

39 delegates registered to attend the COSA CPGs Advanced Practice day preceding the COSA ASM on Monday 1st December at the Melbourne & Exhibition Convention Centre. Most delegates (15/39) were from Victoria, and the majority also attended the COSA ASM.

The day focused on advancing the practice of cancer pharmacy in Australia, and was split between sessions focusing on clinical practice, and professional activities relevant to cancer pharmacy practice.

The program consisted of didactic lectures and a panel discussion:

- Melanoma therapies - pharmacy related issues – presented by Dr Christine Carrington
 - This session focused on the newer melanoma therapies and the importance of the pharmacist's role in patient management, including relevant interactions, adverse effects and patient counselling
- Current and developing therapies for melanoma– presented by Dr Mark Shackleton
 - A summary of recent research into melanoma therapies and their place in clinical practice, from the perspective of eminent clinician-researcher Dr Mark Shackleton
- Methotrexate and obesity – pharmacokinetics study – presented by Ms Geeta Sandhu
 - Current research into the relevant question of appropriate dosing of therapy in the obese patient, providing some insight into the work being done in haematology.
- Drug Interactions in Cancer – presented by Ms Gail Rowan
 - Highlights the mechanisms of drug interactions and clinically relevant scenarios presented in cancer pharmacy practice.
- New Monoclonal Antibodies - What are they and what is their place in therapy - presented by Ms Gail Rowan
 - What mAbs to watch for in the next 12-18 months
- Pharmacoepidemiology in the Oncology Pharmacy – presented by Mr Dan McKavanagh
 - An overview of pharmacoepidemiology, the need for post-marketing surveillance for new cancer therapies and relevance to the cancer pharmacist.
- Panel case discussion: Melanoma - Dr Mark Shackleton & Dr Christine Carrington

The day was convened and chaired by Gail Rowan (Chair, COSA CPG) and Dan McKavanagh (Deputy Chair, COSA CPG).

The day was overwhelmingly successful, providing relevant clinical updates in melanoma, a relaxed and interactive environment for case discussion, and reminding the membership of the fundamental importance of the pharmacist's role in cancer patient management. The professional day rounded off a successful year in fulfilling CPGs aim of providing educational forums for our membership.

The CPG would like to thank COSA and Roche Pty Ltd for financially supporting our professional workshop. I would also like to thank all delegates, all of the speakers for agreeing to present and making the day such a resounding success. Special thanks to Gail Rowan for organising the day, keeping the speakers on track, and ensuring the membership of the CPG are well served within COSA.

Dan McKavanagh
2014 Deputy Chair, COSA Cancer Pharmacists Group