



Prof Mei Krishnasamy, President, COSA

President's Report

It's an honour to present my first Marryalyan report as COSA President. I must admit I have come to this role with excitement, enthusiasm and perhaps even a small amount of anxiety! The Presidents that have gone before me, including but of course not limited to Sandro Porceddu and Bogda Koczwarra, have truly paved the way for me to lead a robust and dynamic Society.

I recently chaired my first COSA Board and Council meetings and was impressed by the level of engagement of senior COSA members. It was also a pleasure to see new Group Chairs fill positions which have been vacant for some time: namely Dr Susan Fraser incoming COSA Breast Group Chair, a Breast Physician working in Cairns and the Gold Coast; and Mr Brett Doble, incoming Epidemiology Group Chair, a Health Economist with international experience in academic research, consulting and the pharmaceutical industry.

The success of any member based organisation like COSA lies with its Board, Council and other committees, and ensuring we remain relevant to our current and future members. I firmly believe that investment in strengthening the many COSA groups and continued collaboration with our Affiliated Organisations will be the key to a dynamic, relevant and financially viable COSA for years to come.

To continue its impressive standing as a vibrant, responsive, member-based society, COSA must continue to look to its existing strengths and build on its capacity to influence. But the future for COSA must also include a desire and intent to diversify

its affiliations, to attract new members and to foster 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.

When I put forward my nomination for COSA President Elect I did so with an awareness and appreciation of the challenges ahead for COSA but with a recognition of the considerable capacity, skill and desire of all involved with this internationally recognised Society to see it succeed long into the future.

I am delighted to be working with the COSA Board, Council, membership and staff and am looking forward to my two year term as President. It's a pleasure to have Professor Phyllis Butow on board as COSA President Elect – I hope that together with Marie Malica and her team we can work towards building on the strengths of COSA.

I welcome your comments and any suggestions for current and future projects. If you would like to contact me, please do so via the COSA office cosa@cancer.org.au.

Mei Krishnasamy
President

Executive Officer's Report



Marie Mallica, COSA EO

I hope you are enjoying the new look COSA communications. The Marryalyan underwent a “facelift” in 2014 and we are enjoying bringing you this fresh look. I also hope you subscribe to the monthly eNews – this is a great way to stay informed about what is happening at COSA. We also include information about events, granting opportunities, report releases etc. Please feel free

to contact me if you have any suggestions for content in either the Marryalyan or eNews.

New COSA Groups and Chairs

Mei mentioned in her report that we have quite a few new Group Chairs who recently joined COSA Council. We held a jam packed Council meeting on 6 March so it's really pleasing to see new members engaged in this way. So far this year we have called for expressions of interest from COSA members in the formation of two new COSA Groups – the COSA Rare Cancers Group and the COSA Exercise and Cancer Group. The Rare Cancers Group had a head start and was approved at the March Council meeting. I'm delighted to advise that Associate Professor Clare Scott from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute has agreed to lead the Rare Cancers Group. Professor Scott approached COSA over a year ago seeking opportunities for COSA to engage in this much underrepresented area – we took her proposal so seriously that the 2015 ASM will feature rare cancers! The proposal from Jane Turner at the University of Sydney and Prue Cormie from Edith Cowan University Health and Wellness Institute for the establishment of a COSA Exercise and Cancer Group was also very well received by COSA Council and we had an outstanding

response from the membership so we are also hoping to formalise this new Group in the coming months. It is so satisfying to know that we can respond to the needs of our enthusiastic members in this way. I'm looking forward to working with them and seeing their plans for the future come to fruition.

Visit the Group pages on the COSA website for more information about what the COSA Groups have been up to and their plans for the year.

COSA ASM 2015

The wash up from the ASM in Melbourne last year didn't really give us much time to start preparing for the 2015 ASM in Hobart, so luckily we had already brought together an eager committee a few months ago. The Hobart Local Organising Committee has done an exceptional job of bringing together a robust program that we are sure will attract a large delegation. The theme of “Rare Cancers: Common Goals” is sure to have something of interest for everyone. The Committee has taken a very creative approach to their interpretation of the rare cancers theme to include sessions on:

- Common rare cancers such as melanoma, NETs and sarcoma
- Truly rare cancers such as merkel cell carcinoma, PHAEOs and thyroid
- Rare cancer sub types including inflammatory breast cancer, ALK lung cancer and BRAF colorectal cancer
- Rare presentations of common cancers such as breast cancer during pregnancy
- Genetics and the reclassification of cancer – are all cancers rare?
- Supporting rare cancer patients





Allison Black



Louise Nott

My thanks to Louise Nott and Allison Black, the co-convenors for the 2015 ASM. They have both shown great leadership and zest for the COSA ASM, amongst their busy working days as oncologists at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

Be sure to visit the ASM website for information about speakers, program updates, registration and abstract submission www.cosa2015.org

COSA staff changes

Rhonda DeSouza returned from maternity leave in March – it's great to have her back on the team. Chantal Gebbie has continued to fill the gaps while Rhonda and

Hayley Griffin took maternity leave. Chantal finishes up at the end of May, and Hayley returns in July. Jessica Harris is working part time to assist with communications and coordinating the Teleoncology guidelines. In late April we will be welcoming a new Project Manager to replace Abby Zaat who left us at the beginning of the year – we wish Abby all the very best in her next role, and I'll officially welcome her replacement in the next edition.

My sincere thanks to Fran for her continued dedication to COSA and constant support to me.

Marie Malica
Executive Officer

Vale Dr Ian Roos OAM

COSA was saddened to learn of the passing of Ian Roos on Friday 10 April 2015.

Ian is well known to many in the cancer community through his long standing advocacy work. Ian was first diagnosed with prostate cancer over 16 years ago, and for many years worked as a leading advocate for those affected by cancer. Ian presented multiple times at the COSA ASM on the contemporary issues affecting cancer patients such as MDTs, cancer care pathways, care coordination, and consumer involvement in research.

Ian was a member of COSA in his own right for many years, having previously worked as a scientist and researcher. As the then Chair of Cancer Voices Australia, Ian was their consumer representative on COSA Council from July 2010 to November 2012. Ian's participation in COSA Council always reminded us of the importance of keeping the cancer patient at the heart of everything we do. Ian stood strong



beside all the health professionals on Council – he was Chair of our Membership Working Party and a member of our Governance Working Party, both important committees that lead the governance changes to COSA which are now firmly in place.

In 2012 COSA managed a Cancer Australia funded project on consumer involvement in research and Ian was one of our leading advisors to that project.

Ian was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2009 for service to the community through raising awareness of men's health issues.

Ian was a dear friend to COSA and many other cancer organisations and we know he will be sorely missed both professionally and personally. He left a lasting legacy, and we are proud that we at COSA were aided by it.

We wish Ian's family and friends our warmest condolences.

Australia Day 2015 Honours List

Congratulations to the following
members and friends of COSA:

Professor Bogda Koczwara AM

Professor Michael Quinn AM

Associate Professor Robert Smee AM

Associate Professor Phillip Stricker AO

Nominate now for the NSW Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research

2015
Premier's Awards
for Outstanding
Cancer Research

Nominations now open

Nominations are now open for the 2015 NSW Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research, which honour individuals and teams that work across the cancer research sector to lessen the impact of cancer for the people of NSW. This year, there will be eight award categories:

- Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year – \$50,000
- The Professor Rob Sutherland AO Make a Difference Award – \$20,000
- The Big Data, Big Impact Award – Stage 1 (up to \$60,000) Stage 2 (up to \$150,000)
- Excellence in Translation Cancer Research – \$20,000
- The 'Wildfire' Highly Cited Publication Award – \$20,000
- Innovation in Cancer Clinical Trials – \$20,000
- Outstanding Cancer Research Fellow – \$20,000
- The 'Rising Star' PhD Student Award – \$10,000

The awards will be presented in front of over 300 pre-eminent guests at a gala dinner to be held in Sydney in August.

Nominations are open until Wednesday 20 May. For more information, and to nominate, visit: www.cancerinstitute.org.au/2015-cancer-research-awards.



Living with Cancer Education Program Facilitator training for health professionals

2015 dates: May 14 & 15, August 20 & 21, October 15 & 16

The Living With Cancer Education Program is a group-based supportive care workshop which assists patients, carers and families make sense of cancer and treatment.

Cancer Council Victoria offers a two day training course to enable health professionals to confidently provide the program at their own workplace, to people affected by cancer.

The training includes:

- Program content, including dealing with treatment and side effects, communicating with family and friends, working with your healthcare team, relaxation and nutrition
- Facilitation skills and adult learning concepts
- Opportunities to practise skills learnt
- Program planning, promotion and recruitment strategies

Cost: \$250

Venue: Cancer Council Victoria, 615 St Kilda Road, Melbourne (9.30am – 4.30pm daily, over two days)

To enquire, please contact lwcep@cancervic.org.au or **03 9514 6348**.



"I became a LWCEP facilitator because as a social worker in the day oncology unit, I had heard good feedback on how helpful the program was from patients. I am a believer in peer support, so apart from the fabulous information people get, they have an opportunity to talk to others in the same boat."

Julie, LWCEP facilitator

COSA ASM 2014 Convenor's Report

I am very pleased to present this report on the COSA ASM held in Melbourne 2-4 December 2014. As Chair of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) I am proud of the program the LOC delivered and of the success of the ASM as COSA's pre-eminent professional activity. As incoming President of COSA, the success of the meeting was all the more rewarding.

With almost 1200 people registered to attend COSA we knew the week was off to a flying start. We anticipated our collaboration with the UICC World Cancer Congress would showcase COSA to a new audience and likewise for the UICC. On Thursday 4 December – our joint day with the UICC – the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre was buzzing with their additional 2500 delegates. I was delighted to see so many cancer health professionals gathered in one place to meet our joint objective of “Joining forces – Accelerating Progress”.

On behalf of Local Organising Committee and the COSA Board and Council, we are very proud of the conference we delivered.

The 2014 ASM themes highlighted cancer survivorship, supportive care and palliative care, and the disease themes concentrated on lung cancer and metastases. The opening plenary “Challenges in managing oligometastatic disease” was an excellent start to the 41st COSA ASM, highlighting the critical importance of a multidisciplinary approach to key issues in cancer management. The traditional distinction between ‘curable’ early cancer and ‘terminal’ advanced cancer is becoming blurred, as advanced imaging allows early identification of metastasis at a time where local therapy may influence the disease outcome, and increased understanding of the molecular complexities of cancers has allowed the development of targeted therapies.

The Tuesday afternoon plenary on “Care of cancer survivors: what works?” highlighted three international perspectives on aspects of post-treatment survivorship care. Issues experienced by survivors in other countries are very similar to those encountered by Australian survivors. Likewise, challenges in providing care are similar – the large number of survivors, limited workforce, limited established and proven models of care, and so on. Measurement is key to optimal survivorship care. We need to understand the issues that people experience. By knowing survivors’ needs care can be tailored appropriately. Similarly, we need means to assess the impact of interventions on survivor wellbeing.

Wednesday 3 December was our lung cancer day. The morning plenary on “Recent improvements in lung cancer care: what you must know” set the scene for the day well. The afternoon plenary “What factors influence patient outcomes” delivered

diverse perspectives on factors influencing patient outcomes and powerfully demonstrated COSA's unique place as a multidisciplinary cancer organisation both here in Australia and on the global stage. The potential to better understand and impact patient outcomes was delivered through the eyes of a GP, Radiation Therapist, Nurse and Doctor and the speakers challenged the audience to consider what constitutes a meaningful outcome, and how we can give equal value and consideration to the many outcomes of importance in cancer care.

The joint plenary with the UICC on Thursday morning “Sustainable Health Systems” offered something for everyone but spoke with one voice to the joint theme of “Joining Forces – Accelerating Progress”. The imperative to drive change to ensure sustainable, integrated cancer care was powerfully articulated by the eminent speakers. Professor Irene Higginson presented patient- and system-level evidence for integration of palliative care into comprehensive models of cancer care. With the increase in numbers of cancer survivors and those living with incurable disease, Professor Higginson showed how the traditional approach to transition to palliative care (rather than integration of palliative care) is both unsustainable and fails to meet the needs of our patients and their carers. Professor Peter Doherty brought to life the immune landscape as it relates to the potential to prevent, target and treat cancers. The enormity of potential for a future where our killer defences can be mediated and tailored to reduce the global impact of cancer was eloquently and entertainingly conveyed.

As usual, the Hot Topic “Is the cost of cancer treatment worth the benefits?” proved to be a great way to conclude the COSA ASM. Adam Spencer provided provocative and challenging questions with his usual charismatic and humorous style.

Associate Professor Georgina Long highlighted the need for research to have freedom to grow and develop, unhindered by government interference. The panelists recognised the high costs of research and targeted therapy expenditure and this was balanced by the impact these drugs can have on prolonging life, as highlighted by Melissa's story and her battle with melanoma. Professor Ward quoted that only 10% of clinical trials finish on time. The driver to successful and timely recruitment to clinical trials may be best placed with the consumers rather than the oncologist. The Hon Nicola Roxon rated the Australian health system 10/10 “not because it is perfect but because if you were diagnosed with cancer you wouldn't want to be treated anywhere else in the world”.

As we all know the COSA ASM not only provides high quality scientific content, but also the best networking opportunity in our

profession. The ability to chat with colleagues over a cup of tea (or glass of wine), and form new connections inspires me. I'm always exhausted at the end of the week, but sometimes wish the conference didn't end. It was my privilege to convene the 41st COSA ASM in Melbourne last year and I look forward to seeing you all in November in Hobart for what already promises to be another outstanding COSA ASM.

Mei Krishnasamy
2014 ASM Convenor

International Speaker Profiles

For those not fortunate enough to attend this year's Annual Scientific Meeting, or those wanting to know a little more about the experiences of our international guests, COSA took 5 minutes to speak with a few of our international guests: Dr Donald Abrams, Professor Julia Downing, Dr Thomas Jagoe, Dr Normand Laperriere, Dr Thomas Lynch, Ms Mary McCabe and Dr Sumitra Thongprasert.



