

January News

Though January has just about disappeared and New Years Day seems a long time ago, we at [Cancer Learning](#) hope that you had a wonderful, relaxed Christmas season, thank you for your support throughout 2009 and we wish you a very happy, healthy and successful 2010.

At Cancer Learning, we have several big projects launching in the first half of 2010. February will see the full complement of EdCaN learning resources and supporting modules available on the website to provide valuable resources for cancer nurses and other health professionals to develop core competencies to provide optimal care to cancer patients and their families. We are also in the final stages of testing the new SQL database of resources and resource submission tool for Cancer Learning that we will launch shortly that will greatly improve the accuracy and scope of the website search feature. And coming soon will be the Cancer Learning mobile site, allowing you to download resources to hand held devices so you can access cancer information and PDA compliant learning activities whenever and wherever you like. It seems that 2010 is going to be another busy one!

Coming Events

Cancer Pharmacists Group of Australia Clinical Skills course

Following the success of last year's course, the CPG are pleased to offer this course again in February 2010. Designed to assist pharmacists in developing their clinical skills in cancer pharmacy practice, the 2-day course combines informative lectures with interactive workshops to assist practitioners in developing their skills and abilities in the many processes involved in providing cancer treatment to patients. The course is aimed at pharmacists who are already working in the area of cancer but have less than 2 years experience. A background knowledge of cancer therapy is essential to enable participation in workshops and discussions. For further information, <http://cpg.iamevents.com.au/index.php>

PEPA NSW funding applications

Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA) NSW has 5 FULLY FUNDED supervised clinical placements available for Palliative Care Professionals for between 3-5 days (max 32 hours) with another Palliative Care Provider or specialty unit (Chemo, Rad/Onc, Paeds, Dialysis etc). All placements must be completed by the end of May 2010.

Limited funding is also available to past or current PEPA NSW Supervised Clinical Placement participants who wish to attend one of the following conferences:

- 7th Annual Paediatric Palliative Care Symposium: 4 March 2010
- Palliative Care Rural Nurses Meeting, Moree: 25-26 March 2010
- NSW Palliative Care Association, Palliative Care Week Professional Education Session: 28 May 2010
- Sydney Institute of Palliative Medicine 19th Annual Symposium: 24-25 June 2010

Requests for funding must be received by close of business Friday, 12 February 2010. Click the following for information [Clinical placements](#) or [Conference funding](#), or contact the PEPA NSW Project Team: pepansw@sswahs.nsw.gov.au ph: 02 9515 6424

Care Coordination Conference in March 2010

COSA, in conjunction with Queensland Health, will be holding a **Cancer Care Coordination Conference in March 2010**. It will feature:

- the latest information on best practice in Cancer Care Coordination;
- evaluations of, and coalface perspectives on, current Cancer Care Coordinator roles;
- the development of joint criteria to embed the role as a recognised part of the system; and
- forums for all stakeholders to contribute to the development of cancer care coordination.

For further information: <http://www.asnevents.com.au/cccc/>

Australia & Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology (ACORD) Workshop

The Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) is pleased to announce that applications for the 4th Australia & Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Workshop (ACORD) 2010 are open online at www.acordworkshop.org.au until 26 February 2010. Held on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland from 12-17 September 2010, this Workshop provides comprehensive training in clinical trials design and the preparation of a clinical research protocol for up to sixty participants from any oncology and cancer related specialties from Australia and the Asia Pacific Region. The program is of high relevance to Fellows and trainees undertaking specialty training in all oncology disciplines and cancer related specialities such as Paediatrics, Haematology, Palliative Care, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology as well as allied health disciplines such as Nursing and Psychology.

10th Biennial Behavioural Research in Cancer Control (BRCC) Conference

Cancer Council WA, with support from Cancer Council Australia, will hold the 10th Behavioural Research in Cancer Control Conference, being held in Freemantle, WA from 14- 16 April 2010. The 10th BRCC Conference offers a 3-day program with information and discussion sessions on a range of preventive health behaviours related to cancer control, psychosocial health and supportive care for patients and carers, methodological research issues and translation of research to policy. For further information: <http://www.cancerwa.asn.au/research/brcc2010>

New on Cancer Learning in 2010...

Evidence and latest treatments learning activities

CancerQuest Health Professional Resources

In association with Emory Winship Cancer Institute, CancerQuest provides news and information for health professionals regarding cancer detection methods (including pathology reports and cancer staging), details of cancer treatments and side effects, glossary of cancer drugs and information about drug resistance. The site includes sections with animations and quizzes for use by educators; a built-in quiz module for students; and resources specifically for patients.

