



Prof Mei Krishnasamy, President, COSA

President's Report

The first half of 2016 has flown by with COSA continuing to flourish in its perpetual state of busyness! In addition to all the excellent work reported in the COSA Group and Affiliated Organisation reports a lot of work happens behind the scenes that members might not be aware of. The team in the COSA office provide Project Management support to many of the active Groups, as well as act as secretariat to the Board, Council and Audit, Risk and Finance Committee. COSA's new governance structure has been in place for a few years now, so the Board will start looking at evaluation processing for themselves as well as how the organisation is performing against the strategic plan.

I continue to represent the organisation on a number of important committees such as The Board of Cancer Council Australia, COAG's National Cancer Expert Reference Group and Cancer Australia's Intercollegiate Advisory Group where COSA's contributions are highly valued.

The 2016 ASM is shaping up to be another great conference. As you know we are partnering with the Australia & New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group for a breast cancer program. A number of renowned international experts are presenting on the program, complemented as always by local experts. The breadth of topics to be covered is really impressive – from the opening plenary on "Global advances in breast cancer" to concurrent session topics such as Exercise, Treatment focussed BRCA gene testing, Liquid biopsies, Male breast cancer, Self-Management of cancer pain, e-technologies, Geriatric oncology and Mammographic density (to name a few). There is sure to be something for everyone, so I strongly encourage all members to attend.

In addition to the ASM, COSA has been fortunate to negotiate agreements with industry to host a number of educational events, many aimed at Advanced Trainees:

- **ATOM** – the Advanced Trainees Oncology Meeting is a unique annual educational symposium for Medical Oncology Trainees

with a program developed by the Trainees. Held in March and attended by over 50 delegates this program provides a comprehensive review of current oncology practices and includes presentations not covered in traditional meetings.

- **ACTNOW** – the ACT and NSW Oncology Weekend is a biennial educational opportunity for training and practicing oncologists across ACT and NSW. This meeting is intended to enhance delegate professional development and workshop local issues which are not discussed at traditional oncology conferences. This popular event held in May saw registration oversubscribed before the closing date.
- **Pharmacology of Cancer Chemotherapy workshops** – following the success of these workshops in 2015, COSA once again held these workshops throughout June and July in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. The workshops are designed to provide education on the pharmacology of cancer chemotherapy and targeted therapies specifically for Advanced Trainees in Oncology and Haematology.

In November 2016, my term as COSA President comes to an end, and Professor Phyllis Butow takes over as President. I am delighted that Professor Nick Pavlakis has been nominated as the incoming President Elect and will step in to work with Phyllis as she moves into the President's role at the end of November. You can read more about Nick's announcement later in the Marryalyan. It's a credit to the society that such eminent individuals are stepping up to fill the ranks.

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

Mei Krishnasamy
President

Vale Mr W. Brian Fleming AM



Mr W. Brian Fleming AM

It is with sincere sadness we advise COSA members that Brian Fleming, founding member of COSA and first President (1973 to 1976) passed away on 5 July 2016 after a long illness. As our inaugural President, Brian holds a special place at COSA. He was a great supporter of the interdisciplinary collaboration which has always been the core of COSA's contribution to cancer management in Australia.

We contacted some of Brian's early COSA colleagues who provided these special words and memories. With the permission of his family we have also re-printed his obituary below.

From **Professor Tom Reeve AC CBE**, "Brian was a true anatomically based surgeon who played a significant part in adopting and adapting to changing and improving approaches to Surgery, technology and chemotherapy – all in their early stages. As first President of COSA, he displayed a leadership role in promoting the evaluation of the changing spectrum in cancer treatment, his knowledge based promotion of change was very effective and led to significant change. He kept hard on the heels of resistance to adoption of a better way and maintained it through his

active professional life and kept an eagle eye on what was happening afterwards. Brian was a warm and personable man, he was readily approachable and took great interest in promotion of the best in cancer care. COSA chose its first President well and Brian helped launch the organisation on a highly successful journey."

A subsequent COSA President, **Professor Alan Coates AM**, recalls that "Brian was a senior surgeon at Royal Melbourne Hospital during my training, and was always available to assist and advise the residents and trainees. Brian formed a close association with the late Professor Leicester Atkinson, head of Radiation Oncology Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney, with whom I later worked in the late 1970s. One of the early strengths of COSA was therefore in the management of head and neck cancer. The success of this association led rapidly to similar collaboration between clinicians in other specialty areas. Brian Fleming leaves a legacy of clinical and scientific collaboration which will outlast his own lifetime."

In the words of **Professor Bernard Stewart**, "When I joined COSA in 1974, specifically for the Annual Scientific Meeting held at Prince of Wales Hospital, I quickly became aware of oncologists who at that time had established leadership roles in the Society: among them, Brian Fleming, Bob Melville and Leicester Atkinson. I remember Brian as a person that any organisation would value. His contribution to discussion invariably involved summation of the situation, rather than simple advocacy of his own perspective. I can't recall him ever being perturbed, let alone angry. On the contrary, at Council and afterwards when attending COSA ASMs, he seemed to always have a smile on his face. Brian was held in high esteem by COSA members, and his counsel was valued. Brian continued to be engaged with the development of

the Society for many years after he left Council. At this time in particular, he is rightly honoured as first President, by a Society he helped establish."

Obituary W Brian Fleming

W Brian Fleming was born in Zeehan, Tasmania on 13 February 1927, and was educated in Burnie, before moving to Melbourne to complete his secondary education at Scotch College, graduating in 1943.

He was able to make the wartime quota for medicine, and as medical students were exempt from call-up, began his medical training at the University of Melbourne Medical School in February 1944.

Brian's clinical training was undertaken at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and he graduated MBBS in November 1949. He became an intern at the RMH in 1950 and a Senior House Surgeon the following year. He became a resident surgical officer in 1952 and married Margaret in July the same year.

In December 1953 Brian attained his Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS), and combined his surgical duties with research as the Randal and Louisa Alcock Scholar in Pathology. In May of 1954 he received his Master of Surgery by examination, and in June was appointed to his first job as a trained surgeon.

From June to December 1954 Brian served in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps as a Major, with the British Commonwealth Force, Korea, based at the British Commonwealth General Hospital in Kure, Japan. He was discharged to the Army Reserve as a Consultant Surgeon for the Southern Command, a post he held until 1972. He was earmarked for a stint in the UN Force in Laos, prior to the Vietnam War, but fortunately Australian forces were not required. Because of his young family, he

was not needed to serve in Vietnam.

After further study in the UK and USA, Brian attained his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in England (FRCS) in May 1955. From December 1955 he was appointed to the staff of the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and in the following year to the staff of the Footscray and District Hospital. In 1968 he received his Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons (FACS), and was appointed Head of his own Unit. As the years progressed he became recognised as a gifted specialist Head and Neck surgeon, serving both the Peter MacCallum and Royal Melbourne Hospitals in the field of cancer surgery.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital recognized Brian Fleming's exceptional leadership skills when he was appointed the Chairman of the Division of Surgery and the Head of the Medical Advisory Committee in 1975, two posts that he held until 1983. He was appointed the Head of the Head and Neck Service in 1980, and held this appointment until retirement. He was appointed to the Board of Management in 1983 and became the Junior Vice President of the Hospital in 1986. He was the Acting Treasurer in 1989 and retired from the staff of the RMH, after 36 years service, in 1991.

Besides his commitments to the RMH, Brian was deeply involved in the services of cancer research and prevention outside the hospital. In the early 1970s cancer clinicians around Australia knew more about overseas practice, than about what contemporaries were doing within a few hundred kilometres. The late Noel Newton and Leicester Atkinson in Sydney sought a like mind in Melbourne and were rewarded when Brian Fleming agreed to collaborate. He helped found the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia, becoming its first President from 1974 to 1976.

Brian was invited to assist the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria, and as their delegate became Vice President (1980-1983) and then President of the Australian Cancer Society from 1983 to 1986. Beyond that he served the Society in other ways, chairing its Medical and Scientific Committee, editing the Cancer Related Health Check-Up, advising on the National Cancer Prevention Policy, chairing a national consensus conference on Cervical Cancer Screening and serving as a member of the National Cancer Advisory Committee. He joined the Executive Committee of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria in 1987 and became its Vice President in 1989. He was appointed as Surgeon to the Health Department of Victoria Consultative Committee on Anaesthetic Morbidity and Mortality in 1991.

Brian was presented with the Australian Cancer Society Gold Medal for Distinguished Service in the Fight against Cancer in November 1992. On this occasion, the President Mrs Heather Wain, in presenting the Medal said "In his voluntary service to COSA, the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria and the Australian Cancer Society Brian added a further dimension to the care and compassion he gave to his patients. Through his selfless commitment he has aided the advancement of cancer care for the whole Australian community and upheld the noble ideals of the medical profession. His example continues through his family with a wife a former nurse, one daughter a nurse, one a science graduate, two sons who are doctors, and Melissa who decided to follow her father's artistic talent into architecture. He deservedly joins a list of distinguished Australian cancer workers which includes a number of Victorians: Sir William Kilpatrick, Don Metcalf, John Colebatch and Ken Cox; his addition to the list adds to its lustre".

Brian retired from active surgical practice and direct patient care in 1991, but continued in medico-legal practice in Melbourne and Mildura for many years. With the introduction of Workcover by the Kennett Government in December 1992, Brian was appointed a Sessional Conciliator, one of the few medically trained, and the only surgeon. He continued in this role to March 1996, and in May 1997, Brian was presented with the inaugural Head and Neck Surgery Medal by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Section of Head & Neck Surgery.

Despite his advancing age, the Victorian Government acknowledged Brian's exceptional skills as a wise and fair conciliator, appointing him to Medical Panels. He was regularly asked to keep going and was reappointed on into his 70s, before finally retiring from medico-legal practice on the occasion of his 79th birthday in February 2006.

In leisure time Brian played golf and indulged in oil painting. He began exhibiting with the Australian Medical Association Arts Group in 1962, three years after its inception. He had one painting entitled "Banksia", bought by Sir Daryl Lindsay, Chairman of the Commonwealth Art Advisory Board for the Australian Government Collection, and two paintings were purchased by John McEwen, Deputy Prime Minister.

Brian was awarded the Membership of the Order of Australia (AM) on 11 June 2001, for service to medicine, particularly oncology treatment as a head and neck surgeon, and as a medical administrator.

He died after a long illness on 5th July 2016, survived by his wife Margaret, his five children Helen, Judy, Bill, Rick and Melissa, and by his seven grandchildren.

Executive Officer's Report



2016 COSA ASM

Have you registered for the ASM? Have you submitted your abstract? If not then you need to get busy as some critical deadlines are fast approaching...

12 August – Abstracts close

19 August – Travel grant applications close

16 September – Earlybird registration closes

We will notify all authors the outcome of the abstract review process in time to register at the earlybird rate!

Our partnership with the Australia & New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group, along with the expert guidance of our convenor Fran Boyle, has ensured the ASM program meets the educational needs of our multidisciplinary membership, by keeping you up to date on the latest breast cancer research and treatments. The confirmed invited international speakers are:



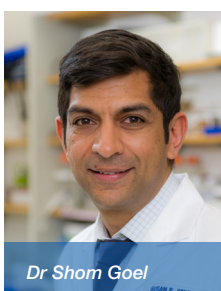
Dr Laura Esserman

- **Dr Laura Esserman** – Professor of Surgery and Radiology at the University of California, San Francisco USA. Internationally recognised as one of the leading experts in breast cancer research and treatment, her work in breast cancer spans the spectrum from basic science to public policy issues and the impact of both on the delivery of clinical care.



Dr Deborah Fenlon

- **Dr Deborah Fenlon** – Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health of Sciences, at the University of Southampton, UK. With a background in nursing women with breast cancer, Deborah's interest is in researching and promoting health and wellbeing in people who have had cancer.



Dr Shom Goel

- **Dr Shom Goel** – a physician-scientist originally from Australia now working at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI), and Harvard Medical School in Boston USA.

His landmark discoveries in the laboratory have spurred the development of new clinical trials for patients with metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer.



Dr Shom Goel

- **Dr Jay Harris** – Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston USA. His principal research interest is the use of radiation therapy in the multidisciplinary management of breast cancer. In particular, the development and optimisation of breast-conserving therapy for patients with invasive breast cancer and ductal carcinoma in situ.



Dr Shom Goel

- **Dr Melinda Irwin** – Professor of Epidemiology at Yale University. Dr Irwin is a prominent leader in the field of behavioural lifestyle factors and cancer risk and mortality.

The opening plenary on Tuesday will really set the scene on “Global advances in breast cancer” with four of our invited international speakers providing their perspectives. The Tuesday afternoon plenary will focus on the topical area of Immunotherapy; Wednesday morning's plenary highlights “Challenges in the Era of Targeted Therapies for Breast Cancer” and Thursday morning “Breast cancer translational research”. We'll also have an MDT panel discussion with two case studies on non-invasive disease and the Hot Topic this year is “To screen or not to screen”. As always the plenaries will be complemented by the diverse topics covered in the concurrent sessions throughout the three-day program.

It's important to remember that breast cancer isn't only a disease diagnosed in women. Men get breast cancer too. In recognition of this we are including a session on male breast cancer that will feature presentations from:

- John Boyages – Male Breast Cancer: The Challenges
- Judy Kirk – What is the risk of my daughter or son getting breast or another cancer?
- Nicholas Wilcken – Hormonal treatments after male breast cancer – what works and what doesn't?
- Jemma Gilchrist – Psychological issues for male breast cancer patients

- And interviews with two male breast cancer patients: Herb Wagner, the founder of US advocacy group “A Man’s Pink” and Robert Fincher representing BCNA



Herb Wagner



Robert Fincher

More information about the ASM and the detailed program are available online at www.cosa2016.org

Advanced Trainees Weekend

The COSA Advanced Trainees Weekend will be held prior to the ASM 12-13 November 2016. “Everything you need to know about breast cancer” is a program highly relevant not just to oncology trainees but also nurses and other allied health professionals.