Donald Abrams

Dr. Donald I. Abrams is a cancer and integrative medicine specialist at the UCSF Osher Center for Integrative Medicine at Mount Zion. Abrams provides integrative medicine consultations for cancer patients and has completed research in complementary and alternative therapies including mind-body treatments, botanical therapies, medical use of marijuana and traditional Chinese medicine herbal therapies.

In addition to his role at the Osher center, he is chief of Hematology and Oncology at San Francisco General Hospital. Abrams, who had been in the forefront of HIV/AIDS research and treatment, stepped down from the HIV Clinic at San Francisco General Hospital in August 2006 to devote more time to integrative medicine and oncology. He co-edited the Oxford University Press Integrative Oncology text with Andrew Weil, MD. He is a member of the United States National Cancer Institute Physician Data Query Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCI PDQ CAM) editorial board. Dr. Abrams was President of the Society for Integrative Oncology in 2010.

Was this your first time to Melbourne?

Actually this was probably my third time in Melbourne but likely the longest duration I spent there so I enjoyed exploring. It is a

wonderful city with a great deal of diversity, great food and an amazing convention center.

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes.

What was your overall impression of the conference?

Very warm and inviting. I really enjoyed the Presidential dinner. The meeting appears to be a much more manageable size than ASCO which is totally out of control – so big that I hardly attend anymore because it is so hard to manipulate. Will go in '15, though, as I am doing an educational session on Integrative Oncology. Yes, COSA was more intimate and manageable.

Highlights of the meeting?

Again, I only really attended my sessions so hard to say.

Any other comments?

I was a bit disappointed in the lack of attendance at my sessions. There were too many conflicting sessions even though much less so than ASCO and I guess Integrative Oncology is not yet a COSA attendee priority.



Julia Downing

Professor Downing is an experienced palliative care nurse, educationalist and researcher, with a PhD that evaluated palliative care training in rural Uganda. She has been working within palliative care for 32 years, with thirteen of those working internationally in Uganda, Africa and Eastern Europe. She is an Honorary

Professor at Makerere University, Kampala and an International Palliative Care Consultant working with the International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) and the Team Leader on an EU funded project to develop palliative care in Serbia. She has extensive experience in research, presenting at conferences and writing for publication, and is on the editorial board of the International Journal of Palliative Nursing (IJPn).

Professor Downing serves on the Boards of several international NGOs in Africa, is on the Board of the International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care and is Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee of the International Children's Palliative Care Network. She is also an Honorary Research Fellow with the Department of Palliative Care, Policy and Rehabilitation, at King's College London, England. She was the recipient of the IJPn's Development Award in 2006.

Was this your first time to Melbourne?

Yes this was my first time to visit Melbourne – I had been to

Australia once before but had not had the opportunity to visit Melbourne.

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes

What was your overall impression of the conference?

I really enjoyed the conference, there was a great feel to the conference and it was good to hear what is happening in terms of oncology in Australia, but also through the international speakers, which helps to give an overall perspective. Everyone was really friendly and I felt at home.

Highlights of the meeting?

The fact that it was an interdisciplinary conference and it was great to see people from different disciplines working together and sharing together, thus giving a holistic picture of what is happening as we all work together to provide and improve cancer care.

Any other comments?

It was a privilege to be able to attend the COSA meeting and to appreciate the quality and breadth of the work that is being done in Australia – Thank you.



Thomas Jagoe

Dr Jagoe is a respirologist and clinician-scientist. After completing his clinical training in Respirology and PhD research in nutritional aspects of lung cancer, in the UK, Dr Jagoe went on to do postdoctoral training in mechanisms of muscle wasting as a Fulbright Scholar in the laboratory of Alfred Goldberg, Harvard

Medical School 1999-2002. After five years as a consultant and Clinical Senior Lecturer in Respiratory Medicine in the academic pulmonary unit at University Hospital Aintree, Liverpool, in 2007 he was recruited to McGill University, Quebec, Canada as Director of the McGill Cancer Nutrition-Rehabilitation (CNR) program. The McGill CNR is an innovative program that addresses the needs of patients with cancer cachexia. More recently in 2013 Dr Jagoe has also assumed co-directorship of the Peter Brojde Lung Cancer Centre (PBLCC) at the Jewish General Hospital. The PBLCC integrates best oncology practice with close support from selected complementary therapists to optimize outcomes and the patient experience throughout the trajectory of lung cancer care. Dr Jagoe has received Canadian federal funding for laboratory-based research focused specifically on muscle responses to disease-related toxic stimuli including chemotherapy. In addition he remains

actively involved in clinical studies to find practical solutions to improve care of patients with cancer cachexia. Most recently, as Co-PI, he has been awarded Canadian Institute for Health Research funding to initiate the Canadian arm of the MENAC trial to test the impact of multimodal therapy on nutritional and functional outcomes in lung and pancreatic cancer patients.

Was this your first time to Melbourne?

Not the first time ever, but the last time I was in Melbourne was a long time ago whilst travelling around working and visiting members of the extended family just after I left school!

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes, this was my first COSA conference

What was your overall impression of the conference?

I was impressed with the conference venue and organization and the multi-disciplinary make up of the attendees. There was a really good atmosphere and an openness.

Highlights of the meeting?

Getting the chance to meet and discuss with others in the nutrition field in cancer here in Australia. It was great to see how the same problems with nutritional depletion in cancer patients are being addressed using a variety of different approaches and I was encouraged and impressed with many of the organizational and educational initiatives that have been developed.

Some excellent talks on symptom control from different speakers.

Also unexpectedly meeting several people from the UK, for example people who I had studied or worked with during my training and had moved to Australia or New Zealand in the intervening years.

The catering provided in the main hall: a little tricky to eat at times but better than other similar conferences I have been to!!

Any other comments?

The poster discussion venues in the main hall were a good idea but in practice these were difficult to use for those conducting the actual presentations because of high ambient noise from the main hall. This was a pity as I think it stifled more questions and interaction with the audience.

Difficult to judge as an outsider how well represented all the different oncology professionals were at COSA. I was left with an impression that the turn out from the Oncologists themselves was not huge. Not sure if I am correct but this is a problem for other multi-disciplinary/multi-national societies too e.g. MASCC.



Dr Normand Laperriere

Normand Laperriere

Dr Laperriere is a staff member in the Department of Radiation Oncology and Head of clinical programs in Central Nervous System and Ocular Oncology, and Pediatric Radiation Oncology at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, Canada. He earned his medical degree from the University of Toronto in

1978 and completed his training in Radiation Oncology at Princess Margaret in 1984. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiology and a Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto.

His research interests have focused on new approaches in the management of patients with primary and secondary central nervous system and eye tumors in children and in adults.

Was this your first time to Melbourne?

No, I was previously in Melbourne as the Carestream Professor and visited a few of the radiotherapy/oncology centres in 2009 as part of my Australia/New Zealand wide tour.

Was this your first COSA conference?

No, I was an invited speaker at the 2009 COSA meeting on the Gold Coast.

What was your overall impression of the conference?

It was an excellent meeting, I very much admire the multidisciplinary participation seen at COSA as I learned a lot from the surgical and medical oncology presentations.

Highlights of the meeting?

The highlight of the meeting for me was being the discussant for the Best of Best Orals – Clinical session. The 6 presentations were all excellent and the majority were first authored by either junior staff or senior registrars, which bodes well for the future of oncologic research in Australia.



Dr Thomas Lynch

Thomas Lynch

Dr Lynch is the Director of the Yale Cancer Center and the Physician-in-Chief at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven. He has focused his career on the care and treatment of patients with lung cancer and on bringing novel translational therapies to the clinic to treat lung cancer. Prior to April 2009 he

was the Chief of Hematology-Oncology at MGH and a Professor

of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He received his M.D. in 1986 from Yale University and completed his internship and residency at MGH in 1989. Dr Lynch served as a fellow in medical oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute from 1989-1991 and joined the staff at MGH in 1993. His academic interest focuses on using novel agents in advanced lung cancer. Recently his work has focused on agents directed against the epidermal growth factor receptor and the potential role that EGFR mutations play in lung cancer biology. Dr Lynch is a founding board member of the Kenneth B. Schwartz Center- a foundation devoted to promoting compassionate health care.

Was this your first time to Melbourne?

Yes this was my first time to Melbourne

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes first COSA conference

What was your overall impression of the conference?

Conference was “right sized” – large enough to be broad but small enough to see a lot of what is happening in Australian Oncology

Highlights of the meeting?

Loved the plenary sessions and the pick the best abstract sessions – I have not done a lot of the pick the best abstract before and it was very focusing.

Any other comments?

Enjoyed the faculty dinner – loved the way they encouraged participation



Ms Mary McCabe

Mary McCabe

Mary S. McCabe, R.N., M.A., is Director of the Cancer Survivorship Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC). Since 2003, she has been responsible for developing and implementing a center-wide program for cancer survivors focused on research, clinical care, professional training and education. She is also a faculty member

in the Division of Medical Ethics at the Cornell Weill Medical College and Chair of the MSKCC Ethics Committee. A graduate of Trinity College, Emory University and Catholic University, she was previously the nursing director at the Lombardi Cancer Center, Georgetown University in Washington, DC. and held several positions at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) before joining MSKCC, including Assistant Director of the Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, Director of The Office of Clinical Research, and Faculty in the Department of Bioethics at the National Institute of Health (NIH). Ms. McCabe serves on many

committees, including the Committee on Improving the Quality of Cancer Care at the Institute of Medicine, the Survivorship Steering Committee of the American Cancer Society, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Survivorship Panel, the NCI Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory Committee and is the immediate past chair of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Survivorship Committee. She is a member of the Oncology Nursing Society, ASCO, and the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. Ms. McCabe has published many peer-reviewed articles, serves on the editorial boards for *Seminars in Oncology Nursing*, *Oncology*, *Oncology for Nurses* and writes a column on Cancer Survivorship for the *ASCO Post*. She has received numerous awards, including the American Cancer Society Merit Award, Oncology Nursing Society Leadership Award, NIH Outstanding Performance Award, NIH Director's Award and the Outstanding Alumnae Award, Emory University.

Was this your first time to Melbourne?

Although I've been to Sydney in the past, this was my first time in Melbourne and I loved everything about the city. The location of the meeting was ideal and allowed for walks along the river, exploring the downtown area, as well as stops at great coffee shops and restaurants. An added bonus was the easy access to the lovely countryside and wineries.

Was this your first COSA conference?

Yes, this was my first COSA conference and I'm sorry I can't attend each year. As an international speaker, I felt like a special guest from the day I arrived.

What was your overall impression of the conference?

I thought the conference was outstanding – it is very well organized and offers a diverse set of learning opportunities. Throughout the meeting there are opportunities to interact with the other speaker and attendees, which expands the learning opportunities and makes the conference more enjoyable and relevant. Having a set of topics that are highlighted at the conference, such as lung cancer and survivorship, offers the attendee the opportunity for in depth learning in areas of particular importance in oncology.

Highlights of the meeting?

I thought the interdisciplinary focus was unique and promoted a scientific agenda that was patient focused. The fact that nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals are all encouraged to be speakers and active participants speaks to the collaborative nature of COSA and provides a forum for interdisciplinary research and fosters the development of novel clinical care activities. A particular highlight of the meeting for me was the Best of the Best Orals session where talented researchers present their papers for discussion and one is selected for a prize. It makes for a lively and interactive session.

Any other comments?

In sum, COSA is a meeting of international importance and hopefully will grow stronger each year. Congratulations on a successful 2014 meeting!



Sumitra Thongprasert

Sumitra Thongprasert started her career in oncology in 1983. Following a fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, she returned to Chiang Mai University in Thailand and set up the Medical Oncology Unit there, she has been Professor of Oncology at the Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University since 1999.

Dr. Thongprasert chaired the Thai Society of Clinical Oncology (TSCO) from 2002 to 2006. She has served as a board of director for the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) since 2011, had been a member of the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) Developing Country Task Force (DCTF) during 2005-2010, and is a Far East regional representative for the ESMO since 2008. In addition, Dr. Thongprasert is a member of several groups and societies including the Thai Society of Oncology, the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), the Asia Clinical Oncology Society (ACOS), ESMO, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Dr. Thongprasert has published widely on her research interests which include treatment of non-small cell lung cancer, biliary tract cancer and quality of life.

Was this your first time to Melbourne?

I'd been to Melbourne several times; last visit is 2013

Was this your first COSA conference?

This is my second COSA meeting; the first one was around 1989

What was your overall impression of the conference?

The conference was very good; it brings up several points especially in Palliative care

Highlights of the meeting?

The highlight is case discussion which I'd been one of the discussant

Any other comments?

Would like to have more international speakers especially from Asian countries, if possible I'd like to join again next year.

