

June 2011

It has been a very chilly June across most of Australia and it looks like it has set in for the time being so it looks like the tracky pants and ugg boots will be out for some time yet – sometimes you just have to abandon style for warmth! Like everyone seems to be at this time of the year, all of the teams working on Cancer Learning have been busy this month and there are lots of updates, new resources and upcoming events to keep you all busy til Spring!

It is with quite a bit of sadness I write this newsletter as it will be my last one for Cancer Learning. It has been such a pleasure to work on this project and have the opportunity to meet so many dedicated professionals in such a wide range of disciplines and specialties who tirelessly care for those on their cancer journeys to improve both their daily experiences and their future outcomes. I have been inspired by the vocation and commitment you show to your patients, their families and each other in what is so often a rewarding but extremely challenging area of healthcare; and I wish you all the very best.

A new Knowledge Manager will shortly be appointed to coordinate the next phase of the Cancer Australia professional development projects and the team looks forward to introducing them to you in a coming newsletter. Until then, please contact Cancer Learning via info@cancerlearning.gov.au (as this email address will close) or for enquiries relating to our other resources, email EdCaN and PSGC at edcan_psgc@gut.edu.au.

Finally this month, our congratulations to PSGC and EdCaN who were recently acknowledged by the Australian Federation of Medical Women (AFMW) for the outstanding educational contribution the *Psychosexual care of women affected by gynaecological cancers (PSGC)* modules have made in allowing cancer professionals to develop skills in providing comprehensive supportive care to women with gynaecological cancers. This is greatly deserved recognition for these fantastic resources and I encourage you all to visit [PSGC](#) and undertake the modules to develop your knowledge and skills in this vital area of care.

News

Amalgamation of Cancer Australia and NBOCC

From July 2011, National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) will amalgamate with Cancer Australia to form a single national agency, Cancer Australia, to provide leadership in cancer control and improve outcomes for Australians affected by cancer. For more information, please see the [media release](#) on the Cancer Australia website.

EdCaN (National Cancer Nursing Education Project) News

The EdCaN project team continue to review and update the EdCaN online resources, including all 11 of the case-based learning modules. The EdCaN project team has just updated and relaunched the [melanoma case-based learning resource](#). The changes include updated statistics and new

information added in line with current best practice. Melanoma is the third most common cancer diagnosed in Australia, and survival outcomes are greatly improved when melanoma is detected early. The Specialist Cancer Nurse can facilitate early detection through education related to the signs and symptoms of melanoma and promoting review of suspicious lesions. For more information on the role of the Specialist Cancer Nurse in caring for people affected by cancer, visit the [EdCaN website](#). Be sure to give us your feedback on the [melanoma case-based learning resource](#), or about any EdCaN resource, via our email address: edcan_psgc@qut.edu.au

Make sure you visit the EdCaN exhibition display at the upcoming [CNSA Winter Congress](#), to be held in Sydney on the 21st to the 23rd of July. The EdCaN and PSGC project team will be there throughout the conference to answer your questions about available resources, and to discuss any suggestions you may have for improving the websites.

PSGC (Psychosexual care of women affected by gynaecological cancers) News

The [PSGC website](#) is designed to help all health professionals develop the knowledge and skills to support women and their partners experiencing psychosexual concerns following gynaecological cancers. [Module 2](#) of the PSGC resource focuses on understanding the common psychosexual effects of diagnosis and treatment for gynaecological cancer, including the social and emotional experience of psychosexual changes for women and their partners. A key learning outcome for this module is identifying factors affecting sexual adjustment in women with gynaecological cancer and their partners.

The various rationales underpinning this module include:

- Diagnosis and treatment for a gynaecological cancer can alter a woman's sexual function and her behaviour, attitudes and feelings towards sexuality and intimacy.
- These effects can have wide-ranging effects on the lives of women and their partners.
- Effective care needs health care professionals to appreciate the woman and her partner's changed sexuality and what this means to their roles, relationships and quality of life.

If you haven't had a chance already, access the [PSGC website](#) and have a look at the available resources. You can catch up with the PSGC project team at the upcoming [CNSA Winter Congress](#) in Sydney from the 21st to the 23rd of July, where they will be hosting a breakfast meeting "[Build your skills in Psychosexual Care for women with gynaecological cancer](#)". In this interactive session you will have the opportunity to review and apply evidence based approaches to management of some of the common psychosexual sequelae experienced by women with gynaecological cancer. Stay tuned for further updates of upcoming workshops! You can also give the PSGC project team feedback on their resources at any time via edcan_psgc@qut.edu.au or on the [PSGC website](#).

Invitation to review Draft Recommendations for use of Bisphosphonates for early breast cancer

The National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) invites you to review a draft guideline that has been developed by a multidisciplinary working group, including clinicians and consumer representatives, based on an NBOCC systematic review of the evidence regarding [the use of Bisphosphonates for early breast cancer](#).

Please visit http://guidelines.nbocc.org.au/external_review.php?stage_id=5 and register to contribute your feedback and ensure these clinical practice guideline recommendations are evidence-based, clear, achieve their purpose, and encompass all relevant areas.