Cancer Survivorship 2017

The Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer is partnering with COSA to co host this event. This exciting partnership will help ensure this conference is closely aligned with the national directions for cancer control and continues to expand its reach and relevance to a diverse range of cancer health professionals, policy makers and to all those affected by cancer.

Following the success of the two previous biennial conferences, the 2017 Survivorship Conference will bring together a diverse group of clinicians, researchers, policy makers and consumers from Australia and beyond, to learn, to be challenged and to make a lasting impact on the lives of those affected by cancer. The conference theme “*Cancer Survivorship 2017: Pathways to better policy and practice*” will focus our thinking on how we can translate the growing evidence in this area into day to day applications. The 2017 event will again be held in Adelaide 2-3 February 2017.

Bogda Koczwara will once again act as convenor, and together with a very effective Organising Committee we have almost finalised the program and confirmed two international invited speakers:

- **Dr Catherine Alfano**, the Vice President of Survivorship at the American Cancer Society, where she provides vision and leadership to ACS research, programming, and policy efforts nationwide to improve the lives of cancer survivors. Her research interests include optimising interventions and

models of care for cancer rehabilitation and survivorship; healthy behaviour change; and the integration of biological and behavioural pathways governing health, aging, and cancer prognosis.

- **Professor Jane Maher**, Chief Medical Officer at Macmillan Cancer Support in the UK. She is also a Consultant Clinical Oncologist at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and Hillingdon Hospital. In her role at Macmillan, Jane provides medical services advice at board and senior management level and supports the charity’s links with the royal colleges, universities, the Department of Health and the NHS. She has had a long term interest in consequences of cancer treatments.

The draft program is available online. Bookmark the website now and check back regularly for updates www.survivorship2017.org

Marie Malica
Executive Officer



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Australia

SAVE THE DATE

COSA's
44TH
ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC
MEETING

13-15 November 2017

International Convention Centre
Darling Harbour, Sydney

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

The Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care

2016 Award Announcement

Professor Fran Boyle AM
MBBS, FRACP, PhD

COSA is proud to announce the 2016 recipient of the Tom Reeve Award for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care, Professor Fran Boyle AM.

When COSA gave the news to Professor Reeve himself that Professor Boyle is receiving the Award in 2016 he said he couldn't think of a more worthy recipient!

Her nomination and letters of support spoke exceedingly of how fitting she is to be recognised in this way. "Professor Boyle AM exemplifies all that the Tom Reeve Award represents. As a long standing and dedicated member of COSA, Professor Boyle is highly regarded and deeply respected by cancer clinicians of all disciplines across the Society, within and outside the breast cancer domain."

Professor Boyle is a Medical Oncologist at North Sydney's Mater Hospital, where she is Director of the Patricia Ritchie Centre for Cancer Care and Research, and Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Sydney. She is involved in the oncology teaching program of the Sydney Medical School and in communication skills training through the Pam McLean Centre.

Professor Boyle's clinical practice at the Poche Centre focuses on breast cancer and melanoma. Her current research interests include clinical trials of new cancer treatments, psychosocial and supportive



Professor Fran Boyle AM

care, and communication. Fran Chairs the Board of Directors of the Australia & New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group, and is a founding Director of the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance. She was honoured with Membership of the Order of Australia in 2008 for services to cancer research, advocacy, policy development and professional education.

Professor Boyle has made a remarkable contribution to many of COSA's core activities – in particular her energy, drive and passion to ensure the COSA ASM is recognised as a leading multidisciplinary professional cancer meeting is noteworthy. A willingness to interact with, and a genuine regard for, cancer professionals irrespective of their discipline define her approach to COSA members, clinical colleagues, advocates and policy makers. She is an influential voice in advocating for investment in cancer care and treatment, education, clinical and translational research, equity of access for affordable drugs, optimal coordination of care and truly meaningful integration of the patient experience in the provision of cancer services.

COSA encourages those attending the Annual Scientific Meeting to register for the conference dinner where Professor Boyle will deliver what is sure to be an entertaining oration and be presented with the Tom Reeve Award.

COSA President Elect announcement



Nick Pavlakis

We are delighted to announce Associate Professor Nick Pavlakis as the incoming President Elect 2017-2018. Nick will be well known to many COSA members, especially those working in lung cancer. Nick's current overarching themes of experience and interests are in research, teaching, mentorship and advocacy, which bode very well for COSA when his Presidency takes effect in 2019 and 2020.

A/Prof Nick Pavlakis is currently a senior staff specialist in the Department of Medical Oncology at Royal North Shore Hospital and conjoint Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine University of Sydney.

He was Head of the Department of Medical Oncology at Royal North Shore Hospital from 2007-2014, and is currently Director of the NSW Cancer Institute supported Northern Sydney Cancer Trials Network; VMO and Clinical Services Director, Northern Cancer Institute; Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Australasian Lung Cancer Trials Group; Chair of the COSA Lung Group; and VMO, Armidale Oncology Day Centre, Armidale Hospital.

After obtaining FRACP in 1997 he then spent 3 years completing a PhD in anti-angiogenic cancer drug development and a Masters of Clinical Epidemiology through the University of Sydney. He has been on staff in the Department of Medical Oncology at Royal North Shore Hospital since 2001 and has been Head of Department and Head of the Clinical Trials Unit 2007-2014. He has previously served on the Executive of the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA), the Private Cancer Physicians Group of Australia (PCPA), the Australian Lung Cancer Trials Group

(current SAC Chair) and on national and International Advisory boards for colorectal cancer, NETs, RCC, mesothelioma and lung cancer for new cancer drug.

His clinical interests are in lung cancer, mesothelioma, colorectal cancer, other gastrointestinal cancers including NETs, and renal cell cancer. His clinical research focuses on trials in these tumour types and includes new cancer drug development, especially in the area of anti-angiogenesis drugs. He has vast experience in the development and conduct of clinical trials since 2001 having led investigator initiated, national and international co-operative group trials (ALTG, AGITG). He is on the faculty of the Australia and Asia-Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) Workshop.

He is an academic medical oncologist, having published journal manuscripts in each of his interest areas (current total > 85 original manuscripts), and numerous meeting proceedings/abstracts. He is a published Cochrane reviewer with reviews in progress in lung cancer and colorectal cancer.

He has been an invited speaker at local, National and International meetings on topics related to lung cancer, mesothelioma, colorectal cancer, oesophagogastric cancer, renal cell cancer and NETs.

Clearly he has the credentials to fulfil the role of COSA President Elect (and ultimately President) very well.

Did you know COSA is on social media?



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

and



Like our Facebook Page

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

COSA Membership

COSA memberships are now up for renewal!

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

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

COSA – medical (1 year)	\$205
COSA – medical (2 years).....	\$395
COSA – non medical (1 year)	\$120
COSA – non medical (2 years).....	\$225
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)	\$170
COSA affiliate/associate* members – medical (2 years).....	\$300
COSA affiliate/associate* members – non-medical (1 year)	\$110
COSA affiliate/associate* members – non-medical (2 years)	\$205

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

New automated renewal feature

COSA is also excited to announce members now have the option of annual renewal fees being automatically deducted from their nominated credit card.

If you wish to **opt in** to automatic annual membership renewal please check the box at the end of the payment section during the renewal process - it's that simple!

Things you need to know:

- **Automatic renewal is only available on 1 year memberships**
- **Automatic renewals will be processed in July each year commencing July 2017**
- **If you need to update your credit card details or wish to opt out, you can do so via MY COSA**
- **COSA does not store your credit card details - they are securely stored with our payment gateway, SecurePay**

For automatic annual membership renewal terms and conditions please visit <https://www.cosa.org.au/media/332297/automatic-annual-membership-renewal-tcs.pdf>

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

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



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Australia & New Zealand
Breast Cancer
Trials Group

SAVE THE DATE

15-17

NOVEMBER 2016

COSA^S

ANZBCTG^S

43RD 38TH

ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC
MEETINGS

Gold Coast
Convention
and Exhibition
Centre

COSA is proud to announce that the 43rd ASM will be held on the Gold Coast in partnership with the ANZ Breast Cancer Trials Group, obviously with a focus on breast cancer.

I am delighted to accept the invitation to act as joint convenor for COSA and the ANZBCTG. As many COSA members will know I am an active member of both organisations and have been involved in planning their conferences previously.

COSA's last breast cancer themed ASM was in 2010 when we also partnered with the ANZBCTG. The meeting was held in Melbourne, at their newly renovated convention centre. During the planning of the meeting, and with the interest from members, more sessions were added to the joint program, which meant the conference was extremely busy. Whilst we are planning for another full event, we expect the format of the

Gold Coast venue will allow us to deliver a cohesive, vibrant and welcoming program.

Breast cancer themed meetings are always bumper events for COSA and we hope the partnership with the ANZBCTG will ensure even greater attendance and success next year. We are already planning the sessions and sending invitations to international leaders in the field to confirm their participation with plenty of notice.

So be sure to diarise 15-17 November 2016 now. We look forward to seeing you on the Gold Coast then.

Fran Boyle
Joint Convenor,
2016 ASM for COSA
and ANZBCTG

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



Abstract Submission Guidelines

Online Abstract Submission

Abstract submission is online at <http://www.cosa2016.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 12 August 2016 – Abstract submissions

Friday 8 July 2016 – 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

Education

Epidemiology

Health Services

Supportive Care *

Breast Cancer (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.cosa2016.org>) to review examples of an exemplary abstract, and abstracts which would not meet the standard required for acceptance.

COSA 2016 Travel Grants

COSA is pleased to call for travel grant applications from financial Society members to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) on the Gold Coast from 15-17 November 2016. Each grant will be up to the value of \$1,000.

COSA-IPSEN Travel Award

In 2016 IPSEN continues its tradition of sponsoring four COSA members with travel grants up to the value of \$1,100 to attend the ASM. 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 Trainees Weekend on the Gold Coast, 12-13 November 2016.

All travel grant applications close: Monday 19 August 2016

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

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Order of Australia

COSA congratulates the following members of the oncology community who are 2016 recipients of honours in the Order of Australia

Australia Day Honours

Professor Jim Denham OAM

For service to medicine, and to medical research.

Professor Mark Frydenberg AM

For significant service to medicine as a clinician, educator and author in the speciality of urology, and to professional medical organisations.

Professor Finlay Macrae AO

For distinguished service to medicine in the field of gastroenterology and genomic disorders as a clinician and academic, and to human health through the Human Variome Project.

Queens Birthday Honours

Mrs Deirdre Margaret Tuck OAM

For service to medical research organisations, and to oncology nursing.

Professor Max Allan Schwarz AM

For significant service to medicine in the field of oncology as a clinician, mentor and researcher.

The late Ms Bridget Mary Whelan OAM

For service to community health as an advocate for people with cancer.

COSA Group Reports

Cancer Care Coordination Group

Position paper

Many of you will already be aware that CNSA formally endorsed the *Cancer Care Coordinator Position Statement*, which was accepted by COSA's Board in March 2016. We now look forward to continued engagement and collaboration with the CNSA as we move forward to actively disseminate the statement and use it to help drive the future directions for this Group.

The position statement is available on COSA's website (<https://www.cosa.org.au/publications/position-statements.aspx>), and provides guidance for consumers, health professionals, health service managers and funders on the effective integration of these roles into cancer care delivery. I encourage all COSA members with an interest in cancer care coordination to read this important document, distribute it widely throughout your own networks, and consider providing a link to the paper from your own organisational websites, so that we may all continue the conversation on cancer care coordination in Australia.

Educational and Professional Development Activities

Following the success of our pilot webinar in 2015, the Professional Development Committee has been working together to further develop this program and deliver more opportunities, with the next webinar planned for the end of July 2016.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the WA Cancer & Palliative Care

Network, and thank Stephen Platt who is again providing his time and expertise to coordinate the technical aspects of our next webinar.

It is great to see that care coordination issues have had a significant focus in cancer nursing conferences in recent years. I was fortunate to attend the Oncology Nursing Society Congress in San Antonio in April. The ONS conference is attended by more than 3000 oncology nurses and includes sessions related to clinical practice, leadership and management, advanced practice and research. The program included a dedicated session on the role of nurse navigators in establishing quality communication and collaboration between oncology services, primary care and patients. The session outlined core competencies required of nurses in navigation roles and provided opportunities to reflect on advanced communication skills in particular. If you have not already done so, I recommend that you look at the ONS Core Competencies for Nurse Navigator's publication, as it provides a useful resource for reflecting on areas for ongoing professional development. Other sessions that were of interest from a care coordination perspective included a session on the development of quality metrics in practice, and a provocative session on the varying viewpoints about the best way to implement evidence in practice.

The CNSA Annual Congress held in May with the theme "Bridging the Gap" also included some great sessions of interest to care coordinators. Plenary sessions addressed issues such as disparities in cancer care and strategies to address these, including the important role of telehealth. Improved coordination of care plays a critical role in reducing inequities in care outcomes. The concurrent sessions at CNSA congress also covered a very

wide range of practice, workforce and health systems topics. I especially enjoyed one of the concurrent sessions focused on innovations in practice. It was a fantastic opportunity to catch up with many of you as well.

COSA's 43rd Annual Scientific Meeting will be of great interest to many care coordinators this year – it is being held in partnership with the ANZBCTG from 15- 17 November 2016 on the Gold Coast – with a clear focus on breast cancer. We encourage everyone to visit www.cosa2016.org for more information about the program, the Trainee's Weekend, abstract submission and travel grants – and to consider getting involved and joining us on the Gold Coast in November.