COSA ASM 2014 in pictures



Ben Panizza, Angela Porceddu and Sandro V Porceddu



Bernard Stewart, Nik Zeps, Roger Bjugn and Thomas Lynch



Conference dinner



Closing ceremony - Sandro V Porceddu



Delegates



Delegates exhibition hall



Delegates poster review



Conference dinner

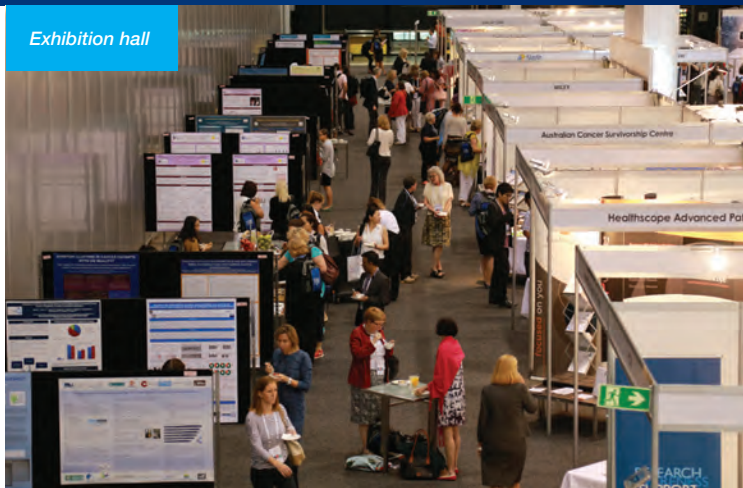


Cleola Anderiesz and Caroline Nehill



Delegates exhibition hall

Exhibition hall



Haryana Dhillon, Addie Wootton (recipient of the 2015 COSA New Investigator in Psycho-Oncology Award) and Phyllis Butow

Haryana Dhillon, Jane Turner (recipient of the 2015 COSA Australian Psycho-Oncology Award) and Phyllis Butow



Ian Olver, Rosemary Knight, Helen Zorbas and Cancer Australia colleagues



Julia Downing, Sandy McKiernan and Mei Krishnasamy



Marie Malica



Mei Krishnasamy, Julia Downing and Irene Higginson OBE



Plenary



Mary McCabe



Panel discussion



Plenary

COSA 2014

Best of the Best Awards

Best of the Best Oral Poster Presentation Awards

Clinical research, services & education

Linda Mileschkin abs#204
Do patients with advanced cancer want to discuss and pay for unfunded expensive anticancer drugs?

Researching cancer treatments

Anne-Marie Baird abs#206
Targeting the RON/MST1R receptor using LCRF004, may provide an effective novel interventional strategy in malignant pleural mesothelioma

Epidemiology & Health services

Kate McBride abs#353
An international survey of awareness of generic risk in the adult and paediatric clinical sarcoma community

Supporting Indigenous and poor prognosis cancer patients

Belinda Thewes abs#360
Patient and clinician perceptions of the feasibility and utility of routine unmet needs screening for Indigenous Australians with cancer

Best of the Best Oral Presentation Awards

Basic & Translational

Katharina Pachmann abs#23
Tumorspheres derived from clonally expanding peripherally circulating tumor cells exhibit stem cells features and self-renewal properties

Lung cancer

Kirsten Duggan abs#27
Patterns of palliative and psychosocial care in metastatic non-small cell lung cancer in South Western Sydney

Survivorship

Carmel Apicella abs#57
Survival of women diagnosed with breast cancer in the Australian Breast Cancer Family Study

Health services

Alix Hall abs#66
Patients perceptions on what may have caused their cancer: A cross-sectional investigation of Vietnamese radiotherapy cancer patients

Clinical

Roopa Lakhanpal abs#95
Predictive value of immunohistochemical 4 plus chemical treatment score in determining risk of loco regional recurrence in early breast cancer

Education

Yada Kanjanapan abs#99
Learning through clinical trials: 2013 and 2014 Preceptorship in colorectal cancer (CRC) – an initiative of the Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG)

Epidemiology

Anne Cust abs#121
Impact of common genomic variants on melanoma risk prediction

Supportive Care

Kathryn Marshall abs#131
Addressing malnutrition in Victorian Cancer Services: Are we making a difference?



2014 Luminous Award Winners with representatives from Eli Lilly, COSA and the Judging Panel

LUMINOUS AWARD WINNERS

Jill Margo from *The Weekend Financial Review* and Karen O'Sullivan from Channel 7 News are the winners of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia's Luminous Awards for 2014.

"Jill and Karen's entries impressed the judging panel. They are both well-crafted examples of high-quality journalism that explore new and interesting cancer developments and research. This year marks the tenth year of the Luminous Awards and the judging panel has remarked on the high calibre journalism that the awards continue to attract," commented John Stubbs, Chair of the Luminous Awards Australia judging panel.

Karen O'Sullivan, a previous winner of the award in 2011, took out the broadcast category once again with a report titled *Cold Comfort*. The segment about melanoma reported that cancer cells were destroyed by being injected with the cold virus.

"It is important to keep the public informed about melanoma especially given Australia has the highest incidence in the world. That is exactly what Karen's reporting has done," said John Stubbs.

Jill Margo's entry, *Big Chill: How the tiny prostate is causing men huge dilemmas*, discussed the problem many men face regarding PSA testing and the possibility that the rush to diagnose and treat prostate cancer, especially in the late 20th century, was a disservice to many men.

"Jill's reporting on this controversial topic and major health issue for older men will hopefully allay the confusion and lack of clarity around prostate cancer," said John Stubbs.

Sophie Scott, a previous two time winner of the Luminous Award in the broadcast category, was highly commended this year for her ABC Online report on *Ovarian cancer misdiagnosed by a doctor*.

Michael Slezak, last year's winner in the print category, was highly commended for his *New Scientist* article *The Making of a Monster* which explained that tumours turn invasive in sudden leaps that can now be explained genetically.

The awards are of particular interest to Mr Stubbs, Executive member of cancer advocacy organisation canSpeak and a cancer survivor of some 14 years. "With the high burden of cancer in Australia, we feel it is most important to acknowledge the work journalists do in keeping the public as well as professionals informed of relevant health information and research advances," he said.

Entries were judged by representatives from twelve of the country's leading cancer organisations.

In 2014 the Luminous Awards celebrated its 10th year of honouring excellence in cancer reporting. The Luminous Award Australia is hosted by COSA and proudly supported by Eli Lilly Australia.

The Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care

The Tom Reeve Award, offered annually by COSA, formally recognises a national leader who has made a significant contribution to cancer care.

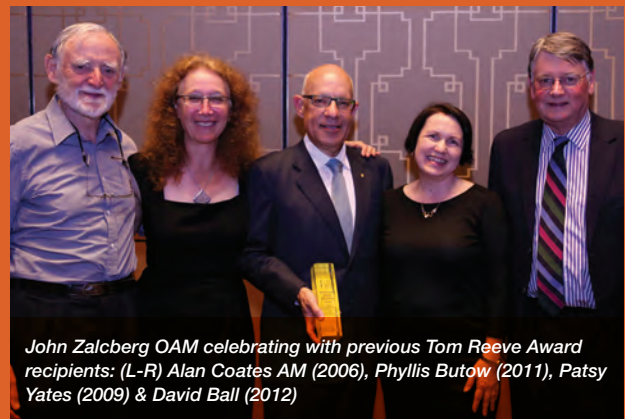
Nominations are now open for the 2015 Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care, closing Wednesday 17 June 2015.

To be eligible nominees must:

- have made a significant contribution to cancer care through research, clinical leadership and/or community service
- have made a substantial contribution over a relatively long period of time
- be nominated by a COSA member and have support from a member of COSA Council
- be an Australian resident

Each nomination should include:

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



John Zalcburg OAM celebrating with previous Tom Reeve Award recipients: (L-R) Alan Coates AM (2006), Phyllis Butow (2011), Patsy Yates (2009) & David Ball (2012)



John Zalcburg OAM - 2014 Tom Reeve Award recipient, with 2014 COSA President Sandro V Porceddu at COSA's 41st Annual Scientific Meeting conference dinner

The successful nominee will be presented with a Gold Marryalyan at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting (November) at which he/she will deliver an address highlighting appropriate aspects of their area of professional interest, which will also be published in the Society's journal Cancer Forum.

Nominations and supporting documentation should be sent to cosa@cancer.org.au by Wednesday 17 June 2015.



Abstract Submission Guidelines

Online Abstract Submission

Abstract submission is online at <http://www.cosa2015.org/>

You are able to cut and paste your abstract from a Word document, into the online submission system. The link used for submission will first ask you to load your personal details on your "registration dashboard". This is the same site for registration and accommodation if required, and is an enduring page that will last for future COSA meetings. If you registered for previous COSA ASMs &/or submitted an abstract, your details should still be in the system and can be updated if necessary.

You should keep all emails sent to you regarding your abstract submission. Once you begin your abstract submission, a number of specific background questions will be asked. The reviewers can see your answer to these questions. Once you have made your submission, you can return and edit it up until the closing date for submissions.

1. Abstract submissions close:
Friday 14 August 2015 – COSA Abstract submissions
Wednesday 8 July 2015 – COSA Symposium submissions (*Please refer to the Symposium Submission Guidelines for additional information*)

2. Abstracts are invited to be submitted under **one** of the following categories:

Basic and Translational Research
Clinical Research
Education
Epidemiology
Health Services
Supportive Care *
Rare Cancers (Conference theme)
Service Provision (poster only) **
Trials in Progress (poster only) **

* *Supportive Care is a highly subscribed category. Submitters should consider the suitability of this category when submitting an abstract, as the potential for being awarded a presentation in the Supportive Care category is reduced.*

** *These abstract categories are for non-scientific abstracts. They do not need to follow the normal abstract format and are only considered for posters.*

3. Maximum text length allowed is 300 words in length including sub-headings. To assist your preparation, abstracts may be structured under the sub-headings Aims, Methods, Results, Conclusions. The sub-headings must be concise, with only the first word starting with a capital letter.

4. Reports of completed studies are preferred, and will be given preference in selecting oral presentations, especially over abstracts which do not report results but indicate that they will be reported at the meeting or mere descriptions of trial methodology. Results of research will be given preference over descriptions of services for oral presentations.

5. Abstracts reporting quantitative studies should contain the planned accrual target and the actual number of patients recruited, levels of significance and confidence intervals of results. Abstracts of qualitative research should indicate how they chose their sample size (e.g. data saturation) and the methodology of analysis.

6. Abstracts will be "blinded" to the reviewers. They will not be able to see the authoring or organisation information. Submitters must not assume that there will be knowledge of the previous work of a group or strength of a research group or researcher.

7. Most of the submitted abstracts will be allocated posters as there will only be a limited number of slots for oral presentations. The best posters will be selected for specific poster presentation sessions with a discussant.

8. Images are not accepted in abstracts.

Examples of exemplary abstracts

Please take the time to go to the conference website (<http://www.cosa2015.org>) to review examples of an exemplary abstract, and abstracts which would not meet the standard required for acceptance.

COSA Travel Grants

COSA is pleased to call for travel grant applications from financial Society members to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Hobart from 17-19 November 2015. Each grant will be up to the value of \$1,000.

COSA/IPSEN Travel Grant

In 2015 IPSEN continues its tradition of sponsoring four COSA members with travel grants up to the value of \$1,100. Recipients will have their names published in the Marryalyan and in the IPSEN Affinity Newsletter that goes to health care professionals within Australia.



COSA Trainee Travel Grants

COSA trainee travel grants aim to assist oncology trainees in medical, surgical or radiation oncology to attend the ASM or the Trainee Weekend in Hobart, 14-15 November 2015.

**All travel grant applications
close: Monday 17 August 2015**

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

Please refer to <https://www.cosa.org.au/grants-awards/travel-grants/cosa-travel-grant.aspx> for further information on all travel grants



Clinical Professional Day Funding

COSA invites applications from its constituent professional groups for grants of **up to \$7000** (+GST) to conduct "professional day" meetings or educational sessions aimed at fostering professional development. All COSA's disease, specialist and craft groups are encouraged to apply for a professional day grant. If your group was not a recipient in previous years we encourage you to apply for a grant in 2015.

The aim is to hold professional days on Monday 16 November 2015, immediately prior to COSA's Annual

Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Hobart, 17-19 November 2015. Due to demand, some professional days may be held immediately after the ASM (space allowing). Depending on the circumstances, grants may also be allocated to support professional days at other times/places in the year.

Visit the COSA website <https://www.cosa.org.au/grants-awards/clinical-professional-days.aspx> for guidelines and an application form. **Deadline for submissions is Monday 1 June 2015.**

COSA Group Reports

AYA Group

A very successful AYA Clinical Professional Day was held in December in conjunction with the COSA ASM in Melbourne. The aim of the day was to provide continuing professional education and to promote awareness of AYA oncology and research.

There were two themed sessions during the day; AYA Cancers and Genetic/Ethical Challenges and AYA Cancer Survivorship. A number of international and local speakers spoke with a combination of presentations and panel discussions.

Presentations on AYA cancers and Genetic/Ethical Challenges included:

- 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 included:

- Fertility preservation
- AYA distress screening and providing developmentally appropriate oncology care to AYAs
- Nutritional status and perceived nutritional needs of AYAs with Cancer
- CanTeen Online Support Platform

Feedback from participants was encouraging with a hundred percent of respondents participating in an online evaluation survey indicating that they would attend/recommend others to attend future COSA AYA Clinical Professional Days.

A copy of the AYA CPD report is available at <https://www.cosa.org.au/groups/adolescent-young-adult/resources.aspx>

The AYA Group are currently working on the recommendations arising from the 2014 Research Agenda Workshop. This work will inform the agenda for the second Research Strategy Workshop which is planned for the beginning of May. A full report outlining progress on these recommendations and the new recommendations arising out of the May workshop will be available in the next issue of the Marryalyan.

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

INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG ADULT ONCOLOGY CONGRESS



3-5 DEC 2015
HILTON HOTEL • SYDNEY
www.youthcancerevent.com.au @AYACongress

Call For Abstracts CLOSING FRIDAY 3 JULY 2015

Entitled Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology: Crossing boundaries and bringing it all together, the program will highlight the complex nature of treating and supporting young people with cancer aged 15-25 years and the importance of engaging both paediatric and adult colleagues in delivering a comprehensive, multidisciplinary model of care.

We are interested in abstracts for papers that explore best practice and emerging medical treatments, psychosocial care and survivorship, supportive care, innovative healthcare design and delivery and clinical research from within Australia and across the world.

Deadline: The deadline to submit abstracts is 5pm (AEST) 3rd July 2015.

Submission: To submit your abstract please visit the congress website & click on the abstract tab: www.youthcancerevent.com.au/congress/home

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

A/Prof Brandon Hayes-Lattin



Brandon Hayes-Lattin serves as the Senior Medical Advisor to the LIVESTRONG Foundation, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology & Medical Oncology at Oregon Health and Science University, and the Director of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute's Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Oncology Program. As a young adult cancer survivor himself, Dr. Hayes-Lattin has taken a leadership role in the development of the discipline of AYA Oncology.

