitians in delivery of high-quality, comprehensive cancer care.

She has collaborated with multidisciplinary cancer networks locally with the Sydney Head and Neck Cancer Institute and the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse at RPA and nationally with the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia, Cancer Institute NSW, Cancer Australia, Cancer Council Australia, and the Australia and New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society.

Kind regards
Marie Malica
Executive Officer

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
2013		
31 July - 2 August	MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting www.moga.org.au/news-events/events/save-date-o	Melbourne, Victoria
5-7 August	The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Ovarian Cancer Symposium 2013 http://www.vcccproject.vic.gov.au/VCCCOvarianCancerSymposium	Melbourne, Victoria
6-10 August	14th Australasian Prostate Cancer Conference and 2013 Prostate Cancer World Congress www.prostatecancercongress.org.au	Melbourne, Victoria
23 August	Innovations in Cancer Service and Care NSW Conference http://www.cancerinstitute.org.au/events/i/innovations-in-cancer-services-and-care-nsw-conference-2013	Sydney, New South Wales
29-31 August	Australian and New Zealand Head & Neck Cancer Society Annual Scientific Meeting http://www.anzhncs.org/node/48	Melbourne, Victoria
3-6 September	12th Australian Palliative Care Conference www.dconferences.com.au/apcc2013	Canberra, ACT
25-28 September	45th International Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology http://www2.kenes.com/siop/pages/home.aspx	Hong Kong, China
26 September - 1 Oct	17th ECCO - 38th ESMO - 32nd ESTRO European Cancer Congress www.ecco-org.eu	Brussels, Belgium
27 September - 1 Oct	17th Congress of the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) www.essoweb.org/eurssso	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
8-10 October	AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting http://agitg.org.au/	Melbourne, Victoria
17-20 October	RANZCR 64th Annual Scientific Meeting www.ranzcr2013.com	Auckland, New Zealand
18-20 October	22nd Asia Pacific Cancer Conference (APCC) 2013 http://apcc2013.com/	Tianjin, China
23-25 October	2013 Oceania Tobacco Control Conference www.smokefreeoceania.org.nz/	Auckland, New Zealand
23-25 October	2013 Translational Cancer Research Conference www.translationalcancerresearchconference.info	Newcastle, New South Wales
24-26 October	2013 Annual Meeting of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) http://siog.org/	Copenhagen, Denmark
25-26 October	COGNO 6th Annual Scientific Meeting www.cogno.org.au	Sydney, New South Wales
27-30 October	15th World Conference on Lung Cancer www.2013worldlungcancer.org	Sydney, New South Wales
1-2 November	The Alfred General Surgery Meeting 2013	Melbourne, Victoria
4-8 November	IPOS 15th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology www.ipos-society.org/ipos2013	Rotterdam, The Netherlands
9-10 November	COSA Advanced Trainees Weekend www.cosa2013.org	Adelaide, South Australia
12-14 November	COSA's 40th Annual Scientific Meeting 2013 www.cosa2013.org	Adelaide, South Australia
12-15 November	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au	Sydney, New South Wales
21-24 November	Global Controversies and Advances in Skin Cancer 2013 www.gc-sc.org	Brisbane, Queensland
2014		
3 April – 5 May	Australasian Lymphology Association Conference http://alacconference.com.au/	Auckland, New Zealand
6 - 9 May	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress 2014 www.surgeons.org	Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
14-19 September	ACORD Workshop 2014 http://www.acord.org.au/	Coolumb, Queensland
8-11 November	15th Biennial Meeting of the International Gynaecological Cancer Society	Melbourne, Victoria
16-20 November	Australian Health and Medical Research Congress http://www.ahmrcongress.org.au/	Melbourne, Victoria
2-4 December	COSA's 41st Annual Scientific Meeting	Melbourne, Victoria
4-6 December	UICC World Cancer Congress	Melbourne, Victoria



Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia

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



Cancer Care Coming of Age

Convenor's welcome

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nimit Singhal

COSA ASM 2013 Convenor