Add the Cancer Council's SunSmart UV Alert to your website

We've added the SunSmart UV Alert to the [Melanoma and Skin Cancers](#) page on Cancer Learning and you can too! The Cancer Council have kindly made available their fantastic tool for others to add to their websites. It is customisable not only to each state and territory but also to most metropolitan, regional and rural areas, so you can know exactly what the Bureau of Meteorology has

rated your daily UV level as so you can be sure you are protected from harmful UV rays. Visit the Cancer Council Australia <http://www.cancer.org.au/home.htm> or the [Melanoma and Skin Cancers](#) page on Cancer Learning for simple directions to add it to your site.

Lung Cancer Patient DVD now available in 12 languages

The Lung Cancer Patient DVD "Understanding, Managing, Living" produced by the Peter McCallum Cancer Centre (in partnership with Cancer Council Victoria and The Australian Lung Foundation) is now available in 12 languages. This patient resource is now available in Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek, Italian, Turkish, Arabic, Farsi, Macedonian, Croatian, Serbian, Vietnamese and Malay. Patients and health professionals can order a free copy from The Lung Foundation's lung cancer patient/carer website, the [Kylie Johnston Lung Cancer Network](#) under patient resources and support, translated resources. Translated DVDS can also be viewed in chapters at www.kjlcn.org.au, www.lungfoundation.com.au or on YouTube.

This DVD provides expert medical information from a team of health professionals involved in caring for people with lung cancer, as well as experiences from a diverse group of people living with lung cancer. Patients and their families are advised to view the chapters that relate to them at the present time and refer back to the DVD as their treatment plan and needs change.

For more information contact Kerrie Callaghan, Projects/Communications Coordinator at The Australian Lung Foundation: kerrie@lungfoundation.com.au or phone 07 3251 3641, or Allison Hatton, Project Nurse, Peter McCallum Cancer Centre: allison.Hatton@petermac.org or phone 03 9656 5239.

Updated NSW Cancer Plan

The 2011-2015 NSW Cancer Plan is now available on the Cancer Institute NSW website at <http://cancerplan.cancerinstitute.org.au/>

Upcoming Events

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

▶ The [CNSA Winter Congress](#) will be "Navigating the complexities of cancer care" at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour from the 21-23 July. Don't miss the PSGC hosted breakfast meeting "[Build your skills in Psychosexual Care for women with gynaecological cancer](#)".

▶ COSA 2011 ASM Registrations are now open! [Click here](#) to register for the **2011 Clinical Oncological Society Australia Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)**, themed 'Partnerships against cancer - bridging gaps, breaking barriers'. It will be held from 15 - 17 November 2011 at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, WA. Key dates to remember:

- [Abstract submissions](#) close Monday, 1 August;
- [Early Bird Registration](#) closes Monday, 5 September.
- Don't forget, COSA offers its members the opportunity to apply for travel grants to cover expenses to attend the ASM. Further details are available [here](#) or on the [conference website](#), and applications close Monday, 22 August 2011.

▶ The **Cancer Pharmacists Group (CPG) of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA)** invites excellence and mastery level pharmacists who have at least 5 years clinical experience in Cancer Care to attend the inaugural *Advanced Clinical Practice for Cancer Pharmacists*, a two day Advanced Course to be held on 17-18 September 2011 at Crowne Plaza, Melbourne, Victoria. Following the success of the foundation clinical skills weekend, this course will provide an interactive, expert-led forum for advanced-level practitioners to expand their practical knowledge

and clinical skills in cancer pharmacy. Informative lectures will be combined with interactive workshops to focus on the dynamic situations encountered in the treatment of the cancer patient. Course registration and content detail will be available soon. For further information, see the CPG section of the [COSA website](#) or look the Cancer Pharmacists Group up on Facebook.

▶ The **Royal Australian College of General Practitioner's (RACGP)** annual conference, *GP11* will be held 6-8 October 2011 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania. This year's overarching theme is 'Explore. Collaborate. Innovate' and the conference program will focus on women's and children's medicine, innovations in education, telemedicine, clinician leadership development, informatics/e-health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, business of medicine, dermatology in practice and emergency medicine. With a focus on current and future developments in Australian general practice, the conference brings an opportunity to refine your current skills, learn new skills and provides a great opportunity to share and learn with past and new colleagues. Further details regarding abstract submission, the program, registration and sponsorship are available from the [GP11 website](#).

▶ The *62nd Annual Scientific Meeting* of the **Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR)** will take place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 6-9 October 2011. The theme of the Radiation Oncology scientific programme is "From bench top to couch top and back", with a focus on radiation and molecular biology as relevant to the Radiation Oncologist in 2011. An impressive list of local and international speakers has been secured. Workshops will once again be a feature of the program and there will be several sessions for trainees to facilitate interaction with invited speakers. Further details regarding abstract submission, the program, registration and sponsorship are available from the [RANZCR Melbourne 2011](#) website.