Patsy Yates

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

Cancer Pharmacists Group

Hard to believe this is my first report as CPG Chair and it is already August! I have thoroughly enjoyed the year to date with many CPG activities having already occurred or in advanced planning stages. With our major focus on providing quality educational opportunities to cancer pharmacists, the last few months of the year promise to be very exciting.

CPG Foundation Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists Course 21 - 22 May 2016

Our first educational course for 2016, held in Brisbane and aimed at pharmacists relatively new to cancer, proved to be extremely successful both in terms of

a record number of attendees (59) and the quality of the presentations provided, as shown by the very positive feedback we received. With sessions ranging from basic principles of chemotherapy through to disease-focused interactive workshops, 95% of attendees rated the overall program as excellent or very good. We pride ourselves on delivering this workshop 'by cancer pharmacists, for cancer pharmacists' and we have big plans to further develop the course to meet the needs of cancer pharmacists through 2017 and beyond.

I am very grateful to our co-convenors, Dan McKavanagh and Geeta Sandhu, who continue to put together a great program, ASN Events for organising all the logistics and our experienced CPG speakers for their invaluable time and effort.

CPG Advanced Pharmacist Course 3 - 4 September 2016

We are now in the final stages of organising our 6th "Advanced Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists" Course on the first weekend in September in (hopefully) sunny Melbourne. We recognise there are limited opportunities for continuing development and education for more experienced pharmacists and this seminar provides an excellent way to ensure skills remain up to date, as we change the program every year to focus on new areas of practice. Registrations are now open and the preliminary program is available at: <http://cosacpgcourses.org.au/cpg-advanced-course/>.

This year's topics include:

- Advanced pharmacokinetics for the Cancer Pharmacist – practical application of advanced PK models in cancer therapeutics
- Amyloid – multidisciplinary approach to patient care
- Complex case workshops for advanced practitioners in Medical Oncology and Haematology

- Practise based role expansion within cancer pharmacy
- Understanding the antidotes: a practical approach to chemotherapy protectants and antidotes
- And more!

I look forward to reporting on another successful meeting in the next Marryalyan.

COSA/ANZBCTG ASM 2016 – Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre – 15-17 November 2016

An exciting program for this year's ASM on the Gold Coast has been announced and there will be plenty of interesting content for cancer pharmacists. I am the CPG representative on the ASM organising committee and with this year's theme being breast cancer, it promises to be a very popular conference once again. I would encourage CPG members to attend to both update their knowledge in the area of breast cancer and hear about many new and ground-breaking innovations in this setting.

Sessions of particular interest to cancer pharmacists will include the return of the popular "Medicine Matters" session (this year focused on HER2 positive breast cancer), an immunotherapy plenary session, current challenges in targeted therapies, cancer pain management and geriatric oncology – each of these sessions will have cancer pharmacists presenting within them. Please check out the program now available on the COSA ASM website www.cosa2016.org and we look forward to seeing you there.

We are also busily organising the CPG pre-ASM clinical development workshop for cancer pharmacists, planned to be held at the GC Convention Centre on the day before the conference starts (Monday 14 November) – more details on the program will be circulated to CPG members soon. Please mark this date in your calendars.

Revised COSA Chemotherapy Guidelines Update

The COSA guidelines for the safe prescribing, dispensing and administration of cancer chemotherapy were developed in 2008 and subsequently published in APJCO in 2010. The guidelines are now 8 years old and as previously reported in Marryalyan, are now being reviewed by a multidisciplinary working group which includes medical oncologists, nurses and pharmacists and is being chaired by Dr Christine Carrington, COSA Board and CPG executive committee member.

The guideline revision has turned out to be much more extensive than anticipated. The literature review completed by our librarian colleagues at Austin Health initially identified over 1700 references. After screening against defined inclusion/exclusion criteria, 306 articles were shortlisted and assessed in detail by working group members using the CCA critical appraisal form.

A face-to-face meeting of the working group was held in Sydney on 18 March 2016. It was a very successful day with the key outcomes being to present the wiki platform, review feedback from the survey on the current guidelines, discuss the relevant articles, determine how the new information will be incorporated into the medical, pharmacy and nursing aspects of the guidelines and to finalise the responsibilities for writing content – which is currently underway. The revised guidelines will soon be posted on the CCA Cancer Guidelines Wiki for public consultation and are planned to be launched at the COSA ASM in November.

Educational Modules for Advanced Trainees

The "Pharmacology of Cancer Chemotherapy" course consists of 8 modules for Oncology and Haematology Advanced Medical Trainees. The course content has been developed and presented by expert pharmacists Dr Christine

Carrington and Dan McKavanagh, with each module designed to provide education on the pharmacology of cancer chemotherapy and targeted therapy. These COSA facilitated workshops have been run successfully in Brisbane for 4 years and for the first time in 2015 were held in Queensland (including video teleconference attendance for regional areas), NSW and Victoria.

The course is being facilitated by COSA again in 2016 with Krissy and Dan presenting and we would like to acknowledge Roche's invaluable support of these workshops. The Queensland workshops were delivered as 4 evening sessions, each of 2 hours duration in June with the option for regional areas to attend via video teleconference. Both the Sydney and Melbourne workshops were held as one day Saturday workshops on the 18 June in Melbourne and the 16 July in Sydney. Registrations have been good for all states (QLD: 16; VIC: 19; NSW: 25) and include participants from regional areas. An evaluation will again be undertaken on completion of the workshops.

Other developments

I hope to provide more information in the next Marryalyan about some other work being carried out by the CPG executive committee and members including cancer pharmacist involvement in the Geriatric Oncology Group and updates planned for the educational resources area in the CPG section of the COSA website. Stay tuned!

We look forward to seeing many of our CPG members at the various educational meetings and events during what remains of 2016.

With best wishes

Michael Powell
Chair, Cancer Pharmacists Group
michael.powell@health.qld.gov.au

Clinical Trials Research Professionals Group

I am pleased to report that the CTRPG Executive has been working hard to improve quality standards of research within the scope of clinical trials management. During the first half of this year the committee met regularly by teleconference, our key achievements to date include:

- Endorsing new members for the Executive Committee
- Developing an agenda for a Clinical Professional Day Workshop during the COSA/Australia and New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG) Annual Meeting in November
- Updating key information on our Group's pages of the COSA website
- Submitting a report commenting on an initiative to develop a National Participant Information and Consent Form (PICF) Framework for clinical trials

CTRPG Executive Committee members include Annette Cubitt, Clinical Trial Manager, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, QLD (Deputy Chair); Alison Coote, Clinical Trials Coordinator, Orange Health Service, NSW (Secretary); Alison Richards, Clinical Trials Manager, Flinders Medical Centre, SA; Natasha Roberts, Research Coordinator, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, QLD; Leonie Kelly, Medical Oncology Clinical Trials Coordinator, Gosford Hospital, NSW; Sanela Bilic, Project Manager, Gynaecological Cancer Research Group, Subiaco, WA; and, Joanne Hakansson, Manager Cancer Clinical Trials Centre, Austin Hospital, VIC.

COSA Annual Scientific Meetings provide members with continuing education and networking opportunities, as well as a forum for discussion and the exchange of information. This year, the focus of the

COSA ASM, to be held in partnership with the ANZBCTG in November on the Gold Coast, will be on breast cancer, providing an exciting opportunity for all COSA members to learn from national and international experts in this field.

The CTRPG has developed an interesting and informative agenda for a Clinical Professional Day Workshop to be held on Monday 14 November. The workshop will include a GCP refresher led by Eleanor Allan from Caledonian Clinical Training. Eleanor will outline changes to GCP expected to be released the same month, apply these to relevant case scenarios and provide opportunities for attendees to discuss their own real-life challenges. This session will meet TransCelerate training criteria, so attendees who complete it will receive a certificate that is valid for 3 years. There will also be a presentation by Elizabeth Wilson, Quintiles Sites Relationship Manager ANZ, who will give an update about the implementation status of Risk Based Monitoring in Australia, and an overview of Immunotherapy Treatment in Clinical Trials.

New information and links have been added to the CTRPG pages on the COSA website. The research programs of Australian collaborative groups produce data of the highest quality and scientific credibility, generating evidence to improve cancer care and control. Collaborative groups maintain websites with helpful information on clinical trial management, we have included links to these websites to assist our members to access this information. Another feature of the Group pages on the COSA website is the "Discussion" tab, which can be used to raise a question and communicate with the CTRPG Executive. Research staff who would like advice about clinical trials management, regulations, ethics, governance issues or training opportunities can enter a query on the website; the CTRPG Executive will do our best to provide a helpful response.

A National Participant Information and Consent Form framework, developed by Bellberry Limited, aims to streamline PICF development and review and align

with National Mutual Acceptance and NHMRC Good Practice Process. The CTRPG Executive Committee was given the opportunity to review and comment on the template forms and guidelines. We submitted ideas that may further improve this important initiative.

Cancer clinical trials research in Australia faces a number of challenges. While much progress has been achieved, further improvements in timeliness, efficiency, feasibility assessment and operational cost effectiveness will help ensure that important research questions continue to be answered. The aim of the CTRPG is to support this process by doing all that we can to foster high quality clinical trials research in Australia. We encourage people to register for the Clinical Professional Day Workshop and look forward to the opportunity to meet Group members and other colleagues during the COSA/ANZBCTG ASM in November.

Dianne Lindsay
*Chair, Clinical Trials Research
Professionals Group*
DLindsayConsulting@bigpond.com

Complementary and Integrative Therapies Group

The prevalence of complementary and integrative therapy (CIT) use by breast cancer patients and survivors varies, however, it is well accepted that it is typically higher than among individuals in the general population. Commonly used CITs among women with breast cancer include nutritional/dietary supplements, relaxation strategies, mind-body types of therapies such as tai chi and yoga and various types of social support groups.

Given this high prevalence of use in patients and survivors of breast cancer the CIT Group encourages COSA members and their associates around the country to submit abstracts for oral presentations and posters to the upcoming ASM in the Gold

Cost in November. This could be new data from local studies and/or centres providing CITs in cancer patient and survivor settings highlighting their respective models of care and ethos on service delivery.

See www.cosa2016.org for all key dates.

Key published papers

Breast Cancer CAM use

A recent research publication in *JAMA Oncology* reported that the use of dietary supplements and multiple modalities of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) were both associated with reduced initiation of clinically indicated chemotherapy among patients with early-stage breast cancer.

The findings suggest that breast cancer clinicians should consider including CAM use in their discussion with patients during the chemotherapy decision-making process.

This is well in line with the recommendations of COSA 2013 Position statement on - *The use of complementary and alternative medicine by cancer patients.*

Reference

Greenlee H, Neugeit AI, Falci L, et al. *Association between complementary and alternative medicine use and breast cancer chemotherapy initiation: The Breast Cancer Quality of Care (BQUAL) study* [published online ahead of print May 12, 2016]. *JAMA Oncology*. doi: 10.1001/jamaoncol.2016.0685.

Abstract free: <http://oncology.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2521357>

Medicinal Cannabis

COSA 2014 ASM Keynote speaker Dr. Donald I. Abrams MD, cancer and integrative medicine specialist at the University of California San Francisco, Osher Center for Integrative Medicine at Mount Zion has recently published a paper

on the global and local very topical issue, the therapeutic use of Cannabis Sativa in the cancer and palliative care setting.

Free access via Research Gate, the link below or email pkatris@cancerwa.asn.au.

Reference

Abrams D.I., *Using Medical Cannabis in an Oncology Practice*. *Oncology*, 2016 May;30(5):397-404.

www.cancernetwork.com/printpdf/217038

Welcome to Dr Suzanne Grant to the COSA CIT Group Executive

Suzanne has practised Chinese medicine in an integrative medical centre setting for over 10 years. She is currently the Senior Acupuncturist at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, Camperdown, Sydney.



Dr Suzanne Grant

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

Exercise and Cancer Group

The Exercise and Cancer Group has been working across a range of activities throughout the first half of 2016 including:

Terms of Reference

The Exercise and Cancer Group Terms of Reference have been approved by COSA Council. The executive committee comprises of 10 engaged professionals representing the multi-disciplinary composition of the group (i.e. clinical exercise physiology, clinical physiotherapy, clinical oncology, nursing, research, public health).

The Group's vision, aim and objectives are:

- Vision: enhanced supportive care practice and policy leading to improved outcomes for patients through affordable, accessible and effective exercise medicine
- Aim: to have exercise incorporated as a standard component of care for people with cancer
- Objectives:
 - o Promote and progress a national approach to the implementation of evidence based exercise in cancer care.
 - o Foster and facilitate effective research, education and advocacy of the role of exercise in cancer care.
 - o Engage stakeholders and collaborate with partners to improve the quality of, and access to, exercise in cancer care.
 - o Provide a multidisciplinary forum for discussion and exchange of knowledge and experiences related to exercise in cancer care.

COSA Position Statement on Exercise in Cancer Care

The Exercise and Cancer Group have received in principle support from COSA Council to develop a COSA position statement on exercise in cancer care. The statement will act to endorse existing evidence based guidelines (and their subsequent updates) and apply them to the Australian setting. The position statement is central to the goals of the Exercise and Cancer Group and will be a pivotal resource to guide the Group's activities. The Group will undertake broad consultation within COSA and external stakeholders in the development of the position statement. Consultation with the COSA membership is planned to coincide with the Annual Scientific Meeting in November this year.

