

May 2010

Many thanks to everyone who completed the online survey evaluating the Cancer Australia resources developed under the *Strengthening Cancer Care* initiative. The information gained through the survey will inform the report to be tabled to the government and will enhance future initiatives to support the Australian cancer workforce.

News

For more news and events, visit the [News](#) page in the [About](#) section of [Cancer Learning](#)

You may not be able to tell from looking, but behind the scenes on [Cancer Learning](#), the new custom built SQL database that houses information about the resources linked to on [Cancer Learning](#) is now LIVE! This new system will improve site searching, enhance navigation and assist us to maintain the site and keep it up-to-date.

We also have a new tool to streamline the submission of resources for evaluation and inclusion on the site. So we invite you to try out the new tool by [submitting](#) 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. You can also let us know what you think about the developments to the site via the online [feedback](#) form.

This month, together with many new resources and activities for medical, nursing and allied health professionals and trainees, we are also very excited to bring you the next instalment of the eagerly awaited [EdCaN supporting modules](#); and the latest in our suite of professional development pathways, focusing on the career opportunities for those working in the Australian cancer data management arena.

New [EdCaN](#) resources

The [EdCaN resources](#) have been further strengthened with the uploading of the following supporting modules.

[Supporting module 4: Cancer treatments](#)

- Part 1: [Cancer Treatment Planning](#)
- Part 2: [Fundamentals of cancer surgery](#)
- Part 3: [Fundamentals of radiotherapy for cancer](#)
- Part 4: [Fundamentals of systemic cancer therapies](#)
- Part 5: [Fundamentals of cancer biological and molecular targeted therapies](#)

These resources complement the suite of modules designed to develop the specialist cancer nurse's ability to provide effective care for people undergoing treatment for cancer, in particular surgery, radiotherapy, or antineoplastic therapy.

[Supporting Module 6: Culture-centred approach in cancer control for Indigenous Australians](#)

Note: *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers are advised that the following resource may contain images and voices of people who have died.*

This module aims to facilitate the development of competencies that reflect the role of the Specialist Cancer Nurse (SCN) when working collaboratively with Indigenous people to who have been affected by cancer

New pathway - [Cancer Data Manager Professional Development Pathway](#)

In support of the recent Cancer Australia initiative to increase the capacity and detail of data collected regarding cancer in Australia, the cancer data manager professional development pathway provides information, links and case studies and tips from professionals about the career path that led them to their current position as a leading Australian cancer data manager so that others interested in this key area of cancer care can follow their example. You can find it in the [Plan](#) section of the website.

Upcoming events

In the coming months, **National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC)** will host two more breast cancer summits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women diagnosed with breast cancer, Aboriginal Health Workers and other health professionals involved in the care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Following on from the summit in Darwin on 26 May 2010, the *Supporting Sisters and Aunties to Survive!* one-day summits will be held in Lismore on 22 June 2010 and Broome in September, date TBC. Please contact hannah.nancarrow@nbocc.org.au for further information and to register your interest.

The Organising Committee of the **Sydney Cancer Conference 2010 (SCC2010)** are pleased to announce that the full program is now available for their upcoming conference, which promises to deliver a wide range of thought provoking topics around the central theme, *Profiling risk, personalising treatment and predicting outcomes*. The conference will be held at the Eastern Avenue Complex, The University of Sydney from 14-16 July 2010. To register and for further information, please visit the conference website at: <http://www.cancerresearch.med.usyd.edu.au/SCC2010/registration/index.php>

The Royal College of Nursing Australia is calling for abstracts for the *2010 Community and Primary Health Care Nursing Conference*, to be held from 24-26 October 2010 in Alice Springs. Download a brochure from [RCNA website](#) or further information, contact margaret.whitrow@rcna.org.au.

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZPSM) invites you to attend its biennial conference, this year entitled, *Ars moriendi- Palliative medicine in the 21st Century*, to be held in Adelaide from 14-17 September 2010 at the InterContinental Hotel. A mix of international, national and local speakers will bring new insights and knowledge, whether it be in the art of dying, the clinical skills to provide good symptom control, how to communicate clearly or to evaluate the ethical dimensions of a situation, to ensure that our patients can have the best possible care as they face the end of their lives. There is a Trainees Day, and workshops including "Knowledge into Practice" and a long awaited Supervisor's workshop for those of you who support advanced trainees in Palliative Medicine. For further details regarding submission of abstracts, early bird registration, accommodation and further information for this event, please visit the conference website <http://www.willorganise.com.au/anzspm2010>.