A/Prof Brad Zebrack



Brad Zebrack is Associate Professor, University of Michigan School of Social Work, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Socio-Behavioral Program. Dr. Zebrack has clinical social work experience in both pediatric and adult oncology, and has been involved in the development of peer support/advocacy programs for adolescent and young adult cancer survivors.

Sue Morgan MBE



Sue is a Teenage Cancer Trust Nurse Consultant, working to develop services for AYAs. She is a member of several national and international groups that have been the pioneers in developing this field of practice. She is the founder of Teenage Cancer Trust's young persons annual conference - 'Find Your Sense of Tumour.'



For support & exhibition enquiries: ayacongress@chillfoxevents.com.au

www.youthcancerevent.com.au

 @AYACongress

Breast Cancer Group

I am honoured to present my first report as the incoming Chair of the COSA Breast Cancer Group. I understand the position has been vacant for some time now, since Andrew Spillane stepped down in 2011, so I expect I will be quite busy!

I have worked in clinical breast medicine for 26 years. I was a solo General Practitioner for 14 years prior to commencing training in Breast Medicine in 1989 at The Wesley Breast Clinic in Brisbane. In 1989 I was appointed Director of the Cairns Breast Clinic – a multidisciplinary clinic offering private diagnostic breast services and government breast screening to the women of Far North Queensland.

Since the clinic closed its doors six years ago I have worked as a Breast Physician. I have an appointment as mammographic reader and assessor for BreastScreen Cairns and Gold Coast and senior medical officer/Breast Physician at Cairns Base Hospital. I am the current President of The Australasian Society of Breast Physicians and also on the Executive of the Australasian Society of Breast Diseases (ASBD). All aspects of breast medicine continue to be my passion and I look forward to continuing to work in this area for as many years as I can!

Given my role with ASBD I plan to be a conduit for communication between COSA and the ASBD. Here's a little about what the ASBD has been doing recently.

On 28 February 2015 ASBD held a successful one day breast ultrasound course, the basic level which is accredited by BreastSurgANZ, The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons as basic training for breast surgeons. This was well attended and more courses will be run in the future.

Upcoming workshops and meetings for the ASBD include a strategic planning meeting in Sydney on Saturday 16 May.

Other activities include the ASBD Scientific Meeting at the Brisbane Convention Centre 15-17 September.

Articles of interest for the members of the COSA Breast Cancer Group can be found in excellent publications such as "The Breast Journal" and "The Breast" by Elsevier. These two publications incorporate excellent articles on breast screening and diagnostic imaging and all modalities of treatment of breast cancer and benign breast conditions. They are dedicated entirely to the topic of breast diseases and are both strongly recommended as reading material.

I attended my first COSA Council meeting in March and felt very welcomed by all the other Group Chairs. I was excited to learn that the 2016 COSA ASM will be held on the Gold Coast in partnership with the ANZBCTG with a focus on breast cancer. I hope this conference will provide opportunities for COSA to work more closely with ASBD and BreastSurgANZ.

Susan Fraser
Chair, Breast Cancer Group
susanefraser@optusnet.com.au

Cancer Care Coordination Group

The Group's Executive Committee and Working Parties have started discussions about the 2016 COSA Cancer Care Coordination Conference. We are looking forward to preparing an exciting, full program that will keep us abreast of the ever changing care coordination environment. We welcome any ideas you have about the program.

Liz Zwart has joined the Executive Committee and has taken on the role of Chair for the Conference and Professional Development Working Party. She is working with members of the working party to plan for additional educational activities for those with an interest in

care coordination. The Group is planning to host at least one interactive webinar including a 20 minute presentation with a 10 minute question/answer session. Topics are being derived from the input many of you provided at last year's COSA Cancer Care Coordination Conference.

In 2014, Cancer Council Victoria commissioned a systematic review of the literature of the impact of cancer care coordinators. The outcomes from the review were presented at the 2014 COSA ASM and a copy of the review's executive summary can be found at http://www.cancervic.org.au/downloads/VCOG/Resources/CCV_Executive_Summary_-_Review_of_Cancer_Care_Coordinator_-.pdf

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

Cancer Pharmacists Group

The end of 2014 and beginning of 2015 has continued to be busy for the CPG.

The COSA ASM in December was a great meeting with lots of interest for our members, congratulations goes to COSA and the organising committee for the meeting.

As previously the CPG were fortunate to be able to hold a pre-ASM Clinical Professional Day supported by the COSA.

2014 Clinical Professional Day - 1 December 2014, Melbourne

This day combined both clinical practice development with a number of presentations on areas of clinical practice, and professional development with presentations on pharmacy driven clinical research.

We were lucky to have Dr Mark Shackleton from the Melanoma Unit and Peter MacCallum to present on the advances in the treatment of melanoma, an area of great growth at present, this excellent session was completed with a talk from Dr Krissy Carrington looking at pharmacist perspective issues with these new therapies.

Dan McKavanagh and Geeta Sandhu provided an insight to how pharmacy can get involved in research, Geeta discussing work she is undertaking into the kinetics of chemotherapy in obese patients and Dan looking at how data can be used to compare institutional results against published data. Dan emphasised that collaboration between institutions provides depth of data and encouraged participants to get involved and talk to each other.

We had 40 pharmacists attend this day with great feedback.

Advanced Clinical Practice Seminar - November 2014

The CPG held our 3rd Advanced Clinical Practice Seminar in Melbourne in November, this weekend was well attended with more applications than places!

We were incredibly lucky to be able to secure some great medical and pharmacy speakers to cover a wide range of topics from thromboprophylaxis, communication, drug interactions, immunotherapy and haematology.

Our thanks goes to all our speakers, especially Dr Oliver Klein, Dr Kylie Mason and Dr Michael Franco, for their input, expertise and time.

The success of this seminar has led the CPG to offer it as an annual educational meeting for our members. The next seminar is planned for September 2015, and will be held in Melbourne.

Late 2014 / early 2015 also saw the CPG involved in the COSA submission to the senate enquiry into access to anti-cancer

therapies, we wait to hear the outcomes, but are hopeful that COSA and the other groups who gave submissions are heard by Senate.

Looking forward, 2015 is again shaping up to be a busy year for the CPG. We have finalised planning for our next foundation clinical skills seminar in Brisbane in May. This is a great weekend, with limited places available – for details see the website www.cosacpg.org.au

We look forward to meeting people at the upcoming events and in Hobart in November.

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

Clinical Trials Research Professionals Group

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

The CTRPG has had a busy 12 months behind the scenes welcoming new members and bidding farewell to a few of our key members on the Executive Committee who have embarked on new opportunities.

We thank the valuable support of the members of the Executive Committee who left us in 2014 – Sally Dean (Secretary), Calvary Mater and Anne Woollett, Barwon Health.

We are pleased to introduce a few new key Committee members to the Group:

Sophie Mepham (Deputy Chair), Peter MacCallum, Melbourne and Violet Mukaro, Barwon Health, Melbourne. The Group continues to welcome input or interest from members across Australia as we

work to ensure we have representatives from all States on the Committee.

The CTRPG spent much of last year working to further build on some key goals and ideas to better deliver opportunities to our members. As a group we felt the best way to develop new opportunities would be to ask our members what they wished for us to deliver. This was completed in the form of a short 15 question survey that was sent out to COSA members' mid-year. We were pleased to have the support of COSA with the processing, dissemination of the survey and the summarized results.

The survey results highlighted areas of interest which included networking opportunities, further education in the areas of quality assurance, ICH-GCP and regulatory updates. The results were encouraging for the CTRPG. It has given the group a strong foundation of ideas in line with our 2014/2015 Strategic Plan and has also given our Group a solid launch pad for our professional development opportunities and plans for 2015/2016.

Our Group has included in our new Strategic Plan the potential to offer a more interactive way of providing professional development opportunities in the way of webinars for training days or an online chat option for members to interact with us through the COSA site. The CTRPG will keep all of our members updated on these ideas and developments over the coming months.

We hope to do this by increasing our profile and our membership across Australia; we wish to see more members from more sites and greater participation in our training days and events.

That being said our biggest achievement for 2014 was certainly seeing an increase in interest in our Group with our membership rising from less than 30 to approximately 290 members. This was one of our key goals and the CTRPG are very proud with the increased numbers and interest in our Group.

The longer term plan and activities for CTRPG is to bring together as many clinical trials professionals as possible as we work towards common goals in each of our clinical trial centres around Australia.

The CTRPG is continually committed to achieving and promoting excellence in clinical cancer research by supporting research professionals through education, information, leadership, and networking opportunities.

We are striving to build on the data collected over the past 12 months and look forward to offering further networking opportunities and professional development in 2015.

Thank you again to all of our members for continued support throughout the year and please do get in touch with any of the CTRPG members if you are wishing to learn more about our Group or wish to be involved in our activities in any way.

CTRPG Members:

Sophie Mephram, Peter MacCallum CC, Melbourne (Deputy Chairperson) Jill Davison, Peter MacCallum CC, Melbourne (Secretary) Dianne Lindsay, ANZBCTG, Newcastle Annette Cubitt, Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital Violet Mukaro, Barwon Health, Melbourne

Hema Rajandram-Maurel
Chair, Clinical Trials Research
Professionals Group
Hema.Rajandran-Maurel@health.wa.gov.au

Complementary and Integrative Therapies Group

2014 ASM

Several integrative oncology related presentations were given at the Melbourne ASM that generated considerable interest.

All abstracts are available at:
<http://cosa-2014.p.asnevents.com.au/>

We were delighted to have four invited presentations by invited keynote speaker Donald Abrams MD, integrative oncologist, University of California, San Francisco and the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine on topics such as evidence based integrative oncology, the rational use of supplements and medicinal cannabis in the cancer and palliative care setting. Slides are available by email to Paul Katris; pkatris@cancerwa.asn.au.

Possible COSA Inter-Group Collaborations

At the ASM members of COSA Cancer Pharmacists Group gave presentations on the use of nutritional supplements. Given that this is a key aspect of the field of integrative oncology in 2015 plans to explore intergroup collaboration opportunities that could lead to the development of an evidence based guide to the use of supplements by patients undergoing active cancer treatments and those living with cancer.

New articles of interest

"Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Use of Integrative Therapies as Supportive Care in Patients Treated for Breast Cancer as Supportive Care in Patients Treated for Breast Cancer".

The Society of Integrative Oncology have released guidelines addressing the use of integrative/complementary therapies in breast cancer. These guidelines set forth the appropriate use of a broad range of non-pharmacologic treatments, including meditation, yoga, music therapy, acupuncture, relaxation therapy, and more. They outline their use to control symptoms such as stress, sleep disorders, pain, neuropathy, chemotherapy-induced side effects, and others that impact on cancer patients.

The full published paper is available at www.integrativeonc.org

New Executive Committee Members

We welcome two new members to the CIT Executive Group.

Susanne Brooks – is Nursing Unit Manager Cancer Services, Northern NSW Local Health District, Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, Byron Bay Hospitals. Susann brings a senior nursing perspective and a regional setting perspective to the group.

Assoc. Prof Justin Keogh, from Bond University who is an exercise and sport scientist whose teaching and research spans the areas of biomechanics, motor control and learning as well as strength and conditioning.

Paul Katris
Chair, Complementary and Integrative Therapies Group
PKatris@cancerwa.asn.au

Epidemiology Group

The Epidemiology Group is starting 2015 with a new Chair, Brett Doble. After a few years without a chair the group has been relatively quiet. Brett hopes to change this with a renewed presence within the group's online portal (<https://www.cosa.org.au/groups/epidemiology/about.aspx>). This online portal will be updated with recent information and links of potential interest to group members. Brett also hopes to provide a monthly commentary on a paper of interest to the group with the hope of facilitating more interaction among the group members.

To expand the group's membership and provide perspective on an important area of cancer research, Brett would like to propose expanding the title of the group to encompass the field of health

economics alongside epidemiology. These two disciplines are complementary and are likely to appeal to additional COSA members interested in topics such as the cost of cancer care as well as access to and priority setting for innovative, expensive targeted therapies.

The group is also interested in hearing from group members interested in contributing to the group's online portal. This may be in the form of suggestions for resources/links to be posted, interest in authoring a commentary on a paper of interest to the group, or events/meetings/conferences that may be of interest to members.

Hopefully, 2015 will be the start of a revived interest in the COSA Epidemiology Group. Future plans for the group include the development of a short course related to epidemiological and health economic data analysis techniques for linked datasets in cancer. The group is interested in hearing from anyone keen to be involved and willing to share their expertise in facilitating an expanded interest in epidemiology and health economics research in oncology.

All the best,

Brett Doble
Chair, Epidemiology Group
brett.doble@monash.edu

Familial Cancer Group

2015 has seen a number of changes to the Familial Cancer Group Executive Committee. I (Nicholas Pachter) have taken over as Chair of the Familial Cancer Group. Many thanks to Nicola Poplawski who has stepped down as Chair, but will continue to serve on the committee.

It was also with great sadness that the committee accepted the resignation of Gillian Mitchell who has stepped down due to geographic distance; her relocation to Vancouver now being permanent. Gillian has been a long-serving member of the

committee and former Chair. We will miss her tireless dedication to the Familial Cancer Group.

Cliff Meldrum has also stepped down as the molecular pathology representative on the committee. Andrew Fellowes has accepted a nomination to join as the molecular pathology representative on the committee.

Our plans for 2015 are as follows:

We are currently organizing the 2015 COSA/Human Genetics Society of Australia (HGSA) Familial Cancer Clinics Clinical Professional Day to be held on Tuesday 25th August 2015, at the Mantra Resort, Kingscliff, NSW. Proposed sessions include: Chemoprevention/risk-reducing medication for patients at increased risk of cancer, Genomic issues in Genetic Counselling, Genetics of Endocrine Neoplasias and the Surgical Prevention of Breast Cancer. The FCC CPD always proves to be an informative and clinically relevant meeting to those working in the area of Familial Cancer. However, all COSA members are welcome to attend.