Involvement in COSA

Annual Scientific Meeting

The Group has been working to have exercise feature strongly within the 2016 COSA Annual Scientific Meeting. We encourage you to attend the following sessions during the conference:

- Breakfast Session: Physical activity and cancer diagnosis – Melinda Irwin (Tuesday 15 November)
- Exercise & Breast Cancer Session (Tuesday 15 November)
 - o Melinda Irwin - Exercise for the management of arthralgia
 - o Sandi Hayes - Exercise for the management of upper body mobility
 - o Carolina Sandler - Exercise for the management of fatigue
 - o Haryana Dhillon - Exercise for the management of distress and cognitive impairment
- Self-management of Cancer Pain Session: Sharni Patchell - Physiotherapy strategies for cancer pain (Wednesday 16 November)

Videos Regarding the Role of Exercise in Cancer Care

We refer interested COSA members to the following videos discussing the potential of exercise to help patients manage the negative effects of cancer and its treatment:

- TEDx Talk: A new contender in the fight against cancer
 - o Talk – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlQh4fUZkJs>
 - o Q & A session – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46UyoJXuM3s>
- Catalyst Episode: Exercise and cancer
 - o <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/4459555.htm>

If you would like to participate in the Exercise and Cancer Group or simply

be kept informed of our activities in this area, please login to your member profile on the COSA website and either select Exercise as a 'COSA Group' or 'Area of Interest'. We strongly encourage members from all discipline areas to get involved with our Group.

Prue Cormie
Chair, Exercise and Cancer Group
p.cormie@acu.edu.au

Geriatric Oncology Group

The COSA Geriatric Oncology Group held a strategic planning day at the COSA Offices in Sydney in April 2016, bringing together leaders in the field of geriatric oncology from around Australia with interests encompassing medical oncology, geriatrics, nursing, pharmacy and palliative care. The day provided us the opportunity to review our achievements and seek agreement on Group activities for the coming 5 years. The day was notable for the presence of a number of new faces around the table, and with participation from all states we are now truly a national body with a revitalised agenda.

We reached consensus on the importance of focussing on two key areas for the Group: progressing a geriatric oncology research agenda and developing geriatric oncology clinical guidelines/guidance statements on a wiki platform. These will both serve as vehicles for improving outcomes for older Australians with cancer, and we will be forming working groups to guide these actions in the coming months. The report from this day is now available on the COSA website, and we also encourage all members who want to be kept informed about our activities to update your membership profile and select 'Geriatric Oncology' as a 'Group' or 'Area of interest'.

We are also taking this opportunity to renew the Executive structure and I will be stepping down as Chair. Although I will be changing my role, I remain committed to

being involved with future Group activities, as we remain the only group in Australia principally focussed on the field of geriatric oncology. Australia's activities in geriatric oncology are well-known and respected internationally, and the continuing achievements of this Group will help ensure we remain important contributors to improving outcomes for older adults affected by cancer.

I encourage all members to consider getting involved in the work of the Geriatric Oncology Group, and to also help spread the word to any of your colleagues who may wish to contribute.

Christopher Steer

Chair, Geriatric Oncology Group

christopher.steer@bordermedonc.com.au

(Follow me on twitter @drcbsteer for geriatric oncology updates)

Nutrition Group

COSA Nutrition Group members made their mark at the recent Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) 2016 conference held for the first time in Australia in Adelaide. The COSA Nutrition Group held a successful joint symposium with the MASCC Nutrition and Cachexia Group on models of nutritional care in high risk patient groups with presentations from COSA members Jenelle Loeliger, Dr Anna Boltong, Merran Findlay and Dr Nicole Kiss. There were a number of other oral and poster presentations by COSA nutrition group members throughout the conference with COSA Nutrition Group Chair, Dr Nicole Kiss the recipient of the inaugural Steve Grunberg award for the highest ranking abstract at the conference. Dr Anna Boltong has also recently been appointed to the board of MASCC furthering opportunities for the nutrition groups of both organisations to work collaboratively. Well done to the Group on these successes and thank you to Professor Liz Isenring, Chair of the MASCC Nutrition and Cachexia group, for facilitating the joint symposium.

The Group are busy working on a number of other initiatives including an update of the head and neck nutrition evidence based guidelines as well as commencement of the phase III malnutrition in Victorian cancer services (VCS) program of work. Phase III malnutrition in VCS consists of 4 new state-wide projects including the rollout and implementation of the malnutrition governance toolkit and eLearning packages developed in Phase II, developing a sustainable platform for continuation of the cancer malnutrition point prevalence study, improving malnutrition identification in culturally and linguistically diverse patients, and food service models to better support improving nutrition care. Further updates will be provided as both these pieces of work progress.

An exciting session is planned at the upcoming COSA conference on the Gold Coast. The session titled nutrition and breast cancer, will feature a range of national and international multidisciplinary experts in dietetics, medicine, epidemiology and exercise physiology to showcase the latest research and practice implications in the area of nutrition and breast cancer with a particular emphasis on lifestyle/ weight loss interventions

Nicole Kiss

Chair, Nutrition Group

Nicole.Kiss@petermac.org

Psycho-Oncology Group

As we enter the second half of 2016 it is timely to remind everyone of the upcoming COSA Annual Scientific Meeting which will be held in beautiful, sunny Queensland at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. This year the COSA ASM will be a joint meeting with the Australia & New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group. The program is on the COSA ASM website www.cosa2016.org and you will find that it is injected with fascinating sessions for all with an interest in psycho-oncology. One example is the session on e-technologies

in Psycho-Oncology on the Wednesday afternoon which promises to be a thought-provoking session as we start to consider the role of e-technologies in service delivery. The presentations in this session will provide the foundation of what will hopefully become a lively discussion on this topical subject.

Currently we are working on the Professional Day planned for the Monday prior to the ASM. Given the success of last year's Professional Day, we are planning to host the day with other COSA Groups to provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary discussions and collaboration. There will be more information about this day as we get closer to the conference date.

Formation of the COSA Psycho-Oncology Group Executive Committee

It is with great excitement that I can advise the call for nominations for the COSA Psycho-oncology Group Executive Committee has been sent out. This is an exciting opportunity for people who would like to have input into Psycho-oncology in Australia. The process will follow that of other COSA Groups in that once all applications have been received and processed, COSA Psycho-Oncology Group members will be invited to vote on the nominees. The Executive Committee will consist of the current Chair, immediate past Chair, a nominated representative from PoCoG, the OSWA COSA Council Representative and two elected members from the Psycho-Oncology Group. After the group has been established the Terms of Reference and a Strategic Plan will be developed.

As you can see, the second half of 2016 promises to be action packed. I look forward to seeing many of you at the COSA ASM. Please do get in contact with me laura.kirsten@health.nsw.gov.au if you have any ideas you would like to share.

Laura Kirsten

Chair, Psycho-Oncology Group

laura.kirsten@health.nsw.gov.au

Regional and Rural Group

In the last 12 months the R&R Group focussed on 2 major activities, the first being the development of the COSA Clinical Practice Guidelines for Teleoncology. These guidelines were launched at the COSA ASM in Hobart and will continue to be updated on the Cancer Guidelines Wiki (<http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:Teleoncology>). The second activity was the annual face-to-face meeting of the Network of Directors and Clinical Leads of Regional Cancer Centres held in October 2015. Four major priority areas were discussed including workforce, innovation and models of care, research and training. The day provided an excellent forum to facilitate communication between regional cancer centres.

At present the major activity of the R&R group is the development of an ANZ Tele-trial Model to enable the conduct of clinical trials closer to home for regional and rural patients. The model allows clinicians from larger centres (primary sites) to enrol, consent and treat patients on clinical trials at regional and rural centres (satellite sites) using teleoncology. This project being led by COSA is now working in collaboration with the Cancer Institute NSW to develop specific processes for implementation particularly in regard to research governance. The next step will be to seek feedback and endorsement from our Affiliated Organisations, especially the cooperative trials groups on the Guide for Implementation. It is anticipated that the model and implementation guide will be approved by COSA council later this year.

For further information on any of the Regional and Rural projects please contact me or Rhonda DeSouza (COSA Project Manager)
rhonda.desouza@cancer.org.au.

Sabe Sabesan
Chair, Regional and Rural Group
sabe.sabesan@health.qld.gov.au

Survivorship Group

Executive Committee and Terms of Reference

As you will recall from our Group e-update earlier in the year our Executive Committee are in place and now meeting regularly. The first work of the Group was to propose the Group's aims and terms of reference. Thank you to the members who provided comment and feedback about these. The terms of reference have been finalised and will be reviewed by COSA Council during the August meeting. Once approved they will be available in the Survivorship Group members area on the COSA website.

Aims and objectives:

The overarching mission of the COSA Survivorship Group is to improve the care of Australians beyond cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Objectives include:

- Promote and advocate for improved services and access to care for all Australians surviving a diagnosis of cancer
- Represent the needs of the broad range of health professionals involved in delivering cancer care in the survivorship setting
- Provide a forum for education, discussion and exchange of information between health professionals involved in cancer survivorship care
- Foster research within the scope of survivorship care
- Engage stakeholders in the area of cancer survivorship care to ensure a coordinated national approach to survivorship care in Australia.

We are really delighted to be working together to represent your interests and progress the area of cancer survivorship care across the country. Please do send through your thoughts, comments, and

suggestions – being relevant to the needs of cancer survivors and the workforce who support them is critical to us!

Survivorship Care Critical Components and Model

The most substantial piece of work being undertaken by the Group since its inception is the COSA Model of Survivorship Care. We have made progress having uploaded reports from the December 2014 stakeholder meeting and the November 2015 Consumer Consultation Workshop. Both workshops generated lively discussion and debate about the Model and how it could be used to address existing concerns in survivorship care. We expect to circulate the revised and revamped Model before the COSA ASM this year. Looking forward to sharing this exciting piece of work with you all.

Cancer Survivorship at MASCC

The Multinational Association for Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) held their Annual Meeting in Adelaide during June. The attendees numbered about 1,073 from 50 countries and converged on Adelaide for a very diverse program. There was a great deal for the survivorship community with sessions around communication in cancer care, discussing prognosis, and plenty of exercise presentations. The final plenary session dealt with the survivorship concerns of cancer survivors, young and old, as well as the social determinants of health and how they impact chronic health problems. COSA members featured highly in the program, presenting some very high quality work. With @drbsteer and @hagsie tweeting with many other contributors there is a useful archive of the tweets you can find here: <https://storify.com/hagsie/the-mascc-isoo-2016-annual-meeting>

COSA 2016

The 2016 COSA & ANZBCTG Annual Scientific Meeting is shaping up to be a

highlight of the year for anyone with an interest in cancer survivorship. We have *AV* Prof Deborah Fenlon, a health psychology & nursing researcher from the United Kingdom joining us on the Gold Coast. Deborah's work focusses on programs to support cancer survivors, online delivery of psychosocial care, and fear of cancer recurrence.

One of the topical sessions includes "Insomnia, depression, and breast cancer". This session will provide an opportunity to discuss depression after breast cancer, the factors contributing to this and management strategies including managing endocrine symptoms. With international and Australian experts involved it will be a great session with lots of opportunity for discussion.

Exercise has been a hot topic during 2016 and the COSA Exercise and Cancer Group have organised a topical session on 'Exercise & Breast Cancer'. Without a doubt this will be clinically relevant and, based on experience with our Exercise

Group members, it will be lively and action-packed as well.

With a range of therapies moving to online provision of services, the psycho-oncology group have put together a series of talks about what we have learnt from online interventions so far and future directions of these interventions.

Plenty of great, engaging work will be presented. Don't forget there is still time to submit your abstracts and be a part of this wonderful multi-disciplinary meeting.

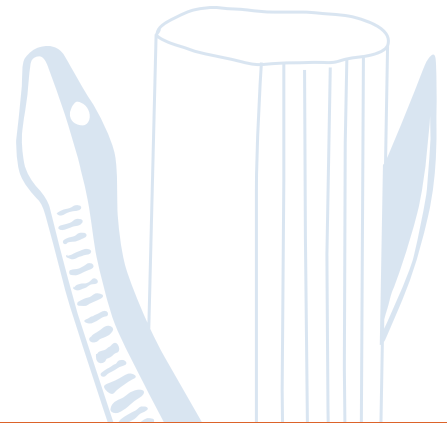
COSA-FCIC Survivorship Conference

For the first time COSA is collaborating with the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer on the 2017 Cancer Survivorship Conference. A team of survivorship enthusiasts have been working to develop the program for the Cancer Survivorship 2017 Conference. With a theme of 'Pathways to better policy and practice' it will be relevant to survivors

themselves, point of care personnel, service administrators, policy makers, and researchers. With some key international speakers, and drawing on our wealth of experienced Australians working in cancer survivorship across all levels of policy, care, and research it is going to be a cracking program. The meeting will run 2 - 3 February 2017 in Adelaide.

Hope you are all keeping well and warm throughout the winter days.

Haryana Dhillon
Chair, Survivorship Group
haryana.dhillon@sydney.edu.au



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:

AGITG celebrates 25 years of excellence and innovation in GI cancer research

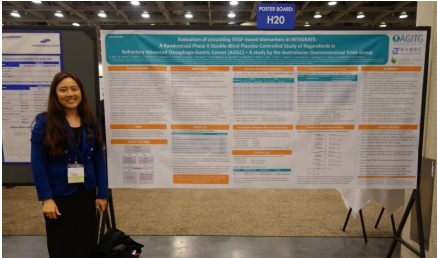
This year marks the 25th year of the AGITG conducting and promoting clinical and related biological research to improve health outcomes for patients with GI cancers. Over the past 25 years, through the tireless efforts of the AGITG membership, we have been instrumental in achieving significant changes in medical practice not only in Australia but worldwide.

