



August 2009

News

Cancer Learning update

Spring has nearly sprung and with it brings the commencement of several new, innovative projects by the [Cancer Learning](#) team. Included in our new suite of resources and learning activities that are currently underway is a pathway exploring the professional development opportunities for those working in, or interested in moving into, cancer data management; and the development of learning modules in an exciting new online platform that has been successfully trialed in US which limits the time commitment required for professional development whilst maximising learning opportunities.

Also, the recently completed Clinician:Manager Connect module will shortly begin piloting throughout Australia to provide us with feedback and the opportunity to fine tune the program before it is launched on [Cancer Learning](#); and finally, a new look website will soon be published live to assist you to easily submit resources, search and navigate the site and access the 400+ resources and activities now listed on [Cancer Learning](#). Watch this space!

EdCaN update

The [EdCaN learning resources](#) housed on [Cancer Learning](#) have had a fantastic reception from nurses and allied health professionals both in Australia and overseas who are using them as part of their programs to develop the core competencies required to care for cancer patients. The new case study focusing on cultural issues for indigenous patients will be available soon on the site, but if you don't have easy access to the web or you are experiencing difficulties installing [Flash Player](#) on your computer, please click [here](#) to complete the form to have the EdCaN resources sent to you on a limited edition USB stick.

Now available: Cancer Education Program for Medical Practitioners Education Program in Cancer Care (EPICC)

A free, online cancer education and resource program is now available. Designed for non-cancer specialist medical practitioners (general practitioners, general physicians, gynaecologists, etc), this program can be completed as learning modules or accessed as informational resources. This program includes educational activities, relevant literature, resources and links to existing programs and information on general principles of cancer, diagnosis, treatment, side effects and symptoms of treatment, oncological emergencies, psychosocial care and follow up. Launched at the Medical Oncology Group of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting 13 August in Canberra, ACT by Professor Jim Bishop, Chief Medical Officer, the Education Program in Cancer Care (EPICC) www.epicc.org.au, is funded by the Australian Government through Cancer Australia. Register today! Visit www.epicc.org.au or to learn more contact the Project Manager, Kevin Comlossy on kcomlossy@moga.org.au.

Coming soon: eviQ

[eviQ](#) is now in the final development phase and will be released soon! A significant advance on its forerunner CI-SCaT in scope and presentation, eviQ Cancer Treatments Online will provide accurate, current, relevant, and evidence based information about clinical cancer treatments in formats appropriate to health professionals, primary care clinicians, and patients and carers. Go to www.eviq.com.au to view sample protocols and find further information.

Cancer Australia Meeting

Recently, representatives of each of the four projects that were developed through the Cancer Australia "Strengthening Cancer Care" initiative, Cancer Learning, EdCaN, EPICC and eviQ, met to discuss how to most effectively and sustainably align the projects to optimally meet your immediate, short and long term cancer information and continuing education needs. Several exciting proposals were discussed to ensure that the resources developed through the projects are accessible to all and appropriate for each of the stakeholders involved in cancer care. We look forward to bringing you more information about this in the near future.

Upcoming events

RACGP 2009 Conference

Registration is open for the RACGP's Conference for General Practice 2009. Entitled, "A doctor for all seasons", the conference will run from 1-4 October 2009 at the Burswood Entertainment Complex in Perth. And you can pop into the Cancer Australia booth to speak to representatives from Cancer Learning, EdCaN, eviQ and EPICC about the projects. Information is available: <http://www.gpconference.com.au/>

COSA 2009 ASM

Don't forget to register now for the [COSA ASM](http://www.asnevents.com.au/cosa/index.php) for 2009 focusing on "The Cancer Journey: Awareness, Access, Action" being held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre from 17-19 November. Each of the Cancer Australia projects will be represented so come along and find out how you can utilize these initiatives to develop your skills to deliver high quality cancer care and advance your career. Further details are available: <http://www.asnevents.com.au/cosa/index.php>

New on [Cancer Learning](#) in August

Evidence & latest treatments resources

- **WCMICS Gynaecology Follow Up Guidelines Case Study**

Learn from the experiences of the Western and Central Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service (WCMICS) Gynaecology Tumour Group in this new case study explaining how and why they developed their own consistent follow-up guidelines for gynaecological cancer patients.

- **Cancer Council Research Highlights: Growing Cancer Knowledge**

In their first published report of national research highlights, read profiles of some of the hundreds of Cancer Council funded projects, meet the researchers involved and discover their important findings that assist us to better understand and prevent cancer, increase early detection rates, and improve treatments and the quality of life of cancer patients.

Fundamentals of oncology learning activities

There are several new websites featured on this page offering free opportunities for self-directed learning, including:

- **CancerNursing.org**

This site offers a range of online courses for cancer nurses that include information, diagrams, case studies and self assessment exercises that you can work through at your own pace. Topics include: Palliative Care; Paediatric Cancer; and Chemotherapy.

- **European School Oncology Online e-Grandrounds**

Each Thursday, you can log into the website to hear discussions between international experts on a wide range of cancer topics, or log in any time to view previously recorded sessions.

- **Cyberounds Haematology/Oncology Online Conferences**

These online, interactive conferences each focus on an area of oncology and are moderated by distinguished academics to whom you can pose questions and comments.

