

Workshop Report

COSA Cancer Pharmacists Group Clinical Professional Day – Monday 11th November 2013

45 delegates registered to attend the COSA CPGs Advanced Practice day preceding the COSA ASM on Monday 11th November at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

The day focused on advancing the practice of cancer pharmacy in Australia, and was split between sessions focusing on advanced practice topics and a session looking at frameworks and possible structures for advancing cancer pharmacy practice.

Two advanced clinical practice sessions were held before morning tea and in the afternoon. The first session (chaired by Gail Rowan, Incoming Chair, COSA CPG) contained presentations on neuropathy related to cancer therapy and its implications and treatments, these were presented by John Coutsouvelis (Senior Oncology Pharmacist, The Alfred Hospital) and Arti Thakerar (Senior Palliative Care Pharmacist, Peter MacCallum) and provided a comprehensive look at causality through to prevention. The other presentation from Geeta Sandhu (Oncology Pharmacist, Princess Alexandra Hospital) looked at the ongoing question of dosing of therapy in the obese patient providing some insight into the work being done in haematology. The afternoon session (chaired by Jude Lees, Deputy Chair COSA CPG) had two horizon scanning presentations looking at newer agents and their evidence in both oncology and haematology.

The Advanced Practice Framework session brought together experts from three areas (Sue Kirsas, Federal President SHPA), Dr Alex Chan (University of Singapore) and Dr Krissy Carrington (Queensland Health), the three speakers presented work being done locally and internationally (Singapore) in developing a framework through which pharmacists can advance and develop their practice in cancer. The ability to have different perspectives and ideas was invaluable to the group.

A work-shop session was held at this time allowing attendees to think and discuss how they feel cancer pharmacy can best be developed and served within the Australian environment.

By combining the ideas of how to advanced practice and advanced clinical topics the day provided education and a place to discuss ideas for cancer pharmacy the day was successful in fulfilling CPGs aim of providing educational forums for our membership.

The CPG would like to thank COSA for financially supporting our professional workshop. I would also like to thank all delegates, all of the speakers for agreeing to present and particularly Jude Lees for all her work in co-ordinating the program and speakers.

Gail Rowan
2014 Chair, COSA Cancer Pharmacists Group