

May 2011

We hope this [Cancer Learning](#) update finds you somewhere warm and dry – it seems winter has arrived early this year! We were kept busy again this month, the highlight of which was hosting a think-tank workshop to develop a strategic plan for Cancer Learning in order for us to better support your cancer education and mandatory professional development needs; to optimise access to available resources and activities, and to integrate cancer education into the busy, working lives of all health professionals. We look forward to speaking further with stakeholders about your specific educational and professional development needs – please email us at info@cancerlearning.gov.au if you would like to contribute to the plan. Recommendations from the workshop will be implemented in coming months, so keep an eye out for announcements in future newsletters. Until then, don't forget your umbrella or your scarf!

News

Stay Up-to-date with [Cancer Australia](#) News

Register at: <http://www.canceraustralia.gov.au/newsletter/subscriptions> to receive emailed newsletters to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in cancer in Australia.

[EdCaN](#) (National Cancer Nursing Education Project) Update

The EdCaN project team is continuing to review and update the EdCaN online resources, including all 11 of the case-based learning modules. Coinciding with Bowel Cancer Awareness week (5-11th of June), the EdCaN project team has just updated and relaunched the [colorectal cancer case-based learning resource](#). The changes include updated statistics, and new information added in line with current best practice.

Colorectal cancer is the second most common cancer diagnosed in Australia, and responsible for over 10% of all cancer-related deaths. The Specialist Cancer Nurse can provide information and support to people affected by colorectal cancer, as well as having a role to play in promoting a healthy lifestyle to reduce this risk of colorectal cancer.

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 [colorectal cancer case-based learning resource](#), or about any EdCaN resource, via our new 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, or to discuss your suggestions for improvements!

Update from [PSGC](#) (Psychosexual Care of Women affected by Gynaecological Cancers)

Would you like to learn effective skills for talking about sensitive issues regarding sexuality? 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 3](#) discusses common barriers that can hinder communication about psychosexual issues and encourages the learner to reflect on their own values, attitudes and barriers regarding sexuality. The module describes commonly used methods to conduct a psychosexual assessment as well as providing real examples of questions and statements you can use to address sexual health needs.

Parts of the PSGC website discuss broad issues about the dimensions of sexuality and sexual health; these issues can affect anyone undergoing treatment for cancer, not just women with gynaecological cancers. All health professionals need to understand the effects health alterations can have on a person's sexuality and principles for intervention. If you haven't already, jump on to the PSGC website and have a look at the available resources.

The PSGC project team is currently planning a series of workshops designed to help health professionals learn how to use these resources in their practice. Stay tuned for further updates of upcoming workshops!

You can catch up with the PSGC project team at the upcoming CNSA Winter Congress in Sydney (21st-23rd 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.

You can also give the PSGC project team feedback on their resources at any time via edcan_psgc@qut.edu.au

Mobile [Medscape Medical News](#)

The popular [Medscape Medical News](#) can now be [downloaded](#) to your iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Blackberry or Android device so you can keep up with the latest cancer news on-the-go.

Upcoming Events

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

► **Australian & New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM)** hosts the *2011 Palliative Care Forum Series* at a range of venues throughout Australia in June and July 2012. The RACGP and ACRRM accredited educational forums for medical practitioners regarding key palliative care concepts including communication and gastrointestinal issues, are supported by an unconditional educational grant from Mundipharma. For dates, locations and to register, please visit the [ANZSPM website](#) or email executive@anzspm.org.au.

▶ **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 Wednesday 8 June 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 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.

▶ Developed and presented by the **Australasian College of Dermatologists** for Australian general practitioners, the *Skin Cancer Management: An Introduction to Dermoscopy in General Practice Course* will be held on Saturday 18 June 2011 at Sheraton Hotel, Darling Harbour, to assist GPs to improve their skills in the diagnosis and management of suspicious skin lesions through the use of dermoscopy. The course is open to any registered medical practitioner with an interest in dermoscopy and has been accredited for 40 RACGP Category 1 points and 20 ACRRM PRPD points. No experience in dermoscopy is required. Further information is available [here](#) on the [Australasian College of Dermatology](#) website.

▶ Register now! 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>.

▶ 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 program 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.

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

[Evidence & Latest Treatments Resources](#)

Patient Summary: [Adult gliomas \(astrocytomas and oligodendrogliomas\): a guide for patients, their families and carers](#)

Released in May 2011 to complement the previously released *Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Adult Gliomas: Astrocytomas and Oligodendrogliomas*; *Adult gliomas (astrocytomas and oligodendrogliomas): a guide for patients, their families and carers* provides information written specifically for patients and their carers about the symptoms and diagnosis of these particular brain tumours, as well as providing details regarding available treatments and possible side effects, psycho-social and supportive care needs, rehabilitation, follow-up and palliative care associated with adult gliomas.