For more information go to:
agitg.org.au/ALid3

INTEGRATE Study results published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology

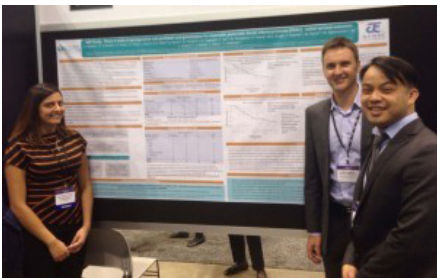
The manuscript "Regorafenib for the Treatment of Advanced Gastric Cancer (INTEGRATE): a Multinational Placebo-Controlled Phase II Trial" was recently published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. For the complete manuscript go to: agitg.org.au/MZPr0work.

INTEGRATE Study translational research poster presentation at ASCO GI



The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) was held between 21st and 23rd January 2016. The Symposium featured a biomarker study of the AGITG clinical trial INTEGRATE Evaluation of circulating VEGF based biomarkers in INTEGRATE: A randomized phase II double-blind placebo-controlled study of regorafenib in refractory advanced oesophagogastric cancer (AOGC). For more information go to agitg.org.au/AbeyY

GAP Study poster presentation at ASCO



The GAP study was recently presented by Dr Howard Chan, an AGITG Research Fellow, in the GI cancer (non-colorectal) session at American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2016 in Chicago. The GAP poster, at ASCO, highlighted those patients who had shown a response on CT to pre-operative chemotherapy had a higher chance of having all their cancer removed during surgery, and also had a longer period without the cancer returning. It also highlighted that the median progression free survival of all patients is encouraging when compared to other similar trials. The GAP trial was supported

through the generosity of independent biopharmaceutical company Specialised Therapeutics Australia. For more information go to: agitg.org.au/yVKCo

Pancreas Cancer Surgical Guidelines Report published in the Medical Journal of Australia

To facilitate the development of consensus statements for defining when a patient is clearly operable, borderline or locally advanced/inoperable in an Australian setting, the Australasian Gastrointestinal Trials Group (AGITG) Pancreatic Cancer Surgical Guidelines Workshop was convened in July 2015 by the Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG) in partnership with the Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation. The report manuscript was published in the Medical Journal of Australia. For more information and a copy of the report go to agitg.org.au/o3fki

TACTIC Study published in Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology

The AGITG TACTIC study, a Phase II trial of gemcitabine, cisplatin and panitumumab in biliary tract cancer was recently published in the Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology Journal. For the complete story go to agitg.org.au/QIHPU

Grant funding secured for three AGITG Clinical Trials

NABNEC: A Randomised Phase II Study Of NAB-Paclitaxel In Combination With Carboplatin As First Line Treatment Of Gastrointestinal Neuroendocrine Carcinomas.

NHMRC funding awarded. First sites anticipated to open in Q3 2016.

ACTICCA-1: A randomized, multidisciplinary AIO/DGAV/DGVS phase III trial. Adjuvant chemotherapy with

Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group



18th Annual Scientific Meeting AGITG TRIALS IN ACTION 2016

14 – 16 SEPTEMBER 2016 · Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, Victoria



International Speakers

- Prof Edgar Ben-Josef**
University of Pennsylvania
- Dr Jeffrey Meyerhardt**
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Prof Magnus Nilsson**
The Karolinska Institute
- Prof Phil Quirke**
University of Leeds
- Prof Alan Venook**
UCSF, Helen Diller
Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
- A/Prof Rebecca Wong**
Canadian Cancer Trials Group
- Dr Simron Singh**
Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre

To register visit www.agitg.org.au

gemcitabine and cisplatin compared to observation after curative intent resection of cholangiocarcinoma and muscle invasive gallbladder carcinoma.

Cancer Australia funding awarded. First sites anticipated to open in Q3 2016.

CONTROL NETS: CONTROL NETS: Capecitabine ON Temozolomide Radionuclide therapy Octreotate Lutetium-177 NeuroEndocrine Tumours Study.

Opened to patient accrual with funding support for pilot stage provided by the Unicorn Foundation. Perpetual IMPACT Philanthropy recently awarded additional funding to further support patient accrual.

Upcoming events:

4th Annual Pancreas Cancer Research Workshop – September 13

Held in conjunction with the Australian Pancreatic Club, this is a free and open Workshop aimed to develop new collaborations and relationships between researchers, health care providers, consumers and pharmaceutical companies in pancreatic cancer.

Find out more: agitg.org.au/8nspj

Annual Scientific Meeting – September 14 – 16

AGITG Clinical Trials in Action – 18th Annual Scientific Meeting Sofitel Melbourne on Collins Street

Find out more:
www.agitg.asnevents.com.au/

Preceptorship in Colorectal Cancer – November 11 & 12

This two day intensive learning course is based on complete review of literature to understand evolution of treatment for colorectal cancer in the adjuvant and metastatic setting, in the context of current treatment paradigms. Learning is in small group interactive sessions along the Harvard short course model.

Find out more: agitg.org.au/kim2z

CommNETS Workshop – December 2 & 3

The Commonwealth Neuroendocrine Tumour Collaboration (CommNETS) 2016 meeting will build upon success of the first CommNETS meeting held in 2015. The meeting will again bring together leaders in the field - NET clinicians, researchers and consumers from across Australia, New Zealand & Canada.

Find out more: agitg.org.au/commnets

Cambodia Gutsy Challenge – October 15 – 24

Join Dr Chris Karapetis and others and cycle over 300kms through the Cambodian countryside to raise funds for GI cancer research.

Find out more: agitg.org.au/AU23r

Tim Price
Chairperson, AGITG

Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group



One of the major projects of the ALLG is the National Blood Cancer Registry (NBCR). The NBCR registers patients with a suspected, known or diagnosed blood cancer who voluntarily consent to the collection of data with or without samples taken according to the standard of care at the treating hospital. There are no NBCR required assessments and all data collected is according to the standard of care assessments at the respective treating hospitals for the diagnosis, treatment and follow up of the patients. The timing of these data collections varies

according to the specific blood cancer diagnosis.

The ALLG NBCR facilitates a number of functions associated with ALLG clinical trials and thereby promotes improved outcomes for patients. Some of the advantages to the establishment of the NBCR are:

1. The NBCR aims to enhance patient participation in clinical trials by facilitating cross referral of patients to sites that are running ALLG studies.
2. The clear detail of tests to be conducted at baseline aligns with ALLG clinical trial screening procedures to minimise burden on the patient and to ensure that the correct samples are collected at the correct time points, thus maximising ability to participate in a trial.
3. The NBCR facilitates the implementation of central review and central testing of factors critical to the successful treatment of blood cancers, and enhances consistency in clinical trial populations to ensure trial results are meaningful.
4. The collection of samples, together with access to data provides a valuable resource for researchers, allowing for future unspecified research. This ensures clinical trial results remain relevant in the current landscape of blood cancer treatment.

The details of the data and samples requested from sites are based on the expected standard of care assessments for each disease type. The collection of samples is encouraged as a means to maximise future research, with timepoints determined based on when the patient would be having normal standard samples collected and tested.

Until recently the NBCR has been operating using paper case record forms. In an exciting new development, the new electronic data capture (eDC)

system was launched in February this year. This streamlines processes for data management both at sites and in the ALLG Trial Centre. Individual hospital sites retain full access to their participants' data. The switch from paper CRFs to electronic will improve data accuracy, making it a far more efficient and less burdensome effort for our member sites. All sites receive training in the eDC system and the ALLG Trial Centre also provides a help desk. The new system has been extremely well received at participating sites. Caitlin Kolaric, Clinical Trials Coordinator at Canberra Hospital comments: "Registering new patients to the NBCR via eCRF is so easy. It is a streamlined, paperless process that saves so much time and provides a registration number immediately"

The function that allows sites to access their own data is now live and data requests from ALLG members are also starting to come in.

The NBCR initially focussed on data from patients with acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). Over time, the NBCR will expand and add additional diagnoses. The first to be added was the category of Uncommon Lymphoma, which includes MALT, splenic marginal zone lymphoma, nodal marginal zone lymphoma and Waldenstrom's macroglobulinaemia. These rare conditions are difficult to investigate due to low numbers of cases, so it is hoped that the NBCR data will support studies improve outcomes for patients.

Data collection for acute lymphoblastic lymphoma (ALL) is planned to commence later this year.

The Coordinating Investigator for the project is Assoc Professor Andrew Wei (Alfred Hospital). The NBCR is managed from the ALLG Trial Centre by Amanda Jager, Sri Joshi and Robyn Cloutier. Current focus is on training and activation of new sites, and on the development of NBCR fields to enable Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) data collection.

Further information on the National Blood Cancer Registry can be obtained at the ALLG website at www.allg.org.au.

Recruitment to the NBCR:

Year	Number recruited
2012	2
2013	168
2014	252
2015	269
2016 (at 30 June 2016)	135
TOTAL	826

Delaine Smith
CEO, ALLG

Australasian Sarcoma Study Group



The ASSG continues to work hard to improve outcomes for patients with sarcoma and their families. The ASSG is pleased to report on our current progress in promoting clinical trials, scientific research and awareness of sarcoma to the COSA membership.

The ASSG continues to grow and evolve and has over the last six months has installed a new Board and new Scientific Advisory Committee. We welcomed these groups for meetings in Melbourne in June to determine strategic directions, priorities and discuss new trial concepts. A very productive few days were spent discussing

the various avenues that the ASSG can improve outcomes for sarcoma patients and their families through research, advocacy and awareness.

Australian Sarcoma Group ASM October 2016

2016 Annual Sarcoma Meeting, which the Australian Sarcoma Group and Australasian Sarcoma Study Group jointly convene, will be held in Sydney October 15th and 16th at the Kinghorn Cancer Centre at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research. The theme for this year's meeting is "Translation: from Biology to Patient Care."

We are delighted to be hosting three very high profile international speakers:

Professor Lee Helman – Head, Molecular Oncology and Acting Director, Centre for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute, USA

Dr Helman's laboratory focuses on rhabdomyosarcoma, Ewing's sarcoma, osteosarcoma, and pediatric gastrointestinal stromal tumours. His group aims to: (1) determine the pathophysiologic consequences of IGF signaling; (2) identify the molecular/biochemical determinants of the biology of these sarcomas; and (3) apply preclinical laboratory findings to develop novel clinical studies for these sarcomas.

Professor Matt van de Rijn – Professor, Department of Pathology, Stanford University Medical Center, USA

Professor van de Rijn's group identified the genetic rearrangement within Tenosynovial Giant Cell Tumors, which has led to the development of effective systemic therapies for this disease (Tap et al., New England Journal of Medicine, 2015).

Professor Miguel Ayerza – Surgical oncologist Italian Hospital of Buenos Aires Argentina

Professor Ayerza, Professor of Orthopaedic

Surgery at the University of Buenos Aires, is a renowned orthopaedic oncologist who has served on the committees of several the International societies and as President of the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons.

The Gala dinner will be held at the Art Gallery of New South Wales which should be a wonderful event. Registrations are now open. Please visit our website and register to attend at:

www.australiansarcomagroup.org

ASSG Research Meetings

The ASSG held it's first of two annual research meetings in Melbourne on June 29th, with a focus on the progress and results of research projects and clinical trials. Presentations were given by past and present grant ASSG recipients reporting on their current results. The ASSG is fortunate to be able to offer and support Sarcoma Research Grants every year for studies in basic science, pilot clinical studies, psycho-social, and rehabilitation. The ASSG is committed to research to improve outcomes for sarcoma patients and their families and is grateful to our donors to be able to achieve these aims.

Denise Caruso
Executive Officer, ASSG

Australia & New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group



38th Annual Scientific Meeting

The full program is now available for the ANZBCTG's joint Annual Scientific with the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) from 15-17 November 2016, which will be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. The conference is an opportunity for members of both organisations to share knowledge in the field of breast cancer research and to develop these important relationships between research and medical professionals. The conference program and registration pages are available at www.cosa2016.org.



PALOMA-2 Results

The results of the PALOMA-2 clinical trial were announced at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in Chicago, USA, and published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. The study found that for postmenopausal women with advanced or metastatic breast cancer the drug palbociclib in combination with letrozole markedly improves progression free survival rates. More than 666 women participated in the study worldwide including 20 women from Australia and New Zealand. For more information on these results, visit our website at www.anzbctg.org.

ANZBCTG Study is Finalist in Clinical Trial of the Year Awards

The SOFT clinical trial, which produced practice changing results in the treatment of breast cancer in young women, was recognised as a finalist in the inaugural Australian Clinical Trials Alliance's (ACTA) Clinical Trial of the Year Awards. The Award Ceremony was held at Monash University in Melbourne on International Clinical Trials Day and the awards aim to recognise and

celebrate the outstanding achievements of ACTA members who have advanced clinical practice through collaborative, multicentre investigator-driven clinical trials. The ANZBCTG Study Chair for the SOFT clinical trial is Associate Professor Prue Francis.

\$500,000 Avon Donation

Our largest corporate supporter Avon has donated a staggering \$500,000 towards the ANZBCTG's research program this year. 2016 is the 20th anniversary of our partnership with the cosmetic company and during this time, Avon has donated \$9.9 million to ANZBCTG clinical trials. The Group greatly values this relationship and the commitment from Avon representatives and customers to finding new and improved breast cancer treatments and prevention strategies. Avon donations have helped the ANZBCTG ask important research questions through the conduct of multi-centre breast cancer clinical trials. Thank you Avon!

