

April 2011

The [Cancer Learning](#) Team hopes you had a wonderful long-long weekend and found some time for some well earned rest and relaxation in between the Easter eggs and Anzac biscuits! This month we are very excited to launch the eagerly awaited [Adolescent and Young Adult \(AYA\) Cancer Care Professional Development Pathway](#) – the first in the series of [pathways](#) to focus on a multidisciplinary area of practice. We'd love to hear what you think of it – feel free to email any comments you have to me at info@cancerlearning.gov.au.

There is also an opportunity for **YOU to contribute to the future of Australian cancer professional development services** – please take a few moments to complete the [CanNET evaluation survey](#) (details below). We greatly appreciate the time you take to provide your opinions and experiences to help build a foundation for cancer education that will assist in achieving optimal cancer care and support in Australia.

CanNET Evaluation Survey

Please take a few moments to [complete a brief survey](#) to assist in the evaluation of the Cancer Service Networks National Program ([CanNET](#)), an initiative designed to better link regional and metropolitan cancer services and improve access to quality, clinically-effective cancer services throughout Australia.

[Siggins Miller](#) has been engaged by Cancer Australia to undertake a national evaluation and would like to gather data and information from users of Cancer Australia's education and professional development resources, including:

- [Cancer Learning](#)
- [EdCaN](#)
- [eviQ Cancer Treatments Online Primary Health Care section](#)
- [Psychosexual Care of Gynaecological Cancers \(PSGC\) modules](#)
- [EPICC](#) (currently only available to ACRRM members)

We invite all cancer health professionals (both those with and without involvement in CanNET related activities) to complete [an anonymous online survey](#), available at this link: <http://questionpro.com/t/ABJlkZJvxK> to inform a report regarding the CanNET and other Cancer Australia initiatives. The survey should only take a few minutes and you are able to skip questions or discontinue the survey at any time. The closing date for responses is **10th June 2011**. If you would like any further information regarding the CanNET National Evaluation or this survey, please contact Lauren Davies: lauren.davies@sigginsmiller.com.au. Many thanks for your participation.

News

Launch of AYA PD Pathway on Cancer Learning

Ahead of the new AYA Guidelines currently in development by COSA, we are delighted to launch the [Adolescent and Young Adult \(AYA\) Cancer Care Professional Development Pathway](http://cancerlearning.gov.au/plan/aya_pathway.php) at http://cancerlearning.gov.au/plan/aya_pathway.php. Enormous thanks to the dedicated professionals who contributed to the pathway and who continue to work tirelessly in this emerging area of cancer care to advocate for this vital patient population are sometimes lost in the gap between paediatric and adult care. Feel free to provide any feedback or suggestions regarding this and the other pathways available in the [Plan](#) section of Cancer Learning to info@cancerlearning.gov.au.

COSA Continuing Professional Development Spaced Education Pilot

Did you attend the 2010 COSA ASM and want to refresh your memory of the survivorship plenary, 'Beyond Cancer'? Or maybe you are interested in discovering the type of multidisciplinary sessions that will be on offer again at the 2011 COSA ASM in November? COSA is offering an exciting new professional development [pilot program](#), Spaced Education, a new and evidence based online learning program developed recently at Harvard Medical School. The modules use psychological theories of adaptive spacing and repetition to achieve increases in efficient learning, knowledge retention and practice change. You can view slides and video footage from the most popular sessions at the COSA 2010 ASM and then enrol in the Spaced Education course that has been built around case-based multiple choice questions that are emailed to you over a number of weeks, with succinct feedback and links to further resources provided upon answering. Questions are repeated using an evidence-based adaptive algorithm which personalizes the spacing of a course to the demonstrated knowledge level of each participant. The program is completed once you have answered all questions correctly twice. The resource is currently available to all health professionals until November 2011, after which it will be restricted to COSA members only. Visit <http://www.cosa.org.au/about-us/education.html> for further information.

New Head and Neck Nutrition Guidelines open for public consultation

Head and neck cancer is the fifth most common cancer worldwide. This patient population is often nutritionally compromised to some degree from the onset, with malnutrition rates reported between 30-50%. The causes of malnutrition are multifactorial including lifestyle factors of tobacco and alcohol use and baseline dietary intake; as well as tumour location and burden, and side effects of multi-modal treatment regimens. Furthermore, malnutrition results in impaired wound healing, reduced immunocompetence, a decreased tolerance to treatment, resulting in undesired treatment breaks and unplanned hospital admissions. Consequently nutrition support plays a crucial role in the provision of best practice care to this population. Developed by Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA), Cancer Institute NSW and Cancer Oncology Group of NSW, The purpose of these guidelines is to provide the multidisciplinary team of health professionals with a summary of evidence-based clinical questions related to the nutrition management of adult patients with head and neck cancer. The website provides a forum for public comment and debate regarding the guidelines. Visit [http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:Head and neck cancer nutrition guidelines](http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/COSA:Head_and_neck_cancer_nutrition_guidelines) for further information.