Imedex® eLearning Centre

Imedex® has developed independent, high quality, scientific programs that translate the latest research into clinically relevant information. The elearning centre provides free access to daily synopses of new cancer information, access to clinically relevant, interactive case studies and discussions, web casts, clinical case reviews, clinical trial reviews and scenarios featuring expert evidence-based commentary. Also available are GuidelineStat programs, a CME initiative developed in conjunction with a leading expert from Georgetown University, that provide evidence-based guideline content for the treatment and management of various cancers in the clinical setting, including Colon Cancer, Rectal Cancer, Small Cell Lung Cancer, Myeloma and Related Diseases, Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia & Hormone Receptor-Positive Breast Cancer.

NICE: evidence into practice - how to make evidence based decisions

A peer reviewed interactive education module about making evidence based decisions made clinically relevant by using a clinical scenario. On completion of this module, participants should

be able to: Balance the needs of individual patients with the wider needs of society; Compare equity and efficiency, and understand a weighted application of the two principles to maximise health gains within limited resources without compromising fairness; Understand how guidance is developed (that is, it takes into account science, patient preferences, and societal value judgments) and Understand how certain factors can bias the evidence (for example, data provided by pharmaceutical companies).

American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) Web-based Activities

Online activities regarding oncologic disorders for pharmacists and other health care professionals consisting of audio and slide presentations, post-tests and activity evaluation tools. Courses include: Tailoring Supportive Care to Improve Patient Outcomes and Quality of Life; Update on Four Complications of Cancer; Understanding the Basics of Tumor Lysis Syndrome, and Prevention and Treatment of an Oncologic Emergency: Focus on Tumor Lysis Syndrome.

The Cleveland Clinic Hematology/Oncology Disease Management Guidelines

The Cleveland Clinic Disease Management Project is an online medical reference resource providing healthcare professionals with convenient, quick, credible and precise access to nationally established treatment guidelines and information to assist in patient care. Information is categorised into Disease Definition; Epidemiology; Pathophysiology; Signs and symptoms; Diagnosis; Treatment; Outcomes and Summary and is available for Acute Myelogenous Leukemia; Brain Tumors: Meningiomas and Gliomas; Chronic Leukemias; Chronic Myeloproliferative Disorders; Disorders of Platelet Function and Number; Oesophageal Cancer; Hypercoagulable States; Multiple Myeloma; Prostate Cancer; Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention; Gynecologic Malignancies: Endometrial, Ovarian, and Cervical Cancer; Breast Disorders and Breast Cancer Screening; and Lung Cancer.

[Evidence and latest treatments resources](#)

Department of Health and Ageing Thesaurus

The 7th edition of the Health and Ageing Thesaurus is a list of subject terms covering concepts of interest to the Department and is a basis for common terminology.

Victorian Cancer Trials Link (VCTL)

The Victorian Cancer Trials Link (VCTL) is an online searchable database of all cancer clinical trials being conducted in Victoria. It can be used by both consumers and clinicians, is free and does not require registration. Most importantly, it is designed to find a clinical trial that "matches" a patient's specific diagnosis and treatment situation. Additionally, it is possible to search for trials by keyword or hospital. The trial information can then be printed off and taken to a treating doctor or used to obtain further details about clinical trials available - contact details are provided for hospitals that are recruiting participants. Through this website, Cancer Council Victoria aims to: * Increase the number of patients enrolled in clinical trials * Increase the number and type of active trials available to metropolitan and rural cancer patients, and * Improve patient access to new and innovative cancer treatments via clinical trials offered that may only be open at one or more selected cancer centres.

[Fundamentals of Oncology learning activities](#)

Chemotherapy and Biotherapy Competency Assessment

Developed on the articulate rapid e-learning powerpoint template kit at the Royal Hobart Hospital, this CD-ROM chemotherapy administration competency assessment tool is delivered via an e-learning format that involves evidence-based resources and questionnaires for use by nurses throughout Australia. The package has been peer reviewed by content experts at RHH and has undergone extensive evaluation by clinical nurses, pharmacists, oncologists and educators.

Cancer Genetics Resource Directory

The Cancer Genetics Resource Directory gives Australian health professionals and members of the public access to a wide range of cancer genetics and familial cancer resources. It was originally developed by the National Cancer Genetics Education Group in 2002 and hosted by the National Cancer Control Initiative and was designed to provide centralised, searchable access for the public and health professionals to information and resources about cancer genetics, genetic testing and familial cancer.

