



April/May 2009 Cancer Learning email update

Welcome to the April/May 2009 [Cancer Learning](#) update. The year doesn't seem to be slowing down at all, though the single figure temperatures in the morning are making summer seem like a distant memory! As you look through the exciting new resources on the [Cancer Learning](#) website this month, please take the time to fill in the [evaluation survey](#) to support the continuation of this initiative.

▶ **Cancer Learning [Evaluation Survey](#)**

Many thanks to those who have filled in the brief Cancer Learning [evaluation survey](#) about how you use the website and how you feel it could be improved – we really value your comments and opinions about the website.

If you haven't completed the survey, the current [Cancer Learning](#) project is scheduled for completion in June 2009 and we need input from our users to provide support for its sustainability, so we would be very grateful if you could take 5-10 minutes to provide some information and feedback about the website, the resources available on it and any comments or suggestions you may have regarding how it could be shaped to better suit your needs. The survey can be accessed: <http://www.cancerlearning.gov.au/feedback/>

[Cancer Learning News](#)

▶ **April/May [Cancer Learning](#) activities**

➤ **Commencement of Train the Trainer Workshop**

Thanks to the volunteers who have commenced piloting this combined video presentation and online forum workshop, aimed at assisting those with a role in planning, implementing and evaluating professional development in cancer services to make best use of the resources on [Cancer Learning](#). We eagerly await your draft professional development plans and your feedback about this new activity.

➤ **Completion of South Australia & Tasmania MDT Forum**

Many thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers who took part in the recent SA/TAS MDT forum; further adding to our knowledge and understanding of the issues facing multidisciplinary teams and assisting us to develop resources and learning activities aimed at addressing them.

EdCaN News

▶ **Launching [EdCaN](#) on Cancer Learning**

On the 18th June, [EdCaN](#) will officially launch its suite of web based multimedia education resources for cancer nurses at this years [12th CNSA Winter Congress](#). As part of this event, [EdCaN](#) will also be conducting a pre-conference workshop to introduce clinical educators to the newly developed [EdCaN](#) suite of resources and a breakfast session for regional and rural nurses to learn more about how they might utilise these resources to readily update their knowledge in cancer control. So be sure to keep an on the [EdCaN website](#) for more updates, and hopefully the [EdCaN](#) team will see you at this years Congress.

New resources on [Cancer Learning](#) in April:

▶ ***[Search](#)* function now live**

Did you see something on [Cancer Learning](#) once but can't remember where it was? Or are you researching a new professional development area and want to see if there are resources on [Cancer Learning](#) that you can utilise? Good news! The new [Search](#) feature on the website now allows you to search by key words and topics to find what you are looking for quickly and easily! Look for [search](#) in the banner on the top right of the site.

▶ **[GP Engagement toolkit](#)**

GPs are key stakeholders in the health system and many people demand their time. The resources in this toolkit can assist health services and educators to find ways and incentives to engage GPs in professional development and service improvement activities.

▶ **[EPICC](#) - Education Program in Cancer Care**

Education Program in Cancer Care (EPICC) is an initiative of Cancer Australia, offering online educational modules designed to improve the quality of cancer control particularly in rural and regional Australia by providing greater opportunities for interested medical practitioners to increase their expertise in cancer management.

Take part in the EPICC [Pilot Program](#)

Medical practitioners can take part in the EPICC [pilot program](#) at the [10th National Rural Alliance Conference](#) in Cairns at 4:50pm on Monday 18 May 2009. The pilot provides the opportunity to review each module to see how this program will help you provide better cancer care to your patients, and to discuss program content with leading cancer specialists and program developers. And you can drop into the **Cancer Learning/EdCaN** booth at the Conference while you are there! Further information is in the [Cancer Learning](#) events tab or: http://www.cancerlearning.gov.au/docs/epicc_pilot_program.pdf. Contact Ms Kevin Comlossy: kcomlossy@moga.org.au or 02 9256 9656 to register.

▶ **[New England Journal Roundtable Discussion: Screening for Prostate Cancer](#)**

PSA screening for prostate cancer is a topic that continues to cause controversy in the oncology world– it may assist in catching cancers early but may also carry risks including that of unnecessary treatment. In a moderated roundtable video conference,

oncologist Philip Kantoff and primary care physician Mary McNaughton-Collins debate the clinical implications of the new findings and the best way to advise patients about undergoing PSA testing. Associated articles and a transcript of the discussion are also available for download. You can also read more about this topical subject in the current volume of [Australian Family Physician](#) (Vol 38), the official publication of the [RACGP](#), which is themed around various topics relating to cancer screening.

