

Monday 10 November 2014

### **Update from the Chair COSA Cancer Care Coordination Group**

Since the June edition of The Coordinator 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.

Douglas has since stepped down as Chair of the Professional Development Sub-committee while Liz Zwart has taken up the reins.

We welcome Liz to this exciting role.

Douglas remains an enthusiastic member of the committee and will continue to provide support and input.

It has not gone unnoticed that the team has done a fantastic job instituting a program that will help to sustain growth and support for our nurse leaders.

The Group is continuing to drive development of the position paper that has been surrounded by debate around the lack of strong evidence within available literature on the role of the cancer care coordinator.

At this stage, with the support of Cancer Council Victoria, I have undertaken a comprehensive literature review which has been incorporated to aid in filling the evidentiary hole.

In addition, we are seeking feedback from policy experts on the revised draft so it has maximum impact.

Professor Patsy Yates, Chair, COSA Cancer Care Coordination Group



### **Professional Development update**

#### **Webinar**

The concept of a webinar as a platform for continued professional development continues to be explored by the Group.

Currently it is expected that the interactive webinar will be composed of a 20 minute presentation together with a 10 minute question/answer session with suggested topics being derived from the input many of you fed back after the COSA Cancer Care Coordination Conference.

A trial of the project is set to take place this month to ensure the processes and technology are working efficiently and effectively for participants prior to the membership-wide launch.

Immediately following the trial a meeting will be held to discuss any issues identified so they can be addressed prior to the launch.

Once the project is launched it is intended that four events will take place and are set to include the topic Rural coordination and linking with and between metropolitan services, among others.

It has also been suggested that discussions around Indigenous and CALD community specific needs be included due to the high number of people in the regional/rural area within this demographic.

A calendar of events will be finalised and announced at the COSA ASM.

#### **2016 Cancer Care Coordination Conference**

In anticipation of the 2016 COSA Cancer Care Coordination Conference Liz has put a call out to the Professional Development Sub-committee for suggestions of a theme, topics, issues, and or guest speakers.

Discussions will also commence shortly to determine a suitable location and date.

We are looking forward to preparing an exciting, full program that will keep us abreast of the ever changing care coordination environment.

If you have any thoughts or ideas and would like to contribute please email [abby.zaar@cancer.org.au](mailto:abby.zaar@cancer.org.au).

### **Cancer Survivorship Package website**

There has been a great increase of cancer survivors in Australia in the last two decades which has created the need for a shift in focus from diagnosis and treatment to helping cancer survivors cope with life beyond acute treatment.

The Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre, in collaboration with Cancer Australia, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and the University of Sydney, has developed the [Cancer Survivorship Package website](#) offering a combination of free online interactive learning modules, factsheets and other useful resources.

In addition to utilising the learning modules, tools and resources provided on the site you can participate in the cancer survivorship study or take the personal challenge.

The data gathered from the study will provide valuable information around the impact of online learning in the area of cancer survivorship.

The research study can be accessed by going to the website via the link above or going to <http://cancersurvivorship.net.au/learning-modules#study>.

### **CanTeen – Launch of online support platform**

The launch of the CanTeen online support platform on 17 October sees the introduction of integrative tools and resources for young people, giving them access to support 24/7.

In addition to blogs, testimonials and online forums, the site also provides links to professional counsellors which can be accessed seven days a week.

With a unique personalised homepage created after joining, young people between the ages of 12-24 will be able to shape and track their journey.

If you would like to learn more about this valuable resource follow the link at <https://nowwhat.org.au/>

### **Cancer Institute NSW - Third annual Innovations in Cancer Treatment and Care Conference**

With the theme of the 2014 Innovations in Cancer Treatment and Care Conference, held on Friday 17 October, being 'Developing a quality cancer system' the program offered a multitude of presentations from many facets of the oncology arena.

You can view all presentations from the day at: <http://www.slideshare.net/cancerNSW/>

Highlights of the day include:

[READ MORE](#)

### **COSA Geriatric Oncology Workshop at CNSA Winter Congress**

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 in 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".

A full report will be available on the COSA website before the end of the year.

Some highlights of the day also included:

[READ MORE](#)

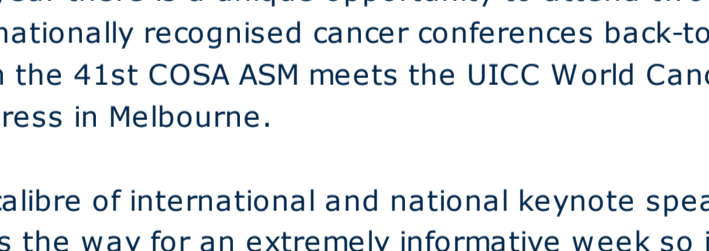
### **COSA Annual Scientific Meeting 2014**

This year there is a unique opportunity to attend two internationally recognised cancer conferences back-to-back when the 41st COSA ASM meets the UICC World Cancer Congress in Melbourne.

The calibre of international and national keynote speakers paves the way for an extremely informative week so it would be a shame to miss out.

The program this year features some interesting topics in cancer survivorship, supportive care and palliative care and will also focus on lung cancer and metastases.

**When:** 2nd -4th December 2014 (Conference proper), 1st December (pre-conference workshops)  
**Where:** Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre



For more information and to register please visit the COSA 2014 ASM website <http://www.cosa2014.org/>

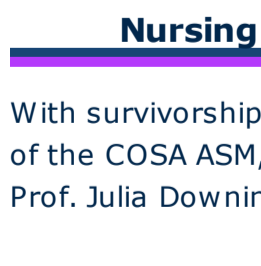
### **Nursing Highlights - COSA ASM 2014**

With survivorship and palliative care being among the focus of the COSA ASM, keynote speakers Ms Mary McCabe and Prof. Julia Downing will be sure to generate interest.



[Mary S. McCabe](#), R.N., M.A., is Director of the Cancer Survivorship Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC).

Mary is scheduled to make two presentations entitled 'Cancer survivorship: The future is now and Barriers' and 'Access to cancer care: Where does ethics fit?', a joint session with the UICC.



[Professor Julia Downing](#) is an experienced palliative care nurse, educationalist and researcher with a PhD that evaluated palliative care training in rural Uganda.

Prof. Downing is also scheduled to give two presentations entitled 'What factors influence patient outcomes: Early referral to palliative care' and 'Developing palliative care services in Uganda, Africa and Serbia.'

If you would like to know more about the presenters or their presentations please click on the links above or [click here](#) to be directed to the COSA ASM program.