- **The Virtual Departments of Clinical Oncology and Clinical Radiology**

An interactive resource that assists non-cancer specialists to familiarise themselves with cancer specific departments, treatments, tests and equipment, the virtual departments guide you through the experience of visiting these areas and provide information and case studies to explain chemotherapy, mammograms and angiography and other procedures performed in these departments.

[Coordination of Care resources](#)

Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease-Cancer and Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines (NAT:PD-C)

The Guidelines, which were developed in 2006, provide a comprehensive review of the physical and psychosocial issues that may impact upon people with advanced cancer, their caregivers, families and health professionals. The NAT: PD-C was developed to complement the Guidelines. When used in both generalist and specialist settings by health care providers involved in the care of people with cancer, the NAT: PD-C can assist in matching the types and levels of need experienced by people with advanced cancer with the most appropriate people or services to address those needs.

[Supportive Care resources](#)

Clinical practice guidelines for communicating end-of-life issues with adults

Openly and honestly discussing palliative care, advanced directives and other end-of-life issues is difficult for health care professionals caring for patients with progressive life-limiting illnesses, and their families. These guidelines provide information to assist health care professionals to develop the vital skills required to raise these issues with their patients and their caregivers, and to provide a forum to ensure patients can make informed decisions about their options.

[Supportive Care learning activities](#)

Cancer Council Communication resources

Featured this month are two learning resources that can be purchased from the Cancer Council of Australia. "Talking About Sexuality, Body Image and Cancer" is a teaching package for health professionals, reviewed by a national advisory group of oncologists, general practitioners and cancer nurses and accredited by the RACGP, including a manual, video and framework that assists in the discussion of difficult issues concerning how cancer may affect a patient's sexuality, body image, relationships and self-esteem. "Managing Cancer Pain: Communication skills training for health professionals" contains a comprehensive manual and video teaching guide to assist health professionals to improve communication with their patients.

[Primary Care](#)

BMJ Learning – Primary Care modules

A subsidiary of the British Medical Journal, The BMJ Group offers a number of interactive, online continuing professional development modules, designed to help GPs, Practice Nurses and other Point of Care Health Professionals to stay up to date with training, practice and appraisal, with 25 free oncology themed learning modules available in areas including screening, referral patterns, diagnosis and treatment.

[Adolescents and Young Adults](#)

Cancer Institute NSW Monograph: Adolescents, Young Adults and Cancer in NSW

A new report from the Cancer Institute of NSW that allows stakeholders to better understand the specific issues surrounding adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer patients, including an

overview of the available literature which provides valuable insight into the range of clinical and psychosocial issues that impact upon this patient group.

[Geriatrics](#)

Journals

The growing awareness of the importance of geriatric oncology and developing research programs and treatments that are appropriate to an older clientele is reflected in editions of 2 well known journals focusing on these issues. An edition of *Journal of Clinical Oncology* (Volume 25, Issue 14, May 10, 2007), the official journal of American Society of Clinical Oncology, looks at the diagnosis, treatment and evaluation of cancer in the elderly and the future requirements of the world's increasingly ageing population; and an edition of *Cancer Forum Journal* (March 2008, 32(1), the official journal of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia, is dedicated to issues relating to cancer in the elderly.

[Submission of resources](#)

A big thank you to everyone who recently submitted a resource for inclusion on Cancer Learning – it is because of you we can bring you these fantastic new listings on the website. Keep an eye out for information that you find useful and submit it [here](#) so we can evaluate and add it to our growing database of cancer resources and professional development opportunities. And coming soon, a new, user-friendly online resource submission form!

[Website and resource evaluation](#)

Are you new to [Cancer Learning](#) or is there a module or resource available on the site that you weren't aware of? We have collaborated with a broad range of cancer care experts to develop key resources that assist you to improve your practice and structure your professional development. Some of these include:

- [Cancer Professional Development Framework](#) and [implementation plan](#)
- [National Professional Development Framework for Cancer Nursing](#)
- [EdCaN video case studies and learning resources](#)
- [Multidisciplinary Care Toolkit**](#)
- [Frontline Psychosocial Support Tutorial**](#)
- [Strengthening Cancer Care: psychosocial support module](#)
- [GP Referral Improvement Toolkit](#)
- [Guide to Clinical Practice Improvement](#)
- [GP Engagement Guide](#)
- [Consumer Participation Guide](#)
- Step-by-step guide to drafting a [personal](#) or [network-wide](#) professional development plan with sample education pathways for [oncology nurses](#), [physiotherapists](#), [dietetic professionals](#), [social workers](#), [clinical researchers](#) and [pharmacists](#).

** Email amunro@usyd.edu.au or info@cancerlearning.gov.au to obtain your free login details to access these resources.

Take some time to work through these comprehensive resources and complete the [evaluation survey](#) to tell us about your experiences using them and suggest any improvements we could make to better support your learning.

Until next month, happy learning!

The [Cancer Learning](#) team.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think would benefit from it. You can [register](#) for monthly email update newsletters [here](#). If you would like to be removed from this email list, please email UNSUBSCRIBE to: amunro@usyd.edu.au or info@cancerlearning.gov.au