

COSA NEWS



Sandro V Porceddu, President, COSA

President's Report

As my term as President is coming to an end it has been gratifying to see the organisation move toward a governance structure that sees the Board concern itself primarily with strategy and budget monitoring while leaving the medical and scientific issues with Council. As a result, the future sustainability of COSA is well placed, and we have seen a significant re-engagement with Council members. Much of the credit for laying the foundations for this was set by my predecessor, Bogda Koczwar.

Some of the activities that have occurred at a Board level include, the development of a new strategic plan for 2014-2019, the formation of the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee and the appointment of two new independent Board members, Felicity Shaw and Peter Dowding, who improve the skill mix of our Board through their backgrounds in law, and corporate governance, respectively.

At Council level we have seen an increase in engagement through focused discussions on cancer care and control rather than operational matters, the inclusion of new groups including the Australasian Metastasis Research Society, Australia & New Zealand Head and Neck Cancer Society, Faculty of Radiation Oncology, Human Genetics Society of Australasia and the Royal College of Pathologists Australasia, and presentations from key stakeholders, such as Helen Zorbas CEO Cancer Australia, Rosemary Knight from Department of Health, and Chris Milross President of RANZCR.

Improved communication with the membership has also been a key focus and this was achieved through the development of the "new-look" website, Marryalyan and e-News, and an improvement to our social media platforms. All of this was only achievable by having a solid and dedicated central office team, and in this regard, Marie Malica and her team have done a wonderful

job. There is no doubt that the hard work done by Marie to oversee the operational aspects of the organisation, keep an eye on the budget, prepare concise and well organised agendas with excellent accompanying attachments made my role as Chair of the Board, and Council, much easier.

COSA is all about collaboration and the promotion of multidisciplinary care for cancer patients. Thankfully in over 40 years of existence COSA and its members have never lost focus on this goal. There is no other organisation quite like COSA.

While multidisciplinary cancer care is now considered by most as the standard of care it is important we continue to advocate for this, and look at clever ways to help our health professionals facilitate this process.

Our relationship with Cancer Council Australia is of utmost importance as it is this relationship that helps both organisations achieve their goals. It has been a pleasure to work with Ian Oliver and the CCA Board. I wish Ian all the best in his new role as the Director of the University of South Australia's Sansom Institute for Health Research, but I am sure his involvement with COSA will continue despite his move.

It has been an honour to have been given the opportunity to lead such a major national cancer organisation and would like to congratulate and wish the very best to Mei Krishnasamy as she takes on this role when my term ends at the 2014 ASM. And what an ASM it promises to be in Melbourne, as we join forces with the UICC World Cancer Congress in the first week of December.

Best wishes

Sandro V Porceddu
President

Executive Officer's Report

COSA Annual Scientific Meeting 2014

There is still time to register for the ASM in Melbourne this December if you haven't already done so. You might kick yourself if you don't come! The program is exceptionally good this year with something on the program for everyone. I think delegates will have a difficult time deciding which sessions to attend during the concurrents.

Whilst the main ASM program officially commences on Tuesday 2 December, there is a lot happening beforehand. COSA is once again hosting its well respected **Trainees Weekend** on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 December "*All you need to know about lung cancer*". The program on Saturday is directed at medical trainees, nursing and allied health staff; and we've planned the Sunday program to attract palliative care trainees – but anyone can attend on either or both days.

On Sunday afternoon, 30 November, COSA is hosting a public forum in collaboration with the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre, Cancer Action Victoria and Cancer Council Victoria. "**Living with and beyond cancer**" is a special information forum for people who have been affected by cancer. The forum held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre is free for all delegates, but they need to register so we can cater appropriately as we will start with lunch and networking. There will be presentations from health professionals, survivors and carers on survivorship, palliative care and lung cancer.

On Monday 1 December we are hosting a number of professional development workshops:

- **Next Generation Pathology: At the heart of cancer care and research.** Hosted by the COSA Cancer Biology and Biobanking Groups and in collaboration with RCPA, the workshop will include sessions on creating the environment for pathology at the core of cancer research; and Clinical research enabled by pathology: Tales from the field.
- **COSA Cancer Pharmacists Clinical Professional Development Workshop**, which aims to provide relevant and high-level advanced educational and development opportunities to cancer pharmacists, and features mini master classes on melanoma and new monoclonal antibodies.
- **Targeting Malnutrition in the Cancer Setting - Strategies and Initiatives to Improve Outcomes.** Hosted by the COSA Nutrition Group in collaboration with the Victorian Department

of Health, expert clinicians will discuss the importance of the recognition and management of cancer malnutrition in this workshop.

- **COSA Cancer Survivorship Half Day Workshop.** This workshop will introduce the draft *COSA Cancer Survivorship Model* and determine what work needs to be undertaken to implement it in clinical and community practice.
- **What is new in Psycho-oncology?** Hosted by the COSA Psycho-oncology Group (OZPOS) and PoCoG this half day workshop includes sessions on clinical pathways for distress screening and the changing face of advanced cancer – living with a chronic illness.
- **OzMRS CTx Metastasis Workshop.** The Australasian Metastasis Research Society (OzMRS), a COSA Affiliated Organisation, is an exciting initiative that brings together Australian metastasis researchers. This symposium, co-sponsored by the CRC for Cancer Therapeutics (CTx), will cover both the clinical and more basic aspects of metastatic disease across a range of cancer types. The aim is to bring together clinicians who treat patients with advanced cancer and researchers who are engaged in improving our understanding of mechanisms of metastasis and in the development of new therapies to treat metastatic disease.

And on **Friday 5 December we will host an AYA workshop**, aimed at providing continuing professional education and to promote awareness of AYA oncology and research.

Visit the COSA ASM website for more information about the program, workshops and how to register www.cosa2014.org.

COSA Annual Scientific Meeting 2015

As I reported in the August Marryalyan, the 2015 ASM will be held in Hobart at the Grand Chancellor Hotel, 17-19 November 2015, so mark the dates in your diary now.

The Local Organising Committee is keen to start planning a stellar program and is holding their first program brainstorming meeting in November. COSA Council has agreed to feature rare cancers in 2015 and incorporate secondary themes on technology and targeted therapies.

Personally I am delighted that we are holding the ASM in Hobart

next year – the last time we took the COSA ASM to Tasmania was in 1997 (yes that's right, almost 20 years ago!). I believe Tasmania is a great destination. The conference is sure to be collegiate and educational, and I'm sure Hobart will welcome COSA delegates with open arms. Bring the family and take a little time before or after the ASM to enjoy Tasmania.

Other happenings

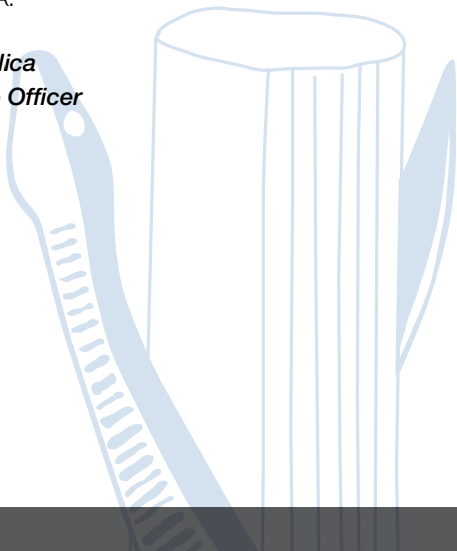
I would like to highlight a few key activities that might not be presented elsewhere in this edition of the Marryalyan (or perhaps deserve an extra mention):

- The COSA position statement on the use of complementary and alternative medicine by cancer patients was picked up by many media outlets and enjoyed excellent coverage.
- In response to the recent public interest Paul Katris, Chair of the COSA Complementary and Integrative Therapies Group, presented a paper to COSA Council on whether COSA should have a position medical cannabis in the cancer and palliative care setting. We are pleased to now be working with Cancer Council Australia to develop a joint position statement of the medical use of cannabis.
- Working with Christine Carrington and the Cancer Pharmacist Group we are planning to update the COSA guidelines for the safe prescribing, dispensing and administration of cancer chemotherapy.

Staff changes at COSA

In September COSA welcomed Abby Zaat as the COSA Project Coordinator replacing Kate Whittaker who has taken up a new role with Cancer Council Australia as Manager of Cancer Care Policy. Abby joins us with a wealth of experience having worked in oncology for over 10 years. Abby's most recent position was the Clinical Trials Governance and Finance Officer at Prince of Wales Hospital. I'm sure her extensive understanding of the oncology sector and project management will see her succeed in her role with COSA.

Marie Malica
Executive Officer



COSA Membership

Have you renewed your COSA membership yet? Don't forget the price of a COSA membership is the difference between the member rate and non-member rate to register for the Annual Scientific Meeting – why wouldn't you renew or join?

To renew your membership please log onto the COSA website www.cosa.org.au and you will be directed straight to the membership renewal page.

The membership categories and prices are listed below:

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

COSA welcomes Affiliated Organisations, which brings many opportunities one of which is discounted COSA membership to members of Affiliated Organisations. Membership costs are listed below:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| • COSA affiliate members – medical (1 year) | \$145 |
| • COSA affiliate members – medical (2 years) | \$290 |
| • COSA affiliate members non-medical (1 year) | \$100 |
| • COSA affiliate members non-medical (2 years) | \$190 |

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

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

A message from COSA's incoming President



Mei Krishnasamy

As Sandro comes to the end of his term as President of COSA I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his leadership over the past 2 years and, in particular, for his support of me as I prepare to take on the role of President of COSA. Sandro leaves COSA with a strong, embedded governance structure that provides COSA with a robust platform for action and a confidence to continue to build on the successes of the past. I wish

Sandro every success as he continues in his role as President of TROG and look forward to his valued contribution to COSA for many years.

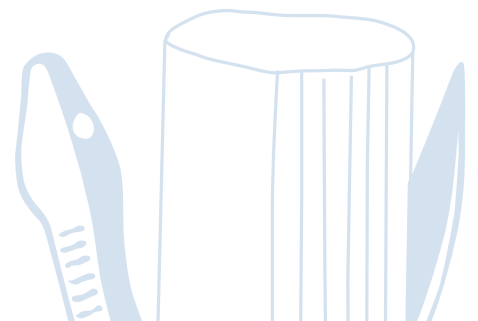
COSA is a remarkable organisation. Enabled by an impressive, tireless Executive Officer, administrative and project team, the Society delivers to its members an opportunity to influence cancer care, policy and research at local, national and international levels. COSA's relationship with the Cooperative Cancer Trials Groups offers members an opportunity to participate in world-leading cancer clinical trials and learn from internationally recognised clinician-researchers. With our established program of mentorship for multidisciplinary clinicians from developing countries and a newly established relationship with the UICC, COSA's presence on the international stage continues to strengthen. Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in the calibre of speakers we attract year after year to the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) and this year is certainly no exception. The 41st COSA ASM to be held in Melbourne from 2nd to the 4th December, running alongside the UICC World Cancer Congress, promises to be a noteworthy meeting. As Chair of the Local Organising Committee I have had the pleasure of working with a highly motivated team of clinicians who have delivered a program that spans excellent cancer care, innovation in practice through world-leading clinical research, and an opportunity to debate contemporary policy and advocacy issues. I look forward to seeing many of you in Melbourne for what promises to be an excellent ASM.

The opportunity for COSA members to contribute to and benefit from the many COSA Groups and the opportunity for COSA to increase its sphere of influence, and enhance the influence of our Affiliated Organisation members through strong collegial relations, makes COSA a unique member-based organisation of which Australian cancer health professionals can be justifiably proud.

As I prepare to take on the role of President for the next two years, I look forward to continuing the strong tradition of inclusivity that COSA offers all cancer professionals. I look forward to continuing to work with an impressive Board and dynamic Council and to continue to invest in COSA's essential relationship with Cancer Council Australia. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Council and Board for the support they have already shown me. But perhaps more than anything I look forward to meeting the many COSA members I haven't yet had the opportunity to meet. For me the next 2 years will be about continuing to build COSA's profile as a vibrant, responsive, member-based society, drawing on the Society's capacity to influence outcomes and experiences for the many, some and few through active engagement, collaboration and interaction with its current Groups, Affiliated Organisations and strategic relationships. But the future for COSA must also include attracting new members and fostering new strategic alignments that will ensure the Society's relevance as a progressive organisation, responsive to the changing needs of its members and national and international cancer contexts. To continue to influence the face of cancer care and to inform and challenge the cancer workforce, COSA will need to look to linkages across many domains, including science and medicine, IT, economics, social geography, and many other areas that will inform and drive innovations in cancer control. I look forward to exploring these opportunities with you to deliver against COSA's new Strategic Plan for 2014 to 2019 (which you can find on the COSA website www.cosa.org.au under Publications – Reports and Papers)

Best regards

Mei Krishnasamy
President Elect



COSA 2014 Travel Grant Recipients

COSA would like to congratulate the following members who have been awarded a travel grant to attend the 2014 COSA ASM or the COSA Advanced Trainees Weekend.