We also intend to contribute topics and speakers to the COSA ASM held later this year in Hobart. With the theme being Rare Cancers, we are particularly keen to be involved as all Familial Cancer syndromes are considered rare.

Other projects include, developing and actioning a national consensus for routine immunohistochemistry (IHC) for mismatch repair (MMR) proteins in colorectal cancer to detect Lynch syndrome. Goals for 2015 include the drafting of a combined COSA/RCPA position statement endorsing routine MMR IHC testing for all newly diagnosed colorectal cancer and consulting with relevant groups in the RCPA to make MMR IHC testing mandatory on the synoptic histopathology reporting of colorectal cancer.

The Familial Cancer Group is also working on the development of a prescribing aid for

the medical prevention of cancer.

Let's hope that 2015 is a productive year!

Nick Pachter
Chair, Familial Cancer Group
Nicholas.Pachter@health.wa.gov.au

Neuro-Oncology Group

The neuro-oncology community continues to strengthen both nationally and also harness links with international partners and collaborators, especially regarding clinical trials research.

The diverse membership of COGNO, the Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology, continues to grow, now standing at 426, an excellent result for a relatively niche community of health professionals and consumer advocates. COGNO is hosting its second annual Ideas Generation Workshop on Friday 27 March in Sydney, designed to stimulate the development of new concepts and trials research.

Other upcoming 2015 events include the NSW Brain Tumour Support and Education Forum, to be held at the Menzies Hotel, Sydney on Friday 8 May.

COGNO will be holding its 8th Annual Scientific Meeting, from 23-24 October 2015 in Brisbane hosted by Radiation Oncologist Dr Cecelia Gzell as the Convenor, and 2 confirmed international guest speakers, Prof Martin J Van Den Bent and Prof Kenneth D Aldape.

We look forward to an eventful, dynamic 2015 in advancing care and research relating to brain tumours.

Best wishes,

**Dr Eng-Siew Koh - Chair, and Associate
Professor Kate Drummond - Deputy
Chair**
Neuro-Oncology Group
eng-siew.koh@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Nutrition Group

The Nutrition group wholeheartedly thanks our inaugural Chair, A/Professor Judy Bauer for her leadership and contribution to the group over the past six years. Judy has been an inspiration and the group has flourished under her guidance.

The 2014 COSA ASM was highly successful for the Nutrition Group, largely due to the tireless work of Dr Anna Boltong on the conference organising committee and the exciting Clinical Professional Day – Targeting Malnutrition in the Cancer Setting. The Nutrition session chaired by Dr Boltong focused on the largely under researched area of nutrition and lung cancer and featured a presentation from international speaker Dr Thomas Jagoe on the science of cachexia. It was wonderful to see an array of oral and poster presentations addressing nutrition in the cancer setting. Congratulations go to Kathryn Marshall for winning the highly competitive best of the best oral for supportive care for her presentation ‘Addressing malnutrition in Victorian Cancer Services: Are we making a difference?’



The groups Clinical Professional Day presented the work undertaken as part of the Victorian Department of Health funded project ‘Investigating malnutrition in Victorian Cancer Services.’ A highlight of the day was gaining an international perspective on malnutrition from Dr Thomas Jagoe who kindly attended despite significant jetlag having just arrived in Melbourne that morning! The workshop also featured local improvement initiatives undertaken within Victorian health services

to address cancer malnutrition as well as the following state-wide projects:

Cancer Malnutrition E-learning package

This e-learning package, led by the Peter Mac Nutrition Department, is designed to improve the awareness, recognition and understanding of cancer malnutrition among clinicians working with cancer patients. The package contains a number of modules featuring patient videos and clinician experiences and is now available at eviQEd: <https://www.eviq.org.au/eviQEd/MalnutritioninCancer.aspx>



Malnutrition Governance toolkit

This toolkit, led by the St Vincent’s Hospital Nutrition Department is designed to reduce variation in provision of nutrition care to malnourished patients with cancer. The toolkit contains information about key performance indicators, effective governance practices and models of nutrition care and will be available soon via the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website.

Nicole Kiss
Chair, COSA Nutrition Group
Nicole.Kiss@petermac.org



Regional and Rural Group

On the 31 October 2014 the Regional and Rural Group hosted the inaugural meeting of the Network of Directors and Clinical Leads of Regional Cancer Centres. The formation of a network of directors and clinical leads of Regional Cancer Centres was a recommendation from the 2012 COSA Regional and Rural Workshop. It was identified as a key enabler and mechanism to drive forward improvements in cancer care for patients in regional and rural Australia.

The aims and objectives of the network are:

- To facilitate communication, collaboration and linkages between Regional Cancer Centres
- To foster enhanced linkages between regional and rural cancer services and metropolitan cancer services
- To identify issues of regional and rural cancer services including but not limited to:
 - o Workforce issues
 - o Training and education
 - o Enhancing rural research and developing shared databases
 - o Models of service care and innovation
- To plan and advocate for improvements in cancer services for regional and rural patients
- To advise COSA Regional and Rural Group Executive Committee on regional and rural issues

The full day meeting was held at COSA and featured presentations by members of the Executive Committee followed by group discussion on the following topics; Past and Present – Where we were and where we are now, Workforce Issues – attraction and retention, Models of Care and Innovations, Training and Education and Research and Databases.

A surprise guest Rosemary Knight who was until recently the Senior Advisor to the Commonwealth Government for cancer also updated the network on some key pieces of work affecting regional and rural cancer care arising from the National Cancer Expert Reference Group.

In 2015 four working groups will be convened to continue work on the recommendations arising from this very successful meeting focusing on the 4 priority areas presented during the day.

Another exciting project initiated since our last Marryalyan report is the development of Teleoncology guidelines. A multidisciplinary working group with experience and expertise in Teleoncology has begun work on these guidelines which will be launched at the COSA ASM in 2015.

If you would like more information about any of these projects please don't hesitate to contact me or Chantal Gebbie, COSA project coordinator
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Sabe Sabesan
Chair, Regional and Rural Group
sabe.sabesan@health.qld.gov.au

Survivorship Group

It has been a busy time in the world of cancer survivorship over the past few months. Three conferences with a focus on cancer survivorship, workshops, symposia, and lots of enthusiastic discussions have filled these past months. Sadly, we said goodbye to Abby Zaat, who had been replacing Hayley Griffin during her maternity leave. Abby very ably supported our work, particularly the Model of Care Workshop discussed below. Our sincere thanks to Abby for all her work!

Models of Survivorship Care Working Workshop

The models working group is very grateful for the time individuals and organisations have taken to comment on the draft Survivorship Model of Care circulated in the later part of 2014. In summary, the feedback was supportive of the model, felt that it covered the needs of survivors in Australia but was not without challenges to implement.

The Model of care workshop was held 1 December 2014 just prior to the COSA ASM. More than 100 enthusiastic delegates were present, all bringing their expertise and passion for improving the care of cancer survivors along to the workshop. Further discussion about the model of care based on the feedback followed and a series of working groups discussed strategies to address some of the key barriers to implementation of the model.

Key messages from this workshop included:

- the commitment to refining and implementing the model of care within the survivorship workforce;
- the importance of advocacy, particularly from consumers and the broader community, in implementing policy change;
- the need to develop robust measurement tools for survivorship outcomes;
- how survivorship care plans fit into follow-up care;
- where the non-government and community sector has a role to play;
- the need for large-scale research studies in survivorship to generate evidence and then to implement it.

A report from this workshop is nearing completion and will be circulated to the membership within the next few weeks. The model of care was recently endorsed by COSA Council and it is now available on the website.

Model of care launched at the Flinders Cancer Survivorship Conference

The Flinders Cancer Survivorship Conference, held in Adelaide, offered a wonderful opportunity to launch the model of survivorship care to an audience of cancer consumers, advocates, clinicians, policymakers, and researchers. It was launched at the culmination of two plenary sessions discussing different approaches to survivorship care, including shared care models, integrated electronic monitoring systems, amongst other developments. The model generated a high level of interest amongst participants, with positive feedback about the comprehensiveness of the model and its recognition of all relevant service sectors. There were some discussions and differences of opinions regarding definition of survivorship, not surprising given the continuing debate about this across the cancer community.

COSA ASM & UICC International Cancer Congress 2014

With the COSA ASM themed around survivorship there was so much high quality content to hear and digest. It was heartening to see such diversity and depth in the approaches people are taking to improving care for cancer survivors. Of particular interest were the presentations from Mary McCabe, an inspiration to anyone grappling with how to change the system to deliver better survivorship care. Shared experiences from three centres providing complementary care for cancer survivors provided a fascinating insight into how these services could be safely be incorporated into clinical services.

The International Cancer Congress followed on with a wonderful array of symposia detailing novel approaches to improving health outcomes in cancer survivors. The exercise and cancer symposium was keenly attended with vigorous discussion about exercise versus

physical activity as concepts, the critical components of an effective exercise program and much more. A fascinating symposium led by Annie Miller emphasised the work of non-government organisations and their contribution across the spectrum of cancer survivorship.

FCIC Survivorship Conference

This third conference is a unique and seamless blend of cancer consumers, advocates, clinicians, policymakers, service providers, and researchers. It offered a rare opportunity to consider all aspects of the cancer survivorship experience, with some wonderful presentations from consumers regarding gaps in services and knowledge. It was heartening to see how much progress has been made in piloting alternative models of care, with substantial knowledge shared about the barriers and facilitators to success in this work. There is so much to be done, and Australia is lucky to have a dedicated workforce, confident active consumers and the will to change the system.

Haryana Dhillon


Chair, Survivorship Group

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Urologic Oncology Group

Activity within the COSA Urologic Oncology group has been quiet during 2014 as most activity has occurred through ANZUP Cancer Trials Group (ANZUP), reported separately.

The Urologic Oncology Group was formed in 2006 to considerable enthusiasm and was highly active for several years. ANZUP was subsequently formed and it appears that many of the needs of COSA Urologic Oncology Group members are met by ANZUP, which is an Affiliated Organisation of COSA with representation on COSA



Cancer and sex.

These are two words not typically associated together. Unfortunately, after cancer treatment can negatively impact sexual wellbeing for cancer survivors and their partners. *Rekindle* can help get your sex life back on track. *Rekindle* is a web-based resource for ALL cancer survivors and their partners of all genders and sexual orientations. *Rekindle* teaches proven strategies to enhance sexual wellbeing and answers many of the questions survivors are left with after treatment. Rekindle can be accessed on a computer, tablet or smart phone in the privacy of their home 24/7.

To sign up or find out more visit rekindleonline.org.au or call 1300 85 44 37.

Council. The Urologic Oncology Group continues as a COSA group but a quorum has not been available at the group Annual General Meeting since 2011. Discussions will be held during 2015 as to whether the Group should continue within COSA or be wound up and its activities and Council representation transferred to ANZUP.

Some aspects of the COSA Urologic Oncology Group cannot be met by ANZUP and there is still a need for members to be part of COSA in order to meet these needs. For example, ANZUP cannot play an advocacy role, and ANZUP is not able to bring other disease-focused specialties together with us, as COSA can. Urologic Oncology Group members will need to consider how their needs and interests can

best be met and represented by COSA in the event that the Group is wound up and that genitourinary cancers are represented on Council by ANZUP. Part of this process was a call for members to nominate for Group chair or other executive positions. Please consider if this is something that you feel you could or should take on.

Ian Davis

Chair, Urologic Oncology Group

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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 efforts:

First-ever national GI Cancer Awareness Week, 27 April – 3 May 2015

Australia's first-ever National GI Cancer Awareness Week will be launched on April 27, to highlight the impact of gastrointestinal cancers and the need for more research funding.

The theme of the week will be "Here today. Here tomorrow. Clinical trials save lives."

New analysis of data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows GI cancers are causing over 12,000 deaths a year – 33 a day, around half of Australia's total cancer mortality. This is not reflected in the level of research funding – GI cancer research remains poorly funded in comparison to its impact on mortality.

GI Cancer Awareness Week will include Engage Community Forums on GI Cancer in Melbourne (April 28) and Sydney North (April 30), featuring clinicians, researchers, survivors and supporters sharing latest research and experiences.

Following the success of the Engage Forums in metro centres in 2013-14, the first regional Engage Forum was held on March 10 in Bundaberg, Wide Bay

Queensland, with 100 locals turning out for the event.

New GIST trial opens first Australian sites

AGITG's clinical trial ALT-GIST, on treatments of the rare and elusive Gastro-Intestinal Stromal Tumour (GIST) has opened its first Australian site, in Canberra.



The trial, chaired by Associate Professor Desmond Yip (pictured) of The Canberra Hospital and Australian

National University Medical School, aims to open ten Australian sites and recruit 30 Australian patients among 240 worldwide.

GIST cancers are rare, estimated to cause between 0.1% and 3% of GI cancer malignancies in Australia. Their incidence peaks among people in their fifties and sixties, the progress and symptoms of the illness varying widely.

ALT-GIST has been developed by the AGITG with the Scandinavian Sarcoma Group and will be co-ordinated in Europe in collaboration with the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer. The trial is funded by Bayer.

The prospective, open-label phase II trial will assess imatinib alternating with regorafenib compared with imatinib alone for first-line treatment of advanced GIST.

Gastric cancer trial promises progress

The AGITG has announced initial presentation of positive results of its multinational gastric cancer trial INTEGRATE, led by the group together with colleagues from Korea and Canada.

The major outcomes will be announced in the coming months.



The study, chaired by Associate Professor Nick Pavlakis (pictured) of the Royal North Shore Hospital and University of Sydney Medical School, involved recruitment of 152 patients across 54 centres in four countries - to test the potential of the drug regorafenib as a possible treatment for Advanced Oesophago-Gastric Cancer who have relapsed after chemotherapy.

