

**November 2010**

We can't be the only ones wondering where this year, and decade, have disappeared to! It is hard to believe that December will be here tomorrow! We are busily working on finishing a few projects that will be available shortly, including the eagerly anticipated [Psychosexual Gynaecological Cancer](#) modules soon to be launched on [Cancer Learning](#); and we have some big plans for more resources and improvements to the site in 2011 that will further assist you to find, build, plan, share and undertake your professional development in cancer care. But to ease you into the festive season, this month we bring you information regarding some resources and activities now available via Cancer Learning, including the new [EdCaN guides](#) to assist with navigation of the EdCaN site and links to the fantastic, brand new [Australian Cancer Trials Online \(ACTO\)](#) site, the [Australian Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of GEP NETs](#) and the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Control Research Report](#), all of which were recently launched at the COSA ASM; just to keep you in the loop while you manage the craziness that is Christmas shopping and end of year planning!

## News

---

### EdCaN Point of Care and Navigation guide

As promised, as a further enhancement to the [EdCaN resources](#), the interactive [EdCaN Point of Care](#) and [EdCaN Navigation Guides](#) are now available on Cancer Learning to assist you to directly locate and access specific information and learning-on-the-run activities throughout the EdCaN learning suite that address a wide range of cancer treatments, side effects and core competencies required by cancer nurses. The guides are currently available in the Build section of Cancer Learning and will soon also be accessible throughout the EdCaN site, together with the [User Guide](#) and [FAQs](#).

### COSA ASM 2010

It was wonderful to meet so many of you at the [COSA](#) conference held earlier this month in Melbourne. Thank you for coming and speaking to me and members of the extended Cancer Learning team, including the EdCaN and Psychosexual Gynaecological Cancer project teams at our exhibition booth. It was fantastic to discuss our websites and resources with you and we greatly appreciate the constructive feedback and excellent suggestions we received about how we can further refine and optimize the usability and efficacy of the resources for you. It was also inspiring to hear about some of the amazing research being undertaken both around Australia and internationally that is leading to advances in knowledge and improvements in treatment, care and outcomes for cancer patients. Congratulations to COSA for a successful conference and we look forward to seeing everyone again at the next COSA ASM in Perth in November 2011.

### **Churchill Scholarships**

The [Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Scholarships](#) fund Australian citizens wishing to conduct research overseas for the benefit of other Australians. [Cancer Australia](#) is sponsoring two scholarships in 2011, one in collaboration with the [National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers](#), for a consumer (a person diagnosed with cancer), family member or carer to undertake a project that will benefit people affected by cancer and assist in reducing the impact of cancer on those affected. If you are aware of a suitable applicant for either of the Cancer Australia sponsored Churchill Scholarships in 2011, please advise them of the website: <http://www.churchilltrust.com.au/> for application details and deadlines.

### **[Cancer Australia/CanNET Indigenous Cancer report](#) available**

A new report commissioned by Cancer Australia to review research and other initiatives aimed at improving cancer control in Aboriginal people is now available. The overall objective of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Control Research Report* was to provide direction for reducing the disparities Aboriginal people experience across the cancer control continuum and thus improving their cancer outcomes.

### **CNSA Annual Report**

The [2009/2010 Annual Report](#) of the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia is now publicly available on their website.

### **Cancer Forum November 2010**

The [November 2010 issue](#) of *Cancer Forum*, the official journal of COSA and the Cancer Council Australia, focusing on issues relating to bone and soft tissue sarcoma, is now available on the COSA website.

### **Online Myeloma Nursing Course RCNA Accredited**

The [Myeloma Nurse Learning Programme](#) is an innovative online learning course specifically designed for haematology and oncology nurses with a particular interest in myeloma. Whilst UK based, it is also extremely relevant to Australian nurse and has recently received local endorsement with the Royal College Nursing Australia (RCNA) for CNE points – you can now get 170 CNE points for completion of the whole program.

### **Upcoming Events**

---

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

- ▶ The ***Inaugural Biomarker Discovery Conference*** (BDC 2010) will be held in Shoal Bay, NSW from Monday 6 - Friday 10 December, 2010. The conference showcases the latest innovations in Biomarker Discovery using genomic, proteomic and metabolomic tools and methods. International experts in all these fields and bioinformatics will be presenting at the meeting. Cancer and Neurobiology will be important topics and there will be specialist workshops on aspects of biomarker discovery, bioinformatics and applications.
  
- ▶ 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 2011 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.

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

---

### **Evidence & Treatments Resources**

#### **[Australian Cancer Trials Online \(ACTO\)](#)**

Launched at the 2010 COSA ASM, Australian Cancer Trials Online (ACTO) is a free, online service developed through a collaboration between Cancer Australia, the University of Sydney, the Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry and Cancer Voices, and evaluated through a grant provided by the National Health and Medical Research Council that provides accessible, clear information regarding the latest clinical trials in cancer care, including trials that are currently recruiting new participants. It is updated daily with new information from Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry and ClinicalTrials.gov from the United States. The site was developed with extensive consultation from consumers across Australia in response to cancer consumers' long standing desire for easy to access information about cancer clinical trials, and to increase participation rates. It provides an exemplar of consumer involvement in research. ACTO is for anyone affected by cancer - whether you, your friend or family member - to assist you, together with your cancer specialist, to make decisions about your cancer care options, including clinical trials.

