

## March 2011

I know I can't be the only one looking at the calendar and wondering how we have managed to have reached the one quarter mark of 2011 already! With the year flying by, we are happy to bring you some great new professional development resources and upcoming events that I have been made aware of this month – many thanks to those who have [submitted](#) them 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](#) or email [info@cancerlearning.gov.au](mailto:info@cancerlearning.gov.au) so we can share them with other health professionals. We have also commenced work on some new initiatives that we hope will improve the efficacy and quality of Cancer Learning - we will provide more about these projects in coming months.

Tragically, again this month, our thoughts and best wishes are with our neighbours in Japan following the recent natural disasters in the region, and for those with family and friends impacted by these devastating events.

## News

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### [PSGC Modules](#)

We have had such a positive response to the new [Psychosexual Gynaecological Cancers Modules](#) launched last month on Cancer Learning! If you haven't yet accessed these fantastic interactive, learning materials that include activities, quizzes and video vignettes based around the experiences of women treated for gynaecological cancers, click on the link from the front page of the site and take a look today!

### [Cancer Forum: Complementary and Alternative Medicine](#)

The latest issue of *Cancer Forum*, the official journal of COSA and the Cancer Council Australia is [available now](#). The March 2011 issue focuses on the controversial, complex topic of complementary and alternative medicine and holistic practice in the treatment of cancers. Articles explore the potential for these therapies to improve a patients' quality of life; possible interactions with traditional treatments, and the challenges of integrating alternative therapies into conventional treatment regimes.

### [Australian Lung Foundation Lung Cancer telephone support](#)

The Australian Lung Foundation launched two Lung Cancer Telephone Support Groups in January – a group for patients and another group for carers. Please click [here](#) for further information about these new services.

### [Health Issues Centre Consumer Courses](#)

The Health Issues Centre will be offering new, innovative training programs for consumer leaders and health service staff in 2011. *The Course in Consumer Leadership* provides consumers with the foundation skills to engage and promote consumer engagement in health services; and the *Vocational Graduate Certificate in Consumer Engagement* provides experienced consumer leaders and health service staff with the advanced skills and knowledge to develop and implement strategic consumer engagement in health services and government and non-government bodies. Visit the [website](#) for further information and training program details.

## Upcoming Events

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

▶ National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC), in collaboration with Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) invite you to attend the virtual classroom: ***When breast cancer has progressed: the role of the primary care team***, facilitated by Associate Professor Katherine Clark, Director & Area Director of Palliative Care, Calvary Mater Newcastle. The workshop will be held **Tuesday 5 April 2011** utilising interactive web-based software to provide training directly to your computer in real time - no need to travel! Session times are: 5pm - WA; 6.30pm SA, NT; and 7pm - NSW, VIC, ACT, QLD, TAS. The session is open to all health professionals working in rural and remote Australia to learn about the latest evidence-based information including the importance of appropriate introduction to palliative care services; key aspects of introducing palliative care services to a woman with secondary breast cancer; the role of the GP in the provision of palliative care; the impact and management of common symptoms of secondary breast cancer, and key strategies for managing the psychological impact on a woman and her family. Register now to attend - sessions are strictly limited to 15 participants and filling fast. Email [kevin.comlossy@nbocc.org.au](mailto:kevin.comlossy@nbocc.org.au) or call (02) 9357 9478 to register or for further information. Continuing professional development points are available for this activity from ACRRM and The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

▶ Funded by the National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers, Cancer Australia, Rural Health Education Foundation Live presents a simultaneous webcast and satellite television broadcast of ***Endometrial Cancer: Investigations and Referral*** LIVE on **Tuesday, 12 April** at 8.00pm Sydney AEST and repeated on Friday, 15 April at 12.30pm. Cancer of the endometrium is the most common type of cancer of the uterus, and the most common gynaecological cancer. Endometrial cancer is on the rise in Australia due partly to an ageing population and an increasing prevalence of obesity and diabetes among the female population. Most women who develop endometrial cancer are post menopausal and present to their doctor with vaginal bleeding. An understanding of the risk factors for endometrial cancer, signs and symptoms, and appropriate investigations are all important factors in leading to timely diagnosis and treatment. Chaired by Dr Norman Swan; a panel consisting of Dr Jenny May - Rural GP and GP Academic University of Newcastle UDRH/RCS, Tamworth NSW; Associate Professor Pieter Mourik - Gynaecologist, Wodonga; Ms Kathryn Nattress - Clinical Nurse Consultant, Gynaecological Cancer, Sydney Cancer Centre; and Professor Michael Quinn - Gynaecological Oncologist, Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne, the program will provide information to assist in clarifying the steps to diagnosis and treatment of endometrial cancer, including identifying risk factors, signs and symptoms; investigations and appropriate referral and management. To participate and

view the webcast (online broadcast), log on to [http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program\\_id=561](http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=561) and follow the login prompts; OR to view the program at a satellite viewing, visit to <http://www.rhef.com.au/viewing-sites/> to find a site location near you.

► **PHC research workshops: Canberra, April 2011**

The Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute presents two training workshops in Canberra next month on Consumer and Community Involvement in Research. The workshops offer researchers and students practical ways to start involving consumers and the community in their research. Researchers, policy advisers, health professionals and students in areas related to primary health care research are invited to attend. The first workshop is on 11 and 12 April, the second on 14 and 15 April. See the [APHCRI website](#) for more information.

► Save the date: The **Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) 14th Winter Congress 2011** 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 is available from the website: <http://dcconferences.com.au/cnsa2011>.