Save the date! **The Clinical Oncological Society of Australia** invites you to attend the *37th COSA Annual Scientific Meeting: Beyond Cancer*, to be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 9-11 November 2010. Further information and registration details is available <http://www.cosa2010.org/>. Key dates to remember: **Abstract submission deadline:** 2 August 2010. **Early Bird Reduced Registration Rate Deadline:** 6 September 2010.

Let us know about your event so we can share it in our newsletter. Click [here](#) to advise us of the details.

New resources on [Cancer Learning](#) in May 2010 include:

[Supportive care learning activities](#)

Caring for the carer- a group education and resource package for carers of newly diagnosed adults with cancer

Developed by Allied Health Mater Adult Hospital Cancer Services, QLD Health, this support and educational resource package, for carers of adults who are dealing with cancer and its treatment, acknowledges and validates common psychosocial needs of carers and offers strategies to assist with coping and wellbeing. It is hoped that this will decrease carer burden and promote an optimal home environment that best supports adults with cancer following initial diagnosis and treatment. Each session can be downloaded as a PowerPoint presentation and cover Information and effective communication, feelings and relationships, managing treatment side effects and strength for caring. There are comprehensive facilitator notes included with each PowerPoint, and a course guide to assist organisers to coordinate and conduct a group workshop.

[Supportive care resources](#)

***A Good Death*, courtesy Four Corners, ABC TV**

First broadcast on Four Corners on ABC TV on 18 February 2010, *A Good Death* follows four Australians coming to the end of their lives and the health care professionals who care for them. It can be viewed via the ABC website and includes links to further resources, a program transcript and an online forum.

Oncofertility Consortium Information for Health Professionals

The Oncofertility Consortium at Northwestern University provides information for health professionals regarding the fertility-preservation options available to patients at the time of their cancer diagnosis, prior to the commencement of treatment.

[Evidence and latest treatments resources](#)

Developing a Nationally Coordinated Approach to Biobanking for Cancer Clinical Trials in Australia

Commissioned by the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA), this report details the recommended model and implementation plan developed for a national approach to biobanking in Australia following a literature review and extensive stakeholder consultation workshop.

Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce *Best Clinical Practice Gynaecological Cancer Guidelines 2009*

Updated from the 2004 guidelines, these 2009 guidelines include information regarding the disease sites, pathology and clinical issues including clinical trials, familial aspects of gynaecological cancer, lymphoedema, palliative care, psychosocial care and vaginal stenosis.

[Fundamentals of oncology learning activities](#)

***Cancer Care for Health Professionals* learning package**

In the *Cancer Care for Health Professionals* suite of learning packages, participants are encouraged to reflect on their experiences, incorporating theoretical concepts while developing skills and strategies for application in practice. Learning package one: *Cancer Care Body Systems and Assessment* assists the health professional workforce to enhance the quality of cancer care for individuals and their families by introducing students to concepts including body systems, diagnosis of specific types of cancer and assessment of needs. Learning package 2: *Cancer Care: Psychosocial Perspectives* (available from Trimester 2, 2010) explores the psychosocial, cultural and spiritual dimensions of cancer care from the perspectives of the patient

and strategies to be addressed by the professional and the team when caring for the patient with cancer. For further information, please contact kerry.mcnamara@deakin.edu.au or visit the website: www.deakin.edu.au/hmnbs/pdu

Fundamentals of oncology resources

Diagnostic Imaging Pathways

The primary objective of Diagnostic Imaging Pathways developed by the Department of Health, Government of Western Australia is to achieve the appropriate application of medical imaging technology to diagnosis in order to reduce the incidence of unnecessary or excessive examinations which may expose patients to risk without benefit, including the risk of false-positive results, and increase the incidence of appropriate examinations which will result in efficient diagnosis and effective treatment. Imaging Pathways are included for Gastrointestinal, Neurological, Musculoskeletal/Trauma, Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Endocrine, Urological, Ear, Nose & Throat, Obstetric & Gynaecological, Breast Imaging, Paediatrics and Cancer Staging.

Primary Care

Testicular Cancer and Prostate Disease podcast

From the Andrology Australia site, download and listen to an mp3 of A/Professor Mark Frydenberg discusses prostate cancer testing, management and treatment and the importance of the GPs role in the diagnosis and treatment of testicular cancer.

See the new Practice Management Tools subcategory in the Primary Care section – have you developed or are aware of any resources that assist you in running your practice efficiently? Let us know by [submitting them here](#) so we can share them with others!

Until next month, happy learning!

The Cancer Learning team

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think would benefit from it. You can [register](#) for monthly email update newsletters [here](#).

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