In Australia, there are around 3,400 new cases a year – and rising – of cancers arising from the junction between the oesophagus and stomach and the stomach itself. Around 2,400 people a year die from these cancers. New treatment options are urgently needed because when surgery and chemotherapy fail, no other proven effective treatments are available.

AGITG awards invest in researchers

The AGITG continues to enhance the future of GI cancer research through awards and grants to leading researchers. These include:

- **Pilot and translational research grant:** A new discretionary annual award of up to \$100,000 a year to encourage the design and conduct of new AGITG studies.

- **Kristian Anderson Award:** To support a clinician undertaking a higher degree researching an aspect of personalised medicine in the area of colorectal cancer. The award, made every two years, will provide one year's funding at an equivalent level to NHMRC support.
- **The John Zalberg OAM Award:** For Excellence in AGITG Clinical Trials Research over a long period. The annual award was launched in honour of AGITG co-founder and chair until May 2014, Professor John Zalberg OAM.

Gutsy fund-raising assault on African peak

A "Gutsy Challenge" team organised by AGITG's community division the GI Cancer Institute will take fund-raising to new heights, scaling Mt Kilimanjaro in November to raise money for AGITG clinical trials. The team is seeking more participants to join the adventure. 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 GI Cancer Institute at gicancer.org.au highlights fundraising activities towards this research, and works to increase public awareness.

Tim Price
Chairperson, AGITG

Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group



In a very exciting new development the ALLG is currently rolling out an electronic data collection (eDC) system. There are many advantages to eDC. The ALLG Trial Centre staff will be able to control database design and validations checks, rather than relying upon external contractors. It will also streamline processes for data management with savings in resources compared to paper-based methods. Digital systems mean improved data quality as many validation checks are programmed into the database. This means a reduction in data query rates as many queries are resolved in real time.

We anticipate that an eDC approach will contribute to long-term strategic goals of the ALLG Trial Centre, including more timely access to data for analyses specified in the protocol and preparation of a library of validated 'reuseable' eCRFs and eDC, thereby reducing trial set up times. With an improved technological base, we will be able to expand collection of patient reported outcome and health economics in ALLG clinical trials. In the wider perspective, the new system is expected to assist with attraction of further high quality clinical trials and registries, and international collaborations.

Over the last year, various systems have been assessed for useability, cost, licensing and support. The chosen system is XClinical. One important feature of this system is the collection of C-DASH and C-DISC compliant data which constitutes consistent data collection fields across the entire clinical trial industry. This feature can

better support meta analysis, and allows for some reuse of the programming required to prepare datasets for statistical analysis.

eCRF builds will be chiefly undertaken by Sri Joshi, the Trial Centre data manager, with review of the elements included by the trial statistician, CRA and Chief Investigator/s. The first trial to open on eCRF is expected to be CLL07 in April this year, and will enrol 120 patients over three years. This important randomised trial will benefit elderly patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia. Once the system is operational, a training module will be available to sites participating in trials with eCRF and support will be available through a helpdesk.

As part of an ongoing joint initiative between Lymphoma Australia and the ALLG, international lymphoma experts Prof Gilles Salles (France) and Prof Mathias Rummel (Germany) were welcomed to Australia by hundreds of patients and carers at Concord Hospital, Sydney in February. The event ensured the lymphoma community from across Australia had access via a live webcast with an additional 300 plus participants listening and asking questions.



Participants from the lymphoma education day - Prof Gilles Salles (third from left), and three ALLG members and PIs of the ALLG NHL27 RELEVANCE trial: Dr Emma Verner (second left), Assoc Prof Judith Trotman (4th left) and Dr Jane Estell (far right). They are shown together with 3 patients from this study.

Prof Salles clearly explained the role of clinical trials and new therapies available in France and overseas. Prof Rummel entertained the audience with his version of how Bendamustine fits in to the saying "best thing since sliced bread". ALLG member Assoc Prof Judith Trotman



highlighted the need for Australian patients to better understand the value of clinical trials and how there is hope even after a relapse.

The breakout sessions in the afternoon allowed attendees to ask specific questions in relation to their subtype and a lively "On the Couch" session concluded a very informative and inspirational day. The feedback from patients shows they found the event outstanding.

Some patient comments:

"What a privilege to have access to the knowledge of world experts plus top doctors from Australia."

"It's brilliant to be able to participate online. The calibre of speakers is exceptional and the information delivered regarding new treatments and clinical trials very encouraging"

"I only thought I would watch a few things but I ended up watching the whole event. To see the keynote speakers and their interactions with the audience was just so down to earth that I couldn't turn it off."

"It was really helpful to watch and listen from the comfort of home, I feel empowered with knowledge."

"The speakers that you had were so powerful in terms of giving us such great information. I loved the way they made us laugh and cry."

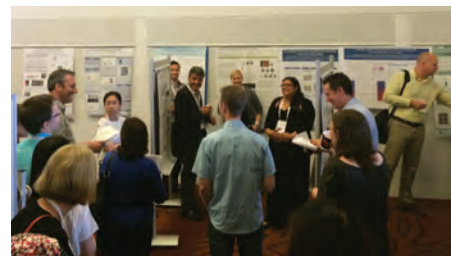
"What a wonderful event at Concord today. We can't thank these doctors enough!!"

Mark Hertzberg
Chairman, ALLG Scientific Advisory Committee

Australasian Metastasis Research Society

OzMRS – The Australasian Chapter of the International Metastasis Research Society

Our major activity since the last update was the OzMRS–CTx Metastasis Workshop that we held on Monday Dec 1, in conjunction with COSA ASM 2014. We had 81 registrants for this one-day meeting – almost equivalent to our full membership. We covered both the clinical and more basic aspects of metastatic disease across a range of cancer types, aiming 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. Each of the three oral sessions were launched by a clinician: Dr. Normand Laperriere (Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, Canada, from the main COSA meeting) talking about treatment of brain metastases, Dr. Ian Vela (Princess Alexander Hospital and QUT, Brisbane) covering the topic of circulating tumour cells in prostate cancer, and Dr. Elgene Lim (Olivia Newton John Centre for Wellness and Cancer, Melbourne) speaking on endocrine resistant breast cancers. Each clinical talk was followed by short talks from several OzMRS members. The final innovative session was an interactive poster discussion session where some 30 presenters across 3 themes delivered a 1 minute summary and fielded questions from the roving audience, which was very effective and fun. It was an excellent meeting, and congratulations and thanks to Robin Anderson, who convened it, and the OzMRS Committee for all their efforts to bring it off.



The symposium was generously sponsored by the Cooperative Research Centre for Cancer Therapeutics (CTx), Melanoma Patients Australia, La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science, Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia, and Clearbridge Biomedics, Singapore, and we very gratefully acknowledge their kind support.

OzMRS has continued to develop and we currently have 94 members, with representation largely from Victoria (38) and Queensland (36), but also NSW (14), South Australia (5) and NZ (1). We continue to look for membership across other states, so please encourage your colleagues to join. The December meeting at COSA also saw our Inaugural 'AGM', since until now, we have had a local committee made up of International MRS members who assisted in the development of the program for the 2012 International MRS Congress in Brisbane. At our recent AGM we agreed to organize an election of a formal committee (of 12 members), prioritizing representation from each state. Our founding committee comprises Elizabeth Williams (QLD), Belinda Parker (VIC), John Price (VIC), Sarah Baird (NZ), Kevin Spring (NSW), Mark Waltham (VIC), Carmela Ricciardelli (SA), Maree Bilandzic (VIC), Adrian Weigmans (QLD), Kelly Avery-Kiejda (NSW) and Andreas Evdokiou (SA).

It was decided to have a major OzMRS meeting and AGM every two years, alternating with MRS international meeting,

our next major OzMRS meeting and AGM to be in 2017. This is to allow forward planning for attendance at MRS, and sufficient timeline to approach sponsors for our major biennial meetings. It was envisaged that this would be annexed to other appropriate events, especially those that are bringing international visitors to Australasia. It is envisaged that other OzMRS Symposia / Workshops, etc., may also occur as the opportunities arise; e.g. in association with TEMTIA-VII, October 11-15, Melbourne, in association with upcoming COSA meetings, and whenever there is an opportunity of interest to our members.

Recommendations of articles of interest to members

The following recent reviews describing aspects of metastasis research have been published by the OzMRS members:

LM McInnes, N Jacobson, A Redfern, A Dowling, EW Thompson, and CM Saunders. (2015). *Clinical implications of circulating tumor cells of breast cancer patients: role of epithelial-mesenchymal plasticity*. *Front Oncol.* 2015; 5: 42.

M Nouri, E Ratther, N Stylianou, CC Nelson, BG Hollier, and ED Williams. *Androgen-targeted therapy-induced epithelial mesenchymal plasticity and neuroendocrine transdifferentiation in prostate cancer: an opportunity for intervention*. *Front Oncol.* 2014;4:370

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Australia & New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group



2015 ANZBCTG Annual Scientific Meeting

The 37th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Australia and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG) will be held in Perth, Western Australia, from 22-24 July 2015 at the Pan Pacific Perth.

The ANZBCTG is the largest independent, oncology clinical trials research group in Australia and New Zealand. For more than 35 years, the ANZBCTG has conducted clinical trials research for the treatment, prevention and cure of breast cancer.

The research program involves multicentre national and international clinical trials and brings together over 700 researchers in 87 institutions throughout Australia and New Zealand. The ANZBCTG has contributed to more than 900 peer reviewed publications and more than 14,000 women have participated in ANZBCTG clinical trials.

The 2015 ASM will host a number of internationally renowned guest speakers and eminent ANZBCTG researchers. International speakers include: Professor Jack Cuzick, Professor Karen Gelmon, Associate Professor Amit Goyal, Professor Linda Vahdat and Professor John Yarnold. Delegates include leading Australian and New Zealand medical practitioners and clinicians, and clinical trials management personnel.

The full and extensive program will include two days of scientific sessions covering timely reviews of breast cancer clinical trials, discussion of new protocols, future

clinical trials research and other research developments.

For more information about the ASM, or to register, visit www.anzbctg2015.org. To contact the ASM secretariat, email asm@anzbctg.org or phone 02 4925 5255.

Mother's Day Research Appeal

The ANZBCTG's fundraising department is the Breast Cancer Institute of Australia (BCIA) and they recently launched the annual Mother's Day Research Appeal. The community is encouraged to make a donation to breast cancer clinical trials research in lieu of, or in addition to, a gift for their mum on Mother's Day. Donors can choose from either an animated Mother's Day e-card or a traditional card for their mum or someone special which acknowledges their special gift. It's the perfect gift to give (and receive) for Mother's Day. To make your donation, visit www.bcia.org.au or call 1800 423 444.

Fran Boyle AM
Chair, ANZBCTG

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Australian & New Zealand Childrens Haematology Oncology Group



Australian & New Zealand
Childrens Haematology/Oncology Group

Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology and Oncology Group (ANZCHOG) is continuing to strengthen and grow, supported by Cancer Australia's Support for Cancer Clinical Trials Program. This funding has been instrumental in facilitating the development of Australian-led trial concepts and involvement in international trials, which combined with a range of other ANZCHOG initiatives will enable us to improve our treatment and care for children with cancer and their families.

ANZCHOG's 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting

We are looking forward to ANZCHOG's 2015 ASM to be held in Fremantle, 18-20 June 2015. An exciting program has been developed by our Local Organising Committee around the theme "Difficult Diseases, Difficult Situations". In addition to workshops and presentations from top paediatric oncology researchers and health professionals from Australia and New Zealand, a number of distinguished international keynote speakers will be attending. A copy of the meeting program can be found here: <http://www.anzchogmeeting.org/index.php>

Clinical trial news

ANZCHOG is currently working with

several international cooperative clinical trials groups to boost the number of trials sponsored locally in Australia and New Zealand. We have been actively working with the European leukaemia and lymphoma consortium, International Berlin Frankfurt Munster (I-BFM) Study Group and Children's Oncology Group (COG; USA) to ensure our access and participation in global trials. Recently, two ANZCHOG-sponsored trials (IntReALL Standard Risk Relapsed ALL 2010 and ALL SCTped 2012 FORUM (For Omitting Radiation Under Majority Age)) have opened at children's cancer centres across Australia and New Zealand – both studies have the potential to significantly change treatment practices for these patients.

ANZCHOG Clinical Trial and Research Initiatives

ANZCHOG continues to build the capacity for our members to undertake research and clinical trials through a range of initiatives. ANZCHOG has developed a clinical research support program, awarding funding and support for researchers to collaborate, develop trial concepts and participate in international trial development. In addition, ANZCHOG acknowledges the broad scope of research interests within our membership, and is building a portfolio of diverse projects that will continue to improve the way we treat and care for our children. We have been delighted to establish a new collaboration with CanTeen offering funding through the 2015 Concept Validation Scheme to enable researchers to develop and generate essential preliminary data to guide the development of clinical trials for paediatric, adolescent and young adults.

Member support and development

ANZCHOG continues to support our members to undertake a range of professional development opportunities. We have funded members to undertake the Specialist Certificate in Clinical

Research (Oncology) and to attend ANZCHOG's ASM. In partnership with UCLH (London) we have a joint ANZCHOG/UCLH clinical fellowship in paediatric & adolescent haematology. In addition, ANZCHOG supports our members to develop their trial development skills through attending workshops hosted by Cancer Research Economics Support Team and Cancer Australia's Chair in Quality of Life.

It is a great time to be involved with ANZCHOG – particularly as membership is free!

Please visit our website at <http://www.anzchog.org/> for more information about ANZCHOG.