Support or Run with the CEO in this year's Sydney City2Surf



ANZBCTG CEO Dr Soozy Smith has joined our Gold Charity Team in this year's City2Surf which will be held on 14 August, to

help raise money for our research program through our fundraising department the Breast Cancer Institute of Australia. Our target for this year's event is \$40,000 and we would love your support. You can either make a donation on Soozy's fundraising page or join our Gold Charity Team. As a team member, you'll have a fundraising target of \$1,000 and BCIA's Community Fundraising Officer, Kirsten, will be on hand to help you reach your target. In return for your wonderful fundraising

efforts, you'll receive a range of incentives. To make a donation to Soozy's or to join our team, visit <http://bcia-city2surf16.impactboard.everydayhero.do/>.

Stephen Ackland
Chair, ANZBCTG

Australia and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group

ANZMTG Australia and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group

This year Australian and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group (ANZMTG) in partnership with the Skin and Melanoma Service at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, will be hosting the inaugural **Locoregional Melanoma Conference - Multidisciplinary Management of Locoregionally Advanced Melanoma - from Surgery to Immunotherapy** on Friday and Saturday, 26 - 27 August 2016 at the newly opened Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Melbourne CBD.

COSA and ANZMTG members and researchers interested in learning more about current melanoma treatment and recent therapeutic advances are warmly invited to attend. The program will have wide appeal to clinicians from a variety of disciplines involved in the care of patients with melanoma including surgeons - general and plastics, medical and radiation oncologists, dermatologists and skin cancer clinicians.

Day 1 - Friday 26 August, includes an introduction to melanoma immunology and immunotherapy, investigations into tumour biology, and thorough discussions on checkpoint inhibitors, injectable therapies and cellular therapies; and will also include the ANZMTG Annual General Meeting.

Day 2 - Saturday 27 August, will focus on the clinical management of the complex patient group with locoregionally advanced melanoma including clinical aspects of the management of: surgery, regional therapies and systemic treatment options, for patients with surgically resectable, as well as those with, unresectable disease.

We are honoured to have an esteemed cohort of international speakers presenting on the program, including globally recognized immunologist Dr James Allison, MD Cancer Centre, Houston; surgical oncologist Assoc Prof Robert Andtbacka - Huntsman Cancer Institute, Utah; surgeon Dr Carolyn Nessim, Ottawa Hospital, Canada; and medical oncologist Dr Michael Postow - Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, New York. A host of national experts completes the program.

For more information: <http://Irmelanoma2016.com.au/welcome>

If you would like more information on ANZMTG trials, membership or activities please contact anzmtg@melanoma.org.au

Bryan Burmeister
Chairman, ANZMTG

Australian and New Zealand Head & Neck Cancer Society



Current Concepts in Head & Neck Surgery and Oncology

Over 200 head and neck medical professionals are expected to attend

the Australian and New Zealand Head & Neck Cancer Society (ANZHNCS) Annual Scientific Meeting at The Langham Auckland, New Zealand. This year the meeting is combining with the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) 2016 World Tour. The meeting will be held from Tuesday 25 October to Thursday 27 October 2016.

Current Concepts in Head & Neck Surgery and Oncology is this year's theme. Dedicated free paper and allied health sessions will be held. The program also includes sessions focusing on cutaneous malignancy and melanoma, thyroid cancer, salivary tumours, operative techniques in head and neck surgery, oral cancer, larynx preservation, multidisciplinary therapy, reconstructive surgery, oropharyngeal tumours and skull base surgery.

Convener Dr John Chaplin FRACS and the organising committee encourage health professionals working in the area of head and neck oncology to register. ENT surgeons, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, head and neck surgeons, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, medical oncologists, surgical oncologists including endocrine surgeons, radiation oncologists, registrars, speech pathologists, nurses, dietitians, psychologists, medical students and other health professionals should attend.

Register before Monday 12 September to take advantage of early registration rates. Registration details are available on the meeting website.

Faculty members comprise of local and international speakers with keynote speakers including:

- Dr Bryan McIver, Endocrinologist, USA
- Professor Jatin Shah, Head & Neck Surgeon, USA
- Professor Ashok Shaha, Head & Neck Surgeon, USA
- Professor Carol Bradford,

Otolaryngologist, USA

- Dr David Brizel, Radiation Oncologist, USA
- Dr Claudio Cernea, Head & Neck Surgeon, Brazil
- Professor Robert Ferris, Otolaryngologist, USA
- Dr Lisa Licitra, Medical Oncologist, Italy



In 2012, a combined IFHNOS meeting occurred at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre boasting a strong program with almost 300 delegates attending. Undoubtedly, this will be another successful meeting and partnership with IFHNOS.



To view this year's provisional program or to register, visit the meeting website www.ifhnosackland2016.org. For further information, email anzhncs.asm@surgeons.org or phone +61 3 9249 1260.

Kerwin Shannon
Immediate Past President, ANZHNCs

Australian and New Zealand Urogenital & Prostate Cancer Trials Group



The scope of ANZUP and its activities continues to grow and the last few months have seen some significant peaks of activity.

The 2016 ASM was held in Brisbane on 12-14 July 2016 with the theme of "GU Cancer: Expanding Our Horizons." The convening committee led by Ian Vela brought together a varied and highly engaging program with an outstanding faculty of local speakers, as well as international guests Dean Bajorin, Piet Ost and John Oliffe. Unfortunately Freddie Hamdy was unable to attend but still managed to give a talk through the wonders of technology. The first day saw the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia prostate nurses come together with GU nurses and trial coordinators for a stimulating session highlighting gaps in and opportunities for nursing research. At the same time the ANZUP Consumer Advisory Panel held an education program covering topics from translational research, quality of life, health economics and strategic planning. The MDT Masterclass under the leadership of Carmel Pezaro and Shomik Sengupta comprehensively covered relevant issues relating to germ cell, prostate, bladder and renal cell cancers. Our regular Community Engagement Forum was attended by about 60 people, with talks covering treatment choices and decision making (including a conversation with an ANZUP ENZARAD trial participant, how to find reliable cancer and trial information, details of ANZUP research, discussion of the costs of cancer care, and

a vigorous panel session with audience questions. The evening symposium was themed around "Getting the message out" and included great presentations from John Oliffe and Dean Bajorin.



The main ASM agenda ranged as it always does across disciplines and disease types, ensuring that all sessions held something of interest for all delegates. A Meet the Professor session on the final day included an inspiring and challenging presentation by Dean Bajorin, who outlined a roadmap for anyone planning an academic career in any discipline. Dean also described the inspirational mentorship program offered by his group, something from which all of us could learn. This year saw a record number of posters submitted and the poster walkabout sessions were very well attended. All delegates were physically weary but intellectually invigorated by the end of the meeting, where a debate on cytoreductive treatment in metastatic prostate cancer somehow deteriorated into confusion over the significance of Mentos. The conclusion: a trial is needed.



ANZUP is grateful for the support of its ASM sponsors and corporate supporters. We were once again able to offer various prizes and awards, including Best of the Best awards and travel grants. The Tolmar ANZUP Uro-oncology Clinical Research

Fellowship was awarded to Arun Azad. A new award, the Astellas Young Investigator Award, went to Carmel Pezaro. Carmel also happens to be the convenor for the next ASM to be held 16-18 July 2017 in Melbourne. Planning for the 2017 ASM is well advanced with a convening committee meeting held at this year's ASM. Now is a good time to block out those dates in your diary.

The ANZUP Cancer Trials Group Annual General Meeting was held on 11 July 2016 and I was privileged to be able to describe ANZUP's many activities over the preceding year. Half an hour is rapidly becoming far too short to do justice to all of ANZUP's activities. Here is a "tasting plate" for you:

- Vigorous clinical trial activity including large scale international trials and establishment of global governance structures
- Development of a new strategic plan and detailed operational plan
- Reinvestment of resources back into ANZUP activities
- Growth in the ANZUP staff, allowing new capacity and capability for current and future activities
- Establishment and the first meeting of the ANZUP Independent Data and Safety Monitoring Committee
- Continued extraordinary growth in membership (now approaching 1100)
- New strategic links including the PCFA/ ANZUP partnership to support prostate cancer clinical trials
- Full day Concept Development Workshops for each disease type
- The highly successful inaugural ANZUP GU preceptorship in prostate cancer, to be run again in August led by Eva Segelov
- Planning for the next Below the Belt

Pedalthon September 20

- Commitment by the Board to devote Pedalthon revenue to support seed funding, as was done in 2015
- Imminent launch of the revamped ANZUP web site
- Continued support of the ANZUP ClinTrial Refer app
- Regular high quality publications of the UPdate newsletters and the consumer magazine "A Little Below the Belt"
- Continued engagement with our various stakeholders, sponsors, supporters and members
- Growing presence in the online and social media world through @ANZUPtrials

ANZUP continues to be a COSA Affiliated Organisation. The current relative inactivity of the COSA Urologic Oncology group means ANZUP is the main genitourinary cancer voice on COSA Council and through COSA to government and other key bodies. ANZUP membership is open to people involved in the care or research of genitourinary cancers. ANZUP membership is free and for that investment you also get a 10% discount on COSA membership and access to members' rates for both the ANZUP ASM and the COSA ASM. I strongly encourage you to be a member of both organisations.

I look forward to seeing you at the COSA ASM on the Gold Coast in November, and at future ANZUP events.

Ian Davis
Chair, ANZUP



Cancer Nurses Society of Australia



Key Appointments

Over the past two months, I had the privilege to announce two key national appointments: Deborah Hoberg (Incoming Annual Congress Committee Chair; taking office in Jan 2017) and Leisa Brown (Education Committee Chair). I believe that both Deborah and Leisa will take the two committees to the next level of success.



CNSA Annual Congress

CNSA Annual Congress 2016 was a great success on all fronts. I would like to once again congratulate Sam Gibson and the Annual Congress Committee for their tremendous efforts. Without stealing the Annual Congress Committee's thunder, I must highlight that close to 90% of delegates (n= 254) who responded to the evaluation survey, indicated the congress content was pitched at the right level for their professional development needs. Another highlight of Congress was celebrating the success of our Regional Group, Specialist Practice Network and Standing Committees. Over the last 12-month reporting period, in support of the professional development of our members, CNSA offered 26 local education events, 20 travel grants, and

2 special project grants. These amazing outcomes would not be possible without the efforts of the various committees and our staff.

The Annual Congress Committee is already working towards finalising the 2017 CNSA Annual Congress program for which the theme will be “Evolving Cancer Care: Enhancing Quality- Embracing Innovation”. We are expecting a great host of international and national speakers including:

- Nicola Roxon (Australia)
- Professor Roma Maguire (UK)
- Associate Professor Alexandre Chan (Singapore)
- Professor Dorothy Keefe (Australia)
- Professor Patsy Yates (Australia)

Partnership and Representation

In May, I was invited to speak on “Addressing health disparities and the potential role of nurse navigation” from an Australian perspective at the ONS Congress 2016 in Antonio, TX, USA. In the same session, Associate Professor Stella Bialous (ISNCC President of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care), Tracy Truant (President of the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology) and Associate Professor Winnie So (President of the Asian Oncology Nurses Society) also presented on the same topic from their respective perspectives. It was a great opportunity for us to share our views on the opportunities we have, and how we can continue to focus our efforts to address outcome disparities in different regions of the world. The CNSA continues to enjoy our meaningful partnership with Cancer Australia; as the federal government agency for cancer control. I continue to

be a representative on the Intercollegiate Advisory Committee, and have recently participated in a Survivorship Care Principles Roundtable meeting.

Credentialing for Nurses (C4N) Project

Over the last 18 months, CNSA has worked collaboratively with four other speciality nursing organisations in the establishment of the Credentialing for Nurses: a specialist nurse credentialing program (C4N program). The C4N project has been led and managed by the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) with funding provided by the Department of Health through the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer of Queensland. A Credentialed Nurse is a specialist nurse who has met criteria related to education, practice experience, professional development and professional integrity. Credentialing provides an opportunity to formally recognise specialist cancer nurses and evaluate their impact on patient outcomes. At the end of the C4N pilot (30 June 2016), we aim to have 25 Credentialed Cancer Nurses in Queensland. After 1 July 2016, C4N credentialing will be available to nurses throughout Australia. This national initiative will potentially facilitate the exploration of alternative models of care to meet the ever increasing demand of cancer care.

I am sure you would agree with me that it has been a very busy year for CNSA. And I look forward to reporting more news to you as we continue to journey through 2016.

Raymond Chan
President, CNSA



Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
CNSA 20TH ANNUAL CONGRESS
**EVOLVING
CANCER CARE:**
ENHANCING QUALITY- EMBRACING INNOVATION

SAVE THE DATE!
15 - 17 June 2017
Adelaide Convention Centre
AUSTRALIA

KEY DATES

- Abstract Submissions Close: Friday 3 February 2017
- Travel Grant Applications Close: Friday 3 March 2017
- Early Bird Registrations Close: Sunday 30 April 2017

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Faculty of Radiation Oncology



Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review

The MBS Oncology Clinical Committee (which includes both medical and radiation oncology) has been established, and a number of Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) members (from both radiation oncology and radiology) are on the Committee, as well as other members of COSA. One of the first tasks of the radiation oncology working group is to review a list of infrequently used / potentially obsolete radiation oncology items identified by the Department of Health (DoH). The Faculty, through its MBS Review Working Group chaired by Dr Liz Kenny, is providing input into the MBS review.

The Faculty is keen to see the MBS items for radiation oncology simplified and more reflective of current practice. To this end, we will continue to work closely with the DoH and the MBS Review Taskforce in 2016, to hopefully ensure the ongoing provision of accessible and affordable quality radiation oncology services to our patients.

Radiation Oncology Health Program Grants (ROHPG) Scheme

Radiation Oncology Health Program Grants (ROHPGs) are a Commonwealth initiative that provides capital funding for radiation oncology services outside of Medicare.