COSA Travel Grants

- Jason Fowler
- Jenny Gilchrist
- Afaf Girgis
- Danette Langbecker
- Mari Lashbrook
- Nikki McCaffrey
- Puma Sundaresan
- Merran Williams
- Addie Wootten

COSA Trainee Travel Grants

- Lei Chang
- Hayden Christie
- Brett Doble
- Ben Forster
- James Kuo
- Erin Moth
- Jane Parry
- Imogen Richards
- Dhanusha Sabanathan
- Stephanie Tesson
- Wen Xu

COSA/IPSEN Travel Grants

- Lisa Mackenzie
- Karen Taylor



COSA acknowledges IPSEN for their continued support through educational grants in 2014.

Cancer Council Australia Report



Cancer Council Australia (CCA) has had a very successful year across its many functions. In advocacy the most important outcome was when the Government announced the completion of the National Bowel Screening Program by 2020 which will save at least 20 lives each week. In partnership with efpas Cancer Council was awarded \$1 million dollars for a program to provide sun shade to secondary schools across Australia. We have performed well in fundraising particularly with strong support for Daffodil Day from Coles and Coles Express and Viva energy. We are grateful to Ronan Keating for the continuing success and rapid growth of the Emeralds and Ivy Ball.

Our relationship with COSA remains strong. We have a reciprocal relationship with members on each other's Boards. I

have been the CCA representative on the new COSA Board and affirm that the new structure splitting Board and Council and appointing external experts to the COSA Board will serve COSA well going into the future. CCA and COSA collaborate in advocacy areas and I represented both at a Parliamentary Enquiry into Skin Cancer in Australia.

The CCA Guidelines Network has been very productive and we are most grateful to the many clinicians who volunteer to write the guidelines. The wiki is an innovative tool which enables rapid updating and wide dissemination of guidelines. The lung cancer treatment guidelines are now on the wiki with screening and prevention guidelines to follow, and the sarcoma treatment and Barrett's Oesophagus guidelines are complete. The PSA testing

guidelines will be launched for public consultation at the UICC Congress in Melbourne in December. We are commencing the revision of the melanoma guidelines and negotiating funding for colorectal guidelines.

We are delighted that the UICC Congress, hosted by Cancer Council Australia who won the right to hold the conference in Australia, will be held in conjunction with the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne in December. There are over 2500 registrants to date and many prominent international and local speakers. This meeting will focus a lot of interest around Australia on our core mission of cancer control.

Ian Olver AM
Chief Executive Officer



Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia



2014
COSA
PUBLIC
FORUM

Melbourne Convention
& Exhibition Centre

Living With *and Beyond* Cancer

Sunday 30th November 2014
12:30pm – 4:30pm

This FREE information forum about cancer is an initiative of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) and is presented in partnership with Cancer Council Victoria, the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre and Cancer Action Victoria.

Each year COSA hosts this special information forum for people who have been affected by cancer. It is held alongside its Annual Scientific Meeting for cancer health professionals.

Guest speakers include Michael Jefford on survivorship; Natasha Michael and Michael Bramwell on palliative care; and Todd Harper, Paul Mitchell and Ben Solomon on lung cancer.

This public forum is FREE to attend however you do need to register. You can do this by visiting www.cosa2014.org/cosa-public-forum and completing the online registration form, emailing JH@asnevents.net.au, or calling Jennah Henry on +61 3 8658 9530.

**Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC)
1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf.**

MCEC is easily accessible by public transport, and has parking available including spaces for the disabled.



COSA Group Reports

AYA Group

The report from the AYA research strategy workshop held in Sydney on 17 March 2014 is now available at <https://www.cosa.org.au/groups/adolescent-young-adult/resources.aspx>.

The Executive Committee are currently planning the program and speakers for an **AYA Clinical Professional Day to be held on Friday 5 December** in conjunction with the COSA ASM at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The target audience for the day is oncologists and other COSA members working in the area of AYA oncology. The aim is to provide continuing professional education and to promote awareness of AYA oncology and research.

There will be two themed sessions during the day; AYA Cancers and Genetic/Ethical Challenges and AYA Cancer Survivorship. A number of international and local speakers have been invited to speak and there will be a combination of presentations and panel discussions. The program is shaping up to be very interesting with topics on:

- Genetic/ethical challenges including colorectal and breast cancers in AYAs and genetic risk assessment
- Sarcomas and Genetic Cancer Risk
- Pros and cons of genetic testing of offspring and siblings

Topics on AYA Cancer Survivorship will include:

- Fertility preservation
- AYA distress screening and providing developmentally appropriate oncology care to AYAs
- Nutritional status and perceived nutritional needs of AYAs with cancer

For further information regarding the workshop or to register please visit <http://cosa2014.org/workshops/>. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

Wayne Nicholls
Chair, AYA Group
wayne_nicholls@health.qld.gov.au

Cancer Biology Group

The COSA Cancer Biology Group is continuing its work on biobanking and molecular characterisation of cancer to enable personalised medicine for cancer patients. Together with our affiliate member, The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA), we will be holding a workshop at the COSA ASM entitled **Next Generation Pathology: At the heart of cancer care and research**.

The aim of the workshop is to discuss ways to further enhance our capabilities of translating discoveries into practical outcomes for clinical care. We will hear from pathologists and researchers who have addressed the challenges of using human biospecimens in cancer research and those also engaged with delivering new molecular tests for cancer care.

The workshop will provide a forum to share ideas, showcase opportunities and celebrate triumphs as well as provide guidance for those wishing to overcome their own challenges. We will also identify areas where there are common issues and discuss strategies to address these as a shared activity of COSA and the RCPA.

The program includes sessions on:

- Pathology at the core of cancer research: creating the environment
- Clinical research enabled by pathology: tales from the field

The workshop will be held on Monday 1 December 2014 in Melbourne. A copy of the program and registration details can be found on the COSA 2014 website (www.cosa2014.org/workshops).

We welcome you to attend and to tell others about this exciting opportunity for COSA in cancer care.

Nik Zeps
Chair, cancer Biology Group
Nikolajs.Zeps@sjog.org.au

Cancer Care Coordination Group

Since the last edition of the Marryalyan we have seen some changes to the Communications and Networking Sub-committee with Jacinta Elks stepping down as Chair. A big thank you to Jacinta for all her hard work and welcome to Douglas Bellamy who has since been appointed. Subsequent to Douglas' departure as Chair of the Professional Development Sub-committee, Liz Zwart has taken up the position and we look forward to her continued support and valued contributions.

Liz is leading the current focus of the Professional Development Group which is the continuing development of a webinar to be used as a platform for continued professional development. Currently it is expected that the interactive webinar will be composed of a 20 minute presentation

together with a 10 minute question/answer session. Suggested topics will be derived from feedback provided by many of you after the COSA Cancer Care Coordination Conference.

This is a new concept for the Group and, to ensure the processes and technology are working well for participants, the process will be trialled prior to a membership-wide launch. Results of the trial will be reviewed and modifications made prior to launching this very promising educational tool.

Feedback received from delegates at the Cancer Care Coordination conference earlier this year has been incorporated into a revised version of the position statement. The position statement has also been enhanced with an updated literature review. We are seeking expert feedback from policy experts on the revised draft of the position paper, so that it has maximum impact.

Professor Patsy Yates
Chair, Cancer Care Coordination Group
p.yates@qut.edu.au

Cancer Pharmacists Group

2014 has been busy for the CPG.

We continue to work on a number of projects and to organise seminars designed to support cancer pharmacists around Australia

CPG “Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacists” Seminar – Brisbane May 2014

Again we ran a very successful foundation skills seminar for pharmacists new to cancer in May this year. The course was well attended, with a small representation of Nurse Practitioners also attending.

Over the two days experienced pharmacists covered many areas of oncology pharmacy practice and workshops gave participants the opportunity to interact and discuss treatment options with peers and experienced pharmacists.

Feedback from the participants as always was positive.

Thanks to all speakers for their time, effort and contribution.

The CPG are planning the next Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacists foundation course for May 2015.

CPG Advanced Clinical Skills Seminar – Melbourne 8-9 November 2014

In keeping with our continuing professional development work the CPG is holding an advanced clinical practice seminar in Melbourne on the 8th and 9th of November.

This course offers the opportunity for pharmacists with more experience in cancer to develop their knowledge and skills.

The convening committee has put together a program and a great line up of speakers both pharmacists and medical doctors to cover some new areas of practice.

This weekend should provide a great networking opportunity for the attendees.

COSA ASM – Melbourne 2-4 December 2014 & Pre- COSA Clinical Professional Day 1 December 2014

The program for the ASM is looking exciting and CPG are pleased to be involved again this year.

Once again we are running a Clinical Professional Day on the Monday prior to the main meeting. This day has been well attended in the past and we hope to provide another program full of educational and interesting talks and topics for attendees.

CPG AGM

The CPG will hold our annual AGM during the COSA ASM in Melbourne, we look forward to seeing people there.

Apart from these meetings the CPG has been busy behind the scenes supporting pharmacists and working with COSA on a number of initiatives, including being involved in work to ensure ongoing availability of etoposide phosphate in Australia. We feel this agent is vital to help maintain services and availability of chemotherapy chair access for our patients.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their work this year and we hope to continue working with our members next year.

See you in Melbourne!

Gail Rowan
Chair, Cancer Pharmacists Group
Gail.Rowan@petermac.org

Did you know
COSA is on
social media?



Please follow us on Twitter
<https://twitter.com/COSAoncology>

and



Like our Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/COSA-Clinical-Oncology-Society-of-Australia/172334056270046?ref=hl>

Complementary and Integrative Therapies Group

Position Paper

The COSA position statement on the use of complementary and alternative medicine by cancer patients has been published in the Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology. The statement was recently highlighted in the online publications of Oncology Update, Medical Observer and Australian Doctor. The CITG is currently working on a companion slide set for the further promotion of the position statement that is freely available online at:

bit.ly/ZWamFJ.

New Executive Members

Welcome to new Executive Committee members Susan Brookes, Nursing Unit Manager Cancer Services, Northern NSW Local Health District, Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, Byron Bay Hospitals and Dr Justin Keogh, exercise and sport scientist at Bond University.

CIT Group Activities at the ASM

COSA and the CIT Group is pleased to welcome Dr Donald Abrams, the immediate past-President of the Society for Integrative Oncology, to the COSA ASM in December 2014.

Dr Abrams is Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and Chief of Hematology / Oncology at San Francisco General Hospital. He provides Integrative Oncology consultations at the UCSF Osher Center for Integrative Medicine where he practices as an Integrative Oncologist and is also Director, Integrative Oncology Research Program. He is co-chair of the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center's developing program in Supportive Care.

Dr Abrams will present on the following topics at the COSA ASM:

- "Complementary Therapies in Cancer Symptom Management" in the Pharmacotherapies concurrent session, 11 am Tuesday 2 December 2014.
- "Integrative Cancer Care: Who, What, Why, When and How" in the Integrative Cancer Management concurrent session, 4 pm Tuesday 2 December 2014.
- "Medicinal cannabis in the cancer and palliative care setting" and "Use of dietary supplements" in the Contemporary issues in evidence based integrative oncology Symposium, 4pm Wednesday 3 December 2014.

AGM

The CIT Group AGM will be held on Tuesday 2 December at 12.30pm-1:30pm. All interested CIT Group and COSA members are welcome to attend as we encourage people to get involved in the activities of the Group.

Recent Published Paper

The provision of 'complementary medicine' advice by conventional medical practitioners and the application of professional disciplinary standards is addressed in an interesting recent article. It examines the structure of the National Law and discusses examples of when medical practitioners have been found to have breached professional standards because of their use of complementary and alternative medicine. The article argues there is a danger in medical practitioners who move away from the principles of evidence-based practice and informed consent in their adoption of integrative medicine. The authors propose a concept of "CAM-creep", situations where practitioners abandon medical professional standards in favour of ones from complementary and alternative medicine. The authors analysed nine recent Australian cases including ones of

an oncology specific nature where doctors were disciplined for misconduct involving alternative medicine.