#### **[Australian Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Gastroenteropancreatic Neuroendocrine tumours \(GEP NETs\)](#)**

The Australian Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of GEP NETs, which have been developed collaboratively in an innovative wiki format, were launched during the COSA ASM at a breakfast session of the NET Interest Group, also marking [Worldwide NET Cancer Awareness Day](#). NETs is a term used to describe a group of rare, often slow growing tumours that develop from cells in the endocrine system, often in the lung or gastro-intestinal system but also in the pancreas, ovary and testes. A great deal of work is being done both in Australia and internationally to raise awareness of these difficult-to-diagnose tumours with the aim of improving treatment options and patient outcomes.

#### **[eviQ](#) Update**

If you haven't had a chance to visit recently, take a look at [eviQ](#) to find out about the fantastic activities currently under development on the [eviQEd](#) site, which will complement the [eviQ](#) Cancer Treatments Online site and provide you with a wealth of new online professional development opportunities in cancer care and control to access. Further updates have also recently been made to [eviQ](#), with the launch of the freely accessible [opioid calculator](#), as well as new sections containing protocols specific to Adolescent and Young Adult cancers and bone marrow transplantation (HPCT). [Register](#) now if you don't yet have a log in to this fantastic resource.

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

There are several new internationally developed online learning activities that have been added this month, including:

[Medscape Oncology CME](#)

Medscape offers free, unlimited access to a vast network of clinical resources in over 30 specialty areas, including in-depth medical news, CME/CE programs, full-text journal articles, clinical reference tools, and commentary features from leaders in the medical community. The CME area of Medscape Oncology provides a broad range of programs in different, engaging formats concerning the latest treatments and evidence in cancer care and control.

[OpenCME.org Portal](#)

A platform linking to a wide range of available CME activities a broad range of formats on topics including pain management, myeloma, breast cancer and haematologic malignancies; developed by some of the worlds most highly regarded academic institutions, medical societies and opinion leaders. A downloadable iPhone application is also available.

[Clinical Care Options Oncology](#)

CCO is an independent medical education company that provides state-of-the-art medical information to healthcare professionals through conference coverage and other educational programs. Resources available on the site include programs including interactive case challenges and modules available across a range of tumour streams, the latest research and evidence from a variety of sources and journals, interactive case studies, downloadable PowerPoint presentations, podcasts, interactive tools including diagnosis and treatment decision tools and resources and information specifically for cancer nurses.

[OptumHealth Education Oncology CME](#)

A range of free, online cancer related continuing education activities across a number of tumour and cancer topic areas, including patient management, lymphomas, breast cancer, liver metastases, Plasma cell dyscrasias, fertility preservation and prostate cancer. Courses include pre and post testing to determine learning outcomes for each module.

[Adolescents and Young Adults Resources](#)

[Journal of Clinical Oncology AYA issue](#)

The most recent issue (Volume 28, Issue 32, November 10, 2010) of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, the official journal of the American Society for Clinical Oncology, focuses specifically on issues relating to cancer in Adolescents and Young Adults, containing articles written by leading international experts in this area.

There are also a range of [AYA patient support](#) resources and websites that have been added to the AYA section this month, including:

[myoncofertility.org](#)

myoncofertility.org is a website providing information, multi-media tools and links to resources for adolescent and young adult cancer patients and their partners to learn about their fertility preservation options. There is a link on this site to the Oncofertility® Consortium site, an American interdisciplinary initiative designed to explore the reproductive future of cancer survivors. The website contains information and resources specific to patients, health professionals, researchers and educators that addresses complex health care and quality-of-life

issues and options that concern young cancer patients whose fertility may be threatened by their disease or its treatment.

### **Palliative Care Resources**

#### **Grampians Regional Palliative Care Clinical Guidelines and Policies**

Grampians Regional Palliative Care Team works closely with the Palliative Care Service Providers across Victoria to assist in the ongoing development and delivery of effective community based palliative care services. This includes elements of education, collaborative strategic planning, preparation of written materials, policies and procedures, quality improvement processes, and consultation. They have developed downloadable clinical practice guidelines and policies for a range of palliative care topics, including Clinical Guidelines for the Administration of Oral Chemotherapy in the Community Setting; Chemotherapy Safety in the Home - A Patient Guide to Oral Chemotherapy; Metro Syringe compatibilities; NIKI Clinical Practice Guidelines, and EMR PCC Opioid Conversion Guide to Practice.

### **Supportive Care Resources**

#### **Medical Journal of Australia supplement: Anxiety, Depression and Cancer**

A recent supplement of the *Medical Journal of Australia* (September 2010) containing refereed articles focusing on psycho-social and mental health issues for cancer patients.

### **Non-Clinical Skills Learning Activities**

#### **Communication Skills. Why Bother?**

An online study and self assessment module developed by Texas Medical Association as part of their Physician Oncology Education Program (POEP) regarding the importance of communication skills for physicians. Topics covered include: Why is Effective Communication Necessary; Barriers to Communication; How to Improve Communication and Breaking Bad News.

### **Share**

Don't forget that you can [submit](#) any resources you find useful to us so we can share them with others via the Cancer Learning site. We value your feedback and are always looking for ways to improve the website, so please complete the brief [evaluation form](#) to tell us how you use the website and how it could better meet your needs.

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](#).

If you would like to be removed from this email list, please email UNSUBSCRIBE to: [ana.munro@sydney.edu.au](mailto:ana.munro@sydney.edu.au) or <http://www.cancerlearning.gov.au/about/contact.php>