ROHPG funding provides a strong incentive to replace radiation therapy

equipment once it has reached its expected throughput – which also helps to ensure that today's linear accelerators (linacs) are capable of delivering the most current treatment techniques. Treatment availability is also improved through less down time and improved reliability of newer linacs.

In 2015, the Australian National Audit Office conducted an audit of the ROHPG scheme, which the Faculty provided input into. The ANAO's final audit report is now available <http://tinyurl.com/zm5umf3>.

The Commonwealth DoH is currently undertaking its own review of the ROHPG scheme, and they have had several conversations with the Faculty on this topic. It is the Faculty's position that the ROHPG scheme should be maintained in some form, as it plays a vital role in maintaining radiation therapy capital equipment, especially the nation's fleet of linacs, within its agreed lifespan.

Radiation Oncology Practice Standards

The Radiation Oncology Practice Standards <http://tinyurl.com/z2j4rve> (the Standards), which were published in 2011, provide a framework of requirements to assist radiation therapy facilities to achieve best practice across various domains (e.g. machine calibration, documentation, safety and quality improvement). The Faculty has been advocating for the implementation of the Standards in all facilities in Australia and New Zealand. However, Queensland is the only jurisdiction which has formally adopted the Standards to date.

In response to the MBS Review Consultation at the end of 2015, the Faculty listed mandatory national implementation of the Standards as one of the priorities for government consideration. It is still our position that the current review of the MBS is an ideal opportunity to mandate the Standards in all jurisdiction in Australia.

The Radiation Oncology Tripartite Committee has established a Standards

Working Group to progress the implementation of the Standards. As a first step, the group has developed a self-assessment tool to assist facilities to reflect on their own quality management systems and assess how well they currently comply with the Standards.

The Standards Working Group is also exploring the opportunity of working with the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) to map the Radiation Oncology Practice Standards against the National Standards, and develop an accreditation plan.

Raising the Profile of Radiation Therapy

The Radiation Oncology Targeting Cancer campaign team, under the clinical leadership of A/Prof Sandra Turner, worked in collaboration with Tonic Health Media (an initiative of respected health broadcaster, Dr Norman Swan) to produce a documentary on radiation therapy titled "Below the Radar". The 28-minute documentary shows real patient stories about the value of radiation therapy and delivers the campaign messages about safety, effectiveness, cost effectiveness and the sophisticated technologies involved with radiation therapy. "Below the Radar" was broadcast on ABC News24 and iView earlier this year.

The documentary has since been edited into four shorter videos, to be played for the next two years through the Tonic Health Media Network – an evidence-based patient education and entertainment system for GPs, other clinicians and hospital waiting areas.

The four videos are now available on the Targeting Cancer website. Please visit <http://www.targetingcancer.com.au/our-stories/our-first-tv-documentary-on-radiation-therapy/> to watch these videos and share within your network to spread the word on radiation therapy.

For a period of three months, the campaign's community service



[About Radiation Oncology](#) [Radiation Therapy](#) [Treatment By Cancer Type](#) [Our Stories](#) [Talking To Your Doctor](#)

[Treatment Centre](#) [News](#) [For GPs](#)


**RADIATION ONCOLOGY
TARGETING CANCER**

Radiation therapy

Cures cancer and is safe

The Targeting Cancer website – a trusted source of information about radiation therapy
www.targetingcancer.com.au

announcement 'Targets' was also screened on the Tonic Health Media Network across 954 sites where over 5,300 GPs operate from. This has directed more people to the Targeting Cancer website and we trust it also triggered more conversations between cancer patients and their GPs on whether radiation therapy is a suitable treatment option for them.

Please like **Targeting Cancer** on Facebook, or follow @targetingcancer on Twitter, and help us promote radiation therapy as a safe and cost-effective cancer treatment option.

Dion Forstner
 Dean, Faculty of Radiation Oncology

Medical Oncology Group of Australia



The Medical Oncology Group of Australia Incorporated (MOGA) as the peak professional organisation for medical oncologists and, the profession of medical oncology in Australia plays a leading role in the national oncology sector. MOGA is the key point of reference on all matters relating to medical oncology training, education and clinical practice nationally, and is committed to supporting the development of our members and our profession in today's rapidly-evolving professional environment.

Our Members, Our Workforce

With a growing and evolving membership, the importance of workforce planning and development to the delivery of future oncology services delivery is paramount. Dr Zarnie Lwin, Deputy Chair and I have been progressing the new Workforce Study, building on the Pilot project completed late last year, and a range of publications are in final preparation. An online survey was distributed to all of our members from May-August to gather new data to assist with long term services, facilities and workforce planning. The response to the survey has been very positive with a high response rate and, the results will be available shortly.

Research

MOGA is committed to ensuring Australia takes a leading role in research focussed on cancer, oncology drugs and treatments as well as patient care. In 2016 we have actively engaged in various research activities through the development of major policy and position statements on issues such as **End of Life** and **Euthanasia**, oncology drugs and treatment submissions, independent clinical and professional advice to regulatory bodies and government reviews, such the **Medicare Benefits Schedule Review** and supported a range of studies on topics as diverse as **Smoking Cessation** and **Chemotherapy Prescribing for Older Adults**.

Professor Stephen Clarke OAM, the recipient of the **Medical Oncology Group of Australia - Novartis Oncology Cancer Achievement Award 2016**, embodies "the highest values of an Australian internationally-recognised clinician researcher, mentor and leader". Professor Clarke is Professor of Medicine at the Northern Clinical School, Kolling Institute of Medical Research and the University of Sydney and was nominated for his contribution as a medical oncology clinician, clinician-researcher, leader and mentor at both a national and international levels.



Oncology Drugs and Treatments

The Oncology Drugs Group, Chaired by Dr Deme Karikios has continued to advocate and lobby for access to oncology drugs and treatments, recording a number of notable achievements. In 2011 MOGA tabled a position paper prepared by leading Australian breast cancer specialist, Professor Kelly-Anne Phillips, supporting approval and subsequent listing of tamoxifen through the Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and its placement on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for reduction in the risk of invasive breast cancer in women at moderate or high risk for breast cancer. Since that time Professor Phillips and Professor Fran Boyle AM, Chair, MOGA Breast Cancer Group and ANZ Breast Cancer Trials Group, have worked with MOGA, the TGA, the PBAC, the Health Department, and AstraZeneca, to enact this important listing change that was confirmed in the first quarter of 2016. This unique collaborative effort has received widespread praise from the regulators as an exemplar of what can be achieved to effectively lead and enact change in access to oncology drugs and treatments.

The Group have also made many submissions for priority approvals for oncology drugs being considered by the PBAC this year: including nivolumab in non-small cell lung cancer; bevacizumab in cervical cancer; lenvatinib in thyroid cancer; and olaparib in ovarian cancer. At the same time as indicating support for submissions on cetuximab in metastatic head and neck cancer; nintedanib in non-small cell lung cancer; and vismodegib in basal cell carcinoma. These listings will assist in addressing areas of unmet need for cancer patients, those at increased risk of cancer, and their clinicians. These listings are supported by strong randomised clinical trial data and, as such, are in keeping with international clinical best practice.

Education and Professional Education in Medical Oncology

MOGA has worked closely with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians on training and educational initiatives, including a major over-haul of speciality training and accreditation from an all-of-College perspective; and, the training of Australian medical oncologists to ensure that our trainees are equipped to effectively communicate with their patients, fully understand the sciences that underpin our speciality and that their clinical knowledge aligns with the rapidly changing discipline of oncology. Professor Michael P. Brown, based at Royal Adelaide Hospital, spoke on advances in immunotherapy on behalf of the speciality at the **College's Annual Congress** in May. The Association has also recently been invited to review and endorse the European Society for Medical Oncology and American Society for Clinical Oncology **Global Curriculum in Medical Oncology** which was developed from the Australian model.

Plans are fully in place for the 2016 **Australia and Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development Workshop (ACORD)**: 11-16 September, Central Coast, NSW. Seventy-two young oncology clinicians and researchers from ten countries (India, Philippines, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Iraq, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, New Zealand and Australia) will be joining the international faculty at this career enhancing educational and professional program (www.acord.org.au).

A new program developed by the Young Oncologist Group of Australia (YOGA), **Communication Skills for Early Career Oncologists**, held on April 16-17 was attended by 26 young medical oncology consultants. This program included a series of workplace related role plays with trained actors and plenary sessions on burnout, mindfulness and other communications' challenges, designed to assist medical oncologists in day to day clinical practice.

Our Annual Scientific Meeting **Implementation+Innovation in Immunotherapy** was held on the Gold Coast (3-5 August) and was attended by a record number of attendees. Immunotherapy has become an increasingly important therapeutic strategy for cancer patients and medical oncologists, with many clinical trials demonstrating significant clinical advantages in an array of cancer streams. Convenor, Prof Ken O' Byrne planned a scientific program that focussed on innovative approaches to implementing immunotherapy in practice; including a major **Immuno—Oncology Forum** convened by national specialists in immuno-oncology, Prof Grant McArthur and Dr Alexander Menzies.

Rosemary Harrup
Chair, MOGA

Oncology Social Work Australia



The COSA ASM held in Hobart in November 2015, with a theme of "Rare Cancers: Common Goals", produced a dynamic variety of stimulating and thought-provoking papers addressing the full spectrum of issues in cancer care service delivery. Congratulations to the three OSWA members (Carrie Lethborg, Alison Hocking and Kim Hobbs) who were invited speakers and whose presentations contributed to the quality of the meeting. The presence in Hobart of a small group of OSWA members offered an excellent opportunity to engage with our Tasmanian colleagues. Slater and Gordon, through National Manager of Social Work Services, Olga Gountras, generously agreed to help us run a one day workshop for local social workers. More than 20 social workers (some coming from far flung corners

of Tasmania) travelled to Hobart for the seminar. The program was positively evaluated, and enabled colleagues to form connections and make plans for ongoing professional development at a local level.

The OSWA annual national conference has been identified as a calendar highlight by oncology social workers. The 11th National OSWA Conference will be held in Melbourne from 6th-8th October 2016, with a theme this year of "Paediatrics to Geriatrics: Ethical Dilemmas Across the Lifespan". The call for abstracts has now closed and the full program will be available on the OSWA website (www.oswa.net.au) in the next few weeks. On that note, all presentations from the 2015 Sydney Conference are now uploaded to the member's section of the website. A positive outcome of the annual conferences is that enthusiasm is generated for OSWA members to contribute to the ongoing development of the organisation by volunteering for committee positions and working party membership. Following the Sydney conference the committee has been further enriched with an injection of new members. Most states are now running regular professional development activities. Details can be found on the OSWA website.

On the research front, Dr Rosalie Pockett from the University of Sydney and Kim Hobbs are working with a group of oncology social workers at six health sites in three states (Queensland, NSW and Victoria) on an ambitious body of work that will help to define and document the nature and range of social work interventions with cancer patients and their caregivers. Ethics approval is in place for most sites and data collection has begun in several of the centres. Updates on the research will be presented at various forums and conferences. In addition, there is an overall increase in research output, largely attributable to the development of strong partnerships between practitioners and academics. This emerging aspect of OSWA activity was presented recently by Dr Rosalie Pockett and Professor

Lynette Joubert in Singapore at the 8th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health with a paper entitled "Grounding Oncology Social Work in Theory, Practice and Evidence: An Academic and Practitioner Collaboration". Finally, OSWA is in discussion with Cancer Council Australia to participate in their proposed work around the recently topical issue of the financial burden of cancer treatment, including equitable access to supportive care. OSWA members can expect notification of opportunities to contribute to this body of work.

The OSWA Executive and Management Committees continue to be the dynamic forces behind the day to day administration of the organisation. Monthly teleconferences are lively and well attended. I would like to acknowledge in particular, our current president Alison Hocking, our immediate past president Victoria Jones, our president elect (and treasurer) Ray Araullo and our secretary, Olga Gountras. Along with state representatives and sub-group chairs, there is a wealth of talent which will see the organisation continue to grow and prosper. As a group we look forward to a continuation of the fruitful collaboration with COSA and with our colleagues from all disciplines.

Kim Hobbs
Council Representative, OSWA

Royal College of Pathologists



The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) is always striving to raise the standard of cancer pathology and is pursuing a number of key initiatives to further this aim:

National Structured Pathology Reporting Project (NSPRC)

With funding from the federal Department of Health, the Australasian National Structured Pathology Reporting of Cancer (NSPRC) Project has now published 30 cancer protocols over the last 6 years.

<http://www.rcpa.edu.au/Library/Practising-Pathology/Structured-Pathology-Reporting-of-Cancer/Cancer-Protocols>

Medical research continues to move very quickly and it is difficult for pathologists, under pressure to deliver more with less, to stay abreast of new tests and evidence particularly in the field of cancer. Therefore the availability of these standardised structured pathology reporting protocols are an essential part of today's pathology, providing the pathologist with a checklist with all of the elements that the report on a specific cancer should contain and the supporting evidence behind them.

International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting

www.ICCR-cancer.org

While work progressed on the development of our local cancer protocols, it was recognised that the United States, United Kingdom and others had been engaged in the same process for several years. All these cancer protocols/datasets were developed using the same peer-reviewed evidence, however, each is constructed differently, used different terminology and similar elements may be based on different methodologies. These differences meant that each country expended enormous effort to develop each protocol/dataset and while having local benefit, achieved nothing towards international interoperability, comparison and research.

Over the five years to 2014, the RCPA worked towards the formation of an

independent organisation dedicated to developing standardized, internationally agreed evidence based cancer datasets for use by those involved in the collaboration but also for those countries that are not in a position to develop their own datasets. In September 2014, the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) incorporated as a not-for-profit organization, of which, the RCPA is a founding member.