Reference

Jammal, W., Stewart C., & Parker, M. *CAM creep – Medical practitioners, professional discipline and integrative medicine: (2014) 22 Journal of Law & Medicine 22.*

Paul Katris

Chair, Complementary and Integrative Therapies Group

PKatris@cancerwa.asn.au

Developing Nations Group

The Developing Nations Executive Committee are happy to announce Dr Sameer Rastogi as the successful recipient of the 2014 COSA Asia-Pacific Mentoring Program Fellowship.

Dr Rastogi is currently a Specialist Registrar with the Breast, Gynecology and GI Cancer Unit at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, India. The program is 10 weeks in duration throughout which time he will be linked with the Townsville Cancer Centre in Queensland under the supervision of Dr Abhishek Joshi.

Dr Rastogi's position under the Tele Oncology Research Fellowship will see him observing a broad range of medical oncology care with special focus on 'Tele Oncology'. The programme has been structured into three components comprising of Clinical, Education and Research.

Clinical activities will take place at the Townsville Cancer Centre and will involve Dr Rastogi attending and observing Tele Clinics with faculty medical oncologists on a daily basis.

The educational component of the programme has multiple structured opportunities including but not limited to the Combined Far North QLD Medical

Oncology journal club where fellows and faculty meet weekly. These sessions are conducted via tele health with the Liz Plummer Cancer Centre in Cairns.

The aim and objective of the research component is for Dr Rastogi to develop a new model of Tele Oncology tailored to the needs of the population and demographics of the developing Asian country. This project will be developed under the guidance and assistance from Dr Joshi.

Preceding his arrival in Townsville Dr Rastogi will be joining us at the COSA ASM to further his educational experience. Please be sure to say hello and make him feel welcome.

Matthew Links
Chair, Developing Nations Group
Matthew.Links@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Abby Zaat
Project Coordinator, COSA
abby.zaat@cancer.org.au

Familial Cancer Group

The 2014 COSA/Human Genetics Society of Australia (HGSA) Familial Cancer Clinics Clinical Professional Day was held Tuesday 12th August 2014, at the Mantra resort, Kingscliff, NSW.

Local Australian speakers Dr Kathy Tucker (Fanconi anaemia), Prof Hamish Scott (familial leukaemia), Prof Ingrid Winship (medulloblastoma due to SUFU mutations) and Nicola Poplawski (ovarian cancer associated with SMARCA4 mutations) began the day, presenting papers focused on rare inherited cancers.

Delegates were then brought up to date with recent progress in our understanding of BRCA2-associated prostate cancer by three of the members of a world leading, Australian based team of prostate cancer researchers (Dr Renea Taylor, Dr David

Clouston and Prof Damien Bolton).

After lunch three speakers addressed different aspects of the role of genomic testing in the Familial Cancer Clinic. Prof Ashok Venkitaraman (the Ursula Zoellner Professor of Cancer Research and Professor of Oncology Cambridge University; Director of the Medical Research Council Cancer Unit, Joint Director of the Hutchison/MRC Research Centre and Joint Director of The Cambridge Molecular Therapeutics Programme, United Kingdom) eloquently addressed the question of the role of tumour genomics for targeted cancer therapy, using the BRCA2 gene to illustrate a range of important ideas and principles. Prof Judy Garber (Director and Medical Oncologist, Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston; Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School) discussed the practical implications of cancer panel testing for clinical practice, sharing insights from her experience of the introduction of this technology in her institution in Boston. Prof Margaret Otlowski (Dean and Head of School, Faculty of Law and Deputy Director, Centre for Law and Genetics, University of Tasmania) then spoke about the ethical and legal challenges raised by personal genomics. We were privileged to have three such eminent speakers contribute to our CPD.

The final session of the day focused on cancers associated with mutations in the CDH1 gene. Dr Chris Butler presented his qualitative data on the lived experience of risk reducing gastrectomy in CDH1 mutation carriers who are at risk of hereditary diffuse gastric cancer. Caroline Lintott challenged us to think beyond the “Eurocentric” model of individualised decision making, during her discussion of family focused predictive testing – a process of decision making commonly used by Maori CDH1 mutation families. Dr Vanessa Blair updated us on the management of the risk of lobular breast cancer in female CDH1 mutation carriers.

Over 120 delegates registered for the meeting, and informal feedback has confirmed the content was valuable, the programme relevant and the speakers impressive! All enjoyed the sensation of finishing the day with their “brains full”!

Our thanks to COSA, along with the HGSA and kConFab, for supporting our CPD.

Nicola Poplawski
Chair, Familial Cancer Group
Nicola.Poplawski@health.sa.gov.au



Prof Ashok Venkitaraman



Prof Judy Garber



Prof Margaret Otlowski

Geriatric Oncology Group

On 24 July the COSA Geriatric Oncology Group held a pre-congress workshop to the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) Winter Congress. Facilitated by Jane Phillips, the interactive day was very successful with 32 delegates in attendance.

Feedback from the day indicated that Dr Ian Roos' presentation *'The challenges of ageing with cancer: the consumer perspective'* was very well received, with comments such as; "It's the little things that count", "Treating patients as individuals is so important", "Brings real human side of care" and "Very articulate and honest".

Ms Arti Thakerar's presentation *'Medication management for older people with cancer: polypharmacy and oral chemotherapy'* also received an extremely positive response indicating that the information provided was directly related to all patients regardless of age and it was "practical, real, and important".

In addition to the feedback we received, highlights of the day also included:

- *Ethics "Giving Voice to Values"* – panel discussion by **A/Prof Sandra Lynch**

The need for a session regarding ethics was previously identified by CNSA members and was the motivation for including this discussion at the workshop. A/Prof Lynch is Director of Centre for Faith, Ethics and Society at the University of Notre Dame Australia. With her history of research work on the teaching of professional ethics, particularly on the teaching of legal and nursing ethics, we were very appreciative of her time and support throughout the day.

- *Delirium: implications for cancer care* by **Annmarie Hosie**

Annmarie is a registered nurse with expertise in palliative and aged care and experience in clinical, co-ordination, education and research roles. Annmarie is currently a PhD candidate within the School of Nursing, The University of Notre Dame Australia (Sydney campus), with her research focused on developing nursing practice in delirium recognition and assessment in palliative care inpatient settings.

A more detailed report on these and other sessions will be available on the COSA website soon.

This day could not have been possible without the contributions from all the speakers and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their time and efforts on the day.

Moving forward, Tim To and Jane Phillips continue the process of development of research activities and protocol to inform the role of geriatric assessment in oncological practice. With the semi-structured interview questions finalised and the protocol well underway, the Group continues to give feedback regarding the survey. It is expected that the survey will be finalised in the near future with a view to submitting the project to ethics sometime in November.

On completion, results of this exciting project will assist the future direction of work for the COSA Geriatric Oncology Group. These results will be utilised to form the basis of a Strategic Planning Day, proposed for May 2015.

Our efforts in this field are being recognised by organisations around the world. I have been asked to advise the Gynae Cancer Intergroup (GCIG) on trial design in older adults at the IGCS meeting in Melbourne in November. I will be representing SIOG at the UICC World Leaders Summit in Melbourne in December. I have also been asked

to convene the SIOG Annual Scientific Meeting in Prague, 12-14 November 2015.

The role of COSA is central to the development of geriatric oncology in Australia. I would like to recognise the tireless efforts of our previous project coordinator Kate Whittaker and wish her well in her new role at the Cancer Council. I look forward to working with our new project coordinator and liaison, Abby Zaat as we continue to work together on this very important cause.

Christopher Steer
Chair, Geriatric Oncology Group
Christopher.Steer@bordermedonc.com.au

Neuro- oncology Group

2014 has proved to be a dynamic and fruitful time for the Neuro-oncology community.

There continues to be advances in clinical care, active engagement and collaboration in research initiatives both nationally and internationally, advocacy, and expanding interest in and membership of the clinical trials group (COGNO).

Some upcoming highlights:

COGNO will hold its **7th Annual Scientific Meeting**, from Friday 24th October to Saturday 25th 2014 at the Langham in Melbourne, with the theme of "Translating science to patient centred trials".

COGNO is pleased to host two international guest speakers: Professor Lisa DeAngelis, Department of Neurology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, USA; and Professor Minesh Mehta, Radiation Oncologist from the Maryland Proton Treatment Center, Maryland, USA, as well as a number of well-known

Australian experts as part of the COGNO program. There will also be a special CNS Lymphoma Lunch Symposium on the Friday.

For further information and the final program, see: <http://www.cogno.org.au/content.aspx?page=cognoasm-program>.

The Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) is holding its Annual Scientific Meeting, 13-16 November 2014: South Beach, Miami, Florida. There promises to be a strong ANZ presence of health professionals and researchers at this year's meeting.

For further information, see <http://www.soc-neuro-onc.org/2014-annual-meeting/>.

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

Best wishes

Dr Eng-Siew Koh - Chair
eng-siew.koh@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Associate Professor Kate Drummond - Deputy Chair

Nutrition Group

As we rocket towards another highly anticipated COSA ASM in Melbourne, 2014 has proven to be a busy and productive year for the COSA Nutrition Group. Members have been involved in a diverse range of activities both locally and overseas, the common theme being, the keen desire to champion excellence in clinical nutrition care and research to improve outcomes for people with cancer.

Some of the year's highlights and key achievements include:

Evidence-Based Guidelines

One of the key projects for the COSA Nutrition Group in recent years has been the maintenance of the Evidence Based Guidelines for Nutritional Management of Adult Patients with Head and Neck Cancer. Developed in partnership with COSA and maintained on Cancer Council Australia's wiki platform, ongoing updates to these guidelines have been posted online with the ease of this technology facilitating currency in alignment with the latest evidence. COSA Nutrition Group member, Merran Findlay recently presented an update at the Tri-Society Head and Neck Oncology ASM in Darwin which was pleasingly the recipient of the Prize for Best Poster Presentation.

A/Professor Judy Bauer's role as Dietitians Association of Australia Translational Research Leader has led to the adoption of the COSA Head and Neck Cancer Nutrition Guidelines by the online global nutrition resource Practice Based Evidence in Nutrition (PEN), a partnership between Dietitians of Canada, Dietitians Association of Australia and Dietitians NZ. This wonderful accomplishment represents an exciting partnership with PEN and promotes the work of leading Australian Dietitians and COSA to an even greater international network.

Research

Congratulations goes to Dr Anna Boltong (University of Melbourne, Cancer Council Victoria) for completing her PhD in a fascinating study of the nature and impact of taste dysfunction in people receiving chemotherapy and Dr Cindy Tan (University of Sydney, Concord Hospital) who also completed her PhD in the past 12 months on nutritional status of cancer patients and their response to cancer treatments.

Our other outstanding PhD Candidates, Nicole Kiss (University of Melbourne, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre), Teresa Brown (University of Queensland,

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital) and Wolfgang Marx (Bond University) continue to strive towards completing their doctorates in their respective specialty areas of nutritional status in lung cancer, nutrition support in head and neck cancer and novel approaches to managing chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. COSA Nutrition Group Member, Belinda Vangelov (Prince of Wales Hospital) was also recognised at the Tri-Society Head and Neck Oncology ASM with the Prize for Best Allied Health Oral Presentation for her work in weight loss and nutrition support in patients with head and neck cancer.

The Nutrition Group is delighted to congratulate Merran Findlay who was awarded a prestigious NHMRC Translating Research Into Practice (TRIP) Fellowship to commence in 2015. The 2 year funding will support a TRIP project entitled "Best evidence to best practice: Implementing an innovative model of care for nutritional management of patients with head and neck cancer".

International Collaboration

COSA Nutrition Group members were well represented at the recent European Society of Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN) ASM held in Geneva in September. The congress delivered a diverse, multidisciplinary scientific program to more than 3000 delegates from 92 countries. A/Professor Judy Bauer, Merran Findlay, Professor Liz Isenring, and Dr Maree Ferguson attended as invited members of a multicenter collaborative to undertake an "International Nutrition Audit in Foregut Tumours". This Canadian-led research aims to develop a minimum data set for nutritional care of patients with both oesophageal and head and neck cancers. As such, the forum offered further international exposure of evidence-based guidelines developed by Australian dietetic experts, also raising the profile of COSA within broader research networks.

COSA Psycho-Oncology Awards 2014

COSA established the Psycho-oncology Awards in 2012, with the inaugural recipients being Professor Afaf Girgis and Dr Haryana Dhillon for the Australian Psycho-Oncology Award and New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award respectively.

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

We are delighted to announce the 2014 recipients are:

Associate Professor Jane Turner – Australian Psycho-Oncology Award recipient 2014

Dr Addie Wootten – New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award recipient 2014

The 2014 award recipients will be recognised at the COSA ASM conference dinner on Wednesday 3 December, so be sure to book a ticket and help them celebrate this great achievement.