▶ **New [Culturally and Linguistically Diverse](#) resources**

New this month are the [Toolkit to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care](#), containing case studies; sample tools, forms, policies and resources for developing and implementing interventions; and the [Infusing Cultural and Linguistic Competence into Health Promotion](#) video and PowerPoint slides, designed to assist health promoters to ensure that their approaches with diverse populations address culture and language in an effective, appropriate and respectful manner.

▶ **New [Geriatric](#) resources**

The [International Society of Geriatric Oncology \(SIOG\)](#) aims to improve research and promote education in the field of geriatric oncology. Links are provided to *Critical Reviews in Oncology/Hematology*, the official SIOG journal, events, literature and updates on clinical trials.

The American based [Geriatric Oncology Consortium](#) aims to address age-based disparities in research, education and treatment in the older adult cancer population. The consortium works to promote better understanding of the unique challenges associated with the management of older adults with cancer among health professionals, and to empower the ageing consumer population to become active partners in their healthcare.

▶ **New [Mentoring program cases studies](#)**

New case studies added this month for you to find tips and resources for your own mentoring programs include the Cancer Council QLD/Griffith University Specialist Breast Nurse professional support program; the WA Dept of Health cancer mentoring program for rural clinicians program, and the Eastern Health oncology nursing education mentor program.

▶ **Recent articles**

The [Teaching communication to medical oncology fellows](#) article explains the [OncoTalk](#) program, developed to improve medical oncology fellows' communication skills with patients who have incurable or progressive cancer. With a focus on practical skills and key communication tasks, this program uses evidence based educational techniques tailored to medical oncology fellows. A link to components of the program that could be adapted to other settings is included.

[The role of general practice in cancer care](#) is an article from [Australian Family Physician](#) (Vol. 37. No. 9 Sept 2008, pp. 698-702) by Associate Professor Geoffrey Mitchell, examining the function of the general practitioner in cancer care, looking at each step in the patient's cancer journey including diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and palliative care. The role that the GP and practice staff currently play, and could potentially undertake to maximise the benefits of an integrated, 'hub and spoke' model cancer service is also explained.

▶ **[COSA ASM](#) - Early bird registration is now open**

The 2009 COSA ASM will be held 17-19 November at the Gold Coast Convention Centre. The focus in 2009 is on Brain and Lung Cancers, and the theme is "Cancer Services and Our Community: Awareness, Access, Action". Go to: <http://asnevents.net.au/register/?eid=EV4QEHGSH5K> for further information and registration details.

▶ **Information for [consumers](#):**

Take a look at the [Consumer Participation](#) page under 'What can I do? Practical approaches' for details of [upcoming consumer advocacy workshops](#) being held in several states by Cancer Voices, in conjunction with other cancer organisations.

[Breast Cancer Network Australia \(BCNA\) Kits for Women with Breast Cancer](#)

[BCNA](#) have developed 2 kits – the 'My Journey' kit and the 'Hope and Hurdles' pack with resources including a personal cancer record diary, booklets, brochures, magazines and CDs that offer information and support for women with breast cancer and their families. The kits can be ordered by consumers and health professionals from [BCNA](#).

▶ **Focus on: [Postgraduate cancer nursing courses](#)**

If you are looking to further your qualifications in cancer nursing, you might be interested in one of the specialist tertiary courses featured in the [Fundamentals of Oncology learning activities](#) section:

- Notre Dame (Graduate Certificate Oncology Nursing)
- La Trobe (Masters of Breast Care).
- Melbourne University (Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research – Oncology)
- Adelaide University (Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science – Oncology Nursing)
- University of Sydney (Master of Cancer Nursing)
- College of Nursing (Graduate Certificate in Breast Care Nursing; Graduate Certificate in Cancer Nursing)

▶ **[Share your resources](#)**

If you have developed or know of a resource that would be suitable for Cancer Learning please [submit](#) it via the website for evaluation so it can be shared with other cancer professionals.

▶ **Volunteer**

If you would like to explore the [Multidisciplinary toolkit](#) and/or the [Frontline Psychosocial](#) module, developed by [Cancer Learning](#), and complete the evaluation to tell us about your experiences using these resources, please contact Ana: amunro@usyd.edu.au for a username and password to access these sections of the website.

Don't forget to check the [News and Events](#) tabs on the front page!

Happy learning!

The [Cancer Learning](#) Team