MOGA/Unicorn Foundation Award for the Advancement of the Management of Neuroendocrine Tumours

The Medical Oncology Group of Australia Incorporated (MOGA) in conjunction with the Unicorn Foundation is proud to announce a major new Award open to junior consultants and advanced trainees who wish to undertake professional development in the management of neuroendocrine tumours. This Award Program will support a junior clinician to undertake an approved educational program to develop their knowledge and/or expertise in the management of neuroendocrine tumours. For further information, visit <http://www.moga.org.au/news-events/news/unicorn-foundation-award-2011>

Primary Care Infrastructure Grants, Round 2

The Primary Care Infrastructure Grants initiative is being implemented under the Commonwealth's GP Super Clinics Program. There are three funding streams available with grants up to \$150,000; \$300,000 and \$500,000. Register your interest on the [Department of Health and Ageing](#) website to download the application documents. Printed applications must be lodged by 2pm Friday 10th June 2011 in Canberra.

Upcoming Events

For more information about these and other coming events, see Key Events in the [News](#) section.

▶ Call for Abstracts closes on 6 May 2011 for the **Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) Annual Scientific Meeting 2011 *Advances in Cancer Care-Cost and Value*** to be held from 10-12 August 2011 at Adelaide Convention Centre. For further information, visit the website or <http://www.moga.org.au/news-events/news/annual-scientific-meeting-call-abstracts-0>.

▶ Applications for **NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarships** open on 5 May 2011. The aim of the NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarships scheme is to support outstanding Australian health and medical graduates early in their career so that they can be trained to conduct research that is internationally competitive and to develop a capacity for original independent research. This is usually achieved by NHMRC funding successful applicants to attain a research based postgraduate degree, which may be a PhD, a PhD equivalent degree, or Masters degree. Applications close 1 August 2011. Visit [the website](#) for further details.

▶ [Call for abstracts](#) is now open for the **Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) 14th Winter Congress 2011** which will be held 21-23 July, 2011 at Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, with the theme "Navigating the complexities of cancer care". Further information about the conference is available from the website: <http://dcconferences.com.au/cnsa2011>. Information about abstract requirements for either oral or poster presentations is available [here](#) or on the CNSA website <http://www.cnsa.org.au>.

▶ Registration is now open for the **National Centre for Health Information Research and Training (NCHIRT) International ICD-10 Training Program for 2011**. [ICD-10 Train the Trainer and Coder Training](#) will be held from 27 June- 15 July 2011 at Queensland University of Technology, Kelvin Grove, Brisbane. An optional one-week Train the Trainer course will introduce techniques and methods for training others in the use of the ICD-10 for morbidity (hospital) and/or mortality (death certificate) coding, followed by a two-week course to introduce participants to coding with the ICD-10. This training program is offered to meet the needs of countries which have implemented or plan to implement the ICD-10 classification

system that require local training and support for new and existing ICD-10 coding staff and those who use the coded data. For further information, see <http://www.nchirt.qut.edu.au/educationandtraining/upcomingcourses.jsp/>.

► Hold the date – **Oncology Social Work Australia's 7th Annual Conference**, *Exploring off the Beaten Track* will be held in Perth, WA from 18-19 November 2011. Further details available: <http://www.oswa.net.au/NewsEvents/OSWAWorkshopsConferences.aspx>

New Resources on [Cancer Learning](#) this month include...

[Fundamentals of Oncology Learning Activities](#)

[ASCO Maintenance of Certification Modules](#)

Though developed for US health professionals, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Maintenance of Certification Modules based around multiple-choice questions that include patient case information, educational links and answer rationales are very relevant to an Australian audience and assist professionals working in cancer care as a tool for self-assessment of medical knowledge as it relates to genitourinary cancers. After completing the modules, professionals should be able to identify knowledge and practice gaps relating to cancers and apply knowledge learned toward an enhanced ability to identify cancer risks and recommend effective interventions for individual patients. The modules are available for [General Oncology](#), [Cancer Prevention MOC](#), [Genitourinary Cancers MOC](#), [Lung Cancer MOC](#), [Gastrointestinal Cancers MOC](#) and [Breast Cancer MOC](#).