Associate Professor Jane Turner

Jane Turner is a consultation-liaison psychiatrist who has worked for 25 years in Oncology. She has taken a leading role in Australia in developing psychosocial clinical practice guidelines. Her research focuses on the training and support of nurses in the delivery of front-line clinical care, as well as the evaluation of psychosocial interventions for cancer patients and their families. She is an investigator on the fear of cancer recurrence study currently underway in Australia, was a major contributor to the intervention manual and regularly delivers workshops to psychosocial staff delivering the intervention.



Dr Addie Wootten

Addie Wootten is a clinical psychologist who specialises in the area of urology. She holds a doctorate in clinical psychology from Monash University and works in the department of urology at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and at Australian Prostate Cancer Research and the Epworth Prostate Centre in a clinical and research capacity. In her clinical role Addie commonly works with patients living with prostate cancer and associated sexual dysfunction. Her work often focuses on issues such as erectile dysfunction, masculine identity, relationship difficulty, and issues of anxiety and depression related to the medical condition. Her research focus is on the health and wellbeing of a range of people living with cancer with particular focus on men with prostate cancer. She has authored a number of peer-reviewed scientific papers and book chapters and is also the principal investigator of a number of research projects funded by the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, beyondblue and the Victorian Cancer Agency.



COSA Nutrition Group Members at ESPEN Congress, Geneva, Switzerland – September 2014: A/Prof Judy Bauer (far left), Dr Maree Ferguson (second from left), Merran Findlay (third from right), Prof Liz Isenring (far right).

COSA ASM 2014

The 2014 COSA ASM is shaping up to be an exciting one in terms of focus on nutrition in cancer care. With the energetic Dr Anna Boltong on the ASM organising committee, nutrition group members look forward to hearing international keynote speaker, Dr Thomoas Jagoe, Director of the innovative McGill Nutrition-Rehabilitation program at McGill University, Montreal addressing the unique needs of patients with cancer cachexia.

The Nutrition Group were also successful in their submission to provide a Clinical Professional Day at this year's ASM with a focus on "Targeting Malnutrition in the Cancer Setting - Strategies and Initiatives to Improve Outcomes". The aim of the workshop is to increase the awareness, recognition and understanding of cancer malnutrition within the broad multidisciplinary COSA membership and demonstrate the practical application of strategies to reduce variation in nutrition care to malnourished patients with cancer utilising a multidisciplinary approach. The Nutrition Group warmly welcomes all multidisciplinary members to this essential forum and congratulates those members who have contributed significantly to the development of the day's program including Dr Anna Boltong, Nicole Kiss, Amber Kelaart and Jenelle Loeliger.

A word on our fearless leader

Amongst the key achievements worthy of celebration includes the dedicated leadership of A/Professor Judy Bauer

who has chaired the Nutrition Group since 2008. Sadly, Judy will be stepping down from this role at the end of the year but will remain an active contributor to the Group's activities. The COSA Nutrition Group members wish to thank Judy for her tireless efforts and ongoing support that will no doubt continue to inspire others in their endeavours in the specialty area of oncology nutrition and dietetics.

Judy Bauer
Chair, COSA Nutrition Group
j.bauer1@uq.edu.au

Merran Findlay
Deputy Chair, COSA Nutrition Group

Australian Psycho-Oncology Society, the COSA Psycho- Oncology Group

Introducing our new group Chair

I am truly delighted to introduce Dr Laura Kirsten as the new chair of the Psycho-Oncology Group of COSA and OZPOS. Laura will be well-known to many of you, in her ongoing position as a Clinical Psychologist at the Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre, Nepean, NSW. Laura completed her PhD in psychology at the University of Sydney, exploring cancer support groups. She has been a driving force within the NSW Psychologists in Oncology Group for the past few years. Laura will be a wonderful leader for OZPOS and a passionate, articulate advocate for Psycho-Oncology practice and practitioners at COSA Council and in the broader community. It has been a great privilege to serve the psycho-oncology community for the past few years and I am looking forward to following Laura and continuing to work for improvements for our professions and most importantly our patients.

Education & Training in Clinical Research – The ACORD Workshop

The Australia & Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) Workshop ran once again in September this year. For those of you who don't know ACORD is an intensive research training workshop. Participants are competitively selected from across the Asian and Oceania region. The workshop is aimed at researchers from all professional backgrounds and specialties involved in caring for people diagnosed with cancer. There were two members of the psycho-oncology group attending this year, have a look for a brief report from Joanna Fardell and Ben Smith. ACORD runs every 2 years, before the end of 2015 there will be a call for applications. If you have a research question or idea that you'd like to follow through, try applying for ACORD. There are many people, previous ACORD attendees or other clinical researchers who would be willing to help you work up your concept.

Psycho-Oncology Awards 2014

As you will recall we called for nominations for the Psycho-oncology awards. Make sure you have your tickets to the conference dinner so that you will be able to celebrate with the recipients of these awards, both of whom have and continue to make substantial and valued contributions to patient care through their research and advocacy activities.

- Prof Jane Turner will receive the COSA Psycho-Oncology Award;
- Dr Addie Wootten will receive the New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award.

We have so many wonderful people working in the Australian Psycho-Oncology community, it is fantastic to be able to recognise them in this way with the whole COSA community.

Start thinking about who has influenced

your practice and research, people you think have made a substantive contribution who you can nominate in 2015. In the meantime congratulations Jane and Addie!

Psycho-Oncology Professional Day – a collaboration between COSA, OZPOS & POCOG

Have you registered for the OZPOS-POCOG Clinical Professional Day? We will be running a psycho-oncology specific workshop from 1.30-5.15 pm followed by drinks and canapés for all of you to get together, hear the latest in Australian psycho-oncology research, where we are going with distress screening, and a thought provoking session around cancer as a chronic illness. Really looking forward to seeing you there on 1 December.

Introducing the COSA Model of Survivorship Care

A workshop to introduce this Australian Model of Survivorship Care will be held 9.30am -1.00pm, Monday 1 December (just before the Psycho-Oncology Clinical Professional Day). A very active working group has considered the models of survivorship care emerging internationally and developed a model to suit the Australian healthcare context. This is highly relevant to Psycho-Oncology members, we hope that many of you will join us to consider this model of care and the implementation issues. Please consider registering for this workshop.

Finally, in my last report for the group I'd like to say how much I have enjoyed interacting with all of you over the past few years. The Psycho-Oncology Group is incredibly diverse, but we are all similar in our motivation to improve the psychosocial outcomes for people diagnosed with cancer.

Haryana Dhillon - Chair, Australian Psycho-Oncology Society
haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au

Survivorship Group

Since our last report we have farewelled Hayley Griffin, COSA Project Officer, who has started maternity leave and is awaiting the birth of her second child. We are very grateful to Hayley who provided wonderful support to us on the Survivorship work. However with every farewell there is a new beginning and we are delighted to welcome Abby Zaat as the new COSA Project Officer working with us on Survivorship. You will all have the opportunity to meet Abby in person during the COSA ASM.

Models of Survivorship Care Working Group

The models working group has circulated our proposed model Survivorship Care to the membership and stakeholders for comment. We will be working over the next month or so to refine the model of care for presentation at the workshop. One of the interesting issues this has raised is the lack of research underpinning the concept of wellness. The emphasis is on promotion of wellness and reducing medicalization wherever possible. Linkage with existing community-based services has been identified as a priority as this impacts greatly on the available workforce who may support cancer survivors to live well.

COSA Model of Survivorship Care Workshop

A half-day workshop will run from 9.30am - 1.00pm Monday 1 December. The purpose of this workshop is to formally introduce the Model of Survivorship Care to the clinical community. We will also be seeking your detailed input into what is required for implementation if this model in practice. If you have not already registered for this workshop, please do as soon as possible, space is limited and it is vitally

that we have good input from the clinical community. For more information visit <http://cosa2014.org/workshops/>.

COSA ASM

One of the main themes of the COSA ASM this year is Survivorship, the program is shaping up to be an excellent one and I am looking forward to seeing you all there. We are working toward a pre-conference workshop and professional day to present the proposed models of survivorship care as discussed above. This will provide us with opportunities to explore the model and approaches to implementation in detail to guide future directions of work for the group.

Cancer Council Survivorship Activities – making sure the clinical community knows!

Earlier this year the Group commenced working with Annie Miller, Manager for Practical Support at Cancer Council NSW, with a view to assisting cross promotion of survivorship activities provided by Cancer Councils across Australia. Success of this cross promotion will see an increase in awareness of the important community work and programs available, as well as working effectively in the practical support area with clinicians and survivorship care planning.

Annie and COSA are collaborating to produce the Cancer Council's national survivorship report which will detail the activities of all the Cancer Councils across Australia. Once complete, the report will be available to members via the COSA website and will be a valuable resource.

FCIC Survivorship Conference

A small team are working with Prof Bogda Koczwara to develop the program for the next Flinders Cancer Survivorship Conference. It will again be held in

Adelaide in 6-7 February 2015. With the wealth of research in cancer survivorship in Australia it is shaping up to be an excellent program. Abstracts for the meeting close 7 November, so if you want to be part of this wonderful initiative please think about submitting your work sooner rather than later.

As part of registering for this meeting individuals are invited to make a personal and public commitment to cancer survivorship by adding to the website one thing that you will commit to doing

Haryana Dhillon

Chair, Survivorship Group

haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au

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2015 FELLOWSHIPS IN HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Fellowships of interest to members include:

Dr Dorothea Sandars Churchill Fellowship

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

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

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

Leslie (Les) J. Fleming Churchill Fellowship

For oncology and cancer research.

Vincent Fairfax Churchill Fellowship

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

Mr and Mrs Gerald Frank New Churchill Fellowship

For a project that focuses on cancer research.

Jack Brockhoff Foundation Churchill Fellowship (2 Fellowships)

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

Application close Wednesday 20 February 2015

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



Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia

TRAINEES WEEKEND

*Everything you need to know
about lung cancer*

DATES

Saturday 29 November and
Sunday 30 November 2014
(preceding the COSA ASM)

VENUE

Melbourne Convention and
Exhibition Centre
1 Convention Centre Place
South Wharf VIC 3006



REGISTRATION

2 day

\$350 medical / \$150 allied health

1 day

\$200 medical / \$100 allied health

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

Register for one or two days.

Saturday is an update on lung cancer for oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons and allied health professionals.

Sunday provides an update on palliative and supportive care in lung cancer.

Visit www.cosa2014.org for the detailed program.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- What's new in lung cancer
- Pathology and staging of lung cancer
- Principles of surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy
- Treatments for all stages of disease
- Surveillance and recurrent disease
- Supportive care
- Stigma and demoralisation
- Cancer pain
- Burn out of cancer health professionals



This meeting is supported by an educational scholarship by Roche Products Pty Limited.

For more information and to register visit
www.cosa2014.org

COSA Affiliated Organisation Reports

Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group



The AGITG conducts clinical trials into gastro-intestinal (GI) cancers, and supports research through awards, grants, courses and conferences. Some of our recent and forthcoming effort:

Key aspirin-bowel cancer trial opens in Australia

A landmark worldwide research trial on the role of aspirin in bowel cancer treatment has opened its Australian-New Zealand arm by taking on its first patient in Orange, Central-West NSW.

ASCOLT is an international collaboration led by researchers in Singapore, UK and Australia (under the AGITG, co-chaired by A/Prof Eva Segelov and Dr Mark Jeffrey). It will investigate the effectiveness of low-dose aspirin on improving survival in patients with resected Stage III (Dukes C) and high risk Stage II (Dukes B) colorectal cancer.

Five-year survival rates for these cancers range from 50-80%, so progress is needed.

Aspirin's role in cancer is a key question in current cancer research. ASCOLT is the first prospective study to evaluate aspirin's use in treatment of established cancers, and is seen as one of the most important current cancer studies globally.

200 eligible patients from more than twenty sites across Australia and New Zealand will receive three years of treatment with either aspirin or placebo, followed by two years' follow-up.



Dr Rob Zielinski and first patient Peter Andreas

Leading the trial team at Orange is oncologist Dr Rob Zielinski (pictured with first patient Mr Peter Andreas) who says it "proves that regional cancer trial units can be extremely valuable members of the global research network."