[Complementary and Alternative Medicine \(CAM\) for Cancer Summaries](#)

Developed by leading CAM and cancer experts, the CAM Summaries are peer-reviewed and up-to-date summaries of the existing scientific information on CAM in cancer. They aim to provide a critical appraisal of medical evidence on CAM and provide clear, objective and independent information on CAM methods for oncologists and other health professionals, including documentation with regards to efficacy/effectiveness, safety issues and possible interactions and side effects, as well as CAM background, promoter claims, description of treatment methods, and biologic mechanisms are presented in a clear and easily accessible format.

Prevention, Screening and Risk Resources

[Alcohol and Cancer Prevention Position Statement and Article](#)

Reviewed in May 2011, the Cancer Council's *Alcohol and Cancer Prevention* position statement summarises the evidence that links alcohol consumption to cancer and explores the impact that alcohol consumption has on overall health and cancer occurrence. A refereed journal article relating to the review of this position statement, "[Alcohol and Cancer: a position statement from the Cancer Council Australia](#)" (Winstanley, Margaret H; Pratt, Iain S; Chapman, Kathryn;

Griffin, Hayley J, Croager, Emma J; Olver, Ian N; Sinclair, Craig and Slevin, Terry J. MJA 2011; 194: 479–482) was recently published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

[Guidelines for Smoking Cessation: A Guide for Health Professionals](#)

These guidelines were developed by University of Michigan Health System to provide a framework for care providers to assist patients in smoking cessation, including: assessing and documenting smoking status of patients; providing smoking cessation intervention to all smokers; treating behavioral/ psychological aspects of cigarette addiction with advice and counseling; and treating biologic aspects of cigarette addiction with pharmacological therapies.

[Adolescent and Young Adult \(AYA\) Cancer Resources](#)

[Fertility Preservation for AYAs Diagnosed with Cancer: Guidance for Health Professionals](#)

This guidance has been produced by the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) to provide evidence-based recommendations and ‘good practice points’ to assist health professionals in effectively and fully discussing with AYA cancer patients and their families the fertility risks of cancer treatments, fertility preservation options and potential late effects on reproductive, sexual and endocrine health following treatment. COSA invites all interested stakeholders to review the draft guidance and provide comments into the wiki format which will be considered in finalising the content and recommendations.

[Clinical Oncology in Adolescents and Young Adults](#)

Launched this month, *Clinical Oncology in Adolescents and Young Adults* is a new, international, peer-reviewed, open access journal publishing original research, reports, editorials, reviews and commentaries on all aspects of epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment of cancers in adolescents and young adults.

AND don't forget to take a look at the brand new [Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Professional Development Pathway](#), now available in the [Plan](#) section of Cancer Learning.

[Palliative Care Resources](#)

[Life, Hope and Reality: for People Living with Advanced Cancer](#)

Launched during 2011 Palliative Care week, *Life, Hope and Reality* is an online, practical, up-to-date, holistic, best practice guide that includes useful assessment tools, to help people to make health and treatment decisions which are right for them and ensure they receive quality cancer care. Authored by Afaf Girgis, Claire Johnson, and Sylvie Lambert with funding from NHMRC and Cancer Council NSW, the resource was developed following extensive consultation with researchers, palliative care workers, psychologists, oncologists, surgeons and social workers from institutions across Australia, as well as feedback from patients, their partners, caregivers and the frontline healthcare workers who assist people with the challenges of having an advanced cancer.

[Multidisciplinary Care Resources](#)

[When Cancer Crosses Disciplines – A Physician's Handbook](#)

In today's practice, cancer is treated by teams of medical oncologists, hematologists, surgeons and radiation oncologists, and other non-oncology consultants called upon to treat symptoms,

side-effects or other diseases that can often occur concurrently with cancer. *When Cancer Crosses Disciplines – A Physician’s Handbook* aims to provide the answer to these and many other questions considered by multidisciplinary practitioners caring for patients in need of cancer prevention, screening, therapy and survivorship care. This handbook provides practitioners with a unique reference by summarising a large amount of information beyond the conventional oncology textbook approach. Readers from diverse fields can quickly find practical advice for particular problems frequently encountered in patients. It can be ordered from the [Cancer Council](#).

[Supportive Care and Survivorship Resources](#)

[Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre \(ACSC\)](#)

The Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre (ACSC) aims to provide timely and relevant information for health professionals on important issues related to cancer survivorship. Information is available for health professionals about late effects of cancer and its treatment, follow-up care, survivorship care planning, and information specific to certain cancers. The site also contains information for patients, survivors and family and friends.

If you have developed or know of any cancer resources, activities or upcoming educational opportunities such as conferences and workshops, please [submit them here](#) or email us at info@cancerlearning.gov.au so we can let other health professionals know about them too. And feel free to [email us](#) your feedback on Cancer Learning so that we can keep improving it to better meet your needs.

Until next month, happy learning!

The Cancer Learning team

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ana.munro@sydney.edu.au or info@cancerlearning.gov.au