Helping Oncology Pharmacists through eLearning (HOPE): Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) program

HOPE CINV has been developed to assist pharmacists with the supportive care of oncology patients who experience chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV). This innovative e-learning initiative is designed to update knowledge on the clinical practice guidelines and recent advances in the prevention and management of CINV. The purpose of the program is to: review current understanding of the pathophysiology of CINV; review the recommended management strategies for CINV; focus on ways to minimize CINV.

Fundamentals of Oncology resources

Medscape Oncology

Medscape offers specialists, primary care physicians, and other health professionals integrated oncology medical information and educational tools. It's mission is to provide clinicians and other healthcare professionals with timely, comprehensive and relevant clinical information to improve patient care; to make the clinician's task of information gathering simpler, more fruitful, and less time-consuming; and to provide physicians with the educational tools needed to stay current in their practice. Some of Medscape's key features include: Professional medical content, including review articles, journal commentary, expert columns, patient education articles and book reviews; over 850 online CME activities; access to presentations from conferences and medical meetings; a primary-source medical journal, The Medscape Journal of Medicine; and a weekly email newsletter.

Supportive Care resources

Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) Antiemetic Guidelines

Developed by MASCC, the world standard antiemetic guidelines for the treatment and prevention of nausea and vomiting following chemotherapy, radiation therapy or other cancer treatments were updated in 2008. Guidelines are included for the four risk groups and agents and are available for download in several languages.

CancerCare's Reading Room

CancerCare is a nonprofit organisation that provides free, professional support services to anyone affected by cancer: people with cancer, caregivers, children, loved ones, and the bereaved. Organised by topic and cancer type, CancerCare's Reading Room offers a variety of publications for health professionals, patients and caregivers that can be downloaded as PDFs or ordered, regarding the medical, emotional and practical aspects of coping with cancer.

Coordination of Care learning activities

Can Meet Needs Online Training Resource

This online resource provides education and training to health professionals to assist in implementing the Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines and the Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease – Cancer (NAT: PD-C) within their own clinical settings. Case scenarios and videos of simulated consultations are available to support training; and links to general information about palliative care and cancer, as well as information about finding services to manage unmet needs is also available.

Work/life balance

Two Minute Guide to Self-Care

A brief guide to self care for health care practitioners, with links to further information from the End of Life/Palliative Education Resource Centre (EPERC). The guide is an excerpt from the St George Hospital manual, a collaboratively derived multi-author local tool with a formal local governance approval process.

Participate

As well as making you aware of resources and learning activities developed by external providers and organisations, Cancer Learning also houses some freely available modules developed by Cancer Australia to assist you and your team to develop skills and knowledge to optimise your service delivery and care of those affected by cancer. Email info@cancerlearning.gov.au or ana.munro@sydney.edu.au for a free username and password to undertake these online learning activities and then complete the brief evaluation survey to let us know how you used the resource and any suggestions you may have for improvements:

- [Frontline Psychosocial Tutorial](#) – The frontline tutorial explores how to respond to cancer patients who are experiencing acute distress and in need of immediate psychosocial support. In this tutorial professionals are introduced to practical supportive techniques when responding to a patient who is either angry, distressed or in a state of depression; and techniques to promote hope and dignity in patients facing advanced cancer.
- [Multidisciplinary Toolkit](#) – The multidisciplinary care toolkit aims to optimise the multidisciplinary team's contribution to patient care through establishing and enhancing effective team participation. This toolkit provides practical information, practice improvement activities and resources for health professionals to utilise within their multidisciplinary teams
- [EdCaN learning resources](#) - Developed from the National Cancer Nursing Education Project (EdCaN), these learning resources include a competency standards framework and a suite of learning resources targeted at building the capacity of the nursing workforce in cancer control, with the ultimate aim of improving health outcomes for people affected by cancer.
- [Clinician:Manager Connect Module](#) - Developed in consultation with some of Australia's leading clinicians and health care managers, this module aims to address some of the workplace issues and sources of conflict that may impact upon the professional relationship between clinicians and health care managers. Over three sections, *Exploring the Divide*, *Identifying Common Ground*, and *Working Together toward Change*, the module provides information, first-hand advice, case studies, practical skills and other activities to assist clinicians and managers to understand the others' perspective to enhance their relationship in order to better support each other in the shared goal of providing optimal patient care.
- [Professional development framework](#) and [planning template](#) – tools to assist you to plan, develop and implement your professional development activities and programs.

We also invite you to [submit](#) any resources, learning activities or information you know of or have developed that we may be able to add to Cancer Learning to share with others working in cancer care. We also welcome your [feedback](#) about the website and about any areas of cancer care that you would like included on the site.

Til next month, happy learning!

The Cancer Learning Team

You can [register](#) for monthly email update newsletters [here](#).