

COSA Survivorship Group

Minutes of Annual General Meeting



Date: Thursday 25 November 2021

Time: 11:00am to 12:00pm AEDT

Zoom meeting

Attendance: Michael Jefford (Chair), Raymond Chan (Deputy Chair), Fiona Crawford-Williams, Carolyn Ee, Maree Grier, Mahesh Iddawela, Judith Lacey, Jia (Jenny) Liu, Gillian Mackay, Marie Malica, Carolyn Mazariego, Rebecca McIntosh, Annie Miller, Julia Morris, Amanda Piper, Simone Ray, Cindy Tan, Carla Thamm, Elysia Thornton-Benko, Janette Vardy, Thomas Walwyn, Kate Webber, Vicki White

Apologies: Gail Garvey, David Goldstein, Bogda Koczwara, Anne Mellon

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country (Michael Jefford, Chair)

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

Marie Malica extended thanks to members of Group, and especially to Michael Jefford as Chair and members of the Executive Committee, for their leadership in driving Group activities.

Kate Webber was congratulated for convening the 2021 COSA ASM, which was a very successful meeting. Members were reminded that delegates have 12-months' access to recordings of the ASM presentations.

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

Michael Jefford provided an overview of the Survivorship Group's activities and resources – [Attachment 1](#).

Key links include:

- [Group information](#) including objectives, Executive committee, and terms of reference
- [2019-21 strategic plan achievements](#)
- Social media – members should tag [@COSA_Surviv](#) to share their work and engage
- [eNews](#) – a new edition will be available in December 2021, and this will include a link to the new draft strategic plan. Members are encouraged to provide their feedback
- [Education resources](#) including collaborative webinar recordings
- [Fellowship updates](#)
- Regular Group reports are provided in the biennial COSA [Marryalyan](#) – next edition available in December 2021

Michael described the new Survivorship Policy, and Primary Care working groups. An initial working group focused on more effectively integrating primary care in survivorship, but with the development of the Australian Cancer Plan (ACP) by Cancer Australia (CA), this was split into two groups: Primary Care (to inform the ACP regarding primary care across the cancer continuum); and Survivorship Policy (to inform survivorship considerations within the ACP). Members interested in participating in [working group activities](#) were invited to get in contact: PRO, Financial Toxicity, Survivorship Policy, and Primary Care working groups.

The [4th Victorian Cancer Survivorship Conference](#) is being held in Melbourne (hybrid event) from 24-25 March 2022. This biannual conference is presented by the VCCC Alliance and Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre (with the Flinders-COSA Survivorship Conference presented on alternate years).

Thanks were expressed to all members of the Executive, working groups, Fellowship mentoring teams, and project manager Gillian Mackay. Michael advised that after two years as Chair, he would now hand this role to the current Deputy Chair Ray Chan. Michael was thanked for his exemplary leadership and it was noted that the Group would call for EOIs for a new Deputy Chair in the new year.

4. Financial Toxicity Working Group Update (Ray Chan, Chair Financial Toxicity Working Group)

The Financial Toxicity working group has focused on several pieces of work including:

- Defining financial toxicity in a way that the greater public and wider clinical community would understand. Case studies are being developed to highlight the different experiences of financial toxicity, and it is hoped to have materials that will be readily accessible by the public and clinical community. Megan Varlow was thanked for leading this project.
- A national survey has been conducted focusing on the clinician experience of financial toxicity in providing care for cancer patients. This will provide important information on the current context of financial toxicity in Australia, help identify where there are gaps, and help determine how this might be best managed. Louisa Gordon was thanked for leading this project
- The working group is leading a [webinar](#) in collaboration with CNSA in December 2021 that will *challenge the misconception that nothing can be done to address financial toxicity*.
- 2022 work will focus on developing a care pathway for addressing financial toxicity to understand what needs to be done and when, and help provide harmonisation and standardised care regarding expectations in terms of alleviating financial toxicity.

Amanda Piper indicated interest in contributing to the Financial Toxicity working group.

5. PRO Working Group update (Carolyn Mazariego on behalf of Bogda Koczwara, Chair PRO Working Group)

The PRO working group published its value proposition in early 2021 in the [Medical Journal of Australia](#), which provides the foundation for an advocacy approach and outlines the principles of clinical use of PROs in cancer care. The working group provided additional mentorship to Carolyn Mazariego's Fellowship project (see below), and are now linked with a collaborative project with ISOQOL to map national PRO activity across Australia. Carolyn Mazariego has also secured a Global Development Award that will help take this work forward in collaboration with the University of Toronto. This grant will aim to develop a toolkit for implementation of PROs.

6. COSA Survivorship Research Fellowship update

The Survivorship Research Fellowship program was highly successful and exceeded expectations, and the three Fellows were congratulated for their work. The Group is now exploring options to continue this initiative.

Fiona Crawford-Williams – [Research priorities in cancer survivorship in Australia](#)

Members are encouraged to make use of the [priority document](#), which defines priorities that can be used to support coordinated action between researchers, funding bodies and other key stakeholders.

Carolyn Mazariego – [Priority recommendations for the implementation of patient reported outcomes in clinical cancer care: a Delphi study](#)

Julia Morris – Current survivorship-focused research in Australia – Julia has recently returned from parental leave, and will now work further on her findings.

7. Other Business

It was noted that while many members of this Group are very engaged, many others involved in survivorship may not be aware of this work or how to get involved. There was broad support for increasing engagement with the survivorship community, and encouraging joint projects and collaborations across other COSA Groups.

8. Next Meeting

The next Survivorship Group AGM is planned as a face-to-face meeting at the 2022 COSA ASM in Brisbane. The Group also hopes to get together at least once during 2022 outside of the ASM, and will work towards developing this opportunity.