More ground-breaking trials on the way, as new research fund is launched

New AGITG clinical trials about to open include:

- **InterAACT:** An international multi-centre study led from Royal Marsden Hospital, London, aiming to compare the response to two combination chemotherapy regimens: cisplatin plus 5-fluorouracil (5FU) vs. carboplatin plus weekly paclitaxel for first-line treatment of patients with inoperable relapsed or metastatic squamous cell anal cancer. This trial is supported by GI Cancer Institute fundraising.
- **ACTICCA-1:** Again supported by GI Cancer Institute funding, AGITG is running the Australian arm of this worldwide collaborative trial. It's co-ordinated by the University Cancer Centre in Hamburg, Germany, and aims to find out for the first time whether chemotherapy after surgery can delay or prevent biliary tract cancer from returning.

- **CONTROL NETs:** This will compare effectiveness of chemotherapy alone, radiopeptide therapy or the combination, in improving disease control in patients with advanced neuroendocrine tumours (NETs). The trial presents a unique opportunity for Australasian centres to lead the world in the development of high-quality evidence to guide the management of NETs. CONTROL NETs is supported by the Unicorn Foundation.

National gathering highlights need for better research funding

The AGITG held its 16th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Brisbane on August 20-22. It was addressed by leading cancer researchers from the UK, France, the Netherlands, USA, Canada and New Zealand. Our international collaborations are the key to the quality of our research.

The New Concepts Symposium featured seven presentations. Dr Matthew Burge of Royal Brisbane Hospital won the Best of New Concepts Symposium Award for his "Randomised Phase 2/3 study of Infusional FU/LV with panitumumab v FU/LV/ capecitabine with bevacizumab as first line therapy for never resectable, RAS and RAF wild type metastatic colorectal cancer".

Dr Burge also won the Best Poster Award for "A prospective, single institution study of the impact of Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) positron Emission Tomography with concurrent non-contrast CT scanning (PET/CT) on the management of operable Pancreatic, Ampullary or Distal Bile Duct cancer."



Engaging excellence and experience in GI cancer community forums

On August 19, preceding the ASM in Brisbane, the AGITG's community division, the GI Cancer Institute, held its latest Engage Community Forum – bringing together leading specialists with patients, supporters and survivors.

Brisbane surgeon Associate Professor Andrew Barbour spoke on “GI Cancer: the Big Picture”, while oncologists Associate Professor Euan Walpole and Dr Michelle Cronk reported on quality of life and latest advancements in research.

GI cancer survivors and AGITG Consumer Advisory Panel members Mr Dan Kent and Mrs Judy Honor shared their experiences, telling participants: “Cancer survivors exist first and foremost due to research... and the care and support we receive on our survivorship journey.”

Further free public forums on GI cancer will follow on November 13 in Mt Pritchard (Western Sydney), November 18 in Perth, November 25 in Canberra, and various regional centres in 2015.

More information on the Engage forums visit gicancer.org.au/engage; or call 1300 666 769 or email engage@gicancer.org.au.

Pancreas Cancer Research Workshop a collaborative triumph

Also held in Brisbane on August 19 was a workshop on latest research on treatment of pancreatic cancer - which affects almost 3,000 Australians a year, with a five-year survival rate of just 5.2%.

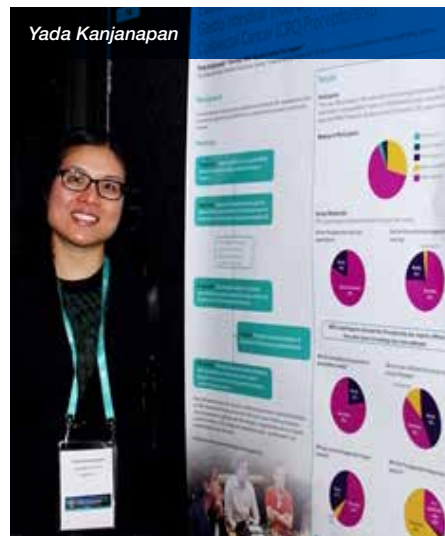
The workshop was an initiative of the AGITG and the Australasian Pancreatic Club (APC) to bring researchers and clinicians together to discuss their work.

Co-chaired by Dr Lorraine Chantrill (Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre and AGITG) and Dr Ilse Rooman (Garvan Institute and APC), the 2014 workshop featured lively discussion on presentations of latest studies from all over Australia.

Second Preceptorship in Colorectal Cancer boosts understanding

Following the success of the first AGITG Preceptorship in Colorectal Cancer held in August 2013 in Melbourne, a second two-day Preceptorship in CRC was held in Sydney in July 2014.

Participants walk together through the evolution of CRC treatment to its present best practice.



Co-convenor of the 2014 event was a 2013 participant, Dr Yada Kanjanapan, who said the interactive program is “an effective learning model for early-career and training oncologists to gain an understanding of the evolution of colorectal cancer management.”

Gutsy runners do the hard yards for GI cancer research

More than thirty runners from the GI Cancer Institute's “Gutsy Challenge”

Team ran and walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge on September 21 to raise money for GI cancer research. The “Gutsy Heroes” took part in the 21km Half Marathon or the 9km Bridge Run at the Blackmores Sydney Running Festival - raising almost \$30,000 for AGITG clinical trials. More at gutsychallenge.com.

GI cancer news online

The AGITG website at agitg.org.au features latest news from clinical trials and other GI cancer research, background on GI cancers, and updates on conferences and other events. The AGITG's alter ego, the GI Cancer Institute at gicancer.org.au highlights fundraising activities towards this research, and works to increase public awareness.

Tim Price
Chairman, Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group

Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group



The ALLG has undergone a transformation in its operations over the last year.

The establishment of the ALLG Trial Centre is an exciting new venture. Inaugurated only a little over a year ago, with a program manager and two CRAs, the initial plan was to run all new trials from that time point in-house. A year later the ALLG is also bringing in-house its older

and archived trials. With this substantial increase in activity, the ALLG has moved to a much larger premises which is now big enough to accommodate all the group operations in one location.

The new office in North Richmond (Melbourne) was launched in October. In speaking to the gathering, CEO Delaine



CEO, Delaine Smith speaking at the launch of the new ALLG offices

Smith noted that the new head office signals the strength of the organisation's current and future operations.

"This past 10 years has seen a sustained growth in the clinical trial program in a number of ways. We've gone from opening 2 to 3 trials per year, to consistently opening 4 to 5 trials per year. We have grown from one member of staff to a total of 14 today. We have conducted overall more than 100 clinical trials and with that have an impressive publication track record. All in all our research has made significant contributions to improved clinical practice and this results in better treatments for patients who have had the unfortunate diagnosis of a blood cancer."

Delaine commented that approximately 280 – 320 people a year consent to join ALLG clinical trials. The ALLG is represented nationally with more than 650 member haematologists, scientists, and trialists located at more than 82 hospitals across Australia and New Zealand.

The beautiful new office premises offer modern design elements such as low profile workstations, standing collaboration work zone, an abundance of natural light and open plan meeting spaces. The transition to a modern, dynamic work

environment is representative of the innovative approach the ALLG adopts in all its operations.



The ALLG HQ will be a focal point for all members and colleagues. With all trial management in the future co-located with the Operations Unit, the HQ will be a "one-stop-shop" for the trial program. All aspects of trials from protocol development, budgeting and finance, trial coordination and management through to follow up and publication will be managed in one place. With the whole trial portfolio and trial processes centralised, service to the membership will improve significantly. And the office will enable the ALLG to host meetings and small events and to present a professional appearance to colleagues and associates.

New office address: Ground floor, 35 Elizabeth St, North Richmond, Vic 3121

Mark Hertzberg
Chair, ALLG Scientific Advisory
Committee
info@allg.org.au

Australasian Metastasis Research Society

OzMRS has continued to grow in 2014 with a significant increase in membership. We currently have 92 members, up from 75 in April.

15th International Biennial Congress of the
Metastasis Research Society
Heidelberg, Germany June 28 - July 1, 2014



Our first major activity in 2014 was to facilitate attendance of OzMRS members at the biennial meeting of the International Metastasis Research Society (MRS) which was held in Heidelberg, Germany, June 28-July 1.

We negotiated a reduced registration rate for OzMRS members and we were proud to find that Australia provided the highest number of delegates (10%) apart from the USA and the host nation, Germany. It was an excellent meeting and provided great enrichment for our metastasis researchers, and a good exposure for the excellent research ongoing in our laboratories.

OzMRS was pleased to be able to offer two \$500 travel awards to help junior investigators attend the meeting, with generous part-support of O-Link Bioscience, Sweden (<http://www.olink.com/>). The two successful applicants, Eleni Topkas and Adrian Wiegmanns, were selected based on their submitted abstracts. Abbreviated reports provided by the successful grantees are reproduced here.



Ms Elena Topkas: Identification and validation of two novel metastatic markers

in osteosarcoma. E. Topkas, N. Cai, A. Cumming, N.A. Saunders and L. Endo-Munoz. The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute, Translational Research Institute, Brisbane, Australia

Attending the MRS conference gave me the opportunity to meet many researchers working in the area of metastatic cancer.

It allowed me to see where this exciting field is moving to and has provided many new ideas for my own project. It has also given me ideas for where I may wish to focus in my postdoctoral studies. The sessions covered some of my key interests and project areas, such as therapy-stimulated metastasis, metabolism and metastasis, and microenvironment and niche. I was particularly interested in the workshop A view from the editor's chair: tips to writing and reviewing manuscripts, which has helped guide my publication submissions. The Meet the Professors session provided candid and valuable career advice and guidance from some of the most prominent metastasis researchers in the world. I was able to meet collaborators who have contributed to the research I am working on and was able to gain important input on my project. I am very thankful to the OzMRS and Olink Bioscience for supporting my attendance to the MRS conference as this has exposed me to the latest discoveries and ideas in cancer biology and given me a clearer view and greater enthusiasm to complete the final year of my PhD.

Dr Adrian Wiegman. *RAD51 supports metastasis via three major mechanisms independent of DNA repair.* Adrian P Wiegman, Luke Ishak, Alpha Yap and Kum Kum Khanna. Signal Transduction Laboratory, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute and The University of Queensland, Institute for Molecular Biosciences, St Lucia Brisbane, Australia.

The 2014 MRS meeting was held in picturesque Heidelberg on the banks of River Neckar, overlooked by a 14th century castle. Even before the meeting

had begun in earnest, quality science and an exchange of ideas had begun, with an early career researcher satellite meeting held the preceding day at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). Sixty-five delegates applied to fill the fifty positions allocated, reflecting the popularity of the new format. From forty-four abstracts, twelve presentations were delivered, all of outstanding quality. The early career scientists were also given advice on career advancement and funding. The general ideals were helpful but the specifics were more related to the European and US systems. The satellite meeting was a great success and primed the attendees for the main meeting.

MRS 2014 was hosted at the German Cancer Research Centre (DKFZ) that boasts an impressive seven Nobel Laureates. The program ran for 3.5 days with 12 sessions, 57 speakers and 181 posters. The sessions covered all aspects of metastasis with a focus on clinical perspectives, "-omics", immune/inflammation, microenvironment, EMT, dormancy and metabolism. Australians were well represented at the 2014 MRS meeting with 29 attendees and five presentations that showcased projects from right across Australia, including Rik Thompson (QUT/IHBI-Qld), Radhika Nair (Garvan-NSW), Robin Anderson (Peter Mac-Vic), Agnieszka Swierczak (Peter Mac-Vic) and Vasilios Panagopolous (Uni Adelaide-SA).

Other highlights included the Kurt Hellmann Award Lecture by Professor Sue Eccles. Kurt Hellman was one of the founders of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) Metastasis Club from which the MRS Society arose (with initially less than 30 members). He organised the first official MRS meeting with Sue in 1984. In Kurt's honour, Sue gave an inspiring presentation on pure translational science and the development of several compounds that now find themselves in the clinic or undergoing late stage clinical trials. Sue described using plasma, blood and even hair follicles

to analyse clinical response. I had a very interesting discussion with Sue on possible biomarkers I could use for my development of a small molecule inhibitor of RAD51. It was very informative to have a relaxed discussion with a senior scientist who has been able to translate six new compounds into the clinic. This is one of the advantages of the MRS meetings; there are world leaders in their field attending but there are not so many delegates that you are competing for their time.

Several other speakers covered the role of prognostic indicators in patients, with Klaus Pantel, the director of the Institute of Tumour Biology in Hamburg, describing the use of new in vivo nano-technology to capture circulating tumour cells and analyse not only treatment response but also the initiating events of metastasis and metastatic burden. The need for a "liquid biopsy" for tracking possible metastatic events with analysis of exosomes, circulating miRNA or ctDNA was also highlighted by David Lyden and Andreas Trumpp (of the DKFZ). Sue Eccles further described the molecular mechanisms by which metastatic cells engaged multiple pathways in order to escape therapy and that anti-metastatic therapies will not be derived from single agents or from targeting single oncogenic drivers.