[Palliative Care Resources](#)

Several new resources are available on this page this month, including:

[Paediatric Palliative Care: in association with Department of Health](#)

Children with conditions that are life limiting illnesses are living longer due to advances in medical care so the need for palliative care is greater. A recent report by the Department of Health found there is a lack of understanding about what palliative care for children involves, with a general assumption that it only involves care at the end of life. This BMJ Learning module aims to provide general practitioners with an overview of palliative care for children and young people, to help them in their role of supporting children and their families through this difficult time.

[Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care Palliative Care Tools](#)

A repository of end-of-life care tools including clinical care tools, evaluation tools, education tools and organisational tools developed or adapted by *Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care* demonstration projects. The resources can also be downloaded by topic area.

[TIME: Toolkit of Instruments to Measure End-of-Life Care](#)

A fundamental barrier in the quality of care at the end of life is the lack of measurement tools. These measurement tools should identify opportunities for improving medical care, examining the impact of interventions or demonstration programs, and holding institutions accountable for their quality of care. The Toolkit takes steps toward crossing this measurement barrier by creating patient-focused, family-centered survey instruments that address the needs and

concerns of patients and their families, as defined by them. With funding from the Nathan Cummings Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Brown Medical School has assembled an authoritative bibliography of instruments to measure the quality of care and quality of life for dying patients and their families.

[Non-Clinical Skills Learning Activities](#)

[Better Communication, Better Care: A National Approach to Communication Skills Training for all Health Professionals](#)

The way a clinician and the treatment team relates to, and communicates with, a patient can significantly benefit the patient and their family, including improvements in psychosocial adjustment, decision-making, treatment compliance and satisfaction with care. National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) has developed a range of resources to support health professionals to implement evidence-based communication skills training. These resources are relevant for all cancer types.

[Indigenous resources](#)

[Wanem Morphine](#) booklet

The Cancer Council Queensland has launched its first resource written in Creole, an Indigenous language, to improve cancer support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The booklet, *Wanem Morphine*, published in, will help Indigenous Queenslanders understand the use of morphine for pain relief in cancer treatment.

[Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education School of Health, Business & Science](#)

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education is Australia's largest Indigenous tertiary education and training centre. Batchelor offers a range of nursing and health courses to allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the chance to study a wide range of courses designed to help them gain the skills and qualifications needed to find work and to help with the development of their communities, particularly those following traditional ways of life. All the Institute's courses are developed with the help of many people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, and employer groups.

[Geriatric Cancer Resources](#)

[Portal of Geriatric Online Education \(POGOe\)](#)

The Portal of Geriatric Online Education (POGOe) is a free public repository of a growing collection of geriatric educational materials in various e-learning formats, including lectures, exercises, virtual patients, case-based discussions, simulations, as well as links to other resources. POGOe's mission is to promote geriatric education through the provision and encouragement of free exchange of teaching and assessment materials that support the fields of geriatrics and gerontology. New products are added every month.

[Melanoma Resources](#)

[Targeted Therapy Finder: Melanoma](#)

An increased understanding of the genetic basis of melanoma has resulted in the development of therapies targeted to particular genetic abnormalities. These genetic profiles are associated with dysregulated molecular pathways, including activated or mutated genes. American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) has recently partnered with [CollabRx](#) to develop an innovative, web-based decision support tool that enables physicians and their patients to better understand emerging cancer therapies in melanoma, and to identify diagnostic tests, treatments, and clinical trials associated with the unique molecular profiles of patients' tumors. This new initiative is an effort to provide quality and timely information to ASCO members and guests to help them deliver the highest quality care to their patients. The *Targeted Therapy Finder - Melanoma*, is a new search engine that can find specific information on melanoma treatments, diagnostic tests, and relevant clinical trials that are linked to specific genetic profiles. The resource is meant for use by physicians, patients, and care givers.

[Breast Cancer resources](#)

[Breast Reconstruction after Mastectomy information](#)

Information and guides for health professionals to provide to their patients regarding options available for breast reconstructive surgery for women who have had a breast removed.

Many thanks to those who have recently [submitted](#) resources for evaluation and inclusion on [Cancer Learning](#). If you have developed or use resources or activities that assist you with your ongoing cancer education, please [submit them here](#) so we can share them with other health professionals. We always value your feedback about how we can improve Cancer Learning, so please complete the brief [evaluation form](#) or email info@cancerlearning.gov.au to let us know how you use the website and how it could better meet your needs.

Until next month, happy learning!

The Cancer Learning team

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