## **New Resources on Cancer Learning this month include...**

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### **Evidence & Treatments Resources**

#### **[Australian Children's Cancer Clinical Trials Registry](#)**

Maintained by Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group, this site holds a searchable registry that lists all clinical trials open to children, adolescents and young adults with cancer or blood disorders currently in progress in Australia.

#### **[ASCO Cancer Portals](#)**

American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) Cancer Portals offer disease-specific resources including the latest information from ASCO's Virtual Meeting; *The Journal of Clinical Oncology*; Clinical Practice Guidelines; Meeting abstracts; Educational book manuscripts and ASCO Daily News. Portals are available for the following cancers: breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecologic, geriatric, head and neck, lung, melanoma, pediatric, prostate and sarcoma.

### **Evidence & Treatments Learning Activities**

#### **[HemOnc.today Education Lab](#)**

HEM/ONC Today has developed a range of online speciality-specific education modules regarding the latest issues and developments in oncology and haematological disorders. The new CME modules allow health professionals to learn about the latest in oncology and haematology treatments and advances in a variety of multimedia formats. Certificates can be printed to demonstrate completion of modules and attainment of learning outcomes.

#### **[ASCO Tumour Boards](#)**

The ASCO Tumor Boards series consists of individual modules that provide learners with the opportunity to discuss practice-relevant medical advances through a patient case presentation and an online discussion forum. The patient case, prepared by expert faculty, is presented

through slides followed by links to key references. Learners may also participate in the discussion forum to pose questions about the case to the faculty and one another. Topics include issues such as Triple Negative Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer and Pancreatic cancer. The discussion forum is open for one month after which comments are summarized and posted within the module. Non-members of ASCO can register on the site and create a free access account.

## [Fundamentals of Oncology Learning Activities](#)

### [Cyber Cancer Registry](#)

An interactive tool developed by CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) to prepare people for a career in the cancer registry field by providing the opportunity to gain hands-on practice in core areas of cancer registry operations using real, de-identified medical records provided by registrars working in the field. The virtual registry virtual system develops and assesses skills of cancer registry personnel and provides immediate feedback to the user through practical exercises and assessments to evaluate the level of competency, track training scores, and provide a certificate of completion for each assessment.

ALSO... Take a look at [NPCR Education and Training Series \(NETS\)](#) and [SEER Training Resources](#) or further resources to assist with the ongoing education and training of cancer data management professionals have been included on this page this month. Though US based, the information is largely relevant to the Australian context.

### [Targeted Therapies Tutorial](#)

Developed by National Cancer Institute (NCI), this animated tutorial for health professionals provides an overview of an emerging approach to cancer treatment called targeted therapies. The tutorial includes representative examples of the main types of targeted therapies and describes their mechanisms of action. It also explains how advanced research techniques, such as whole-genome profiling, contribute to the development of targeted therapies.

## [Indigenous resources](#)

We have been made aware of two fantastic new resources recently developed by Aboriginal Resource and Development Service (ARDS) Inc:

### [Yolngu Radio Service Chronic Disease program: Cancer Series](#)

ARDS Inc has produced a multi-part, 2 series cancer program as part of the Chronic Disease related educational programs broadcast on the Yolngu Radio Service and available as audio MP3s on the site. *Series One* features nine parts exploring common cancers, risks, symptoms, cells and DNA; whilst *Series Two* contains 3 parts, featuring Daphne Munurrigij discussing her breast cancer journey with Dr Alyssa Vass (Galikali) and Joy Bulkanhawuy.

### [Dictionary of Anatomy - Dharuk Mala qa Mayali Rumbalpu](#)

This book provides explanations of many body parts both in plain English and the Djambarrpuyŋu language and includes innovative full colour graphics and examples of related pathology. It is a vital resource for Indigenous Health Workers, Interpreters and Health professionals working with Yolŋgu people who speak the Djambarrpuyŋu language. The book can be ordered online from ARDS Inc. Students and bulk orders may receive a discount.

## [Palliative Care Resources](#)

### [End of Life Curriculum Project Online Modules](#)

The End of Life Curriculum Project is a program designed as a comprehensive, modular self study resource to teach medical students and health professionals about End of Life (EOL) and palliative care issues and develop relevant knowledge, attitudes and communication skills.

The course includes detailed introductions, learning objective sand a post-test for each of the following modules: Overview of Palliative Care; Dyspnea; Home Hospice; Opioid Conversion; Prognostication; Transition to Death; Palliative Sedation; Communication and Bereavement.

### [Notes on Symptom Control in Hospice and Palliative Care](#)

Published by the Hospice Education Institute, authored by Dr Peter Kaye, Consultant in Palliative Medicine for Oxford Regional Health Authority and Medical Director of Cynthia Spencer House, Northhampton, England, and first published in 1989, this book remains highly relevant and is regarded as a vital resource on practical symptom control and patient and family support during illness and an easy reference tool for all professionals working with the dying and bereaved. The book can be ordered and purchased or printed by chapter, each of which details the principles of symptom control and the management of specific symptoms in palliative care settings.

## [Multidisciplinary Care Resources](#)

### [Cancer Care Ontario MDT Conference Tools](#)

These tools were developed to help hospital staff and Multidisciplinary Care Coordinators develop protocols for their multidisciplinary teams and meetings. Tools include modifiable templates for meeting organization and documentation and information and tips about the use of technology and the role of the coordinator. See how they do it over in that part of the world!

## [Prevention, Screening and Risk Resources](#)

### [Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health and Prevention of Breast and Colon Cancers](#)

The World Health Organization's 2011 *Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health* advise that people of all ages can reduce the risk of developing a Non Communicable Disease, including breast and colon cancers, by undertaking various amounts and intensities of physical activity. The recommendations are available for download in a number of languages and target age groups.

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](mailto: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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