Chris Fraser
Chair, ANZCHOG

Australian and New Zealand Head & Neck Cancer Society



World Congress on Larynx Cancer 2015

26 – 30 July 2015

Cairns Convention Centre,
Cairns, Queensland

Hosted by the Australian and New Zealand Head & Neck Cancer Society, the World Congress on Larynx Cancer 2015 will include over 150 local and international faculty members. The congress is designed for health professionals involved in the care of patients with larynx cancer,

not only at presentation, but also in the years afterwards.

Larynx Cancer whilst declining in frequency in the western world is still a major problem in the developing world. The increasing and ageing population however is such that larynx cancer is going to be with us for many years. Considerable progress has been made in managing this malignancy since the last World Congress in 1994. Laser resection is an accepted modality, with surgical resection performed robotically now attracting considerable interest. Radiotherapy remains a major component of treatment approaches around the world, increasingly used with added chemotherapy/biological agents, be it prior to and/or during the treatment. It is however well recognised now that preservation of an anatomical larynx doesn't necessarily relate to the retention of a functioning larynx.

The theme of this World Congress will be to cover the aspects of improvement in our management, define those components where the progress has been minimal, and focus strongly on the functional aspects of the patients we treat. Do these patients cope adequately with speech and swallowing post treatment?

To mark the inaugural World Head and Neck Cancer Day on Tuesday 27 July, a session led by Professor Jatin Shah of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies will be held.

Early registration fees apply until Sunday 14 June 2015. To view the provisional program and to register for the congress, please visit the website – www.wclc2015.org

**Associate Professor Robert Smee AM,
FRANZCR - Convener**

**Associate Professor Carsten Palme
FRACS - Co-Convener**

Australian and New Zealand Urogenital & Prostate Cancer Trials Group



Once again 2014 was an eventful year for genitourinary cancers. The treatment landscape for several malignancies relevant to ANZUP continues to change rapidly. Abiraterone and enzalutamide are now available on the PBS for castrate-resistant prostate cancer. Everolimus is reimbursed as second-line therapy for renal cell carcinoma. There are indications that axitinib and sorafenib might also be reimbursed soon. The challenge will now be to make rational decisions on treatment selection and sequencing.

ANZUP continues to lead the way in investigator-driven research in genitourinary cancers across Australia and New Zealand and is now taking on a similar role internationally. ANZUP has trials active in prostate, renal, urothelial and testicular cancers. The ANZUP phase III accelerated BEP trial (Principal Investigator: Peter Grimison) is now open in Australia with Cancer Australia funding and will soon open internationally. The mitomycin/BCG non-muscle-invasive trial (Dickon Hayne), similarly funded, is open across Australia. The international ENZARAD and ENZAMET trials, initiated in March 2014, are recruiting well in Australia and now New Zealand, and have begun recruitment in Ireland with the UK, Canada and Dana Farber to follow soon and hopefully movement into other sites in Europe. ANZUP will also collaborate with NCIC CTC in a second

line trial in urothelial cancer. The "Pain Free TRUS B" trial received funding support from Cancer Australia and Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia to begin recruitment in 2015 and work is well underway to support that.

ANZUP continues to grow and to refresh itself. At the time of writing membership stood at over 820 and is still growing. The membership of the Scientific Advisory Committee was reviewed by the Board and appointments made or renewed on the basis of nominations by relevant special societies or Colleges. Our subcommittees continue to be vigorous and productive. The Annual Scientific Meeting in July ratified amendments to the Constitution allowing appointment of a New Zealand director and we are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Nick Buchan to this role. We are also pleased to welcome Ray Chan to the Scientific Advisory Committee representing the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia. Sadly we must say goodbye to Mei Krishnasamy from that role: she has been a fantastic contributor and she now takes up a fairly important role in another Society we all know well!

The Annual Scientific Meeting is now established as the pre-eminent multidisciplinary scientific meeting specifically for genitourinary cancers in Australia and New Zealand. The 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Sydney at the Sofitel on 12-14 July 2015. The theme is "Redefining Personalised Medicine" tailoring treatment encompassing prevention, diagnosis, prognosis and psychological support for the individual. This will provide our multidisciplinary members with an opportunity to present their research, learn about our new and existing ANZUP trials as well as the most up to date cancer management in GU cancers to help us meet the challenges of the future. A convening committee is already active under the leadership of convener Venu Chalasani. Confirmed international

speakers are Chris Sweeney, Brian Rini, Ted DeWeese and Bertrand Tombal, with others also to be invited. The Masterclass, CAP education session and Community Engagement Forum will all once again be run and the meeting overall is not to be missed. Registration opened 19 January. Early Bird closes 7 May. The call for abstracts closed 1 April 2015.

ANZUP has also continued to grow its profile in the community including fundraising strategies. The inaugural "Below the Belt Pedalthon" was held at Sydney Motor Sport, Eastern Creek on Tuesday 16 September. 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 was highly successful both in terms of fundraising but, more importantly, in raising the profile of the diseases and also of clinical research. Thanks go to Simon for his amazing vision and energy, as well as our key sponsors and the many individuals and organisations who contributed so generously. The Pedalthon will be held again on Tuesday 1 September at Eastern Creek (<http://www.belowthebeltpedalthon.org.au/>).

ANZUP's consumer magazine "A little below the belt" was launched in 2014. This publication provides the community with accessible and accurate information on the work ANZUP is involved. The magazine is available at <http://www.anzup.org.au/content.aspx?page=newsletter>.

The inaugural Tolmar/ ANZUP Uro-Oncology Clinical Research Fellowship (CRF) was awarded to Dr Ben Tran in September 2014. The CRF is intended to support early/mid-career clinician-researchers of any health care discipline. We plan to call for applications for the 2015 CRF soon with the successful

applicant announced at the ANZUP ASM. Thanks to Tolmar Australia for supporting this excellent initiative.



Our ClinTrial Refer ANZUP App was launched at the 2014 ASM. The app provides a current list of ANZUP clinical trials conducted in cancer centres in Australia and New Zealand. It is designed for oncologists, general practitioners, research unit staff and patients. It has searchable clinical research trial details, hospital locations, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and lay summaries. We hope this will help all our members as well as the broader community to identify trials that might be suitable. To download the free app, visit:

Apple iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/clintrialrefer-anzup/id894317413?mt=8>

Or

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.lps.anzup&hl=en>

In collaboration with USANZ we held the Best of GU Oncology symposium at Pier One in Sydney. We had a fantastic turnout for a weeknight with more than 65 delegates in attendance. The feedback was extremely positive and we are very grateful to James Kench, Scott Williams and Nick Brooks who provided the audience with the most relevant, cutting edge research and treatment in prostate and urogenital cancer. Our thanks to Henry Woo who did a superb job developing the program and facilitating the night. We gratefully acknowledge the generous

support of our Corporate Supporters Amgen, Ipsen, Sanofi and Janssen which enabled us to convene our first Evening symposium.

ANZUP is proud to be an Affiliated Organisation of COSA and holds a seat on COSA Council. ANZUP will continue to provide a voice for members with an interest in genitourinary cancers, their care and research. Our links with COSA provide further opportunities to learn from and work with other disciplines and organisations.

Ian Davis
Chair, ANZUP

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia



In January 2015, the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) welcomed its new President, Dr Raymond Chan and acknowledged the significant contribution of Sandy McKiernan to the Society and cancer nursing as a profession. Dr Raymond Chan holds a joint appointment as the Director of Research and Innovation, West Moreton Hospital and Health District and NHMRC Health Professional Research Fellow, Queensland University of Technology. Sandy will remain on the National Executive Committee till the end of 2015 as immediate Past President. The CNSA is absolutely growing from strength to strength; and they are very pleased to announce that the Society is now representing over 1080 cancer nurses across Australia (which reflects >200% of membership growth over the past 3 years).

18th CNSA Winter Congress

The Cancer Nurses Society of Australia is holding their 18th Winter Congress in Perth from with 14-16th June 2015. The Local Organising Committee led by Dr Ruth McConigley is delighted to announce three international key note speakers Dr Carrie Tompkins Stricker, Professor Alex Molasiotis and Professor Lesley Fallowfield will join a diverse range of Australian cancer experts to present a program based on the Congress theme of "Expanding the Possibilities". Congress 2015 will focus on areas that cancer nurses can look to further their career choices, including specialist breast cancer care, radiation oncology and advanced practice. For more information please visit the congress website - <http://www.cnsawintercongress.com.au/>.

Central Venous Access Devices Guideline Review Committee

The majority of cancer nurses are responsible for the maintenance of central venous access devices (CVADs) on a daily basis. While a number of clinical guidelines are available, clinicians often are uncertain of their quality and relevance to cancer care. The CNSA and eviQ Standard Cancer Treatments Online recently initiated a project that aims to direct cancer nurses to easily accessible, relevant evidence-based clinical guidelines for CVAD management. The project team is currently in the process of developing a reference tool that outlines the quality of existing clinical guidelines for CVAD management and their relevance to cancer care. It is expected that this tool will be useful for clinicians at the point of care. The team consisted of nurse researchers, infection control experts, CVAD specialist nurses, paediatric cancer nurses, and eviQ content authors. The team plans to disseminate the outcomes and launch the valuable resource at the 18th CNSA Winter Congress in June 2015.

Development of New Regional Groups and Specialist Practice Networks

With excitement, the CNSA announces the establishment of the Queensland Group, the Cancer Nurse Practitioner Specialist Practice Network and the Venous Access Device Management Specialist Practice Network. The vibrancy of the Society is so palpable and is absolutely reflected in the growth of membership and establishment of new groups.

Ray Chan
President, CNSA



CNSA and eviQ - CVAD Guideline Review Committee

Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology



COGNO's 8th Annual Scientific Meeting will be held on Friday 23 and Saturday 24 October 2015, in Brisbane. All COSA members are invited to save the date and keep an eye out for further updates.

COGNO is also pleased to announce that it will be hosting the 2016 Asian Society for Neuro-Oncology (ASNO) Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney, during September

2016. Further detail will be circulated in upcoming months.

Mark Rosenthal
Chair, COGNO

Faculty of Radiation Oncology



The Faculty of Radiation Oncology Council commenced the year with a planning day to review what was achieved in 2014 and further operationalise our strategy to 2017. Key to this is research, member engagement, effective governance, leadership, quality service delivery (access, training, practice) and raising the profile and presence of radiation oncology. I am pleased to see that much progress has been made in the past 12-18 months, through the active participation of the Faculty Council, its standing committees, special interest groups and working groups.

2015 will be another year full of opportunities and challenges, and we will continue to work with our members, as well as all key stakeholders, to achieve our profession-specific strategic priorities.

Radiation Oncology Targeting Cancer Campaign

Raising the profile and presence of radiation oncology remains a major priority for the Faculty. We will continue the work in this area through the *Targeting Cancer campaign*.

A key achievement for the last few weeks has been the development of a

NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre 
COOPERATIVE TRIALS GROUP FOR NEURO-ONCOLOGY
The achievement of better health outcomes for patients and those affected by brain tumours through clinical trials research

 www.cogno.org.au
 email: cogno@cogno.org.au | tel:02.9562.5000

8th COGNO ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
'Where the Future Lies'
FRIDAY 23rd — SATURDAY 24th OCTOBER 2015
STAMFORD PLAZA BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA
CONFIRMED INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

PROF KENNETH D ALDAPE MD

PROF MARTIN J VAN DEN BENT MD


General Practitioners (GPs) play a crucial role at every stage in the management of a patient diagnosed with cancer. The trusting relationship that exists between a patient and their GP optimises the delivery of health care – from the time of initial diagnosis to treatment planning, surveillance and transition to survivorship or palliative care.

For this reason, the Targeting Cancer campaign has commenced **information evenings for GPs**, focusing on common cancer management issues, including the role of radiation therapy in everyday general practice. These information sessions, which are held in radiation oncology centres, include a tour of the radiation oncology department so that GPs can see what their patients may experience. The first of these GP sessions was held at the Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre at Westmead Hospital in late 2014.

Radiation oncology departments across Australia and New Zealand have been volunteering to host an evening for local doctors and we hope to run at least 10 more over the next 12 months. These events will enable GPs to have more input into ensuring patients are informed of all treatment options, and will also serve to build links between GPs and their local cancer centre.

Funding for Radiation Oncology

The Faculty Council appreciates that sustainable funding is crucial to the sector.

The Faculty has taken the responsibility for sponsoring Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) applications for intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) and image guided radiation therapy (IGRT). IMRT is an advanced technique of radiation therapy delivery, which allows a higher dose of radiation to be directed to the tumour, while ensuring that healthy surrounding tissues receive a lower dose. This is particularly important for the treatment of tumours in critical

Community Service Announcement

– an advertisement/short film for TV and digital media, showcasing radiation therapy as a safe, effective and sophisticated treatment for patients with cancer.

Our film, 'Targets', highlights the stories of five different real patients who each received radiation therapy as part of their cancer treatment. We have had an amazing response with >1000 views on YouTube in the first two days after its launch.

The film is **available online** and has also been accepted to air on SBS and the

Seven Network. We encourage you to view the film on YouTube, and share it within your network.



sites, including brain cancer, head and neck cancer, as well as urinary and anal cancers. IGRT describes a procedure which should occur prior to or during a course of radiation therapy treatment session to help ensure the accuracy of treatment delivery.

Unfortunately the MSAC process for IMRT and IGRT has been problematic – showing a lack of understanding of radiation therapy, and a lack of appropriate consultation. The progress for both applications has been disappointing so far, and MSAC has deferred the decision on IGRT and IMRT, as they were not convinced of the evidence of superior clinical performance of these techniques.

The Faculty's position is that, at the very least, item descriptors for IGRT and IMRT need to be established – to assist with data collection in the future. Following continuous negotiations with the Department of Health, work on proposed item descriptors for IMRT and IGRT is currently underway, which we hope will be submitted to MSAC for consideration in April 2015.

The Faculty will continue to advocate for Australian patients having appropriate access to these world-class treatment techniques.

Dion Forstner
Dean, Faculty of Radiation Oncology

Medical Oncology Group of Australia



The first quarter of the year is always a busy period for the Medical Oncology Group of Australia Incorporated (MOGA).

