

# COSA Geriatric Oncology Group

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting



Date: Tuesday 30 November 2021

Time: 3:00pm to 3:45pm AEDT

Zoom meeting

**Attendance:** Meera Agar (Chair), Polly Dufton, Michael Krasovitsky, Heather Lane, Gillian Mackay, Kheng Soo, Christopher Steer, Timothy To, Gina Tuch

**Apologies:** Jane Phillips, Geeta Sandhu

<b>1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country (Meera Agar, Chair)</b>
<b>2. Group update</b>
<b>2.1 Guideline development (Meera Agar)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· The Group has been working actively to develop guidelines/practice points to help improve the clinical management of older adults with cancer in Australia</li><li>· Several domains are being covered and these include guidelines for screening tools for geriatric assessment; and guidelines for referring older adults with cancer for systemic anti-cancer therapy, surgery, and radiotherapy; and how geriatric assessment might be used to identify the unmet needs of older adults with cancer</li><li>· The guideline for screening older adults for geriatric assessment was published in <i>JAMA Oncology</i> in 2021: <a href="#">Screening Tools for Identifying Older Adults with Cancer Who May Benefit from a Geriatric Assessment – A Systematic Review</a></li><li>· There is a high level of engagement from a broad range of interdisciplinary clinicians from across Australia, and plenty of opportunities for members to contribute to this work. Members who would like to get involved and provide clinical input to this work or contribute to a paper, are invited to get in touch</li></ul>
<b>2.2 COSA-CNSA Geriatric Oncology webinar series (Polly Dufton)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· A geriatric oncology focused webinar series was undertaken in collaboration with CNSA, and five webinars were delivered in 2021</li><li>· The webinars have had great registration and attendance, and received excellent feedback</li><li>· Webinar recordings are available on the <a href="#">Group's webpage</a></li><li>· A further five webinars are already planned for 2022. The Group is keen to hear from members about topics of interest, or suggestions for presentations that members would like to help organise and deliver</li></ul>
<b>2.3 GO eNews (Kheng Soo)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· GO eNews newsletter is produced twice yearly, and it aims to highlight geriatric oncology work particularly in Australia. Previous editions are available <a href="#">here</a></li><li>· Polly Dufton was welcomed to the team as co-editor this year, and she also brings links as co-Chair of the CNSA Cancer in the Older Person Specialist Practice network</li><li>· The next edition is planned for February 2022, and members are welcome to contact the team with suggestions and contributions</li><li>· All contributors were acknowledged, with thanks to Kheng Soo and Polly Dufton for leading this publication</li></ul>
<b>2.4 Group plans for 2022 (Meera Agar)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Work will continue during 2022 to develop Guidelines, deliver webinars, and produce the regular eNews</li><li>· Social media will be used to showcase the great geriatric oncology initiatives and experts across Australia, and this will include building and highlighting member profiles</li></ul>

- There is increasing interest from members to share geriatric-oncology information and the Group is working towards hosting a Group forum – the Group had hoped to host a roundtable during the 2021 COSA ASM, but this was not possible within the available platform
- The [Group survey](#) has been collecting information about the landscape of geriatric oncology initiatives across Australia. This information will help the Group offer more tailored opportunities to meet the needs of both emerging and more established geriatric oncology services, connect like-minded people who want to improve care and outcomes for older adults affected by cancer, and build a community of practice in geriatric oncology
- There is interest in revisiting the Group’s [research concept development workshops](#), and it is hoped these will recommence during 2022
- The Group will also investigate the possibility of delivering a pre-ACORD trial concept development workshop that would support people with geriatric oncology trial ideas, and Martin Stockler has indicated his interest in working with the Group to develop this idea
- The Group will also work with the GOEER working group (Item 3)

**3. GOEER – Geriatric Oncology Emerging Experts & Researchers working group update (Michael Krasovitsky)**

- Michael Krasovitsky is leading the GOEER working group - an interdisciplinary range of ‘emerging experts and researchers’ from across Australia with an interest in geriatric oncology.
- GOEER has identified a number of aims and projects to take forward including:
  - Lobbying eviQ to incorporate geriatric oncology into the eviQ database
  - Developing a standardised educational toolkit for individuals to present at their institutions
  - Collaborating on research ideas/papers of interest  
(Action: GO Executive to provide information on projects underway and opportunities for GOEER involvement/collaboration)
  - Developing a community of practice and establishing a social media presence
  - Forming connections with international groups with similar interests
- GOEER plans to widen its membership and this could include more representation from allied health, nurses, palliative care and haematologists
- Members are invited to get in contact if they would like to get involved with this working group
- Gina Tuch indicated her interest in joining GOEER

**4. Other Business**

Discussion included:

- linking the Geriatric Oncology Group with COSA’s Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) working group – there is much alignment between the outcomes measured in geriatric oncology and PROs, and there could be value in having a geriatric-oncology mindset involved in discussions about how to develop a comprehensive standardised set of outcomes. The consideration of Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMs) is also important  
Action: Heather Lane to draft message to PRO Working Group, and Gillian Mackay to help coordinate connection
- contributing to Cancer Australia’s Australian Cancer Plan. This might include writing to Cancer Australia to ensure the inclusion of geriatric oncology. Cancer Australia has opened their [public consultation](#) so there are also opportunities for individuals to submit comments that will strengthen the geriatric oncology message

Meera Agar was thanked for her leadership, and Gillian Mackay for her project management support

**5. Next Meeting**

The Executive will meet regularly during 2022, and link with the ongoing GOEER working group discussions. The next Geriatric Oncology Group AGM is planned as a face-to-face meeting at the 2022 COSA ASM in Brisbane. The Group also hopes to get together during 2022, and provide an opportunity to bring new voices to Group discussions via a roundtable/forum/research concept development workshop, and will share details as plans develop.