

January 2011

Wishing you a very happy new year – though with January now over, it really isn't all that new anymore! Unfortunately, once again Mother Nature has shown just how powerful she can be and we are aware that many colleagues have had a very rough start to 2011. Our thoughts are with those who have been affected by the recent wild weather throughout Australia, particularly the floods that have devastated so many areas. We send our best wishes and hopes that life returns to normal for you very soon. Please contact us at info@cancerlearning.gov.au if we can assist you and your service to get your cancer education and CPD programs up and running again as quickly as possible.

January News

We've been busy this month! Below are details about the new features and functions now available when you visit [Cancer Learning...](#)

Cancer Learning goes [mobile](#)

This month we have launched the Cancer Learning PDA site, which will allow you to access the latest news and resources recently added to the site via your mobile phone or hand held device. Pop the following URL into your mobile browser to take a look at the specially modified site: www.cancerlearning.gov.au/mobile.

New [tumour specific](#) pages

Following on from the [Lung Cancer](#) page that was launched in October 2010, we have begun to populate five other tumour specific pages in the [FIND](#) section of Cancer Learning with a wide range of new resources and educational activities:

- [Breast Cancer](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer](#)
- [Melanoma and skin cancers](#)
- [Prostate Cancer](#)
- [Rare Cancers](#) – including resources across a broad range of rarer malignancies

These pages will continue to expand as more resources and activities are submitted to us for evaluation and inclusion. If you have developed or use a resource you think could be included on one of these pages, or in another section of the site, please [submit](#) them so they can be shared with others on Cancer Learning.

Upgraded [Cancer Learning modules](#)

The following three modules that have been developed by the Cancer Learning team have recently been updated and migrated to a new learning management system, [Moodle](#):

- [MDC Toolkit](#)
- [Frontline Psychosocial Tutorial](#)
- [Clinician:Manager Connect](#)

Using this new platform, you can create an individual user profile that will track your progress and record your results in each module. Please note that if you have previously been allocated a username and password for any of these modules, they will no longer be valid. However you can quickly and easily create for yourself a new, common login that will connect you to each of the current Cancer Learning modules and to any new programs developed for the platform in the future. Give them a try and let us know what you think!

[EdCaN Resources](#)

If you haven't had the chance to take a look at the [EdCaN](#) site, take some time to familiarise yourself with the wide range of case based learning activities and supporting modules developed by the EdCaN team. This resource is designed to assist Australia's specialist cancer care nurses and allied health professionals to build cancer knowledge and skills. In addition to this suite of education materials, other resources for [individual learners](#), such as downloadable CPD portfolios are available on the site, as well as a range of [educator resources](#), including [four competency assessment tools](#) and a learning-on-the-run [Point of Care Guide](#), to assist nurse educators to develop workplace based learning and assessment.

[eviQ News](#)

eviQ is reformatting its chemotherapy treatment protocols to allow the information to be exported into Oncology Medical Information Systems (OMIS). To users, the protocols will not appear particularly different, however the reformatting process has allowed eviQ to streamline and further standardise information across all eviQ treatment protocols. The first protocol available in the new format will be the adjuvant breast protocols, with other tumour streams launched over the coming months.

[Education Program In Cancer Care \(EPICC\) Update](#)

EPICC is an online education program developed by Cancer Australia and Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) based on a multidisciplinary model of care with the aim of building the knowledge, skills and expertise of general practitioners to support and increase their role across the cancer control continuum. The five modules feature topics including Principals of Cancer Care, Multidisciplinary Care, Side Effects of Treatment, Psychosocial Care, Oncological Emergencies and Follow up care. The program is now available on the [RRMEO](#) platform, managed by the [Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine](#) and has been accredited for Professional Development Points by the College.

[Upcoming Events](#)

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

- ▶ Applications are now for the **NH&MRC & Cancer Australia Translating Research into Practice (TRIP) Fellowship** in the uptake of evidence into clinical practice for lung cancer. The Fellowship provides an opportunity for an early career health professional to improve the translation of research findings into clinical practice for the management of lung cancer and to improve care and outcomes. For more information about TRIP Fellowships eligibility criteria and applications, please check the [NH&MRC website](#).
- ▶ *The [Lorne Cancer Conference](#) for 2011 will take place from the 10th-12th of February at Mantra Erskine Beach Resort, Lorne, Victoria. National and international experts will present on a broad range of topics.*

- ▶ Health care professionals who want an intensive update in pain management are welcome to apply for the [Pain Management Multidisciplinary Short Course 2011](#), a residential program offered by the **Pain Management Research Institute (PMRI)**, a joint initiative between the University of Sydney and Royal North Shore Hospital. Week One runs 7-10 February and Week Two runs 14-17 February 2011. The two week (Monday - Thursday each week) short course is based on the IASP core curriculum and facilitated by leading specialists in the field of pain management. It is designed for professionals with an interest in learning about current views and approaches to the assessment and management of pain.