Over the last 12 months the ICCR has published 4 cancer datasets and has a further 22 in progress. These datasets, being internationally agreed, provide the single best way for the existing dataset producers such as the Royal College of Pathologists, UK, the College of American Pathologists and the RCPA, to align and synchronise their cancer reporting. The RCPA has now integrated the availability of the ICCR datasets into its development process.

Macroscopic Reporting and on-line Cut up Manual

www.rcpa.edu.au/Library/Practising-Pathology/Macroscopic-Cut-Up

Recognising the need for greater consistency in cut-up in Anatomical Pathology (AP) in an environment where this is increasingly undertaken (for simple cut up and transfers) by non-pathologist staff, the RCPA sought funding from the federal Department of Health under the Quality Use of Pathology Program, to undertake development of an online cut-up manual.

This manual, which went live in February 2014, reduces the burden of developing and maintaining an in-house manual for laboratories (a requirement of accreditation), and it also provides a resource for training and continuing education to Anatomical Pathology laboratory staff including consultant pathologists, trainees and non-pathologist staff (scientists, technicians, technologists and quality managers).

Content within the online cut-up manual is

conformant with the NSPRC protocols and future development and maintenance of the content is linked to the NSPRC protocols and cancer protocol authoring groups to ensure alignment with the protocols and maintain currency.

RCPA Cancer Services Committee (CanSAC)

CanSAC is a multidisciplinary committee which has oversight for all cancer related activities within the RCPA. In the last several months, CanSAC has focussed on progressing a number of key issues:

Tissue fixation guidelines

Formalin (4% formaldehyde solution in water) has been the traditional fixative of choice in histopathology for many decades. Originally, optimal morphological preservation was the sole requirement, but in more recent times, with increasing use of immunohistochemistry and molecular analysis, antigen and DNA preservation is vital.

Recognising the issue, CanSAC are now working with the college's Anatomical Pathology Advisory Committee (APAC) to develop a set of agreed tissue fixation guidelines. A review of literature has been undertaken and draft guidelines developed. Once approved, these guidelines will be adopted as the Australia standard for Anatomical Pathology laboratories.

MBS Funding of pathology

CanSAC has raised concerns over the increasing number of pathology tests, used in the reporting of cancer, which are currently not covered by MBS item numbers.

CanSAC has taken a two-pronged approach to this issue. Firstly, those tests which are currently unfunded by MBS, but which address issues of transformation, fusion, amplification, and other tests related to the diagnosis and classification of tumours, particularly those which have

international evidence /strong guidelines have been identified.

Secondly, CanSAC has lobbied for resources to help push forward applications for these tests to be recognised by MBS. Applications to the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC), who oversee this process, are time consuming and complex and resources are needed to provide a professional approach to the development and submission process.

RCPA has (in conjunction with Pathology Australia and Public Pathology Australia) agreed to fund a Project Officer to undertake this work and progress the development of applications to MSAC. This will start the process of addressing the shortfall in funding of essential testing for cancers.

HER2 Testing Guidelines

In 2013 the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the College of American Pathologists (CAP) revised their guidelines for the assessment of HER2 status in invasive breast cancers. Many countries throughout the world have already adopted these guidelines.

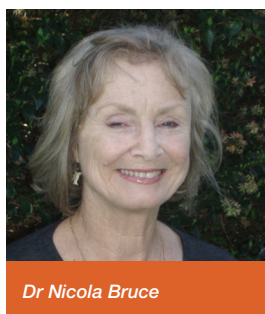
The interwoven nature of international collaborations in cancer care requires that HER2 testing practices in Australia be congruent with international best practice so as not to disadvantage Australian patients' eligibility for international clinical trials. However, Australia's HER2 testing algorithms are unique, requiring careful consideration of the implications of adopting the guidelines 'as is'. Therefore, CanSAC has brought together a multidisciplinary group with specific HER2 expertise, to discuss and arrive at a consensus for implementation of the HER2 guidelines for pathologists in Australia. Draft guidelines have been developed and are in the process of review.

Christine Hemmings
Council Representative, RCPA

Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group



Vale Dr Nicola Bruce



Dr Nicola Bruce

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Dr Nicola Bruce on May 25 2016. Nicola was diagnosed with breast

cancer many years ago, but unfortunately in recent years she had to deal with a diagnosis of Lymphoma.

A passionate advocate for cancer patients, Nicola has been an integral part of TROG for several years in her role of Consumer Expert on the TROG Consumer Advisory Panel. She also served on the TROG Scientific Committee as an Independent Consumer Representative. Nicola was a specialist qualitative researcher who worked across many areas of health and was also a committee member of Cancer Action Victoria.

Nicola was also a much valued member of the Cancer Trials Consumer Network, a network of the Cancer Cooperative Trials Groups that is facilitated by COSA. Nicola was a highly regarded consumer advocate, and through her wisdom and thoughtful approach she made invaluable contributions to this Network.

Nicola will be remembered for her kind and gentle nature and her dedication to improving the lives of those affected by cancer – she will be greatly missed.

TROG 2017 ASM

It is with pleasure that we invite you to our 29th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) to be held from March 6-9 2017 at the ANZ Viaduct Events Centre in Auckland, New Zealand.

The event will provide a unique opportunity for all health professionals with an interest in radiation oncology, to collectively discuss and influence the direction of current and future cancer clinical trials.

Our 2017 meeting will feature Subspecialty Group sessions, as well as the return of our full-day, interactive Research Workshops and opportunities to relax and network at our social afternoon, Welcome Function and Gala Dinner.

The theme for our 2017 meeting will be, 'Radiation Oncology: Precise Treatment, Quality Research'. Dr Giuseppe Sasso and Laura Ciurlionis will co-convene the event and Professor Andre Dekker, medical physicist at MAASTRO Clinic in

the Netherlands has been confirmed as an international speaker.

Registration will open in August 2016. Visit TROG2017.com for more information and to take advantage of early bird rates.

We look forward to seeing you in Auckland next March.

Farshad Foroudi
President, TROG



**29TH
TROG
ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC
MEETING**

6th - 9th March 2017
ANZ Viaduct Events Centre,
Auckland, New Zealand

Registrations open
August 2016

trog.com.au #TROG2017



**13th ASIAN SOCIETY FOR
NEURO-ONCOLOGY (ASNO)
MEETING / 9th COGNO
ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC
MEETING**

**"Neuro-Oncology: is the
landscape changing?"**

11th - 14th September 2016
Sheraton on the Park
Sydney, Australia

Sunday 11 September 2016

**SRS Workshop
8:45am - 5:00pm**

The Cranial Stereotactic Radiosurgery Workshop will cover different technologies, techniques, applications, and appropriate uses across a range of benign and malignant tumours; from benign base of skull lesions, pituitary tumours, to brain metastases (both de novo and cavity Radiosurgery).

**Confirmed International
Speakers**

A/Prof Arjun Sahgal BSc MD FRCP
Prof Tim Solberg PhD FACR FAAPM FACMP
Prof Giuseppe Minniti MD PhD

**Glioma Master Class
1:00pm - 5:00pm**

The Glioma Master Class will cover topics ranging from surgery and treatment at first diagnosis through to end of life care and will include supportive care elements such as care-coordination, seizure control and rehabilitation.

**Confirmed International
Speakers**

Prof Mitchel Berger MD FACS FAANS
Prof Rakesh Jalali MBBS MD
Prof Susan Chang MD

For more information or to register
visit www.asnocogno2016.org.au

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
2016		
3-5 August	MOGA Annual Scientific Meeting www.moga.org.au/news-events/events/moga-annual-scientific-meeting-2015	Gold Coast, Queensland
6-9 August	HGSA 40th Annual Scientific Meeting www.hgsa.org.au/about/40th-annual-scientific-meeting	Hobart, Tasmania
18-20 August	6th Australian Lung Cancer Conference www.alcc.net.au/	Melbourne, Victoria
21-26 August	International Congress of Immunology http://ici2016.org/	Melbourne, Victoria
31 August – 3 September	16th World Congress on Cancers of the Skin www.wccs2016.com/	Vienna, Austria
3-4 September	COSA CPG Advanced Course www.cosacpg.org.au/cpg-advanced-course/	Melbourne, Victoria
8-11 September	2nd World Congress on Controversies in Breast Cancer (CoBrCa) http://congressmed.com/cobrca/	Barcelona, Spain
8-11 September	Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine https://willorganise.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/2016-anzspm/anzspm2016	Perth, Western Australia
11-17 September	ACORD Workshop 2016 http://acord.org.au/	Magenta Shores, NSW
11-15 September	ASNO-COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting http://asnocogno2016.org.au/	Sydney, NSW
14-16 September	18 AGITG Annual Scientific Meeting http://agitg.org.au/agitg-trials-in-action-2/	Melbourne, Victoria
16-20 September	16th Biennial Metastasis Research Congress www.2016mrsmeeting.org/oc20/cms/category/38	Chengdu, China
19-20 September	European Cancer Rehabilitation & Survivorship Symposium www.cancer.dk/ecrs/ecrs-2016	Copenhagen, Denmark
22-23 September	Sydney Cancer Conference http://sydneycancerconference.com.au/	Sydney, NSW
7-11 October	ESMO Congress 2016 www.esmo.org/Conferences/ESMO-2016-Congress	Copenhagen, Denmark
10-11 October	Australian Gastroenterology Week Satellite Symposium 2016 www.agw2016.org.au/	Adelaide, South Australia
11-14 October	ALLG Scientific Meeting www.allg.org.au/events.html	Sydney, NSW
13 October	VCCC Survivorship Conference www.victorianccc.org.au/events/the-inaugural-vccc-survivorship-conference-and-the-victorian-psycho-oncology-research-conference/	Melbourne, Victoria
13-16 October	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists' Annual Scientific Meeting www.ranzcr.edu.au/news-a-events/asm	Gold Coast, Queensland
14 October	The Victorian Psycho-Oncology Research Conference www.victorianccc.org.au/events/the-inaugural-vccc-survivorship-conference-and-the-victorian-psycho-oncology-research-conference/	Melbourne, Victoria
15-16 October	The Annual Sarcoma Conference www.australiansarcomagroup.org/	Sydney, NSW
17-21 October	18th IPOS World Congress www.iposdublin2016.com	Dublin, Ireland

Calendar of Events (continued)

Date	Event	Venue
24-25 October	Preventive Medicine Conference http://congresscare.com/en/congress/conference-preventive-medicine-curacao-2016/	Curaçao, The Caribbean
25-27 October	ANZHNCs Annual Scientific Meeting & IFHNOS 2016 World Tour www.anzhncs.org	Auckland, New Zealand
25-29 October	8th Leura Breast Cancer Conference www.regodirect.com.au/leura8conference/home/	Leura, NSW
28-29 October	Australasian Melanoma Conference 2016 http://melanoma2016.com.au/	Sydney, NSW
29-31 October	16th Biennial Meeting of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society http://igcs2016.com/	Lisbon, Portugal
31 October – 3 November	UICC World Cancer Congress www.worldcancercongress.org	Paris, France
7-9 November	4th World Theranostics Congress www.theranostics2016.org/	Melbourne, Victoria
12-13 November	COSA Advanced Trainees Weekend	Gold Coast, Queensland
15-17 November	COSA's 43rd & ANZBCTG's 38th Annual Scientific Meetings 2016 www.cosa2016.org	Gold Coast, Queensland
17-19 November	SIOG Annual Conference www.siog.org	Milan, Italy
17-20 November	Society for NeuroOncology (SNO) Annual Meeting www.soc-neuro-onc.org	Arizona, USA
4-7 December	17th World Conference on Lung Cancer www.iaslc.org/events/17th-world-conference-lung-cancer	Vienna, Austria
2017		
27-28 January	ASCO Cancer Survivorship Symposium http://survivorsym.org/	San Diego, USA
2-4 February	Cancer Survivorship 2017 www.survivorship2017.org	Adelaide, South Australia
3-5 May	13th Behavioural Research in Cancer Control Conference	Melbourne, Victoria
15-17 June	CNSA 20th Annual Congress www.cnsacongress.com.au/	Adelaide, South Australia
16-18 July	ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting www.anzup.org.au	Melbourne, Victoria
18-21 October	9th World Congress on Melanoma http://worldmelanoma2017.com/	Brisbane, Queensland
13-15 November	COSA's 44th Annual Scientific Meeting 2017 'Save the date' www.cosa.org.au	Sydney, NSW
2018		
16-17 February	ASCO Cancer Survivorship Symposium http://survivorsym.org/	Florida, USA
13-15 Nov	COSA's 45th Annual Scientific Meeting 2018 'Save the date' www.cosa.org.au	Perth, Western Australia



**Clinical
Oncology
Society of
Australia**

TRAINEES WEEKEND 2016

*Everything you
need to know
about breast
cancer*

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

DATES

Saturday 12 and
Sunday 13 November 2016
(preceding the COSA ASM)

VENUE

Gold Coast
Convention and
Exhibition Centre

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION TYPE	COSA MEMBER RATE	NON-MEMBER RATE
Medical 2 days	\$350	\$610
Medical 1 day	\$210	\$455
Allied health 2 days	\$250	\$410
Allied health 1 day	\$150	\$295

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Breast cancer diagnosis, imaging and screening
- Breast cancer surgery, including reconstruction
- Principles of neoadjuvant therapy
- Pathology and molecular markers
- Adjuvant systemic therapy and decision-making
- Principles of adjuvant radiotherapy
- BRCA and the management of 'gene positive' patients
- Issues in breast cancer survivorship
- MDT communications session
- The management of local recurrence
- The management of metastatic and advanced disease
- Local therapy for brain metastasis
- Cancer Care Coordination
- Supportive Care for advanced disease
- Palliative care and the breast cancer patient

For more information and to register visit
www.cosa2016.org

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