Next was the Fidler Innovation Award Lecture, delivered by the newly appointed MRS president Yibin Kang who was recognised for his long-standing contribution to MRS and the field of metastasis. Yibin was the driver of seminal work out of Joan Massague's lab that changed the direction of research from TGF to the molecular mechanisms behind breast metastasis to bone. He described the MTDH gene discovered by bioinformatic analysis comparing copy number variation from the Van't Veer, Wang and Vivier datasets. A comparison of gene amplification in good versus poor prognosis revealed an 8q22 amplification, a region with 15 genes. Of the 15 genes, only MTDH enhanced metastatic burden when overexpressed. I chatted with

Yibin at the conference dinner and found him very approachable and a dynamic individual, who, as the new president of MRS will undoubtedly provide guidance to build upon an excellent existing record of the MRS. I believe he represents a new era for MRS with a fresh dynamic approach to inspire a new generation of young investigators, including myself.

Finally there was a visually stimulating seminar sponsored by the European Association for Cancer Research (EACR) and presented by Peter Friedl from the Nijmegen Medical centre in Holland. Peter is a world leader in imaging, using multiple platforms including modified intravital imaging. Peter provided real-time real life examples of metastasis, cells cycling at the tumour edge and the challenges of invading through different stroma. The leading cells are able to adapt to the surrounding environment and utilize different types of advancement. The overall concept was that the tumour mass uses the path of least resistance and by serendipitous means (overexposed imaging) the team discovered tumour “super highways” that are used by immune cells as well as by the tumour cells. These highways are the focus of future studies. From his Cell paper in 2011 he described how there are two main mechanisms by which single cells are able to move through a 3D matrix. Tracking single cells in various density matrices, they observed a matrix degradation-dependent mechanism in dense matrices and amoeboid movement in less dense matrices. Of note, when MMPs were inhibited, the degradation-dependent mechanism was transformed into an amoeboid movement. Amoeboid movement was shown to co-ordinate changes in actin dynamics and nuclear relocation. Peter also provided mesmerizing images describing amoeboid movement of cells showing examples of labelled cells tracking through different tissues.

Personally I found the other highlights to be the session on the regulation of metastasis by inflammation. Although the role of inflammation in cancer has been studied for some years the role of inflammation in metastasis with links to immune cancer regulation and microenvironment modification has only recently become an intensely studied area. Frances Balkwill from Queen Mary University of London described the targeting of chemokines/cytokines in the regulation of inflammation and leukocyte infiltrates and demonstrated the changes in molecular signalling associated with these treatments. She further described her group’s success in translating new therapies and the role of the molecular signals as biomarkers for response, a point Sue Eccles was to reinforce in the next session. The roles of immune cells in driving metastatic potential was highlighted by several speakers and described in regulation of metastatic niches, as a predictor of metastatic burden, clinical response and new targets for therapy.

Overall the conference covered a wide range of topics upon the central theme of metastasis and there was a lot to take in. There were only a few minor gripes with most speakers utilizing their full time allocation and thus leaving little question time, and the early career ambassadors session seemed lost in the program in light of the full day satellite meeting. The positives were that the scientific data were mostly new with a lot of unpublished data, all the senior scientists were friendly and easy to approach and the venue was great and easy to get to. The meeting proceeded with German efficiency and provided the opportunity to be informed about new techniques and results that will not be published for 6-12 months. I would like to thank OzMRS and Olink Bioscience for generously providing a Travel Grant to support my participation at this conference.

OzMRS-CTx workshop

Our next activity is the OzMRS-CTx Metastasis Workshop to be held on Monday 1 December in conjunction with COSA ASM 2014. This symposium is generously sponsored by The Cooperative Research Centre for Cancer Therapeutics (CTx), Melanoma Patients Australia, Latrobe Institute for Medical Sciences, Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia, and Clearbridge Biomedics. We will cover both the clinical and more basic aspects of metastatic disease across a range of cancer types. The aim is to bring together clinicians who treat patients with advanced cancer and researchers who are engaged in improving our understanding of mechanisms of metastasis and in the development of new therapies to treat metastatic disease. The program will include international speakers invited to COSA and a number of local speakers. Short talks selected from abstracts will be clustered around a theme, with a general discussion following these presentations. In conjunction with the workshop, we plan to hold our Inaugural Annual General Meeting as we formalize our committee and office bearers.

To register go to <http://www.cosa2014.org/workshops>, select the “Monday 1st December” tab and follow the appropriate link for OzMRS-CTx registration. Information about abstract submission is also found here.

Rik Thompson
e2.thompson@qut.edu.au

Elizabeth Williams
ed.williams@qut.edu.au

Robin Anderson
robin.anderson@petermac.org

Australasian Sarcoma Study Group



The ASSG is pleased to report on our progress in promoting clinical trials, scientific research and awareness of sarcoma to the COSA membership. The ASSG has had several “firsts” for the group in 2014.

The ASM this year was held in conjunction with the 10th Biennial Asia Pacific Musculoskeletal Tumour Society Meeting that was held in Melbourne in April. The ASSG welcomed over 400 delegates, mostly from the Asia Pacific region, to Melbourne for three days of presentations on the management of sarcoma under the theme, “Driving Multidisciplinary Collaborations”. A full program covering state of the art advances in medical oncology, surgical oncology, pathology, radiation therapy and basic science were presented to the multidisciplinary audience. The APMSTS is a peak international multidisciplinary society whose mission is to bring together specialists and practitioners from the Asia Pacific Region to improve the care of patients with bone and soft tissue tumours. Society President Professor Peter Choong and ASSG Board member was responsible for bringing the APMSTS Meeting to Australia for the first time. This was an excellent opportunity to combine this year’s ASSG/Australasian Sarcoma Group Annual Scientific Meetings with the APMSTS. The high quality of the presentations was led by three outstanding international speakers, Prof Robert Maki, MD Mt Sinai Medical Centre NY NY, Prof Franklin Sim Mayo Clinic Rochester MN

and Prof Pancras Hogendoorn Leiden University, The Netherlands.

ASSG and Cancer Council Sarcoma Guidelines- Adolescent and Young Adult Guidelines

Dr Susan Neuhaus, of Royal Adelaide Hospital, officially launched the ASSG Cancer Council Sarcoma Clinical Practice Guidelines at the ASSG research meeting in November 2013 and has continued this work. Dr Neuhaus presented this valuable resource at the recent international APMSTS meeting which was enthusiastically received by the delegates. This work highlighted the role that Australia plays in the Asia Pacific region and the opportunities for further collaborations and knowledge sharing. The next phase of this project will be to include the adolescent and young adult populations and will be led by Dr Vivek Bhadri. The working group will meet to discuss the issues and evidence for the next phase of the Sarcoma guidelines. Cancer Council Australia and the ASSG are partners in this endeavour and will continue the ongoing support of this important work. The Sarcoma Guidelines are publicly available at <http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Guidelines:Sarcoma>.

ASSG is now a member of Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration (SARC)

The ASSG is now officially a partner member of the North American collaborative clinical trials group, Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration. “SARC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and support of clinical trial research for the prevention, treatment and cure of sarcomas.” SARC now in its 10th year shares the same mission as the ASSG and we look forward to working together to improve outcomes for sarcoma patients and their families through clinical trial participation.

ASSG Research Meeting Melbourne

The ASSG held its first of two annual research meetings in Melbourne on the 27 June, with a focus on new concepts for research projects and clinical trials. Four new concepts were presented for discussion to the group of sarcoma experts. These new ideas will be developed with support from the ASSG with the intention of creating new clinical trial protocols. The new concepts included ideas for utilizing immunotherapy drugs for sarcoma, developing new radiotherapy techniques, using a multidisciplinary team to improve long term outcomes for sarcoma survivors using exercise physiology regimens, and reviewing the long term survival and disease surveillance of bone sarcoma survivors. Additionally presentations were given by past and present grant ASSG recipients reporting on their current results.

ASSG has achieved an important ‘first’ by opening a clinical trial across both adult and paediatric sites

The EuroEwing 08 clinical trial for Ewing sarcoma has been generously supported by the Rainbows for Kate Foundation and is available to children, adolescent and young adults, and adult patients. This study is the first time that a single interventional trial is able to capture all age groups that are affected for sarcoma. We hope that this work will be useful as a model going forward to allow full access to clinical trials that may be appropriate across a large age cohort.

The ASSG supports the sarcoma community by improving outcomes for patients and their families through research, awareness and education.

Denise Caruso
Executive Officer, Australasian Sarcoma Study Group

Australia and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group



2013-2014 Annual Report

The ANZBCTG's 2013-2014 Annual Report is now available and highlights from the reporting period include:

- More than 14,000 women have participated in ANZBCTG clinical trials including 51 participants to five clinical trials in the reporting period and the follow-up of two international trials;
- We welcomed five new institutions to the ANZBCTG's research program, bringing the total number of institutions to 87 across Australia and New Zealand;
- The BCIA raised \$5.8 million this year bringing the total raised since they first commenced fundraising to \$60.5 million;
- The ANZBCTG contributed to 31 peer reviewed publications;
- A \$2.1 million grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council for the ELIMINATE clinical trial;
- In communications, our social media pages, mobile website and a mobile conference program were launched.

ANZBCTG Awards

Members of the ANZBCTG, and researchers involved in clinical trials research, were recognised during the ANZBCTG's 36th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Wellington, New Zealand. The following awards were presented during the ASM:

The ANZBCTG Gold Medal – Associate Professor Raymond Snyder from St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne.

This award recognises the outstanding contribution and achievements of a member of the ANZBCTG, who has played a significant role in the development and conduct of breast cancer clinical trials research in this region.

The Alan Coates Award for Excellence in Clinical Trials Research – Professor Michael Green from Royal Melbourne Hospital.

This award recognises a member of the ANZBCTG who has made an outstanding contribution to the ANZBCTG's clinical trials research program. It aims to assist the recipient in their professional development.

The Robert Sutherland Award for Excellence in Translational Research – Professor W. Fraser Symmans from the MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Texas, USA.

This award recognises Translational Researchers and their achievements and contributions to improved patient outcomes. The award is open to Translational Researchers worldwide.

The John Collins Fellow Medal and Travel Grant – Dr Chilton Chong from Southern Breast Oncology in Victoria.

This award was established to encourage potential academic Breast Cancer Surgeons and Registrars to become involved in clinical trials research.

The Study Coordinator Prize – Ms Rosemary Cotton from Ballarat Oncology and Haematology Services in Victoria.

This prize acknowledges outstanding commitment to the ANZBCTG clinical trials research program by a Study Coordinator. The ANZBCTG's Trials Coordination Department nominates an award recipient annually to the ANZBCTG Board of Directors for ratification.

AVON Travel Grants – Ms Alison Coote, Ms Anne Milton, Ms Gabrielle Howarth, Ms Jane Holt, Mrs Jenny Gilchrist, Dr Jane Parry, Mrs Kathryn Robinson.

These grants recognise Trial Coordinators and junior Clinicians who are unable to access institutional or other funding to attend the ASM. They are generously provided by AVON.

Applications for the 2015 awards will open early in the new year.

ANZBCTG Board of Directors

In July this year, Professor John Simes and Associate Professor Ian Campbell stepped down from the ANZBCTG Board of Directors after completing their respective terms. Professor Simes was elected to the Board in 1991 and A/Prof Campbell, from New Zealand, was elected to the Board in 2001. We sincerely thank John and Ian for their contribution to the ANZBCTG Board and the Groups' research program. The ANZBCTG welcomes Dr Richard Isaacs to the Board of Directors. Dr Isaacs is a Medical Oncologist and Head of Medical Oncology at Palmerston North Hospital, New Zealand. For more information about the ANZBCTG Board of Directors visit www.anzbctg.org.

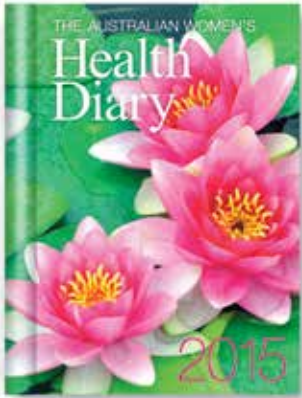
2015 Annual Scientific Meeting

The ANZBCTG's 37th Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Perth, Western Australia, from 22 - 24 July 2015. Registration for the ASM will open early in the new year.

