
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING COSA SURVIVORSHIP GROUP



Date: Monday 7 December 2020

Time: 2:00pm – 2:45pm AEDT

Zoom meeting

Attendance: Michael Jefford (Chair), Natalie Bradford, Peta Brydon, Ray Chan, Richard Cohn, Prue Cormie, Afaf Girgis, Maree Grier, Nicolas Hart, Sandi Hayes, Mahesh Iddawela, David Joske, Bogda Koczwara, Eng-Siew Koh, Karolina Lisy, Gillian Mackay, Marie Malica, Carolyn Mazariego, Rebecca McIntosh, Fiona McRae, Andrew Murnane, Rebecca Nund, Ian Olver, Dagmara Poprawski, Erica Smeaton, Cindy Tan, Karen Taylor, Janette Vardy

Apologies: John Boyages, Peggy Briggs, Anna Kuchel, Julia Maclean, Annie Miller, Elysia Thornton-Benko

1. Welcome (Michael Jefford, Survivorship Group Chair)

All attendees were welcomed, and the meeting was opened with an acknowledgement of country.

2. Update from COSA (Marie Malica, COSA CEO)

All members were thanked on behalf of COSA's Board and Council for their participation in COSA activities, and for their contribution to and engagement with the Survivorship Group.

The 2020 COSA ASM was held as a virtual meeting from 11-13 November and achieved high registrations. Registered delegates can [view all presentations on demand](#) for 12 months

COSA hosts the biennial Cancer Survivorship meeting in partnership with Flinders University, and all members are encouraged to [register](#) and attend the 2021 event from 18-19 March (in Adelaide and online). Bogda Koczwara will provide further details at item 5.

COSA is keen to partner with members and other organisations to deliver events that are of value to its multidisciplinary membership. This year COSA partnered with the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre and Cancer Council Victoria to deliver a webinar on the [important role allied health plays in the care of cancer patients post-treatment](#). COSA also works collaboratively on initiatives relevant to Survivorship, which this year included new position statements on [Smoking Cessation in Cancer Patients](#), and [Cancer-Related Malnutrition and Sarcopenia](#), and the recently updated [Exercise in Cancer Care](#) position statement.

The Survivorship Group is one of COSA's most active and has achieved a lot since its inception. The leadership of the current Chair Michael Jefford is recognised, along with previous Chairs Bogda Koczwara and Haryana Dhillon in championing this Group. The contributions from the Executive and the engagement of the membership have been important to the Group's success. Current Survivorship Group membership comprises 268 members (as at December 2020).

3. Group update from the Chair (Michael Jefford, Chair)

Members received an update on main areas of group activity during 2021 including:

[COSA Survivorship Group webpage](#) - provides information about the Group including [terms of reference](#), Executive membership, resources and activities. Members are welcome to suggest other resources for inclusion

[Group strategic plan 2019-2021](#) - outlines strategies, actions and performance indicators in key areas of Group activities. A membership survey is planned for 2021 to consider future work, after which the strategic plan will be updated. The Group is keen to continue to increase engagement with members in the coming year

[Survivorship eNews](#) – the next edition will be issued in December 2020. Karolina Lisy's editor role will be taken on by two Survivorship Research Fellows (Fiona Crawford-Williams and Carolyn Mazariego) while Karolina is on parental leave. Members are welcome to contribute content

[COSA Survivorship twitter](#) - this account will become more active as COSA has now engaged a social media officer. Members are encouraged to follow and engage with this account, and to share their own events, publications and resources

Executive membership – several new members joined in 2019, and further new members will be sought in 2021 as part of the Group's strategy to ensure membership is broadly representative of geographic areas and interest groups. Ray Chan became Deputy Chair in April 2020

COSA Annual Scientific Meetings – survivorship themes are promoted for inclusion each year, as demonstrated by the excellent program at the [2020 COSA ASM](#). 2020's planned pre-conference masterclass was suspended when the ASM went virtual, so the Group will look to deliver educational opportunities in another way next year

[COSA Survivorship Research Fellowships](#) – this initiative was offered as part of the Group's strategy to build capacity in survivorship research. Three inaugural Research Fellows were appointed due to the high level and quality of interest expressed. All Fellows have made great progress and we will share further updates on their projects

COSA Model of Survivorship Care – the Group has promoted the Model of Care including publishing this [position statement](#). A further related paper on [the important role of general practice in the care of cancer survivors](#) was subsequently published

International links - Group activity is informed by international progress, and Executive members have good links to several organisations including ASCO, MASCC and IPOS. The Group also links to several state-based activities that members are involved with, with a view to informing work more broadly and leveraging similar work nationally

Advocacy, partnerships and collaborations - the Group contributed to COSA-Cancer Council Australia advocacy work to support retention of telehealth. The Group is also linked, through the Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre (ACSC), in leading advocacy work with NGOs. Ray Chan expertly facilitated the [Allied Health-Survivorship webinar](#) held in partnership with the ACSC and Cancer Council Victoria. Several members also worked with the ACSC who led the revision and relaunch of the [eviQ cancer survivorship education module](#).

New working group activities - two new working group are being established focussing on (i) the important role of primary care in survivorship (Chaired by Michael Jefford) and (ii) financial toxicity (Chaired by Ray Chan)

All members of the Executive Committee were thanked for their enormous contribution to the Group which has ensured great achievements during 2020. COSA Project Manager Gillian Mackay was also thanked for her help in supporting Group activities.

4. PRO Working Group update (Bogda Koczwara, PRO Working Group Chair)

The Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) Working Group was established following the [COSA PRO Think Tank](#). Working Group membership captures input from clinicians and researchers who conduct PRO research across most Australian states. Attendees were invited to get in touch if they know of other experts who should be involved in this work. The working group has made great progress and has now articulated its value proposition which will be published in January 2021. Their work is now focussing on conducting a Delphi study to clarify minimum standards to implement patient reported outcome measures in routine cancer care. Research Fellow Carolyn Mazariego is leading this work. Group members who want to take part in the study should get in touch.

The Working Group would also like progress further activities including (i) map PRO activities around Australia and (ii) establishing a PRO Community of Practice. Anyone who would like to get involved with these opportunities, and potentially be mentored through the Survivorship Group, is encouraged to get in touch.

5. Cancer Survivorship 2021 (Bogda Koczwara, Cancer Survivorship 2021 Convenor)

[Cancer Survivorship 2021](#) will be held in Adelaide from 18-19 March 2021 as a hybrid event with the theme *Life After Cancer – Redefined, Reimagined and Rebuilt*. It is hoped many will be able to join in person, and the program provides practical workshops to support skills development. Everyone is encouraged to [register](#) and attend.

Cancer Voices SA has been announced as the 2021 recipient of the Ashleigh Moore Award in recognition of their contribution to advancing the care of cancer survivors. An invitation-only Think Tank led by Gail Garvey will also take place prior to the conference, and this will focus on survivorship issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer.

6. Other business

David Joske (haematologist) raised his efforts to build a bridge between work of solid and blood cancers, and asked that the membership be made aware of the work of the Blood Cancers Taskforce <https://www.leukaemia.org.au/stories/blood-cancer-taskforce-develops-national-plan/>. David Joske is a member of the PRO Working Group which provides links to this work.

7. Next meeting

The format and date of the next Survivorship Group AGM will be advised in 2021