- ▶ **The Westmead Breast Cancer Institute** sponsors a webcast presented by A/Prof John Boyages, [Moving Forward: Surviving Breast Cancer](#), to be broadcast live via the Rural Health Education Foundation on 22 February on Channel 4 at 8:00 pm (AEDT) and 25 February on Channel 23 at 12:30pm (AEDT).

- ▶ **Cancer Council Queensland** will host nurses and allied health professionals with an interest in cancer care at the [34th Annual Oncology Nurses Group Conference](#) to be held at the Novotel Hotel, Brisbane from 7-8 April 2011. Abstracts can be submitted until Friday 4 February and applications are open to eligible delegates for travel grants to the conference. Attendance at the conference will attract 15 CNE points through the Royal College of Nursing.

- ▶ The [2011 Consumers Reforming Health Conference](#) is the inaugural international conference for community engagement in health care and will be held from 18 - 20 July at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Convened by the **Health Issues Centre**, this conference is developed specifically for those interested in involving consumers in health care, policy and governance and upholds the essential principle that consumer participation is fundamental for health development, clinical governance, community capacity building and health outcomes. The program aims to demonstrate and enhance this proposition by exploring the experiences, frameworks and practical strategies of participation in a number of health sectors among a diverse range of relevant stakeholders.

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

In [Fundamentals of Oncology Learning Activities: Spaced Education: Safe Handling of Cytotoxic Drugs and Related Waste](#)

Spaced Education was originally developed at Harvard Medical School and takes advantage of the psychological finding that educational encounters which are spaced and repeated over time result in more efficient learning and improved learning retention. This course was developed in collaboration with Cancer Australia, Cancer Institute NSW and WEDG at The University of Sydney and targets nurses who are involved in handling cytotoxic drugs in their work. This email facilitated course is based on the learning objectives of the *Oral and Intravenous Chemotherapy Nurse Training Program*, referencing the *Safe Handling and Waste Management of Antineoplastic Drugs* protocol in [eviQ](#).

In [Evidence and Treatments Resources: CMAG - Recommendations for Use of Chemotherapy for the Treatment of Advanced Breast Cancer](#)

The guideline was funded by the National Breast Cancer Foundation and has been endorsed by the Medical Oncology Group of Australia, the Faculty of Radiation Oncology at the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. It includes statements and recommendations based on available, high-level evidence about the use of chemotherapy for the treatment of advanced breast cancer, providing health professionals with information designed to help them make management recommendations for improved patient outcomes.

In [Evidence and Treatments Learning Activities: *PeRSSonalized Medicine*](#)

An easy-to-use, free medical information tracking tool developed by [Webicina](#) that lets you select your favourite resources and read the latest news and articles about a medical specialty or a medical condition in one personalized place. Add the newest Pubmed articles focusing on your search term by inserting your field of interest, therapy or condition and click Search to read the latest medical journals, news sites, blogs and other social media sources (Tweeters, Youtube videos etc) focusing on that medical specialty.

In [Supportive Care resources: *Assessment and Care Planning Project*](#)

Developed in partnership between Macmillan Cancer Support and the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative, the assessment and care planning project is a needs assessment that can be undertaken during and at the end of treatment helps to identify the ongoing care needs of cancer survivor and the development of a care plan.

In [Non-clinical skills learning activities: *BMJ Learning/Open University Clinical Leadership Programme*](#)

The *Clinical Leadership Programme* provides online, work-based, postgraduate courses and qualifications in clinical leadership for healthcare professionals. The programme has been developed by BMJ Learning, the medical education division of BMJ Group, in collaboration with the Open University Business School's Centre for Professional Learning and Development. The programme consists of individual, flexible, online courses which fulfil development requirements and can be built upon to lead to an accredited Postgraduate Certificate.

In [Indigenous cancer resources: *Indigenous Chronic Disease Package GP Resource Kit*](#)

Developed by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, the GP Resource Kit is a tool for doctors, health professionals and staff working in Indigenous health services and general practices to understand how to access and make the most of the new initiatives in the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package.

We welcome your feedback about Cancer Learning, the new sections and resources we have added and any suggestions you may have about what you would like to be available for you on the site. Complete the online [evaluation form](#), fill in a [resource development proposal](#) or send an email to info@cancerlearning.gov.au to tell us how the site can better facilitate your learning and cancer professional development needs.

Until next month, happy learning!

The Cancer Learning Team

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