2015 Australian Women's Health Diary

You can help to support the ANZBCTG's research program by purchasing a copy of the 2015 Australian Women's Health Diary. The diary contains the latest health and lifestyle information for women of all ages, all of the essential diary features to help organise busy lives, is A5 in size and has a calendar week to an opening. Full of motivational tips accompanied by beautiful images and checklists, this diary also makes a fabulous gift for family and friends. The diary is priced

at \$16.95 and is available in Australia from newsagents, Commonwealth Bank branches, Woolworths, BIG W and Avon Representatives or go online to www.bcia.org.au.



ANZBCTG Brochures

Three new brochures have been produced to help promote the ANZBCTG and the Group's clinical trials research program:

- *About the ANZBCTG* – this is a general brochure about the Group which highlights our research program, our governance and committees such as SAC and CAP, promotes the fundraising department BCIA and provides links to useful websites.
- *What are breast cancer clinical trials?* – this brochure is designed for consumers or people wanting to know more about breast cancer clinical trials research. It describes the different types of clinical trials, why we conduct this important research, why people may choose to participate in a clinical trial and the processes in place to make sure clinical trials are safe for patients.
- *The ANZBCTG Awards Program* – designed specifically for ANZBCTG members, this brochure promotes the range of awards available to members of the ANZBCTG such as The Alan Coates Award for Excellence in Clinical Trials Research and Avon Travel Grants. This brochure will be available on the research section of the website.

The brochures have a range of uses and staff at hospitals should follow any existing hospital or institution procedures before brochures are placed in patient waiting rooms. The brochures may be viewed on the ANZBCTG website or printed copies are available to order by emailing anna.fitzgerald@anzbctg.org or call +61 2 4925 5255.

Fran Boyle
**Chair, Australia and New Zealand
Breast Cancer Trials Group**

Australian and New Zealand Urogenital & Prostate Cancer Trials Group



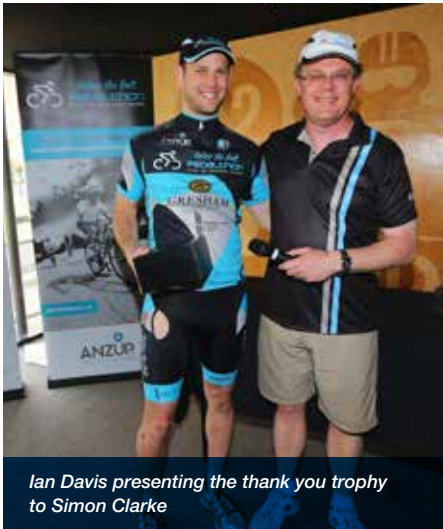
It is only a short time since the last Marryalyan report but there has been a great deal of activity within the ANZUP Cancer Trials Group, many members of which are also members of the COSA Urologic Oncology Group.

In March 2014 ANZUP initiated two large international trials in prostate cancer: ENZAMET and ENZARAD. ENZAMET will examine the effect of adding enzalutamide to androgen deprivation therapy in men with castrate-sensitive metastatic prostate cancer and will involve 1100 participants. ENZARAD will assess the benefit of using enzalutamide with androgen deprivation and radical radiotherapy in men with high risk localised prostate cancer and will involve 800 participants. The trials will be performed in Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, UK and North America, with other regions also currently under discussion. Both trials are proceeding very well as

more sites are activated. These two trials mark the emergence of ANZUP onto the world stage, as ANZUP is leading both trials internationally with the support of the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre at the University of Sydney. Please consider referring any suitable patients to your nearest recruiting site.

Other key ANZUP trials are also well underway in prostate cancer, germ cell cancer and urothelial cancer. Unfortunately the BCG/mitomycin trial led by Dickon Hayne in non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer has had to be put on hold temporarily due to the global shortage of BCG but we hope to be able to restart this trial soon.

Another first for ANZUP was the successful Below the Belt Pedalthon fundraising event held at Eastern Creek on 16 September 2014. Details and links to photographs can be found here: <http://www.belowthebeltpedalthon.org.au/> The Pedalthon was an initiative of Simon Clarke, a young man who had previously been treated for testicular cancer and wanted to give something back to the community. Simon identified the fact that ANZUP is closing the loop of research by performing the clinical trials that take research into evidence and practice in genitourinary cancers. The Pedalthon exceeded everyone's hopes and expectations, with 248 riders from 34 teams participating and raising funds for clinical research. The financial windfall to ANZUP was substantial and will be put to excellent use, but beyond that is the benefit that cannot be bought: improved awareness of these diseases and the importance of clinical trials to answer key questions. Thanks go to Simon for his amazing vision and energy, as well as our key sponsors (Gresham Partners, International Towers Sydney, Herbert Smith Freehills and Thomson Geer Lawyers) and the many individuals and organisations who contributed so generously of money as well as sweat and even skin!



Ian Davis presenting the thank you trophy to Simon Clarke

ANZUP had set a strategic goal of supporting more face-to-face meetings of its members especially to facilitate development of new trial concepts. Some concepts were presented at the recent COSA ASM in Melbourne in July; others were developed through the ACORD workshop process; still others are developed through the usual mechanisms of the subcommittees and Scientific Advisory Committee. The first face-to-face workshops will be held on two dates in November in Sydney, one of which will also coincide with a "Best of ANZUP" symposium. We plan to continue and expand these initiatives into the future as our resources allow.

Planning is well underway for the ANZUP 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Sydney at the Sofitel on 12-14 July 2015. Put these dates in your diary now! Confirmed international speakers are Chris Sweeney, Brian Rini and Bertrand Tombal, with others also to be invited. The ANZUP ASM has established itself as the key meeting in Australia for genitourinary cancers and is not to be missed. We will also run our Masterclass, initially set up as a Trainee Day (with COSA support) and now expanded to be of even more value to trainees of all disciplines as well as people who have completed their training and recognise the need for ongoing professional development. Thanks to our ASM convenor Venu Chalasani and

the rest of the hard-working convening committee for their progress to date.

I encourage everyone to attend the COSA ASM in Melbourne which is being held in conjunction with UICC. Although genitourinary cancers are not a key theme this year, there will still be many items to interest our members and it is a great opportunity to strengthen collaborative links. Membership of ANZUP is free, and ANZUP members receive a discount on COSA membership and COSA ASM registration, so it's a great opportunity to be part of and contribute to both organisations. More details are available through the web site at www.anzup.org.au. Please especially encourage your junior colleagues to join and contribute to both ANZUP and to COSA.

Thanks as always for their great support go to the other members of the Urologic Oncology Group executive (Shomik Sengupta and Scott Williams); and the ANZUP team (Executive Officer Marg McJannett, with Liz Thorp, Jenni Beattie and Yi Feng).

Ian Davis
Chair, ANZUP Cancer Trials Group

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia



The success of this year's CNSA Winter Congress continues to flow into a range of activities and the development of strong relationships. Under our strategic direction of engaging membership, building and strengthening partnerships, CNSA was strongly represented at this

year's International Conference of Cancer Nursing, hosted in Panama by the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC). Although possibly smaller delegate numbers to previous years, close to 30 Australian cancer nurses were in attendance with most presenting oral or poster presentations, many chairing sessions or hosting pre conference workshops. Our presence was noted and valued by our international colleagues.

The Member Council Meeting, hosted by ISNCC was an opportunity for CNSA to contribute to the international cancer nursing and cancer control discussion and work with the ISNCC to further cancer nursing as a specialty profession. Attended by myself, Dr Ray Chan (President Elect) and Julie Calvert (CNSA Executive Officer), CNSA is well recognised to be a provider of strong cancer nurse leadership, our efforts in support to developing nations and for strong ethical organisational governance. Sharing our knowledge and our resources with developing societies was a valuable experience.

Key outcomes from this discussion include closer connections and better understanding of our region with members of our Executive meeting with the Asian Oncology Nurses Society, the New Zealand Cancer Nurses Group as well as establishing new relationships with the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology.



L-R Julie Calvert CNSA EO, Ray Chan CNSA President Elect, Kazuko Onishi (Japan) Treasurer, Myungsun Yi (Korea), President, Winnie So (Hong Kong) and Kyung Hee Lim (Korea), Sandy McKiernan CNSA President, Trevor Saunders CNSA Treasurer.

Sandy McKiernan congratulating Julia Downing, recipient of the Robert Tiffany Award 2014



One highlight of the ICCN is always the Robert Tiffany Award. This lectureship was created to keep alive and honour the memory of Robert Tiffany, founding member and President of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC). Robert Tiffany was an inspiration to many nurses around the world and the intention of the named lecture is to honour those who have a similar capacity to inspire cancer nurses of today and of the future. Awarded to our Past President Mei Krishnasamy in 2012, CNSA continued our contribution and had the privilege of nominating Professor Julia Downing (UK) and longtime CNSA friend and honorary Aussie for this award and were excited with her success. Professor Downing gave a most inspiring presentation about universal access to Palliative Care and an insight into her work in Uganda and Serbia. Her achievements in cancer and palliative care nursing are numerous and include initiating undergraduate and post graduate Palliative Care training for nurses in Uganda, and for wider health professionals in Serbia, the first EU country to have Palliative care as part of the medical curriculum in all training universities. Professor Downing's lecture can be viewed by members at www.isncc.org.

Although membership renewal is usually the beginning of the year, we have had a strong surge of new members' midyear. A small membership drive at Winter Congress has seen a further 45 members join CNSA by the end of September, with one lucky member (Karyn A from SA) winning registration to CNSA Winter Congress in Perth 2015. I welcome all new

CNSA members who took opportunity to join us this year.

At this year's congress some small constitutional changes were supported by the members. Of note is the change of name of our Special Interest Groups to Specialist Practice Networks (SPN). This change has already initiated two new SPN's to come to be – Cancer Nurse Practitioner SPN and Vascular Access Device & Infusion Therapy SPN. We are excited to see these new networks emerge and look forward to their growth over the coming months. Nominations for the inaugural committees will be announced in coming weeks.

Planning for the 18th Winter Congress to be held in Perth is already in full swing, with the Local Organising Committee led by Dr Ruth McConigley, key note speakers Dr Carrie Striker and Dr Alex Molassiotis bringing both a specialist breast cancer and symptom management expertise to our conference. Abstracts for 2015 will open mid-November. For more information go to <http://www.cnsawintercongress.com.au/>.

This edition of the Marryalyan signals the last few weeks of my term as CNSA President. I wish to firstly thank my fellow National Executive Committee members for their support, trust and collegial fellowship during my term. This has been a period of change and subsequent growth for CNSA. During the last two year I believe we have developed a strong sense of independence, challenged ourselves and our members and will truly be coming of age as our 18th Winter Congress looms near. As President it has been a wonderful opportunity to be exposed to the diversity of our members, the challenges of cancer nursing across Australia and our opportunities in the international arena. I have learnt much and know there is so much more to do to improve cancer nursing and patient outcomes.

All endings have new beginnings and Dr Ray Chan will take the leadership in January 2015 for a three year term for

the next phase of CNSA growth. The society is definitely in strong hands with both Ray, our senior executive members Trevor Saunders (Treasurer) and Ann Mellon (secretary) as well as the state representatives who take on many roles within the Executive. This work of the President would not be possible without the day to day support of the CNSA staff. I would personally like to acknowledge and thank Julie Calvert, CNSA's Executive Officer who works tirelessly for our society, our hopes and dreams and helping us to bring to life the wonderful opportunities for cancer nurses in Australia.

Best wishes for the festive season and I look forward in continuing to work with and support CNSA in my year of Past President in 2015.

Sandy McKiernan
President, Cancer Nurses Society of Australia

Faculty of Radiation Oncology



In March 2014, Professor Gill Duchesne decided to step down as Dean of the Faculty of Radiation Oncology, due to personal reasons. I am honoured to have been appointed by the RANZCR Board to fill the casual vacancy until the end of this year. In July 2014, I was elected as Dean of the Faculty for the 2015-2016 term.

Prof Duchesne has made significant contributions to the running of the Faculty and the College since 2001. The Faculty and the College are very appreciative of her tireless work and significant

contributions over the last 13 years at both Victorian and bi-national levels.

I look forward to leading the Faculty in building on what has already been achieved, and working closely with all stakeholders towards reaching our strategic goals and supporting a world class radiation oncology sector in Australia and New Zealand.

Radiation Oncology: Targeting Cancer campaign

The Radiation Oncology: Targeting Cancer campaign is progressing well.