▶ The next **Australian Breast Cancer Conference** is planned for 13-14 October 2011. Preliminary interest can be registered by email to ybcrc@cancervic.org.au.

▶ The **Medical Oncology Group of Australia** will host the *Australia & Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development Workshop (ACORD) 2012 Workshop* from 9 to 15 September 2012 on the Sunshine Coast, Australia and encourages health professionals to apply to attend. Held every 2 years since 2004 the ACORD Workshop is designed as a week-long intensive training program focused on the essentials of clinical trials design for cancer researchers in all oncology subspecialties from Australia and the Asia Pacific region. Up to 60 participants are selected through a competitive application process to join in the Workshop. Participants represent a wide range of oncology backgrounds, with specialities including Medical, Surgical and Radiation Oncology, Haematology and Palliative Care. Each participant receives individual guidance and assistance from the faculty with the protocols they are selected to develop at the Workshop, and work collaboratively with their international peers. [Fellowships](#) covering fees, travel expenses, accommodation and meals are available to successful applicants and are open online at www.acordworkshop.org.au from 7 November 2011 through to 27 February 2012. Email projects@moga.org.au for further information or a printed brochure.

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

[Evidence & Latest Treatments Resources](#)

[Abnormal Vaginal Bleeding in Pre-, Peri- and Post-menopausal Women: a Diagnostic Guide for General Practitioners and Gynaecologists](#)

Developed by National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers, Cancer Australia, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR), this guide will assist general practitioners and gynaecologists in assessing women with abnormal vaginal bleeding to effectively and timely

investigate symptoms which could be endometrial cancer, the most common, and increasing in incidence, invasive gynaecological cancer in Australia.

[Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal](#)

Australia's Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal has been developed to help Australian clinicians and policy-makers access high quality, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines via a single entry point. The Portal is an initiative of the National Institute of Clinical Studies, an institute of the Australian Government's National Health and Medical Research Council as part of a mandate to build a healthier Australia. The Portal links to clinical practice guidelines developed for use in Australian health care settings. Each guideline on the portal has been assessed according to rigorous selection criteria to help you find the type of guideline you are looking for.

[Primary Care Resources](#)

[Introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness in General Practice](#)

This [gplearning](#) activity aims to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by enhancing the cultural awareness of general practitioners (GPs), general practice staff, primary health care staff, and other health care providers.

[Cancer Screening for GPs Online Module](#)

Developed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) and Cancer Council Australia, *Cancer Screening* is an evidence-based, educational module which examines the criteria used to decide which cancers are suitable for a population screening program, including the overall potential benefits and harms now available on [gplearning](#). *Cancer screening* covers general screening principles and how they apply to population-based screening for cervical, breast and bowel cancers. The Category 1 Activity *Cancer screening* active learning module (ALM) is approved by the RACGP QI&CPD Program for 40 Category 1 points in the 2011–2013 triennium.

[Palliative Care](#)

[Bringing Our Dying Home – Creating Community at End of Life](#)

The newly-released report examining home-based end of life care, following a two-year study of primary carers, support networks and HOME Hospice community mentors undertaken by the University of Western Sydney and the Cancer Council NSW.

[Prevention, Screening and Risk Resources](#)

[Prostate Cancer Algorithms/Nomograms](#)

Algorithms/nomograms may be valuable for evaluating the potential extent of disease and risk of recurrence but they do not determine outcomes. This site links to a range of algorithm and nomogram tools and software developed to assist in predicting the extent of prostate cancer, including those developed by John Hopkins University and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre.

[Paediatric Resources](#)

[A Lion in the House](#)

A Lion in the House is a ground breaking, Emmy Award winning documentary telling the intimate stories of five families facing childhood cancer across six years. Educational Video Modules and downloadable companion educational curricula related to the documentary are now available for Health Care Professionals. The modules sensitively address critical issues of childhood and young

adult cancer, including: Childhood cancer survivorship stories, Paediatric End-of-Life Case Studies and Nurse-Patient-Family Relationships in paediatric cancer care.

[Lung Cancer Resources](#)

[Australian Mesothelioma Registry \(AMR\)](#)

The AMR collects information about cases of mesothelioma to:

- Better understand the exact relationship between asbestos exposure and mesothelioma.
- Better understand the nature and levels of asbestos exposure that can result in mesothelioma.
- Identify the groups of workers exposed to potentially dangerous levels of asbestos and to prevent that exposure.
- Assist the development of policies to best deal with the asbestos still present in our environment (mainly our built environment).
- Provide information to assist researchers in undertaking investigations with the aim of preventing mesothelioma in the future.
- Identify other potential exposures that may cause mesothelioma.

As always, we welcome your feedback about Cancer Learning, the new resources added this and any suggestions you may have about what you would like to be available for you on the site. Complete the online [submission 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.

Take care and happy learning!

Ana and the Cancer Learning Team

Please feel free to forward this newsletter and share with colleagues.

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

If you would like to be removed from this email list, please email UNSUBSCRIBE to: info@cancerlearning.gov.au