It is also a busy time for our members as all the new trainees commence speciality training in medical oncology in 2015 and, those trainees who recently completed their training and have been awarded Fellowship are moving ahead with their career plans. Membership of the Association continues to grow and currently there are 206 trainee and 426 consultant members.

Our Members

Given increasing membership numbers, changes in membership demographics and changing workforce demands Australian Medical Oncology Workforce issues remain high on the Association's agenda, as a core strategic priority. Dr Zarnie Lwin, Deputy Chair and Associate Professor Rosemary Harrup, Chair have been progressing a new Workforce Study and will soon be approaching up to 30 members to volunteer to be interviewed as part of the Workforce Pilot Study.

As a professional membership organisation MOGA recognises the valuable contribution our members make to the development of medical oncology practice, research and education not only in Australia but globally, above all in providing support to the Association. Notably, Professor Bogda Koczwara was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2015 Australia Day Honours Lists, "For significant service to medical oncology through clinical practice, education and cancer research, and through a range of professional organisations." This official acknowledgement from the Australian Government recognises Bogda's substantial contribution, including her founding and leadership roles in establishing the **Australia and Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development Workshop (ACORD)**: Planning has commenced for the 2016 **ACORD** Workshop to be held from 11-17 September with applications open online from 6 November 2015 through to 22 February 2016 (www.acord.org.au).

Oncology Drugs and Treatments

In December, Associate Professor Prue Francis presented the results of the practice changing SOFT (Suppression of Ovarian Function) Clinical Trial at the 2014 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium in her capacity as the international Co-Chair of SOFT; the results were also published online in the New England Journal of Medicine. Between December 2003 and April 2011, SOFT enrolled 3,066 premenopausal women with hormone receptor-positive, early-stage breast cancer. This included 240 women from Australia and New Zealand. The trial was conducted by the Australian and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG) and internationally by the international Breast Cancer Study Group, International Group and the North American Breast Cancer Group.

The SOFT results, when combined with the TEXT clinical trial results will change the way oncologists treat young women with hormone receptor-positive breast cancer who have received chemotherapy and have not reached menopause. These are practice-changing results and a positive step forward in treating women with hormone receptor-positive breast cancer. It provides another step towards personalising treatment for each individual, to give them the best chance of remaining free from breast cancer in the long term. Currently there is only one Therapeutics Goods Administration approved agent to facilitate ovarian suppression for premenopausal women with hormone receptor positive breast cancer in Australia which is goserelin which is a relatively "old drug" and this is an issue that the Oncology Drugs Working Group have taken up with assistance from Prue.

Education and Professional Education

MOGA's educational and professional programs for 2015 are well in hand



Annual Scientific Meeting

**PATHWAYS IN MEDICAL ONCOLOGY
THE PATH LESS TRAVELLED**

**Hobart, Tasmania, Australia 5-7 August
2015**

www.mogaasm2015.com

"As the peak national body for the medical oncology profession in Australia, our annual scientific meeting offers a challenging and expansive education program exploring contemporary challenges in oncology research, discovery and clinical practice."

*Associate Professor Rosemary A. Harrup, FRACP FRCPA
Chair, Medical Oncology Group of Australia*

including, a new **Immuno-Oncology Forum: Advances and Insights** (Melbourne, October 24-25) which is being developed under the leadership of Professor Michael Brown. **Practical Skills for Early Career Oncologists** developed by the Young Oncology Group of Australia held over the weekend of Saturday-Sunday 21-22 March was attended by 50 young Australian medical oncology consultants: supported by an educational/research donation by Roche. Young oncologists who are within

5 years of receiving their Fellowship in medical oncology are the largest and fastest growing segment of the Australian medical oncology workforce. This 1.5 day program included presentations on a range of practicals skills delivered by senior members of the Association.

Plans are proceeding well for the Association's 2015 **Annual Scientific Meeting, Pathways in Medical Oncology: The Path Less Travelled** scheduled for Hobart, Tasmania, 5-7

August followed by Best of ASCO® 8 August (www.mogaasm2015.com). Convened by Dr David Boadle (Royal Hobart Hospital) the meeting will showcase an innovative scientific and academic program that explores many of the contemporary challenges and advances in medical oncology research, discovery and clinical practice in melanoma, lung and gynaecological cancer. The program will also focus on lesser covered areas of medical oncology practice and research, such as head and neck cancer and haematological malignancies. International guest speakers will include Professor Chih-Hsin James Yang, Deputy Director of the Department of Medical Oncology, at the National Taiwan University Hospital and Director, Cancer Research, Carner National Taiwan University College; Professor Adil Daud, Department of Medicine, University of California San Francisco (UCSF), Director, Melanoma Clinical Research, and Co-director, Melanoma Center UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer; Professor Hani Gabra, Professor of Medical Oncology, Deputy Head-Division of Cancer (Clinical), Head of the Molecular Therapeutics Unit and Director of the Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre at Imperial College, London. MOGA have also invited Professor Yi-Long Wu, President of the Chinese Society of Clinical Oncology and Professor Chung, President of the Korean Society of Clinical Oncology to attend the 2015 ASM.

The ASM program will include major symposia across a range of cancer streams complemented by presentations from major Australian specialists that will taking the paths less travelled. Professor Bogda Koczwara will convene a Cancer Forum on the **Emerging Challenges of Cancer Survivorship** with Professor Richard Cohn presenting on **Cardimetabolic Disease**, Professor Michael Fenech presenting on **Telomeres Shortening and Premature Ageing After Cancer**. Professor Koczwara will address the particularly challenging question-**Does Cancer Makes You Poor and What Does It Mean for Society?** Professor

Stewart Dunn and Professor Fran Boyle will convene a Cancer Forum on **Difficult Conversations: Sex, Death, Money and Error** with presenters Associate Professor Linda Mileskin presenting on **Money** and Professor Dunn on **Error**.

Rosemary Harrup
Chairman, MOGA

Oncology Social Work Australia



Plans are well underway for the National Conference, to be held in Sydney from

10 – 12 September. Having secured a high calibre international speaker (Dr Sage Bolte, USA), national speakers are now bring confirmed. These include psychiatrist Professor Jane Turner from the University of Queensland and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital; and Professor Gary Dowsett, Chair in Sex, Health and Society, School of Psychology and Public Health at La Trobe University.

A call for abstracts will shortly be issued, and the planning committee is anticipating a good response. This should ensure a robust, competitive process to deliver a high quality program with something of relevance for everyone.

OSWA has also provided input and feedback to the development of the Hobart ASM program. There will be several sessions of broad interest to OSWA

members, so please consider joining us in Hobart in November. OSWA members Alison Hocking, Carrie Lethborg and Kim Hobbs will be speaking. A wonderful consequence of holding the meeting in Hobart is that it has enabled us to connect with our Tasmanian colleagues in both Hobart and Launceston. We are planning a social get together for the mainlanders to meet the local members; and consideration is being given to holding a more formal educational session, subject to numbers, interest and availability.

Stay tuned for further information and feel free to contact OSWA members if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Kim Hobbs
Council Chair, Oncology Social Work Australia

COSA Membership

If you join COSA after 1 April 2015 you will **receive 3 months membership FREE!**

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?

COSA Membership renewals OPEN 1 April 2015!

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)	\$200
COSA – medical (2 years)	\$385
COSA – non medical (1 year)	\$115
COSA – non medical (2 years)	\$220
COSA Student member (1 year) no charge	
COSA Retiree member (1 year)	\$55

COSA welcomes *Affiliate and Associate Organisations*, which brings many opportunities one of which is **discounted COSA membership to members of the Affiliated or Associated Organisation**. Membership costs are listed below:

COSA affiliate/associate* members medical (1 year)	\$165
COSA affiliate/associate* members medical (2 years)	\$290
COSA affiliate/associate* members . . . non-medical (1 year)	\$105
COSA affiliate/associate* members . . non-medical (2 years)	\$200

* A list of all current Affiliated and Associated Organisations can be found at www.cosa.org.au

For more information regarding Affiliated or Associated Organisation Memberships please contact 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

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
2015		
10-12 April	Asian Oncology Summit http://asianoncologysummit.com/	Shanghai, China
11-14 April	USANZ 68th Annual Scientific Meeting www.usanz2015.com/	Adelaide, South Australia
15-18 April	European Lung Cancer Conference	Geneva, Switzerland
4-8 May	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au/	Brisbane, Queensland
4-8 May	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting 2015 http://asc.surgeons.org	Perth, Western Australia
11-12 May	Victorian Integrated Cancer Services Conference 2015 http://vics2015.org	Melbourne, Victoria
12-15 May	12th Behavioural Research Cancer Control Conference www.cancercouncil.com.au/brcc2015/	Sydney, New South Wales
16-17 May	CPG Foundation Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacy Practitioners http://cosacpg.org.au/	Brisbane, Queensland
24-27 May	13th National Rural Health Conference www.ruralhealth.org.au/13nrhc/	Darwin, Northern Territory
29 May – 2 June	ASCO 51st Annual Scientific Meeting http://am.asco.org/	Chicago, USA
14-16 June	CNSA Winter Congress www.cnsawintercongress.com.au/	Perth, Western Australia
25-27 June	MASCC/ISOO International Symposium of Supportive Care in Cancer 2015 http://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, New South Wales
22-25 July	ANZBCTG Annual Scientific Meeting www.bcia.org.au	Perth, Western Australia
26-30 July	World Congress on Larynx Cancer 2015 www.wclc2015.org/home/	Cairns, Queensland
28 July - 1 August	APOS 12th Annual Conference and IPOS 17th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology www.apos-society.org/2015/index.html	Washington DC, USA
5-7 August	MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting www.moga.org.au	Hobart, Tasmania
8-11 August	HGSA 39th Annual Scientific Meeting www.hgsa.org.au	Perth, Western Australia

Calendar of Events (continued)

Date	Event	Venue
18-21 August	Prostate Cancer Conference 2015 www.prostatecancercongress.org.au	Cairns, Queensland
20-22 August	23rd Asia Pacific Cancer Conference (APCC) www.apcc2015.com/	Bali, Indonesia
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
7-10 October	ACTA 2015 International Clinical Trials Symposium www.acta2015.com.au/	Sydney, NSW
17-18 October	Australian Sarcoma Annual Scientific Meeting www.australiansarcomagroup.org/	Brisbane, Queensland
29-31 October	2nd Global Advances and Controversies in Skin Cancer 2015 www.gac-sc.org	Brisbane, Queensland
29 October - 1 November	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists Annual Scientific Meeting www.ranzcr2015.com	Adelaide, South Australia
6-7 November	Melanoma Summit 2015	Auckland, New Zealand
9-13 November	ALLG Scientific Meeting	Melbourne, Victoria
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 http://cosa2015.org/	Hobart, Tasmania
3-5 December	Inaugural International AYA Oncology Congress http://youthcancerevent.com.au/ayacongress/home	Sydney, NSW
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, Queensland
2-6 May	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting 2016	Brisbane, Queensland
15-17 November	Save the Date! COSA's 43rd Annual Scientific Meeting 2016	Gold Coast, Queensland



Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia

COSA's

42nd

Annual
Scientific
Meeting

17-19

November 2015

The Federation

Conference and
Exhibition Centre

Hotel Grand
Chancellor

Hobart

Key dates

Symposium submission
abstracts close:

8 July 2015

Abstracts close:

14 August 2015

Travel grant applications
close:

17 August 2015

Earlybird registration
closes:

11 September 2015

CONVENORS' WELCOME

COSA's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) is considered the premier gathering of cancer health professionals in our region each year. We welcome all health professionals working on cancer care and control including clinicians and researchers, medical and radiation oncologists, cancer surgeons, nurses, pharmacists and other allied health workers.

COSA is proud to announce that the 42nd ASM will be held in Hobart at the Grand Chancellor Hotel. The last time the COSA ASM was held in Tasmania was in 1997, so we are overdue for a visit.

With the theme of "Rare cancers – common goals" the ASM program will focus on rare cancers. This is a new theme 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. Almost 125,000 cases of cancer are 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 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.

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. Visit the conference website for pre and post conferencing touring options and discounts!

We look forward to seeing you in Hobart!



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



CONFIRMED INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS (as at 24 March 2015)

Professor Andreas Adam

Interventional Radiologist
University of London
Clinical Director, Department
of Radiology, St. Thomas' Hospital, UK



Dr Angelo Paolo Dei Tos

Director of Oncology
Director of Anatomic Pathology
General Hospital of Treviso, Italy



Dr Leeka Kheifets

Epidemiologist
UCLA Fielding School
of Public Health, USA



Professor Brian O'Sullivan

Radiation Oncologist
University of Toronto, Canada



Professor Poulam Patel

Head of Division of Cancer
and Stem Cells
School of Medicine
University of Nottingham, UK



Dr Derek Raghavan

President of the Levine Cancer
Institute
Charlotte, North Carolina, USA



Please visit the website regularly for updates on invited international and Australian speakers www.cosa2015.org

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Local Organising Committee has taken a very creative approach to their interpretation of the rare cancers theme to include sessions on:

- Common rare cancers such as melanoma, NETs and sarcoma
- Truly rare cancers such as merkel cell carcinoma, PHAEOs and thyroid
- Rare cancer sub types including inflammatory breast cancer, ALK lung cancer and BRAF colorectal cancer
- Rare presentations of common cancers such as breast cancer during pregnancy
- Genetics and the reclassification of cancer – are all cancers rare?

- Supporting rare cancer patients
- Equalising outcomes by reducing inequities
- Brain Teasers – Cerebral Metastasis and the MDT
- Alternative trial designs in rare cancers – the statistics of small numbers

There will also be stimulating sessions on:

- Cancer clusters
- Targeted therapies
- Imaging
- The harms of treatment
- Designing the future treatment of cancer

Please visit the conference website regularly for program updates www.cosa2015.org