Targeting Cancer is an awareness campaign that seeks to improve the profile of radiation therapy as an effective and safe cancer treatment. While the optimal utilisation rate for radiation therapy in Australia has been calculated at around 48%, only one in three patients currently receive it. This means that thousands of patients are missing out on potentially beneficial treatment. One major reason for this is that patients aren't aware that radiation therapy may be a treatment option for them, and even many doctors aren't aware of its benefits.

The mainstay of the campaign in the *Targeting Cancer* website (<http://www.targetingcancer.com.au/>) with patient and health practitioner resources to provide helpful information about radiation oncology for consumers and health care practitioners, including frequently asked questions and a function to locate your nearest treatment centre.

A series of information evenings for General Practitioners is also being planned, which will focus on common cancer management issues, including the role of radiation therapy in everyday general practice and a tour of the radiation oncology department. The first such education evening was held at the Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre at Westmead Hospital on Wednesday 15 October, and was very well received.

The *Targeting Cancer* campaign also aims to promote the specialty of radiation oncology through the media, and so far has reached over seven million people.

We are also very proud to announce that the campaign has an Ambassador – Socceroo Tommy Oar! Tommy will be helping to promote the campaign and radiation therapy.



You can support the campaign in a number of ways:

- Visit the website and register your support.
- Follow the campaign on Twitter (@TargetingCancer)
- Follow us on Facebook (Radiation Oncology: Targeting Cancer)
- Connect with the campaign on LinkedIn (Radiation Oncology: Targeting Cancer).
- Request a resource pack through the *Targeting Cancer* website.
- Email us your ideas and stories at **info@targetingcancer.com.au**.

The *Targeting Cancer* campaign is also proud to be partnering with the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) on the Global Task Force on Radiotherapy for Cancer Control.

The *Radiation Oncology: Targeting Cancer* campaign is an initiative of the by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists, and is supported by the Australian Institute of Radiographers and the Australasian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine.

Radiation Therapy Symposium at COSA ASM 2014

The Faculty will be conducting a Radiation Therapy Symposium at the COSA ASM, which is being held in conjunction with the UICC World Cancer Congress in Melbourne in early December. The session will be held at 10:30am to 12:00pm on Thursday 4 December.

The symposium will cover the evolution of radiation therapy as an effective and targeted treatment for cancer, provide an update on the Targeting Cancer campaign which aims to raise the profile of radiation oncology in the cancer community, and share a global perspective of radiation oncology and its role in cancer treatment.

We encourage all attendees at the World Cancer Congress to attend this session and provide input.

Dion Forstner
Dean, Faculty of Radiation Oncology

Oncology Social Work Australia



I am delighted to report that at the August COSA Board meeting, OSWA's request to shift its relationship with COSA to that of Affiliated Organisation was accepted. I will continue to be the OSWA representative on COSA Council. OSWA looks forward to the continuation of a mutually productive and collaborative association with COSA. A benefit for OSWA members is that they are now entitled to a 10% discount on their COSA membership.

Plans are well underway for the next OSWA National Conference which will be held in Sydney from 10 - 12 September 2015. Dr Sage Bolte, a Social Worker from Virginia USA has accepted our invitation to be a keynote speaker. Sage specialises in the area of intimacy and sexuality in cancer survivorship. An enthusiastic conference committee has been convened under the guidance of Ray Araullo and Eileen van Dijk. Further conference details will be posted on the OSWA website as they are confirmed.

Following this year's successful conference in Adelaide, the conference papers have now been uploaded to the members' only section of the OSWA website:

www.oswa.net.au. If you're not already an OSWA member, this would be a great time to join (details are also on the website) to have access to a full range of interesting and thought-provoking papers.

Could OSWA members who are planning to attend the COSA ASM in Melbourne please email me (**Kim.Hobbs@health.nsw.gov.au**) and indicate which days you will be attending. If it's possible we could aim to set up an informal gathering to catch up.

Kim Hobbs
Council Chair, Oncology Social Work Australia

Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG)



TROG 27th Annual Scientific Meeting

TROG's next Annual Scientific Meeting will take place from the 24-26 March 2015 in Newcastle, NSW.

Three international speakers will travel from the UK, US and Canada to present their perspectives on current radiation oncology research.

Professor Kevin Franks is a consultant clinical oncologist at the St. James's Institute of Oncology (SJIO) in Leeds, treating lung and urological malignancies. His research interests are in technical radiotherapy including SABR, IGRT and prostate brachytherapy, radiotherapy informatics and patient reported outcomes. Dr Charles Catton is a radiation oncologist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, Canada. He is a clinical triallist with a particular interest in the development of high precision radiotherapy techniques for prostate cancer and soft tissue sarcomas. Associate Professor Paul Nguyen is Director of Prostate Brachytherapy and Clinical Trials for Genitourinary Radiation Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts. In his clinical practice, he focuses on forming treatment plans and optimising outcomes for men with prostate cancer.

The conference is a unique opportunity for radiation oncology professionals to collectively discuss and influence the direction of current and future cancer clinical trials. Earlybird registrations are now open at **www.trog.com.au**.

Good Clinical Practice training online portal – coming soon!

TROG is preparing to launch an online portal on **www.trog.com.au** which will provide access to Good Clinical Practice training.

Good Clinical Practice (GCP) is an international ethical and scientific quality standard for the design, conduct, performance, monitoring, auditing, recording, analyses and reporting of clinical trials. It also protects the rights, integrity and confidentiality of trial subjects.

The portal will allow TROG members, as well as all staff working at sites who are members of the TROG Facility Alliance, to complete this training online. TROG plans to launch the training portal around April 2015.

TROG 03.01 findings presented at ASTRO

In September TROG member Dr Michael Penniment, a radiation oncologist at Royal Adelaide Hospital, presented findings from the TROG 03.01 trial at the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO) conference in San Francisco. In this world-first international study that included sites in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom, researchers assessed the use of palliative chemotherapy combined with RT, or chemoradiotherapy (CRT), to provide relief from dysphagia.

The research, which was well received at ASTRO, showed that radiation therapy (RT) alone is as effective in decreasing swallowing complications experienced by advanced esophageal cancer patients as RT combined with chemotherapy, thus allowing patients to forgo chemotherapy.

Farshad Foroudi
Chair, Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group

Calendar of Events

	Date	Event	Venue
2014	26-28 November	Sydney Cancer Conference 2014 sydney.edu.au/cancer-research/SCC2014/	Sydney, NSW
	2-4 December	COSA's 41st Annual Scientific Meeting cosa2014.org	Melbourne, VIC
	4-6 December	UICC World Cancer Congress www.worldcancercongress.org	Melbourne, VIC
2015	5-7 February	3rd Edition Global Congress on Prostate Cancer www.prosca.org	Rome, Italy
	6-7 February	Flinders Survivorship Conference 2015 www.survivorship2015.org/	Adelaide, SA
	6 March	10th International Symposium on Advanced Ovarian Cancer: Optimal Therapy. Update www.valencia-ovariancancersymp.org	Valencia, Spain
	15-18 March	Australian Pain Society 35th Annual Scientific Meeting 2015 www.dconferences.com.au/aps2015/	Brisbane, QLD
	16-18 March	Asia-Pacific Gastroesophageal Cancer Congress (APGCC) www.apgcc.org	Brisbane, QLD
	24-26 March	TROG 27th Annual Scientific Meeting 2015 www.trog.com.au/ASM-2015	Newcastle, NSW
	25-28 March	ANZGOG Annual Scientific Meeting 2015 www.anzgog.org.au/	Gold Coast, QLD
	10-12 April	Asian Oncology Summit asianoncologysummit.com/	Shanghai, China
	11-14 April	USANZ 68th Annual Scientific Meeting www.usanz2015.com/	Adelaide, SA
	15-18 April	European Lung Cancer Conference	Geneva, Switzerland
	4-8 May	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au	Brisbane, QLD
	4-8 May	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting 2015 www.surgeons.org	Perth, WA
	12-15 May	12th Behavioural Research Cancer Control Conference www.cancercouncil.com.au	Sydney, NSW
	24-27 May	13th National Rural Health Conference www.ruralhealth.org.au/13nrhc/	Darwin, NT
	29 May – 2 June	ASCO 51st Annual Scientific Meeting am.asco.org/	Chicago, USA
	14-16 June	CNSA Winter Congress www.cnsawintercongress.com.au	Perth, WA
	25-27 June	MASCC/ISOO International Symposium of Supportive Care in Cancer 2015 mascc2015.kenes.com/	Copenhagen, Denmark
	8-11 July	19th International Conference on Cancer Nursing (ICCN) www.isncc.org	Vancouver, Canada
	12-14 July	ANZUP 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting www.anzup.org.au	Sydney, NSW
	22-25 July	ANZBCTG Annual Scientific Meeting www.anzbctg.org	Perth, WA
	26-30 July	World Congress on Larynx Cancer 2015	Cairns, QLD
	29 July - 1 August	APOS 12th Annual Conference and IPOS 17th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology www.wclc2015.org	Washington DC, USA
	5-7 August	MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting www.moga.org.au	Hobart, TAS
	8-11 August	HGSA 39th Annual Scientific Meeting www.hgsa.org.au	Perth, WA
	18-21 August	Prostate Cancer Conference 2015 www.prostatecancercongress.org.au	Cairns, QLD
	2-4 September	AGITG 17th Annual Scientific Meeting www.agitg.asnevents.com.au/	Sydney, NSW
	25-29 September	European Cancer Congress 2015 www.ecco-org.eu/ecc2015	Vienna, Austria
	29-31 October	2nd Global Advances and Controversies in Skin Cancer 2015 www.gac-sc.org	Brisbane, QLD
	29 October - 1 November	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists Annual Scientific Meeting www.ranzcr2015.com	Adelaide, SA
	6-7 November	Melanoma Summit 2015	Auckland, New Zealand
	9-13 November	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au	Melbourne, VIC
	12-14 November	International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) www.siog.org	Prague, Czech Republic
17-19 November	COSA's 42nd Annual Scientific Meeting 2015 www.cosa.org.au	Hobart, TAS	
18-21 December	ESMO Asia Congress 2015 www.esmo.org	Singapore	
2016	13-16 April	8th General Assembly & International Conference of the Asian Pacific Organisation for Cancer Prevention www.apocp8.org/	Brisbane, QLD



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COSA's
41st Annual
Scientific
Meeting



2-4 December 2014

Program highlights

Please visit the conference website regularly for updates on the draft program www.cosa2014.org/the-conference/program

COSA's 41st ASM will highlight cancer survivorship, supportive care and palliative care, lung cancer and metastases. The meeting is being held in



conjunction with the UICC's World Cancer Congress (4-6 December).

- **Tuesday 2 December** – Metastases, Oligometastatic disease, Survivorship, Late effects, and Emerging technologies
- **Wednesday 3 December** – Lung cancer, Mesothelioma, Tobacco control, Integrative cancer management, Patient outcomes, and Nutrition
- **Thursday 4 December** – Sustainable systems, The financial morbidity of cancer care, Clinical trials, Hot topic – cost versus benefit, and the COSA Presidential Lecture will be delivered by Professor James Bishop AO

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For more information visit: www.cosa2014.org



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SAVE
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DATE

**17-19
November 2015**

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.

COSA is proud to announce that the 42nd ASM will be held in Hobart at the Grand Chancellor Hotel.

We are delighted to accept the invitation to act as co-convenors for the 2015 conference in Hobart. We are both medical oncologists working at the Royal Hobart Hospital and are dedicated to the continued professional development of not just oncologists but all COSA members and delegates.

COSA Council has approved the theme of rare cancers for 2015, which is definitely something new for COSA and a growing area of concern placing increased strains on our health care system.

A rare cancer is defined as a cancer type found in less than 6 per 100,000 Australians per year, and less common cancers found in between 6 and 12 per 100,000. With almost 125,000 cases of cancer being diagnosed in Australia each year, and 42,000 Australians diagnosed with a rare or less common cancers, making up about 30% of all diagnoses in a year (sounding less rare and more common!).

So we think it's time for COSA to concentrate on this burgeoning area of concern for health professionals, the system we work in, and importantly our patients and the wider community.

Our secondary themes may also concentrate on technology and targeted therapies. We are sure there will be something to attract everyone to the COSA ASM and Hobart in November 2015.

We both really enjoy living and working in Hobart, so we hope you'll make the trip south and perhaps enjoy some personal time before or after the conference too.



We'll see you in Hobart!

**Drs Louise Nott and Allison Black
Co-Convenors, COSA 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting**

**COSA's
42nd
Annual
Scientific
Meeting**

**The Federation
Conference and
Exhibition Centre
Hotel Grand
Chancellor
Hobart**

For more information
please visit www.cosa.org.au
or call us on (02) 8063 4100